

**BICKEL  
NOTEBOOK  
COLLECTION**

**MISSOURI TOWNS**



## Alexandria Once Second Largest US Pork Packer

WED., APRIL 28, 1954

By PEARL GORDON VESTAL  
"This little pig went to market"—and so did a lot of larger porkers—in 1853. Where were droves of hogs driven, "on the hoof," but to Alexandria, Mo., which was a real "Porkopolis" in that period of a century ago?

According to Don Ashton, writing "A History of Hogs and Pork Production in Missouri," Alexandria was second only to St. Louis as a pork-packing center, before 1870. Both topped Chicago in those "days beyond recall."

Ashton, a former associate editor of the Breeders' Gazette, based his figures upon the record books of A. Maxwell, whose business was later conducted under the firm name of Maxwell & Johnson. A farmer of today would not like to sell his pigs for the prices Maxwell paid then, but how happy would be the housewives of the present if they could serve pork chops at the low retail price which must have been proportioned to the wholesale rates quoted below!

### Packed 11,770 in 1856.

For the season of 1853-54 Maxwell paid the growers 3.58 cents per pound, buying 2,705 hogs, with an average weight of 213 pounds, or a total weight of 576,411 pounds. For \$20,665.56 he purchased them all. The business must have grown by leaps and bounds, to the sound of many squeals, for the next season there were packed 6,298 hogs, with a total weight of 1,215,588 pounds, and the season following that the number of hogs rose to 11,770 and the pig-poundage to 2,254,940. In the last of the three years reported the price per pound had risen to 4.85 cents per pound.

St. Louis was the market for the packed meat and the lard. This "shortening" was a considerable article of commerce during the past century, before packaged fats, such as those made from peanut and soy bean oil, and cocoanuts, and liquid fats, such as corn oil, had been processed and brought to their present popularity. Old Warsaw papers show that much lard was shipped by water from that neighboring town.

## RURAL THOUGHT AT RANDOM

# Town of Alexandria Thrived When St. Louis Was Village

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 1954

By ANGIE HUME

ALEXANDRIA, Mo. — When travelers on Highway 136 going eastward reach the curve in the road that leads to Keokuk, they may glance to their right and see a small town rich in legendary lore and facts that are closely interwoven with the early history of Clark county — Alexandria.

Clark county was organized by an act of the General Assembly (of Missouri) in 1836, separating it from Lewis county. The act provided that the Governor should name three resident citizens to act as county court judges and one resident citizen to act as sheriff.

John Taylor, Thaddeus Williams and Robert McKee were appointed justices (or judges which correspond to boards of supervisors in Iowa). Uriah H. Gregory was appointed sheriff.

Now Sheriff Gregory had a hectic time while he held office because there was a strip of land to the north which was disputed territory and claimed by both Iowa and Missouri. An Iowa citizen cut down some bee trees on this strip and immediately found himself in trouble up to his neck with Sheriff Gregory. The sheriff undertook to arrest him and was fought off by members of the offending family. This was called "The Honey War" but is not directly related to Alexandria.

### Was Called Churchville

While land comprising Clark county was being legalized as a component part of the state, there were thriving settlements scattered about its environs and Alexandria or Churchville, as it was first called, was one of the huskiest.

When Miss Mott Wayland was alive, she once told me that both St. Francisville and Alexandria were quite important — St. Louis was only a village!

The original survey and plat of the town was made by Francis Church in September of 1833. It contained four public squares and thirteen blocks, nicely laid out by Mr. Church in 1834. The first addition that year added another square and sixteen more blocks — Mr. Church had high hopes for Alexandria! Sanford's addition was even added in 1835.

About this time, a gentleman by the name of Edmund Alexander settled in the thriving town and operated a ferry across the Mississippi, bringing many new settlers from Ohio, Illinois, Indiana as well as from other eastern states. For some reason, the name "Churchville" was dropped when a new survey was made in 1839 and the town was named "Alexandria". It is quite natural that it was in honor of the ferryman who was in a position to become acquainted with all new arrivals.

### Horses Powered Ferry

My grandfather brought his family by ox-team from Wayne county, In-

diana in 1849. When my father was six years old, they crossed that Mississippi on the ferry. The power was furnished by horses walking a treadmill. When they landed, they started out across virgin country in a north-westerly direction and in due time passed the village of Kahoka, which had eight houses. They settled on a farm near Luray. They lived there many years and it was on that farm I was born.

Other additions were made to the original town (of Alexandria) through the 1850's but the first cabin was built by a ferry operator in 1832. John R. Wilcox and John Montague were licensed ferrymen. Early merchants of Alexandria included Robert Heming, George Gray, Brown & Bishop, Ed Harper and Moore and McCoy.

Just prior to the Civil War, Maxwell & Johnson, C. L. Becker, J. B. Kerney and Cunningham and Bear were leading merchants. A large amount of pork was shipped from Alexandria from 1958 through 1872 (a review of which was recently written by Pearl Gordon Vestal). I was told that the highest production figure of any one day was 42,557 hogs going through the slaughtering process at Alexandria.

Early physicians of Alexandria included Dr. Carpenter, Dr. Frank Wayland, Dr. C. LaHew, Dr. A. J. Brown and Dr. C. J. Hagen. There was a school house and a Southern Methodist church, a Baptist church, a Catholic church and a college. The college was established by Prof. T. J. Musgrove in 1870. This college was a leading cultural center for five years, but was discontinued because of high water — pupils couldn't get to it because the entire site was inundated. The town still held considerable commercial interests as late as 1887.

### Court House Cost \$1,803

In December of 1847 it was decided to move the county seat from Waterloo (now non-existent town in Clark county) to Alexandria and a new court house was to be built by the citizens of the town. The court house building of brick was completed in 1848 at a cost of \$1,803.50. In 1854 other citizens got up a petition to put the court house and county seat back in Waterloo and the petition and vote carried, so the county seat went back to Waterloo in June of 1854. The county seat was transferred to Kahoka by an act of the state legislature in 1865.



and has remained there since.

What I would give to be able to look at Alexandria when it was a thriving town! Big river boats passed with their deep throated whistles and many stopped to let passengers off and take cargo on. We can imagine the excitement of the town when these boats brought new goods, mail and new faces as well as new styles. All has now passed before the March of Progress, taking with it everything but a mem-

ory.

After the devastating flood of 1947 when Alexandria was inundated again, we went to the Ozarks on our annual fall trip. We visited the many beauties of the Ozarks which reveal the handiwork of God and in the course of meeting people there, we asked if they had ever heard of "Keokuk" — the city of power which Hugh L. Cooper helped build. They had not heard of Keokuk — but they asked about

Alexandria! They had seen flood pictures in the St. Louis papers and were deeply touched by the plight of the Alexandrians.

They were impressed by the courage Alexandria people exhibited in cleaning up the mess after the flood and taking on life's tasks anew. That, the Ozark people said, revealed a deep love for their homes even when adversity strikes. The people of the Ozarks seem to be the kind of people who feel for another's woe.

## KEOKUK CONSTITUTION

KEOKUK, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1947

### A DIRE DISASTER.

#### A Lamp Explodes in an Alexandria Hotel and Burns Three Buildings.

Between twelve and one o'clock this morning, a brilliant light was observed to illuminate the southern heavens, which was taken, at first, by many observers as the reflection of an aurora. As the light grew into intensity, however, it was evident that it proceeded from a conflagration, which was raging, either in Alexandria or Warsaw.

News came this morning that the fire was at Alexandria, and that it originated in the St. Charles Hotel, from the explosion of a kerosene lamp in the room of one of the boarders. So rapid was the spread of the flames that the entire building, a frame, was soon engulfed, and the inmates barely had time to escape with their lives, to say nothing about their clothing and private effects.

The fire burned fiercely and word was sent to Warsaw and an engine sent over, but it was not of much avail, although it did gallant service, and in an incredibly short time, three buildings—the St. Charles hotel, Judson's stove store, and Hoppe's building—the latter occupied by a cigar manufactory, a shoe shop and as a dry goods store—were consumed.

We hear that none of the buildings were insured. Judson and Hoppe saved most of their stock by hard work of the citizens who assembled and used their utmost exertions to save what they could from the devouring element.

The boarders at the St. Charles were almost naked when they escaped, and were taken in and kindly cared for by the neighbors. Nothing was saved from the hotel except two feather beds. The proprietor, Mr. Ressler, an old man aged 62, and his family, lose everything, save the scanty garments they wore when awakened from their sleep, and can thank themselves for the escape from death they made.

G. W. Young, a guest from Kahoka, jumped from a back window and left \$2,-

375 under his pillow to feed the flames. Reed W. Patterson, fireman on the M., I. & N., lost a trunk full of good clothes and an eighty dollar watch. Mrs. A. Hoppe tried to save some valuable papers up stairs, and was compelled to jump to the ground from the second story window. A young lady living in the house, was severely burned on the arm in attempting to get out.

Gus Conway, while walking on the postoffice building, slipped and rolled to a shed below, where he was stopped by the interference of a friendly chimney. Grave fears were entertained that the fire would reach Front street, and probably would have, but the Warsaw boys came to the rescue, pulling through the snow, across the ice, their engine, doing a brave duty. The Neptune truck company.

There is no insurance on the buildings. The loss is estimated as follows: S. Ressler, \$2,500; H. Sandte, \$200; A. Hoppe \$1,500; H. Judson, \$500; E. Warner, \$200; total \$6,500.

## THE GATE CITY.

THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 26, 1877

—The worst case of strike reported yesterday comes from Alexandria. The Packet Company had some coal to unload and let the job out to the lowest bidder. Two men were awarded the contract at \$1.50 per car. After shoveling away for an hour or so they got tired of the job and struck for higher wages. Their places were supplied by two others, but they hadn't been at work long until the strikers came along and drove them away. Three other men were then employed, but before they had made much progress the other four organized a raid and compelled them to quit work. At last accounts the strikers held the fort and the coal was not unloaded. There was talk of calling out a company of Alexandria mosquitos to disperse the rioters. If they can't do it, it is useless to send any troops there.

THE GREAT DUST HEPP CALLED HISTORY  
H. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA



# Alexandria's dreams of prestige are shattered by fires and floods

By Dorothy Pickett

Nestled in the curved banks of a tree-lined levee bordering Old Man River, lies the town of Alexandria at the northeast tip of Missouri.

The old French saying, "Small town, great renown," might well apply to this cosy little spot, for many illustrious persons have sprung from the area. At one time Alexandria was said to have a population larger than that of Keokuk . . . and, strange as it may seem, even larger than Chicago.

## Pork packing

In its early days the city extended north as far as the junction of the Des Moines and Mississippi rivers; multi-storied business houses and hotels lined the streets; and at one time, over a span of some 12 years or so, ranked as the second largest pork packing town in the United States, and as the greatest point in that category on the Mississippi river north of St. Louis.

The greatest number of hogs ever slaughtered at Alexandria in one season was in 1869-70 with a total of 42,557. The hogs, labor involved, salt, cooperage, etc. amounted to \$1,250,000.

## Churchville

Alexandria, originally called "Churchville," was platted in 1833 by Francis Church. The plat embraced four public squares and 73 blocks. One year earlier the first settler, a ferryman by the name of Kenny had settled there and built himself a cabin.

The first plat under the name of Alexandria was made in April of 1839 by J. W. S. and L. B. Mitchell with several additions within the next few years.

As Churchville, the town quickly became an important ferry boat landing site. Boats first ferried the Des Moines and soon a route across the Mississippi to Fort Edwards (Warsaw) was established.



SHOW PLACE OF ALEXANDRIA, residence built by grandfather of Elsa Maxwell, later occupied by the O. C. Botts, the William N. Sages and Dr. F. A. S. Rebo and family. The house, now owned by Hurshel Symmonds, is unoccupied.  
—Daily Gate City Photo

Today, one thinks of the "Good old days" as being an era of low prices—but not so in the case of ferry rates in 1833—four-horse wagon, \$2; two-horse wagon, \$1.50; man and horse, 50 cents; footman, 25 cents; each head of cattle, hogs or sheep, 12 and one-half cents.

## Newspaper in 1856

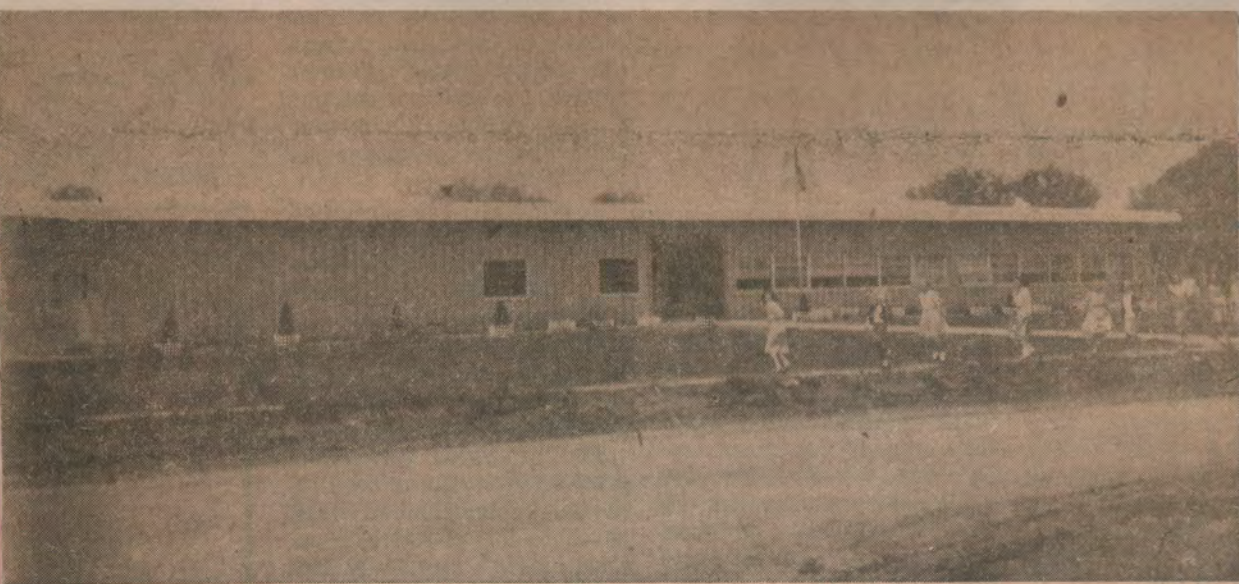
Indicative of the city's stability, "The Delta Newspaper" was established in Alexandria by Chambers Ober in 1856, and another paper was inaugurated 12 years later, "The Alexandria Commercial."

From a newspaper account of June 11, 1867, Alexandria was described as "the landing place and commission depot of a large scope of southern Iowa, as well as a number of



ENTRANCE TO ALEXANDRIA, MO. on highways 61 and 136.  
—Daily Gate City Photo





**MODERN SCHOOL BUILDING** built last year in Alexandria.

counties in Missouri," ... but, the story goes on with the prediction that "Alexandria will soon dry up when the Keokuk, Fort Des Moines and Minnesota railroad opens."

In addition to the town's early five-storied mercantile establishments and the three churches, Alexandria was also the site of the famous Musgrove College, established in 1870 and in operation for ten years. A number of illustrious graduates from this institution went out to become famous in many capacities in various parts of the United States.

#### Fires and floods

Ravaging fires and disastrous floods over a period of years shattered Alexandria's dream and original intentions of becoming a large commercial center.

On May 19, 1862, a fire which started in the Delta Hotel, destroyed a large amount of property with an estimated damage of \$45,000, with only a few of the buildings covered by insurance.

Keokuk citizens, seeing the conflagration, immediately placed a ferry boat, the Gate City, at the service of volunteers who hurried to the scene. Keokuk's fire engine, the 'Young America' and two hose carts, accompanied by members of the fire department and a crowd of citizens, took part in the rescue operations.

A newspaper of that day describes the valiant work of the combined forces of Keokuk and Alexandria, and even "The ladies of Alexandria



**STILTED DOMICILE** at the edge of Alexandria remains high and dry though completely isolated by flood waters that surround the site. Photographed March 1962.

—Daily Gate City Photo

helped by wading into the river and lading up buckets of water.

#### Beer for firemen

The press also added that the Alexandria people were so grateful for the help given them by Keokuk that an order was given to the firemen for "five kegs of beer, or as much as they could hold."

At another time the large and valuable pork house of Maxwell and Company with all the contents was razed by fire. This was the establishment of Andy Maxwell, grandfather of Elsa Maxwell.

Although it has never recaptured its early stature in population and industry, Alexandria, with its crooked little Main street wending its way to the water front, its century-old trees and its friendly

folks, is today a forward-looking community. It is a town that is building for the future with planned civic improvements taking place in orderly succession.

## THE GATE CITY:

SUNDAY MORNING, AUGUST 11, '78.

#### Relics Found in Clark County.

(Alexandria, Mo., Commercial.)

Isaac R. Campbell, of St. Francisville, is an early settler of this county who came here before the woods were burned. He is an old man now, and takes life easy. The bluffs around his town are prolific in stone axes, tomahawks, etc., etc., and the old gentleman has a room full of them at home picked up and dug up during the last quarter of a century, into which he is always willing to admit the curious.

A few weeks ago while searching out back of town for something "ancient" he struck it rich. Half-burned in a knoll at the foot of a huge oak tree he found the image of a man—minus the head—about eight inches in length. He now has it at home and those who wish to inspect it will be readily accommodated by Mr. Campbell. It is thought by competent judges to be an emblem of the religion of the mound-builders. It is smoothly finished and appears to be a genuine relic of antiquity.

The head was found years ago near the tree and is now in the possession of C. B. Matlock, of Kahoka.



# Missouri Pioneer Relates Adventures

AUG. 29, 1941

—Of 120 Years Ago

Editor's Note: For the old Alexandria, Mo., Commercial a number of years ago the late General William R. Harrison, at the behest of many friends, wrote a brief autobiographical account of his experiences and adventures as one of the earliest pioneers in this territory 120 years ago. It is reprinted below.

With reluctance born of misgivings as to my ability to interest the public, I have yielded to the repeated solicitations of my friends to write a history of my long and somewhat eventful life. So, without further apologetic gush, I will proceed, in chronological order, to unfold my tale.

I was born in 1801 at the city of Wheeling, Va., and lived there until I attained the age of 19, when I became imbued with the spirit of adventure, anticipated Horace Greeley's advice, and came west. I landed at St. Louis, Mo., on the fourth Monday in August, 1820, the year in which Missouri was admitted into the union, and the very day on which Alexander McNair, the first constitutional governor of Missouri, was elected. Eager for excitement, I immediately joined a company of volunteers, of which an impetuous little Frenchman by the name of Pimae Dole was captain, and proceeded with them up the Missouri river, in search of a band of Sac and Fox Indians who had stolen some horses from the settlers in the vicinity of St. Louis. We found the Indians on the Chariton river, and gave chase, when they abandoned the stolen property and made good their escape. Our mission done, we returned the horses to St. Louis, received our pay and were disbanded.

I then entered the service of the American Fur company, and in the spring of 1821 was sent with other employes of the company to trade on the Gasconade. Our goods consisted of blankets, traps, tobacco, pipes and trinkets. We traded on the Gasconade until the first of October, and were then sent to the mountains for a winter trade. There we trafficked with success until the first of May, 1822, and then loaded our pelts into a small flatboat and floated down to St. Louis.

Next we were sent up the Mississippi river to Flint Hills, where Burlington now stands, for a summer's trade, and returned the last of August. Then a barge was loaded for the Des Moines river trade, and Charles Woods, a

Frenchman, and myself were chosen for the mission. We immediately set out upon our voyage, and by dint of sailing, poling, and towing, succeeded in landing our clumsy little craft at a point on the Des Moines, one mile above the present site of St. Francisville, on the 13th day of September, 1822. Here we hastily erected two cabins, one for a trading house, the other for a dwelling; and, strange as it may seem, we built on the identical spot upon which, after a lapse of 58 years, I now live. Here we bartered with the Sacs and Foxes, Black Hawk and Keokuk included, until the first of April, 1823. Then we put canoes together, loaded our furs, floated down to the Mississippi and crossed over to Fort Edwards (now Warsaw), and awaited the arrival of a barge from Fort Madison which was to convey us to St. Louis. The barge came along next day, when we resumed our journey and landed at St. Louis in due time, in good order and condition. The only signs of civilization we noticed along the river that trip were at Tully, where we saw three white men and two negroes. One of the former was old man Meyers, one of the earliest settlers of Lewis county. The negroes, I presume, were his slaves.

We did not ascend the Des Moines again until the fall of 1826, when we built a trading house on what is known as Noah Bailey's Maryville farm, about two miles above the present site of St. Francisville. Here we traded with the braves, and made love to the dusky beauties, until the following spring, when we loaded our furs into pirogues, took tearful leave of our aboriginal enchantresses, and set sail for headquarters. As we passed the present site of St. Francisville we saw three white men—John Clark and his twin brothers, Jotham and William—standing on the bank of the river. They were the only white men we saw that trip.

The next fall Charles Woods and I, still in the employ of the American Fur company, went on another trading expedition up the river. This time we ascended as high as White Breast, a short distance below the present city of Des Moines, and traded there until the next spring, when we returned to St. Louis with a good cargo of furs. As we came down the Des Moines we saw several

white men, one of whom was John Peveler, preparing to build, at a point one mile below the present site of Athens.

I now resolved to quit the service of the American Fur company for awhile, and engage in business for myself. Accordingly I purchased a stock of goods such as experience had taught me were the most soothing to the savage breast, and came up to Canton, then a small cluster of rude cabins situated in a forest. Here I traded until fall, then embarked for St. Louis, where I disposed of my furs to a good advantage. I then purchased an outfit and came to Clark county on a trapping expedition, arriving at the present site of St. Francisville on October 21, 1830.

I will now digress, and relate a few incidents and anecdotes of the early settlement of Clark county.

The first crop of corn grown in Clark county was raised in 1830 by Uncle Jerre Wayland. It was harvested at the usual time, and carefully stored away, and was not only the dependence of Uncle Jerre, but also of a number of others who had but recently come to this then a western wild. Great calculations were made for the ensuing year, and this corn was to furnish bread for the entire settlement until the next crop matured. But alas! their fond hopes were destined to fall short of fruition. The forepart of the winter was extremely cold, rendering the ice in the Des Moines unusually thick, and a great depth of snow lay upon the ground. Warm weather, with a heavy rainfall, came the first of January and started the ice in the Des Moines, and then followed the immense gorge that all of the old settlers remember so distinctly to this day. Uncle Jerre Wayland was the greatest loser of any of the inhabitants. He was living one mile below St. Francisville, and saw the danger in time to save his family, but his stock and farm products were a total loss. Uncle Jerre was greatly distressed at the disaster, and when his dwelling and contents went floating off down stream, he exclaimed: "There it all goes to hell together!" This was the first and last language of the kind I ever heard him make use of.

Peter Gillis lived on what is called Jordan's Island. The breaking up of the Des Moines and the gorging of the ice, was so unexpected to him that he and his



family were caught on the island with no available avenue of escape, but in order to let his friends know he was unharmed he would fire off his rifle once every hour. The male inhabitants held a council as to what had better be done with regard to Mr. Gillis' situation. All knew that to attempt to go to him would be attended by great danger. I had no family at that time, and was far from relatives, so I told them I would make the attempt, for if I was lost there would be no fatherless family left to deal with the cold charities of the world. I had divested myself of coat and hat and was going to start alone, when Richard Boon stepped up to me and said: "William, I will accompany you, and if we are lost we will go together." If I ever felt solemn in my life it was when we bid adieu to those of our friends who had collected on the bank to see us start. With tears streaming down the cheeks of all they bade us God-speed, wished us a safe return and told us they would pray for us, and then we started on our perilous journey. When we came to the channel of what is called the Old Bed, our progress was checked by a wall of ice, but not to be out-done we pulled our canoe out on it and pushed the boat along until we came to the water again, when we resumed our paddles and were soon at Mr. Gillis' door. The

situation of the family can be briefly stated. Mrs. Gillis and her sister were sitting on the bed, and Gillis was trying to prop some wood up in the fireplace to warm something to eat by. He was wading in water knee-deep. We informed them that we were there to try and get them to the mainland, and by considerable persuasion they were induced to go with us. A few articles of kitchen furniture were placed in the canoe, and then we all got in and started for the Sand Ridge.

I had not made many strokes before I broke my paddle, and Mrs. Gillis gave me a frying pan to use in its stead, and took off her shoes and with one in each hand helped to propel the craft. Our progress was unimpeded for some distance, but we finally came to where we had hauled our canoe on the ice in going over. The ice was breaking away and our only chance was to run the blockade between great piles of floating ice. We discovered the top of a bush between two of these gorges, and bent our paddles to reach it, and just as Bone was in the act of grasping it the ice began giving away and swept it beneath the surface of the stream. The narrow channel through which we were passing closed up rapidly behind

us, but we reached the shore safely, and soon had our cargo on dry land.

## DAILY GATE CITY

### OLD PAPER TELLS OF EARLY DAYS IN ALEXANDRIA

Gift of a Hat to the Printer  
Brought Many Lines of Com-  
pliments—Town Had Many  
Stores in 1860.

A hat brought several lines of complimentary notice in the Alexandria Delta back in 1860, a copy of which has been sent to Mrs. Harry Fore, of Danville, Iowa, and in turn to Miss Rutherford of this city. The publisher of this paper was N. D. Rutherford, a relative of these women. The late J. W. Murphy, of the Burlington Saturday Evening Post, sent the paper to Mrs. Fore last April.

This particular issue is the weekly Delta of the date of Thursday, April 19. It seems that P. Cunningham, a merchant of Alexandria, presented the hat to the printer, who said that Mr. Cunningham was a "clever man" and "sells more goods than any merchants in these parts because he is the right kind of a fellow." It seems that this was the second hat given the printer, and he offered to sell one of them to needy friends at half price.

J. M. Johnson, successor to Maxwell and Johnson, had a large advertisement in this issue. Perkins Bros., on Main street, advertised stoves. DeKalb Musgrove was an attorney at law, and J. W. Campbell and Co., at St. Francisville, operated a flour mill. T. Fitzpatrick offered fall and winter goods, dress patterns and pine lumber. A. Hoppe was the merchant tailor of the town. Reflecting the spirit of the time, B. J. Kenney advertised that the "war has actually commenced" but he meant the war on high prices. He offered groceries, dry goods and family provisions, including fine wines and liquors. The Pearl Street House was run by Johnathan Hewitt, who advertised that his service included assisting passengers to and from boats and that his stable will always be found in good order. H. C. Schultz was a dealer in furniture and coffins. H. Judson sold hardware and iron. Spellman and Smith were commission merchants, as were R. E. Hill and Co. C. Dabinski offered cigars and tobacco.

Some of the doctors were R. S. McKee, M. D., Wm. H. Musgrove, M. D., Dr. G. W. Carpenter, Dr. W. F. Clark and Dr. L. J. Rabbitt. M. H. Brawner was a dentist. R. C. Warriner had a drug store, and John Fitzgerald advertised a family grocery and bakery and also that he had fitted up an elegant saloon where may be found in warm weather, "ice cream and soda water." Bush and Rutherford were attorneys and Joseph Catsmeyer had a meat market.

The paper is a four page affair and of the size of papers of that day, big enough to make a bedspread. **SEPT. 11. 1932**

## KEOKUK CONSTITUTION

KEOKUK, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17-1887

### A LEAK IN THE LEVEE.

DANGER OF A GREAT OVERFLOW  
IN THE ALEXANDRIA  
BOTTOM.

Four Hundred Feet of the Egyptian Levee Washed Away—The Water Raising --- Alexandria Inundated Again---Damage to Crops and the Railroad Tracks.

The Alexandria bottom in once more in danger of an overflow—something it has not suffered greatly from since the construction of the Egyptian levee, a dirt embankment extending along the Des Moines river from Alexandria to St. Francisville. The river is bank full now and coming up at the rate of one inch an hour, and just below the yellow banks, at a point about two miles above Buena Vista, there is a gap in the levee four hundred feet wide, caused by the undermining and caving in of the south bank. The break is in the cornfield of Mr. O.C. Sage, who discovered it at an early hour this morning. The water is now rushing through the gap, and unless it is stopped will flood the entire bottoms in forty-eight hours, and the damage in that event would be tens of thousands of dollars, as but little corn has been gathered or other preparations made for such an occurrence. The farmers in that section were raising a gang of men to go out to the break at noon and may succeed in stopping it. The streets of Alexandria are also said to be full of water and some of the sidewalks are floating around. The new levee on the north side of that town still holds good, but the water sipes through the railroad dump on the south. The water is within twelve inches of the top of the St. Louis line track at Buena Vista, and a further rise will shut out the M. I. & N. trains.

Parties who came in on the M. I. & N. passenger train from Centerville and Corydon this morning, report heavy rains all over that country; that it came down in torrents for hours without intermission.

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



## Alexandria Had Other Floods



MONDAY, JUNE 23, 1947

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

These old-time photographs, submitted to The Gate City by P. R. Dickson of 2312 McKinley Ave., who spent 30 years in Alexandria before moving to Keokuk, show the high water in 1903 when the Des Moines set records which stood until this month.

In the upper picture the woman holding her hat in the foreground is standing on the bank of the Mississippi river where the levee now runs. Below it a Mississippi river steamboat pulls right up along side the town and is loading stock aboard. In the lower picture two men in a skiff are swimming a horse to safety.



## Alexandria Caused Alarm in Keokuk During Civil War Days

### THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION.

Flood conditions which have focused attention upon Alexandria, Mo., and the neighborly feeling which now exists between its people and those of Keokuk who are eager to do anything to help relieve their plight, bring to mind the troubled times during the early days of the Civil war when the relationship was none too cordial and Keokuk went so far as to raid and loot the town.

From a story in the Gate City of Aug. 6, 1862, it is learned that the Sabbath peace of Keokuk was disturbed by rumors that the Confederates had seized Alexandria and were preparing to raid Keokuk with a large force.

#### Rifles to Rescue.

Alarm bells rang and the City Rifles were mustered along with a number of injured soldiers under the command of Lt. Col. Parrott. The larger part of the force went down the river by boat while a mounted squad went through St. Francisville to prevent the Rebels from escaping.

When the troops landed on the levee they found to their disgust the secessionists had been warned by a "dastardly fellow named Ray" who had gone down the river in a skiff.

#### Take 25 Prisoners.

The raid was not without value for 25 of the so-called leading secessionists of Alexandria were taken prisoner. The following night another raid garnered a large amount of war supplies which had been gathered in Alexandria for the Confederate army, the story continued.

The paper concluded the article by saying that the raids have proved that Keokuk has a large enough force of brave men and resourceful officers to beat off any Rebel attack.

#### Prisoner Answers.

Some thirty-five years later in a

Memorial Day issue of 1897 the story was reprinted and a few days later a letter was received from one of the prisoners telling his side of the story. His name was C. L. Becker and he began by saying that the man who gave the alarm to Keokuk, Ben Stanley, builder of the first house in Wayland, knew very well there were no Rebels within 100 miles and furthermore had pulled the same trick only a year before.

Lt. Col. Parrott, according to Becker, may have been in command, but the main body of troops was led by Lt. Bell, a cocky West Pointer "who was so ignorant he couldn't even spell the prisoners names."

Regarding the second raid for supplies, Becker told how the merchants of Alexandria, even if they wanted to aid the Confederate army, were unable to do so, and anyway what possible use could baby clothes be unless to clothe Union infantry.

"The whiskey they took must have been to preserve dead rebels with since being from Iowa nobody would drink it," he declared.

After taking Becker prisoner, the troops broke into his store, he said, where they stole every knife and razor "in case of future attacks upon Keokuk." Becker was puzzled about how they would use his ac-

cordian and finally came to the conclusion it would be used at the funerals of rebel prisoners.

Parts of the incident were funny and parts were serious but the funniest part came, Becker said, when the 300 Union troops on the levee at Alexandria fled like mice when the squad of men who rode around by St. Francisville came into town and were thought to be Confederate cavalry. "Running like that," he concluded, "isn't seen every day." **JUNE 12, 1947.**

### THE GATE CITY

THURSDAY MORNING, NOV. 27.

## FOR SALE!

AT A BARGAIN.

*A Pork House, with all the Machinery therein contained—a large Two-Story Stone Building—and two Brick Stores,*

All in the city of Alexandria, Clark County Missouri, and now owned by the estate of the Central Savings Bank, in Bankruptcy.

This is a rare opportunity for any one desirous to purchase property at a low figure, as the Assignee is anxious to close up the estate. Full particulars will be given on application to **M. H. PHELAN**, Assignee Central Savings Bank, Fourth and Franklin Avenue, St. Louis, or to **WALKER & WALKER**, Attorneys, 27-10t 506 Olive Street, St. Louis.



# The Gate City.

DECEMBER 23, 1890.

## A BIG BLAZE.

Alexandria, Mo., Visited By a  
Disastrous Fire Last  
Night.

A Whole Block of Frame Buildings Burned  
to the Ground—Loss Estimated at \$15,-  
000—Keokuk Sends Fire Appara-  
tus to the Relief.

A brilliant illumination in the southwestern sky at half past 6 o'clock last evening attracted the attention of hundreds of people on the streets. It proved to be a rather disastrous conflagration raging at Alexandria, Mo., a town that has suffered from several similar visitations within the past decade. A telegram was received from the mayor of Alexandria appealing for aid, in response to which a steamer and hose cart was loaded on a C., B. & Q. flat car as expeditiously as possible. But the usual delay that invariably accompanies the departure of fire apparatus to aid a neighboring town occurred in this instance. It was half past 7 o'clock before the switch engine pulled out from the depot, and when Alexandria was reached shortly before 8 o'clock a block of buildings was in ruins, the further progress of the flames had been effectually checked and the service of the engine was not required, though the appreciation of the citizens for the response from Keokuk was manifest and earnestly expressed. About seventy-five men and boys crowded into the car carrying the steamer and as many more went down on the Keokuk and Western passenger train.

From the railway depot the ruins appeared much larger in area than they actually were. Nearly one whole block on front street had been wiped out. The fire originated in the depot of the St. Louis, St. Paul and Minneapolis Packet company, a one and one-half story frame building about forty by sixty feet in dimensions. About four tons of baled hay owned by Wm. Prichett and stored in the depot was destroyed. When first discovered the flames were seen issuing from the roof, which is presumed to have been ignited from an overheated stovepipe or from sparks. As the buildings were of a highly inflammable character, the flames spread with wonderful rapidity and within a few minutes communicated themselves to adjoining structures. Citizens turned out en masse and by the aid of buckets heroically endeavored to circumscribe the limits of the conflagration. The second structure assailed by the devouring element was Bates & Co.'s warehouse and elevator, and two-

story frame. The next building to disappear was occupied by Bates & Co., and owned by the Warsaw Pickle company. About fifteen self-binders and some other agricultural implements owned by this firm were consumed, together with 800 bushels of corn, 800 bushels of wheat and 200 bushels of oats. Bates & Co.'s bookkeeper stated that the stock was insufficiently insured and that the building owned by the firm was not insured at all. It is presumed there was insurance on the packet depot and it was reported there was none on the building owned by the Warsaw Pickle Co. A two-story frame owned by Thomas Cherry and occupied by Charles Henshaw, who lost 300 bushels of oats; the Watson property, occupied by Herman Davis, and a frame dwelling owned by Thomas Cherry, on which there was no insurance, were also consumed. Many people living in the immediate vicinity removed their household effects, fearing that it would be impossible to check the fire. Had a high wind prevailed, it is likely that the greater portion of this ill-fated town would have been completely destroyed. The total loss by last night's fire is roughly estimated at \$15,000.

## Constitution-Democrat

NOVEMBER 9, 1896.  
VISITED BY FIRE.

Alexandria the Scene of Another  
Big Conflagration.

Four Business Houses Burned to the  
Ground Early This Morning—  
The Loss Will Be  
Heavy.

The little town of Alexandria was visited by fire about 3 o'clock this morning and four of its principal business were razed to the ground in a mass of smouldering ruins.

No one seems to know how the fire originated and it had gained considerable headway before it was discovered. It is supposed to have started in the implement store of Charles Blair, which contained the most valuable of the stocks destroyed. Mrs. Ida Jones, at the Welton hotel, was the first to discover the fire and give the alarm.

The only means of fighting fire in the town is a bucket brigade and this turned out in full force, doing excellent service, considering the odds with which they had to compete. The fire spread along the block on Pearl street, in which the store was situated.

Besides Blair's implement store, Gerdell's harness store, Dr. Rebo's drug store, formerly owned by Dr. Hagan, of this city, Richard Cary's hardware store, owned by C. L. Becker, of this city, and the grocery store of E. M. Aldrich were

all consumed.

About four feet from the latter is Sage's grocery, covered with an iron sheeting. This became so hot that it began to burn the wood and it had to be removed, which was done with great difficulty. With hard work on the part of the fire fighters this building escaped with only about \$200 damage, the wall toward the fire and those of some of the out-buildings being burned. It is owned by Captain Frank Meyers of Warsaw. Had this building burned, it is thought that almost the entire town would have gone up in smoke.

The Aldrich grocery stock was valued at \$1,200 covered by \$500 insurance. The building was owned by Mrs. Cunningham, of this city, and was not protected with insurance. C. L. Becker's hardware stock was a complete loss of \$600, with no insurance. Charles Blair's loss was \$3,000 with \$2,500 insurance. The Gerdell harness stock was valued at \$2,000, with an insurance of \$400. Dr. Hagen owns the latter four buildings, which are covered by insurance.

## THE GATE CITY:

THURSDAY MORNING, JAN. 18, 1877.

### FIERCE FLAMES.

Their Work at Alexandria Yesterday  
Morning--The St. Charles Hotel and  
Three Other Buildings De-  
stroyed--Loss, Over  
\$8,000--No In-  
surance.

The fire in Alexandria yesterday morning, brief allusion to which was made in the GATE CITY, broke out between 12 and 1 o'clock, and it is generally supposed, was caused by the explosion of a coal oil lamp in the office of the St. Charles Hotel, on Main street. The lamp was held by a bracket fastened to a thin pine partition, which, when it caught fire, burned so rapidly that, before any one in the hotel was awakened by its crackling, it had communicated to nearly the entire front of the house.

After the alarm was sounded nearly every man and woman in the town was on the spot to render assistance.

The absence of a fire engine in the place gave the flames full sway. A considerable number of persons were in the hotel at the time, and most of them had to make their escape with little or no clothing on their persons, except what they had on when they retired. Men, women and children running about in the snow, almost naked, seeking shelter, presented a pitiable sight in the reflection of the strengthening flames. The hotel building and nearly everything in it is a total loss. The building was owned by Mr. Samuel Ressler, and his loss by building, furniture, etc., is about \$3,500.



The fire from the hotel communicated with three buildings on the east, which were entirely consumed. The two adjoining the hotel were owned by Mr. August Hoppe, and the third by Messrs. H. Judson and E. Warner. H. Sandte occupied one of Mr. Hoppe's buildings, as a shoemaker's shop. He saved part of his effects. Mr. Judson, an extensive stove and tinware dealer, saved nearly all his stock, but lost most of his tools, which were valued at \$200. In the same building was Jo. Nebering, a cigar maker, who saved all his stock. The loss on this building is \$2,500. The loss on Mr. Hoppe's buildings was about \$2,000.

The area of the fire was nearly one-half a block. There never lived women or men who worked more zealously than did the women and men of Alexandria, to conquer the element. Women, forgetting the cold and exposure, stood and passed buckets of water until it seemed almost beyond endurance; and men with bare feet, hatless and coatless, put forth every energy to stay the fiend.

The Warsaw engine rendered valuable assistance. A number of the members of the Warsaw Company took over Babcock Extinguishers, which did very excellent service.

A petition was in circulation yesterday for the relief of some of the sufferers, and up to 4 o'clock over \$300 had been subscribed and paid.

Several buildings were pretty severely scorched, but no serious damage to them.

There was no insurance on any of the property. The following is a statement of the losses as near as could be ascertained:

|                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| Samuel Ressler.....  | \$3,500 |
| H. Judson.....       | 200     |
| Judson & Warner..... | 2,550   |
| August Hoppe.....    | 2,000   |
| H. Sandte.....       | 200     |
| Total.....           | \$8,500 |

**The Gate City.**  
SATURDAY, MARCH 13, '92  
Entered in Keokuk Postoffice as Second-Class Matter.

## SCHOOL BELL IS RECOVERED

It Was at Bottom of Manure Pile in  
Yard and Officers Have Hard  
Time Digging It Up from  
There.

## WAS CAST BACK IN 1850

Bell Has Artistic Design on It and  
Was Evidently Pride of the Bell  
Maker of Pitts-  
burgh.

The Alexandria school bell, which was reported to the police as having been stolen last week, was recovered yesterday buried in a manure pile in Keokuk. Chief Henneman and Patrolman Wilson were the fork wielders, and after laboring for over an hour, had almost decided to quit, when one of them struck metal, and the search continued to a successful end.

The bell was found in the bottom of the manure pile back of the barn in the rear of Marsh Florie's residence. Florie said that he purchased the bell for fifteen dollars from some boys and the police are looking for the boys.

The bell weighs somewhere in the neighborhood of 250 pounds, one would judge from the size of it, and the men who handled it are sure that it must weigh that much. It was cast in Pittsburgh in 1850 and A. Fulton was the maker of the bell.

The design on the bell is rather unusual and adds a touch of the artistic to the otherwise plain brass surface. The design is shown on two sides with a conventional border around the upper part of the big casting. The design shows Socrates and his two pupils.

The school house, which has housed the bell at Alexandria, has been torn down, and the bell was on the ground, according to the police.

**The Gate City.**  
MARCH 22, 1920  
Entered in Keokuk Postoffice as Second-Class Matter.

## FATHER GAVE BELL TO CHURCH

Cortes Maxwell Recognizes Old Bell  
Stolen From Alexandria as One  
His Father Presented to  
Church.

When the police unearthed an old bell from the bottom of a manure pile a week ago, they unearthed a gift of a former Keokuk man to the church at Alexandria.

Cortes Maxwell saw the bell yesterday and recognized it as the one which his father had presented to the church at Alexandria at the time it was built.

Mr. Maxwell said that his father gave a substantial sum of money toward the building of the brick church, which was built for the Methodists about the year 1860.

## KEOKUK CONSTITUTION

KEOKUK, TUESDAY, JULY 19, 1891

## AFFAIRS AT ALEXANDRIA.

### Notes on the High Water and the Crops.

#### New Buildings to be Erected on the Site of the Big Fire.

#### THE HIGH WATER.

The high water of 1851 was the first great flood to sweep over Alexandria, and it has been regularly inundated ever since. The water rose higher that year than it ever did before since the early settlers came, and higher than it ever has been since. Volly Hill owned a blacksmith shop in the north part of town that year, and a mark on its side still remains to prove the great height to which the water came. In 1864, 1868, 1875 and 1880, there were floods of lesser volume—each one contributing not a little to alarm and annoy the merchants of the town and the farmers in the bottom, and to dishearten and discourage them. The Alexandria bottom comprises some very rich and fruitful soil, and the one great effort of its citizens, many of them men of means, appears to have been directed toward fighting the spring freshets. The upper part of the bottom—that is, all that part of it lying between what is known as the Middle road and the Des Moines river, is thoroughly protected by the Egyptian levee, and never had a finer crop or a richer harvest than it is now reaping. The wheat in places was partly winter-killed, but that is all the complaint that has been made or that can be heard down there, and when the honest husbandman has not more than one grievance to comfort his soul, then indeed hath the Lord God dealt leniently with him. The upper road, from Alexandria to St. Francisville, is high and dry, and lined on either side with luxurious farms and teeming with ripening grain. Prominent among the leading agriculturists of that section are Major R. E. Hill, who makes his home in this city; Capt. Enoch Hinckley, who has but recently returned from a pleasure trip to the north, and who also lives in Keokuk but owns an extensive tract of tillable land down in the bottoms; Jas. A. Jenkins, Leland Wayland, David Hand, O. C. Sage, George Harter, Mr. Winkelman, Ed. Palmer, and many others. All of these men are well pleased with the summer's out-put, and have nothing but praise for the ground that has yield so abundantly. The farmers living down in



the vicinity of Fox prairie have been less fortunate, and have nothing to boast of. They have tried several times to wake up the neighborhood sufficiently to raise funds for the building of a levee, but their efforts so far have availed them but little. Several meetings have been held at Gregory's Landing, a small hamlet seven miles below Alexandria, and sets of resolutions drawn up and passed. But resolutions don't build dirt walls to keep out the rising river. Those folks appear to have taken a very philosophical view of the matter, however. "When the water is up they can't build the levee, and when it goes down they don't need it," you see. Now that whole country is under water from Gregory to the Sandridge, and on down to within a short distance of Canton, and thousands of dollars' worth of property—fencing, crops and live stock—worse than wasted. Last year a man lost his life there while trying to save some drowning stock. All this trouble could have been easily avoided by building the proposed levee. It is to be hoped that should the C. B. & Q. railroad company get control of the K. & St. L. line, it will at once proceed to raise the track and dump above high water mark, for, by so doing, a large strip of valuable farming land on the west shore of the Mississippi, between Buena Vista and Hannibal will thus be reclaimed. There are several fine farms between Honey creek and the bluff that the water has never covered, not even the flood of 1851, notable among which are those of C. Henshaw, John N. Boulware, Ed. Connable and A. Musgrove.

#### FIRE BRANDS.

Alexandria has not yet recovered from the effects of her recent conflagration. The bare walls of the burned brick buildings stand there and bake in the sun, and suggest to the stranger some ancient ruin of a pre-historic people. Charnay, the well known French explorer of Central American antiquities, would turn green with envy could he but know what a sight the common people here have to gaze upon, and Sam. Evans, the Ottumwa bone hunter, would we know, want nothing richer than an hour's ramble among these ruins. As to whether Jap Blines, the "Bard of Avon," has yet explored the debris we cannot state.

Seriously, however, Alexandria is going to recuperate and gain her lost prestige, for she still has many enterprising citizens. Already several buildings have sprung up, and the erection of others are in immediate contemplation. Thomas Cherry will start the masons on a two-story brick store in few days. Dr. Hagan has his new drug house almost ready for occupancy. Messrs. Henshaw and Hagerman have bought the

Bott lots, on Front street, and are going to build.

The large safe that went down in the Watson building has been dragged out into the street. It refuses to open and give up its valuables, and will be shipped to St. Louis on the first boat. Bott & Co's safe has also been recovered and opened and its contents found in good condition. The Calvert building still hangs on the ragged edge of the Des Moines, half in the water and half on the shore—where the spring freshet left it. The Des Moines fell four feet at St. Francisville last night.

Rev. Musgrove will have a public sale of the college property to-morrow, preparatory to his removal to Monticello, Missouri.

## KEOKUK CONSTITUTION

KEOKUK, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14.

## A VOYAGE TO "VENICE."

A SAIL THROUGH A SLOUGH ON THE STEAMER PLOUGH BOY.

### The Pleasures of a Sunday Excursion

When the Wind Down the River is Fair—Skirting the Submerged Farm of Hunter John Nelson—How Matters Look in and Around Alexandria, the Modern Venice—Condition of the Long Line Track—Notes.

Yesterday afternoon the Plough Boy got up steam and went down to Warsaw and Alexandria, leaving the foot of Main street at 2 p. m. There were a number of passengers on board, most of whom disembarked at the two landings mentioned above. By invitation from the captain several remained on board and accompanied the little craft on a trip down to John Nelson's farm, four miles below. In due time the boat rounded the point of the island opposite Nelson's farm, which is yet covered with water, and steamed up into the mouth of a slough in quest of a couple of logs that are used for the boat to land against at Alexandria, but which had floated away and been tied up down there by some philanthropist. However, the sharp eyes of the various members of the crew could not discern the objects of the search, and the boat returned without them, continuing on her course up the slough. Some one has written that he who erects a house that is pleasing to look upon is a public benefactor, for the reason that its effect upon the community cannot be otherwise than good. It exerts an educating influence and its missionary work will gradually become recognized in the changed character of the surrounding houses. It arouses a spirit of emulation and extends the sphere of

good taste. And it would not be difficult to speak in the same relation with reference to the scenery along this slough as viewed from the roof of the Plough Boy. As the boat sped along, now close to one shore, and then hugging the shadows of the trees on the other in her winding course around the sharp bends, a panorama of pleasing pictures, with their backgrounds of water and bushes among the tall trees, passed before the gaze of the traveler. In some places on the island and on the shore of the mainland opposite the earth was quite bare, and at such points it was easy to make out the great heaps of sand and rubbish that the receding waters had left behind them. These deposits, which each recurring freshet leaves, is filling up that section very fast, and accounts for the fact that the water was at no time this fall very deep over it, while at Alexandria, where the water has been shut out partially for twenty years, the ground was so low that when the water did break over the levee it had a veritable basin to fill, and consequently the water was very deep in the streets. The K. & St. L. line track is now out of water from Keokuk as far down as Canton and below, and section men who have walked the track report the worst break as being at Fox Slough dump, half a mile below Alexandria. Between the Alexandria depot and Fox Slough fill, the track is entirely off of the grade, having been lifted clear of the embankment by the rush of water. Gangs of men are already at work repairing this road below Hannibal and will attack other weak points as fast as it is possible. On the main track at Alexandria there are a number of cars of damaged corn, some of which is owned by J. H. Million, and the aroma arising from a car of decomposing cabbage can be detected two hundred yards away, but there is no help for it. The water is partially off of some of the higher streets and out of many of the houses, and only runs over the demolished city levee in one place—near Kirby's blacksmith shop. Already the business men down there are beginning to take renewed courage and are anticipating a good trade in the course of a few weeks. Million & Garrett will open out a large stock there this week.

## The Gate City.

## BUILDINGS BURNED.

Alexandria Again Swept by an  
Expensive Conflagration.

NOVEMBER 10, 1896.



## MANY STORES DESTROYED.

Loss Will Aggregate \$15,000—In the Absence of Fire Protection the Flames Had Undisputed Sway—The Losses and Insurance.

Alexandria, Mo., which has been swept by fire and inundated by water times without number until the town has relapsed into a condition of chronic decrepitude as compared with its once envied commercial prosperity, was visited by another expensive conflagration early yesterday morning. This ill-fated place has suffered from more than its just proportion of disasters. The elements of fire and water have apparently leagued themselves together for the purpose of destroying it, but it persistently refuses to be obliterated from the map of Missouri. Yesterday morning's destructive blaze was discovered shortly after the early hour of 2 o'clock. Those who arrived earliest upon the scene of destruction are of the opinion that the fire originated in the implement store of C. E. Blair, because it had progressed to a greater extent within that structure and was just being communicated to an adjoining building. All opinions as to its origin are merely suppositious, but there are not a few who adhere to the theory of incendiarism without specifying individuals or assigning motives. All of the half a dozen stores that were destroyed were one-story frame buildings constructed of the most inviting material to a hungry flame. It required but a few minutes to completely envelop the Blair agricultural implement and buggy repository and it, with its contents, was soon levelled to the ground. Mr. Blair estimates the value of his stock at \$4,500 and the building at \$600. He carried \$1,800 insurance on the former and \$300 on the latter.

Dr. J. C. Hagan of Keokuk, who is still mayor of Alexandria, lost a double store building, his office and an unoccupied residence in the rear of the former. His loss is \$1,300, with \$750 insurance. All the records of the town of Alexandria, even unto the last scrap of paper, were destroyed in this conflagration. Dr. Hagan had notes amounting to thousands of dollars in his safe, which successfully withstood the intense heat to which it had been subjected. He is much grieved over the loss of a \$150 human skeleton. Dr. Hagan was burnt out at Alexandria in 1890.

F. A. S. Rebo's drug store occupied one portion of the Hagan building. The stock destroyed was valued at \$1,500, partially covered by \$500 insurance. A consignment of several hundred dollars worth of whisky recently received added fuel to the flames. C. L. Becker's hardware store, also located in the Hagan building, was destroyed,

involving a loss of \$600 with no insurance. When Richard Cary, who managed this branch and slept in the store, was awakened the roof was about to fall in.

The building of Mrs. P. Cunningham of Keokuk, valued at \$600 and uninsured and occupied by Ed L. Aldrich as a grocery store, was wholly destroyed. Mr. Aldrich's stock was valued at \$1,500, which was protected to the extent of \$500 insurance. A part of the stock was removed.

H. G. Gredell lost \$1,500 on his harness shop. He carried \$300 insurance on the building, which was valued at \$500.

In their progress eastward the flames had eaten their way to the large general merchandise store of D. N. Sage. The building is owned by Captain Frank Meyers of Warsaw. Last summer it was covered with sheet iron and it was this protecting covering that saved it and probably other structures from total annihilation. Numerous residences in the vicinity were ignited and were saved through the united efforts of the entire populace, which rendered valiant service. Considering that the town is wholly without fire protection the bucket brigade achieved wonderful results in circumscribing the fire as it did.

THE GREAT DUST HEAR CALLED HISTORY  
R. J. RICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA



# It Didn't Look Like This A Year Ago

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



THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1948

**WHEAT REPLACES MUDDY WATER.** A green field of wheat, shown in the background, occupies what just a year ago was a wide expanse of water, hurled upon Alexandria when the Des Moines river dike broke near St. Francisville. The picture was taken opposite the Kavanagh store and on the road in the foreground a pump was in operation last June.

By FREEMAN ROSENCRANS

ALEXANDRIA, Mo., June 17—

Just a year ago the scene shown above was under the muddy swirling waters of the flood-gorged Des Moines river which had broken from its banks and engulfed one of the most fertile lands in Missouri.

The Mississippi and Des Moines were both at flood stage at this time last year but it was the Des Moines which finally broke through its levee near St. Francisville and sent the swirling floodwaters, fanning out over the valley between the banks of the Des Moines and the Fox rivers.

This avalanche of pent-up water swept on through the stretch of lowlands between St. Francisville and Alexandria. Wayland residents recall how they watched it from Sand Hill—watched as it first crept along the fertile fields, then how it began to move faster as more water poured through the levee break at St. F. They watched as truck after truck beat the floodwaters in hauling furniture and other household things from the path of the flood.

They watched finally as one truck failed to make it. They were tense as they saw the floodwaters sweep around the truck and soon the current became so swift the truck could no longer navigate it—almost within shouting distance of Sand

Hill—almost within safety—but not quite. They saw the driver scramble out and flee to safety with help of rescuers who came in a boat for him.

## Alexandria Trapped.

Alexandria, at the point of a triangle formed by the Des Moines levee and the Fox river levee coming together, was doomed, it seemed. It was at least in for a "good soaking"—ten feet of water. Residents had been warned days before that the Des Moines levee might not hold and to flee from their homes. Then the exodus began. But some would not believe it, they just couldn't believe it. When they heard the levee had broken then they could flee only with the clothes they had on.

Within a few hours water had reached Alexandria—not much. Some Alexandrians stayed behind and watched the floods creep across the fields, watched the water come higher and higher. A very few sturdy souls did this, however. They had no idea how high that water was to come up. It actually reached second stories. But it was not vicious. Only the undercurrent was swift, so that boats could be navigated. They waited—with a boat tied nearby so that escape was still possible.

The waters still came.

The waters engulfed Alexandria completely. Homes were ruined—

buried beneath ten feet of water and muddy silt. The waters remained penned up in this triangle for over three weeks.

## Red Cross Takes Over.

Alexandrians "sat it out" at the home of friends in Keokuk, relatives elsewhere in Clark county, at Wayland, Kahoka, Williamstown, or on farms along the bluffs. The Red Cross took over and established headquarters at Wayland, feeding and housing almost 100 refugees every day during the height of the flood. The Red Cross also replaced damaged or ruined household furniture, later.

With the waters dammed up between the triangle of the Des Moines levee coming in from the north and Fox river levee from the south, it seemed there was no way for the floodwaters to escape. But they did, after three weeks. Then the seepwater remained and it was nearly Fall before most Alexandrians got back to their homes.

Yet most of the Alexandria people refused to be bested by floods. They went back. They cleaned up mess after mess that would have disheartened almost any housewife, no matter how careless a housekeeper she might have been. The mud and slime was something that had to be seen to appreciate. The danger of typhoid was ever present.



**They are Undaunted.**

Undaunted, Alexandrians returned and cleaned it up. A visit to Alexandria today reveals practically no evidence that this time last year everything was under water. Grass is growing again, fields are again colorful with the prospects of good crops. For those who didn't give up, they found the ground better than ever.

Yes, today, the scene between Alexandria and Wayland is a beautiful rolling country, towering green trees, freshly plowed fields, growing crops and very little evidence that a year ago it was the most desolate ground the human eye could look upon. Many who drove through the area after the flood went down could hardly believe their eyes, the scene was so disheartening—to outsiders, but not to Alexandria and Clark county residents in that area. They went back with typical courage of their forefathers and this year, that fortitude and willingness for hard work is paying off.

Alexandrians truly got a test similar to that of the hardy pioneers who founded America. They were tested by high water while their ancestors were tested with many misfortunes. But like their forefathers, Alexandrians did not give up and today their valley is once more peaceful, with a prospect of good crops and good income.

The town of Alexandria is likewise undaunted. Residents there are looking forward to the incorporation of their town; the improvement of their streets, possible town street lights and in general, a thriving little town worthy of its name.

Alexandria remembers one year ago this month, but its residents do not dwell on the desolate, they have hope, confidence and courage for the future. This is a part of America, that which makes it great.

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



# 'Al' Ruddick recalls delightful chapter in Clark county history

By Dorothy Pickett

The Father of Waters has been the compelling force behind much of the midwest's history. It provided the means for early exploration and an avenue for the ensuing transportation. It contributed, of necessity, to the founding of towns along its banks, and molded the lives, customs and habits of the townspeople.

The river has been both friend and foe, sometimes obliterating a village here and there. Others, at times, have suffered devastating havoc from its overflow. These factors have contributed to the history of our area's communities, and the resulting status each holds today.

## Gregory Landing

Gregory Landing is one such village that sprang from the river's needs and then fashioned itself after the pattern of the river's caprices. The story of this quiet little hamlet, as told by Albert J. Ruddick, is a delightful chapter in the history of Clark County, Missouri.

Mississippi river traffic was at its peak between 1819 and 1870, thus creating the necessity for many landings where wood could be taken on as fuel for the packets. One of the landings was located about mid-way between Keokuk and Canton, where a "Mr. Gregory" hewed timber from the near-by woodlands and carried it onto the boats.

"So, in 1833," according to Mr. Ruddick, "When the town itself was established, it was only natural that it should bear the name of the community's earliest settler."

## Ruddick farm

The Ruddick family has been closely associated with Gregory Landing for several decades. The father of Albert and the late Charles Ruddick owned and operated a large farm there for years, which



The Daily Gate City  
KEOKUK, IOWA SATURDAY, AUG. 18, 1962 —

'NOAH'S ARK', huge crib built by the elder Ruddick, which housed not only grain but farm animals during time of floods at Gregory Landing.

(Photo courtesy A. J. Ruddick)

later was passed on to the two sons.

Although "Al," as he is familiarly known to a host of friends, was born in Keokuk and even lived in Indiana for a few years when a child, he spent much of his mature life on the Missouri farm.

So, for first hand information, no one is better fitted than he, to relate the happenings of the community. His keen memory and sense of humor elicit many an anecdote connected with Gregory Landing.

## Unique corn crib

One that is especially apropos has to do with a huge corn crib his father built. This super structure, 300 feet long, had a driveway down the center from end to end, with cribs on either side.

One of the crib compartments was especially fitted out for the senior Ruddick's own room, which he used of-

ten as a refuge during the flood seasons.

But the crib turned out to be not only a refuge for the owner, but for all the four-footed farm animals, fowl and supplies of the entire neighborhood. When floods came, in walked the horses, the cows, the pigs, lambs and chickens ... all very similar to the great Biblical deluge days when beasts, birds and fowl boarded Noah's Ark. Thus, the building became known as "Noah's Ark" and Al's father was thereafter called Captain Noah.

Eventually the ark was destroyed by fire and the Ruddick brothers replaced it with another big crib with a capacity of 25,000 bushels of grain. This crib, with its cupola on top was a familiar site for years. Now, although somewhat weather-beaten, it is still used for the storing of some corn.

## Fled to island

Albert Ruddick recalls another incident, typical of the area's perennial dilemma. During an exceptionally bad flood when trains had stopped running and when boats were were afraid to dock at the landing, he rowed over to an island with his wife and small son, William. There, the family, along with others in like predicament, were picked up by the Warsaw ferry.

The little packet was heavily loaded, not only with flood refugees, but with cattle and horses, so the journey was long and tedious. Enroute, William, who was just a babe in arms, became quite vociferous in his demand for food, but his bottle was empty. So, one of the cows was milked and quiet was restored.

Only those persons who have lived in the lowlands, thus becoming acclimated to the almost annual recurrence



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of floods, can truly appreciate the the strife and struggle for bare existence that are encountered during the days and weeks of the rising waters.

Yet, few will forsake their habitats. Even if they must leave for a time, they return. Perhaps it's because they see, in the floods, a further enrichment of the soil even if the present year's crops are destroyed.

#### Levees built up

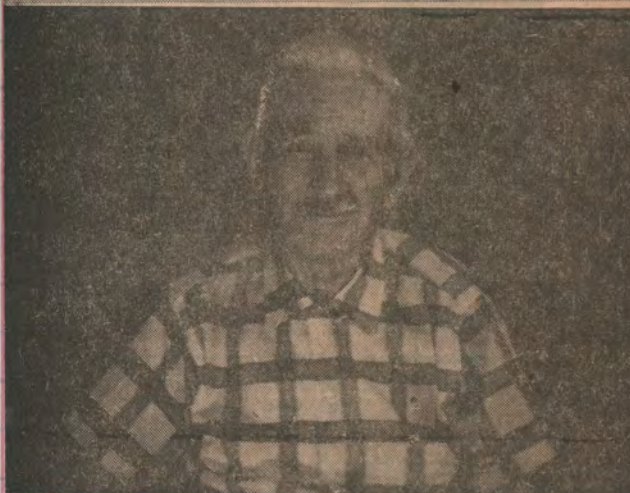
Residents of such areas, in earlier days, kept on hand such items as row boats and ladders. The levees were usu-

ally of insufficient height to hold back the surging waters.

But today, much is being done to cope with the catastrophic recurrence of such floods. Levees have been strengthened and enlarged and practices of diverting the water have been initiated.

It is in this field that Mr. Ruddick now devotes much of his time. Although he presently lives in Keokuk he still operates his farm and is prominent on the district board.

A few years ago, with Joe Logsdon as contractor, he, as engineer, Perry Anderson and Ollie Schorr as helpers,



**NOT THE FAMOUS COWBOY PHILOSOPHER**, but a picture of Albert J. Ruddick taken a few years back by a member of his family. Below is Mr. Ruddick today, still showing a strong resemblance to the late Will Rogers, for whom he was often mistaken.  
—Daily Gate City Photo

flood gates and a culvert were built by the district at Fenway Landing, five miles south of Gregory. The 34-foot gate has already been beneficial in holding back or releasing water, as needed, thus alleviating some of the flood danger. Additional improvements have been outlined and, with government assistance, are being planned for the near future. Much of the preparatory charting is being done by Albert Ruddick.

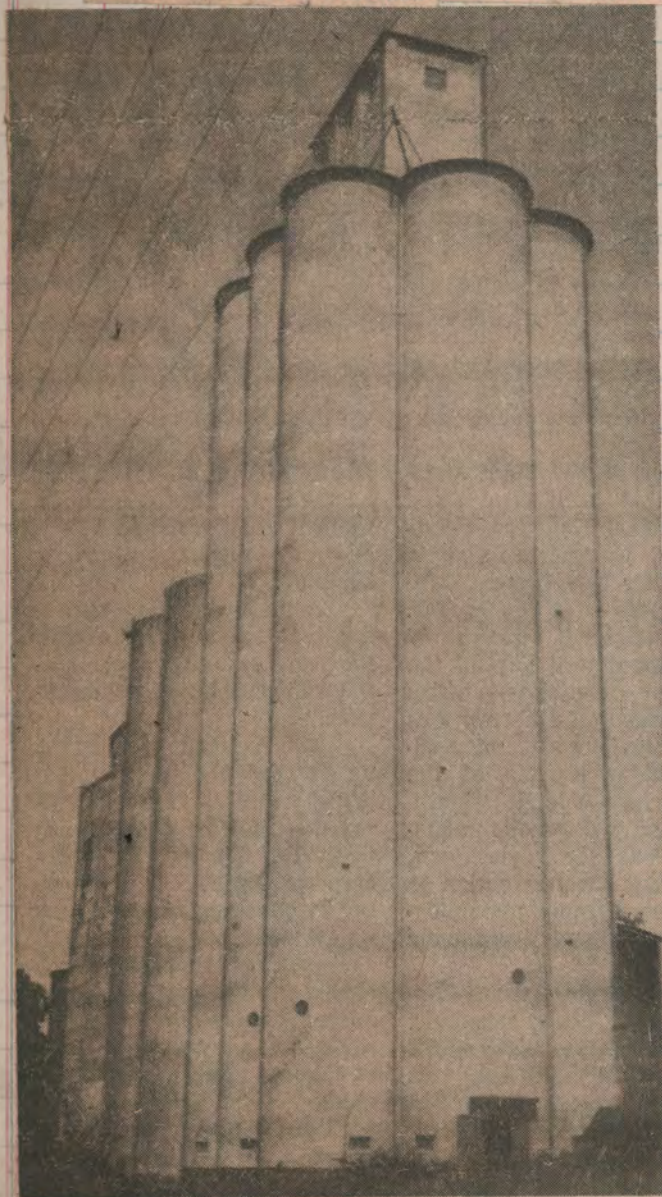
#### Once had hotel

Never has Gregory Landing been a thriving town, although a good many years back it had two stores, a hotel,

13 houses, grist mill, a postoffice, church and schoolhouse.

The postoffice burned in 1956, the church and depot are no more. Today, the village itself is greatly diminished and little business is transacted there, except for the Logsdon Grain Elevator, which may be spotted from afar against the horizon, being one of the largest and finest in northeast Missouri.

A road sign at the entrance to Gregory Landing lists the population at more than 80. However, only three families have permanent residences there. The inflated population estimate undoubtedly in-



**LOGSDON GRAIN ELEVATOR** at Gregory Landing towers above the village as a mighty symbol of the adjacent farmland and its yield of grain.

—Daily Gate City Photo



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**FENWAY LANDING**, south of Gregory, is the site of a pleasant little state park. At left rear is ferry boat which transports grain and supplies between the main-

cludes owners of the 21 summer cottages which are scattered along the levee facing one of the river's loveliest spots.

But the outstanding aspect of the community's existence is the rich bottomland area stretching westward from the river — land that is nourish-

ed by long wet springs and warm summer growing seasons ... making the area one of Clark County's outstanding agricultural sections.

land and the large island farm in the middle of the Mississippi. The location is marked by government beacon at river site No. 347.7. —Daily Gate City Photo



**FLOOD GATES AND CULVERTS** built at Fenway Landing, south of Gregory, engineered by A. J. Ruddick, —Daily Gate City Photo

Ruddick  
Aug 13, 1942



## SUNDRY ACCOUNTS

# DEFECTIVE BOILER. MAY 23, 1885.

Dr. Tompkins, of Canton, was sent for and attended the injured men. The relatives of Mr. Flood at Keokuk were telegraphed for and Mrs. Flood, Clara Flood, Henry Flood, P. H. Finerty and Miss Maggie Huber came down by carriage. Mr. Finerty started back to night and the others remain here.

BAKER-VAWTER CRIMPED LEAF

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The Saw Mill of Foley and Flood at Gregory's Landing Demolished by the Boiler Exploding—Five Men Scalded and Bruised

GREGORY LANDING, MO., May 27.—[Special to the Gate City.]—The boiler in the saw mill of Foley & Flood, at this place exploded at 2 o'clock this afternoon and demolished the building and injured five of the seven men employed about it. The report of the explosion was heard for a distance of three miles around and attracted the country people to the scene of the disaster. The mill was a frame and was used principally for sawing railroad ties. The boiler was being tested for the first time. It was purchased at Keokuk and taken from the Ben Farnum mill, formerly run as a distillery. The boiler from an outward inspection had every appearance of soundness, but the test proved it very defective. Either rust had eaten one of the shell plates so that it was not over one-sixteenth of an inch thick, or else the plate was defective when put into the boiler. It was noticed after the fires were started under the boiler that the steam guage failed to indicate steam for a long time. All at once the guage indicator jumped to 80 pounds and remained there. The fire was kept up strong and there is no telling what the pressure was as the guage was undoubtedly out of order. Had the boiler stood the pressure there is no telling what the severity of the test had been. When the explosion occurred the boiler shot out one end of the building, struck a pile of logs, bounded over them, turned completely over and was found in a field some distance from the mill. The building, though not valuable, was a complete wreck. The following are the injured.

Thos. Flood, of Keokuk, one of the proprietors, was standing to one side of and at one end of the boiler. He was thrown under the large saw about four feet distant. Mr. Flood was scalded about the shoulders, arms, and face and was bruised and cut under the shoulder blade. He is not able to be removed home.

Doc. Fuller, the engineer, was standing at one side of the boiler and was found there partially buried under brick and timbers. He was severely scalded but will recover.

Cal Taylor was under a shed outside the main building and was covered by boards, etc. He was the worst hurt and is not expected to live. Taylor was scalded on all parts of his body and limbs and head. His eyes are injured.

A man by the name of Spence was in the yard. He was knocked down and cut about the face and arms.

A brother of Cal Taylor had one arm hurt.

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# Fire Bells Called Iowans To Resist 1861 Invasion

SHEET NO. \_\_\_\_\_

SUNDAY ACCOUNTS



DES MOINES SUNDAY REGISTER—JULY 16, 1961

ATHENS LANDING, seen across the Des Moines River from Croton, is obscured by trees and the Missouri town itself has disappeared. Croton, which thrived in the early days of the steamboat, now is home for only a

few Iowa families. A century ago supplies to Unionists in Missouri were carried across the river here. Today only the fish disturb the quiet waters that were churned by battle on Aug. 5, 1861.



This is the first of two articles on the Battle of Athens, Mo., fought on the Iowa border 100 years ago this summer.

## IOWA IN THE Civil War

By James F. Wilt

SUNDAY evening church bells had just stopped ringing in Keokuk on Aug. 4, 1861, when a handcar dashed into the city from the west. Minutes later the summer twilight was filled with the sound of fire bells clamoring a call to arms.

From homes and prayer meetings men hurried to temporary arsenals to learn the nature of the alarm. A messenger had just brought an urgent request for reinforcements from David Moore, leader of several hundred Union men encamped at Athens, Mo., across the Des Moines River from Croton, Ia., a station 20 miles upstream from Keokuk on the Des Moines Valley Railroad. Moore reported that at least 1,000 Missouri secessionists were marching north toward Athens led by Martin Green.

Moore had sent such reports to Keokuk before and help had been rushed up the railroad to Croton, but each alarm had proved false. Nevertheless, arms were passed out and preparations were hastily made to go to Croton once again. No one could have known it that night, but this alarm was genuine and dawn would bring the tragicomic Battle of Athens. It would be the first and only time the tide of battle would touch Iowa's border during the Civil War.

### EVEN FAMILIES WERE SPLIT

No one really minded answering another call from Moore, for Keokuk was an uneasy city in the summer of 1861. So, for that matter, was much of southeast Iowa, and in Missouri the turmoil was even worse. Opinion about secession, states' rights and slavery varied strongly, and the split did not necessarily follow party lines. Democrats who had not voted for Lincoln the previous November now were declaring their support for his determination to preserve the Union. Others who had no convictions either way about slavery felt strongly about the right of a state to secede.

There were hotheads on both sides. Neighbors became enemies and even families were split by the issues of the day. For protection, Union men banded together. So did the states' righters, or secessionists, or rebels—no one was yet calling them Confederates. Incidents of violence were inevitable and news of them often was wildly distorted. States' rights com-



OPPOSING commanders went on to distinguished war careers. Green (left) became a Confederate brigadier, was killed at Vicksburg. Moore lost a leg at Shiloh.

munities in northeast Missouri accused "abolitionists" from Iowa of raiding and destroying their property, and Union sympathizers fled across the Des Moines River into Iowa with stories of terror and persecution.

On May 18 Keokuk had begun to organize a drill company to be known as the City Rifles. It soon had 80 men on the rolls and by June 28 the outfit was uniformed in navy blue shirts, gray pants with black stripes, and caps of gray with black piping. The first captain was William Worthington. When he left to become colonel of the newly formed 5th Iowa Infantry Attorney William W. Belknap, a "Union Democrat," succeeded him. By midsummer, too, a volunteer cavalry company, the Keokuk Rangers, had been formed under Capt. Hugh Sample.



TROUBLED Iowa-Missouri border is shown here. Moore's first Union camp was at Kahoka, Mo.; Green's secessionists formed at Monticello. Dotted line shows Green's march up to Athens from Edina.

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



**BOYS OF 12  
AND MEN OF 80**

In early April Union men in the Croton community had formed a company led by Joseph T. Far ris. It had no arms until two members signed a bond in Keokuk and drew 48 ancient muskets. Soon this company crossed into Clark County, Missouri, to help Union men there organize. Meanwhile, David Moore, who lived near Kahoka, Mo., had received authorization from the Union commander in Missouri to raise men for a Federal regiment. By August this force, which included the Croton company, numbered around 400 men.

States' rights men were not idle in this period and began gathering at Monticello, Mo., under Green, who was a brother of Missouri's secessionist Senator James Green. Both sides seemed reluctant to resort to violence as long as each stayed in its own camp. "Peace envoys" of Moore and Green even got together once, but nothing came of it. By mid-July Green had nearly a thousand men. There was little discipline or organization in either camp. Green had no means to pay or even feed his men, but loyalty to a principle kept them with him. One of Green's men, I. M. Walters, recalled years later that he saw boys of 12 and men as old as 80 around him.

**IN SHIRTSLEEVES  
AND BAREFOOTED**

"The nature of apparel and appearance was something wonderful to behold," Walters explained. "Some were barefooted, many in their shirtsleeves only, and a few without headgear of any kind. Nearly all had horses, but many had no saddles and some did not even have bridles—only rope halters."

On July 22, a portion of Green's force commanded by Benjamin Shacklett was attacked by Moore and his Unionists at Etna, Mo., and retreated without casualties. After this skirmish Moore withdrew to Athens, an ideal base since supplies could be sent to him from Keokuk by rail. By Aug. 1 most of his men had muskets that fired an ounce ball.

**A BLACKSMITH CAST  
TWO CANNON BALLS**

Green's greatest need was arms. His men carried only shotguns or squirrel rifles and many had no weapons at all. Somewhere he had found an old cannon, and a blacksmith at Chambersburg, Mo., had cast two rough 6-pound balls for it. Some men who fought at Athens said later that Green had a second cannon. One recalled it was made from a hardwood log, another said it was made from the cylinder of a steam engine and blew up the first time it was fired. Even with the weapons he had, Green badly needed powder, and there is evidence that this was responsible for the affair at Athens.

Powder in 1861 was a commodity nearly as vital to civilian Iowa as salt or gingham. Much of the southeastern and central part of the state was sup-

plied by Kellogg, Birge & Co. of Keokuk from its magazine in the city. It was partly this store of powder that made Keokuk uneasy and one reason the

Keokuk Rifles maintained nighttime guard on all roads into the city. State officials also feared the powder might fall into the wrong hands. Early in the summer Governor Kirkwood's military aide, Cyrus Bussey of Bloomfield, went to Keokuk to ban the sale of powder and munitions to Missourians and arrange for a guard for the Birge & Kellogg supply. Charles P. Birge himself helped move the powder to a safer place. The job, he recalled later, was done secretly in the middle of the night. Under burning lanterns, he and several soldiers rolled the leaky kegs out to wagons and by dawn all had been moved to the second floor of the Young America engine house, where they were easier to guard.

**HE HOPED TO SEIZE  
POWDER AT KEOKUK**

I. M. Walters said Green's real objective was not Athens but the Keokuk powder. Green hoped, Walters said, to decoy Moore and the Keokuk militia to Canton, Mo., with a small force so he could move the rest of his army across the Des Moines River quietly at Athens and rush down the railroad to Keokuk. Green apparently hoped to seize the powder and slip back into Missouri before the Unionists could get into a position to oppose him. Another historian of the times, T. W. Holman, says Green knew Moore was at Athens and attacked him purposely to capture his supplies. Whatever Green's true plan may have been, it failed miserably on the morning of Aug. 5, 1861.

Green began his march toward Athens from Edina, Mo., on Aug. 1. On Aug. 2 he camped at Etna and stayed there until the morning of Aug. 4. The march was resumed that day and after passing through Luray, Mo., he camped that night on the Fox River four miles southwest of Athens. Moore's mounted scouts had shadowed the approaching army and it was at this time Moore called to Keokuk for help. There was a restless night ahead for many.



THURSDAY MORNING, AUGUST 8, 1872.

## Celebration at Athens.

ATHENS, Mo., Aug. 7th, 1872.

EDITOR GATE CITY: Yesterday, August 6th, was the day for the colored folks' celebration, in honor of the battle of Athens—fought Aug. 6, 1861.

Clark's grove, one mile south of town, was amply prepared, and arranged with comfortable seats, speakers' stand, &c. About ten o'clock the martial drum was heard in the distance, and in a short time the procession appeared in sight. Floating, at the front, in the morning breeze, was the old Stars and Stripes. Arriving at the grounds, and the company—numbered by hundreds—being comfortably seated and ready for the business of the day, the band struck up a patriotic air, after which the Marshal proposed three cheers for Grant and Wilson, which were enthusiastically given. Two of the orators of the day were colored men. They spoke plainly and deliberately of the issues of the present campaign, and illustrated fully the fact that the solid negro vote will be given for Grant and Wilson.

The colored people not wishing to appear selfish, had invited the whites to participate in the celebration, many of whom did so. Ample tables were arranged and supplied bountifully with the good things necessary for physical sustenance.

After dinner short and lively addresses were made by Rev. Mr. Botton, Rev. W. Johnson, W. Scott, A. W. Harlan and others.

In the evening the young folks (and some older ones) proceeded to a platform arranged for a cotillion party, and those who wished to "trip the light fantastic toe" did so, even until the wee sma' hours of the morning.

Upon the whole the colored folks' celebration was a perfect success, and is emblematic of the zeal and energy characterized by them in all their undertakings. H.

## KEOKUK DEMOCRAT.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1887.

### THE BATTLE OF ATHENS.

Murphy of the Burlington Post Tells of the First Union Victory.

The battle of Athens is a noted event in this locality of Iowa and Northeastern Missouri, but as there are many young people and new-comers in these vicinities who have had only partial accounts of the famous contest, for the benefit of those we reproduce the following account of that sanguinary conflict from the Burlington Saturday Evening Post:

The first Union victory of the late war was fought on Missouri soil in the streets

of the little town of Athens, on the south bank of the Des Moines river, on the fifth of August, 1861. This was nearly a week previous to the battle of Wilson's Creek, Mo., and the only engagement of any consequence before it was the first Bull Run, where the Northern forces were routed. The Athens fight begun at an early hour in the morning, while the members of the 21st Missouri infantry, who were quartered there under command of Col. David Moore, were eating breakfast. The rebel forces numbered some fifteen hundred cavalry and infantry, and were commanded by Mart. Green, a well-known Missouri character. The rebels marched from a rendezvous in Knox county to the vicinity of Chambersburg, in Clark county, eight miles from Athens, on the day previous, and went into camp for the night in the Fox river bottom, intending to get in motion very early in the morning and surprise Moore's command. One of the captains serving under Moore was a man named Sacket, whose family lived at Luray, and his son, a boy in his teens, started on foot for Athens as soon as the rebel soldiers began to defile through the town, to carry news of the intended attack. He reached Athens about midnight, and the Union forces slept on their arms and gave Greene a warm welcome when he appeared in front of them, and began an attack. Several volleys of musketry were exchanged, and one man on the Union side was killed and several wounded, before Col. Moore led a charge in person which routed the rebels completely and drove them thoroughly demoralized from the field. Their loss was considerable and their confusion so complete that they never rallied again, but proceeded individually and in little squads to their homes in Knox and Marion counties. Col. Moore had no artillery, but the rebels had constructed a small field piece by taking bars of iron, placing them parallel to each other and several thicknesses deep, in the form of a circle, and binding them securely together with bands made of clevises. This gave them a gun of about six-pound calibre which was fired into the Union camp several times during the attack. One of the cannon balls passed entirely through the walls of the dwelling occupied then as now by the family of J. J. Benning, which stood on the edge of the bluff overlooking the Des Moines, and spent its force with a splash in the water in midstream. Mr. Benning, who was a staunch Unionist, always had a profound respect for this visible mark of the affray, and has never disturbed the hole in the front wall, which is large enough to admit one's

arm, or closed it up. The old cupboard which was also in the path of the missile and was deeply furrowed on the side, still stands a grim monument of the destroying forces that were at work there on that day. The little cannon was constructed by Capt. Kinsley, of Boone county, Mo., under whose directions it was manipulated on the field. When the retreat was sounded he saved his gun by taking to timber with it. This gentleman was a member from Boone county of the last Missouri house of representatives. The victory at Athens was complete, Col. Moore capturing five hundred horses, a large lot of camp equipage, and taking a number of prisoners who were afterwards paroled and allowed to return to their homes. The regiment which he commanded there afterwards saw service on a number of fields, and was especially conspicuous at Shiloh, where Col. Moore lost a limb. Strangely enough, no report of the battle of Athens, the first Union victory of the war, is to be found in the federal archives.

## The Valley Whig.

THE DES MOINES VALLEY WHIG  
PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY MORNING.

TUESDAY MORNING AUG 27.

Another Alarm. Major McKee, of Col. Moore's regiment, left Athens on Sunday afternoon and rode to Keokuk post-haste, bringing the report that the rebels in large force were within 16 miles of Athens and marching upon that place. About 7 o'clock in the evening, the fire bell was rung and our citizens soon gathered together in large numbers. Guns and cartridges were obtained, the Rifles and the Rangers were on hand, the pine powder was hauled down to the depot, and a special train started off at 9 o'clock. Another train went at 11 o'clock, and all together there were several hundred of our citizens landed in Orton by or soon after midnight. They waited patiently for the enemy to come. But none came, and scouts reported that they were not coming. Probably they heard of this re-enforcement and thought discretion the better part of valor. It is supposed that the object of the rebels is to prevent the Union of Moore's forces with Gen. Hurlbut's. But Moore will march today with his men, and if necessary fight his way through to Hurlbut.

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



# The Valley Whig.

THE DES MOINES VALLEY WHIG

TUESDAY MORNING, AUG. 6.

## Great Excitement.

There was great hurrying to and fro in town yesterday. Early in the morning the soldiers were making preparations to go up to Croton. They were furnished with muskets, cartridges, &c., and soon after 8 o'clock three companies of Col. McDowell's regiment left on the train for Croton.

After they had gone, Col. Worthington and his men were busy getting ready to follow. About 10 o'clock messengers came in on a hand car and reported that some 2000 rebels had attacked the Athens camp and driven the Union men over to Croton, and the rebels themselves were actually crossing the river. Then what a hurrying there was here! Citizens rampaging round town, companies going it on the double quick, and so on. Some five companies of the 5th, and three or four of the 6th were soon at the depot. A brass six-pounder was hauled down there. Provisions, baggage &c., were on hand. Everybody was eager to get off to Croton and save our friends. Minutes dragged into half hours, and at last the Engine came from Croton, bringing news of the victory.

A great shout went up, and all hearts were relieved. But the train was soon got in readiness and the companies went up to Croton to secure the public peace and the safety of the people.

## The Rebel Loss at Athens.

The number of the rebels killed and mortally wounded is doubtless over 25. Six or eight dead were found on the field, and the rebels who brought in a flag of truce, in the afternoon, admitted that they carried off 14 dead, and that many more were wounded and missing.

James McCarty, a wounded rebel, said that he had been with the rebels for two weeks, and he knew there were only 800 engaged in the attack on Athens. Other prisoners thought there were 1,200 or 1,500. They were led by Martin Green, brother of Jim Green.

## Wounded in the Hospital at Athens:

### UNION MEN.

Washington Collier, wounded in the arm not dangerously.

Lt. Daugherty, of Memphis, Mo., wounded in shoulder, severely.

Porter Fuller, wounded in leg, dangerously.

J. Fogelman, " " severely,

D. W. Glenn, " " foot, slightly,

Wm. Haile, " " hip, not dangerous,

S. Hueston, " " shoulder, and will probably lose his arm,

Jeremiah Hamilton, wounded in back, slightly,

J. W. Kisling, of Capt. Best's Company, shot in the groin.

Joseph McCowan, severe wound in shoulder.

Capt. Matly, Scotland county, wounded in the shoulder, probably mortal.

Jeremiah O'Day, dangerously wounded in the thigh.

G. H. Newmyer, severe wound in fore arm, not dangerous.

## REBELS.

Eli Butler, of Palmyra, formerly of Canton, Mo., wounded in the back, mortal.

Thomas Hunter, a lawyer of Waterloo, severely wound back of the knee.

Samuel Atlee, dangerously wounded.

George Tompkins, severely wounded.

George Cartwright severely wounded, but will recover.

James McCarty, wounded in hip, not dangerous.

Geo. Munson, slightly wounded.

## Following up the Enemy.

It was reported last night by those who returned from Croton, that five companies under Lieut. Col. Mathies crossed the Des Moines river at Sweet Home, about 2 miles below Croton, and were to march at once to the camp of the rebels, about 8 miles from Athens. Col. Worthington went on to Croton, where there are 5 or 6 companies of Col. McDowell's regiment, which were also to march at once to the rebel camp.

## The Incidents of the Battle.

We give elsewhere a brief account of the battle at Athens yesterday morning. We have gathered up some additional details which may be interesting to our readers. On Sunday night about 8 o'clock, messengers came in from Croton by hand car and reported that a large body of Rebels had been seen on Sunday moving towards Athens, evidently with the intention of attacking the Union camp at that place.

Immediately the City Rifles, and the Keokuk Rangers were summoned, and soon after 9 o'clock p. m., about 35 of each company, armed and equipped with U. S. rifles and muskets, took a special train for Croton, arriving there about 11 p. m. As there was a large quantity of army supplies in the Croton depot, our men guarded it, but they were not disturbed during the night.

Soon after daylight, a number of the Keokuk men being over in Athens to breakfast, an attack on the Union camp was begun by the firing of a small cannon. The Union men sprang to their arms and found that the rebels were coming up in three divisions, evidently intending by flank movements, to surround the Union camp. About fifteen of the City Rifles, and a few others engaged the enemy's right wing, which was covered by the corn field. Not expecting an attack so early, the Rifles had but a few rounds of ammunition, and when that was gone they retired across the river to Croton. In crossing the river Mr. Dickey of Farmington was badly wounded, Constable Hendrickson got a buck shot in his leg, John Bruce (of the firm of McCrary & Bruce) and J. W. Noble, Esq., were slightly grazed. The Keokuk boys continued the fire from the Croton bank,

driving the rebels from Gray's house into an adjoining cornfield. Then, as we are informed, the Rangers and Rifles crossed over to Gray's house, drove the rebels out of the corn, and routed them with the loss of several rebel lives.

During this time—say an hour and a half—Col. Moore and his four or five hundred men, were engaged with the enemy's centre and left wing, and gallantly repulsed and routed them, and when their right wing fell back the flight became general and Colonel Moore pursued them some two miles, capturing some 60 horses. The Union men of Missouri gave great praise to our men for their gallantry and timely service in driving back the 300 rebels on the right wing.

We have heard a thousand rumors—more or less—about the battle, and found it difficult to get the details of any facts. We are by no means certain that the above report is entirely accurate, but the one great fact is that about 1,500 rebels were routed, and driven off by only 500 Union men.

## FRIDAY MORNING, AUG. 9.

### Athens, Mo., Aug. 5.

Four hundred Union men were attacked by from 1,400 to 1,500 mostly mounted, about 7 o'clock this a. m. The rebels had one nine-pounder, one six-pounder and one log cannon. Col. Moore placed two of his companies to right and left, after a fight of 1½ hours, when the rebels ran and were pursued for three-fourths of an hour. The rebels had the advantage of the ground.

The Union men that were killed are: Rev. Mr. Harrison; taken prisoner and murdered, Wm. C. Sullivan, aged 76 years; died of wounds, Wm. Sprouce.

About 18 men were wounded, a few dangerously, among whom are Captain Mattley, and Lieut. Daugherty, and Joe. Dickey.

About 20 of the rebels were killed, some of whom are yet unburied.

The Union Men did many gallant things. The Missouri Union Men in Athens deserve the greatest credit!

About 60 of the secession horses were captured, besides many other trophies.

JOHN STANNUS, of Keokuk, has a horse won by his rifle.

MORE INCIDENTS.—We learn that three more dead bodies of the rebels were found yesterday morning in the corn field below Athens.

It is now thought about Athens that old Mr. Sullivan was not a prisoner, but was shot while eagerly and bravely pursuing the enemy in advance of his own friends.

Two Union men, who had been taken prisoner by the rebels, returned to Athens yesterday morning. They went a short distance beyond Luray, and report that they escaped by being left in the rear. Green ordered the rebels to keep behind, and threatened to shoot them, but they pressed on, regardless of orders, swearing and cursing Green for leading them into a slaughter pen, and declaring that they would go home. They were utterly demoralized.



**Reported Disturbance in Athens.**

Reports from Croton on the 1:30 P. M. yesterday said that Col. Moore with about 400 men, and a six pounder, was pursuing the enemy, that they had rallied to the number of over 2000 and had driven him back within 2 miles of Athens. As the report did not come from Moore himself, there was some hesitation in getting ready to go to his relief. But at last word was given out that a special train would go up to Croton. Then what a commotion! Our citizens rallied in hot haste. The Rifles and the Rangers were soon on hand in large force, and several independent companies were extemporized and armed with State arms. The 12 pounder was taken down to the cars. A vast crowd collected at the depot, and soon after 5 P. M. a long train, bearing over 500 men, started off with banners waving, muskets gleaming, and people cheering.

Very many of the 3000 soldiers in town begged permission to go, but their commanding officer declined, as he was hourly expecting boats to take them away.

**False Alarm.**

Our city was greatly excited again yesterday. Mr. Timberman came in from Croton on a hand car, arriving here about 5 o'clock in the morning, and the word he brought induced Col. Worthington to order five companies of his command to go out on the morning (7 o'clock) train.

About noon a special train came in and brought word that the rebels to the number of 2000 had gathered about 20 miles from Athens, that Col. Moore was about 10 miles on the road in pursuit of them, that all our men, who went up Wednesday night and the five companies that left in the morning, had all gone on to join Col. Moore, and that he wanted everybody in Keokuk that could raise a gun to come and help him.

Immediately the fire bell rang clamorously and the town was in commotion. In a short time five or six more companies, and two or three hundred if not more citizens, armed with muskets, shot guns, rifles, &c, were at the depot, and off they went, amid the tremendous shouts of a vast crowd.

Our people then waited anxiously for the next train, which came in soon after 3 o'clock, bringing back all the citizens and soldiers that could come on it. The extra train, that left about noon, also came back with its load.

We hear that Col. Moore with about 800 men—and more joining as he went—was pursuing the rebels, and he was sorry to hear that our people had been put to so much trouble.

**MORE PRISONERS.**—Three more prisoners were brought in here yesterday. One was a Mr. Brock, the Mayor of Farmington, Van Buren Co., Iowa—taken for aiding the rebels. The other two are Missourians, both of whom, we hear, have heretofore taken the oath, and have since been active in aiding the rebels.

**The Valley Whig.**

THURSDAY MORNING, AUG. 15.

**Latest from Col. Moore.**

We heard yesterday that Col. Moore was still at Memphis, preparing to march to Edina. He has about 1000 men, and all in good spirits. The Salem company went home day before yesterday.

We hear additional reports in regard to the loss of the rebels at the Athens battle. It is said that a number of dead bodies have been picked up in the corn field and bushes, and that the whole number of their dead is over 45, and some of the citizens near Athens think they lost over 50.

**A Secesh Account of the Battle of Athens.**

Here is an account of the battle of Athens which the secesh Bulletin of St. Louis certifies as "accurate:"

We have been furnished the following letter, written by a gentleman at Athens, giving an entirely different account of the battle at that place. The gentleman who furnishes the letter endorses the reliability of the writer:

"Col. Martin Green (brother of ex-Senator Green), at the head of 450 men, who had been organized under the military bill, attacked Col. Moore, whose force numbered 650, and drove them across the Des Moines river, where Moore was reinforced from Keosauqua and other towns above. Green attacked them a second time and drove them before him, until Col. Moore was reinforced again, when, after a hard fight, Green retreated, carrying off their two pieces of artillery, wounded, &c. Green had to fight in all from two to three thousand men, yet his boys fought with all the coolness of veterans, and drove them back in every hand to hand fight.

Among the State troops who were killed, eight in all, were some of our best men. The following names are all I have obtained:—Jos. Ewalt, Eli Butler, Mr. Moore, Mr. Williams, Young Bowles, all living in this neighborhood.

There is no doubt but the Federals lost from 200 to 300 men, in killed and wounded.

The country is thoroughly aroused and the masses are very indignant at the intermeddling with their rights by the people of Illinois and Iowa, who, at the instance and information of every intermeddling, cowardly Black Republican, send their armed hordes to rob and murder our best citizens.

A. B. O."

**MORE DEAD.**—We hear that three more dead bodies of rebels were found yesterday in the corn field near Athens. The number of rebels killed on Monday is now known to be 43, and there may have been more.—This was a large number for so small a force.

**A Successful Retreat.**

It is generally known in this town that some eight or ten men departed very suddenly from Athens on the morning of the battle. We learn that they struck across the country and accomplished a distance of four miles in quick time. Here they hired a wagon and drove in haste to Charleston.—

From thence they took conveyance to Montrose, where they took the cars and arrived in Keokuk about 7 p. m. This was a most successful flight of twelve hours, and was more remarkable for the panic and consternation scattered among the people all along their route.

At Montrose the gallant Captain Purcell seized the fire-lock carried by his ancestor in the Revolutionary war, and summoned his men to arms. Forty men answered promptly, and gathering up such pieces as they had, with powder horns, and deer-skin pouches, they were ready by the time the evening train came from Madison, and were here as quick as steam could bring them, ready and eager to defend our town from the attacks of a (supposed) victorious enemy. Fortunately, however, their services were not needed, but none the less honor to the prompt action of the Captain and his men, whose conduct reminds us of the fathers who rushed to Bunker Hill.

About 10 o'clock the same night our friends W. J. Cochran of New Boston, and Rufus Hubbard of Jefferson Tp., came into our office with sad and anxious faces. Cochran had been informed by Callahan that Col. Moore was a traitor, and his regiment demoralized, surrounded and captured, and that Croton was undoubtedly taken. Mr. Cochran wanted arms to retrieve our loss. It was amusing to witness the anxiety of both our friends, and at the same time their desperate determination to retrieve our fortunes. What was their relief when we told them the circumstances of the fight and our victory. They soon started home with light hearts, exceedingly happy to believe that all was not lost, and firmly persuaded that men who run away ingloriously are not remarkably good soldiers.

**The Valley Whig.**THE DES MOINES VALLEY WHIG  
TUESDAY MORNING, AUG. 20.**Arrests in Alexandria, Mo.**

Last night a company of Col. Moore's regiment came into town, escorting about thirty-two prisoners, taken by them in Alexandria, yesterday. The company marched from Athens to Alexandria, gave the prisoners notice, and when the bell rang they all went on board the Menominee and came up here.—A special train was got out, and about 11 o'clock last night the whole crowd started for Croton. Col. Moore will send such of the prisoners as he can find sufficient proof against to St. Louis. Among the prisoners are Maxwell, Cunningham, Foster, Perkins, Johnson, Somers, young Musgrove, Baird, Hewitt, Everhart, Cowgill, Hill the fat man, Hagerman, Bradford, Kimball, and Hitt, the Mayor of Alexandria.

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



WEDNESDAY, MORNING AUG. 7.

## Military Movements.

We learn from Col. Worthington that his regiment, under Lieut. Col. Mathies, after leaving Sweet Home, on Monday night, marched about five miles into Missouri, back of Athens. The Col. having heard that the rebel camp was some eight or nine miles off, ordered Col. Mathies to take them in the rear, while the companies under Col. McDowell were to march from Croton direct to the camp. But before the latter started, word came in by scouts that the rebels were in full retreat, and it turned out that they rode some 20 or 25 miles before stopping, and stopped then only because their horses were exhausted.

Col. Worthington stopped and camped out, having some alarms during the night. Yesterday he returned with all his force to Croton, taking some prisoners on the way, and in obedience to orders from Gen. Fremont he returned to this place, and expects to leave for Booneville at once.

The same order directs Col. McDowell to proceed with his regiment to St. Louis, and accordingly he returned from Croton last night, and expects to leave soon.

## CAVALRY REGIMENT.

About 3 o'clock yesterday p. m. the Madison train brought in the sick list and the baggage of the Cavalry Regiment. The main body were marching from Burlington to Ft. Madison, and were to be here last night, but, owing to a deficiency of stock cars, will not probably get here till to-day. They are under orders to go to St. Louis.

## THE SEVENTH REGIMENT.

The Seventh Regiment, Col. Lauman, is ordered to Cairo or Bird's Point, and embarked yesterday on the Jenny Whipple, Capt. White, for St. Louis. It was said that the boat had two barges alongside. If the men are on them, they will have a happy time of it.

## The Battle at Athens.

We have heard some further details in regard to this fight which show that it was a most gallant action on the part of Colonel Moore and his men. It appears that when the attack was made upon him, he deployed a small force to engage the enemy's left wing which was gallantly done. The Col. himself headed his main force, and ordered his men to reserve their fire until the enemy (all mounted) were close upon them. This was done, and the Union men fired volley after volley with the steadiness and regularity of veteran soldiers. The Keokuk boys all speak in admiration of their firing, and some of them could hear Col. Moore's order above the din of battle, "Give the rebels hell, boys! Charge!" And they did charge, till the seceders were glad to flee.

This conduct of the Union men was the more admirable, as, in the very beginning of the action, about 40 Union cavalry, commanded by Lieut. Col. Callahan, ingloriously fell back and fled across the Des Moines

to Croton. They were followed by 75 to 100 infantry, who were probably confused by Callahan's movements, and many of whom, we understand, returned to the skirmish each on his own hook, and showed that they were no cowards.

Col. Moore, in his report to Col. Worthington, gives great credit to the Keokuk boys for holding the enemy's right wing in check, and finally driving them back. But some of our boys are decidedly of the opinion that if the Rangers and the Rifles had co-operated in military style, instead of being left to fight Indian fashion, each man on his own hook, they could undoubtedly have taken a large number of prisoners and many more horses.

Here we may add that yesterday morning large numbers of men and companies were hurrying into Croton from Primrose, Salem, Clay Grove, and all the country round, incited by rumors that Col. Moore's men were cut off, and McDowell besieged. They came with just such arms as they could pick up, and some had only hatchets, big knives and clubs. But they were all eager to fight and repel the invader.

## The Valley Whig.

KEOKUK:

MONDAY MORNING, AUGUST 19, 1861.

## The Farmington Company at Athens.

FARMINGTON, Aug. 12, 1861.

EDITOR GATE CITY: In the published report of the battle at Athens, no mention is made of the valuable services rendered Col. Moore by Capt. Scott's company of this place.

This company, at the request of Colonel Moore, went to Athens on the night previous to the battle, to assist him in the expected engagement. Soon after daylight, some eight or ten members of this company crossed over to Athens, some of them to breakfast with their friends, others to confer with Col. Moore as to whether the company had better join him at once.

As these men were returning to join their company, having arrived at the ford a short distance below town, the right flank of the enemy numbering some three hundred suddenly emerged from the corn in which they were concealed, and at a distance of not more than thirty yards poured a heavy volley of shot at them. Yet, notwithstanding the surprise, the proximity of the foe, and their overwhelming number, the little band gallantly faced the rebels, until they had fired three or four rounds with telling effect. At this time some of them had exhausted their ammunition, and on this account began to retreat across the river. The remainder, finding that their comrades had left them, soon followed.

In this skirmish Jos. Dickey and Russell Smith were wounded, the latter seriously. The former received four shots (three of them slight), and the latter two. They are citizens of this place.

A portion of Capt. Sample's and Belknap's companies, and the remainder of Captain Scott's company were stationed on this side of the river, and did good service with their Yeager rifles and muskets—the rebels being within easy range across the river. The fire of these men doubtless saved their comrades in the river from utter destruction. As it was, a perfect shower of bullets fell about them in the water.

The repulse of this portion of the enemy's forces is entirely due to those troops stationed on this side of the river, and the little squad who engaged them on the opposite shore.

F. M. TATE.

## The Valley Whig.

KEOKUK:

MONDAY MORNING, AUGUST 26, 1861.

## Prisoners Sent to St. Louis.

A detachment of Col. Moore's regiment came in from Croton (opposite Athens) on the Saturday noon train, having seven prisoners in charge, who were marched up to the Deming House and delivered over to Capt. Smith, U. S. A. Four of them, Calvert, Black, Oldham and Childres, were examined and held several days ago by Col. Bussey and Judge Rankin.

The other three, to wit: A. H. Gibson, A. F. Helm, and J. W. Stevens were examined by Col. Woodyard and J. M. Hiller, Judge Advocate, on Saturday. Gibson was formerly United States Mail Agent on the river. Helm has been a prominent leader among the rebels, was in the battle at Athens and two other fights, and while at the Deming House on Saturday was very defiant and exuberant in threats of what he would do when he came back. But the probability is that he will not come back very soon. They are all on their way to the Arsenal, and as the evidence against them is said to be strong, they will doubtless be kept in the service of Uncle Sam in a useful, if not agreeable way.

## From Col. Moore.

The news on Saturday noon was that Col. Moore's scouts reported no special force of rebels within thirty or forty miles of Athens on Friday night and early Saturday morning. At the same time we heard vague reports that the rebels intended to attack Moore on Saturday night or Sunday.

Several of Moore's men were fired on while scouting through the country. One, named Stout, of the Henry County Rangers, was shot through the diaphragm, and badly, though it is hoped not fatally, wounded. Another, whose name we did not learn, was shot in the arm. The rebels hid themselves in cornfields, from which our scouts were fired on at various times and places.



# Court Martial.

Cool. Bussey held a court martial at Athens, on Wednesday, Capt. Rankin, of this city, being Judge Advocate. Some sixty or seventy prisoners were there for trial. Only four were held. They were Floyd Calvert of Sand Hill, John M. Childres of Fairmont, George Black near Edina, and Simpson Oldham of Edina. The evidence against them was strong. They will be brought down here on Saturday, en route for St. Louis.—Dr. T. O. Moore of Edina, and Leroy Gates of Memphis, were released upon taking a powerful oath.

The prisoners from Alexandria were brought down here yesterday, tried in the afternoon in the Court House, and all released for lack of evidence.

James Goulty, sent over from Hamilton, and some twenty or thirty other prisoners are still held in Athens for trial.

## THE DAILY GATE CITY.

NOVEMBER 4, 1867.

### "THAT GUN OF ATHENS."

The editor of the Knox county Democrat denies the account that Murphy, of the Burlington Post, gave of the cannon used by the confeds at the famous battle of Athens. Murphy said that the cannon was made by taking bars of iron, placing them parallel to each other and several thicknesses deep in the form of a circle, and binding them securely together with bands made of clevises. On the other hand the editor of the Democrat, who was "thar," said: "We were in the same command with Captain Kneisley from the start and if he ever had a cannon of the above description he kept it hid before and after the battle. He had three pieces, and got them we believe at Hannibal. One of them was quite lengthy and was called by some of the boys 'Long Tom,' the others were short. They were made of iron, and the battery was always known as the 'black battery.'"

## The Gate City

KEOKUK, IOWA

TUESDAY MORNING, JULY 7.

The good people of Athens, Mo., are preparing to celebrate the anniversary of the battle there in the immensest way. They propose to have ten thousand people, several speakers, a well arranged programme, and a grand time generally. We wish them the fullest success the most sanguine of them anticipate, and will make further announcement of the affair. The meeting is to be held on the 5th of August.

## THE GATE CITY

LEOKUK, IOWA

FRIDAY MORNING, AUGUST 1.

### Mass Meeting at Athens.

#### ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE.

The anniversary of the battle of Athens Mo., is to be celebrated on Wednesday, the 5th inst., in the immensest way. Ten thousand people it is expected will be present. Senator Drake, of Missouri, promised to be present if Congress adjourned in time, and as it has done so, we presume he will be there. Gen. Grant has been invited, and as he is now in St. Louis, he might come along with Senator Drake just as well as not. A large number of distinguished speakers have been invited and enough have promised to be there to insure plenty of good speaking.

As Athens was the theatre of a large display of Keokuk prowess, we hope there will be a large attendance from here Wednesday.

## THE GATE CITY

KEOKUK, IOWA:

SUNDAY MORNING, AUGUST 9.

#### MORE OF THE ATHENS CELEBRATION.

We could give but brief notice in the morning following that affair. We have deferred a fixed purpose to give fitter because fuller notice until the *Alexandria Tribune* reached us with this account written by the editor, Mr. Scovern, who was there. We relinquish all idea of writing further about it ourself, and give this very readable article instead:

We stepped aboard the splendid steamer *Andy Johnson* on the eve of the 4th inst., en route for Keokuk, preparatory to making the trip to the battle ground of Athens. On board we met many of our old friends, and among the number the dignified and genial face of Gen. John F. Benjamin, Congressman from our District, the keen and intellectual countenance of James Blair, of Canton, Missouri. The honest, faithful and earnest radical, who has done more than any man in Northeast Missouri for the success of the Republican party, the energetic editor of the *La Grange American*, Chaleton Howe, would that Missouri had more such men, and last but not least Daniel M. Honser, of the *Missouri Democrat*, who by the way is a number one fellow, good natured, jolly and with all, a gentleman of ability and an earnest coworker with the radical party in her efforts to maintain the truth and the right. Dan, may you take to St. Louis a glowing description of Northeast Missouri and Clark county, and never grow less.

We arrived in Keokuk in due time, and next morning took passage on the excursion train of the D. M. V. R. R., the officers of which with their usual courtesy had provided a train for the accommodation of all who might attend the celebration. On board we noticed many of the "all right" of Iowa, among whom was the Hon. G. W. McCrary, next Congressman from the first district; the active, energetic and uncompromising radical, Adj't Gen. N. B. Baker, the wise old champion of justice, H. S. W. Hampl; Esq.; the sanguine wide-awake countenance of J. B. Howell, Esq., the nervous, intellectual and restless face of S. M. Clark, and Mr. Sandie Stone, "ye local" all of the *GATE CITY*—the best radical paper in the State of Iowa, who with about three

hundred others were en route to the battle ground. The country along the route from Keokuk to Croton is most picturesque and beautiful, equaling anything through which we have passed in the State. All nature seemed to be clothed in her holiday attire, and wreathed in her sweetest smiles, rendering more pleasant the varied landscape. With all the pleasure of the route, we had some trouble; in fact our troubles were two fold, the sparkling eyes of the beautiful women who were with us and the showers of sparks from the locomotive, about equally divided our attention, especially the latter. At last the shrill whistle of the locomotive heralded our approach to the village of Croton, bidding us arouse from our reverie and go forth to our destination. We reached the battle ground in due time, with an allowance of soot and dust upon our faces and our clothes covered with a plentiful supply; we repaired to the beautiful grove where about 3000 persons had assembled, who seemed to be enjoying themselves in a regular *bijou* time.—The programme was opened with an earnest and impressive prayer by Rev. A. Thome, after which Gen. David Moore, the hero of the battle was introduced. In a few telling remarks the gallant General defined his position, and we will here state for the benefit of those who have accused him of being inclined to Democracy, that he expressed himself earnestly with Congress in all the acts of reconstruction, endorsed the platforms, national and State, desired that justice should be done the colored man, that he who so nobly fought for the maintenance of the Union, should not be deprived the right which every loyal citizen should enjoy whether white or black, that of suffrage, and that his efforts would be used, to strike the word *white* from our Constitution.

Adj't. Gen. Baker, of Iowa was then introduced, a strong minded, foreseeing, unflinching Radical of whom the State of Iowa should be proud. In a speech of about half an hour, he made known to the audience his views upon the situation, in such a manner that there was no mistaking them. He dwelt more particularly upon the action of the Rebel Convention held in New York, made clear their treasonable designs, and spoke in favor of the rights of the black man in clear uncompromising honest and just logic, and closed by saying, that "he would rather step up to the ballot box and deposit his ballot with a man with a black skin and an honest loyal heart, than a white Democratic rebel with a complexion white and a heart black, treasonable and rotten, with hatred to justice, loyalty and the government." His remarks elicited great applause, after which, Hon. G. W. McCrary, of Iowa, was called upon to address the multitude. In a dignified, masterly and impressive manner, he addressed the people, going over the whole ground he elaborately discussed the various planks and the principles of the Republican party, demonstrating the trickery and treasonable position of the Democratic party, and spoke at great length upon the bond question which he handled in a masterly manner. Keokuk may well be proud of such a son. He is a ripe scholar, a dignified statesman, a brilliant orator, and his frank intellectual countenance betokens moderation, wisdom, judgment, candor and justice. The country needs just such men, and we earnestly hope that the First District will roll up such a majority for right and McCrary as will cause "Tom" and his followers to shake and tremble. At the suggestion of Gen. Baker, three rousing cheers were proposed for Grant and Colfax and Gen. Moore, which were given in such a manner as to make the grove ring and ring with hurrahs.

After these exercises, the assembly repaired to a sumptuous repast provided by themselves individually. After an intermission of an hour, Hon. J. F. Benjamin was introduced to the people, and addressed them for about an hour upon the various questions of the day. Being fresh from our National Hall, every one was anxious to hear, knowing that which he uttered was to the point, and just so. Hon. J. F. Benjamin has the undivided confidence of the people of the Eighth District, and the eagerness with which his remarks were listened to, proves that he is just the man in the right place, and that they intend to keep him there for the next four years at least. Gen. Sample, of Keokuk, was then called for, and entertained the assembly with one of his characteristic speeches which the people are always eager to listen to.

Hon. James Blair was next called for and delivered a logical and profound address, handling the subject in a masterly manner, after which S. M. Clark, Associate Editor of the *GATE CITY*, aroused the enthusiasm of the audience with some stirring remarks which had the right ring

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



WEDNESDAY, MORNING JULY 24.

**Latest from the Border.**

We learn from Col. Bussey, the Governor's Aid, who has just returned from the west, that he distributed 1000 guns from Farmington to Eddyville, and that there are plenty of men to carry them. He says about 400 rebels are encamped within a mile or so of Memphis, on the pretense that they are guarding the town against the Union troops. The rebels are also concentrating at Etna. They have been busy disarming the Union men all round the country, wherever they can. But they will soon get their deserts.

**Arms for Iowa.**

A letter to the Hawkeye from Geo. B. Corkhill, dated Washington, July 20th, says that on receipt of the rumor that Iowa had been invaded by the Pukes, President Lincoln called in person with Senator Harlan and Col. Curtis at the Ordnance and other Departments, and gave directions to have a supply of arms forwarded to Iowa at the earliest possible moment.

**The Valley Whig.**

KEOKUK:

MONDAY MORNING, JULY 29, 1861.

**Border Hostilities.**

A dispatch came up on the Packet yesterday from Brigadier General Hurlburt to Mr. Hayward, Superintendent of the Hannibal and St. Jo. Railroad, requesting him to send word to the nearest military force in Iowa that the Secessionists were gathering in large numbers in Lewis and Scotland counties. About the same time Lieut. Col. Silvers, of the Regiment of North-east Missouri Home Guards, came in from Athens where the Regiment is now stationed, and reported that their scouts brought intelligence that the Secessionists were in camp on the Fabius, a few miles from Memphis, to the number of 1000 or 1200 with constant accessions to their force. Wagon loads of shovels had been taken to their camp from Memphis, with negroes to use them, and it is supposed they are constructing defenses so as to make that a rendezvous for their marauding parties where they will be secure against any force that can be brought against them from the region round about. Their men are generally mounted and armed, and their camp is furnished with three cannon of home manufacture.

It is to be hoped that Gen. Hurlburt or some other competent authority will soon send a sufficient force to break up this camp and squelch out secession manifestations on the border.

**Defence of the Border.**

The Governor and his officers are making every possible effort within their power to put the southern border in a complete state of defence. Some 1700 stand of arms have recently been distributed to the various companies of Home Guards in the Southern tier of counties, and other arms have been ordered from the Northern part of the State

to this place and other points along the Southern border. Col. Bussey of Davis, and Edwards of Lucas, the Governor's Aids, are actively engaged in distributing arms and ammunition, and organizing and systematizing measures of protection.

**Great Excitement at Eddyville.**

Eddyville, July 27.

About 5½ p. m. yesterday an altercation occurred between a Union man (a member of the company which goes to Burlington today) and a secessionist, when the secessionist drew a scythe on the volunteer. This was wrested from him, when the Union man began pushing his antagonist out of the store, and seeing him draw a large 7 inch Bowie knife struck him, but not before the secessionist plunged the knife three times in the breast of the Union man, who only lived 30 minutes. He leaves a wife and three small children. The difficulty occurred in conversation on the Union question.

"Kill him! shoot him! hang him! hang, hang him!" rang through the excited crowd, and for several hours it seemed impossible to restrain them. A rope was on hand and a noose made ready, and but for the forcible interference of the cooler citizens, the deed would have been done. The most terrible excitement prevails. Several supposed secessionists have left town. About 25 men stood guard all night, hourly expecting an attack from the murderer's friends.

The Sheriff from Ottumwa came up about 5 o'clock this morning for the prisoner, but after an effort of half an hour at the cars to bring him away, during which a tremendous excitement prevailed, was compelled to take him off the train and allow the Eddyville Greys to conduct him to the Ottumwa jail. The murderer's name is Johnson, and he lives 2½ miles below Eddyville.

**THE VALLEY WHIG**

FRIDAY MORNING, AUG. 2.

**TWO REGIMENTS COMING.**

We learn from Col. Bussey, who returned from St. Louis last evening, that General Fremont authorized him to telegraph to Col. McDowell and Col. Worthington to move their regiments to Keokuk immediately. They are to be here to day. Col. Bussey was making arrangements for their quarters last night.

1861

**The Valley Whig.**

[Correspondence of Gate City.]

**Release of Prisoners.**

ATHENS, Mo., August 18th.

EDITOR GATE CITY: Col. Moore, with about 1000 men, arrived here this morning.

He, in common with all loyal men in this region, are surprised and disgusted with the course pursued by Wm. Bishop in regard to the liberation of the prisoners sent from here to Keokuk for safe keeping. To take a man alone into a closet, without hearing the testimony, or knowing the nature of the charges against him, and decide from his own lying statements whether he is guilty of treason or not, requires more penetration than is pos-

sessed by Wm. Bishop. If Wm. Moreland, taken in the fight with two revolvers and a shot gun in his hands is not guilty of treason, or if the proclamation of Gov. Gamble covers his case, will Mr. Bishop tell this community what the proclamation does not cover, and then define treason. As to the oath they took in order to gain their freedom, if Mr. Bishop does not know that a rebel's oath does not amount to a "hill of beans," he knows less than Tom. Caldwell's ten year old nigger boy. Until Colonel Wm. Bishop makes some explanation of his new mode of trying prisoners, and liberating among us those whose hands are stained with the blood of our fellow citizens, he will ever receive the just contempt of all lovers of the Union in Clark county. And although he may be clothed with the authority of the "Chief Mogul," or "Lord High Admiral," and consider himself the Great Pacificator, there are places where he will be safer, and meet with more respect than in Athens, Clark county, Mo. F.

**THE N. E. MO. REGIMENT.**

Col. Moore, of the Northeast Missouri regiment, was in town yesterday, and held a consultation with Col. Bussey. His regiment arrived in Athens on Sunday, and is now there. A large amount of supplies for them was received at Alexandria on Sunday last. We presume the Colonel will continue the campaign until the rebels are flaxed out.

**Arrests in Alexandria, Mo.**

Last night a company of Col. Moore's regiment came into town, escorting about thirty-two prisoners, taken by them in Alexandria, yesterday. The company marched from Athens to Alexandria, gave the prisoners notice, and when the bell rang they all went on board the Menominee and came up here. A special train was got out, and about 11 o'clock last night the whole crowd started for Croton. Col. Moore will send such of the prisoners as he can find sufficient proof against to St. Louis. Among the prisoners are Maxwell, Cunningham, Foster, Perkins, Johnson, Somers, young Musgrove, Baird, Hewitt, Everhart, Cowgill, Hill the fat man, Hagerman, Bradford, Kimball, and Hitt, the Mayor of Alexandria.

**THE VALLEY WHIG**

THURSDAY MORNING, AUG. 22.

**Col. Moore and the defense of the Border.**

A communication appeared in the Journal of Tuesday, defending Capt. Trimble and others for declining to go to the rescue of Col. Moore and his brave followers, when their aid was asked to save them from destruction at the hands of an overwhelming force of the enemy.

The writer insists that Col. Moore is acting without authority, and that therefore it would have been very improper for Captain Trimble and others to have attempted to rescue him from the destroying wrath of the hostile forces of armed traitors which surrounded him. And to give force and point to his argument he charges that we were influenced in our remarks by party feeling, and quotes Judge Wright in support of Captain Trimble.

We saw Judge Wright yesterday, and he assured us there was not the slightest foundation for such a use of his name. And as to the charge that our remarks were influenced by party considerations, it is equally groundless. Our paper bears witness that since this war commenced the only distinc-



tion we have recognized amongst men in our commendations and strictures has been founded in their position on the war. We have commended all men of all parties who have stood by the flag of their country, and bravely by word or deed contended for the right; and we have condemned the conduct of Republicans not less than that of other parties who have failed thus to do their duty to the country. We have eulogized Butler and McClellan quite as warmly as we ever did Fremont and Prentiss, nor have we ever felt or made any difference between patriots who have taken a noble stand in the councils of the country, through the public press, or in the field of battle for the glorious old flag.

We took occasion to comment on Capt. Trimble's position, rather than that of others, because his remarks were reported in a newspaper, and thus gave form and expression to a sentiment which was too prevalent, and which we desired publicly to protest against and oppose.

Before the battle of Athens Col. Moore was denounced as a secessionist, and efforts were made in Iowa as well as Missouri to excite distrust and opposition in the public mind against him by such charges. And when, at the beginning of that fight, the cowardly Callahan fled from the field and proclaimed that Moore was a traitor and had sold his men, many were ready to believe him. The battle of Athens gave the lie to that charge very effectually and fully vindicated the loyalty and the heroism of Colonel Moore. The next resort to weaken his influence, cripple his efforts, and eventually disperse his force, was to the charge that he was a desperado, a marauder acting on his own hook and without any higher authority, and that, therefore, all who should go to his assistance would be like himself—lawless marauders and murderers. It was this charge, substantially, that Capt. Trimble ventilated and insisted upon to prevent the citizens of Iowa from going to his rescue, when it was thought he was in great peril.

Now, as a matter of fact, Col. Moore has been in the field a couple of months at the head of several hundred men, who were duly sworn into service by persons authorized by the United States Generals commanding, from time to time, in Missouri. These men have several hundred stand of arms furnished them at St. Louis by the United States, and they have been subsisted a good portion of the time upon provisions furnished under the same authority. These troops are called a United States Home Guard, and have been acting as other bands of Home Guards throughout the State of Missouri, in support of the Government and for the purpose of putting down traitors. The United States authorities at St. Louis and elsewhere have not only furnished them arms and provisions, but have been thoroughly informed of all their movements, and, for all that appears, have fully approved them. The only apparent flaw in Moore's authority seems to be simply this: that he, though elected by an overwhelming majority, and acting as Colonel by universal consent at home and abroad, has not yet received his formal commission. And this fact, persons in Iowa, as well as Missouri, envious of his fame and

more jealous for their own authority than for the suppression of the rebels, have been industriously magnifying and noising abroad. It is a fact of no significance or importance whatsoever. As the acting Colonel of the Home Guards, his authority protects all under him just as completely as if he bore a commission engraved on parchment.

For ourself, we regard that Col. Moore is entitled to all honor from his countrymen, and to testimonials of unbounded gratitude from the people of the border. The victory achieved by him at Athens over such overwhelming odds was a most brilliant affair, and has not been equalled on any battle field east or west since this war commenced.—Col. Moore has made greater efforts and sacrifices, and done more to put down rebellion in Northeast Missouri, than all the rest of the officers, civil and military, along the border, on both sides of the line, combined. He has beaten the secession army, driven it back, broken its power, and dispersed its forces; and but for him, we apprehend that Green, at the head of three thousand men or more, would have had unchecked sway in all Northeast Missouri, and to the imminent peril of Southern Iowa.

Away then, we say, with these fine-spun technicalities, the purport of which is to make out Col. Moore a mere lawless desperado, and those who support him or fly to his rescue, simply marauders and murderers.

## Keokuk, Ft. Des Moines and Minn

### RAILROAD.

Open to Eddyville, 92 Miles.

#### CHANGE OF TIME.

Two Trains each way Daily.

ON and after MONDAY, MAY 20th, 1861, and until further notice, 2 daily trains will run each way (Sundays excepted) as follows:

#### MAIL TRAIN.

Will leave KEOKUK at 2:30 p. m., arriving at EDDYVILLE at 7:30 p. m.

#### MIXED TRAIN.

Will leave KEOKUK at 7:00 a. m., arriving at EDDYVILLE at 2:30 p. m.

#### MAIL TRAIN.

Will leave EDDYVILLE at 7:00 a. m., and arrive at KEOKUK at 12:00 m.

#### MIXED TRAIN.

Will leave EDDYVILLE at 12:00 m., and arrive at KEOKUK at 8:00 p. m.

Passengers taking either train from Keokuk make sure connections with Stages for Oskaloosa, Des Moines, &c.

THROUGH TICKETS, as low as the lowest, may be had at the Office for all points in Middle, Western and Southern Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, &c., &c.

TICKET OFFICE—At the Depot, foot of Johnson street. GEO. WILLIAMS, Jr.

June 30, '61-d&w Superintendent.

8/22/1861

# The Valley Whig.

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KEOKUK:

MONDAY MORNING, AUGUST 26, 1861.

#### Honor to Col. Moore.

We make the following extract from a private letter, the writer of which will be recognized as amongst the worthiest of the citizens of Van Buren county:

Allow me as one of Col. Moore's men to thank you for the truthful and able vindication of his course.

I was with the Col. nine days, was dismissed at Fairmount, Mo., and my observation of his course was such that I have no hesitation in saying that our country needs at this crisis more such men—patriotic and fearless, with souls above technicalities and quibbles, conscious of being in the right and willing to carry our flag wherever Union men appeal for help or rebels defy its authority.

Very truly yours,  
HENRY WHELEN.

#### Court Martial.

Col. Bussey held a court martial at Athens, on Wednesday, Capt. Rankin, of this city, being Judge Advocate. Some sixty or seventy prisoners were there for trial. Only four were held. They were Floyd Calvert of Sand Hill, John M. Childres of Fairmount, George Black near Edina, and Simpson Oldham of Edina. The evidence against them was strong. They will be brought down here on Saturday, en route for St. Louis.—Dr. T. C. Moore of Edina, and Leroy Gates of Memphis, were released upon taking a powerful oath.

The prisoners from Alexandria were brought down here yesterday, tried in the afternoon in the Court House, and all released for lack of evidence.

James Goulty, sent over from Hamilton, and some twenty or thirty other prisoners are still held in Athens for trial.

#### Gen. Hurlbut's Movements.

Col. Moore received a dispatch on Saturday from Gen. Hurlbut, calling on him to march at once to Kirksville, where he (Gen. Hurlbut) was with 500 men of the 16th Ill. and 500 of the 3d Iowa, and several pieces of artillery. Gen. Hurlbut also sent an order to Col. Bussey to join him with his cavalry regiment. It was reported that there were about 1500 rebels in the neighborhood of Kirksville.

Quartermaster Slate, of Col. Moore's regiment, was sent to this city and arrived here on a special train Saturday night, with the order to Col. Bussey, who, however, was absent at Davenport, and his regiment in its original elements.

Mr. Slate said it was reported that about 1500 or more of the rebels were between Athens and Edina. Mr. Slate left on Sunday morning on a special train with a large quantity of supplies. He said Col. Moore would march immediately for Kirksville with 800 to 1,000 men, 300 horses and 50 wagons, and the brass nine pounder from Keokuk.

Any Iowa company, who would like to have a taste of war, would do well to join Col. Moore, assured of a rapid march and

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(Gen. Hurlbut's movements)



sure of a fight under a heroic leader, if the enemy don't run too fast.

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#### Prisoners Sent to St. Louis.

A detachment of Col. Moore's regiment came in from Croton (opposite Athens) on the Saturday noon train, having seven prisoners in charge, who were marched up to the Deming House and delivered over to Capt. Smith, U. S. A. Four of them,—Calvert, Black, Oldham and Childres,—were examined and held several days ago by Col. Bussey and Judge Rankin.

The other three, to wit: A. H. Gibson, A. F. Helm, and J. W. Stevens were examined by Col. Woodyard and J. M. Hiller, Judge Advocate, on Saturday. Gibson was formerly United States Mail Agent on the river. Helm has been a prominent leader among the rebels, was in the battle at Athens and two other fights, and while at the Deming House on Saturday was very defiant and exuberant in threats of what he would do when he came back. But the probability is that he will not come back very soon. They are all on their way to the Arsenal, and as the evidence against them is said to be strong, they will doubtless be kept in the service of Uncle Sam in a useful, if not agreeable way.

#### From Col. Moore.

The news on Saturday noon was that Col. Moore's scouts reported no special force of rebels within thirty or forty miles of Athens on Friday night and early Saturday morning. At the same time we heard vague reports that the rebels intended to attack Moore on Saturday night or Sunday.

Several of Moore's men were fired on while scouting through the country. One, named Stout, of the Henry County Rangers, was shot through the diaphragm, and badly, though it is hoped not fatally, wounded. Another, whose name we did not learn, was shot in the arm. The rebels hid themselves in cornfields, from which our scouts were fired on at various times and places.

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(Gen. Hurlbert's movements)



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



# THE WEEKLY GATE CITY.

Entered at Keokuk Postoffice as second class matter

MARCH 29, 1900.

## THE BATTLE OF ATHENS.

Historical Notes by C. P. Birge Upon  
Events in Clark County  
in 1861.

Another of the interesting letters received by Mr. C. P. Birge in his investigation of the battle of Athens for the state historical society is the following:

Keokuk, Iowa, March 16, 1900.—Hon. Charles P. Birge.—Dear Sir: Your letter requesting personal recollections about the battle of Athens, Mo., to hand. I will never forget that notable 5th day of August, 1861. The battle commenced at early dawn. General Martin Green commanded the forces representing southern views, and Colonel Moore those entertaining northern sentiment. Colonel Moore may possibly have had a commission from the government at that early date, but I doubt it, and I am almost positive that General Green had none from the confederacy, because of his manifest lack of authority in directing the action of his men, and because of the easy and light manner in which he passed over their disobedience and insubordination.

There was no discipline, and everyone seemed to come and go at will, and if any of those with him were at that time enlisted and sworn into the confederate service I did not know it and had not heard about it. There was a binding loyalty, however. General Green's army was more of a flocking together than an organized army of men.

The battle was an accident, and rather romantic, but serious enough for the time and occasion, and very eventful. I doubt if any one knew an hour before that there would be an engagement. General Green evidently did not anticipate anything of the kind considering his lack of preparation, and the fact that his men were substantially out of ammunition.

Ammunition was what we were in search of, and it was for the purpose of procuring it that we intended to cross the Des Moines river on the following night. We were drawing no supplies, not even rations or pay. Our condition which was not very encouraging at best, was necessarily hopeless unless we could get powder, and nothing but the degree of energy and enthusiasm incident to prejudices, which are naturally the fruit of such occasions, would have sustained us in our disappointment.

We had been informed that Colonel Moore was at Canton. We believed he was still there, but we learned afterwards that it was Major Woodjard instead. There had been an arrangement to send some forces from Bee Ridge and Bear Creek under Colonel Joseph Porter of Newark, Mo., to Canton and attack Colonel Moore for decoy purposes, with

prearranged understanding that it was to be a retreating fight, in which way we hoped he would be drawn away from us, and at the same time attract the attention, and if possible the presence of Keokuk people to Canton rather than Athens, and thereby give us an opportunity to march to Keokuk on the following night and procure the powder which we had been informed was stored in Kellogg, Birge & Co.'s magazine.

The scheme failed. Much to our surprise we found ourselves in a fight immediately upon our arrival at Athens, and before daylight had fairly broken. We did not know at first who our enemy was. Information had come to us about an hour before we reached Athens that there was a detachment of some kind guarding the Rock Island depot across the river from Athens. It occurred to us that they had probably crossed over and were attempting to intercept us, but we afterwards recalled a conversation between General Green and Captain Richardson, of Monticello, with Lieutenant Moore of our force (who was a son of Colonel Moore who commanded the union forces at Athens) to which more attention should have been paid. He deplored the possibility of an engagement in which he would be on one side and his father on the other, but when the test came he never flinched.

He recited that he had an impression from information sent him by his mother, through one of their neighbors a few days before, that his father was not at Canton at all, but somewhere in the vicinity of Waterloo or Athens; and he remarked, "If we come across him there will be a fight sure." There were some reasons why the feeling between Colonel Moore and the southern people who knew him personally should be more intense than between the average of those who differed at that time—in which connection Captain "Pueter" Johnson figured—which reasons I think it best to forever pass over.

How well the son knew the mettle of his father, whose courage and bravery no enemy of his ever thought of gainsaying. We all knew in a very short time that morning that it was Colonel Moore and his men who were confronting us, and it caused considerable consternation. We knew he would fight, and that his men had better arms than we had, and that they had plenty of ammunition besides.

Had it not been that we knew that fear and cowardice would be charged, that battle would never have been fought, but it was imperative under the circumstances that General Green should make a stand, and the best showing he could, because a retreat without an effort would have had a much worse effect than to retreat after the small reverse we suffered.

He ordered Captain Richardson's company down the ravine on the south side of the town, and another company (whose captain's name I do not remember) down the ravine on the north side, and he occupied a position himself on

top of the hill at the main entrance to the town. It was near this point the cannons were placed in position, only one of which I think was used on the occasion, and I do not know how often it was fired, but possibly eight or ten times. They only had two cannon balls that I knew anything about, and I think they were fired across the river at the troops at the depot without effect.

I know about those two cannon balls; they were made out of scrap iron at Chambersburg, Mo., by a blacksmith by the name of McDowell, of Marion county, Missouri. I saw one of those balls years afterwards, and I understand it is now at the G. A. R. hall in this city. In lieu of anything better, after the balls were fired, they broke up pots and kettles, and loaded the cannon, together with bolts and such pieces of scrap iron as they could collect, but they accomplished nothing, except the benefit of the scare they caused by the noise they made on roofs of houses as they scattered about. The old cannon was in great evidence in our behalf, however. We could at least keep up a noise with it, which kept the enemy in doubt, and away from that locality, but our powder became exhausted, and the noise ceased, and things immediately began to look ominous.

It was passed around among our troops that Colonel Moore was preparing to make a charge, and both General Green and his men knew they could not withstand one, and nervousness and preparations for a retreat immediately became imminent. It was at this juncture that our chaplain, the Rev. John Rowe, (Uncle Johnnie, we all called him), became greatly excited, and, standing in his saddle stirrups and swinging his hat high as he could reach, rode among and in front of the forces trying to rally them, exclaimed, "Give them hell, boys; God's on our side!" in tones of the most sanctified, and approved rebel yell I ever heard. It was of no avail.

The retreat was ordered and the battle was over. Most of the dangerous and fatal fighting was done at the mouth of the south side ravine, and in and near the cornfield close to the river. Not only Colonel Moore's troops were directing their attention to the few of General Green's men at this point, but those on the Iowa side were also firing across at us. It was at the crest above the cornfield where Thompson and Ewalt were killed, and quite a number of others severely wounded, some of whom had limbs amputated by Dr. Payne, the father of Dr. P. J. Payne, of Keokuk, who was enlisted by Captain James F. Daugherty, the present mayor of this city.

There were others killed in this locality, and in the battle altogether about thirty wounded, and the wonder is that Green's force at the south ravine was not annihilated, and especially as he retreated without notifying them that he was going to do so. The fact that Colonel Moore directed his attention to the contemplated charge on General Green's main body of troops, gave those of us in the cornfield and ravine a chance to



For the Gate City.  
CROTON, Aug. 14, 1858.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—There being no whisky sold in Croton, but the drinking part of the community being obliged to cross the river to Athens to get their "bitters," Ross, the temperance lecturer, in an address delivered here last spring, remarked, "That the cow on the other side of the river would die, if the calves from this side would quit *sucking*," and advised them to *wean* their calves.

But the ladies of Croton, finding that the calves wouldn't wean, and a barrel of the nutriment arriving yesterday, destined for Athens, they concluded to spill it, and see if they could not *dry the cow up* by stopping the supply. So when the barrel was rolled out of the depot into the wagon to be hauled to the ferry, they commenced the assault, with axes and hatchets. The driver seeing that the barrel couldn't stand such usage long, gathered his "ribbons" and started; but the ladies were prepared for any emergency; each horse was immediately seized by the bridle, and "on went the dance." The driver then applied the whip to his horses, freely, and they broke loose from their captors, and the horses having been one day *racers*, (but having retired on their laurels,) entered into the *spirit* of the race and soon distanced the pursuers.

The driver having arrived safely at the ferry, was congratulating himself how nicely he had given them the "slip," when the ladies came in sight, bent on the total destruction of the whisky. The driver commenced yelling lustily for the ferry boat, but it was of no use; "beauty before age." The ladies having arrived, renewed the attack. The driver then showed fight, but one of the ladies seized an axe and threatened if he struck one of them to annihilate him on the spot; and he, "making a virtue of necessity," viewed, in the destruction of the whisky, the end of *mortal spirits*.

Which being accomplished, the ladies marched back in triumph—one of them telling the driver to send word over "that the calves had concluded to suck on this side."

But the affair did not end here. In the evening some of the anti-temperance men brought the broken barrel, in which was a gallon or two of whisky, which did not run out, up into the town, and commenced drinking and swearing, for the avowed purpose of making a disturbance. The ladies hearing it came down to a house close by and watched the proceedings for awhile, but the blood of "all the Montroses was up," and "flesh and blood couldn't stand it." So they sallied forth to finish their work; they upset a jar full of whisky, and a man who tried to defend it was laid out in a very speedy manner, and finished the work by smashing up the barrel and crowing its defenders with the hoops. Their banner was then hoisted upon the Templar Hall in honor of the victory.

"Long may it wave,  
In the land of the free and home of the brave."

Very respectfully, yours,  
FRED. FULLER.

VALLEY WHIG

move further up and out of reach of those firing at us from the Iowa side. Shortly afterwards some of Green's men appeared at the edge of the timber and halloed to us loudly that General Green had retreated. No second announcement was needed. We retreated across the corner of the field to the timber and was soon with the main force again, retreating westward with them.

I never knew how many men Colonel Moore had with him. A more motley aggregation of white men and boys than accompanied General Green on that occasion was probably never collected together on this earth. They ranged in age probably from twelve to seventy-five or eighty years old. The mixture of apparel and appearance was something wonderful to behold. Some were barefooted, many in their shirt sleeves only, and a few without headgear of any kind. Nearly all had horses, but many had no saddles, and some did not even have bridles, but guided their horses with plain rope halters. No one ever knew how many men and boys General Green had with him. They were estimated at that time at about 1,200, which I think was nearly correct.

As the march lengthened, both going and coming, the number increased. They were attracted more by curiosity and because of the novelty connected than otherwise. One strange feature was that many who accompanied General Green to Athens were staunch union men, some of whom afterwards went into the union army and served until the end of the war.

General Green retreated to the Fabius river, where, shortly afterwards we had an engagement with Major Woodjard's forces in which Hon. Ham Anderson participated on the union side. That was the last occasion I ever saw or heard the old cannon. At that time those who wished to remain and go south, did so; those who wished to return to their homes were permitted. I knew of none being restrained.

There are other incidents and matters of personal nature connected with the battle of Athens which I have, for certain reasons, omitted. I hope what I submit will suffice. Yours truly,  
I. M. WALTERS.

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



## Battle of Athens Written by High School Senior

The following interesting account of the battle of Athens, Missouri, was written by Owen Schee, a senior in Kahoka schools.

### Battle of Athens

Athens, Missouri, is located in the northeastern part of Grant township in the northeastern part of Clark county, which too, lies in the extreme northeastern part of the State of Missouri. In its time it has been quite a flourishing little town, at one time having three dry goods stores, two groceries, a drug store, two blacksmith shops, a hardware store, a livery stable and the other institutions that are found in every town of some two or three hundred persons. At different times it has had a postoffice, a flour mill and a lumber mill.

On August 5, 1861, there occurred here, an event that was to be handed down by word of mouth to those who were to make up the future generations. The Battle of Athens, and while it was not of sufficient importance in regard to duration, number of men engaged, or result to have any bearing on the outcome of the Civil War, it is remembered as the battle in this war fought at a point farther north than any other.

The following description of the event is taken from the "History of Four Counties."

"Without disparaging the services of any others, it is perhaps but the truth to say that to Col. David Moore more than to any other man, attaches the credit and distinction of wresting northeast Missouri from the Secessionists and 'armed neutrality men.' About the 20th of May, Col. Moore, then a merchant in the little hamlet of Union, Clark county, received authority, from Gen. Nathaniel Lyon of St. Louis to recruit a company of men for Federal service. Moore raised a squad of ten men, and with this handful took the field. Clear and ringing as a bugle blast, he sounded the following challenge and invitation.

The undersigned is authorized to raise a company of volunteers in this county for Union service. All who are willing to fight for their homes, their country and the flag of our glorious Union. Until the Government can aid us we must take care of ourselves. Secessionists and rebel traitors desiring a fight can be accommodated on demand. D. Moore.

In a few days the original ten had increased to a hundred and they were still coming. Within a week other brave men followed the example and formed companies and squads.

Meantime Martin E. Green had organized considerable rebel forces in Lewis and was threatening the Unionists of that county.

Col. Moore took his small army of 450 men to the small town of Athens where he could receive supplies, and, if necessary, reinforcements. The selection of Athens as a camp of occupation and instruction was in every way a wise one. A group of "peace men" called on Moore and conferred with him in the house of Uncle Joe Benning. The substance of what they had to say was that Green had a fine army of well trained and well armed men. They were desirous of preventing blood-shed. Moore informed them, in substance, "that if Mart Green desired to avoid the shedding of blood he had better keep his men beyond the range of my muskets."

Green's command reached Athens on the morning of August 5 and drew up for battle. The night before two divisions of the Iowa Home Guard came up to Croton (just across the river from Athens) and called enemy was approaching in force and that Moore would appreciate any assistance that they would give. They promised to cross the Des Moines river at dawn the next morning. But by morning the commanders because respecters of state lines refused to come across."

From the account given of the battle, we find that the actual fighting began about sunrise, that Moore had but some 343 men as some deserted when the battle began, and he had sent some to Croton with prisoners to guard, while Green's men were reported rather vaguely as between 600 and 1500. In all probability there were about 1000.

After the first onslaught the rebels wavered in their charge. This was seen by Moore, who, leaping up, shouted, "Forward! Charge bayonets!" The men followed his order, and "the rebel" center quivered—in a few minutes rebels were running everywhere seeking refuge. It was a totally disgraceful rout.

The spoils of victory for the Unionists were some 500 good horses, saddled and bridled, a large number of guns of all kinds, revolvers, huge knives, blankets, quilts, etc. Several wagon loads of provisions, and other materials of war.

The result of the battle was that the struggle for northeast Missouri was over. The tide had turned in fa-

vor of the Union cause and never again did the rebels try to conquer it.

It was a fight too—Oh, the pity of it—between brothers, between father and son. Opposed to Col. Moore there fought bravely his son, Dr. Wm. Moore, who commanded a rebel company. There is a story often told concerning this Dr. Moore—that he did not know until the battle began that he was fighting against his own father. When he heard this he said, "It's no use to fight, boys, if my old dad is over there in that camp, he'll fight until every one of his own men are dead or until we surrender."

The loss of men was insignificant, only five rebels were killed and perhaps twenty wounded. The Unionists lost only two men.

My own grandfather was present on that day and was in a cellar with his mother not more than 50 yards from where the Confederates took their stand. Though he was only four years old at the time, he remembered some of the incidents distinctly.

During the course of the battle a cannon ball was fired through the house of Joe Benning and rather close to where he stood. That same cannon ball is supposed to be in the Des Moines river. The holes in the building made by the solid shot have remained unchanged to this day and their splintered edges are viewed with awe by tourists each Sunday afternoon that the weather will permit, and on week days too.

For many years after the war on August 5 the battle was celebrated and this was a great event. Finally about 1910, this was ceased and there were no more celebrations until in 1934, when the Athens Methodist church sponsored a very successful celebration.

Athens



# Another Account of Battle of Athens, Aug. 5, 1861

*gate Jan. 9, 1922*

John T. McKee of Kahoka, Mo., now eighty-one years old, sends The Gate City the following interesting account of that famous "Battle of Athens" which was fought on the Des Moines river a few miles north of Keokuk on August 5, 1861:

Having read in your valuable paper the account of the Athens battle by Mr. Summers and also by Mr. Forman, I thought maybe your many readers would like to hear it from a man who was raised near there and took a part in the battle.

I was born four miles east of Croton, on the Jos. Hayes place, and father moved four miles south of Athens, April 22, 1846, on the Wm. McKee farm. I attended school in Athens in 1860, hence know the ground around there like a book. I enlisted in the First northeast Missouri home guards under Col. David Moore, under Captain Daniel Hull, Company F cavalry, June 15, 1861. We made several trips in Clark, Scotland and Knox counties. When we left Kahoka our captain, Daniel Hull, refused to go, saying we were not legally organized. My father, having been a Black Hawk soldier took command of our company. On Sunday morning father was ordered to take four or five men and go out near Chambersburg on picket duty. He took William Furguson, Wash Collins, Henry McKee, John Schee and one or two more with him. He sent me with a horse across the river to Squire Harland's and ordered me to report at camp at Athens that night. When I reported at camp that night old man Sullivan told me to get my old double barrel shot gun, for old man Heaton of Big Mound, Iowa, had furnished the company with anything from a corn knife to any old kind of a shooting iron. My old gun was in bad shape, one barrel would not shoot at all and the other only part time, but fortunately some muskets had arrived from Keokuk and I was given one of those. The cavalry camped across the street from the school house. Early the next morning, I was cook and had pancakes and other things on the fire when, to our surprise, the pickets came riding in. Father ordered the boys to get their horses and to fall into line. I said "Father, breakfast is ready." He says, "Never mind about breakfast, the enemy is coming and we are going to have a fight." Captain Payne of St. Francisville, took command. We went up the hill to where Harland and old Captain Baker lived (Captain Baker was a rebel captain), then we formed into line to meet the enemy, just eighteen of us. Their cannon came first and there were many men

behind the cannon. I stood where I could see them unlimber the gun. There was a man riding the lead horse, a big dun. We were ordered to retreat. I drew my musket on the man on the dun horse, but before I could fire my horse whirled and started to follow our boys. Wash Collins fired his old holister at them and we fled pell mell down the hill.

Colonel Moore had formed his line of infantry, 320 strong, at the old Brick Kiln one-fourth mile from where the enemy was drawn up. Our company took a position just behind that of Colonel Moore. The cannon was firing over our heads at the time. They fired several balls, then slugs and scrap iron. The rebels were now all around us; some on the west down the hollow, some on the hill with the cannon, some down by the cemetery, some at Jafe Gray's near the sugar camp. It became too hot for us here so we crossed the river above the mill. Here we fired a number of shots at them from the Iowa side as the enemy came down the hollow. They thought we had been joined by reinforcements and they started to retreat. We again crossed the river, and by this time Colonel Moore had them on the run. We were ordered to follow.

Up the hill we went, but could see nothing of them until we got to John Bedell's. There we fired a few shots and followed on through the prairie. Then we formed a line just east of John Beadman's. There was about 150 of the enemy across the hollow in the hazlebrush, about one-fourth mile away. I fired a few shots at them in there and they soon left that shelter. We followed them, came to Ransom's house, here halted awhile, then pushed on to the Stafford house. Here a number of shots were fired while they were in front of Robert Gray's. These were the last shots exchanged.

When we got back to Ransom's we found one of the rebels had been shot in the jaw, the bullet going through and showing under the skin on the other side. We had two killed, the old man Sullivan and Preacher Harris. There were thirty-four wounded and several of these died.

I have the company roll book in my possession now.



# SURVIVORS MEET

*Albion Courier*  
 Forty-first Anniversary of Battle of Athens, Mo.. Held Wednesday.

## PICNIC HELD ON BATTLE FIELD

Exercises in Commemoration of One of the First Victories of the Civil War—W. B. Armstrong of This City Lived in Athens at Time of Fight.

At Athens, Mo., Wednesday, with appropriate exercises, the forty-first anniversary of the battle fought on the streets of that town was celebrated. W. B. Armstrong, the Burlington freight agent in this city was a resident of Athens at the time of the engagement and speaks strongly of the bravery and intrepidity displayed by Gen. David Moore, who commanded the Union force, and administered a sound beating to the larger force of confederates under the command of Gen. Mart Green. Less than 200 men constituted Gen. Moore's command when the rebels made the attack, as the regiment was but partly recruited. During the engagement a shot from the rebel cannon went through the kitchen of the residence of Arthur Thome, Mr. Armstrong's father-in-law. Other residences in the town were also struck as a demonstration of the poor marksmanship of the confederate gunners. One man was killed and several wounded on the Union side during the engagement.

### Picnic on Battlefield.

The celebration of Wednesday last was held in Bedel's pasture, a beautiful grove in the edge of town, and across which Green's men charged on the morning of the fight to meet with a decided defeat.

The event was a basket picnic of old friends and neighbors, in whom the rancor of the old war days has been replaced by sentiments in harmony with the times. Historical addresses were delivered by the old residents of the county. A large number of the survivors of the battle were in attendance.

### An Early Victory.

The battle of Athens was one of the first Union victories of the civil war, and served greatly to strengthen Union sentiment in northeastern Missouri. David Moore, who as a boy had gone to Mexico with the overland army in 1847, had been given a commission by General John C. Fremont authorizing him to raise a regiment in northeastern Missouri. The recruiting office was first located at Memphis, the county seat of Scotland county, Mo. Rumors of a raid on Keokuk, by Gen. Mart. Green's regiment of guerillas, in camp in Knox county, Mo., caused Moore to move his partly recruited regiment to Athens, where there was a ferry over the Des Moines, and where the Des Moines Valley railroad passed along the opposite shore.

### Rebels Attack.

Here General Green's men made the attack very early in the morning on April 5, 1861, intending to surprise and capture Moore's camp, and then cross the river and descend on and loot the town of Keokuk. The hamlet of Luray, sixteen miles south of Keokuk, was in the line of Green's march, and here lived the family of Captain Sacket, who commanded a company in Moore's regiment. When Green's army began to pour through the streets of Luray on the afternoon of August 4, Captain Sacket's little son, Samuel, who is now a citizen of Colorado Springs, Colo., made a wide detour and ran all the way to Athens, barefooted and alone, through the woods, taking all night for the journey and arriving an hour in advance of the rebel forces. Everybody in Clark county knew there was to be a fight, and many families remained up all night awaiting to hear the sounds of the engagement. At four o'clock in the morning the first sounds of cannon were heard, Green having a small battery with him. The fight lasted about two hours, during which time there were repeated charges and counter charges. General Moore was a born soldier and being ready for the battle soon had the enemy in retreat, capturing all of their horses and saddles and their entire camp equipage that had been left in the timber near by.

### Strengthened Union Sentiment.

General Moore joined Grant's army a short time after the Athens fight and went south. He fought at Donnellson and Shiloh, leaving a leg on the latter field. His courage and intrepidity at the Athens fight undoubtedly had much to do with strengthening Union sentiment in Northeastern Missouri and Southern Iowa. He died a few years ago at his home in Canton, Mo.

There were a large number wounded on each side at the battle of Athens some of whom afterward died from these injuries. That many were not killed outright can be attributed to the primitive guns carrying bird shot. But one man was shot dead on the field. This man was Rev. Harrison, the chaplain of Moore's army. Harrison was a patriot, and although a non-combatant refused to go back of the fighting line. He was shot in the center of the forehead early in the fight and died instantly.

*Kahoka Courier*

*Feb. 29, 1924*

### BATTLE OF ATHENS

Having been constant readers of our county papers all of our lives, we have thereby gained much interesting knowledge in regard to the early history of our county.

We have therefore decided to contribute what little knowledge we have on the historic battle of Athens.

As our information has been handed down to us from that now rapidly passing generation which passed thru the worry and hardships of the great rebellion, there may be many incidents of which we are ignorant. Anyone possessing more information on this subject, we will kindly thank them to pass it on to us.

The battle was fought on the morning of August 5th, 1861. The Union troops under Colonel Dave Moore and the Confederate troops under Colonel Martin Green. The Union men were drawn up between the Frank Randolph home and the old J. W. Smith place, (now owned by A. Gaylord.) The house being used by Col. Moore as headquarters.

Col. Green's men came in on the main road from Fox river and were strung out all the way from Chambersburg to Athens, about four hundred being actually engaged in the fighting.

Col. Moore had about three hundred and fifty men engaged. They divided fifty going down by the old ford near the Aunt Jane Gray place, fifty going up on the rocky point north of town in what is now the Benning tract and the rest scattering down the main road.

The Confederates scattered southeast of town down across the Mantle land, (now the F. E. Schee farm,) thru the cemetery and on to the Des Moines. They planted their cannon near the corner of the Edwin Smith place in front of where Fred Bishop now lives.

The fighting lasted only a few hours.

Four men were killed outright, Harrison and Sullivan on the Union side and Tompson and Evault on the Confederate.

The Aunt Jane Gray house and the Benning house still bear mute evidence of that eventful morning, the former by several musket ball holes in the siding, the latter by a cannon ball hole in the door casing.

We have in our possession several kodak pictures of the old Benning house and will gladly send one to any who wish it as a souvenir. The old brick store building which was used as a hospital by the Union forces has been torn down for several years.

The Union men held the town. The importance of the battle or skirmish rather, lay in its being the farthest north that blood was shed between the two armies.

KENNET HAND BERTHA DOWD



THE BATTLE OF ATHENS

1941

More About Moore

D. Moore, fiery enthusiast of North-east Missouri, was the son of Irish immigrants. John Moore and Sarah Clark were his parents. John Moore came to Virginia the latter part of the 18th century. Later, during the emigrant movement into the North-west Territory, he removed to Ohio. There were three children by Sarah Clark, his second wife: Dr. W. C. Moore, of Wooster, Ohio, who died in 1877; Martha, who married John Nofitzgar; and David. John Moore was a farmer, and a soldier of the war of 1812.

David Moore was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, July 3, 1817. He received a fair common school education, and became a carpenter by trade. In 1830 he removed to Wayne county, Ohio, where he was living when the Mexican War broke out. On the organization of a local company known as the Wooster Guards, he became its captain. This company saw active service in Mexico, under Col. Samuel R. Curtis. In Mexico he met another fiery young officer, Capt. Nathaniel Lyon.

About 1840 in Ohio, occurred the marriage of David Moore and Diadema Schnabel, of Pennsylvania. In 1850 these two, with their five children (William W., 9; Eugene S; John C. 4; Frances 2; and Charles, an infant in arms) left Ohio for Missouri, settling on a farm at Wrightsville (now Union) in Clark county. There, the following year, another son, Thomas was born.

At Wrightsville Capt. Moore saw an opportunity in merchandising, and set himself up in a general country store. A carpenter by trade, he built the mart himself, a frame building with a platform, porch and hitchrack in front. Over the porch was a sign-board front blanketing the end of the gable. For all and sundry who could read, the enterprising merchant painted a large sign on the gable front, which read:

D. MOORE, GENL. MDSE  
WRIGHTSVILLE, MO.

David Moore was a Democrat in politics. But being strongly nationalist and federalist in sympathy, he became an adherent to the Republican party, and supported Lincoln in the 1860 election. After the Civil War he was recognized as an outstanding local leader of the liberal Republican wing.

During the political unrest of 1860 he was outstandingly unionist in his sympathies and public statements. When various groups, in 1861, were

feverishly engaged in organizing unionist, secessionist, and armed neutrality militia companies, the secessionists of Wrightsville decided to straddle a worn fence for a while. They tried to form an armed neutrality company. Because of his military training and experience, someone nominated Dave Moore for the captaincy of this group.

"Not by a jugful!" objected one of the rebels in the meeting. "That d-d nigger lover would have us shootin' down our Southern neighbors before you could say Jack Robinson!"

He made many enemies in his neighborhood. The Southern Legion served him notice to vacate, or stay at the risk of his life. When it got so hot for him that he thought he couldn't hold out much longer, he took a pot of paint and mounted the porch roof in front of his store. He painted out the word "Wrightsville," and painted in the word "Union". "And by the gods," he shouted "if I had

room enough, I'd paint 'Now and Forever' right after it."

He wrote Captain Nathaniel Lyon, then in command at the St. Louis Arsenal, for authority to organize a home guard company for federal service. The authority was quickly mailed to him. He had already struck off some recruiting posters, and was ready to take to the field with a picked squad of ten men as soon as the authority arrived. When he received it on May 20, 1861, he took his jackknife it is said, and pinned one of the fiery challenges on the doorpost of the man he suspected to have given him the notice to vacate a few weeks before. It would be interesting to be able to identify the honored recipient of this, the first military offensive of D. Moore in his campaign of 1861.

Following is the documentary text of the famous recruiting poster:

"The undersigned is authorized to raise a company of volunteers in this county for the Union service. All who are willing to fight for their homes, their country and the flag of our glorious union are invited to join him, bringing with them their arms and ammunition. Until the the government can aid us we must take care of ourselves. Secessionists and Rebel traitors desiring a fight can be accommodated on Demand.

D. Moore."

Moore's military career can be mentioned but briefly here. Soon after his company was organized on the authority of Capt. Lyon, he was chosen colonel of the First Northeast Missouri Infantry. On July 21st, he attacked a rebel stronghold at Etna, under Ben Shacklett, and dispersed it. On August 5th at Athens, he routed

ed Martin Green's secession regiment. Following this he made a rapid sweep (through Clark, Scotland and Knox counties, uniting at Fairmont with Col. Robert Smith's 16th Cavalry. With General John Pope in command this force made a night march against the secessionists under General Tom Harris and Col. Martin Green encamped south of Florida. The rebels decamped and fled for the Missouri.

The Clark and Lewis county regiments returned to Northeast Missouri. During the winter they were combined and federalized as the 21st Missouri Regiment of Infantry. Col. Moore was given the command of this regiment, and Col. Humphrey M. Woodyard was made lieutenant-colonel.

The 21st Missouri saw active service through the entire war. Its first big fight was at Shiloh, where Col. Moore was wounded three times, losing a leg as the result. Three months later he was in the saddle again. At Corinth the heroes of Athens once more opposed each other under veteran conditions, in one of the bloodiest carnages of the war. Col. Moore's horse was shot from under him, and falling, injured the stump leg seriously. Until the very end of the war the regiment saw continuous active service.

In 1865 Col. Moore was raised to the rank of brigadier, and given the command of the post at St. Louis and the First Missouri District. While in this capacity he organized and commanded a new regiment, the 51st Missouri. The year 1865 brought the death of his wife, Diadema Schnabel.

After the war General Moore made his home in Canton, where he married Mrs. Mary Mattingly Carnegie, widow of Mr. J. W. Carnegie. In 1870, he was urged to run for the state senate on the Liberal Republican ticket. Although he was defeated in Knox county by a vote of 624 to 612, he

carried the district as a whole by a large majority. When we consider that he made no campaign at all, other than the publication of a circular letter stating his views, it can be readily seen that D. Moore, Unionist, was the man of the hour for Reconstruction just as he was for Civil War. The text of his circular letter follows:

To the Voters of the Twelfth Senatorial District, Composed of the counties of Lewis, Clark, Scotland, and Knox:

Fellow Citizens:

Having been unanimously nominated for State senator by the Liberal Republican Convention, held in Fairmont, on the 12th day of October, 1870, I accept the nomination, and, therefore, desire to say to the people of this senatorial district, that after arduous services in the South, I am

*Battle of Athens (Kahoka Free Press)  
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"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"  
R. J. BICKEL  
KEOKUK, IOWA



convinced, and have been for a long time, that the restoration of the elective franchise of those lately in rebellion is demanded as an act of justice.

I fully endorse the principles and platform laid down by the B. Gratz Brown wing of the Republican party.

I favor the entire abolition of all the test oaths and impediments to a free ballot, and for the repeal of the registration laws, which have been used for the basest of partisan purposes.

Our present constitution is full of inconsistencies, and was made at a time when passion ruled the day. I therefore deem it advisable, and shall favor a new convention, when all the people can vote, and make such a constitution as will make the great State of Missouri the Empire State of the Union.

It is unnecessary that I should say anything further. These are my views and I appeal to the liberal men of this Senatorial District for their suffrages and support.

DAVID MOORE.

Canton, Mo., October 1870.

I have not found the date of David Moore's death. I seem to have a hazy memory from Uncle Jake Wickham's Civil War tales, that Col. Moore was still living in 1892, and helped organize the regimental association at Edina, at the 30th anniversary reunion of the regiment. But of this I am not sure. I wish someone at Canton would find his grave and send me a copy of the epitaph for these historical notes.

In my next sketch I will be a rebel war correspondent, and tell you something of the life and adventures of Col. Martin E. Green, of Lewis County.

Ben F. Dixon, Box 484  
Benjamin Franklin Sta.  
Washington, D. C.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"

R. L. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

July 11, 1941 - page 2







# THE GATE CITY:

1882  
FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 9.

The Battle of Athens and the Campaign  
Against Mart Green.  
To the Editor.

Mr. A. W. Harlan, in a communication published in Sunday morning's GATE, asks "for information" in regard to the march from Hunnewell Station, on the H. & St. Jo R. R., to the "tiger's den" on Salt river, in Missouri, in 1861.

I think I can inform Mr. H. and correct a few of his errors, as I with my regiment, the third Iowa infantry, participated in that expedition, which, owing to the incapacity of the commanding general, proved wholly fruitless.

The battle of Athens had been fought and won by the union troops. Gen. Martin Green, who commanded the Missouri rebels, retreated toward the H. & St. Jo R. R., his forces being daily augmented by mounted recruits.

To intercept this force, Gen. S. A. Hurlbut, commanding the union forces in northeast Missouri, on or about the 16th of August, 1861, sent a detachment of troops, consisting of five hundred men from the third Iowa, under Lieut. Col. John Scott, and a portion of the sixteenth Illinois regiment under Colonel Smith. At Macon City, Captain Madison, with two pieces of artillery, joined the expedition. We were informed that the enemy were in camp near Kirksville, so we started for that place, which was reached in due time.

At times we were near the enemy and Jim Call, of the third Iowa, captured his pickets and brought them to our camp. But our officers had such tender regard for us that they did not attack the enemy, fearing, I presume, that some one might sustain bodily injury in case an attack was made. On the 26th of August General Hurlbut, from his headquarters at Hudson, on the railroad, issued a proclamation calling on all disloyal bands of armed men to disperse forthwith. We waited patiently for some days, expecting that General Green and his men would come into camp and deliver up their arms. But they came not; and from that time on we believed that the enemy would be more likely to be defeated by joining battle with him than by firing into his camp, proclamations from Fremont's and Hurlbut's headquarters.

On the 30th, General Green hearing of the approach of Colonel Moore, with his command, began his retreat southward.

A little later Colonel Moore joined us with his command of seven to eight hundred men.

Green continued his retreat to Paris, some twenty miles south of the railroad, but finding that he was not being pursued he returned northward as far as Shelbyville, which was occupied by a force composed of the remnant of six com-

panies of the Second Kansas—which had suffered severe losses in the battle of Springfield, and small detachments from the Third Iowa and Sixteenth Illinois, in all about six hundred men, with no cavalry or artillery. Green's force was estimated at between two and three thousand with one piece of artillery. The rebels were all mounted and were armed with squirrel rifles, shot guns and revolvers.

Imbued by the same tender regard for his men that had been shown by the union officers, General Green showed no disposition to come within range of the federal muskets, but planting his artillery at a distance of half of mile from the town he commenced throwing solid shot into the place. As we could not reply our situation became unpleasant, and many of us wished we were home with our mammas.

Soon we saw a flag of truce approaching. The bearer thereof brought from General Green a demand for surrender. Colonel Nelson G. Williams, of the Third Iowa, is said to have replied "go to h—l." These were brave words, but subsequent events proved that they were but as "sounding brass and tinkling cymbals," for our brave (?) Iowa colonel immediately proceeded to call a council of war composed of Lieutenant Colonel Blair and Major Cloud, of the Second Kansas and certain captains whose names I have forgotten. It is a trite saying that "councils of war never fight." A retreat was ordered. Our men got hastily aboard the cars, which were in waiting, and the engineer started the train without waiting for orders. The result was that our troops left behind some knapsacks and two or three wagons. Captain McClure, of the Kansas regiment, had his foot taken off by a cannon ball, and one mule was killed. These were the total casualties on the part of the federals. The enemy lost one man mortally wounded by a rifle shot.

The events above narrated had reflected little glory upon the officers and men composing the union troops in north Missouri, and the commanding general at St. Louis relieved both Hurlbut and Williams and they were ordered to report at headquarters of the department under arrest.

Gen. John Pope succeeded to the command. We expected a vigorous campaign under his leadership for he was a "regular."

For months we had listened to speeches from Major Stone, Capt. C. A. Newcomb and other officers of our command, who promised us victory whenever the enemy could be found. But we had grown skeptical, and could not help noticing that these speeches were always made when the enemy were a long way off, and that when the contrary was the case our officers became exceedingly reticent and seemed only too anxious to keep us out of danger. In fact, none of us had yet learned that war meant bloodshed, and both officers and men were only too ready to sacrifice honor for safety. The enemy also seemed equally solicitous, and none showed the least disposition to make a square stand up fight. They, too, were yet to learn the art of war.

On or about the 7th day of September the federal force, except small detachments left to guard the railroad bridges and stores, were assembled at Hunnewell Station. The 3d Iowa, Lieutenant Colonel Scott; 21st Missouri, Col. David Moore; 16th,

Illinois, Colonel Smith. General Pope still hoping to surprise Green, but knowing that every man was watched by spies, resorted to a ruse to deceive the enemy.

Early on the morning of the 7th he laid out a camp in regular order for the brigade. A camp guard was detailed and Major W. M. Stone was made officer of the day. The enemy were undoubtedly deceived and so were the soldiers of his own command.

We had hoped to be led against the enemy and here we were going into camp.

But at sunset came the order to march, and with four days rations and a train of wagons well onto a half mile long, we commenced that tedious, tiresome night march. There was no moon and the thin grey clouds hid the stars from view. Every heart was filled with hopes of victory could we only succeed in meeting the enemy.

But our march was much impeded by our long wagon train hauled by half broken mules and horses. Had our general possessed the skill that we gave him credit for, we would have taken no wagons and then our march could have been made noiselessly and rapidly. As it was we were continually halting and balking, and the train in crossing bridges made a noise that could be easily heard in the still night miles away. The soldiers freely criticised this action of our commander, and some of us wondered why the general did not adopt the custom of the ancients who, in their wars, were often accompanied by wives and children.

We reached Florida, about 20 miles from the R. R., at 3 a. m. But where was the enemy? He was encamped in a wooded valley some three miles distant, so the citizens told us, and the road to his camp was on the other side of Salt river which we had just crossed, so we counter-marched for a short distance and at last struck the right road.

Was the enemy there we asked? A negro said yes. So on we marched. Soon we heard firing. It was Lieutenant Call and the mounted Missourians driving in the enemy's pickets.

Soon we were in the enemy's camp, but Green and his men were not there. He had hastily decamped leaving one wagon, ten bushels of corn, a partially cooked breakfast and a broken shot gun. One cannot refrain from smiling when he reads the report made of this affair by General Fremont to Adjutant General Townsend. In this report he says: "Pope defeated Green, captured his baggage, also the baggage lost by our forces at Shelbyville; that his infantry was exhausted but his cavalry pursued." The only cavalry we had was a few "home guards" mounted on farm horses, and armed with muskets.

The enemy were not pursued for we needed rest. Videttes were placed on the line of the enemy's retreat, no infantry guard being deemed necessary.

Nearly all the soldiers threw themselves upon the ground and sought the rest they so much needed. Moore's Missourians clad in home-spun as many of them were, looked like rebels. But there were no better soldiers in the brigade and no officer who so well understood his duty as did Colonel Moore.

About four in the afternoon occurred one of those incidents that vividly impress themselves on ones mind. A scouting party of rebels numbering about 30



well mounted men rode boldly and leisurely into our camp. Some of our men who were engaged in filling their stomachs with apples and peaches from an adjacent orchard, saw them, but supposed they were our loyal "home guards" returning from a scout. Colonel Moore recognized them as enemies, and seizing a musket from a stack near at hand shot the leader in the breast, inflicting a mortal wound. Other shots were fired by the soldiers whose slumbers had been so ruthlessly disturbed and another man was wounded; but the remainder fled.

About five or half past, the troops marched back to Florida and bivouacked for the night. Some chickens were taken and a few bee hives were overturned and the honey extracted by the "bad men" in the brigade when stomachs were continually rebelling against the ordinary plain soldier diet of hard tack and pork.

These acts of pillage of greatly exasperated General Pope and in the morning before taking up our line of march for the railroad he addressed each company as follows. I quote accurately although from memory:

"Soldiers, you have committed acts of depredation upon inoffensive people in this town and now by God this thing must be stopped; and during our march to day commandants of regiments will be ordered to ride in the rear of their respective command, and if any soldier leaves the ranks without proper orders he shall be summarily shot."

We, who had so recently left our homes in Iowa, and had thus far learned less of military discipline than we ought, thought this pretty harsh language. We could have forgiven the general had he been flushed with victory; but we were foot-sore and lame from our long march, and felt equally as irritable as the general. The day was moderately warm and our canteens were soon empty. We asked our company and regimental officers for permission to fill our canteens from the wells in the yards of the farm houses which we were continually passing. But they were too strict in their interpretation of the general's order and refused to let any soldier leave the ranks.

At last our thirst became unendurable and a squad from the third Iowa, left the column and were in the act of filling their canteens from a well by the roadside, when an officer, presumably from the general's staff, rode up and ordered them to their commands on pain of being shot. Billy Orr, who was afterwards killed near Atlanta, Ga., said: "shoot and be damned tell the general he'd better shoot the rebels!"

The canteens were filled—no one was shot—and early in the evening the brigade reached Hunnewell. Results of the expedition:

Glory—; killed and wounded—; captured from the enemy 1 wagon, 10 bushels of corn, 1 musket; enemy lost in killed and wounded 2.

THIRD IOWA INFANTRY,  
Keokuk, June 5, 1882.

**THE GATE CITY:**  
SUNDAY MORNING, JUNE 4.

"The Battle of Athens."  
To the Editor.

CROTON, IOWA, June 1, 1882.—I heard

the oration on Decoration Day. It is correctly reported in your daily of the next day, in which the sentence occurs—"Our town militia, supported by our unmustered citizens, fought the battle of Athens."

Now, as an Iowa man, I feel it to be my duty in part to repudiate the claim. More than twenty years has passed since that time, and this is the first time I have written a word in reference to said little fight.

I was on the ground and saw as much as any one man could see.

Our mounted pickets came in at full speed, and the rebels close at their heels, and in less than five minutes after our pickets passed over the ground two pieces of artillery had unlimbered and was firing on Col. D. Moore's line that had been formed in less than twenty minutes notice. He chose the open space facing their artillery. There was less than three hundred men in line, and there may have been thirty men—a few on each end of the line—sheltered by buildings.

The rebels had but about a half dozen round shot for their six pounder; their aim was rather poor and did but little harm.

Some of the rebels deny having a twelve pound gun, but from the first they shot scraps of old iron of all shapes, sorts and sizes, that whistled and screamed through the air and frightened a few of Moore's men and made them weak in the knees, and I am willing to admit there were several men that could not give a satisfactory account of themselves during the battle. As to myself, Colonel Moore well knew that if I would fight at any place it would be near the grub pile; therefore my position was near the little commissary, some nearer but rather out of range of the slugs. Colonel Green, the rebel commander, sent a reinforcement to his right or lower wing, that had been repulsed.

I counted those men as they passed a certain point, made a verbal report to Colonel Moore of their number. Colonel Moore turned to his adjutant, Hicks, and said, order Lieutenant Ward to take twenty men from the left and reinforce his lower wing, that had begun to give way at that time. Colonel Moore was cool and calm, and so was Adjutant Hicks. Now unless we can manage to claim Adjutant Hicks as an Iowa man there was not one in line at that time. And I claim Hicks as an Iowa man, as he had been living in Missouri only about two years previous to the war. He afterwards commanded Co. K, 17th Iowa infantry. His record is safe.

Capt. Joseph T. Pharis was in the act of crossing the river. I do not know how many engaged the enemy below the village.

Captain Dickey, of Farmington, was wounded while in the river attempting to cross over. John Stannus, of Keokuk, and one man beside him waded the river in the hottest of the fight, joined Colonel Moore, was in the charge when he broke the rebel centre and captured many of their horses and in addition their muster rolls which showed that 1,621 men answered roll call on the Wyaconda the day before the battle and numbers joined Green afterwards. Our rolls on the same day showed only 323. The rebel Colonel Green knew our numbers, the

rebel element of Athens counted the men almost every day when on perrade. Colonel Green did not anticipate any serious resistance (he was only repulsed.)

The battle in itself was but a small affair; its effect and influence for the union and for general good was wonderful.

I want the reader to bear in mind that I am an Iowa citizen. Iowa soldiers do not all of them wish to indorse all that may be said in a spread eagle speech.

I do not wish to repeat well known facts. Who is there of you Missourians that will give a sketch of that long night march from Honeywell on the H. & St. Joe R.R. to the Tiger's Den on Salt river?

Colonel Pope of the regular was in command of the 16th Ill. inf., Col. Smith either 5th or 6th Iowa infantry. Col. D. Moore's whole command N. E. Missouri volunteers. One company of Iowa volunteers, Captain Jones, of Henry county, who took the advance at his own request.

Eugene Williams, of Memphis, Missouri, took items; let us have them. Few of the young men of to-day know how the jackets and canteens flew that hot morning.

A. W. HARLAN.

**The Gate City**  
SUNDAY, AUG. 7, 1932  
Entered in Keokuk Postoffice as Second Class Matter.

## MOOAR MAN SURVIVOR OF ATHENS FIGHT

Friday was the seventy-first anniversary of the Battle of Athens, when a force under command of Col. Martin Green, secessionist leader, clashed with Col. David Moore's home guards at Athens on the Des Moines river.

Charles Horner of Mooar, Iowa, is said to be the only survivor of Capt. Sumner's border guard which was part of the force under Moore at the battle. The drum which O. O. Newberry, another survivor, used, is in the historical department of the state, and was presented a short time ago. Mr. Horner is past ninety.

It was August 5, 1861 that word came to Keokuk that the Missouri rebels under Green would attempt to cross the river at Athens. Col. Moore with 300 defenders sent word to Keokuk for help. Three companies of the Sixth Iowa infantry, awaiting transportation to the south, were despatched, after arms and ammunition in transit to the Union army in the south had been seized by Col. Moore for his men.

Attempts were made by the rebels to tear up the Rock Island track, and prevent reinforcements, but the Union forces repulsed all attempts. Two Unionists were killed and fifteen wounded in the battle.

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



# THE DAILY GATE CITY.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 1889

## BATTLE OF ATHENS.

Anniversary of an Early War  
Conflict to be Observed.

Detailed Account by a Soldier Who  
Was There.

On August 5, 1861, the battle of Athens was fought. To-morrow will be the anniversary of the conflict and it will be observed by a general picnic at Athens, to which the public are invited. The following account of the battle will prove of interest. It was written by G. C. Beaman, of Ottumwa, on August 24, 1864, from data taken from his diary kept at that time:

Athens, Mo., and Croton, Iowa, are small towns on the Des Moines river, directly opposite each other. Difficulties first commenced in Missouri between the secesh and union men July 5, 1861. Secesh rallied at Kahoka, ten miles southeast of Athens and committed depredations on union families. Home guards were at once formed on both sides, Missouri and Iowa, for self-protection. Other preparations were made, especially in Missouri, some fifteen or twenty miles back from the river, where considerable depredations were committed by secesh, and several little fights were had at Luray, Etna, Edina, Memphis, Mo., in which the union men were always victorious. These occurred from the fifth to the thirtieth of July. August 1 thirty-five tons of provisions came up on the cars to the Croton depot for the army at Athens; also 200 U. S. muskets, and ammunition, as Colonel Moore had collected four or five hundred union men there. August 2, two messengers from Etna reported to Colonel Moore that 4,000 secesh were near Etna on their way to attack him at Athens. August 4, (Sabbath), at 4 p. m., the alarm came that 1,500 or 2,000 were on their way to Athens. Dispatches were at once sent out and preparations made to receive them. During the night of the fourth Mat. Green, their commander, sent two hundred men through the bush between Moore's pickets on the main road back and the road down the river, and 100 in like manner up the river, forming his right and left wings, one just below town in a cornfield and one above in the brush near a slough. Every union man lay on his arms that night, expecting an attack, but did not discover the right and left wings in the corn and brush. As day dawned, Moore relieved his men to prepare for breakfast, and as the night pickets on the main road

back were being taken in and before the day pickets went out, the enemy rushed in on the main road, planted their cannon on the bluff just above and back of town and August 5, at 5:30 o'clock a. m., fired a cannon as the signal of attack. In two minutes the right and left wings commenced firing; at the same moment the cannon, a nine pounder on the hill and a six pounder on the left, boomed through and over both Athens and Croton, and whizzing over our heads struck on the side of the bluff back of Croton. This produced a panic and set some (not all) men, women and children, half naked, to running and crying into the ravines and bushes back of town for safety. As the enemy had eaten little or nothing since the forenoon of the fourth the alluring war cry of their commander was: "You breakfast in Athens, dine in Croton, sup in Farmington, or in hell." His plan, which was a good one, was to take Athens, capture our forces, 400 men, as prisoners, and their arms, release their prisoners (16) we had taken, capture the thirty-five tons of army provisions, 200 muskets, the ammunition, etc., in the depot in Croton and tear up the railroad. They intended to accomplish this by extending from the main army, 1,200 strong, a right and left wing to meet those on the river above and below town, and at the signal gun to surround, close in and take the town. Providence seemed to direct and favor the Union army. Moreland, of Athens, their guide to the left wing (100) was taken prisoner and sent to the guard house, which frustrated that wing as they were ignorant of the rough ground there. The right wing (200) in the cornfield attacked our pickets, guards and forty Farmington men sent to their aid. At first our men gave way and retreated, some across the river badly scared and some few wounded. This produced a panic, some soldiers, citizens, men, women and children, and wagons fled back, spreading alarm and terror through the country, some of whom did not stop till they had reached Montrose, sixteen miles, and even Keokuk, but immediately on the defeat of our men by their right wing, Colonel Moore sent a detachment of some twenty-five or thirty infantry and as many of cavalry to assist, at the same moment a score or so of our Croton guards and a company (60) from Keokuk sent the night before to guard the depot, went into the sugar camp opposite the enemy across the river in the corn, and gave them a raking cross-fire, and in half an hour the right wing run for life. By this time Colonel Moore had got his force, 400, in line of battle in front of the enemy, but at too great a distance to do execution with muskets, had learned the condition of the right and left wings and as the cannonading, which did no in-

jury, balls all passing some four feet over their heads, began to subside, march his forces up in front and near the enemy, opened a brisk fire and poured in volley after volley from United States muskets which, in twenty-five or thirty minutes silenced their rifles, shot-guns, horse-pistols and butcher-knives and the "secesh" took to their heels. From the signal guns up to this time was one hour and a half, all spent in hard fighting at some of the three points of attack. Our cavalry pursued them for six miles, and a small part of our infantry for a less distance. Their commander tried to rally his men three or four times, but as our men came up and fired or charged they run, and at last retreated like sheep. The whole occupied over two hours. As our men returned they had the pleasure of visiting the cellars and hiding places of the secesh of Athens and feast on viands, which they had prepared, and hid for their friends, the rebel army. Union loss—killed, 3; badly wounded, 4; 1 died in a few days. Some 20 wounded slightly. Total then, killed, 4; wounded, 23. Rebel loss—killed, 43; badly wounded, 40; slightly, some 20 or 30, as near as we could ascertain. They (Secesh) reported over a 100 missing in all. Union captured 63 horses, 3 or 4 wagon loads of provisions, some few guns, 1 keg of powder and sundry small weapons.

# THE DAILY GATE CITY.

FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1889

## THE BATTLE OF ATHENS.

A Paper Read Before the Loyal Legion of Missouri on Friday, April 12, 1889, by Geo. W. McCrary.

The battle of Athens was not in any sense a great battle, and in comparison with many subsequent engagements, it may have been deemed insignificant. It was, however, among the first of the conflicts between union and confederate forces upon the soil of Missouri, and was also among the earliest engagements of the war of the rebellion having been fought on the fifth day of August, 1861. I have been unable to find in the published official war records any account of this engagement, and this fact among others has led to the preparation of this paper. The fact that at this battle the blood of Missouri and Iowa soldiers was shed in the cause of the union, is of itself enough to make it our duty to preserve from oblivion the story of the struggle and victory. But this is not all. The engagement viewed in the light of the moral effect, and of the more substantial results achieved, was by no means unimportant and insignificant. Those of us who then resided in that immediate vicinity well remember the feeling of relief with which we heard that



the rebel forces under Green had been defeated and driven back in confusion from the Iowa border, and it is difficult now to estimate the effect upon the gathering hosts of rebellion in northern Missouri. It was, as I have stated, the first conflict in that part of the state, and the result was awaited with intense anxiety by both the loyal and disloyal. The latter were boastful and confident of victory, and their surprise was only exceeded by their disappointment when they were informed of the cool bravery of Moore and his men, who proved themselves more than a match for their rebel foes.

Athens is a village of several hundred inhabitants situated on the Des Moines river about twenty miles above its mouth in Clark county, Missouri. The Des Moines river at that point and from there to its mouth, is the dividing line between Missouri and Iowa. Opposite to Athens on the Iowa side of the river is the village of Croton, and twenty miles distant is the city of Keokuk on the Mississippi river in Iowa, three miles above the mouth of the Des Moines. Croton is a point upon the Keokuk and Des Moines branch of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific railroad, and a considerable quantity of military stores and provisions was known to have been stored at that place. In the spring or early summer of 1861, Captain Nathaniel Lyon, U. S. A., then commanding Jefferson barracks at St. Louis, gave permission to David Moore, of Canton, to raise troops for the defense of northeastern Missouri. I am not advised as to Captain Lyon's jurisdiction in the premises, and finding no official record upon the subject, I am led to think that possibly the organization was in a measure voluntary, a sort of spontaneous rising and coming together of loyal men for the defense of themselves and the flag. No doubt the gallant Lyon gave encouragement, and such sanction as was possible under the circumstances, to the movement. At all events, a large meeting was held at Kahoka, in Clark county, some time, I think, in May, 1861, at which it was determined to raise a regiment and equip it as well as possible for the service above indicated and by the early part of June a force of seven hundred men had been enrolled and sworn into the United States service for three years, or during the war. David Moore was chosen colonel. As soon as possible after the organization was completed the command marched upon Aetna, Scotland county, Missouri, where a rebel force was stationed under Major Schacklett. This force retreated before Moore, with little resistance, and after hauling down the rebel flag and hoisting the stars and stripes, Colonel Moore and his command proceeded to Athens where they went into camp to await supplies. While in this camp the men were subjected to military discipline and drill until August 4, when Colonel Moore says in a letter I have lately received from him: "My scouts who were kept many miles in the front, reported the enemy advancing in strong force from the direction of Edina under command of Martin E. Green, colonel, and another force under Colonel Franklin, from Lancaster, Schuyler county, Missouri. Colonel Moore's brief account of the fight is as follows:

The two rebel forces, variously estimated at from nine to fifteen hundred men, formed a junction at or near Aetna, Missouri, and camped in the Fox river timber about four miles from Athens. A dispatch was sent to Keokuk notifying the citizens that the enemy was advancing in strong force upon Athens, and in two hours two companies of the city rifles arrived under the command of the gallant William W. Belknap. With this command came Hugh W. Sample, John W. Noble and others, numbering upwards of eighty men. Many who here fired their first shots at an enemy, afterwards joined Iowa regiments and won immortal honors on many great battle fields for the union and freedom.

During the night of the fourth, the line of sentinels was often visited by grand rounds and instructed in their duty. At sunrise on the morning of August the fifth, the advance mounted pickets were driven in, the long roll was beat to arms and in one minute a line of battle was formed and told off in camps of forty men. Each of my commands numbered three hundred and thirty-three in line. Green opened two pieces of artillery upon our center. The right of his line was touching the river upon my left and his left touched the river upon my right. Maj. Schacklett, with his battalion was on Green's right with their flank opposite the Iowa boys on the other side of the river. When the artillery opened, my mounted horsemen fled across the river; and Captain Spellman, with his company, also crossed with his colors flying; but Captain Small and his company stood just where they were posted. Nearly all the enemy's cannon-shot flew over our heads. The women and children of the village were sent to a big mill under a steep bluff, where they were sheltered from the fire of the enemy and the prisoners were sent under a strong guard to Croton opposite Athens. The firing soon became general on the whole line. They were armed with shotguns and squirrel rifles, which were no match for our improved muskets. The fight lasted nearly two hours, when those posted on the right and left were ordered by me to stand fast and the center to fix bayonets and move forward in common time. The men, however soon broke into a charge, and the enemy fled in every direction from the field.

Colonel Moore states that the number killed and wounded in his command numbered twenty-three. He also says, "As the fruits of the victory, we captured many prisoners, four hundred and fifty horses, saddles and bridles complete, hundreds of arms and a wagon load of long knives with which they expected to fight the infantry."

Speaking of the rebel commander in this early engagement, Colonel Moore says: "General Martin E. Green was a brother to Senator S. Green and was afterwards killed on the works before Vicksburg, Mississippi. He was not a brilliant man like his brother but was regarded as a very worthy citizen of Lewis county, Missouri. He had no knowledge of tactics or military evolutions, yet many of his command who remained in the service became good soldiers." The purpose of Green's attack upon Athens was believed to be primarily to defeat and disperse Moore's command and thus establish the

supremacy of the rebel cause in that portion of northern Missouri, and secondarily to cross the Des Moines river, invade Iowa and capture the supplies then stored at Croton. And many believed that the program included, in case these points were successfully accomplished, an attack on the city of Keokuk.

Immediately after the battle, Colonel Moore, with his command, started in pursuit of the rebel forces. Later he was joined by other troops under the command of Generals Pope and Hurlbut. Green's command was pursued by these troops for many days, but could not be brought to an engagement. His forces sometimes numbered as high as three or four thousand men, but they would disperse when about to be attacked and re-assemble later at another place. Moore's victory at Athens seems to have greatly demoralized them. If had been defeated, it is easy to see that the results to the union cause might have almost equally disastrous.

It seems proper that I should conclude this paper with a brief sketch of the gallant soldier who commanded the little union army and won the first union victory on a battle field in the state of Missouri. Colonel, now General Moore, who so gallantly and ably defended Athens, is still a resident of this state, residing at Canton, in Lewis county. His regiment became the Twenty-first Missouri infantry and did gallant service in Missouri so long as war was flagrant within her borders, and afterwards went south with the union armies. General Moore greatly distinguished himself at the sanguinary battle of Shiloh, where he served under Prentiss, under whose order he, with his gallant regiment met, and for a time checked the impetuous attack of the confederate forces under Hardee. While gallantly leading his men in this fierce struggle, which has become historic, he fell severely wounded and was carried from the field to suffer the amputation of a leg. His own report of his part in this engagement is brief and characteristically modest thus illustrating the fact that courage and modesty are qualities often combined in the same person; but his superior officers speak in high praise of his gallantry and skill. General Prentiss, says: "Col. David Moore is entitled to special mention." And Col. Quinn of the 12th

Michigan, who that day commanded the 6th Division, says: "It is no more than just that favorable mention should be made of Col. Moore, of the 21st Missouri, who fell badly wounded while bravely leading his men on early in the day." Having lost a leg in this battle, it might have been expected that he would retire from active service. But not so. After he had recovered and obtained an artificial limb, he raised the 51st Missouri regiment and was in command of the post of St. Louis and first sub-district of the state. He took an active part in subsequent campaigns in the south, commanding for a time the first brigade, third division, and afterwards the third division, Sixteenth army corps under Gen. A. J. Smith. He was three times wounded and had two horses killed under him. It is not much too say that this maimed and battle scarred veteran deserves to be honored by the people of the entire

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



union, and especially by his fellow citizens of this state. He had served in the Mexican war as captain in the third Ohio regiment under Col. Samuel R. Curtis, Capt. James M. Love, now judge of the United States district court in Iowa, commanding a company in the same regiment.

This sketch of the battle Athens and of the union commander in that fight, is, I am well aware, exceedingly imperfect. It is, however submitted for what it is worth and the hope is expressed that some one better qualified and having better opportunities will undertake the duty of gathering the details and placing upon record a more complete account of the engagement.

## THE DAILY GATE CITY.

WED. AUGUST 6, 1889  
Subscription Rates:

### CELEBRATION AT ATHENS

That Historic Town the Scene  
of a Grand Reunion.

Addresses by General Moore, Colonel  
Reed and Others--List of the  
Survivors Present.

The historic town of Athens, Mo., was the scene of a grand reunion of the survivors of that battle yesterday. Early in the morning crowds began pouring in from all directions, in wagons, carriages, on horseback, and others on foot who did not live very far distant. The morning train from this place took a large delegation accompanied by the Tri-State band. A large number were also gathered up along the road before reaching Croton. The northern train brought in a delegation equally as large, which swelled the afternoon audiences to several hundred people.

Many were the persons interested in this day's proceedings, as it recalled vividly to their minds the stirring scenes of '61. To many it brought sad memories of those brave men who had been wounded or killed just twenty-eight years ago, while others talked of what might have been if Green had been allowed to enter Iowa, to capture the union stores at Croton, destroy the railroads and thus cut off communication between Keokuk and the central parts of the state and to pillage and destroy their homes.

The reunion was held in the grove where Green had located his left wing on that eventful night of August 4, 1861. This would carry the soldiers back to the day which they are proud to speak of. The battle they fought on that day was one of the first of the war and, although not as bloody as others that followed, was a very decisive one.

The day was opened by the booming of cannon and anvils and the sharp report of the musket. After the arrival

of the train the Tri-State band furnished some excellent music very much to the delight of the younger participants to which band music was a novelty.

At 10 o'clock the procession marched to the grounds situated just north of town where the program of the day was to be carried out. It consisted in the forenoon of music by the band mingled with the shrill notes of the peanut and lemonade venders and the pathetic strains of Professor Morton's guitar, with which, accompanied by his negro melody solos, he was entertaining a large audience. The children present enjoyed themselves in the swings which had been thoughtfully prepared by the committee. After dinner, which was served to those not bringing baskets of provisions with them, by the Methodist ladies of Athens, the band opened the program with several patriotic selections, after which George Wilson called the assemblage to order and nominated P. Reynolds, of Mt. Sterling, as president of the day, who was unanimously chosen. Mr. Reynolds then introduced the chaplain of the day, Rev. J. W. Kelly, of Kahoka, who offered a fervent prayer, invoking the divine blessing on the assembled audience and especially on those who had risked life, limb and fortune to save the nation.

General Moore, of Canton, was next introduced and delivered an interesting address. After a few introductory remarks he asked the survivors of the battle present, who were drawn up in line in front of the stand, to estimate the number of men engaged on both sides. These estimates varied from 200 to 400 on the union side and from 1,300 to 2,000 confederates. General Moore said there were 333 men in the union lines and about 1,300 rebels. After referring to several incidents of battle he spoke of the boasts of the southern press in which they claim that 600,000 confederate soldiers held at bay 2,500,000 Yankees for over four years, but this is false as I cannot remember an engagement where the forces of the foemen were not equal to our own. He paid a pleasing tribute to General Belknap, speaking of his courage at the battle of Shiloh and of his pleading with deserters to return to the front and assist their comrades who were suffering from the enemies' bullets.

General Moore was followed by several others who made short speeches, among which was Col. J. M. Reid, of Keokuk. He spoke of the battle of Athens as not being a great one compared to others which they were afterwards engaged in but it was great in its consequences. It saved northeast Missouri for the union and the Iowa border its cities from being plundered and burned. He referred to the condition of northeast Missouri at

the opening of the war and to the regiment raised at Athens by Col. Moore, of its part in some of the bloody battles on southern fields. He concluded by saying that the sullen roar of artillery is heard no longer the sulphureous smoke has cleared away and the glorious sunlight tells us of the rapid passage of time since this great war. The afternoon program was closed with music by the band.

Those present who took part in the battle were: General Dave Moore, S. Davidson, Geo. Wilson, John T. McKee, P. D. Harper, A. W. Holland, A. J. Phillips, C. W. Stone, J. P. Smith, John W. Holmes, J. M. Hobb, E. M. Starr, John Laughy, Peter Conkle, Robt. Mitchell, P. Sweet, O. H. Nye, John Rosberry, A. Calonge, S. A. Loops, Wm. French, Geo. W. Reins, Capt. John M. Hiller, Robt. Anthony, Capt. Joe Ferris, Royl Hiller, Geo. Hiller, John Schaffer, James L. Holmes.

## THE DAILY GATE CITY.

FEBRUARY 3, 1888  
Subscription Rates:

### "THE BATTLE OF ATHENS."

The "battle of Athens" was serious enough in its day, but as the veterans look back at it now from the standpoint of the four years of fighting that came afterward. They think it was no great shucks. A county history having been published which says the union troops captured 400 or 500 horses, many wagon loads of provisions, and so on. Mr. M. M. Buford who was there on the rebel side tells what he saw of the fight, in the Lewis County Journal. He says:

Before reaching Athens, Colonel Green formed his men in line and counted them 480 strong every fourth man being detailed to hold horses. After making the attack Major Shacklet's forces seemed to be hotly engaged. Colonel Green sent Captain W. S. Richardson's company to sustain him. On withdrawal of our forces Richardson retired with Major Shacklet, hence lost part of their horses not to exceed 40 as some of them were brought off by our men. As regards their capture of wagons, provisions, baggage, etc., it is all fiction as we had none there, all our baggage was left on Fox river seven miles distant under guard. The account of our wonderful stampede ditto. I was in Colonel Green's immediate command perhaps heard every order he gave, and retired with him at our leisure. True there were a few mounted men who followed us a short distance and occasionally fired toward us at long range. A mile or so out Colonel Green deliberately set a trap to bag them by putting a squad of men in a corn field, but one of them accidentally discharged his gun; the federals took the hint and retired. A little further on Colonel Green stopped and wrote a note to Colonel Moore in regard to our wounded and sent it under a flag of truce by Adolphus G. Andrews. We then proceeded to



our camp on Fox river. I saw none of our men afoot that day; a few were leading an extra horse, each. These facts I state from my own personal knowledge, beyond this I care not to go.

## THE WEEKLY GATE CITY.

Entered in Keokuk postoffice as second class matter

JUNE 10, 1897.

### THAT ALEXANDRIA "RAID."

One of the Prisoners Gives His Version of the Affair.

[To the Editor.]

Keokuk, Ia., June 7, 1897.

The Gate City of May 29 reprinted some war news from the issue of August 6, 1862. I wish to notice one thing in order to get at the whole truth. The man who reported that the rebels were on their way to raid Keokuk was Ben Stanley, who built the first house in Wayland, Mo. He knew there were no armed rebels within a hundred miles of here; he reported the same a year before, when it was not so; hence the citizens of Keokuk ought to have known better than to believe him. You say a crowd went from here to Alexandria on the ferry after dinner; that was a mistake, as they left here before most of them got breakfast, as I fed two of my friends—Cody and Peck—myself. The Gate City says that General Parrott was in command; he may have been there, but he took no part in arresting us. That was done by a certain Lieutenant Ball, a smart West Pointer, who did not know enough to spell our names, as you will see. He spelled Hewitt Herret and Dean Dear.

Then The Gate City says they made a second visit (visit!) to Alexandria that night, and returned with more prisoners and a quantity of boots, shoes and clothing, which had been collected for the rebels. This part I must take exception to, as even if the Alexandria merchants had been willing to furnish rebels with their goods, there was no way to get them to them, although, as I have no doubt many of the rebels could have used the boots, shoes and clothing, but I never could understand what your crowd wanted baby clothes for unless they were used by the infantry. Then they took some whiskey and wine from a union man's store; can't see what they wanted that for unless they wanted to preserve dead rebels with, as they surely would not drink it, being from Iowa.

The Gate City says nothing about breaking into my store after having me here a prisoner. They took every pocket and butcher knife I had; of course these would be useful in case of a rebel attack. They also took every razor I had, including one I used myself; hence, I have never shaved since, so in that way, perhaps, I have saved enough to come out even by this time. Still, I could not see what they wanted razors for, unless there were some colored troops in the crowd who, of course, prefer razors to any other weapon. Then they took my accordeon; it puzzled me what they wanted that for, unless it was to be used at the burial of some dead rebel.

But what puzzled me most was why they took my gold pen, unless they sent it to General McNeil to sign the death warrants of the ten innocent farmers that he had shot at Palmyra, Mo. Now, part of this looks funny at this date and some of it serious. The funniest part to us was, while they were arresting us on the levee (this crowd of about 300) that squad of about a dozen that went around by St. Francisville horseback came galloping into Alexandria. Of course the brave Lieutenant Ball thought they were rebels. Then you ought to have seen him and his crowd run for the ferry boat pell mell. Such running is not to be seen every day.

C. L. BECKER.

## Constitution-Democrat.

AUGUST 10, 1898.

### SHAM BATTLE OF ATHENS.

The Memory of the Real Fight is Celebrated at Belfast—Some Vincennes News.

Vincennes, Ia., Aug. 9.—Special—The celebration of the battle of Athens held at Newberry's Grove at Belfast last Friday had a very good attendance in the afternoon. In the forenoon the crowd was small. The time of the picnic came when farmers in that section were threshing grain and could not come. There were not as many old soldiers as we expected to see. About half a dozen were in attendance from Farmington, one from Montrose and a few from Missouri, and most of the members of the post at Belfast constituted the "old guard" in attendance.

In the afternoon the crowd began to increase and a little after 2 o'clock the preparations for a sham battle began. The enemy was lying on the hill overlooking the valley where the old guards were forming into line, getting ready for the fray. The command was entrusted to L. C. Robb; John L. South was lieutenant and Jas. Roseberry flag bearer.

After forming on the picnic grounds these old soldiers moved up the valley to the sound of music and flags flying to the breeze; behind came the crowd anxious to see how the veterans of 1861-'65 went into action.

After passing a few hundred yards up the valley the army turned to the left, halted, lined up, ammunition was distributed to each soldier and then came the orders to aim high. The army then moved some distance in advance when it halted and Lieutenant South with skirmishers were thrown forward.

The enemy's skirmishers here were met and quite a lively exchange of shots took place. After a few minutes of sharp skirmishing, the skirmishers were ordered into line; the line then advance in the face of an incessant skirmish fire. A halt was sounded and the order to make ready, aim, fire, charge, was given. Then

the the column went up the hill on the double quick, driving the artillerymen from their guns, then rushed on to the infantry support of the batteries and sent them pell mell over the field.

The enemy was soon captured and marched back to camp. Before the victorious army went into camp they gave three cheers for our brave boys at Santiago, Cuba and Puerto Rico. The entire concourse of people on the grounds were spectators of the sham battle.

There were two soldiers on the ground who participated in the battle of Athens, L. C. Robb and Jas. Roseberry. All were disappointed because A. W. Harlan could not be present.

## CONSTITUTION - DEMOCRAT.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 1880.

### The Battle of Athens.

[To the Editor.]

Notice is given of a picnic to be held at Athens, in our neighboring county of Missouri, on August 5th, the anniversary of the battle at that place in 1861. Gen. David Moore, now living in Canton, Mo., who commanded the union forces, will be present and address the people. Now, as this was one of the first battles of the rebellion, and participated in by men of Iowa and Missouri, who afterward became famous in the war and since its close occupied distinguished civil positions, and as it is understood no official report was ever made, it is suggested that those in charge of the picnic, or some enterprising newspaper secure the services of a stenographic reporter to be present and report the address of Gen. Moore and other proceedings, and interview those living participants in that noted battle, who may be in attendance. It is also suggested that the management send invitations to Gen. John W. Noble, Gen. W. W. Belknap, and Gen. J. M. Tuttle, each of whom were there, with volunteers, to be present, or give their account of tragic and amusing incidents of this, their first army experience. A full report of this battle and the incidents attending it will be of great interest to citizens of Missouri and Iowa, and at the same time preserve the history of this battle taken from the lips of those yet alive who were in the fight.

D.

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



# The Gate City.

PUBLISHED BY  
THE GATE CITY COMPANY,  
KEOKUK, IOWA.

MAY 17, 1900.  
THE BATTLE OF ATHENS.

Historical Notes by C. P. Birge Upon  
Events in Clark County  
in 1861.

To the Editor of The Gate City:  
(Concluded.)

Captain Israel Anderson, who went up there as a member of the Rangers (Sample captain) states that his company, owing to the prevailing idea of state rights, did not think they had any business to cross the river into Missouri, and that Captain Sample declined to go over—that they were wholly on the Iowa side during the fight, but that later he went across the river, and went over the field, and his recollection is that four or five dead covered the whole case, with some six or eight more wounded on both sides.

He states that the cannon (first fired by Green) consisted of an old cylinder from a steam engine, loaded with a bag full of nuts and small bolts, taken from some old machinery, and which when fired blew out the breech of the gun the first shot.

According to his recollection, and also that of Mr. Townsend, not more than four shots were fired by both cannons.

Mr. Townsend, a gentleman who lived in Athens at the time of the battle, (then a boy fourteen years of age) says the fight occurred just at sunrise. The reason he knew was because he had started from the house to go to a field to milk, and the first thing he knew the shooting commenced.

He says that it was his understanding that Green had one small cannon, and another sort of cannon that exploded or blew the breech out when it was fired the first time.

He states that eight men were killed (two of whom died a few days after the fight) and gives the names as follows:

Ewalt, a rebel.

Thompson, a rebel.

Butler, a rebel.

On the Union side, a preacher, one Harrison, a man by the name of Spruce also one named Sullivan.

This accounts for six, the remaining two he is unable to name.

He states that in the main field to the east and along the river bank there were no dead men found. His version agrees with my own, and that the statement made by some writer that fifteen or twenty dead men were found there is pure fiction.

John W. Noble, in a recent letter on this subject, tells of his part in the battle of Athens. He gave an interesting account of a stand-up duel between Barnesconi of Keokuk, firing across the river and bringing down his man.

General Noble went up to that fight as a Keokuk Ranger, associated with Sample and Capt. Israel Aderson and Stannus.

Some amusing incidents occurred during that exciting day. Many of our Keokuk boys started about the time the fight broke out to cross the river, which was easily fordable, to get something to eat. Notably two of these men, Captain Sam S. Sample, who after distinguished himself in the service, and another gentleman found themselves in the middle of the river crossing when the shooting began. They were so overwhelmed with the suddenness of the attack that they deemed it advisable to lie down behind a big log in mid-stream until the breeze blew over, which it did as suddenly as it arose, when they proceeded on their way to their breakfast.

Of course it did not take long for all this business to reach Keokuk and Colonel McDowell and Worthington drew from their regiments some three or four companies each and started for the battlefield. The train was made up, provisions, luggage and I think a cannon put aboard. These troops left the train several miles east of Croton and crossed into Missouri, making a flank movement to the rear of Athens, but no enemy being found nothing remained for them to do but to get a little field practice and return to camp. During the day a large number of volunteers from all the adjacent country for twenty or thirty miles away poured into Croton. About five o'clock in the afternoon a band of music was heard and soon over the hills from Salemway, with flags flying, came a company to the scene of conflict.

Colonel Moore filled up his regiment, afterwards known as the Twenty-first Missouri. They distinguished themselves as did the colonel in Grant's campaign.

An amusing incident is related by Hon. S. M. Clark, editor of The Gate City, as follows: At the time of this event of which we are writing, he said he was a boy, living in Van Buren county, where he joined a home guard military company. He was sent over on the border with a number of others to guard a roadway—two suspicious characters (each with guns) were apprehended on Missouri soil, taken over into Iowa, and his commanding officer concluded to send them to the Keosauqua jail for custody. They were put in a wagon and some others were sent along as guard. Arriving at the Keosauqua jail at night in the rain, the jailor refused to take the prisoners, as they had been kidnapped and brought to Iowa; claimed he had no authority to receive them without a warrant of committal. Here was a dilemma. Remembering that Chief Justice Wright of the supreme court of the state would be good authority, he was summoned and appeared, and asked to solve the great constitutional question, as to what to do with two prisoners taken in Missouri, brought to Iowa, the jailor refusing to incarcerate them.

Judge Wright said, "These poor fel-

lows, cold, wet and hungry, kidnapped in Missouri, and brought over here present a grave question."

He said to the jailor, "Suppose you take these boys in and give them a good hot supper, tell them they can turn in and sleep here tonight, and be free to go out or come in at their pleasure," which they did.

What became of the prisoners later does not appear.

The excitement incident to the early days of the war passed away and Keokuk became quite a military post until the close of the war, the regularly organized United States force of soldiers being stationed here and large hospitals maintained here, our company disbanded. Our second captain, Col. Worthington, was accidentally killed in night picket duty in Tennessee. General Belknap, our third captain, served with Grant and Sherman until the end of the war, an ideal soldier and greatly beloved by those who knew him best. In 1869 I was sitting in his office in Keokuk with another gentleman, both of us having been members of the City Rifles, when a telegram was handed him. He opened it and on reading his face flushed and I wondered what the contents could be to produce such a visible effect. In looking up and smiling, he said: "I will tell you a secret, you promising not to talk of it." He got up and closed the door of his room and then read us the dispatch which was to the following effect. "The president will appoint you secretary of war if you will accept it. I have induced him to do it. Wire me you will accept." Signed, W. T. Sherman. The general did accept and the Rifles gave him a banquet in the old Young America restaurant prior to his departure for Washington.

Of the eighty-one names on the roster of this company (the City Rifles) there are but nine resident in Keokuk today.

Out of the list of names who became noted in the service, I note: John Adair McDowell, Col. Fifth Infantry; W. H. Worthington, Col. Sixth Infantry; R. F. Patterson, Adj. Fifth Infantry; C. K. Peck, Capt. Forty-fifth Infantry; Col. A. G. McQueen, Third Cavalry; John Bruce, Nineteenth Infantry; Chas. Parsons, Quartermaster, St. Louis; Davis A. Kerr, Third Cavalry; R. H. Wyman, Surgeon U. S. A.; W. W. Belknap, Major Fifteenth Infantry; D. B. Hillis, Colonel; Sam S. Sample, Capt. of Cavalry and Signal Corps; Frank Bridgman, Paymaster U. S. Army.

On August 3rd, 1862, after this company was pretty well broken up, so many prominent members having gone into the service, fifty-four in number mustered and marched to the corner of Third and Main streets, and there was administered to them the oath of allegiance by Judge R. P. Lowe.

## Further Testimony.

Denver, Col., April 28, 1900.

Mr. Charles P. Birge, Keokuk, Ia.:

Dear Sir—I have just received two copies of The Gate City containing articles on the battle of Athens. The ear-



marks indicate that they may have been sent me by you. An editorial comment indicates that you are gathering data for publication in the Annals of Iowa. I believe I have somewhere in my vault a detailed narrative of the exciting day which I wrote soon after. The principal features of the conflict are as fresh to my memory now as they were then as I was a tolerably active participant in the affray. I was at that time orderly sergeant of Captain Joe Farris' company of Iowa men which afterwards became Company A of Colonel Moore's Twenty-first Missouri, although I did not go with the company into the Missouri regiment. On the day of the battle I was in charge of the stores and ammunition at the Croton depot, my home being quite near by. I had just reached the depot that morning when the rebel cannon opened fire. General Belknap and I were standing close by the depot and a six-pound shot went over our heads with a very considerable whistle to it. It was the first hostile cannon shot that either he or I had ever heard.

Soon after that the fight opened on the Athens side and H. W. Sample and I got our guns and went down to the sugar tree grove on the Iowa side of the river and joined a number of other stragglers there and delivered a flank fire to the rebels who were on the other side in Ike Gray's pasture and corn field. We staid there and exchanged fire with the rebels until the battle was over. I have the cannon ball referred to now in my possession. It is a six-pound shot with a sand hole in it which accounts for the sharpness of expression it had when it went through the air. It was picked up in the hill on the Iowa side afterwards. I also have a rebel flag captured in that battle which has on it the words "Southern Rights." It has become somewhat infirm and it will not much more than bear its own weight. One other cannon ball went through Arthur Thome's house on the hill and it was a year or two afterwards before the hole was patched up. It was visible from the Iowa side of the river. That shot, I believe, was never found. In fact, I never heard of any one being found but the one I have. Yours truly,  
D. C. BEAMAN.

## THE GATE CITY:

TUESDAY MORNING, SEPT. 6.

### WAR WAYS.

#### A Reminiscence of the Battle of Croton.

During the excitement in Keokuk consequent upon the threatened attack of the rebels in 1860, the First Iowa cavalry, Col. Fitz Henry Warren, was in rendezvous at Burlington. Post haste they were ordered to repair to Keokuk and defend the Gate City against the assault of the blood-thirsty Missourians. They were unarmed, not a sabre, carbine nor revolver appearing among the munitions

of the entire regiment. The most deadly weapons any of them possessed were tin dinner plates and sundry canteens loaded with Burlington whisky.

The first day they marched to Fort Madison and camped at night in the depot. The good people of that city fed the soldier boys with hospitable profusion, and at day-break the next morning they bestrode their steeds and started for Keokuk, which place they reached about five o'clock in the evening. They were without rations and as hungry as a twenty-four mile ride in a hot sun and clouds of dust could make them. The state had no money, Lt. Col. Moss, who came with the regiment, had none, and so all hands went supperless to bed. The next morning they were hungrier than ever. Something had to be done, and when an Iowa soldier had anything to do it was generally done. company, "D," commanded by P. Gad Bryan, of democratic fame, now a resident of Des Moines, was particularly hungry. As soon as the officers had disappeared after morning roll call, the company pooled their issues, or rather their purses, and ascertained that there wasn't enough money among them all to pay for a company breakfast by a large majority. Accordingly the non-commissioned officers held a council of war, and resolved to have some breakfast. The orderly, C. S. Wilson, formed his men in line, marched them to the Estes House, and ordered a plain, substantial morning meal at a contract price of thirty cents a head. The landlord prepared his share of the contract in first-class style, and the company that had been fasting for twenty odd hours came right along with their end of the pole. They were good feeders and they were good fighters, and the way they cleared that breakfast table made the waiters keep close to the door for fear there wouldn't be enough to go around.

Finally the meal was concluded, and the company formed in line in front of the hotel. The landlord counted noses and figured up the bill—one hundred and one breakfasts at thirty cents apiece: then came the question of pay. The sergeant that ordered the meal certified that it should, and would be paid for; if Uncle Sam didn't pay, the company would, when they received their own pay. In this unsatisfactory way the matter was left and the cavalrymen marched to their quarters, each man's waistband tighter by some inches than when he went down town an hour or so before.

Arriving at camp they ascertained that Colonel Warren had arrived. A few minutes later he heard of the transac-

tion, and sent for the sergeant. The Non. Com. presented himself at headquarters. Warren asked if he had ordered the breakfast. He replied that he had.

"By whose authority?" said the wrathful Colonel.

"By the authority of the Almighty, that made me hungry."

The Colonel, not irreverently, replied: "He is the ranking officer. Sergeant, return to your quarters."

The bill was settled by the general government.

## Constitution-Democrat.

AUGUST 5, 1889

### THE BATTLE OF ATHENS.

Survivors of that Memorable Engagement Celebrating its Anniversary.

ATHENS, Mo., Aug. 5.—[Special to THE CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT.]—This quiet little town is seeing more excitement to-day than it probably has for years. Twenty-eight years ago it was the scene of a sanguinary conflict between the loyal men who were enlisted in the nation's defense, commanded by the gallant Col. Dave Moore, and a rebel horde under command of Martin Green. This was the first battle fought in the west, and one of the initial battles of the war. To-day there is a large company of the survivors of the battle, their wives, children and friends, gathered in a beautiful grove, adjacent to the town, in celebration of that important event in the history of the state and country.

General Moore, of Canton, (then colonel, commanding the union forces) is present, and is the central figure of the occasion. Many old veterans have met to-day for the first time since the war, and are living over the experiences of the darkest period in American history.

The Keokuk delegation came up on the morning passenger train to Croton, and were accompanied by the Tri-State band. Wagons and carriages met them at the depot and conveyed them over to Athens just across the Des Moines river. The booming of anvils and firing of muskets greeted this delegation as it entered the town.

A program of music, speaking, story telling and a good time generally is being carried out this afternoon, and the occasion is proving exceedingly pleasant for all participating.

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



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# The Gate City.

FEBRUARY 1, 1900.  
THE GATE CITY COMPANY,  
KEOKUK, IOWA.

## WAR TIMES.

### The Battle of Athens---Letters From Charles P. Birge and Gen. John W. Noble.

To the Editor of The Gate City:

I have undertaken to write a paper for Mr. Charles Aldrich, of the state historical department, reviewing conditions and incidents leading up to and culminating with the battle of Athens, August 5, 1861.

In getting together material, I asked General Noble to give me briefly his experience connected with those early days in Keokuk and that event. The enclosed letter from the general is especially interesting.

As you know, he went out from Keokuk with the Third Iowa cavalry, and he did not come home until the end of the war. He was with Grant and Sherman to the end.

After the war he settled in St. Louis, where he now resides.

President Harrison chose him for one of his cabinet, and he served during Harrison's administration.

No man went out from Keokuk who carried with him more love and affection on the part of Keokuk people than did General Noble, and today he is greatly beloved by the host of his friends yet living in Keokuk and in

Iowa. All of the Iowa soldiery are devoted to him without reserve.

I see no objection to your printing this letter, as the general has written it to me to be publicly used, as stated.

Very truly yours,

CHARLES P. BIRGE.

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 26, 1900.—Mr. Charles P. Birge, Keokuk Iowa.—Dear Sir: Yours of the 20th inst. duly received. I have before me a communication of Governor Kirkwood, dated May 27, 1861, for me as first lieutenant of the Curtis Rifle company. But I think I was not mustered under this commission, and if I mistake not the name of the organization was changed to City Rifles, and Belknap became captain.

Before the battle of Athens, I had taken part in meetings to secure aid for families of men who would enlist; it then being deemed the war would not last long, and more men would offer than would be needed. I put up my \$100 (as much as any one did) and thought the thing was as good as ended. Then I went east, visited my parents at Columbus, Ohio, and then went to Washington, D. C. Having succeeded fairly in my profession, I had plenty of money, and finding a number of acquaintances of my own age at the capital, we spent our time in enjoying ourselves and visiting the institutions of the city. One day I went to the Wash-

ington observatory and, looking through a large telescope, directed it to Arlington Heights, and saw, as it happened, a battery of artillery was then passing there, going to the south. That sight crystallized my purpose, as I realized the war was on and on to stay for many a long day. Soon I went to Northampton, Mass., where my future wife was residing, and was there the Sunday the battle of Bull Run occurred. The news came to me as to all the north, a warning to get ready for a fight to the death. I went back to Columbus, Ohio, and told my father I was going into the army, and intended to raise a cavalry company, and requested him to go with me to his old friend, Peter Hayden, with me, and talk over the expense of getting an outfit for a company. Peter Hayden knew me, and had been a friend of my father's (Col. John Noble) for many years. Mr. Hayden had the contract for labor at the Ohio penitentiary, and had in the past equipped many troops of the United States for years, with saddles and bridles, and I think had also furnished carbines, but these last he did not manufacture; the others he did.

The old gentlemen took care, as I can now see, not to cool my ardor, but they knew it would not be necessary for me to take the burden of so costly an equipment. So Mr. Hayden said, "John, you go and get your men and horses, and if the United States does not take up your offer of them, and equip you, I will." My father said I was on the right road, and to drive ahead.

Now I had heard already that Mart Green was moving from Missouri with a large force to attack and take Croton (which was a railroad station opposite Athens, Mo., the Des Moines river running between). This meant, of course, the capture also of Keokuk. What! Keokuk! Well that would settle it! I sped as fast as possible to the old town, and was soon joining with hundreds of others in preparing "to march against the foe."

Before leaving for the east, I had attended a fancy dress ball (or rather party) at Col. John Sullivan's in the character of a Dutchman, and there had worn a hickory shirt, knickerbockers, with belt, and a red cap. These had been cast aside in my room (the only furnished room in the Estes House), and on my return I found them, and they suited the case exactly. I put on my uniform, leaving off the cap, and adopting a soft hat in lieu. My wooden shoes "wooden" do, and I put on heavy boots. I also secured a Mississippi Yager rifle, which was a muzzle loader, with brass bands binding stock and barrel, and a most excellent weapon at 600 to 1,000 yards, they said. There was suitable ammunition, but not being abundant, and some of us, who did not belong to any organization, selected Captain Israel Anderson to lead us, and soon found ourselves at Croton, in a small woods below the station. Captain Belknap was there also with his company.

Col. David Moore with his forces was across the river at Athens on a hill

which sloped down to the river immediately in his rear, and on his left flank down to the flat bottom which lay immediately opposite to our "Iowa troops" Belknap and Anderson's boys). Along this slope descending before us, but to our right, Colonel Moore had placed a company behind fences and some slight obstructions to guard his flank.

There then prevailed in the minds of many that the troops of one state had no right to go into another state, and it was not the purpose of the company under Belknap to cross the river, but they would, could and did, as the sequel will disclose, shoot over the same. Captain Israel Anderson, on the other hand, having been an Indian fighter, was there to meet the enemy, and besides he and some more of his company, myself among the number wanted coffee, and spying a farm house across the river we thought we would go over there for breakfast. The river was very shallow, not much above the knee, and across we went. We had scarcely crossed, and certainly had not got any coffee, when the battle opened in front of Colonel Moore, beyond the hill, with cannon and musketry, and about the same time from the corn field on our left and front there was a fire opened on Captain Anderson, with whom I was with a number of others of his men. We dropped under the bank of the river and returned the fire into the corn field, and retired to our company, now with Belknap's company firing across to cover us and halt the force in the corn.

Colonel Moore's company on the slope of the hill also was firing against the force in the corn, and with the battle in front, the whole line was engaged. It was at this time I was struck on the arm with a rifle ball so far spent that it merely made the flesh black and blue, the "hickory" shirt no doubt preventing any further effusion of blood!

We continued to hold the force back that had attempted to turn Colonel Moore's left, and no doubt our fire, when we again got ammunition distributed among us, held back this otherwise threatening movement.

It was pending this part of the fight that Barnesconi had his duel with one of the enemy. This one of the rebels was in a little white house across the river, and when Barnesconi would fire he would step out and fire at us. Barnesconi finally got another of our men to fire in his stead, and when the rebel stepped out, Barnesconi brought him down. This was a great feat for dead men were not common in those days, and the enemy would have to have passed him in any progress against Colonel Moore's left.

At the height of the battle, the balls from the enemy's cannon, (two pieces I believe) aimed at Moore's center on the hill flew quite across the river and struck the hillsides behind us, which were high and with almost perpendicular sides. Many cannon balls, however, falling short, struck in the river and splashed up great fountains of water. Runaway horses and runaway



teams with wagons, and some mounted men, rushed to the rear across the river at different times during the battle and things seemed to many quite "squally." But we stood our ground and soon the firing ceased, and Moore had won his victory.

The part the Keokuk men took in this fight was prompt, courageous and valuable. It helped, I have always thought, to save Colonel Moore's left flank, and without that the result might have been different. Keokuk was safe.

Having thus been in a battle without muster, and having determined to go to the front, I joined the mounted troops then gathering at Keokuk, and served still some time before I was mustered into the United States service. I was mustered as first lieutenant of Company C, Third Iowa volunteer cavalry, than which no regiment or company did better. But much as we experienced in our four years' service those of us who fought at Athens have always felt that the first fight was the most impressive.

I have thus with a flowing pen and with much left unsaid, given you, my dear Mr. Birge, my reminiscences of the event about which you have inquired, and to the best of my memory.

The battle of Athens began with me, as I have endeavored to show, long before I go to that "glorious field."

Yours most sincerely,

JOHN W. NOBLE.

## The Gate City.

JANUARY 18, 1896.

THE GATE CITY COMPANY  
KEOKUK, IOWA.

### HISTORY VERIFIED.

The "Gate City's" Account of a War Incident Corroborated.

Some time ago The Gate City retold a little war reminiscence in connection with an account of Charles R. Kelley's saving a brute of "shin-plasters" from the flames.

The correctness of the historical portion of that narrative was denied by a citizen and his statement of the case duly recorded.

In substantiation of the first version given by this paper, the following was received by one of the participants in the incident, who now resides in Kahoka:

"In The Gate City of Jan. 2, of this year I noticed a piece headed, 'History Corrected.' I cannot refrain from writing to you, and it is justice to Mr. B. J. Kinney, now deceased. The 'Little Book' you refer to (said to be) in 'Mr. Kelly's possession,' which gives an account on the raid on Alexandria, is true.

My mother, Mrs. H. A. Conway, and family, lived just across the street from B. J. Kinney's store. I saw the company of fifty or sixty rebel soldiers on horseback come in on August 3, 1863, and stop in front of Mr. Kinney's store. A dozen or more dismounted and entered his store. They took boots and whatever they wanted. They put the boots across their saddles in front of them and then rode off.

While they were raiding his store I began to fear our house might be searched, as they knew my mother and the girls were loyal and I had taken an active part in making flags, etc, and just previous to the raid I had presented a large one to a company of union soldiers (my present husband being then lieutenant of the company.) For safety I took a smaller flag down to the family of Mrs. Haller and returned to my house.

One of the men who was drunk rode down to the Haller house and demanded their flag and by threats induced Miss Haller and I to give up our flags.

He tied my flag to his horse's tail and rode up Main street. When he got opposite our house the flag became detached. I ran out and got my flag and started into the house. He cursed me, and at the same time threw a satchel on our doorstep and ordered me to put my brother's clothes into it, so that he could take them to the rebel camp. At that time I had two brothers in the rebel service. We told them that 'if they waited for us to send the clothes to him in that camp they would never get them.' They then rode away.

These are facts. The circumstances connected with the day's doings are as fresh in my mind as if it were yesterday. I give this statement with no ill feeling toward anyone. This is

only one of the many incidents of the war. Mr. Kinney was an honest, truthful man, a republican. The Miss Haller was a niece of General Heintzleman, who served in the late war.

MRS. GRUMMAN SELEE.

Kahoka, Mo.

## THE DAILY GATE CITY.

MAY 14, 1892.

Entered at Keokuk Postoffice as second class matter

### THAT'S THE SORT

Of Hospitality Keokukians are Noted for  
—A Tale of War Times.

Veterans of Iowa are delighted with the prospect of meeting in Keokuk next year. The city has so much of historic interest for them. They will find an exceptionally hospitable people when they come. The Des Moines Register relates a story characteristic of Keokukians, natural sons and daughters and adopted ones alike. It is as follows:

"The fact that the next meeting of the state encampment G. A. R. is to be held in Keokuk called out a strange story from a Register visitor last evening.

"Early in the war," he said, "I enlisted and went into rendezvous at Burlington. When the attack was made on Croton our regiment was sent from rendezvous over land toward the threatened point. We had had no tents and had no rations. We were still in the state service, not having been mustered into the fold of Uncle Sam. At Fort Madison we slept in and about some warehouses, and the good people there fed us so royally that the recollection of it furnished several good meals during the following four years. At Keokuk we went into camp on a hill north of town. That night a big storm of rain came. I endured the pelting as long as I thought patriotism demanded, and then, in company with three others started to hunt shelter. The first house we managed to see by aid of the lightning was a substantial, comfortable looking residence placed well back from the street in a large lot. By common consent, or uncommon assurance, I'm not sure which, I had become spokesman for the party and when in answer to a ring of the bell, a portly, good looking gentleman in an ample night robe appeared at the door, I asked for the shelter of his barn and hay mow, explained the situation and our identity.

"No," replied the gentleman with a deliberation which was natural to him, "I cannot permit the soldiers of my country to sleep in a barn; but I have beds to which you are welcome."

"No one objected to the change and we were soon snugly stowed away. In the morning we were called to a hospitable Keokuk breakfast and then returned to camp. Two days later we went south. I did not see our host again until after the war closed when I settled in Des

Moines. Here I found him in the person of Col. J. W. Otley, the engineer who built the Keokuk & Des Moines railroad."

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

## The Gate City.

JANUARY 18, 1896.

THE GATE CITY COMPANY  
KEOKUK, IOWA.

### The Battle of Athens.

The following from Mrs. P. W. Williams of Davenport, Ia., explains itself:

"The Gate City published an account of the battle of Athens, delivered before Torrence Post, G. A. R., by H. Scott Howell. My father was engaged in that battle and the history of that engagement is doubly dear to me. I remember as a young girl how I watched him that memorable night, at or near midnight, march away with others, neighbors belonging to the state militia. My father was bass drummer. I have never heard such time kept by that instrument, since, it seems to me, as he kept beating on that never to be forgotten night. That father has long since been laid to rest in the quiet cemetery at Farmington. Yet his memory will never be forgotten by the dear ones left behind, and the mention of something that stirred his patriotic heart touches us even to tears. My father's name was A. M. McBride. How he told us all about it upon his return is as fresh as yesterday."



# Missourians Fought Missourians In Battle Of Athens, the Most Northern in Civil War

THE KEOKUK DAILY GATE CITY

## Proof After Seventy Six Years

It was early morning, August 5, 1861. A line of men crept stealthily along a rail fence at the outskirts of Athens, Mo. A few yards back in the brush they had left their horses to make the attack on foot.

Presently came the cry "halt," as the first men reached the Union pickets, stationed there to warn of such an advance. But instead of halting, the Confederates, under Colonel Green, advanced as Colonel Moore's pickets hurried to warn the main Union force that the expected attack was at hand.

Within a few minutes the "Battle of Athens," the most northern battle of the Civil war, was being waged.

### Peace Efforts Wasted.

Citizens of the county had tried to avert trouble between the forces of Colonel Green and Colonel Moore. Their efforts were wasted.

Both forces were independently raised. About May 29, 1861, Colonel Moore, a merchant in Union, Clark county, received authority from Gen. Nathaniel Lyon, of St. Louis, to recruit a company of men for Federal service. He immediately raised a company of 10 men and issued a hand bill which read:

"The undersigned is authorized to raise a company of volunteers in this county, for Union service. All who are willing to FIGHT for their country, their country and the flag of our glorious Union are invited to join him, bringing with them their arms and ammunition. Until the government can aid us we must take care of ourselves. Secessionists and rebel traitors desiring a fight can be accommodated on demand. (Signed) D. Moore."

### Both Men Organize.

The handbill was hailed with enthusiasm and his force immediately increased to 100, and more kept joining. He called his command the 1st Northeast Missouri Regiment and was elected its commander with the title, Colonel.

Meanwhile, Col. Green had organized a rebel force in Lewis county and was threatening the Unionists. At that time Green had about 1,000 men, 500 within easy call, and two cannon.

Moore had only about 500 men, half of whom were ready for service, while the other half were on leave to tend their crops. About 20 men came over from Warsaw, Ill., and joined Moore's forces.

On July 21, he had a skirmish at Etna and then determined to go into camp at Athens, where he could receive supplies over the Des Moines Valley railroad, and, if necessary, reinforcements from Federal recruiting stations at Keokuk and Burlington.

From St. Louis, via Keokuk and Burlington, the Federal military authorities sent him muskets and equipment and a large quantity of ammunition—30 tons of it. Moore also contracted with a Mr. Smith of Farmington for commissary stores to be delivered via Croton.

Thus Colonel Moore and his homespun Federals were in good



".....That's Where It Went Through....."

When they heard of the advance of the Confederates, many of the residents of Athens retreated to the fine big cellar of the home of Joe Benning for safety. Unfrightened, Mr. Benning stood on the porch to watch the progress of the battle. His wife, Susan, had been roasting coffee for breakfast and was trying to comfort the people in the basement. Smelling the coffee, she rushed upstairs to take it from the oven. Fortunately she chose to lean over the oven at just the moment the Confederates shot a ball from one of their cannon. It struck the Benning house, whizzed over Mrs. Benning's head, passed through a cupboard set against the wall, went out across the porch past Mr. Benning and buried itself in the river.

The Benning house is of walnut and is still standing, with the cannon ball hole plainly to be seen by sight-seers today. Pointing to the hole in the above picture is Mrs. J. C. Thornbury, of Mt. Vernon, N. Y. With her are, standing, Mrs. Violet Stewart, Miss Myrtle Callison, Mrs. Mary Thompson, and, sitting, Miss Marjorie McLachlan and Miss Anna Donnelly, all of Kahoka.

condition when the attack of Colonel Green and his similarly homespun Confederates came on that morning of August 5.

The rebels were fortunate in having two cannon, a nine-pounder and a six-pounder. These they stationed in the hills above Athens while the Colonel took command of the center section and sent Maj. Ben Shacklett to the right along the river, and Captains Dull and Kimbrough to the left. This maneuver practically surrounded the Federals who, nevertheless, were not dismayed and the shot began to fly with a great roar.

Most of the cannon shots were wild and hit the river or the Iowa bank. At least two of the shots

entered the roof of the railroad station at Croton and three more appropriately buried themselves in the cemetery.

Hearing of the approaching battle Captains Hugh Sample and W. W. Belknap, who had come to Croton the previous evening from Keokuk with 80 Iowa Home guards, drew up their company, but they prudently developed a strong respect for state lines once the battle had started and did not cross the river, contributing to the attack from the Iowa side.

Col. Moore sent Capt. Hackney and Capt. John H. Cox with 60 men to resist Dull and Kimbrough, and against Shacklett he sent Capt. Spellman and Capt. Elsberry

Small. The battle had scarcely started when Spellman seemed to think retreat in order and taking his flag, men and arms, waded the river to Iowa, thus greatly weakening Moore's left wing. Capt. Small, on the other hand, belied his name and, with a huge rifle in his hand, cheered his men and encouraged them to fight the harder, preventing the Confederate advance.

Because of their superior numbers and equipment, the Confederates had expected an easy victory and so were surprised at their reception. Dazed and stunned for the moment, the advancing line halted. Col. Moore, quick to grasp the advantage, cheered his men with cries of "Forward! Charge bayonets!" Rallying behind him, the Unionists charged up the hill.

### Confederate Retreat.

The Rebels stood a moment; then crumpling away under the assault, turned and in a moment were in flight. Five minutes more and Green could have rallied his men, and the result probably would have been different.

So precipitate was the retreat that the Rebels grabbed any horse in sight or left their mounts without slacking their retreat. The cannon were jerked over the road like Roman chariots in a race and the six-pounder suffered grief. The gun carriage straddled a stump about six miles south of Athens, catching the elevating screw and so badly bending it that that gun could not be lowered or raised and was abandoned in the brush. Later the Confederates returned and recovered the cannon. It was repaired and used at Shelbyville, Lexington, Pea Ridge and elsewhere.

Col. Moore estimated the number of his men at 343 and it is probable that Col. Green had no less than 540, probably more. There were only a few casualties. Five Confederates were killed and 20 wounded, three Federals killed and a few wounded.

### Father Against Sons.

The Confederate soldiers whose retreat in this initial battle was laughed at, served to live down their actions. At Corinth, Miss., a little more than a year later, Moore, with his Twenty First Missouri, many of whom were with him at Athens, met Green with his Missouri Brigade and both companies conducted themselves like veterans.

The battle of Athens was the first engagement for most of the men and was really a fight of Missourians against Missourians. Col. Moore's own son, Dr. William Moore, commanded a company against his father. Three of Moore's sons and most of his friends and neighbors fought on the southern side and the father and sons never were friendly until after Mrs. Moore's death when the sons came home for the funeral.





OLD BUILDING USED as Col. Moore headquarters. —Sally Moreland



The Daily Gate City KEOKUK, IOWA SATURDAY, JULY 29, 1967

INSIDE BUILDING are Mrs. Ernest French, left, and the Athens board secretary Mrs. James Skeens. —Sally Moreland

**Hotel at Athens, Mo. sold  
to Athens Development assn.**

By Sally Moreland

**FARMINGTON** — Weather beaten and forsaken, the old hotel at Athens, Mo., Civil War headquarters for Col. David Moore, will be preserved for future generations.

The Athens Park Development Association purchased the historic old building from the Gaylord heirs and plans to restore it are underway.

The annual observance of the Battle of Athens, held at Athens, Mo., this year on Saturday and Sunday, July 29 and 30, commemorates the Civil War battle in Athens on Aug. 15, 1861.

Col. Martin Green and his confederate force of Successionists, an estimated 800 mounted men attacked Athens on Aug. 5 to drive out the Federal troops and seize the shipment. Green's forces failed to capture the town. The battle lasted about two hours. Three of Green's men and two of Col. Moore's men were killed and at least 20 men were wounded. The field hospital where wounded from both sides were treated was in Athens, but the building is no longer standing.

One cannon ball hit the depot roof at Croton. Another went through the Joe Benning house in Athens narrowly missing the occupants. The old cannonball house is still standing.

Preservation of Col. Moore's headquarters, which later became a hotel, is the next big project in the restoration plans for the historic battle site.

All of the action took place in Athens located six miles south of Farmington, Iowa, and 15 miles north of Kahoka, Mo.

Col. Moore and his Union regiment of about 500 men were in Athens to receive Army material from St. Louis, Mo., which was to be shipped by rail to Croton, Iowa, and ferried across the Des Moines river to Athens on the opposite shore.

#### Missouri in Union

Although Missouri remained in the Union, there was a rebel movement to join the Confederacy and its states of the south.



## Seventy-Two Years Ago Today Keokuk Waited Fearfully for Rebel Invasion

**Battle of Athens Was Fought on This Date and Troops from Here Reinforced Home Guards.**

**AUG. 5, 1933**

Seventy-two years ago this morning Keokuk was roused by the beating of a long roll on drums at the street corners throughout the city. Soldiers encamped here were being hastily mobilized and the residents of the city were thrown into a fever of excitement by messengers who had arrived before daybreak from Athens, Mo., across the Des Moines river from Croton, with the news that 1,500 secessionists were marching on that town. Thus began the battle of Athens, considered the first Union victory of the Civil war and the only battle to be fought this far north during the war. Coming as it did on the heels of the disaster at Bull Run, and apparently an attempt to invade Iowa, the battle, or as most historians now call it, a skirmish, threw the entire community into a state of feverish worry and anticipation.

Alarming rumors were current on the streets that Confederate troops were being mobilized in northern Missouri to march into Iowa, and the presence of Col. Martin Green, a noted secession leader, was reported at Alexandria, just south of Keokuk. He was reported to have had 1,500 troops with him. This was on Sunday, August 4, that Green's troops were seen and the Sabbath day was one of anxiety for the soldiers and civilians encamped here. While the Sixth Iowa Infantry was in camp at Keokuk, it was not sufficiently armed or trained to have afforded much resistance, and was scattered over the entire city, due to the intense heat and lack of camp space.

### Messengers From Athens.

Before daybreak on the morning of August 5, messengers came from Athens with the disquieting news that the Confederates under Green were moving to attack an insufficient force of Federals under Colonel David Moore, approximating 400 raw recruits indifferently armed. After the alarm was sounded and the soldiers hastily gathered, three companies of the Sixth Iowa, Company D, Capt. Walden commanding, Company I, Captain Boydolph commanding, and Company K, Lieutenant White commanding, were marched to a building near the levee where new Springfield muskets and ammunition had been stored. These had been seized by Col. Cyrus H. Bussey, of Bloom-

field, although consigned to Gen. Dodge at Council Bluffs, as they were about to be transferred to a steamboat for Hannibal. The seizure of the arms was without any orders from the higher-ups but the wisdom of Bussey's action no doubt saved the day at Athens.

Equipped with these muskets and ammunition the soldiers were loaded on cars of the Des Moines Valley railroad and started for the scene of the trouble, fourteen miles away. Messengers encountered enroute declared that the situation was terrible and carried stories of the most dire disaster to the Union troops. Writing of the battle, John P. Cruikshank, of Fort Madison, has given this picture of the situation:

### Belching of Cannon.

"The belching of cannon and repeated volleys of musketry were heard for 15 miles in the interior of Lee county. Excited messengers on frothing steeds carried exaggerated reports to all the towns and villages in the county, so that by noon of the eventful day nearly every man, woman and child in the vicinity heard the terrifying news that Athens and Croton had been sacked and burned, Moore's army routed, and that the invading army was headed for the interior of the county.

"One old gentleman at Dover, rather than take the chances of being massacred, committed suicide; another near Salem became stark mad and commenced killing off his stock. Consternation reigned. Home guards were called to arms, and hurried to the seat of war. Squads of citizens gathered, and armed with squirrel rifles, shotguns or even some without arms, started out to meet the enemy."

### Soldiers are Excited.

Col. McDowell was in charge of the soldiers on their way to Croton and historians declare that both officers and men were greatly excited at the news reaching them enroute. The tracks lay along the north bank of the Des Moines, and the south bank across the river in Missouri was scanned for a sight of the enemy believed to be waiting to ambush the troops. The men were crowded into old box cars and flat cars. Two miles from Croton the train was stopped to attempt to learn from the refugees the situation in Croton. It was reported that the Union forces had been cut to pieces, and were in retreat. Col. McDowell distributed cartridges and ordered the train to proceed. Bayonets were fixed and the men ordered to be ready to attack the moment Croton was reached.

When the train arrived at Croton the soldiers were given a hearty reception by the people, and the enemy at Athens beat a hasty retreat, as word came

that soldiers were arriving. McDowell ordered his men to take off their shoes and wade across the river which was only knee deep. This was done, and the secessionists under Green beat a hasty retreat, leaving the field in sadly demoralized ranks.

### Troops Return Here.

The three hundred Union men had withstood the attack at daybreak, the confederates pouring in volleys of musketry, yelling like demons and sending over some solid shots and slugs from their cannon. The battle raged for some hours, but the Union force withstood the attack and beat off the enemy. When the reinforcements were crossing the river, Col. Moore's men took courage and charged the enemy, dispersing them completely. Two Union men were killed and fifteen wounded. The secessionist's loss was not known. Guards were posted as night drew on, and additional troops came from Keokuk under commands of Col. Worthington. The next day Col. Moore's men reorganized to drive the secession troops out of northern Missouri, and the regulars returned to Keokuk where they were welcomed by an applauding population. Athens was plundered and it was understood to have been Green's intent to have carried the invasion to Lee county, which fortunately was spared through the action of Col. Bussey in seizing the arms and through the willingness of the soldiers to follow their leaders in the skirmish.

### Home Guards Organized.

According to J. B. Sansom, of Kahoka, who two years ago wrote an account of the battle and circumstances leading up to it, the battalion of home guards was organized in Kahoka at a Fourth of July celebration in 1861, with David Moore elected colonel, C. B. Turner, lieutenant colonel, and C. S. Callihan, mayor of the town, offering headquarters there. A Confederate battalion was formed at Union, Mo., and raised its flag in Etna in Scotland county, which was torn down by the home guards. Permanent headquarters were then made at Athens by the Union home guards. As there was farm work to do the authorities were lenient in the matter of furloughs for this purpose, which accounts for the fact that Green and his men found only about 300 of the home guards in camp at Athens when they attacked.

The artillery of the attacking force consisted of one field piece and one log hollowed out and reinforced with iron bands. This was said to have exploded after a few shots had been fired. An effort by the Confederates to stampede the Moore command failed and the Unionists were able to stand their ground until the reinforcements from Keokuk arrived.



It Was Different 89 Years Ago—

# Then Keokuk Invaded Missouri To Help Fight Battle of Athens

Keokuk residents this week are going to Missouri in large numbers, and with the friendliest of intentions—to attend the Clark County Fair in Kahoka.

Eighty-nine years ago they were also in Missouri but on that occasion they were fired with military zeal and fully armed to drive a force of threatening Confederate troops out of Clark county. This resulted in the Battle of Athens, Mo., August 5, 1861.

## Belknap Led Rifles.

The federals, led by Col. David Moore and bolstered by 80 members of the Keokuk Rifles under the command of William W. Belknap, later a general and secretary of war, and including Hugh W. Sample and John W. Noble, defeated the Confederates under the command of Col. Martin E. Green in that northernmost battle of the Civil War.

Various accounts of the battle differ widely as to the number of casualties but in his report Colonel Moore said that his troops took many prisoners, 450 horses, hundreds of arms and a wagonload of long knives.

## Heroic Figure.

In an address commemorating the battle a number of years ago, the late Gen. John W. Noble, former Keokuk resident who was then living in St. Louis, said that if the Battle of Athens did nothing more than project the heroic figure of Col. David Moore into the Civil War it had been on outstanding feat of arms for the United States.

Colonel Moore, then a resident of Ohio, fought in the Mexican war as captain of Company E of the Third Ohio regiment, of which Samuel R. Curtis (later of Keokuk and Iowa's first major general in the Civil War) was colonel, and Judge James Love (also later of Keokuk) a captain. He moved to Clark county, Mo., as a farmer and merchant in 1851 but with the outbreak of war volunteered his services to the government and was authorized to raise a company, the 1st Northeast Missouri Regiment, which engaged in the Battle of Athens.

## Never More Than Colonel.

Colonel Moore later fought in the Battle of Shiloh in which he was so severely wounded in the leg that it had to be amputated. He remained in service, however, and in October of 1862 was in command of a brigade at the Battle of Corinth. In May of 1864, he commanded the 3rd Division which withstood the furious charge of General Forrest at Tupelo, Miss.

Although he commanded brigades and divisions he was never given a higher commission than colonel despite the pleas of his superior officers and on his death his widow received no more than a colonel's pension.

## Confederate Account.

One of the most interesting accounts of the Battle of Athens, now commemorated by a stone marker set up at Croton by the Iowa Daughters of Union Veterans, was provided by one of the Confederates who fought with Colonel Green, T. N. Roberts of Lancaster, Mo.

The battle, he recalled, occurred on election day in Missouri and the regiment of which he was a member was raised almost entirely from the first congressional district. It met for the first time near Edina where there were about 500 Federals who evacuated the town without resistance and went to Macon City.

"We ran the Confederate flag up on the court house," he says, "and began to think we were able to settle the war ourselves. Our boys were about 1,700 strong at that time but there was no attempt at discipline and they came and went pretty much as they pleased. They were armed with single and double-barreled shotguns, corn knives, old powder pistols, pitchforks and anything that could be used in a scrimmage. We must have looked something like the mob that stormed the Bastille, only we weren't as dangerous."

## Keen For a Fight.

"While we were in Edina we learned that Col. David Moore in command of a good sized Federal force, was at Athens. Our boys were keen for a fight and they vociferously demanded to be led against the enemy. So we started out on the march and when the center and right wings charged into town we supposed our banner would soon be floating from the church spire. I was on the left wing which was under command of Captains Buford and Shacklett."

"We were held in reserve and were to re-enforce the center and right in case we were needed. We could hear firing, which seemed to grow hotter and hotter all the time, though we were not in it. By and by there was a great cheer from the town, and we heard the Federals had been re-enforced by several companies from Keokuk."

## Afraid of Father.

"John and Will Moore, sons of the Federal commander, were fighting with the Confederates. When the re-enforcements arrived, Col. Moore ordered them up to the support of the firing line and yelled out: 'Come on Boys, let's give 'em hell.'"

"John Moore, who was fighting

like a hero and had his face covered with dust and his hands begrimed with powder, when he heard his father's vigorous command, turned to the rest and said: 'The jig's up, fellows. The old man's mad, and there's no use bucking against him any longer. I know him. You can do all you want to, but I'm going away.'

"And he did. The worst of it was, the rest of the Confederates did the same thing. The retreat became a rout in short order. The left wing saw how the center and right was behaving and it prepared to follow the example. Lieut. Tom Russell of our company—as brave a man as ever drew a sword—saw us wavering and cried out: 'For God's sake, boys, you are not going to run without firing your guns are you? Let's give 'em one for luck, anyhow. Let 'em have it right in the face.'

## Ran Clear to Lancaster.

"But there were few kindred spirits there, and most of the raw soldiers turned about and skedaddled without waiting to empty their guns. We had with us a couple of cannon and managed to save them, although the papers next day said they were captured by Col. Moore. I knew that was not right because some of our men returned a few days afterward along the route taken by our panic-stricken soldiers and found the cannon where they had been hidden among the hazel bushes."

"Our boys were holding their own pretty well, but when they heard of the re-enforcements coming they were overcome with stage fright and nothing could stop them. One poor fellow didn't stop running until he reached Lancaster. Yes, I ran like the rest of them but I didn't go that far—at that time I didn't know where Lancaster was. It was my first and only battle and, as Bob Burdette says, 'I guess I killed as many Federals as they did of me.'"

"Some of the men who were foremost in the retreat on that eventful day joined the regular army under General Price and made first class soldiers. There were four or five men killed on each side, and many Confederates wounded."



# Constitution Democrat.

AUGUST 8, 1900.

## PARTICIPANTS IN THE BATTLE

### Survivors Who Were at Athens Saturday.

Large Delegation Was Present From  
Keokuk--Address by Gen.  
John W. Noble.

Athens, Mo., Aug. 4.—Special.—Athens is today commemorating in grand style the thirty-ninth anniversary of the historic battle of Athens. The blue and gray have joined hands on the old battlefield in a reunited American, non-political gathering to make this day a memorable one in the annals of Clark county, Mo. The day was ushered in at sunrise by a volley of guns. The town is all astir and is rapidly filling up with large crowds. Much interest is centered in the historic building that was penetrated by a nine pound cannon ball fired by the rebels during the brief period the battle was on. The building was occupied as a residence by Joseph Benning and is still owned by his heirs who now live in Kahoka. P. Dunn is the present occupant. The building is a story and a half structure and is located on the bluff overlooking the Des Moines river, just across from Croton, Ia. The weather boards, window sills and doors are made of black walnut and the building is well preserved. The cannon ball entered the house from the south and passed clear through, smashed a cupboard and made its exit on the north side of the building. The ball entered the building at an elevation of seven feet from the ground and passed out a foot lower. It is a clean round hole where the ball entered. In making its exit the ball splintered the weather boarding considerably. The ball was never found and it is thought that it found lodgment in the bed of the river. Mr. Benning would never permit the holes to be covered or repaired, and they are still in the same condition as on the memorable day of the battle. Mr. Dunn, the present occupant, has been given strict orders to allow no one to take even a splinter from where the cannon ball made its exit.

Two relics, a six pound cannon ball and a rebel flag, are on exhibition at D. E. Fortan's store, and are attracting a great deal of attention. They are the property of D. C. Beaman, now of Denver, Col., formerly a resident of

Croton. They were expressed here from Denver a day or two ago with a valuation of \$50 placed on them. Mr. Beaman was station agent at Croton at the time of the battle. The flag, which bears an inscription in red letters, "Southern Rights," was among the articles captured from the confederates and stored in the depot. In answer to a query as to how the flag came to be in his possession, Mr. Beaman replied that he "swiped" it.

Mr. Beaman found the cannon ball imbedded in the embankment north of the Croton depot.

Several distinguished speakers addressed the multitudes this morning. After dinner, the time was devoted to incidents, anecdotes, fun and music. The Farmington band is here and the Santa Fe band of Revere, Mo. The grounds are very inviting. There is plenty of shade, seats for all, ice water, refreshments of all kinds and a dancing floor.

Athens, Mo., Aug. 4.—In Athens the 4th of August, 1900, will be stamped in local history as a red letter day. The commemoration of the thirty-ninth anniversary of the battle of Athens was fittingly observed Saturday. The day was hot and the roads dusty but nevertheless a large crowd was present. Five thousand people were in the pretty grove just beyond the town where the exercises were held. The Rock Island from Keokuk in the morning brought a good crowd including Gen. John W. Noble of St. Louis, who delivered the principal address of the day. He was one among the boys who came up from Keokuk Aug. 5, 1861, to help suppress and defeat the rebels who were marching on Athens under the command of General Green.

The Rock Island from the north brought a large crowd from Farmington, Keosauqua, and intermediate points. A large number came from Farmington in vehicles and hundreds of people drove over from Croton, Belfast, Vincennes and the surrounding country. The scene was a picturesque one to witness, the wagons and buggies loaded down with humanity ford the river from Croton to Athens. Four skiffs and several livery rigs from Kahoka and Farmington did an immense business conveying the excursionists across the old Des Moines from Croton to Athens and return. Clark county was there en masse. Hundreds of conveyances brought the happy people from Kahoka and all other towns and surrounding country in Clarke county; also from Scotland and Lewis county, Mo. It was from these counties that the men composing the two armies that battled at Athens came.

The grove was large enough to nicely accommodate the crowds. There was plenteous shade, seats and refreshments. The fortune tellers and gamblers were there, too, and one poor unfortunate fell a victim to the latter's sweet persuasiveness to the extent of \$115. The masters of the art to beguile the heavily laden with money imme-

diately closed up shop and hiked themselves away.

The following gentlemen were the officials who had charge of the anniversary celebration: Jonathan Johnson, Neva, Mo., president; W. French, Athens, vice president; Arthur J. Buckner, M. D., Peaksville, Mo., secretary; D. E. Fortune, Athens, treasurer. These men are entitled to especial commendation for their unceasing efforts and untiring labors in bringing this commemorative anniversary to so successful a termination.

The morning's program began at 10 o'clock with Jonathan Johnson acting as master of ceremonies. It was opened by Comrade Williford of Mt. Pleasant, singing the song of welcome. The invocation was given by Rev. McKiernan of Farmington. After the invocation a very pleasing selection was rendered by the Farmington Cigar Co.'s band of sixteen pieces. This band is one of the finest in southern Iowa. After the rendition of this beautiful selection, the president announced that a roster would be taken of the boys who saw actual service in the battle of Athens. They were invited to come on the rostrum when their names would be enrolled. There were nineteen present who fought under Colonel David Moore. Their names with present address are: General John W. Noble, St. Louis; L. C. Robb, Vincennes, Iowa; T. Harrison, Alexandria, Mo.; S. E. Wheeler, Omaha, Neb.; Peter Cronin, Athens; H. Hohstadt, Scotland county; W. S. Collins, Farmington; J. S. Christy, Peaksville, Mo.; E. P. Hackney, Putnam county, Mo.; M. M. Christy, Clarke county, Mo.; J. F. Siever, Luray, Mo.; L. C. Van Camp, Keokuk; J. W. Kislung, Athens; John Brewster, Clark county, Mo.; T. L. Vordan, Luray, Mo.; L. A. Hohstadt, Long Ridge, Mo.; Peter Conkle, Kahoka; C. R. Kennedy, Kahoka; Henry Risner, Farmington.

There were only two men present who fought under General Green. Their names and present address are: I. M. Walters, Keokuk; W. M. Boulware Gregory, Mo. There are a number of Green's men still alive. They either were not present or for some reason did not make their presence known.

Following the taking of the roster came the address of welcome by John C. Moore now of Oklahoma, son of Col. David Moore, who had command of the northern forces. The sympathies of the son, however, were at that time on the side of the confederates. He did not participate in the battle of Athens because he was too young. He was then only 15 years old. He could not be present at the anniversary celebration Saturday and in his absence, I. M. Walters of Keokuk, was asked to read the speech that Mr. Moore had sent. Mr. Walters very ably read the address of welcome.

Another beautiful selection by the Farmington band followed this address.

General John W. Noble of St. Louis was introduced and delivered the prin-



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cial address of the day. He was given three rousing cheers. Before beginning his able address, he was profuse in his thanks for the cheers and whole souled reception extended to him.

At the conclusion of General Noble's address Mr. Williford of Mt. Pleasant sang another song.

The Santa Fe band of thirteen pieces of Revere, Mo., rendered a very pretty selection when the morning's program ended and adjournment was taken for dinner.

#### AFTERNOON EXERCISES.

The afternoon exercises commenced at 1:45 o'clock by music by the Farmington band. A martial band of five and drums stirred the blood of the old soldiers. Jonathan Johnson, master of ceremonies, then exhibited the rebel flag captured at the battle of Athens. It is now the property of D. C. Beaman of Denver, Colo., and bears an inscription in red letters, "Southern Rights." Mr. Johnson graphically explained its history. He also exhibited the six-pound cannon ball that Mr. Beaman found lodged in the embankment north of the Croton depot.

The afternoon was devoted to incidents, anecdotes and music. The Farmington and Santa Fe bands would alternate in pleasing the multitudes with sweet strains of music. Comrade Williford of Mt. Pleasant was frequently called upon to sing. He always responded and sang a different song each time. His songs were characteristic of war times. Some were sentimental but most of them were on the comic order which he would sing in his own inimitable way.

Patrick Finnerty of Keokuk, was present and he was called on to address the audience. Mr. Finnerty responded and began by saying:

"Thirty-nine years ago some of the boys were wounded on this field of battle but today I come here as the sole one who is wounded." Mr. Finnerty looked as though he had just emerged from a battle field to carry off fresh scars to remind him of the bloody deeds of war. Mr. Finnerty had an unfortunate accident in the morning that might easily have resulted in death or very serious and permanent injuries. He jumped off a rapidly moving train at Keokuk which he had boarded by mistake. In swinging off of the train he lit squarely on his feet but the impetus was so great that he was thrown headlong to the earth and received an ugly bruise on the right temple and on the chin and his right hand received some ugly and painful scratches.

But Mr. Finnerty's injuries did not deter him from making a splendid talk that was listened to with marked attention. He closed by telling four or five characteristically funny Irish stories that moved the crowds to great laughter.

A dancing pavilion was erected on the grounds and the evening was spent in dancing away the hours of a day that will linger long in the memories of the great crowds that were present.

## Constitution-Democrat.

NO. JULY 25, 1900.

# ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

## The Battle of Athens to Be Commemorated.

Blue and the Gray and the Public  
Generally Are Invited to Parti-  
pate in the Exercises.

The following announcement of arrangements for the anniversary celebration of the battle of Athens, Mo., on August 4, has been received for publication in the Constitution-Democrat:

"All roads lead to Athens, Mo., Saturday, August 4, 1900. Get in the 'band wagon'! Join the procession! Start early! The day I am writing about is the day you are thinking and everybody is talking about. It's the 'day we celebrate'! The blue and gray will join hands on the old battlefield, in a reunited American, non-partisan, non-political gathering and fight over the battle of August 5, 1861, in a friendly spirit. Only a few more years at most must elapse until the last survivor of this stirring event will be 'mustered out.' The last crash of musketry will be heard. The mournful bugles will sound taps and it will be lights out forever for all of the boys. Let us unite while we may and keep alive the chivalry and gallantry that existed in the hearts of both blue and gray in those tempestuous times. A flag, a cannon ball and a hole made in the house of Uncle Joe Benning by a nine pound solid shot, on the morning of the battle, will be on exhibition. The strategic and important points of position in both armies will be marked and intelligent descriptions of the memorable engagement will be given by men who were actually engaged in the conflict, on one side or the other. Grand Army Posts are coming. Distinguished speakers will give two or three short addresses in the forenoon. After dinner the time will be devoted to incidents, anecdotes, ludicrous and laughable, fun, frolic and music, vocal and instrumental. Two of the best bands in the west are engaged, the Farmington Cigar Co. band and the Revere, Mo., Santa Fe band, while, if Keokuk does the 'reciprocity' act in style, we will have the crackerjack Fiftieth Iowa Regiment band. The grounds will be inviting, plenty of shade, seats for all, ample platforms, barrels of ice water, refreshments of all kinds, a dancing floor, plenty of innocent amusements will be provided, while nothing to offend the

most fastidious taste will be permitted. All old veterans will be esteemed as honored guests. Particular attention will be given to their especial comfort. Bring your wives and children and enjoy the best day's outing you ever thought of. Everybody within reasonable distance is urgently requested to bring 'rations' for themselves and two or three others. Remember the parable of the 'loaves and fishes.' Excursion rates on railroads. A meeting of officers of the association and all others interested in the success of the celebration will be held in the high school building at Athens Saturday, July 28, at 2 p. m. sharp. Look alive! Only a few days intervening till the day is here. Don't forget! Saturday, August 4, 1900, is the day. Everybody come! All papers kindly copy and call attention to same."

ARTHUR J. BUCKNER, M. D.,  
Secretary.

## THE GATE CITY:

SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 19.

### EARTH TO EARTH.

Last Tribute to the Thirteen Heroes who  
Gave up their Lives that their Country  
Might Live.

The last tribute was paid yesterday to the thirteen noble heroes who fell in battle nine miles from Memphis, Mo., on the tenth day of July, 1862.

They belonged to the regiment known as Merrills' horse and being ambushed by Mark Green's band of guerrillas, these thirteen fell, the victims of the fatal engagement; they were buried in the cornfield where the deadly encounter took place and have lain there ever since until Wednesday when they were disinterred by Clayton Hart, superintendent of the National Cemetery, in accordance with orders from the government and brought here.

In pursuance to a call from Post Commander Gen. J. C. Parrott, the members of Torrence Post, Grand Army of the Republic, assembled at their hall to escort the remains to the National cemetery. They proceeded to the depot where the remains were in waiting, which were deposited upon one of Sinton's moving cars and covered with black bunting and the stars and stripes. The post then took up its line of march and to the sound of the muffled drum slowly wended its way to the cemetery. Arriving there, Rev. John Burgess offered an impressive prayer, after which all that was left of the brave boys that died for their country's sake were consigned to their final resting place.

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



## The "Action" at Athens Was Battle Between Missourians

By ANGIE HUME

After hearing the engagement between the Confederate and Union forces at Athens, Missouri, on August 5th, 1861 called the "Battle of Athens," all my life, I have been informed by a reliable source that it was recorded by the War Department as an "action." I stand corrected, and bow to the mandate of such high authority, and hereafter shall think of it, and call it by its proper cognomen.

But nobody should have dared to suggest to my father that it was other than a battle! There would have been a vehement protest from him right away! I presume that when muskets were popping and cannon booming, that it seemed like a battle to those who were in the thick of the fight. And father was there.

While the Civil War was raging in the South and Southwest, north Missouri for a time enjoyed comparative peace. Union troops were constantly being enlisted, and detachments of them were stationed at various towns. One regiment, commanded by Colonel David Moore, was posted at Athens, in northern Clark county, on the Des Moines river.

At the same time, to, some soldiers were being enlisted on the other side; among them was a regiment under Colonel Mar'n E. Greene, who determined to drive the Union troops out of Athens.

About sunrise, on August 5, 1861, Greene's advance guard attacked Moore's pickets, and drove them in. Then the main force, in two wings came up and the conflict became general.

### Friend Against Friend.

It was a fight between Missourians for there were scarcely a dozen men from any other state on the field. Many of them had heretofore been friends and neighbors. Even fathers, sons, and brothers were arrayed against one another. Colonel David Moore himself had a son, William, who was a captain under the Confederate Colonel Green, and who fought against his father in this conflict. It is said that as Green was marching on Athens, some of his officers remarked in Captain Moore's hearing, "Now, boys, we'll soon have old Moore without firing a gun," to which the son quickly responded, "No, you won't, if you think Dad will not fight, you are mistaken, I know the old man too well!"

His father did fight, and sent the son, his colonel and their men flying in confusion with considerable loss. The fight at Athens, though really little more than a skirmish, was important as being the first in which brother grappled with brother in north Missouri. It was also one of the farthest north actions, although there was one farther, at Acton, Minn., on September 2, 1861,

and also one in far away California, which was one of the newer states. In the Action at Acton, the rebels were repulsed in a short, hard fight by the Ninth Minnesota infantry.

We brats heard of many Civil War stories, that we were under the impression that father, with probably a little help from General Grant and a suggestion or two by George B. McClellan, was responsible for the successful outcome for the Union forces. Father, at that time, was an 18-year-old boy, as so many of the soldiers were, and never, during later life, was of the belligerent type. So, I don't suppose he presented such a formidable appearance, even when equipped with his allotted weapons of war, and when confronting the enemy.

We heard the story of the Action at Athens from babyhood, and during later years, we always took our dinner on the date of the anniversary of the "action," which was my mother's birthday, and journeyed to the house where the cannon ball went through and ate picnic-style near the scene of the battle — pardon me, the action. Father remembered where he was stationed, and always spoke with deep regret of the two from his company who were killed.

Colonel David Moore's youngest son, Tom, lived in Kahoka during the 1920's, having married Miss Anna Nichols, a nurse who taught home nursing under the supervision of the Red Cross. We became the best of friends, and they were often supper guests in our home. He was a newspaperman, and reported news and wrote feature articles for The Gate City, and when they moved to Nampa, Idaho, he held a splendid position with a large newspaper. Charming people they were, and although he is now deceased I still hear from Mrs. Moore occasionally.

Mother was eleven years old on the day of the Action at Athens, and when they heard, the booming of the cannon at their home south of Kahoka, grandpa, who was a captain, but just at that time not on active duty, hurriedly saddled a horse and galloped off to offer assistance. Those must have been stirring days, indeed. Now the little town peacefully sleeps time away, and the silence is unbroken save by the songs of the birds as they flit about among the trees that overlook the erstwhile ground of action.

## KEOKUK DEMOCRAT.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1887.

### THE BATTLE OF ATHENS.

Murphy of the Burlington Post Tells of the First Union Victory.

The battle of Athens is a noted event in this locality of Iowa and Northeastern Missouri, but as there are many young people and new-comers in these vicinities who have had only partial accounts of the famous contest, for the benefit of those we reproduce the following account of that sanguinary conflict from the Burlington Saturday Evening Post:

The first Union victory of the late war was fought on Missouri soil in the streets of the little town of Athens, on the south bank of the Des Moines river, on the fifth of August, 1861. This was nearly a week previous to the battle of Wilson's Creek, Mo., and the only engagement of any consequence before it was the first Bull Run, where the Northern forces were routed. The Athens fight began at an early hour in the morning, while the members of the 21st Missouri infantry, who were quartered there under command of Col. David Moore, were eating breakfast. The rebel forces numbered some fifteen hundred cavalry and infantry, and were commanded by Mart. Green, a well-known Missouri character. The rebels marched from a rendezvous in Knox county to the vicinity of Chambersburg, in Clark county, eight miles from Athens, on the day previous, and went into camp for the night in the Fox river bottom, intending to get in motion very early in the morning and surprise Moore's command. One of the captains serving under Moore was a man named Sacket, whose family lived at Luray, and his son, a boy in his teens, started on foot for Athens as soon as the rebel soldiers began to defile through the town, to carry news of the intended attack. He reached Athens about midnight, and the Union forces slept on their arms and gave Greene a warm welcome when he appeared in front of them, and began an attack. Several volleys of musketry were exchanged, and one man on the Union side was killed and several wounded, before Col. Moore led a charge in person which routed the rebels completely and drove them thoroughly demoralized from the field. Their loss was considerable and their confusion so complete that they never rallied again, but proceeded individually and in little squads to their homes in Knox and Marion counties. Col. Moore had no artill-



ery, but the rebels had constructed a small field piece by taking bars of iron, placing them parallel to each other and several thicknesses deep, in the form of a circle, and binding them securely together with bands made of clevises. This gave them a gun of about six-pound calibre which was fired into the Union camp several times during the attack. One of the cannon balls passed entirely through the walls of the dwelling occupied then as now by the family of J. J. Benning, which stood on the edge of the bluff over-looking the Des Moines, and spent its force with a splash in the water in midstream. Mr. Benning, who was a staunch Unionist, always had a profound respect for this visible mark of the affray, and has never disturbed the hole in the front wall, which is large enough to admit one's arm, or closed it up. The old cupboard, which was also in the path of the missile and was deeply furrowed on the side, still stands a grim monument of the destroying forces that were at work there on that day. The little cannon was constructed by Capt. Kinsley, of Boone county, Mo., under whose directions it was manipulated on the field. When the retreat was sounded he saved his gun by taking to timber with it. This gentleman was a member from Boone county of the last Missouri house of representatives. The victory at Athens was complete, Col. Moore capturing five hundred horses, a large lot of camp equipage, and taking a number of prisoners who were afterwards paroled and allowed to return to their homes. The regiment which he commanded there afterwards saw service on a number of fields, and was especially conspicuous at Shiloh, where Col. Moore lost a limb. Strangely enough, no report of the battle of Athens, the first Union victory of the war, is to be found in the federal archives.

## The Gate City.

JANUARY 11, 1900.

### BATTLE OF ATHENS CELEBRATION

That Noted Battle Will be Celebrated  
in August and Annually  
Thereafter.

[Special to The Gate City.]

Peakesville, Mo., Jan. 8.—The Gate City correspondent is in a position to announce to a waiting world that the celebration of the anniversary of the battle of Athens, on August 5, 1900, and annually thereafter is duly provided for and a fixed fact.

The following officers for 1900 have been decided upon: Hon. Jonathan Johnson, president; Major Wm. French, vice president; Arthur J. Buckner, M. D., secretary; Judge D. E. Fortune, treasurer and chairman committee of arrangements. Judge Fortune may be addressed at Athens and the secretary at Peakesville, Clark county, Missouri.

A national, state and county campaign is on this year. All the politicians, candidates of all parties and politics, with their friends and backers; all the old soldiers, blue and gray; in fact, the world and his wife are cordially invited to a non-partisan love feast on that auspicious occasion. The best speakers obtainable will be present.

More of this later on. All papers within one thousand miles please copy.

## The Gate City.

FEBRUARY 15, 1900.

### BATTLE OF ATHENS DISPUTE

The Secretary Says the Celebration  
Will be in August and Every-  
body is Invited.

There has been some disputatious talk in adjoining Missouri about whether there ought to be a celebration of the battle of Athens and what organization ought to be in charge of it. Dr. Arthur J. Buckner, corresponding secretary, sends the following communication to The Gate City:

Will The Gate City kindly publish for the benefit of an interested public, that there will be a celebration of the battle of Athens, Saturday August 4, 1900, the 5th falling on Sunday this year. A little factious opposition has sprung up in a quarter that should be ashamed to make it known, but it turns out happily that the opposition will not be felt and the parties interested are just as cordially invited to participate as anyone else. General John W. Noble will be specially invited, Governors Steward and Colman and a long list of national celebrities will be pressed to come. Sam Clark is already booked for a talk, if his improving health will permit. We expect Keokuk, Warsaw, Madison, Burlington and adjacent Missouri towns to turn out en masse. The best speakers obtainable will be present. The best music in the west is already engaged. The grounds are ample, well drained and shaded. There will be ample accommodations for feeding and caring for the immense throng. Everybody and his wife take a day off and come to Athens, Mo., Saturday, August 4, 1900, and have a non-partisan, non-political and wholly enjoyable outing, listening to the old veterans of the blue and gray tell their thrilling reminiscences of the times when they were respectively "Yank and Johny." There will be more of this later on. All papers within a thousand miles please copy.

ARTHUR J. BUCKNER,  
Corresponding Secretary.

## The Gate City.

, APRIL 5, 1900.

### THE BATTLE OF ATHENS.

Historical Notes by C. P. Birge Upon  
Events in Clark County  
in 1861.

Another of the interesting letters received by Mr. C. P. Birge in his investigation of the Battle of Athens for the state historical society is the following:

Keokuk, Iowa, March 20, 1900.

Charles P. Birge, Esq.

Dear Sir—Your request asking me to give you what I know of the "Battle of Athens" is at hand. I was not at Athens August 6, 1861, I was at Canton, Missouri, with Colonel Woodyard's Second regiment, Northeast Missouri Home guards.

In May and June, 1861, I lived with my father on the farm in southwest part of Clark county, Missouri, four miles north of Williamstown. Things were getting warm between the states rights men, so-called, and the union men. Some companies of states rights men were being organized at Williamstown, Fairmont, and in turn the union men in the vicinity of Williamstown organized into a military company and elected William B. Moody, a Methodist preacher, captain. We were mustered into the United States service June 17, 1861, by Albert Crane.

We went to Canton, Missouri, and joined our company with other companies under H. M. Woodyard, colonel, and Barney King, major. Just after the battle of Athens we were ordered to join Colonel Moore's regiment and effect a consolidation with David Moore as colonel, H. M. Woodyard as lieutenant-colonel, and Barney King, Major. We left Canton and marched to Williamstown to intercept Marten Green's men who were retreating from Athens. We understood one afternoon the enemy were encamped on the Fabius, and we made a night march about August 12, 1861, to surprise them in the morning. We had crossed the Fabius river at Clapp's Ford. I was riding in front, it was about 11 o'clock at night when we were commanded to halt; instead of doing so we fired our guns, and went ahead out into the bottom or valley, where it was clear of trees and brush.

We were formed in line along the road, and could hear the enemy commanding, giving orders, etc. We were ordered to give them a volley, which we did, and only one, and then all was quiet in front of us. We got out a small swivel gun which had been a Fourth of July gun; it was about two feet long, had an inch and a half bore, mounted on two wheels about eighteen inches in diameter, a toy gun, we carried in the back end of a wagon. However, we got it out and fired it off a few times, and then lay on our arms until morning.

After it became light, we went across the bottom and found two men we had

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



shot, but no living enemy was anywhere in the neighborhood. After we had breakfast, an order came from Colonel Moore for us to join him at Fairmont about six miles northwest, and we marched there and joined Colonel Moore, he having come out from Athens after Martin Green and his men. Moore in command, took us back to Athens and then by way of Edina and Bethel to Palmyra, from where we were sent to guard Salt river bridge, Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad.

We had been there but a few days when Colonel Harris (rebel) and his men, going south, crossed the Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad at Shelbyna, six miles west of us, and went to camp at Tiger's Den, near Florida. General John Pope came to Hunniwell with two regiments of volunteers, and with Colonel Moore's men marched one night about eighteen miles to attack Harris at Tiger's Den. By daylight we had surrounded the camp, but the enemy had gone, evidently but a short time; they seemed to have left in a hurry. One squad who had been out on picket came in, and seeing our flag, turned to flee, but three of them were shot by our men. We returned to Hunniwell.

That was the last of Martin Green and Harris in northeast Missouri; they did not quit running until they crossed the Missouri river.

#### ANDERSON AS PRISONER.

The suggestion that I add my experience as a prisoner is received. After we returned to Canton, Mo., in the latter part of September, 1861, we were all pretty ragged. I was, and asked Captain Moody for permission to go home and get some clothes. I was given permission, and started from Canton about 5 o'clock in the afternoon, afoot. By 11 o'clock I had walked nearly to Williamstown when I was halted. I was probably seventy feet from the fence and I thought I would risk a shot, and instead of stopping, I went the other way. There was a sound of cocking eight guns, it seemed to me a hundred, and I stopped. I was ordered to come to the fence, behind which were the men who had stopped me. They told me to climb over the fence, which I did, as if I were eighty. In a few minutes I learned they were eight of Major Shacklett's men, the major having remained behind to gather up the men who had not gone with Green. They were under the command of a man named Cobb.

I began to make fun for them, telling them stories, and in a short time they were very pleasant to me. When it became day we went to Captain Cobb's house and got some breakfast, and then they took me to Major Shacklett's camp on the Fabius, in Knox county. We got there at about 12 o'clock. There were about 300 men encamped, and my heart went down in my boots as we went in past the camp guards. When we got down in the camp I saw Captain Lindsey Chappell, a neighbor whom I knew right well. I called to him, and he came to where I was and laughed at my being a prisoner in a kindly way.

I was put into a log pen for a guard house with a man named Longfield, who was also a prisoner. In a few minutes Chappell came and told the guard over me he wanted me, and invited me to go with him. I asked him where, and he said I looked hungry. I asked him if I could not ask Longfield to go along, and he said no, but told a man to take dinner to Longfield. Chappell took me to his mess and gave me a dinner fit for a king, and when I was done he took me to Major Shacklett's tent. I had on an old felt hat, the rim of which was tired and hung down limp, a dark green faded coat, a pair of pants which were fringed from my boot tops down, my toes were out of my boots, I had no socks nor underclothes.

Major Shacklett began to question me; he had a rough manner in the start.

I told him who I was, and that I belonged to Captain Moody's company of Colonel Moore's regiment. He asked me if I was at the battle of Clapp's Ford. I told him I was at Clapp's Ford but there was not much battle. He asked me about what artillery we had; I told him I belonged to the infantry and not to any artillery branch of service. He asked me how many cannon we had; I told him I never counted them. He asked me what size cannon we had; I told him then I would truthfully tell him about myself but not about the service I was in, if I told him anything it might not be true. He looked at me in surprise, but in a very kindly way. One of his men said, "The blackey ought to have it choked out of him." I looked at the man and then at Shacklett, and said I thought you fellows arrogated to yourselves all the chivalry there was in the land; in our camp insult to a prisoner would not be allowed. Shacklett said, "We do not allow it here," and he ordered the man to leave.

Shacklett then said: "Mr. Anderson, you may take the oath of allegiance to the southern confederacy, be paroled and may then go." I told him I would not take any oath of allegiance to the southern confederacy, that I owed no allegiance to it. He said, "Your men always make the prisoners you have take the oath of allegiance to the United States. Why should we not treat you the same way?" "Because," said I, "you owe allegiance to the United States, and you are guilty of treason in

arraying yourselves against its authority. It is all right to make you take such an oath, but I owe nothing of the kind to the southern confederacy. I had a good dinner, I will stay a while before I would do anything of the kind." Shacklett seemed to thaw entirely out; he was as nice to me as he could be. He said, "Anderson, you are the second man of your party I ever had any dealings with, who did not show the white feather. There is a paper and pencil, you write out a parole, so we can let you go, we do not want you with us any longer."

I wrote: "I, James Hamilton Ander-

son, hereby give my parole or word of honor that I will not take up arms against the state of Missouri, or act on the offensive against the states rights men therein, until I am exchanged or otherwise released from this parole.

"JAMES HAMILTON ANDERSON."

I rode away from camp on the same horse, and with part of the same men who had brought me there, at 3 o'clock, with a much higher estimate of the manliness of the rebels than I had had before, and a kindly feeling for the rough old Major Shacklett.

In a short time I received word to report at Monticello for duty in my company. I went to Monticello and reported the fact that I had been a prisoner and paroled. Colonel Moore said it made no difference and I must take my place. In a few days a paymaster came to pay us off, and he had with him a mustering officer to muster us in for three years as the Twenty-first Missouri. I refused to be mustered in until I was exchanged or released from my parole. I was told I could draw no pay unless I was mustered in again, and that the \$106.40 would not be paid me unless I did. I refused, I did not get any pay and never received a cent for my service from June 17 to October 1, 1861, and I have never asked for it.

JAMES H. ANDERSON.

## The Gate City.

, APRIL 26, 1900.  
WAR MEMORIES.

Keokuk in 1861--The Battle of Athens  
and Border Happenings--By  
Charles P. Birge.

To the Editor of The Gate City:

Keokuk, Ia., April 14, 1900.—There has appeared in your paper several articles regarding the battle of Athens, especially an interesting letter relating to the experiences and part taken by the Hon. John W. Noble of St. Louis, also letter from Hon. J. C. Moore of Enid, Oklahoma—a son of Col. Moore, who was prominent in that affair, in which he tells an interesting story of his participation therein. Also a letter, particularly interesting, of our townsman, Mr. I. N. Walters, also a letter of Mr. C. L. Becker, also a letter of James H. Anderson.

I hand you now for publication a review of the whole matter from a more general standpoint, narrating matters of local interest, more or less connected with that event, most of which came under my personal observation.

It is apparent that the objective point of Mart Green's army was to come to Keokuk to get the powder stored in the magazine near this city. They were without ammunition. Parties in Green's command make this statement.

Again. It is certain and clear, from the same authority, that the little clique of southern sympathizers, then living in Keokuk, were in correspondence with



Mart Green—in short definite information has come to me that a post-office was maintained in Keokuk, in the interest of these Missouri rebels.

It will be remembered that a newspaper was published here, which was very violent in its use of the English language when talking of "Lincoln Hirelings" and that the press was thrown into the river by the soldiers here in the hospital at a later date.

I am personally conversant with some facts along this line, that at this late date seem a little startling. A very prominent southerner walked into an office one day on Main street, and throwing back the flap of his cloak, laid down on the gentleman's desk a short rifle; a repeater, with the remark that he was happy that in walking from his house to this office he had been delivered from shooting some damn soldier who might have crossed his path and insulted him.

Sure enough, I felt at the time that he was quite fortunate that he had not displayed his arms, in which event he would have been quite certain to have picked up the trouble he was looking for.

With this paper (already too long spun out) I shall be glad to consider the matter of the history of the battle of Athens, and the events and conditions pertaining thereto, as dismissed.

Respectfully,

CHARLES P. BIRGE.

In consulting the files of The Daily Gate City for 1861 I find that in April we had no telegraph in Keokuk.

On the morning of April 15 news of Sumter first published.

The morning of April 17 the American flag was displayed at the head of the editorial column for the first time, with the following lines underneath:

"The Star Spangled Banner,  
Oh, long may it wave,  
O'er the land of the free,  
And the home of the brave."

This flag was continued at the head of this column for an indefinite period of time.

April 19.—A meeting was called in Keokuk to consider the situation. At that meeting the late Justice Miller said, "Time for talking has passed. Time for action is here." A large number of distinguished and prominent citizens of Keokuk made speeches. Recruiting stations were opened for five or six military companies.

April 19.—A company called the Union Guards held a meeting and elected officers. Captain Hugston, Lieutenant T. I. McKinney. A meeting of citizens was held to provide means in aid of families of volunteers.

April 24.—The Keokuk artillery tendered its services to the governor.

April 25.—Public meeting was held at which W. W. Belknap offered resolutions that the duty of all was to "lay aside party affiliations and sustain the government regardless."

April 27.—Prominent editorial, Necessity of a Border Guard.

April 29.—Account given of the organization of the following military companies in Keokuk: The Union Guards, Apler's artillery, The Grays, Keokuk Home Guards, Rifle company, The Jaegers, and we now find our first notice of a company called, "The Skirmishers," later the City Rifles.

May 3.—State authorities took possession of powder magazine at Davenport.

May 4.—Notice of organization of Cameron rifles.

May 7.—The Hawkeye State bringing three companies first infantry from the north. Powder house in Keokuk put under guard.

May 4.—Notice of organization of cavalry company; Torrence, captain, afterwards Colonel Torrence.

May 11.—Notice of union men being attacked by secessionists in Memphis, Scotland county, Missouri, and consequent exodus of a large number of families overland to Iowa along the border.

May 14.—First Iowa infantry mustered into United States service.

May 17.—Disruption of Cameron rifles, known as "Flitter-foots," and reorganized under name of Curtis rifles. John W. Noble, first lieutenant.

May 18.—First public notice of City rifles. Call signed by R. F. Patterson, secretary.

May 22.—Captain Parrott's company took oath of allegiance.

May 25.—Picnic to regiments in camp. Address by Chief Justice Lowe to soldiers and General Samuel R. Curtis, Wm. Leighton, Samuel F. Miller and others.

June 5.—Captain Sample's cavalry company turned out thirty-two strong, and made a parade, being reviewed by Governor Kirkwood in a drenching rain.

June 11.—Public celebration of the funeral of Stephen A. Douglas. Both First, Second and Third Iowa regiments in procession. City rifles taking part.

June 12.—Flag presentation. Ladies of Keokuk to Union Guards.

June 14.—First and Second regiments left for Hannibal.

June 28.—City rifles, Captain Belknap and company, appeared in new uniforms. Navy blue shirts, gray pants with black stripe, cap of same color.

June 29.—Third regiment left for Missouri.

July 5.—Mention of City rifles performing everything in "Hardee" before a vast crowd. Complimented by Captain Chambers, United States army mustering officer, and all taken to Young America for a treat.

July 10.—City rifles elected Belknap captain in place of Worthington who had been commissioned colonel of Fifth volunteers.

July 12.—News of organized rebels in Clark and adjoining counties. Threatening safety of Keokuk.

July 16.—News of expedition from Croton and Athens into Missouri to ascertain condition. Public meeting to organize citizens for safety.

July 18.—Public meeting stated by Captain Sample, General Reid, Samuel

F. Miller. Committee of twenty-five appointed to take measures.

July 22.—Colonel Scott of Farmington took sixty muskets and ammunition for Farmington guards.

July 23.—Large number of secesh in possession of Memphis Mo. Much excitement in neighborhood of Athens.

July 24.—General Bussey reports distribution of a thousand guns between Farmington and Eddyville. Reports about 400 rebels within a mile or so of Memphis, Mo., generally disarming union men wherever they can be found. Reports Colonel Moore with 300 troops about Athens waiting for more men. Much skirmishing in and around Clark county, Missouri.

July 25.—Keokuk cavalry elected officers. Torrence, captain; McQueen, first lieutenant; Reynolds, second lieutenant; D. A. Kerr, orderly.

July 26.—City rifles ordered in full uniform to escort Keokuk cavalry company. Proclamation by Anna Wittenmyer.

July 27.—Presentation of flag by ladies to Captain Torrence and company. Escorted by Keokuk rifles, Captain Belknap, and Keokuk cavalry company, Captain Sample. Speech of presentation by Judge S. F. Miller. Famous response made eloquent by death of Captain Torrence, "We thank the ladies for this beautiful flag. Will defend it to the last. When this banner shall be trailed in the dust my wife will be a widow and my children orphans." All of which came true. A scene more patriotic and pathetic than any other in Keokuk during the civil war.

August 3.—Fifth and Sixth regiments arriving, Colonels Worthington and McDowell. Expedition of Captain Sample's company in aid of Colonel Moore at Athens, leaving on special train at night. Camp in good order with about 400 men said to be not at all afraid.

August 6.—Account of great hurrying to and fro. Paper states rebel loss, killed and wounded, doubtless over twenty-five. Six or eight dead on the field. Rebels came in the afternoon under flag of truce stating they carried off fourteen dead. Many wounded and missing. Number estimated at 800 in the entire force. Names of thirteen union men wounded, and seven rebels. Paper states that 1,500 rebels were routed by only 500 men.

August 7.—Account from Colonel Worthington that his regiment marched some eight or nine miles to the rebel camp in the rear of Athens, but found that the rebels had not stopped under twenty or twenty-five miles. Worthington's troops staid out all night and then returned to Keokuk. Account of large number of volunteer companies from Primrose, Salem, Claygrove and other points rallying to the support of Athens.

August 8.—Report from Croton Colonel Moore with 400 men and six-pounder pursuing the enemy who had rallied to the number of 2,000 men, driving Moore back upon Athens. Special train will go to Croton. Great commotion. Citizens rallied in hot haste. Rifles and Rangers on hand in force. Several companies extemporized. Twelve-pounder taken to

58

60

66

42

THE GREAT QUEST NEAR CALLED HISTORY  
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA



train. Vast crowd at the depot. Train departing with over 500 men. Banners flying, muskets gleaming, people cheering.

August 9.—Missouri rebel prisoners in court house. Mr. Timberman returned from Croton on hand-car. Colonel Worthington with five companies go out on morning train to reinforce Colonel Moore. Number of rebels killed on Monday now known to be forty-three and may have been more.

August 10.—Telegraph line completed to Keokuk.

August 12.—Prisoners released after taking oath of allegiance. Word received from Colonel Moore that he had entered Memphis. Moore's forces now increased from 1,200 to 1,400 men. Headed for Edina, Knox county.

August 13.—Stampede from Canton. Greene's force threatening the town. Valuable service of Scott's Farmington company at Athens. Salvation of union camp at Croton caused by presence of Captain's Scott's Farmington Rangers, Keokuk City rifles, and Captain Sample's Rangers.

August 15.—Paper states latest reports fix the number of dead picked up in cornfield and bushes. Rebel dead forty-five. Some citizens of Athens place it at over fifty.

August 13.—Proclamation of Cyrus Bussey raising cavalry regiment for border service by order of Major General Fremont. Proclamation by Howard Tucker, orderly sergeant, City Rifles, calling in rifles, cartridges and cap boxes having been distributed to citizens on account of battle of Athens.

August 14.—Notice of 250 to 400 troops marching from Davis and neighboring counties to support of Colonel Moore at Memphis. Colonel Moore sending his request for assistance to Captain Trimble and his company at Bloomfield. Captain Trimble proclaimed constitution and laws forbid citizens of Davis county marching to assistance of union men under Colonel Moore. Same idea of states rights that was debated at Croton as to policy of Iowa union soldiers crossing into Missouri.

August 17.—Fight between Moore's forces and rebels about twenty miles west of Canton. Four graves on Fox river of noted parties said to have been killed at battle of Athens.

August 20.—Colonel Moore in city holding conference with Colonel Bussey. Regiment arrived in Athens on the 18th. Company of Moore's went to Alexandria, Mo., arrested about thirty-two prisoners and brought them to Keokuk.

August 21.—Judge Rankin goes to Athens to act as judge advocate in examination of prisoners taken in Alexandria by Colonel Moore.

August 23.—Much renewed excitement at apprehensions of Tom Harris having designs on Moore and his camp at Athens. Harris reported to have 3,000 men with artillery. Colonel Bussey and local committee of safety took matter in hand to act with energy.

August 24.—Keokuk Rangers held meeting. Hugh W. Sample elected captain, Israel Anderson first lieutenant, John W. Noble second lieutenant, Wm. Wilson orderly.

August 26.—About 1,500 rebels reported between Athens and Edina. Moore to march directly for Kirksville with 1,000 men, fifty wagons and a brass nine-pounder from Keokuk. Parties wanting a taste of war recommended to join Moore. Sure of a fight if the enemy didn't run too fast. Prisoners taken by Moore sent to St. Louis military prison by Judge Advocate Rankin and Colonel Bussey.

August 27.—Major McKee of Colonel Moore's regiment rode to Keokuk post haste. Large force of rebels were approaching Athens. Marching upon that place. At 7 o'clock fire bells rung, citizens gathered, guns distributed, Rifles and Rangers on hand. Nine-pounder loaded on train. Departed at 9 p. m. Another special left at 11 o'clock. Several hundred citizens landed in Croton soon after midnight. Rebels fail to materialize, being posted on reinforcements. Moore to march and hunt them up whether or no.

August 28.—Reported that Greene approached within eight miles of Athens on Sunday night. When being informed of heavy reinforcements abandoned the enterprise and retired.

August 29.—Reports that Moore has left Athens to join General Hurlbut at Kirksville. END

## The Gate City.

MAY 10, 1900.

### THE BATTLE OF ATHENS.

Historical Notes by C. P. Birge Upon  
Events in Clark County  
in 1861.

To the Editor of The Gate City:  
(Continued.)

During the months of June and July Colonel Moore saved a gallant Third Ohio veteran, who served with Colonel Curtis in the Mexican war, had received a commission and authority to recruit a regiment in northeast Missouri, and a depot had been established at Croton, Iowa, immediately north of the town of Athens, which was in Missouri. Moore was well known to many people in Keokuk and he had erected a camp in Athens, in which he had at the time the fight came off, not far from three hundred men. His supplies, including the muskets for his regiment were in the railway depot at Croton for security. An ex-member of congress, Martin Green, whose home was down in the neighborhood of Canton, Missouri, was busying himself in raising troops into the same country for the confederate service and was making a good many raids in northeast Missouri. General rumor credited him with having in his camps a couple of

thousand of irregular men armed with all sorts of weapons including some cannon. Several alarms upon the security of Keokuk came upon us from this source. Rumor said they would come over after our powder and would even take the town. Repeatedly after Moore began his camp did he come to Keokuk in great stress for help to defend his position, and several times special trains ran up with volunteers, leaving at 9 or 10 o'clock at night, every volunteer taking such weapon as he could lay hands on. I well remember visiting a train of cars on such an occasion and seeing lined up with a musket or any old gun, many of Keokuk's most prominent citizens. I regret I am unable to name many of them but I remember clearly Governor Lowe, Robert Creel, John Stannus, Wm. Timberman, General Van Antwerp, C. F. Davis, Wm. Graham Barnisconi, and others. These alarms became a little wearisome, but finally early in August Moore came down to Keokuk on a hand car, about twenty miles, and said that sure enough this time it was a go. He had reliable information that Green with two thousand men were some twenty miles away in camp and were going to clean him out quite immediately. Moore was one of the bravest men that ever lived; there was not a drop of cowardice in him. His leg was shot off at the battle of Shiloh. He came home and when the stump healed enough so he could sit on a horse he went back and continued to fight it out. He had a son or two in Green's army, the very force threatening to attack him. On the night of August 4, the bells rang and a large force of volunteers went up on special train. My company in part went up. Captain Belknap had scoured around, found all the boys he could get together and gone, leaving word for those who left to report first chance next morning. When I came down to my business on the morning of the 5th was the first knowledge I had of this affair and that my company had gone with other volunteers. I immediately proceeded to the early train and I found twenty or thirty other Rifles like myself on board and a large number of citizens. Every fellow with a gun and every gun loaded and everybody more or less scared at the blood that was soon to be shed. I have been thankful these forty years that I didn't get killed in the car going out. Superintendent Williams of the old Des Moines Valley railroad, ran the train up himself, and when we got within five or six miles of Croton along about 9 o'clock in the morning we stopped whenever we saw a man on the track who told of a great battle having been fought, and that the whole country around Croton and Athens was dripping with gore and that the grass and woods were full of dead men. The train was stopped and councils held to consider whether it was safe to go on and plunge all these innocent armed men into certain death, and so we crept on our way watching on all sides for ambuscades of rebels. We finally reached Croton and sure



enough found that a battle had been fought. The rebels had retreated in great disorder, a few prisoners captured and seventy horses and some dead and wounded. It appears that Green with his force were nearly all mounted and he came in on Athens and Moore's camp about sunset, divided his force into three divisions. One on the main road leading directly south from Athens which is on a side hill slowly ascending from the river, one force on the right flank and another on the left flank. The center division opened up by firing an old cannon they had, which shot a kind of slug, having no balls. This gun was fired at the depot across the river, the slug passing over the depot without injury. One of those I understand is now in Keokuk in the Torrence Post G. A. R. Shooting began on flanks about the same time. The horses of these rebels were generally hitched to the fences around about, the men dismounting to handle themselves better. While this was going on Moore had his men under arms. Most of these were old Mexican soldiers. The story goes that the colonel marched up and down in front of his men with his shirt sleeves rolled up and a drawn sword, swearing a blue streak and telling his men that he would soon charge, which he did to the discomfiture of the rebels. They fled one and all in great dismay, not even taking time to mount their horses and some seventy horses were left behind. On the right flank down on the river bottom stands a little white frame house. It was the head center of that flank. Directly across the river on the Iowa shore was a field with a rail fence extending close to the river edge for quite a distance. Along the line of this fence more or less Iowa troops were stationed and they could shoot across the river and more or less execution upon the rebel forces was done from that point. When I crossed the river I first visited this spot and I there saw two or three dead men lying on the grass. I visited a house up in Athens in which were some eight or nine men wounded, some of which were Green's men and some of which were Moore's men. According to my best recollection there was not to exceed a half a dozen men killed, I am quite positive less. One of Moore's soldiers, a man I afterwards knew well, Fuller by name, suffered the loss of a leg from amputation. No special pursuit was made of the fleeing rebels beyond a limited manner. Horsemen rode out a few miles and some of our Iowa chaps followed the road out as far as they deemed safe, about a mile or two and picked up information that the rebels did not stop for twenty miles. The position near the white house spoken of that the rebels entered was a grain field but it was thoroughly scoured the very day of the fight and as I was on the ground all that day, no dead were found to my knowledge other than those I have spoken of. END

## The Gate City.

, JUNE 28, 1900.

### BATTLE OF ATHENS

Recalls Recollections to Pioneer A. W. Harlan.

HAS BEEN THERE MANY YEARS

And Visited General Fremont and Helped Professor Owen on a Geological Trip.

[Special Correspondence of The Gate City.]

Near Croton, Iowa, June 26.—It has been through your weekly issue that the forthcoming celebration of the battle of Athens has been so extensively advertised.

The battle of itself was but a small matter, but the influence for the general good was great and is still felt at this distant day when nearly all the participants have passed away. And even now if the day can be properly celebrated, its influence can be extended indefinitely.

My main object in trying to write to you is to prepare the minds of the people for the many changes that have occurred in and about the place in those thirty-nine years. For nearly thirty years after the battle both banks of the river continued to wash away; but now for about ten years or more both banks have been filling in most astonishingly and are now coated with a dense growth of willows, so much so that it is hard to believe.

On the 12th of the coming September it will be sixty-seven years since I was on the ground in 1834. In the summer of 1838 J. C. Fremont with some half a dozen men camped on the ground then just starting to examine the Des Moines river preparatory to slack water navigation. I was at his tent, my business at that time was conducting an independent mail line from St. Francisville, Mo., to Keosauqua.

It was near 1840 that Abner Knealand, by special invitation, delivered a lecture in the house of Isaac Gray; it was accidental that I heard that lecture, and it was a pleasure to me to listen to him.

#### FIRST GEOLOGIST.

Then again in 1844 Professor Owen, of Indiana, a brother to the famous Robert Dale Owen, came to this vicinity to make the first geological survey of Iowa. I went with him to Athens, where he hired young George Gray to pole his canoe from here to the Gypsum quarries near where Fort Dodge is at present located.

I could mention many other incidents that would be interesting to other people besides running flatboats through the broken locks in 1847.

Now, Mr. Clark, many of us are hoping that you will deliver the principal speech of the day and I hope you will be able to show that chattel slavery was the cause of our great civil war and that the negro was brought to Virginia to raise tobacco and the close connection between slavery, rum and tobacco.

Then I want you to remember Captain Tharis and the Croton boys that in the month of May, 1861, after Fort Sumter had been fired on, and Judge Richardson had held a term of court at Waterloo, in Clark county, Missouri, under the rebel flag. That we Croton boys, forty-three of us, crossed the river at Athens, went out into Missouri and helped the union men to organize. About Louisville, Kentucky, the case was only a little different; the union men in small squads ran away from Kentucky over to Indiana to organize; but we all labored for the one great cause, the preservation of the union of these United States.

#### PRESENT ISSUES.

Now, it is very gratifying to me to witness the good felling that is growing up in the community at large, or rather the forgetfulness of that bad feeling. I went to the Shiloh battleground four years ago. We will soon have other great issues on hand, or rather they are now on hand, but the masses of our people do not realize the fact.

Mankind ought to be national creatures, but instead of that there are millions engaged in propagating insanity; and the world of mankind is mainly engaged in worshipping the almighty dollar instead of worshipping the Great Eternal.

There may be a time for all things, but I have many thoughts that I do not wish to see in print as yet. Notwithstanding the demoralizing effects of our great civil war there were many persons on both sides that did not forget former friendship.

It is my intention to be in Athens on the 4th of August, although I can be of but little use, as I can hear but little and scarcely see at all.

Colonel David Moore was not perfect, but communities will never realize how much we are indebted to him.

A. W. HARLAN.

## The Gate City.

, JULY 26, 1900.

### BATTLE OF ATHENS BOOMNIG

There Will be a Great Day Out There and It Behooves Everybody to Go.

All roads lead to Athens, Mo., Saturday, August 4, 1900. Get in the band wagon. Join the procession. Start early. The day I am writing about is the day you are thinking about and everybody is talking about. It's the day we celebrate. The blue and gray will join hands on the old battle field, in a reunited American non-partisan, non-po-

THE GREAT ONST-HEAP CALLED HISTORY  
R. J. BUCKLE KEOKUK, IOWA



litical gathering and fight over the battle of August 4, 1861 in a friendly spirit. Only a few more years must elapse, at most, until the last survivor of this stirring event of musketry will be heard. The mournful bugles will sound "taps" and it will be "lights out" forever for all of the "boys." Let us unite while we may and keep alive the chivalry and gallantry that existed in the hearts of both blue and gray in those tempestuous times.

A flag, a cannon ball and a hole made in the house of Uncle Joe Benning by a nine pound solid shot, on the morning of the battle, will be on exhibition. The strategic and important points of position, in both armies will be marked and intelligent descriptions of the memorable engagement will be given by men who were actually engaged in the conflict, on one side or the other.

Grand Army posts are coming. Distinguished speakers will give two or three short addresses in the forenoon. After dinner the time will be devoted to anecdotes, incidents ludicrous and laughable, fun, frolic and music, vocal and instrumental. Two of the best bands in the west are engaged, the Farmington Cigar company band and the Revere Mo., Santa Fe band, while if Keokuk does the reciprocity act in style, we will have the crackerjack Fiftieth Regiment band.

The grounds will be inviting, plenty of shade, seats for all, ample platforms, barrels of ice water, refreshments of all kinds, a dancing floor, plenty of innocent amusements will be provided, while nothing to offend the most fastidious taste will be permitted. All old veterans will be esteemed as honored guests. Particular attention will be given to their especial comfort. Bring your wives and children and enjoy the best day's outing you ever thought of.

Everybody within reasonable distance is urgently requested to bring rations for themselves and two or three others. Remember the parable of the "loaves and fishes." Excursion rates on railroads.

A meeting of officers of the association and all others interested in the success of the celebration will be held in the High school building in Athens Saturday, July 28, at 2 p. m. sharp. Look alive! Only a few days intervene till the day is here. Don't forget, Saturday, August 4, 1900, is the day. Athens, Clark county, Mo., is the only town on the map that day. Everybody come. All papers kindly copy and call attention to same.

ARTHUR J. BUCKNER, M. D.  
Secretary.

## The Gate City.

AUGUST 2, 1900.

### KEOKUK GOING TO ATHENS

Those Attending the Battle Celebr.

### tion May Get Reduced Rates and Special Train.

The people around Athens, Mo., are anxious to have a large number of Keokuk people attend their celebration next Saturday, and claim that they have come to Keokuk enough to make it a duty of Keokuk to go to them. Many are going and it is hoped that the delegation from here will include a hundred people.

Captain A. H. Evans and Captain George R. Nunn are a committee to secure the most convenient railroad transportation and are in negotiation with the Rock Island road. Nothing definite has yet been arranged, but they are confident that if a hundred will go from Keokuk the Rock Island will make a round trip rate of one and a third fare and run a special return train in the evening. The regular train goes up in the morning at 8 o'clock.

The committee request that all who are going leave their names at the office of Captain A. H. Evans, 515 Main street, at once so that there will be a better basis for work with the railroad officials. The celebration on the field of the battle of Athens is going to be an immense affair with thousands of people there and addresses by some of the most prominent men in the country, including ex-Secretary Noble.

## The Gate City.

AUGUST 9, 1900.

### BATTLE OF ATHENS

The Anniversary Celebration  
a Great Success.

FIVE THOUSAND PEOPLE THERE

The Blue and the Gray Shake Hands  
and a Number of Addresses  
Are Made.

Thirty-nine years ago Saturday, the battle of Athens was fought. Mart Green was going to cross into Iowa and take Keokuk. What! Keokuk? And that started it.

The celebration of that scrimmage was held Saturday on the battlefield. The battle took place August 5, 1861, thirty-nine years ago. Martin Green in command of confederates from Missouri was moving toward Croton. This meant the capture of Keokuk and people from this city and the neighborhood sped to Croton. Captain Israel Anderson was selected to lead the unorganized troops from Keokuk. Captain Belknap and his company was there and Colonel David Moore and his forces were there. The Missouri men and the Iowa men

came together, with the river between them, and although there was some loss of life, it was not great—and that was the Battle of Athens.

The reunion was held yesterday in a grove upon the hill about a half mile back from Athens, and 5,000 or more people were there. A speakers' stand had been erected beneath the trees and numerous restaurants and lunch stands were scattered through the grove. The grove was full of buggies and wagons which had brought people from the surrounding country.

To get to the Athens battlefield, one goes by train to Croton and crosses the Des Moines river in a conveyance. The river was crowded with teams all day long and the roads in the immediate vicinity were covered with dust six inches in depth.

### THE REUNION.

The officers of the reunion were Jonathan Johnson of Neva, Mo., president; William French of Athens, vice president; Dr. A. J. Buckner of Peakesville, Mo., secretary, and D. E. Fortune of Athens, treasurer. The little town of Athens was gaily decorated with flags and hunting.

The greater part of the immense gathering of people came from the surrounding country. The Keokuk train took up over seventy-five, more than two hundred came from Farmington, and a great number came from Kahoka and other Missouri points. The heat was oppressive, but the day was not as hot as one as the battle day seemed to be.

The exercises began at 10:30 o'clock with music by the Farmington band. President Jonathan Johnson, of Neva, Mo., acted as officer of the day and announced the program. Rev. J. P. McKiernan, of Farmington, made the prayer of the morning. In opening the morning's ceremonies, Mr. Johnson said that the boys that wore the gray were as welcome as those who wore the blue, and all were now united, all one. Music by the Santa Fe band of Revere and the Farmington band was interspersed between the morning's exercises.

### THE BLUE AND THE GRAY.

All those present who were at the battle of Athens on August 5, 1861, were asked to come onto the platform and form in line. Those who wore the blue and those who wore the gray lined up together. There was but a handful of them, two men who fought with Green—I. N. Walters of Keokuk, and William Boulware of Gregory, Mo., and twenty who were on the federal side. Messrs. Walters and Boulware stood side by side and the line of those who opposed them thirty-nine years ago marched in front and shook the hand of the two present who had fought against them in the past.

The union men present were as follows: T. Harrison, S. E. Wheeler, Omaha; Peter Cronin, Athens; H. Hohstadt, Scotland county; W. S. Collins, Farmington; J. S. Christy, Peakesville; E. P. Hackney, Putnam county; M. M. Christy, Clark county; J. F.



Seever, Luray; L. C. Van Camp, Keokuk; J. W. Kiesling, Athens; John Brewster, Clark county; General John W. Noble, St. Louis; J. L. Vordan, Luray; L. C. Robb, Vincennes; L. A. Holstadt, Lopg Ridge, Mo.; Peter Conklin, Kahoka; C. R. Kennedy, Kahoka; Henry Reisner, Farmington.

#### COLONEL MOORE'S SON.

The address of welcome by John C. Moore, a son of Colonel Moore, was read by I. N. Walters, Mr. Moore not being in attendance. The address was full of history and began by saying that the battle of Athens had no place in the history of the civil war because those participating had not yet been recruited and so were not regular members of the two great armies, and that men engaged in the battle were citizens of the surrounding country, not a band of robbers plundering for their own benefit.

As a conflict however, of importance, and with important results, it holds a valued place in the incidents of the war as one of the elements in determining the final result. It was very far north for one thing; it was in a country surrounded on the north and east by states strongly opposed to the disintegration of this union. A result favorable to the south that day would have determined many wavering men to cast their lot with that side, the union forces would have had to retire from this part of the state for a time until they could better organize and recruit. It was therefore for the best interests of all this section of the state that this battle ended as it did, for by such ending the actual war here ended.

#### A LONG TIME AGO.

All this was thirty-nine years ago. Then men's passions were aroused to a high degree of animosity and there was much bickering and unkindness. Now all this is changed. Men talk over the battle, discuss the relative strength of the two contending camps and all the attending circumstances, with equanimity and sense, mingled with kindness, appreciating the fact that the sting is gone and that these annual meetings are fine occasions to enjoy themselves.

Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis, Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee, Nathaniel Lyon and Sterling Price, have gone to their great reward. They were not personal participants in this battle, but they were and still are, loved by the people. Their memories are safe by the sacred depository of the people's hearts. In that depository let them rest in peace.

No reunion of the battle of Athens would or could be complete without the presence of the two commanders; and I know that they are here with us in spirit; and so, last but not least, I welcome the shade of Martin E. Green and of David Moore.

One came from another state, one, who, in after years, rose to high position in the counsels of the nation, and who is with us to contribute his part to the success of this celebration. He participated in this battle, and now he has

come to enjoy the recreation which is his due, and he is welcome to the old field of battle as an absent citizen to his country, a son to his father's home, I welcome you, General Noble, to this field of battle and to this celebration.

General John W. Noble, of St. Louis, ex-secretary of the interior, responded to the address of welcome. His speech is given in full in other columns of The Gate City this morning.

#### INTERESTING RELICS.

The reunion adjourned at the close of General Noble's speech, for dinner, and the afternoon program began with band concerts by the bands engaged, including a fife and drum corps.

President Johnson exhibited the old flag carried at the Battle of Athens by the confederate army. It was not a regimental flag, but was captured at Athens. It is a flag about three feet by five feet and has the words "Southern Rights" sewed on the front. There was also exhibited a cannon ball, a six pounder, which was dug out of the hill after the battle. The Green men had two cannons in the battle, one firing a nine-pound ball and the other a six-pound ball.

The stars and stripes which were owned by Captain Jackson's company and was the union flag at the battle of Athens, was also shown. This flag went through the war afterwards.

#### THE OLDEST SURVIVOR.

A. M. Harlan, a member of the company, is ninety years old and was the oldest survivor of the battle present. The afternoon was taken up by a camp fire. Mr. Williford, of Mt. Pleasant, sang several selections and many of those present made short talks during the hour, telling stories bearing on the battle of Athens and various anecdotes and experiences during the civil war.

Rev. Hurdman, of Revere, spoke, as also did Dr. T. J. Maxwell, A. J. Mathias and Post Commander George R. Nunn, of Keokuk.

## The Gate City.

AUGUST 10, 1899.

### THE CELEBRATION AT ATHENS

Interesting Reminiscences of the First Anniversary of the Famous Battle.

[Special to The Gate City.]

Peakesville, Mo., August 7, 1899.—The celebration of the Battle of Athens is over and gone. I am in a position to inform the citizens of Missouri, Iowa and Illinois that such a fiasco will not occur again. A call of all old soldiers and citizens interested will be made through the local press of the three states for a meeting on the fair grounds one day of the approaching

fair, when a regular organization will be formed, properly officered and with the purpose and intention of holding an annual celebration of the first regular battle of our war of 1861-5. Our friends and neighbors who wore the gray and made the battle necessary, are cordially invited to come out and help celebrate the day and meet old and long time friends and live over for a day the incidents and events of "auld lang syne."

Unfortunately there has been no head to direct and manage and no organized body to give prestige and backing to these celebrations and they have fallen into merited disrepute. The crowd which kept coming and going, intermittently all day last Saturday, August 5th, is sufficient evidence that the people want to celebrate the day, and the purpose now is to give them the opportunity in the future. If all the people who came had stayed, even though it was wet and rainy the greater part of the day, there would have been a crowd of two thousand or more of people. The Farmington Cigar Company band was present and discoursed most excellent and appropriate music. I was presented to the leader in whom I recognized a brother Odd Fellow and a most estimable gentleman, as well as a finished musician and conductor.

Mrs. J. D. Miller and daughter, Miss Myra, are visiting relatives and friends here and near Alexandria and at Athens and expect to return to their home in Denver, Colo., the 7th inst.

Miss Ethel Stafford of Chicago is the guest of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. D. S. Bedell, near Alexandria. All of these parties were former residents of Athens and all reported on the grounds last Saturday. Mrs. Miller is a sister of J. W. Townsend, of Keokuk.

The writer was present when Athens was named, in the long, cold winter of 1842-3. He was also chairman of the committee of invitations and wrote the invitations to all of the regular annual celebrations of the battle and the last one of which was held in the sugar grove at the lower edge of town in 1868. Sam Clark was one of our principal speakers. Colonel Leighton, well! you might just write about half of the names in the Keokuk city directory, for that date, and they could have answered when called on the grounds that day. Dan Houser was there with a delegation from St. Louis. Des Moines sent down a train load, Farmington was all there, and Burlington, Fort Madison, Quincy, Memphis, Bonaparte, Bentonsport, in fact, the world and his wife were there that day to the tune of over ten thousand people. The writer has a very vivid and distinct recollection of that particular day, as he was married that morning and himself and wife and eldest daughter went up last Saturday to celebrate the thirty-first anniversary.

END



## GENERAL NOBLE'S SPEECH AT ATHENS

His Resume of Events and Estimate of Leaders Delivered Yesterday.

### The Gate City.

AUGUST 9, 1900.

The address of General Noble at the Battle of Athens reunion yesterday was as follows:

Fellow citizens: We meet today as friends, whether we or our relatives served on the union or confederate side in the war for the union. So many years have elapsed, so many changes have taken place, so many old issues have been settled, and so many important events have since illuminated our nation's history with deeds of daring and triumph, in which the sons of the south as well as of the north have supported the flag of our common country, that we can now view without prejudice and discuss without passion those events which occurred from 1861 to 1865.

We meet once more on the border between the great states of Missouri and Iowa, either an empire in itself; and we recall a battle that occurred here on the fifth day of August, 1861, which though dwarfed by the tremendous events that surrounded and followed it on the wider fields of the national struggle, was in itself worthy the name we give it, a battle, and which well deserves consideration.

From almost the very beginning of the contest over the question whether the constitution carried with it slavery into the territories, Missouri occupied, to the close of the war, a peculiar and commanding position. It was upon the advent of this state into the union that the act known as the "Missouri compromise" was passed by congress. It was because of the repeal of that act, that the war was hastened, and indeed, it may be said, precipitated upon the country. Dred Scott, the negro slave who sought to have himself declared a freeman, because he had been taken by the master into a free state, brought his action in the United States circuit court at St. Louis, Missouri, and the decision in this Dred Scott case led to the great debate between Lincoln and Douglas, questioning whether a house divided against itself could stand.

#### FIGHTING IN MISSOURI.

Missouri, though a border slave state, refused by an overwhelming vote to adopt an act to secede from the union, and the war for the union ranged over her territory from this field, where we are today on the extreme northeast, to the battle field of Pea Ridge on the extreme southwest of the state. This field of Athens was the most northern

battle field of the civil war. As has been recently noted by a correspondent at Lancaster, Missouri, it is some sixty miles farther north than Gettysburg. In this contest was gained one of the first union victories. It was fought by troops on the northern side that were neither armed nor subsisted by the United States, and many of whom were not mustered at all; and on the southern side, by what were called Missouri state troops. The commanders were styled colonels; but those of the union troops were not commissioned as such by the United States. The obedience of the soldiers was voluntary and the discipline far from exact. The forces were augmented or diminished from day to day by the urgency of a threatened danger, or the need of labor at home to take care of the crops. There were but very few on either side that had even the very least military experience, or had ever heard the report of hostile shot. And it was quite a disputed question, whether the opponents were fighting for state rights to be asserted by force within state lines, or for national supremacy to be enforced regardless of state lines.

#### LOCAL ISSUES.

But the local issues that brought on this particular contest were two, whether the peace of northeast Missouri should rest upon the presence and control of union men or those in favor of secession; and whether the forces that had assembled under command of Colonel Green should obtain certain arms and supplies across the river from here, at Crofton, and threaten the adjoining borders of Iowa, including the city of Keokuk, where there was some much needed powder.

Colonel David Moore had been authorized by General Lyon to raise a company, which was styled the "First Northeast Missouri regiment," and Colonel Woodyard another company, styled the "Second Northeast Missouri regiment," and these two bodies were located at the time of this contest, Moore at Athens, and Woodyard at Canton. Moore had over three hundred men and Woodyard as many more, but of course they were not in supporting distance of each other; and there seems to have been some doubt in the mind of Colonel Green whether Colonel Moore was not at Canton. He is said to have thought he could strike the force at Athens in the absence of that officer. Colonel Green had with him an irregular force, but he had two pieces of artillery, upon which much reliance was placed. The attack was intended to be a surprise and was made almost at the break of day. But Colonel Moore was in fact at Athens, and

appeared very much in evidence on the eventful fifth day of August, 1861. There was a body of Iowa men, some eighty or more, which came up from Keokuk, upon warning of the approaching fight, and it was my fortune to have been with these, none of whom had been mustered into the service of the United States, and many of whom were not members of any military or

organization whatever. Those in command of these men, deemed it would not be lawful to invade Missouri, and so it was determined that all they would do would be to kill as many as possible of the enemy by shooting across the river, which constituted the boundary between the two states, and would strictly confine themselves to this lawful practice. Some of us, however, having crossed the river on a friendly search for a cup of coffee for ourselves, when the battle suddenly opened in the face of the right flank of Colonel Green's forces, and had to defend ourselves as best we could, until we rejoined our commands across the river. The river was, fortunately, not more than knee deep. We soon stood on Iowa soil, and maintained our position valiantly. Although both cannon balls and rifle shots reached us, we were able by our fire to aid in holding back the right wing of the enemy during the whole fight and so we deemed that we did good service. Whether we killed or wounded any one while on Missouri soil, was not known, and soon ceased to be much of a legal question.

#### SOME IMAGINATION.

To us, however, as to most of the men engaged on either side, as has been already noted, this was the very first engagement we were in of a war like nature, and the imagination had free play, in the absence of anything like experience, as to what was about to happen to us individually or as a command. The battle lasted for something like two hours, and was closed by a charge under Colonel Moore, which the forces of Colonel Green could not withstand, and they abandoned the field. There were five men killed on the southern side and some twenty wounded; and there were two killed on the union side, and a few wounded.

The following is the account of the battle given by Colonel Moore, as I find it in a paper on this battle read by Judge George W. McCrary, before the Loyal Legion at St. Louis, and preserved among the archives of that society:

"Scouts who were kept many miles in the front, reported the enemy advancing in strong force from the direction of Edina under command of Martin E. Green, colonel, and another force under Colonel Franklin, from Lancaster county, Missouri. \* \* \* The two rebel forces, variously estimated at from 900 to 1,500 men, formed a junction at or near Aetna, Missouri, and encamped in the Fox river timber about four miles from Athens. A dispatch



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was sent to Keokuk notifying the citizens that the enemy was advancing in strong force upon Athens, and in two hours two companies of the City Rifles arrived under the command of the gallant William W. Belknap. With this command came Hugh H. Sample and John W. Noble and others, numbering upwards of eighty men. Many, who here fired their first shots at an enemy afterwards joined Iowa regiments and won honor on many great battle fields for the union and freedom.

"During the night of the 4th, the line of sentinels was often visited by grand rounds and instructed in their duty. At sunrise on the morning of August 5, the advance mounted-pickets were driven in the long roll was beat to arms and in one minute a line of battle was formed and told off in groups of forty men. Each of my commands numbered 333 in line. Green opened two pieces of artillery on our center. The right of his line was touching the river on my left and his left touched the river on my right. Major Shacklet, with his battalion was on Green's right with their flank opposite the Iowa boys on the other side of the river. When the artillery opened, my mounted horsemen filed across the river, and Captain Spillman, with his company, also crossed with his colors flying; but Captain Small and his company stood just where they were posted. Nearly all the enemy's cannon shot flew over our heads. \* \* \* The firing soon became general on the whole line. They were armed with shot guns and squirrel rifles, which were no match for our improved muskets. The fight had lasted nearly two hours, when those posted on the right and left were ordered by me to stand fast, and the center to fix bayonets and move forward in common time. The men however soon broke into a charge, and the enemy fled in every direction from the field. \* \* \*

"As the fruits of the victory we captured many prisoners, 450 horses, saddles and bridles complete, hundreds of arms and a wagon load of long knives with which they expected to fight the infantry."

Colonel Moore, further wrote, that General Martin E. Green, who was a brother of Senator James S. Green, was afterwards killed at Vicksburg; that he was not a brilliant man like his brother, but was regarded as a very worthy citizen of Lewis county, Missouri. He had no knowledge of tactics or military evolutions, yet many of his command who remained in the service became good soldiers.

#### COLONEL MOORE.

This is as clear a description of the battle as is possible, and as our time is short let us for a few moments rather turn our attention to the character and achievements of that gallant soldier, who was the hero of this battle.

David Moore was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, July 3, 1817, and was by trade a carpenter and joiner; but

from his youth had a turn for military affairs, and became a soldier of the Mexican war, as captain of Company E of the Third regiment of Ohio volunteers. This was the regiment of which Samuel R. Curtis (afterwards of Keokuk) was colonel, and in which Judge James Love, (also afterwards of Keokuk) was also a captain. Captain Moore's record was that of a courageous and efficient officer, and he returned with honor to his native state, at the close of that war. He, however, removed to Clark county, Missouri, in 1851, and was at different times a farmer and merchant. But when the civil war broke out, he tendered his experience as a soldier and his fine qualities as a man at once for the service of the United States. As we have seen, he was given authority to raise the First Northeast Missouri regiment, and proved himself a capable commander. After the battle of Athens, his company, as well as that of Colonel Woodyard, moved from place to place in northeast Missouri, putting up the United States flag and maintaining the peace at the point of the bayonet.

On December 31, 1861, the First and Second Northeast Missouri regiments were, by order of the governor of Missouri, consolidated and mustered into the United States service as the Twenty-first Missouri volunteers, of which David Moore was commissioned colonel. And now this brave man was brought into that great contest between the north and the south, than which no greater war was ever waged and the valor, endurance and intelligence of the soldiers in which, on both sides, have never been excelled by any troops of ancient or modern times. We are apt to give undue praise to those who attract the present attention by acts of bravery and brilliant exploit, and we forget for a time, what others have achieved. This is human nature, and long since was noted by Shakespeare. In the exhortation to Achilles he causes Ulysses to express:

"To have done, is to hang  
Quite out of fashion, like rusty nail  
In monumental mockery. \* \* \*

"What they do in present  
Must overtop yours;  
For time is like a fashionable host,  
That slightly shakes his parting guest  
by the hand;  
And with arms outstretched, as he  
would fly,  
Grasps in the comer; welcome ever  
smiles,  
And farewell goes out sighing. \* \* \*

"The present eye praises the present object."

#### LATER SERVICE.

A short resume of Colonel Moore's service will recall what manner of man he was, and why we should remember him this day, not only for what he did here, but for what he continued to do throughout the war.

After the battle of Athens, Colonel Moore's first signal service was at the battle of Pittsburg Landing (Shiloh) where his regiment was in the first brigade of the sixth division—General Ben M. Prentiss being his brigade commander. And a reference to the Records of the Rebellion, published from original reports and correspondence exhibits that General Prentiss and the generals of the division and corps of the sixth division of the army under General Grant, at this battle, give unstinted praise to Colonel David Moore and his men.

Moore was sent on the evening of April 5, 1862, the day before the battle with the Twenty-fifth Missouri and five companies of the Twenty-first Missouri, to the front as an advance guard to obtain information. He returned that evening and reported some activity at the front. At 3 a. m. the next morning he was sent forward again. At break of day the advanced pickets retired, but Moore with his force pushed forward and engaged the enemy, there commanded by General Hardee. Moore sent a messenger to General Prentiss for the balance of companies of the Twenty-first Missouri, and thus the union army was informed of the immediate advance of the enemy. At 6 a. m. Moore was wounded; both bones of the leg below the knee were shattered. The action soon became general and the result is familiar to all. The sudden advent of the enemy would unquestionably have been far more destructive than it was, had it not been for the unflinching courage of Colonel Moore, who, with his small force, assailed the whole advancing army opposed to him.

#### SPECIAL PRAISE.

He was reported by General Prentiss (on his return from captivity) as worthy of special mention. Colonel Quinn (Twelfth Michigan volunteers) mentions him for his gallantry. Colonel Moore's own report states in detail the service he performed as does also Colonel Woodyard's.

The service of Colonel Moore here was all that courage and capacity could accomplish, and it is astonishing that among all the brigadiers that were then and subsequently being made, he was not one. He never was given more than a brevet brigadier generalship.

Colonel Moore's leg was amputated, but we find the gallant officer already in October, 1862, at the head of his regiment again, and leading his old regiment, the Twenty-first Missouri, at the battle of Corinth. This battle took place October 3 and 4. The regiment was in detached service in Kossuth, ten miles from Corinth, when it became apparent a battle would come on. Under orders it moved in the night and at daylight was in position, and was in the first charge upon the enemy. Moore's horse was shot from under him, and having received severe bruises in the fall, and having but one leg, he was carried off the field. But he soon recovered and again took command of his regiment.



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Colonel Moore now began to feel the results of his brave deeds and loss of limb, not in promotion, but in objection, that he was not fit for field service (having lost a leg). (See Fisk's report, January, 1863, Columbus, Kentucky). He, however, was kept in the field and did great work subsequently. On May 11, 1863, General Asboth, writing to General Hurlbut at Memphis, remarks that the Twenty-first Missouri is an old regiment, and its colonel a gallant, earnest officer, who lost a leg on the battle field of Shiloh.

Colonel Moore was actively engaged in marches and counter marches about Memphis, during the summer, at which time he was assigned to command of the Fourth brigade, Sixteenth army corps. But in January, 1864, he was placed in command of the First brigade, Third division, Sixteen army corps, under General A. J. Smith, on Big Black river; and at Grand Ecore, Louisiana, Moore's brigade defended the most important position in the whole line. Colonel William T. Shaw, command the Second brigade, who was himself a gallant soldier, spoke in his report of these troops, as "those heroes who learned to fight under old David Moore." Shaw was a comrade of Moore's in the battle of Shiloh, and they were both of the same make, out of the real stuff.

#### GOOD WORK.

In May, 1864, Moore took command of brave General Mower's old division, the Third division of the Sixteenth army corps. It was this division, under Moore, that went to the relief of Sturgis in June, 1864; and on July 14, 1864, it was the division that withstood Forrest at Tupelo, Mississippi. Moore's troops here awaited the advance of the enemy, to within 100 yards of his line, and then gave a volley and charged bayonets, driving the enemy precipitately. The commander and his men had not forgotten the charge they made at the battle of Athens, and here repeated it with like success. It is a good plan.

General Mower, who had been advanced to a larger command, but was at this battle of Tupelo, reports, "I cannot speak too highly of the conduct of both officers and men in the several engagements. It has been said of Colonel Moore, that he was in this battle, not with both feet, it is true, but with all he had. In August of 1864, Moore was at Memphis on detached service, but when Forrest in his famous raid attacked that city and even went down to the Gayoso hotel, Moore rallied what troops he could rapidly gather, formed a line on the Hernando road, and compelled the enemy to retire.

General C. C. Washburne, who was in command at Memphis during the Sturgis expedition and subsequently, makes special mention of Colonel Moore in his report of August 7, 1864. But Moore was not long allowed to remain off field duty, for in the fall of 1864 we find him, if possible, more active than ever, and now again, in Missouri, opposing the forces under Price, Marmaduke and others, in the raid into Missouri. Great

responsibility was placed on Colonel Moore's shoulders to watch and report the movements of the enemy and to prepare for defense. The result of Price's expedition is well known, and Colonel Moore's part in it was honorable and efficient.

#### A LONG MARCH.

When it was necessary to organize the troops for the department of Tennessee to meet the army of Hood, then expected to advance to the north, Moore was immediately called for. He marched his men through Missouri, three hundred and seventy-five miles back to St. Louis, was embarked on steamers and arrived in haste at Nashville, November 30, 1864. The battle came on, on the 14th and 16th of December.

General Garrard reports the daring and victorious action of his troops and of Colonel Moore. On the morning of the 15th, this division was outside the works and formed line of battle, the center being Moore's brigade. The whole division charged the enemy, who fled, abandoning artillery. Moore's command captured four guns and afterwards six more guns, which were seized by them while the enemy attempted to run them off. It was said the enemy at the battle of Athens after abandoning and hiding a cannon in the brush, crept back at night and carried it off. Colonel Moore at Nashville determined to take these guns while they were hot, and on the plate; and he did it.

Here is another opinion of a soldier; a general, who was present himself on the line of battle, knew the men and officers he commanded, as they knew him. He was no flatterer, but he was just. Major General A. J. Smith, reporting to General L. Thomas, the adjutant general of the army, January 20, 1865, states:

#### TO THE PRESIDENT.

"I desire to call the attention of the president to David Moore, colonel of the Twenty-first Missouri veteran volunteer infantry, who, in the commencement of the rebellion, rallied around him the loyal men of north Missouri, and drove from it the half-formed bands of rebels who were being organized there. In August, 1861, he was mustered into the service of the United States as a colonel and has held that rank ever since. At the battle of Shiloh, Colonel Moore lost a leg, and ere he had fairly recovered he reported to this regiment for duty. During the past year he commanded the First brigade of the Third division, Sixteenth army corps, and at the battle of Tupelo, Mississippi, he commanded the division. He now commands the first brigade of the second division of this command. Knowing that Colonel Moore has done and suffered enough for the country to deserve it, I most earnestly recommend that he be at once promoted to brigadier general of volunteers.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. J. SMITH,

"Major General."

This was praise from a praiseworthy

source. Colonel Moore afterwards became colonel of the Thirty-first regiment of Missouri volunteers, being placed in that command on May 1, 1865, but was, after some duty at St. Louis, mustered out August 31, 1865. He was brevetted, but his widow draws pension as the widow of a colonel.

If there were no other great distinction, the battle of Athens could claim. It would be great nevertheless, because here first appeared on the scene of our civil war, this brave, generous, uncomplaining, devoted and victorious officer and soldier of the union.

#### MET TO REJOICE.

There is no opportunity today to go into particulars further. Our meeting is rather to rejoice together at the wonderful events that have followed from that great civil war at the commencement of which the battle of Athens occurred and in which Colonel Moore took so meritorious a part. The strife was long and bloody, and gave rise, while it lasted, to all the bitter hatred that civil conflicts ever engender. But the fight was fought out. It was a fight between Americans, whom on either side, deemed they were justified on principle to maintain their opinions by arms. The issues on this wage of battle were settled in favor of the union and the constitution, and the freedom of our country from the institution of slavery. More than a third of a century has elapsed since the surrender of Appomattox, and more of those who served in the war have died since than were lost in the conflict itself. Those who are left, time has mellowed by experience and softened by charity. But above all, during the late war with Spain the old love of flag was lighted anew in all bosoms in all the states; and the sons of the north and the sons of the south vied with each other to give the cause of our reunited country loyal support and soul felt devotion. From out that war the United States came with great glory and such a display of power, by land and sea, as has raised her to a leading place among the nations of the earth; and is giving her the lead today in the far field of China, where it has become necessary for civilization to assert its rights under solemn treaty obligations to protect our citizens and the accredited representatives of our government, against butchery and outrage. We rejoice that the flag of our common country carries with it, at last, the power to protect our commerce, our people, our missionaries and our ambassadors in every land, and to demand from those who have treaties with the United States the same respect and protection our republic gives to them. This we are entitled to, this we intend to have, and this we will have, or know the reason why.

#### HOME PROSPERITY.

We also rejoice that our country is all prosperous at home. There is no people in this world which has better homes and more intelligent citizens than ours. For while there are many



who are in want, who are discontented, or who deem almost any change would be beneficial, yet it remains true that the great body of our fellow citizens are not only better off than any other nation in all that goes to make life worth living, but indeed enjoy and rejoice in comfort and plenty. We love the union, and the prosperity it secures for all our states and territories.

It is good for us to come together and to celebrate the past deeds of our heroes, but it is likewise good to look to the future—to bless the boys of San Juan and Santiago—of the fleets of Dewey and Sampson—and of those who are in the Philippines, and have recently fallen at Tien Tsin. Americans all—of the true blood. It is well for us to keep up with the column and to keep in touch with the progress of events, which is now sweeping the nations forward to higher aims and greater achievements.

Let us resolve to be friends of the flag, wherever it may be, and to support it, as Moore supported it at Athens; Sherman at Shiloh; Grant at Appomattox; Dewey at Manila; Wheeler at Santiago; Lee in Cuba; Otis in the Philippines; Liscum at Tien Tsin, and Chaffee may be giving his life this very hour to maintain on the road to Peking to save the ambassadors and their women from the savagery of the Boxers. Let us be courageous and have confidence in our country and the fidelity of our rulers, whoever they may be. We are a great factor now in the world's affairs, as well as the controller of our own welfare. Let us meet our responsibilities like soldiers, like statesmen, like American men and women, and all will be well for the world.

END

## THE DAILY GATE CITY.

DATE, AUGUST 7, 1884 matter

Subscription Rates:

### THE BATTLE OF ATHENS.

The Address Delivered by Col. J. M. Reid at the Anniversary.

At the anniversary of the battle of Athens, Mo., a detailed account of which appeared in yesterday morning's GATE CITY, Col. J. M. Reid, of this city, delivered the following address:

I did not have the honor to participate in the battle of Athens, being at that time with General Curtis' regiment, the First Iowa regiment, which entered the field stationed at St. Joseph, Mo. The battle of Athens was not a great battle compared to those in which we were afterward engaged, such as Shiloh, Corinth, the siege of Vicksburg and before Atlanta, but was great in its consequences. It saved northeast Missouri to the union, saved the Iowa border, its cities and villages from devastation, pillage and robbery. Rebellion was then rampant and on our way from Hannibal to St. Joseph in every city and village, where the

rebel flag was defiantly flying from house top to flag pole; at Chillicothe we captured a telegram from Governor Caleb Jackson to General Slack to burn all the railroad bridges. But we were too early and General Slack too late. He had fled. Everywhere in North Missouri recruits for the confederate army were being openly raised while here at the little town of Athens, "fame's eternal camping ground," Colonel Moore was raising a regiment known as the First northeast Missouri, afterwards consolidated and made the Twenty-first regiment, Missouri infantry volunteers, which under his command afterwards did gallant services in the field at Shiloh, and later under his command, poorly armed, badly equipped, without regulation, uniforms and living as they could on contributions from the early friends of the union he had, as the best authority says, only 300 men. Martin Green, afterwards brigadier general in the confederate army, brother of the distinguished and talented United States senator from Missouri, who could never tell which side he was on, was recruiting for the confederate army and had resolved, with a force numbering 1,600 men, to sweep the union forces from northeast Missouri. Well armed, well provisioned, in the midst of his friends, sympathizers and admirers, on foot and on horseback, cheered on his line of march at early dawn twenty-eight years ago, with two pieces of artillery he made an attack upon Athens. On they came, the woods was full of butternuts, though it was not the butternut season. Colonel Moore had his little force in line, with muskets loaded, and dressed in his uniform as an officer in the Mexican war. He marched proudly in front of his line to inspire his men, cautioning them to reserve their fire and not to waste their ammunition till the enemy came near, then to fire low. A solid twelve-pound shot from the rebel artillery fell at his feet. Looking at it coolly and contemptuously he cried out: "Who the hell ever heard of a man being killed by a cannon ball!" On they came, and with his clarion voice heard all along the line, he gave the order, "Ready! aim! fire! charge bayonets!" He led the charge, the men rushing forward on the enemy and the battle was fought and the victory won. The dead and wounded laid upon the field; many prisoners fell into our hands, with one piece of artillery. The other only gun exploded early in the action. Many wagons and 400 horses were left behind by the fleeing enemy and fell into Colonel Moore's hands. It is said Martin Green's followers on that eventful day thought hell was not one mile from this place. This ended the first battle, when the first musketry and artillery was fired, the first blood shed and the first organized rebel force defeated in northeast Missouri. Afterwards Colonel Moore followed Green over the northern part of Missouri, driving him and other rebel hands from the state. Too much credit cannot be given to Colonel Moore and his men. They saved northern Iowa and northeast Missouri

by their victory of that day and won by their valor the lasting gratitude of a grateful country. Less than a quarter of a century has elapsed since our country was menaced by rebellion and our flag insulted by an enemy at home. Peace reigns, its white winged messenger whispers, the story of the greatness of our people, with our flag, our country, round whose starry flag they are all ready to rally. The sudden roar of artillery is heard no longer,—the sulphureous smoke of battle has cleared away and clear skies and green fields and glorious sunlight tell us "How softly speeds the foot of time" that only heads on flowers, while sixty millions of the free, the beautiful and the brave march forward in the army of progress.

—Among those present at the battle of Athens, August 5, 1861, was Aaron W. Harlan, an old and prominent citizen of Lee county and frequent newspaper contributor. He was quartermaster sergeant of Col. Moore's regiment, the 21st Missouri Infantry and was conspicuous for the active part he took at the battle of Shiloh, bringing up ammunition to soldiers under fire.

## Constitution-Democrat.

SEPTEMBER 29, 1903.

### IOWA'S CANNON BALL.

The Only One Ever Fired Into the State During War.

The first and only cannon ball ever fired in the state of Iowa with hostile intent has been received by Curator Aldrich of the Iowa Hall of History at Des Moines. The ball and a shot-worn confederate flag was sent by David C. Beaman, a former Ottumwan, who is now located in Denver, Col.

The cannon ball was fired at the battle of Athens, Mo., on August 5, 1861, at the very opening of the civil war. The battle was an engagement hardly worthy of the name. A band of confederate guerrillas under the command of General Green, assembled in Missouri, and started for the Iowa line. The Iowa people gathered to oppose their advance and mustered at Croton. Immediately across the river was the town of Athens, which was occupied by the confederates. Mr. Beaman was station agent at Croton at the time, and while he, in company with W. W. Belknap, later secretary of war, was standing in the station, a six-pound cannon ball, the first and only one whizzed over his head and lodged harmlessly in a field on the farm owned by Mr. Beaman's father. It was later dug up and saved as a relic.

"THE GREAT GUN THAT CALLED HISTORY"  
R. J. BECKEL, NEOKOK, IOWA



# THE BATTLE OF ATHENS

## General Bussey's Account of the Conflict.

### An Exceedingly Interesting Description of the Battle That Was Fought at Athens.

JULY 12, 1901.

The Annals of Iowa contains the following interesting account of the battle of Athens, Mo., which was so intimately connected with Keokuk war history, written by General Cyrus Bussey:

"The repulse of our forces at Bull Run aroused the whole secession element in Missouri, which organized into military companies for service in the confederate army. These companies in northeastern Missouri were under the command of General Martin Green. These forces overran the country, driving union men from their homes and causing terror among all loyal people.

After the close of the extra session of the Iowa legislature (May 15-29, 1861), in which I was a senator, elected as a democrat, I was on the 11th of June, 1861, appointed by Governor Kirkwood aide-de-camp on his staff, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel of cavalry, and authorized by the governor to assume control over the militia organization in southeastern Iowa.

I resided at Bloomfield, in Davis county, about twelve miles from the Missouri line. I went to work at once to prepare for the defence of the towns in the border counties of Iowa, visited Keosauqua, in Van Buren county, and Keokuk, and arranged for the organization of one company of mounted riflemen in Lee, Van Buren and Davis counties. I had information that rebel forces in large numbers occupied every county seat in northeastern Missouri, and had reason to expect they would make a raid into Iowa, to steal horses and other supplies before going south to join the army under General Sterling Price.

I reported to Governor Kirkwood these facts, and asked that arms be sent me. The governor replied that he had not been able to secure any. I then telegraphed to General Fremont, who had just arrived at St. Louis to command the department of the Missouri, that a large force threatened northeastern Missouri and southeastern Iowa, and that I wanted arms and ammunition to arm home guards. He replied promptly that it was impossible to supply them.

About three hundred loyal men, under Colonel David Moore, organized as home guards and established a camp at Athens, on the Des Moines river,

twenty miles west of Keokuk. These forces were without arms, except shot guns and rifles sufficient to arm about one-third of their men. Colonel Moore barricaded the streets of the town and adopted other measures of defence.

In connection with other business at Bloomfield I owned a pork house which gave employment to several men. One of these, a foreigner, I was sure I could trust, as he was in every way discreet, and I had abundant evidence of his loyalty. I sent him to Missouri with instructions to visit the various camps of the enemy, and learn if possible if they intended a raid into Iowa. I told him not to return until he could bring me reliable information.

I left Bloomfield for Keokuk, and on the 30th of July arrived in St. Louis. I went to General Fremont's headquarters and after some delay was admitted to the general's room. I found him alone, standing by a large table on which was the U. S. map. I represented to him the presence of Green's forces in northeastern Missouri near the Iowa line, and expressed my belief that they would make a raid into Iowa before going south, and that to defend ourselves we must have arms. He expressed regret that it was impossible to spare one gun. He said he had organized regiments ready for service but without guns to arm them.

I asked him to give me fifty rounds of ammunition. He asked me what I would do with it without any arms. I told him I would feel safer with the ammunition. He gave me an order on Captain Callender in charge of the arsenal, who shipped the ammunition that night to Keokuk, where it was put into storage.

I informed General Fremont that the Fifth Iowa infantry, Colonel Worthington, and the Sixth Iowa, Col. McDowell, were in rendezvous at Burlington, waiting arms and equipments, and that if moved to Keokuk their presence there would render our position perfectly safe. He at once gave me the following:

Headquarters Western Department,  
St. Louis, Mo., July 30th, 1861.

Col. Cyrus Bussey. Sir: You will order the Fifth Iowa regiment, Col. Worthington, and the Sixth Iowa, Col. McDowell, to proceed immediately to Keokuk. Col. Worthington will take command and immediately on his arrival at Keokuk will report to Brig. Gen. Pope, commanding North Missouri. Respectfully, your obedient servant.

J. C. FREMONT,

Major General Commanding.

I immediately telegraphed this order to Col. Worthington and left that night for Keokuk, much pleased with the result of my day's work.

Immediately on the arrival of these troops at Keokuk they were ordered to St. Louis owing to the invasion of Missouri by a large force under Gen. Stirling Price.

During my several visits to Keokuk, Col. Moore sent his officers to me for arms and ammunition. I had a lot of powder which belonged to the state, a part of which with some lead I gave him, and promised to supply him with arms if I succeeded in procuring any.

On my arrival at Bloomfield on the first day of August, I heard reports that the rebel forces in the northern border counties were very active, and fears were expressed that they would come into our state. My messenger had not returned, causing me to feel that there was no immediate danger. That night, however, about eleven o'clock I was called up, and upon opening the door found the man I had sent to Missouri, who informed me that General Martin Green, with a force of 1,500 rebels—then shoeing their horses—would start within two or three days to make an attack at some place in Iowa. He heard Keokuk talked about and believed that was their objective point. I arranged for a conveyance that night, and left Bloomfield the next morning at 4 o'clock, and rode thirty miles to Summit, where, at 9 o'clock, I took a train for Keokuk, arriving there at noon. After notifying the railroad officials that their road and depots were in danger, I went to the office of Samuel F. Miller, late justice of the United States supreme court, then a prominent lawyer to confer with him about the defence of the city, and had been there but a short time, when John Givin, late general superintendent of the Iowa division of the Rock Island railway, then ticket agent at Keokuk, came to me with a bill of lading for one thousand stand of arms and equipments, which had just arrived on a train from Burlington. These guns were shipped by the war department at Washington, D. C., consigned to Council Bluffs, Ia., via Hannibal, Missouri, to arm the Fourth Iowa infantry, commanded by Col. G. M. Dodge.

I at once decided to seize these arms, and use them to arm the people for their own protection. I realized the great responsibility I was about to resume. I knew very well that no representations I or any one else could make would bring an order to take them. I gave the railroad company written instructions to deliver the guns to me, and to hold a train in readiness to take me and the arms out on the road as soon as I could arrange to leave. The fifty thousand rounds of ammunition which I had secured from Gen. Fremont were of the same calibre as the guns, so that now I had guns and ammunition, and felt that I could place the people on the border in position to defend themselves.

The legislature at the extra session in May had authorized the organization of a regiment of cavalry for home guard duty in the southern border counties of the state. I had called into the service a company in Lee county under Capt. Hugh J. Sample, one in Van Buren county under Capt. E. Mayne, and one in Davis county under Captain H. H. Trimble.

I delivered one hundred guns and ammunition to Capt. Sample, to arm his company, and one hundred to Capt. W. W. Belknap, late secretary of war, then a lawyer at Keokuk. Capt. Belknap had a fine company which he had organized two or three years before. These men offered their services should occasion require. I left Keokuk the same afternoon with 800 guns. About 200 of these went to



arm Col. Moore's men at Athens. The parties receiving them were Capt. James S. Best and Lieut. W. F. Harl of Memphis, Missouri, who had a company of one hundred and thirty-five men at Athens. D. K. Turk took forty guns and Joseph Bayless and A. Anderson sixty guns, with ammunition. All these were for use at Athens. At Farmington, four miles beyond Athens, I left one hundred guns with Capt. O. H. P. Scott, and at Summit 200 guns for Capt. Mayne's company, and for Henry C. Caldwell (now judge of the United States circuit court) who was then a prominent lawyer at Keosauqua to arm another company.

I arrived at Ottumwa about 7 o'clock that night, with the remaining guns; hired wagons with which to haul them to Bloomfield; traveled all night and arrived there at daylight.

Arms were furnished to Captain Trimble's company, and other companies were organized for temporary service, one of them by Mr. George Duffield.

Feeling that these forces would be able to protect the town, I left Bloomfield the next morning, the 4th of August, at 4 o'clock, for Summit, to take the train for Keokuk. When about half way to that point I met a messenger riding as fast as his horse could go to bring me the information that the rebels in large force had appeared before Athens. Col. Moore had been notified of the approach of the enemy by refugees, and was prepared to receive them. He telegraphed to Keokuk for reinforcements, and sent messengers to Farmington and other points for aid.

On my arrival opposite Athens, before 10 o'clock, heavy firing between Green's forces and Col. Moore's home guards was then going on. The enemy had completely surrounded the town and no doubt expected to compel the surrender without the sacrifice of their men.

A few minutes before my arrival, a special train arrived from Keokuk bringing several hundred men, including the companies of Capts. Sample and Belknap, and companies of the Sixth Iowa infantry, who had not yet been able to get transportation to St. Louis.

These forces were forming in line when I made my appearance. Some of the men raised the question as to whether or not the Iowa militia had a right to cross the river into Missouri. Having the necessary authority from both the governor of Iowa and Major General Fremont I ordered these forces and a detachment from Farmington to cross the river, then very low and fordable, and attack the enemy's right flank.

Without a moment's hesitation these companies moved forward, into the river and up the bank on the other side, sending a heavy fire into the ranks of the enemy. These reinforcements were evidently wholly unexpected. The effect was to completely demoralize the rebels, who rapidly retreated, leaving thirty-five or forty men killed and wounded.

Among those who came up from Keokuk to take part in the fight, was John W. Noble, a young lawyer of

Keokuk, who shouldered a musket and was one of the first to cross the river, firing on the enemy as he went. He was slightly wounded in the engagement, but not disabled. He afterwards rendered distinguished service in my regiment, the Third Iowa cavalry, succeeding to the colonelcy, and later became distinguished as secretary of the interior under the Harrison administration.

The rebels had artillery and fired several shots across the river, but none of their troops reached Iowa soil.

Colonel David Moore who commanded the Home Guards at Athens, proved himself a hero. With 300 men who had never been under fire, he held his position behind barracks in the streets of Athens, until reinforcements arrived.

I had spread information at Keosauqua, Summit and other points as I came through, that the enemy were at Athens, and in a few hours Captain Mayne with a large force from Keosauqua, Captain O. H. P. Scott and others, with two or three hundred men from Farmington, arrived.

Colonel Moore was anxious to follow the enemy and proposed that if the Iowa companies would join his forces he would start next morning. I called our men together and found them willing and anxious to go. About 600 Iowa men with Colonel Moore's 300 left Athens early the next morning and drove the enemy under General Green across the Missouri river.

But for my action in providing ammunition, and seizing government arms, two-thirds of Colonel Moore's men would have been without arms. The 6th Iowa infantry would not have been at Keokuk but for the fact that I had it sent there. The Keokuk companies would not have been armed, and there would have been no forces to go to Moore's relief. Under these circumstances Moore would have been compelled to retreat into Iowa or surrender. The enemy would have crossed the river, destroyed the railroad, and marched to Keokuk, where they could have robbed the banks, pillaged the town and made their escape to Alexandria, five miles distant, where they would have been among friends.

I think I have shown that without my active co-operation as above stated there would have been no victory at Athens.

I had taken Colonel Dodge's guns and must make that fact known to the war department. Gov. Kirkwood learned I had taken them before he learned the cause. He wrote me a letter disapproving of my action and directing me to send the guns forward to Council Bluffs. Judge Caleb Baldwin, aide-de-camp to the governor, also heard of my theft of the guns, and wrote me a sharp letter, in which he said that after the governor and our senators and representatives in congress had failed to get arms he had advanced the money to pay Colonel Dodge's expenses to Washington, believing he would succeed in getting arms, which he did, and could not understand why I should seize them. Before I had time to answer this letter I received another from Judge Baldwin, saying he had just

seen Joseph Shepard, superintendent of the United States Express company, who had informed him of the circumstances under which I had taken the guns and that they had secured a union victory at Athens, and that I had done what was right in the matter. Governor Kirkwood also wrote me approving my action.

I visited St. Louis on the 9th of August to report to General Fremont. On reaching his headquarters I was immediately admitted. I gave the general a full report of my movements and action since I had seen him ten days before, and my action in taking the arms, and the use made of them in the battle at Athens. I explained that the guns were widely scattered, and that it would be impossible to get them together until the country was more peaceful. I asked him to request the war department to duplicate Col. Dodge's requisition. General Fremont expressed himself greatly pleased with my action in everything I had done. He said he did not believe one man in a million, not in the United States service, would have assumed the responsibility of taking government arms in transit on a railway train.

He said I ought to be in the United States service, that I had shown my fitness to command. He stated that he would communicate with the war department and requested me to return the next day, which I did, when he handed me an appointment as colonel with authority to raise a regiment of cavalry.

On Colonel Moore's return to Athens, after his march after General Green's forces, he brought in about thirty prisoners, some of whom were prominent citizens of Alexandria. Few, if any, of them were captured in arms. Some of these men appealed to General Fremont, who referred the appeal to Brigadier Pope, commanding North Missouri, who telegraphed me to go to Athens, investigate the charges against the prisoners, and send to St. Louis, under guard, any I might find against whom charges of treason could be sustained. I performed this duty, sending four of the prisoners to St. Louis in charge of Captain Charles C. Smith, 13th U. S. Infantry, who had just completed the muster in of my regiment, the 3d Iowa Cavalry. The other prisoners I discharged."



## BATTLE OF ATHENS.

That Exciting Engagement Graphically Described by H. Scott Howell.

His Address Before Torrence Post, G. A. R., Presenting the Roster and Articles of Association of the Keokuk City Rifles.

There is so much of interest to the people of Keokuk and vicinity in the address delivered by H. Scott Howell Thursday night in presenting to Torrence post, G. A. R., the roster and articles of association of the old Keokuk City Rifles, that it is given in full in this issue. That was a splendid company and many of the names on the roster have won nation-wide fame. Much of the address is occupied with a description of the Battle of Athens, the engagement fought nearest Keokuk during the war. It is thought that this description is the most complete and comprehensive of that battle yet prepared and the address on that account has a special historical value. Following is

## The Address.

To the Commander and Members of Torrence Post, Soldiers and Gentlemen:

I shall never forget the emotions which filled my heart and mind, when I first gazed upon the Declaration of Independence. I remembered that it was penned in perilous times. It began with the memorable words, "we hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Then follows a clear and bold declaration of the wrongs, which the colonists had suffered at the hands of the British king; a reverential appeal to the God of battles to enable them to maintain their rights and to redress their wrongs; and closes with a mutual pledge of the signers of all that was sacred and valuable to them, in these devoted words: "And for the support of the declaration, with a firm reliance in the protection of divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor." It was signed by fifty-six, as noble, brave and unselfish men as ever lived on this earth; men who became eminent in the various walks of life, as statesmen, warriors, jurists, doctors, ministers and philosophers. They have all passed from the stage of action, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, the last survivor, having died in 1832. The ink in which this magna charta of American liberties is written, and in which the bold signatures hereto are signed, has almost faded from the parchment; but the principles, if not the very

words, of that wonderful instrument, shall ever be preserved in the imperishable memories of American patriots in all time to come.

And it is well and fitting for a grateful posterity to cherish and preserve that parchment with something of the veneration, with which the old Jews preserved the sacred oracles of their God. It is, indeed, a precious document; and no American violates any commandment of his God, by sacredly guarding and keeping it.

My friends, it is with feeling, not altogether different from those I experienced when looking at that old war record of 1776, that I handle tonight, another local record made in this city in 1861.

It was also made and signed at the beginning of a great war; a war fought for the life of the Nation, for the preservation of our Union and which resulted in the universal freedom of the enslaved of our land.

Dark clouds of war had been gathering over our political horizon for weeks and months. Treachery had been robbing our national arsenals of arms and ammunition to strengthen the power of southern forts. Treason raised its hideous head and brandished its gleaming sword in the councils of the Nation. And then there came a portentous hush of silence over our land, while the silent poison of rebellion was being infused into the body politic, but before long, the first clear, booming shot of a misguided people fired upon devoted Sumpter on the 12th of April, 1861, went ringing round the land and sent a thrill through the heart of every true American and patriot. It was a clarion call to arms. Quickly, nobly, heroically, did the citizen soldierly respond to that call. They came from farm and field, from city and town, from college and church, from bench and bar, from store and manufactory, from ship and railroad; came from business of every kind, and from homes everywhere to offer their services in the defense of a Union for which they, too, were willing to pledge their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor.

It was a noble and patriotic purpose with which the armies of the north gathered together. It was to preserve the life and power of the whole government, to keep the Union of these states one and inseparable, and to perpetuate the blessings of freedom to all our people.

Patriotism was the universal motive which inspired the soldiers of the north.

While it was the personal ambition and treachery of the leaders of the south, with their inflammatory appeals to sectionalism, and for the peculiar institution of those states which enabled them to gather a mighty host of our southern brothers and lead them into a most unnatural strife.

All the cruel enginery of war was put in operation. Millions of money

was spent and hundreds of thousands of precious lives were sacrificed in that fraternal strife. A mighty carnival of death ensued. The life of the Nation hung trembling in the balance. The old nations of Europe watched with eager eyes and sordid speculation the varying fortunes of the contending forces.

But the eye of Almighty God was also upon this devoted land. From within the serenities of His eternal habitation, he saw the mighty conflict. He decided the right should prevail that the slave should be free; that the Nation should live, and that the old flag of the stars and stripes should again float as it now does, over a re-nited, a free and happy people.

But I am not here tonight to recount the scenes of the war. I am only expected to say a word about a local company, formed in this city, and to present to the Torrence post for future preservation, the roster of the members who composed it, with a relic of a battle in which they were engaged.

I have reminded you that fire on Fort Sumpter was opened on the 12th day of April, 1861. Just twelve days after that memorable event, on the 24th day of April, a military company called "the City Rifles of Keokuk," was organized in the court house in this city for "home protection and military discipline;" and two days thereafter articles of association and rules of government were adopted and signed.

It is those articles, and that roster, which I as one of the surviving members of that company am delegated by Dr. E. E. Fuller, the donor, who was also a member of that company to give into your keeping tonight.

It is a little document, but in it is the spirit of '76. There is in it the statement that "every American citizen should be prepared for the duties of war, as well as of peace." That the company should be an efficient armed body, for the protection of the city; that the members should meet for military drill and active service when needed, and should strictly observe and obey the articles of war as established by the government of the United States," for all of which, they severally pledged "their honor as American citizens."

This roll is signed by eighty-one persons, but I am satisfied that more than 100 became members of the company. I have had access to the records of the company which are now in the hands of William Fulton, Esq., who was the last secretary, and from them and other sources I find the first set officers who were elected on the 24th of April, 1861, by acclamation were John A. McDowell, captain; W. H. Worthington, first lieutenant; Erie J. Leech, second lieutenant; Lewis G. Evans, orderly sergeant, and R. F. Patterson, secretary.

The company had in all five captains, viz: John Adair McDowell, W. H. Worthington, W. W. Belknap,



George L. Plummer and John H. Craig, in the order above named.

As near as I can learn about seventy of the members went into the army and many of them became distinguished soldiers. If I am right in supposing that George W. McCrary joined the company then two of its members became secretaries of war, General W. W. Belknap, under the administration of General Grant, and George W. McCrary, under Hays; at least four became generals in the army, viz: John A. McDowell, W. W. Belknap, A. G. McQueen and John Bruce, while a large number became colonels, captains, adjutants and lieutenants, and many a hard fought battle field attested their personal bravery. Although so many left the company to join the regular army of volunteers, yet the company kept up its numbers pretty well and continued to hold its meetings for drill in their hall and on the street, and to do guard duty in and about the city, especially guarding the powder depots out on the Plank

road for about two years. From that time to the end of the war few meetings were held; and the last record in the secretary's book is of date Oct. 15, 1869, when a banquet was given by the Rifles to General W. W. Belknap at Gibbons' opera house in honor of his appointment as secretary of war. The uniform of the City Rifles was made of gray cloth with black braid trimmings and cap to match; our arms were a short, heavy gun with a large bore, called Yeagers, which sent a ball with great precision at long range. Target shooting was practised by the company and many members became very expert shots.

The Rifles were very proficient in drill and the officers and men of the several volunteer companies and regiments, which were recruited at this place, came often to witness and take lessons from our movements and evolutions on Main street.

Being upon the border of a southern state, Missouri, the northern part of which was, in the earlier part of the war, overrun with bushwhackers; and Keokuk being a border city, which presented a very tempting bait for their looting, it became a very important matter to have here a good and efficient military company ready for action at a moment's notice, and it was doubtless owing to the existence of the City Rifles and of another company called "Keokuk Rangers" that our city was not sacked by the southern rebels who were continually hovering on our southern border and once came into the town of Alexandria and committed some robberies there.

#### The Battle of Athens.

This brief sketch would not be complete if it did not give some account of the battle of Athens, Mo., the only battle in which the City Rifles were engaged. Local historians do not agree in all particulars about this battle, but from all I know about

it and all I can learn from others and from the accounts published at the time in our daily papers the following I believe to be substantially correct:

Late in the summer of 1861 Colonel Moore began to recruit for the Twenty-first regiment of Missouri volunteers at Athens, and he kept his supplies in the depot at Croton, Ia., on the opposite side of the Des Moines river, for greater security. These supplies the rebels wanted to get. On two or three occasions prior to the 4th of August, 1861, reports were sent down to Keokuk that the rebels were about to make an attack on Colonel Moore's camp at Athens, and each time some volunteers went up to his defense, but the rebels failed to put in their appearance. On Sunday night of Aug. 4, 1861, about 11 o'clock, a messenger came into Keokuk on a hand-car, greatly excited, and reported that 1,500 rebel troops were advancing on Athens and would open fire on Moore's camp before daylight. Some doubted the report and thought it was another false alarm; but in the course of an hour about forty of the City Rifles and perhaps twice as many more of the Keokuk Rangers were at the depot and started for Croton on the cars. All was quiet when we arrived at Croton, and the men from Keokuk were placed along the Iowa bank of the river to await the expected attack of the enemy.

From the best information I can get Colonel Moore had about 400 or 500 men in his camp on the other side of the river, and they had, just the day before, been furnished with their new guns—a fact of which the rebels were then ignorant and had supposed they only had a few inferior guns.

Daylight came, the sun arose, the day advanced and still no enemy appeared. The boys were without breakfast and began to forage about for something to eat; some of the boys started to cross the river, which was very low. When about 7 o'clock the rebels, numbering about 1,500, came suddenly and swiftly into Athens in three divisions—one entering above, the other through a cornfield at the lower part of the town, while a third or center division occupied the elevation back of the town where they planted their cannon with which they opened the battle. The first shot of their cannon went directly over the depot at Croton and buried itself in a bank several hundred feet beyond. The chunk of wrought iron (for the rebels had no cast cannon balls) is here on the table tonight. The boom of that gun quickly brought the scattered soldiers of the two companies from Keokuk into their respective positions, in which their commanders had placed them, for battle during the night. The City Rifles under the command of General, then captain, Belknap, were farthest down the river; while the Keokuk Rangers and some citizens of Croton occupied a

position next to the depot. It did not need any command for the boys to fire because they commenced to shoot at the rebels in the edge of the corn field across the narrow river almost as soon as the right wing of the enemy opened fire on them.

Colonel Moore's men engaged the main division in the left flank of the rebels in a closer contest.

I make the following quotation from a very meager report of the battle sent from Athens on the 5th of August, and which was published in THE DAILY GATE CITY on the 6th, it says:

"The rebels had one nine-pounder, one six-pounder and one log cannon. Colonel Moore placed his companies to the right and left. After a fight of one and three-quarters of an hour the rebels ran and were pursued for three quarters of an hour. The rebels had the advantage of the grounds. The Union men that were killed are, Rev. M. Harrison, taken prisoner and murdered, W. C. Sullivan and Wm. Sprunce. About twenty of the rebels were killed, some of whom are yet unburied." I may add that it was afterwards proved that fifteen more rebels were found to have been either killed, or badly wounded, and a large part of them were in that cornfield opposite the position held by the City Rifles and Keokuk Rangers.

The enemy's left flank, which was opposite to Colonel Moore's men, first gave way, seeing which the City Rifles, the Keokuk Rangers and soldiers of Croton charged their right wing, resting in that cornfield, and it also soon broke into a retreat and rout.

The published account also says at this point: "In crossing the river Dr. Dickey of Farmington was badly wounded. Constable Hendrickson got a buckshot in his leg. John Bruce, of the firm of McCrary & Bruce, and J. W. Noble were slightly grazed."

It was about this time also, when Louis Barnesconi cited a rebel on horseback, whose shot had come uncomfortably close to Louie's head, and by his better aim tumbled the rebel from his saddle, and afterwards captured his horse.

The republished account of the battle also says: "John Stannus of Keokuk has a horse won by his rifle." But it does not enumerate the number of enemies slain by him.

A further account published a few days after the battle, said: "When the first volley came whistling over the heads of the raw recruits, twenty-five or thirty of them weakened and ran, and three or four of them halted not until they had reached Montrose." This I have always regarded as an exaggeration and a slander. I think it may be true that a few men who had gone to houses in the village of Croton to get their breakfast did not come back, after the fight was on. I do not believe there was a member of the City Rifles, or a man from Keokuk, with perhaps one or two exceptions, who went up to



# BATTLE OF ATHENS.

(Continued from fourth page.)

Oroton that Sunday night that was not in that battle and who did not act bravely there.

Before noon of the 5th, a wild report reached Keokuk that a great battle had been fought at Athens; that the rebels had defeated and driven the Union men into Oroton, and that the City Rifles and Keokuk Rangers were all cut to pieces.

There was a great hurrying to and fro. The Fifth and Sixth Iowa infantry were then recruiting men in Keokuk. The account as published in THE GATE CITY says: "Then what a hurrying there was here, citizens rampaging around town; companies going on double quick time to the depot. Soon four or five companies of the Fifth and three or four of the Sixth (and it might have truly said also, the rest of the City Rifles) were soon at the depot. A brass six-pounder was hauled down there. Provisions, baggage, etc., were on hands. Everybody was eager to get off to Oroton and save our friends. Minutes dragged into half hours, and at last an engine came from Oroton, bringing the news of the victory."

"A great shout went up, and all hearts were relieved. But the train went on up to Oroton to secure the public peace and safety of the people." They all returned the same day.

About one week later there came another report and call for troops; in response to which, the whole company of the City Rifles and others went to Oroton in the afternoon and camped on the same ground occupied by them before, put out their pickets and slept on their arms, but as no bushwhackers appeared, they returned to Keokuk the next day. On this occasion the Rifles saw several wounded rebels who asked what kind of wicked guns we had in the battle which had made such fearful havoc with them in the corn field?

## Incidents.

I might mention one or two incidents about that battle before I close.

Colonel Moore had a son, Eugene, in the rebel ranks. When the boy heard his father shout out the order, to "Charge bayonets," Eugene said to his men, "we had better run boys, because Dad means just what he says, he means business." Colonel Moore captured that boy and made him a prisoner of war, notwithstanding the earnest protest of the boy's mother.

On going up to Oroton on the cars, a big, well-known citizen of Keokuk and a member of the Rangers, was giving instructions to some of the younger soldiers how to prepare for battle, and said, "boys, I will tell you how to be brave, just chaw gunpowder, and wash it down with whiskey," and he proceeded to give a practical illustration of his theory, with a liberal use of the whiskey.

There is another incident in connection with the battle of Athens, which I wish to recall, and which should be remembered as an act of true heroism, both on the part of the mother and her son, who were the actors in it.

Mrs. Sackett of Luray saw the rebels maneuvering near her residence, and, with great tact and true bravery, at once determined to convey the information to Colonel Moore. So she wrote him a letter, hid it in the clothing of her son and placed him and another boy on horses with a sack of corn on each and told them to ride into Colonel Moore's headquarters, sixteen miles away, and deliver to him her letter, and if they were halted on the way by anyone to say they were going to the mill.

The brave little lads got through safely, although they were halted on the trip, and delivered the message to Colonel Moore, thus placing him on his guard.

At the time this battle took place the lines between the Union men and secessionists had been pretty clearly drawn. Each party was contriving for the control of northern Missouri. Many persons in that section were in doubt for a long time which party they would affiliate with. It was a fact, I believe, that only a short time before the battle of Athens Colonel Moore received a large vote of a rebel company, recruited at Alexandria, to be their captain. Whether Colonel Moore ever sought that office or sympathized with the rebels I can not say; but certain it is that all of his actions at the battle and afterwards in the war showed him to be a good Union soldier and brave officer.

G. M. Ochiltree, now of this city, was then living in St. Francisville, Mo., says, when he heard through a mail carrier late that Sunday evening that Mart Green's men were coming from Luray to attack Moore's camp, he mounted a horse, crossed the Des Moines river at St. Francisville into Iowa to avoid the "Secesh, who were thick on the other side," and got into Oroton just as the train arrived from Keokuk; and he went over to Moore's camp and got a new gun and was in one of Moore's companies when the battle began.

Mr. Ochiltree says that after a few rounds had been fired a big, burly blacksmith from this town became terribly frightened and said to Colonel Moore that he had become very sick and was going to retreat. Colonel Moore replied with an oath, calling him a coward and said if he did not take his place in the line again and fight that he would shoot him on the spot. And the blacksmith did resume his place and fought well and received a wound in his arm.

Howard Tucker was our orderly, and just before the battle began Captain Belknap had sent him with a squad of six rifles to relieve a guard, who had all night been keeping some rebels prisoners in the school house in Oroton. As Tucker came near the school house a lady of Oroton point-

ing to one of the notable prisoners named Musgrove, said, "Mr. Soldier, I want you to shoot that grey headed old scoundrel," but just then this cannonball here on the table came so near to Tucker's head that he thinks he felt its concussion and caused him to turn about and quickly march his squad back to pay their attention to rebels with guns on the other side of the river.

I see from a book called, "Statistical Records of the Armies of the United States," that there were 2,261 battles and skirmishes fought during the war of the rebellion; they are arranged and numbered in the order in which they occurred; and this battle of Athens is numbered as the forty-fifth, and fought Aug. 5, 1861.

Oh! how little we then thought that more than 2,000 other battles would be fought, in which over 300,000 of precious lives would be lost before that cruel war would be over.

If at that time we could have lifted the veil of the future and with panoramic vision seen all those bloody battlefields; if we could have watched them from the first shots fired on the picket lines; through the clash and crash of arms; through the rattle and roar of musketry; through the impetuous charge of horse and rider; through smoke and thunder of belching cannons; and heard the wild shouts of victory; heard not by the unconscious ears of the thousands slain; it would have appalled the stoutest hearts.

Better is it that the future is a sealed book. Infinite wisdom wisely turned one page each day.

Compared with others I saw but little of the war. The City Rifles was the only military company in which I rendered any services. But I saw enough to make me wish and pray that never again might our country be engaged in another war unless our Nation's existence or our Nation's honor were involved.

The first military burials in Keokuk were conducted by the City Rifles. The battle of Shiloh, or Pittsburg Landing, in which so many Iowa troops were engaged, took place on the 5th and 6th days of April, 1862, and many of the wounded, both of the federal and confederate troops, were brought to this city. Many of our own citizens were in that bloody battle.

There were very inadequate provisions made for taking care of the wounded. After the battle, with their wounds badly dressed, or not dressed at all, the men were sent to hospitals in the north.

I well remember the Sabbath morning following that great battle, when the steamboats, floating the yellow flag, came to our wharf, filled with sick, wounded and dying soldiers. No services were held in our churches that day, but all of our citizens turned out to carry the sick and wounded soldiers from the steamboats to the Estes House and into this very hall, in which Torrence post occupies tonight. The women



of Keokuk had at short notice prepared hundreds of cots and beds, filled with clean straw, for the men. This removal occupied several hours and when the men were all in the building the surgeons, Hughes, McGugin, Sanford and others began the amputation of limbs and the dressing of wounds. The operations were especially painful and unpleasant, on account of the time which had elapsed, but we heard more thanks for the loving care bestowed on them, than groans, from the sick and wounded soldiers.

Two men died that first night and the next day at 4 o'clock their bodies, wrapped in the flag they died to save, were accompanied to our beautiful cemetery by the City Rifles with trailing arms and stepping to the solemn notes of the funeral dirge. The burial services were read by the chaplain, their bodies consigned to mother earth, a volley was fired over their open graves and the calm sleep of the fallen soldiers began, which we fondly hope shall have a glorious awakening in the resurrection morn.

Could the floors and walls of this hall speak tonight their telephonic voices would tell us of the gentle ministrations of the noble women of Keokuk extended alike to wounded men who wore the blue and who wore the gray; we should catch the feeble tones of the dying son, dictating his last message to an absent mother; we should hear the ex-piring prayer of the soldier of the cross, who had fought his last battle and was entering upon his rest; and anon we should hear the song of gratitude to God for his recovering mercies and then the merry jest and joke of the boys on crutch, and staff shot off to beguile the weary hours of hospital life, but in all you would not hear one soldier say he was sorry he had enlisted in the army of his country.

But I must not longer digress. It remains for me to present to Torrence post this roster of the City Rifles, and this relic of the battle of Athens—this hand-made cannon ball—and to ask the post to keep and preserve them so long as you shall have an organic being; and if you shall ever cease to have a corporate existence here, that you will deliver them for future keeping to the Library association in this city.

Post Commander McElroy's Response.

After Mr. Howell's address, David W. McElroy, the commander of Torrence post, made the following appropriate reply:

H. SCOTT HOWELL:

After listening to your eloquent words in presenting these souvenirs of the past, which stir within all our hearts patriotic feelings, yet withal much of sadness, in behalf of Torrence post allow me as it's representative to thank Dr. E. E. Fuller, yourself and other members of the City Rifles for these precious trusts, which surely Torrence post will treasure and carefully guard until

the time, which sooner or later must come, when Torrence post ceasing to exist, they shall be confided to the keeping of our city public library. It would be idle for me to attempt more than a brief reply to the beautiful tribute you have paid to this well known organization of 1861 as well as to the old soldier. I was not a citizen of Keokuk or Iowa until after the war, so did not personally know of these affairs, but the subsequent history of so many of the City Rifles proved not only their loyalty and fidelity to our beloved country in her dire need, but also their fitness to fill high positions, both military and civil, with credit and honor and thus did they bring honor to our own loved Keokuk. So many of the City Rifles became so closely identified with the great northern army which resolutely crushed out treason and made the right to prevail that it seems fitting this trust should be reposed in Torrence post whose members all were engaged in maintaining the grand patriotic principle, "The Union must and shall be preserved."

## The Gate City.

(PUBLISHED BY

THE GATE CITY COMPANY, E

JULY 4 KEOKUK, IOWA. 1901

## THE BATTLE OF ATHENS

### General Bussey's Article Calls Forth Further Interesting Particulars.

To the Editor of The Gate City:

Keokuk, Ia., June 28.—In The Gate City of this morning is a history of the battle of Athens from the Annals of Iowa for July, written by Gen. Cyrus Bussey. The battle of Athens occurred August 5, 1861, lacking only a few weeks of being forty years ago. Col. H. H. Trimble, one of the survivors of that contest, is now an honored resident of Keokuk, and Capt. Israel Anderson, who with his amiable wife, very recently celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage in Keokuk, was also in the battle of Athens and had a horse shot under him there. He, I believe, was first lieutenant in the company of Capt. Hugh H. Sample, and afterwards a captain in the Third Iowa Cavalry.

But what I was reminded of by seeing this history of the battle of Athens was the wonderful excitement created in those first days of the rebellion by "wars and rumors of wars," and what a commotion in some localities the appearance of a small number of strangers would create. And I was also reminded of the life of The Gate City which during all these years has gone along under the same management until recently. It seems this battle of Athens was brewing several weeks before the contest was fought. In the New Orleans Delta of Sunday morning, August 4, 1861, which I find among my old war papers, is the following clipping coming from The Gate City of July 23, 1861:

"From Northwest Missouri. — The

Keokuk Gate City of the 23d learns that the secessionists have taken possession of Scotland county, and are entrenching against attack. A federal force numbering one thousand is stationed near by. There was some skirmishing Monday and one of the federalists was killed. The next day the union men marched into and occupied Athens, which is in Clark county, opposite Iowa. They expect reinforcements from Primrose, Big Mound and other points. There is great excitement on the northwest border. (Evidently northeast.)

"Col. Bussey, aid to Governor Kirkwood, has distributed one thousand stand of arms between Farmington and Eddyville. He says about 400 Missourians are encamped within a mile or so of Memphis, on the pretense that they are guarding the town against the union troops. They are also concentrating at Etna, in Scotland county, a short distance from the Clark county line. Col. Bussey reports that they are arming union men wherever they can find them.

"From other sources we learn that about fifty mounted secessionists were in Etna on Sunday evening, but were dispersed by home guards from Croton, Sand Prairie and other points. The home guards had one man killed and one wounded. Four or five of another party are said to have been killed. Several horses and prisoners were captured.—(Missouri Republican, 26th ult.)

This old newspaper war item will no doubt bring back many recollections to the gray head readers of The Gate City in Iowa, Missouri and elsewhere.

RICHARD B. B. WOOD.



## Senator Lodwick presents state flag to Croton community Sun.



SEN. SEELEY LODWICK of Wever, on left, who was featured speaker at the Civil War observance Sunday at Croton checks the program with the Rev. Mr. Grover Senf of Fort Madison, master of ceremonies.  
—Sally Moreland

Closing on a serious note, he spoke of Iowa's contribution to history — president, educators, clergy and enumerated current problems, asking if an Iowan will be the man to unlock the door in each case.

Introductions were by the Rev. Grover Senf of Fort Madison, master of ceremonies and William Talbot of Keokuk, president of the Lee County Historical society.

Helen Virden of Oakland Mills, member of the Board of Curators of the Henry county Historical society, spoke briefly of the Milspagh diary with an account of the Battle of Athens, and read an original poem.

### Weber speaks

Al Weber of Keokuk, past president of the Lee county Historical society reminded the assemblage that while history may have recorded the battle as a minor skirmish, to the five killed and 30 or 40 wounded men it was pretty important.

Musical selections were by the Senf family, the Parsons Sisters of New London, Mr. and

Mrs. Al Robertson of Burlington, and Brenda Palmer.

The invocation and benediction were by the Rev. Senf, the presentation of the colors was by the Gillespay-Moody Legion Post 474 color guard of Donnellson.

An estimated 200 persons were served by the Croton Community club.

### The Daily Gate City

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TUESDAY, AUG. 3, 1965

By Sally Moreland

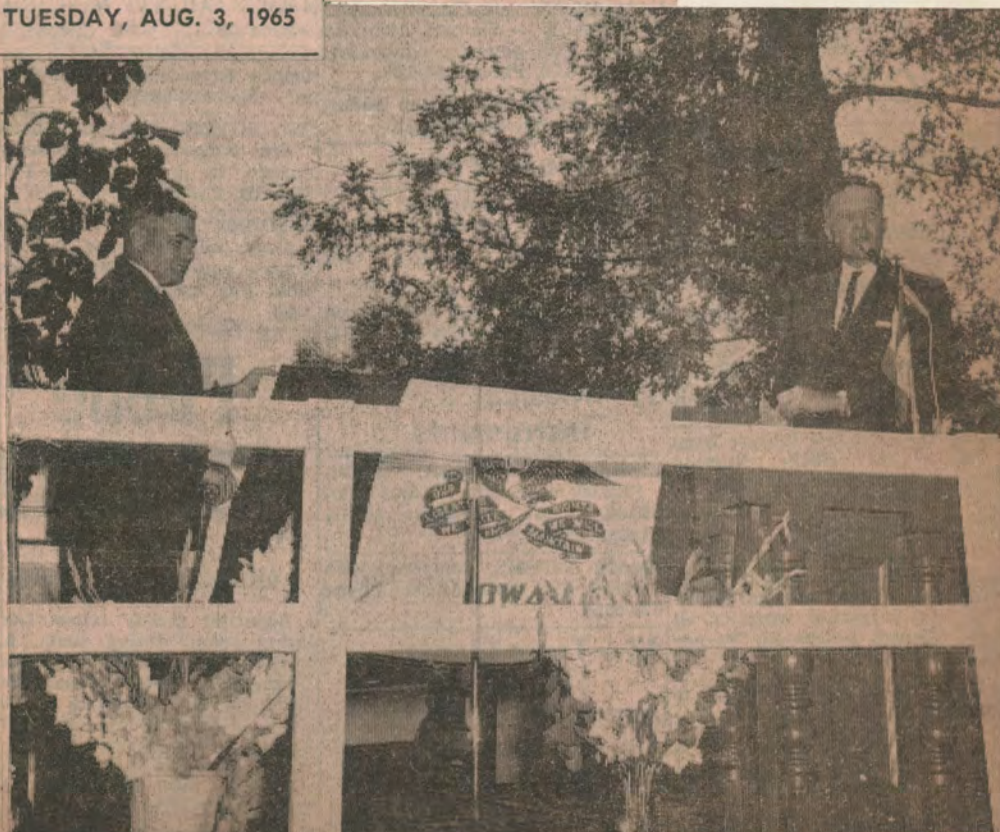
FARMINGTON — Senator Seeley Lodwick of Wever, spoke about the Iowa state flag at the Civil War observance Sunday at Croton.

Lodwick told about the first interest in a state banner prior to W W I, the opposition to the idea, and the support of the D. A. R. throughout the movement for a number of years to its subsequent adoption by the general assembly.

In his opening remarks, the Republican senator commended the Croton community for improved facilities now available there and its development of the area. With refreshing candor and a contagious smile the tall senator said he had been asked very tactfully not to talk about anything political or controversial, and that he found the latter hard to find.

### Iowa flag

Sen Lodwick presented a flag of Iowa to the Croton Community club.



THE REV. GROVER SENF, on left, accepts the flag of Iowa from Sen. Seeley Lodwick, a gift to the Croton Community club.  
—Sally Moreland



TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 1889.

## BATTLE OF ATHENS.

One of the First Victories Won by Union Forces in the War.

A Pleasant Celebration of the Memorable Engagement Monday—Details of the Reunion—An Account of the Battle From the Pen of General Moore.

Athens is a quiet little village of perhaps 100 inhabitants, located just across the Des Moines river in Clark county, Missouri, about twenty-six miles above Keokuk. In an early day it was a much more busy place than now, and had twice as large a population.

Twenty-eight years ago, on the morning of the Fifth day of August, 1861, it presented a far different aspect than now. Then, armed men filled the streets and adjacent timber, while an awful feeling of dread and fear seemed to pervade the very air. The terror was soon increased by the boom of cannon and the rattle of musketry—and one of the first battles of the war of the rebellion was begun. The conflict was fiercely waged between the contending forces, until with charged bayonets, the enemy was driven from the field—and one of the first union victories of the war was won. How this was accomplished is related in what follows.

On Monday, the survivors of this battle, together with their families and friends, met on the historic scene and celebrated the twenty-eighth anniversary of the engagement. Flags floated to the breeze and the air reverberated with the boom of anvils and the sharp report of small arms. The exercises were held in a beautiful grove about the spot where rested the rebel left wing on that memorable occasion. A speaker's stand had been erected and seats provided for the people.

Nothing in the line of a regular program occurred before dinner and the time was spent in sociability and in making preparations for the noon repast. At 1:30 o'clock, Geo. Wilson, of Athens, called the assemblage to order and introduced the president of the day, Philaman Reynolds, of Mt. Sterling, Iowa. He made a few remarks and introduced Rev. J. W. Kelley, a Congregational minister of Kahoka, Mo., who invoked the divine blessing upon those present, and especially upon the brave survivors

of the battle which was waged near by, just twenty-eight years ago. The band then played a patriotic selection and a call was made for all present, who participated in the battle of Athens, to "fall in" in front of the speakers stand. The following veterans responded to the call:

Of the Twenty-first Missouri, Gen. David Moore, Canton, Mo.; Capt. Joseph Farris, Galland, Ia.; Jno. Schaffer, Peaksville, Mo.; Geo. W. Raines, Croton, Ia.; Wm. French, Athens, Mo.; J. M. Roseberry, Belfast, Ia.; O. H. Nye, Belfast, Ia.; Robert Mitchell, Farmington, Ia.; P. Sweet, Athens; P. Conkle, Athens; Jno. Langley, Farmington; E. L. Starr, Croton; James Hobb, Chambersburg, Mo.; J. W. Holmes, Croton; James P. Smith, Kahoka; A. J. Phillips, Keokuk; C. W. Stone, Cantril, Ia.; Geo. Wilson, Athens; S. Davidson, Farmington; J. L. Holmes, Croton; P. Reynolds, Mt. Sterling, Ia. There were present Robt. Anthony, of the Twenty-fifth Iowa, Croton; E. M. Miller, Thirty-ninth Missouri, Athens; Capt. J. M. Hillar, Second Missouri Cavalry, Vernon, Ind.; S. A. Toops, Seventh Missouri cavalry, Acasto, Mo.; A. Coloinge, Athens, and Jno. T. McKee, Peaksville, First North-east Missouri.

Music by the band followed, and frequent patriotic and popular airs interspersed the exercises.

General David Moore, of Canton, Mo., was then introduced and proceeded to deliver the principal address of the day, which abounded in reminiscences of the battle of Athens and the succeeding engagements of the late war, in which his regiment, the Twenty-first Missouri, participated. General Moore remarked that there was considerable disparagement in the estimated number of men engaged in the fight at Athens, but that to the best of his knowledge there were 333 men engaged on the Union side and between 1,200 and 1,500 on the rebel side. A veteran interrupted the speaker at this juncture and stated that he had seen the rebel roll-book and it showed that 1,362 men had answered to roll-call a few days previous and that this number had been increased afterward. The speaker then proceeded and related the story of the battle, which was substantially that given in the account below, from the pen of this distinguished soldier.

He then spoke at some length upon the much controverted battle of Shiloh, April 6 and 7, 1862. In the early morning of April 6, the "old Twenty-first boys" marched out and met Hardee's

whole division on the front. This was the first fighting done in this battle and this regiment began the engagement. Although greatly outnumbered, comparatively undisciplined, and really not expecting to meet such a force of the enemy, for an hour and a quarter they fought like veterans, and only fell back when overwhelmed by superior numbers, and not receiving the needed reinforcements. In General Moore's opinion (and he ought to know, for it was here he lost his leg) the union forces were surprised at Shiloh. The soldiers of both armies were unacquainted with the principles of war, for these can only be learned in actual service. Many men who failed to be regarded as the best soldiers when they first went into the service, afterwards became among the bravest. Martin Green and his men who fled before an inferior force at Athens, were again met by the Twenty-first at Corinth, and all who were there know that they had learned how to fight. We don't claim superiority over rebel soldiers. All Americans make good warriors.

The war of the revolution was waged for freedom. The south, in the civil war, fought for the perpetuity of slavery. The north freed the slaves and gave them the ballot that their freedom might be eternal. Had they been made free and not been given the ballot, serfdom would have been inaugurated in America. The speaker touched upon the purity and freedom of the ballot, and closed his address with a tribute to the ladies. When he had concluded his remarks three cheers were heartily given for the general.

Capt. Joseph Ferris, of Galland, Ia., was called to the stand and related some interesting incidents of Athens and Shiloh. He remembered that after the battle of Athens, the loyal ladies met the men with hot coffee; and that each weary soldier vowed that he would fight for ages in the defense of such ladies.

Col. J. M. Reid, of Keokuk, was called upon, and although it was not his privilege to participate in the battle that was being celebrated, he had always taken a deep interest in the details of this fight, and the other engagements of General Moore's command. The speaker related some stories of the battle, one being to the effect that General Moore walked up and down before his men during the first cannonading, attired in his Mexican war uniform, and encouraged them with the remark, "Who the h—l ever heard of a man being killed by a cannon ball."

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

B. of ATHENS Aug 6, 1889

B. of Athens Aug 6, 1889



Colonel Reid spoke of the effect of the union victory upon the state, and the probable result had the rebels been victorious.

A. W. Harlan, of Croton, delivered himself of some vigorous sentiments upon the treason of those men who had been educated at the government's expense, had taken an oath to ever defend the nation, and then violated that oath. He had great reverence for Abraham Lincoln, but claimed that he did his duty in freeing the slaves, unwillingly. In his opinion the race problem was a most serious one, and one that is yet to be solved.

"Marching Through Georgia" was then sung, S. Davidson leading.

Capt. John Hillar, of Vernon, Ind., recounted his experiences in the battle of Athens, and in referring to the retreat of some of the men across the river claimed that it was done under a misapprehension that a retreat had been ordered; that brave men retreated that day, who, after they had learned their mistake, recrossed and again engaged in the conflict.

"The Battle Cry of Freedom" and "Army Bean" were then sung, Mr. and Mrs. John Watts, Misses Cora Saltzgaver and Effie Johnson leading.

Jonathan Johnson, of Clark county, was the last speaker, and stated that he was not at Athens, but participated in all the engagements with the Twenty-first after Shiloh. General Moore's regiment was noted for always being supplied with provisions — lead for the enemy and more palatable food for themselves.

He spoke of the little knowledge the private soldier has of what will be required of him, and related numerous incidents that had come under his personal observation.

"Tramp, Tramp, Tramp," sung by the audience closed the exercises.

THE BATTLE.

In the spring or early summer of 1861, Captain Nathaniel Lyon, U. S. A., then commanding Jefferson barracks at St. Louis, gave permission to David Moore, of Canton, to raise troops for the defense of northeastern Missouri. In May 1861 a regiment was raised in Clark county and Gen. Moore was chosen colonel. As soon as possible after the organization was completed the command marched upon Aetna, Scotland county, Missouri, where a rebel force was stationed under Major Schacklett. This force retreated before Moore. Colonel Moore and his command proceeded to Athens where they went into camp to await supplies. While in

camp the men were subjected to military discipline and drill until August 4, when Colonel Moore says "My scouts, who were kept many miles in the front, reported the enemy advancing in strong force from the direction of Edina under command of Martin S. Green, colonel, and another force under Colonel Franklin, from Lancaster, Schuyler county, Missouri.

The two rebel forces formed a junction at or near Aetna, Missouri, and camped in the Fox river timber, about four miles from Athens. A dispatch was sent to Keokuk notifying the citizens that the enemy was advancing in strong force upon Athens, and in two hours two companies of the city rifles arrived under the command of the gallant William W. Belknap. With this command came Hugh W. Sample, John W. Noble and others, numbering upwards of eighty men. Many who here fired their first shots at an enemy, afterwards joined Iowa regiments and won immortal honors on many great battle fields for the union and freedom.

At sunrise on the morning of August the fifth, the advance mounted pickets were driven in, the long roll was beat to arms and in one minute a line of battle was formed and told off in camps of forty men. My command numbered three hundred and thirty-three in line. Green opened two pieces of artillery upon our center. The right of his line was touching the river upon my left and his left touched the river upon my right. Major Schacklett, with his battalion was on Green's right with their flank opposite the Iowa boys on the other side of the river. When the artillery opened, my mounted men fled across the river; and Captain Spellman, with his company, also crossed with his colors flying; but Captain Small and his company stood where they were posted. Nearly all the enemy's cannon-shot flew over our heads. The women and children of the village were sent to a big mill under a steep bluff, where they were sheltered from the fire of the enemy and the prisoners were sent under a strong guard to Croton opposite Athens. The firing soon became general on the whole line. They were armed with shotguns and squirrel rifles, which were no match for our improved muskets. The fight lasted nearly two hours, when those posted on the right and left were ordered by me to stand fast and the center to fix bayonets and move forward in common time. The men, however, soon broke into a charge, and the enemy fled in every direction from

the field."

The number killed and wounded in Col. Moore's command numbered twenty-three. He says, "As the fruits of the victory, we captured many prisoners, four hundred and fifty horses, saddles and bridles complete, hundreds of arms and a wagon load of long knives with which they expected to fight the infantry."

Having routed the enemy Colonel Moore, with his command, started in pursuit. Later he was joined by other troops under the command of Generals Pope and Hurlbut. Green's command was pursued by these troops for many days, but could not be brought to an engagement.

It has been stated that the purpose of Green's attack upon Athens was believed to be primarily, to defeat and disperse Moore's command, and thus establish the supremacy of the rebel cause in that portion of northern Missouri, and secondarily to cross the Des Moines river, invade Iowa and capture the supplies then stored at Croton. And many believed that the program included, in case these points were successfully accomplished, an attack on the city of Keokuk.

Constitution-Democrat  
AUGUST 5, 1903.  
**BATTLE OF ATHENS**  
  
IT WAS FOUGHT THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS AGO TODAY.  
  
MANY KEOKUK PEOPLE TOOK PART IN THE SKIRMISH.  
  
History of Battle as Told by General Cyrus Bussey, Who Was in the Thick of it.  
  
August 5th is the anniversary of the famous battle of Athens, in which many Keokuk people took part. Each year a celebration is held on the battlefield, and today in the grove on the banks of the Des Moines river, opposite Croton, several hundred people gathered and enjoyed the day.  
General Cyrus Bussey's account of the battle of Athens was published in the July issue of the Annals of Iowa two years ago and is appropriate reprint today. It was as follows:  
  
The repulse of our forces at Bull Run aroused the whole secession element



in Missouri, which organized into military companies for service in the Confederate army. These companies in northeastern Missouri were under the command of General Martin Green. These forces overran the country, driving Union men from their homes and causing terror among all loyal people.

After the close of the extra session of the Iowa legislature (May 15-29, 1861), in which I was a senator, elected as a democrat, I was on the 11th of June, 1861, appointed by Governor Kirkwood aide-de-camp on his staff with the rank of lieutenant-colonel of cavalry, and authorized by the governor to assume control over the militia organization of southeastern Iowa.

I resided at Bloomfield, in Davis county, about twelve miles from the Missouri line. I went to work at once to prepare for the defense of the towns in the border counties of Iowa, visited Keosauqua, in Van Buren county, and Keokuk, and arranged for the organization of one company of mounted riflemen in Lee, Van Buren and Davis counties. I had information that rebel forces in large numbers occupied every county seat in northeastern Missouri, and had reason to expect they would make a raid into Iowa to steal horses and other supplies, before going south to join the army under General Sterling Price.

I reported to Governor Kirkwood these facts, and asked that arms be sent me. The governor replied that he had not been able to secure any. I then telegraphed to General Fremont, who had just arrived at St. Louis to command the department of the Missouri, that a large force threatened northeastern Missouri and southeastern Iowa, and that I wanted arms and ammunition to arm home guards. He replied promptly that it was impossible to supply them.

In connection with other business at Bloomfield, I owned a pork house which gave employment to several men. One of these, a foreigner, I was sure I could trust, as he was in every way discreet, and I had abundant evidence of his loyalty. I sent him to Missouri with instructions to visit the various camps of the enemy, and learn if possible if they intended a raid into Iowa. I told him not to return until he could bring me reliable information.

I left Bloomfield for Keokuk, and on the 30th of July arrived in St. Louis. I went to General Fremont's headquarters and after some delay was admitted to the general's room. I found him alone, standing by a large table on which was the U. S. map. I represented to him the presence of General Green's forces in northeastern Missouri, near the Iowa line, and expressed my belief that they would make a raid into Iowa before going south, and that to defend ourselves we must have arms. He expressed regret that

it was impossible to spare one gun. He said that he had organized regiments ready for service, but without guns to arm them.

I asked him to give me 50,000 rounds of ammunition. He asked me what I would do with it without any arms. I told him I would feel safer with the ammunition. He gave me an order on Captain Callender, in charge of the arsenal, who shipped the ammunition that night to Keokuk, where it was put into storage.

I informed General Fremont that the Fifth Iowa infantry, Colonel Worthington, and the Sixth Iowa, Colonel McDowell, were in rendezvous at Burlington, awaiting arms and equipments, and that if moved to Keokuk their presence there would render our position perfectly safe. He at once gave me the following:

Headquarters Western Department, St. Louis, Mo., July 30, 1861.

Colonel Cyrus Bussey—Sir: You will order the Fifth Iowa regiment, Colonel Worthington, and the Sixth Iowa, Colonel McDowell, to proceed immediately on to Keokuk. Colonel Worthington will take command, and immediately on his arrival at Keokuk will report to Brigadier General Pope, commanding North Missouri.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. FREMONT.

Major General Commanding.

I immediately telegraphed this order to Col. Worthington and left that night for Keokuk much pleased with the result of my day's work.

Immediately on the arrival of these troops at Keokuk they were ordered to St. Louis, owing to the invasion of Missouri by a large force under Gen. Sterling Price.

During my several visits to Keokuk Col. Moore sent his officers to me for arms and ammunition. I had a lot of powder which belonged to the state, a part of which with some lead I gave him, and promised to supply him with arms if I succeeded in procuring any.

On my arrival at Bloomfield on the 1st day of August, I heard reports that the rebel forces in the northern border counties were very active, and fears were expressed that they would come into our state. My messenger had not returned, causing me to feel that there was no immediate danger. That night, however, about 11 o'clock, I was called up, and upon opening the door found the man I had sent to Missouri who informed me that Gen. Martin Green with a force of 1500 rebels—then shoeing their horses—would start within two or three days to make an attack at some place in Iowa. He heard Keokuk talked about and believed that was their objective point. I arranged for a conveyance that night, and left Bloomfield the next morning at four o'clock and rode thirty miles to Summit, where, at nine o'clock, I took a train for Keokuk, arriving there at noon. After notifying the railroad officials that their road and depots were in danger, I went to the office of Sam-

uel F. Miller, late justice of the U. S. supreme court, then a prominent lawyer, to confer with him about the defence of the city, and had been there but a short time, when John Glvin, late general superintendent of the Iowa division of the Rock Island railway, then ticket agent at Keokuk, came to me with a bill of lading for one thousand stand of arms and equipments, which had just arrived on a train from Burlington. These guns were shipped by the war department at Washington, D. C., consigned to Council Bluffs, Iowa, via Hannibal, Mo., to arm the Fourth Iowa infantry, commanded by Col. G. M. Dodge.

I at once decided to seize these arms, and use them to arm the people for their protection. I realized the great responsibility I was about to assume. I knew very well that no representations I or any one else could make would bring an order to take them. I gave the railroad company written instructions to deliver the guns to me, and to hold a train in readiness to take me and the arms out on the road as soon as I could arrange to leave. The 50,000 rounds of ammunition which I had secured from Gen. Fremont were of the same caliber as the guns, so that now I had guns and ammunition, and felt that I could place the people on the border in position to defend themselves.

The legislature at the extra session in May had authorized the organization of a regiment of cavalry for home guard duty in the southern border counties of the state. I had called into the service a company in Lee county under Capt. Hugh W. Sample, one in Van Buren county under Capt. E. Mayne, and one in Davis county under Capt. H. H. Trimble.

I delivered 100 guns and ammunition to Capt. Sample to arm his company, and 100 to Capt. W. W. Belknap, late secretary of war, then a lawyer at Keokuk. Capt. Belknap had a fine company which he had organized two or three years before. These men offered their services should occasion require. I left Keokuk the same afternoon with 800 guns. About 200 of these went to arm Col. Moore's men at Athens. The parties receiving them were Captain James C. Best and Lieutenant W. F. Harl of Memphis, Mo., who had a company of 135 men at Athens. D. K. Turk took forty guns and Joseph Bayless and A. Anderson sixty guns, with ammunition. All these were for use at Athens. At Farmington, four miles beyond Athens, I left 100 guns for Capt. O. H. P. Scott and at Summit 200 guns for Capt. Mayne's company, and for Henry C. Caldwell, now judge of the United States circuit court who was then a prominent lawyer at Keosauqua, to arm another company.

I arrived at Ottumwa about seven o'clock that night, with the remaining guns; hired wagons with which to haul them to Bloomfield; traveled all night and arrived there at daylight.

ATHENS 1903

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



Arms were furnished to Capt. Trimble's company, and other companies were organized for temporary service, one of them by Mr. George Duffield.

Feeling that these forces would be able to protect the town, I left Bloomfield the next morning, the 4th of August, at four o'clock, for Summit, to take the train for Keokuk. When about half way to that point I met a messenger riding as fast as his horse could go to bring me the information that the rebels in large force had appeared before Athens. Col. Moore had been notified of the approach of the enemy by refugees, and was prepared to receive them. He telegraphed to Keokuk for reinforcements, and sent messengers to Farmington and other points for aid.

On my arrival opposite Athens, before ten o'clock, heavy firing between Green's forces and Col. Moore's home guards was then going on. The enemy had completely surrounded the town and no doubt expected to compel the surrender without the sacrifice of many of their men.

A few minutes before my arrival, a special train arrived from Keokuk bringing 700 men, including the companies of Capt. Sample and Belknap, and companies of the Sixth Iowa infantry, who had not yet been able to get transportation to St. Louis.

These forces were forming in line when I made my appearance. Some of the men raised the question as to whether or not the Iowa militia had a right to cross the river into Missouri. Having the necessary authority from both the governors of Iowa and Major General Fremont I ordered these forces and a detachment from Farmington to cross the river, then very low, and fordable, and attack the enemy's right flank.

Without a moment's hesitation these companies moved forward, into the river and up the bank on the other side, sending a heavy fire into the ranks of the enemy. These reinforcements were evidently wholly unexpected. The effect was to completely demoralize the rebels, who rapidly retreated, leaving thirty-five or forty men killed and wounded.

Among those who came up from Keokuk to take part in the fight was John W. Noble, a young lawyer of Keokuk, who shouldered a musket and was one of the first to cross the river, firing on the enemy as he went. He was slightly wounded in the engagement, but not disabled. He afterwards rendered distinguished service in my regiment, the Third Iowa cavalry, succeeding to the colonelcy, and later became distinguished as secretary of the interior under the Harrison administration.

The rebels had artillery and fired several shots across the river, but none of their troops reached Iowa soil.

Colonel David Moore, who commanded the home guards at Athens, proved himself a hero. With 300 men who had never been under fire, he held his position behind barricades in

the streets of Athens until reinforcements arrived.

I had spread the information at Keosauqua, Summit and other points, as I came through that the enemy were at Athens, and in a few hours Captain Mayne, with a large force from Keosauqua, Captain O. H. P. Scott and others, with two or three hundred men from Farmington, arrived.

Colonel Moore was anxious to follow the enemy, and proposed that if the Iowa companies would join his forces he would start next morning. I called our Iowa men together and found them willing and anxious to go. About 600 Iowa men, with Colonel Moore's 300, left Athens the next morning and drove the enemy under General Green across the Missouri river.

But for my action in providing ammunition, and seizing government arms, two-thirds of Colonel Moore's men would have been without arms. The Sixth Iowa infantry would not have been at Keokuk but for the fact that I had it sent there. The Keokuk companies would not have been armed, and there would have been no forces to go to Moore's relief. Under these circumstances Moore would have been compelled to retreat into Iowa or surrender. The enemy would have crossed the river, destroyed the railroad, and marched to Keokuk, where they could have robbed the banks, pillaged the town and made their escape to Alexandria five miles distant, where they would have been among friends.

I think I have shown that without my active co-operation as above stated there would have been no victory at Athens.

I had taken Colonel Dodge's guns and must make that fact known to the war department. Governor Kirkwood learned I had taken them before he learned the cause. He wrote me a letter disapproving of my action and directing me to send the guns forward to Council Bluffs. Judge Caleb Baldwin, aide-de-camp to the governor, also heard of my theft of the guns, wrote me a sharp letter, in which he said that after the governor and our senators and representatives in congress had failed to get arms, he had advanced the money to pay Colonel Dodge's expenses to Washington, believing he would succeed in getting arms, which he did, and could not understand why I should seize them. Before I had time to answer this letter, I received another from Judge Baldwin, saying he had just seen Joseph Shepard, superintendent of the United States express, who had informed him of the circumstances under which I had taken the guns, and that they had secured a Union victory at Athens, and that I had done what was right in the matter. Governor Kirkwood also wrote me approving my action.

I visited St. Louis on the 9th of Au-

gust to report to General Fremont. On reaching his headquarters I was immediately admitted. I gave the general a full report of my movements and action since I had seen him ten days before, and my action in taking the arms, and the use made of them in the battle of Athens. I explained that the guns were widely scattered, and that it would be impossible to get them together until the country was more peaceful. I asked him to request the war department to duplicate Colonel Dodge's requisition. General Fremont expressed himself greatly pleased with my action in everything I had done. He said he did not believe one man in a million, not in United States service, would have assumed the responsibility of taking government arms in transit on a railway train.

He said I ought to be in the United States service, that I had shown my fitness to command. He stated that he would communicate with the war department and requested me to return the next day, which I did, when he handed me an appointment as colonel, with authority to raise a regiment of cavalry.

On Colonel Moore's return to Athens, after his march after General Green's forces, he brought in about thirty prisoners, some of whom were prominent citizens of Alexandria. Few, if any of them, were captured with arms. Some of these men appealed to General Fremont, who referred the appeal to Brigadier General Pope, commanding North Missouri, who telegraphed me to go to Athens, investigate the charges against the prisoners, and send to St. Louis under guard any I might find against whom charges of treason could be sustained. I performed this duty, sending four of the prisoners to St. Louis in charge of Captain Charles C. Smith, Thirteenth United States infantry, who had just completed the muster in my regiment, the Third Iowa cavalry. The other prisoners I discharged.

## THE WEEKLY GATE CITY.

Entered in Keokuk postoffice as second class matter

JUNE 10, 1897.

### THAT ALEXANDRIA "RAID."

One of the Prisoners Gives His Version of the Affair.

[To the Editor.]

Keokuk, Ia., June 7, 1897.

The Gate City of May 29 reprinted some war news from the issue of August 6, 1862. I wish to notice one thing in order to get at the whole truth. The man who reported that the rebels were on their way to raid Keokuk was Ben Stanley, who built the first house in Wayland, Mo. He knew there were no armed rebels within a hundred miles of here; he reported the same a year before, when it was not so; hence the citizens of Keokuk ought to have known better than to believe him. You say a crowd went from

ATHENS 1903



here to Alexandria on the ferry after dinner; that was a mistake, as they left here before most of them got breakfast, as I fed two of my friends—Cody and Peck—myself. The Gate City says that General Parrott was in command; he may have been there, but he took no part in arresting us. That was done by a certain Lieutenant Ball, a smart West Pointer, who did not know enough to spell our names, as you will see. He spelled Hewitt Herret and Dean Dear.

Then The Gate City says they made a second visit (visit!) to Alexandria that night, and returned with more prisoners and a quantity of boots, shoes and clothing, which had been collected for the rebels. This part I must take exception to, as even if the Alexandria merchants had been willing to furnish rebels with their goods, there was no way to get them to them, although, as I have no doubt many of the rebels could have used the boots, shoes and clothing, but I never could understand what your crowd wanted baby clothes for unless they were used by the infantry. Then they took some whiskey and wine from a union man's store; can't see what they wanted that for unless they wanted to preserve dead rebels with, as they surely would not drink it, being from Iowa.

The Gate City says nothing about breaking into my store after having me here a prisoner. They took every pocket and butcher knife I had; of course these would be useful in case of a rebel attack. They also took every razor I had, including one I used myself; hence, I have never shaved since, so in that way, perhaps, I have saved enough to come out even by this time. Still, I could not see what they wanted razors for, unless there were some colored troops in the crowd who, of course, prefer razors to any other weapon. Then they took my accordeon; it puzzled me what they wanted that for, unless it was to be used at the burial of some dead rebel.

But what puzzled me most was why they took my gold pen, unless they sent it to General McNeil to sign the death warrants of the ten innocent farmers that he had shot at Palmyra, Mo. Now, part of this looks funny at this date and some of it serious. The funniest part to us was, while they were arresting us on the levee (this crowd of about 300) that squad of about a dozen that went around by St. Francisville horseback came galloping into Alexandria. Of course the brave Lieutenant Ball thought they were rebels. Then you ought to have seen him and his crowd run for the ferry boat pell mell. Such running is not to be seen every day.

C. L. BECKER.

## It Was 63 Years Ago That Civil War Battle Was Fought Near Here

AUG. 6, 1924

### J. P. Cruikshank, Lee County Historian Has Written Description of This Engagement.

Tuesday was the sixty-third anniversary of the Battle of Athens, which was Keokuk's introduction to the Civil war almost within its borders. Soldiers were rushed from here and through here to combat the rebels. John P. Cruikshank, Fort Madison historian, has written this description of the battle:

Today is the 63rd anniversary of the battle of Athens. This, of course, refers to the hamlet on the south side of the Des Moines river, in Clark county, Mo., 25 miles southwest of Fort Madison, a place that has no other distinction than the engagement there at the beginning of the Civil war. The battle in itself, is of no great importance, the number engaged being about 1,200 Confederates under Col. Green and 400 Union troops under Col. Moore, and the number of killed and wounded on both sides did not exceed 30 men. It was the farthest north of any battle occurred during that fratricidal conflict and coming a few days after the crushing defeat of the Union forces at Bull Run, when the North was beginning to have grave doubts of the results, and the South was elated over its early victories, and the further fact that it was the intention of Col. Green to invade the enemy's country, terrorize and plunder the inhabitants and carry away a lot of horses for the Confederate cavalry. Taking these facts into consideration, the attempted invasion is one of considerable importance, especially when one contemplates the result, had the raid been successful.

Accounts of the battle have been written up so many times, it would not be of any particular interest to present day readers to recount the details of the engagement.

At dawn, on the morning of August 5, 1861, the booming of cannon and the roar of small arms awoke the households for miles around Athens. Rumors had been rife of the intended raid of the rebel horde so that many knew what it meant. The belching of cannon and repeated volleys of musketry was heard for 15 miles in the interior of Lee

county. Excited messengers on frothing steeds carried exaggerated reports to all the towns and villages in the county, so that by noon of the eventful day nearly every man, woman and child in the county heard the terrifying news that Athens and Croton had been sacked and burned, Moore's army routed and that the invading army was headed for the interior of the county. One old gentleman at Dover, rather than take the chances of being massacred committed suicide; another near Salem became stark mad and commenced killing off his stock. More bad reports came in. Consternation reigned. Home guards were called to arms and hurried to the seat of war. Squads of citizens gathered and armed with squirrel rifles, shotguns and some without arms started to meet the enemy.

As to the fight, it only lasted about four hours. The 5th, 6th and 7th Iowa regiments had arrived in Keokuk on their way to St. Louis, without arms. A shipment of Springfield rifles and fifty thousands rounds of ammunition consigned to Col. Dodge at Council Bluffs for use in north-west Missouri, had fortunately arrived at Keokuk the day before, and were about to be transferred to a steamboat bound for Hannibal and thence by rail to the Bluff City. Col. Bussey, of Bloomfield, Iowa, who had command of the militia in southeastern Iowa, without authority, seized the entire consignment in anticipation of Col. Green's attack, distributed 200 rifles to various companies of home guards in this territory and stored 700 in a building in Keokuk. The wisdom of his action is apparent. Three or four companies of the 5th and 6th infantry at Keokuk, hearing of Green's attack early in the morning, equipped themselves with the seized rifles and ammunition and under command of Col. Worthington boarded a special train for the seat of the war. They arrived at Croton, opposite Athens about 10 o'clock in the morning. The troop entrained, formed in line of battle, fired one volley across the river when Green's army at once retreated into Missouri and Lee county was spared a destructive invasion through sheer luck and a violation of military rules by a subordinate militia officer for which he would have been promptly court martialed under other circumstances.

THE DAILY GATE CITY



AUGUST 8, 1901.

## BATTLE OF ATHENS

Celebration Took Place Near  
the Scene.

EVENTS OF FORTY YEARS AGO

Captain A. W. Harlan's Description  
of the Fight as He Saw  
It.

At a beautiful grove, one of the prettiest spots in all Missouri, just a mile from Athens occurred yesterday the fortieth anniversary of the battle of Athens, the battle having been fought on August 5, 1861.

As usual a large crowd was present at the celebration and a general good time was had by all. Among the crowd were a number of old veterans and quite a number who took part in this battle.

The exercises of the day commenced promptly at 10:30 and were opened by James H. Talbott, an excellent young gentleman of Clark county, who made a splendid presiding officer.

## THE PROGRAM.

Opening prayer by Rev. W. C. Herdman.

Address of welcome—J. P. Talbott of Anson, Mo.

Music.

Response—Dr. E. Botom of Acasto.

The morning program concluded with music by the Revere band.

## AFTERNOON EXERCISES.

At 1:30—

Music—Revere band.

Address—Hon. S. S. Ball of Kahoka.

Music.

Address—The Sons of Veterans, Hon. Edward Sargent of Vincennes.

Music.

Address—W. L. Berkheimer of Kahoka.

Music.

Address—Captain A. W. Harlan.

Address—J. P. Talbott.

Music.

Address—Captain Faris.

Excellent music was rendered during the day by the Revere band.

The following report of the battle as he saw it was handed to the secretary of the association to be filed with the records of the meetings and was written by Dr. A. W. Harlan, who is now ninety years of age. He came to Croton, Iowa, in 1834 and has lived in Iowa ever since and is no doubt the oldest settler in the state. The report is as follows:

## AS HE SAW IT.

The battle of Athens in Clark county, Missouri, was fought on the morning of the 5th of August, 1861, it is now the 1st day of August, 1901.

The writer of this article had been with Colonel Moore from the time he left Kahoka about the 18th of July up to that time.

It was about the 1st of August, 1861, that we had some government rations sent from St. Louis to Croton over in Iowa, and on Friday we moved part of those rations across the Des Moines river over to Athens in Missouri, and I was put in charge of them, as issuing commissary.

The building that I occupied is still standing. When it was learned that the rebels were within one mile of the village the commotion must be imagined.

But above all the din Colonel Moore's voice could be distinctly heard and those large epaulets glistening in the sunshine made him a conspicuous mark. We had no uniforms to distinguish one side from the other side of the question, only Colonel Green's men seemed to be more dusty than us union men. I went to Colonel Moore when he was getting his men into line and asked him what would be my duty, he said, "you will take your men and defend the commissary to the last." My mess consisted of Frank Whitmore, George Wilson and William French.

## THE ENEMY SIGHTED.

I had in my care some surplus arms taken from prisoners, one old yeager and three shot guns with our muskets were all carefully loaded and divided out so that each man had his arms. I gave them orders to hold their fire until they were sure to make every shot count and we were ready. We did not have long to wait, the rebels were soon in sight and halted sooner than I expected and began to fire their cannons. We were all out in plain view looking at them. After a little while a column of men left the great mass and marched towards the lower part of Athens. I went out towards them as near as I thought safe and commenced counting them as they passed a tree. One man emptied his double barrel shot gun at me, some of the shot passed over my head but did me no harm. I kept on counting until I had counted one hundred and eighty and still they were coming.

I went back to the commissary, talked to the men, and then with my musket at right shoulder shift went on the street in the range of the slugs and reported to Colonel Moore of Green reinforcing his right wing with 180 men. He turned to his adjutant and said, "Lieutenant Hicks go to the Luray company and tell Lieutenant Ward to take twenty men off from the left of his company and go to the assistance of our men down below on the river and assist them." Ward acted promptly, the men marched off like veterans. I returned by the street to the commissary and was standing near a window, George Wilson was near me on my right hand, there came a rifle ball fired from near the cannons and broke out

a pane of glass in less than four feet of where I stood.

## WILSON EXCITED.

That excited Wilson so that he could not hold still, he said if they could shoot to us that we could shoot to where they were. We then went in the house. Wilson took up his yeager; I said to him balls never come twice in the same place, and to take a rest where the glass had been broken out by their shot. He tried it. It was just high enough to suit him, then he carefully rubbed his hand on the barrel of the gun its whole length, then said that he would shoot at the man on the mule near the cannon. When he fired the man fell from the mule. That was the only shot fired from the commissary.

In the meantime the fight had become lively in the corn field nearby, buckshot and rifle balls were flying around promiscuously. Moore had started to the bayonet charge. Harrison, the preacher, fell not far from where I was standing. The rebels were in commotion getting away with their cannon. Events come on thick and fast, I will leave it to others to describe them if they can.

A. W. HARLAN,

Company F, Twenty-first Missouri.

The celebration was a grand success in every particular.

During the afternoon at Athens the Athens baseball club crossed bats with the Wayland baseball team and the game attracted a large crowd.

Two running races, one-quarter mile each, took place between the mares, Leaden, owned by J. I. Harr of Mt. Sterling, Iowa, and Lady Minnette, owned by Hopp Bros., of Chambersburg, Mo. The races were very close and exciting and were won by Leaden.

## Constitution-Democrat.

JULY 24, 1901.

CELEBRATION OF  
BATTLE OF ATHENS

The anniversary of the battle of Athens will be celebrated at Clark's Grove, one and one-half miles back of the Des Moines river on Monday, August 5. The program prepared for the occasion is the following:

10 a. m.—Assembly by chief bugler.

Patriotic Air—Santa Fe band.

Invocation—Rev. W. C. Herdman.

Music.

Address of welcome—Hon. Charles Yant.

Music.

Address—Hon. J. A. Whiteside.

Music.

Adjournment for dinner.

2:00 p. m.—Patriotic Air—Santa Fe band.

Address—Hon. S. S. Ball.

Music.

Address—Hon. W. L. Berkheimer.

After which a general melange of small talk, anecdote, army songs and music by the band.

ARTHUR J. BUCKNER,  
Secretary.



AUGUST 7, 1901

## CELEBRATION OF BATTLE OF ATHENS

The celebration of the battle of Athens at Athens, Mo., on Monday was attended by many of the survivors of that conflict and by a large crowd of people from Iowa and Missouri. The published program was observed and the exercises proved quite interesting to the audience. The following report of the battle written by A. W. Harlan of Croton, who was an eye witness was presented to the association to be filed with the records:

"The battle of Athens in Clark county, Missouri, was fought on the morning of the 5th of August, 1861, it is now the 1st day of August, 1901. The writer of this article had been with Colonel Moore from the time he left Kahoka about the 18th of July up to that time. It was about the 1st of August, 1861, that we had some government rations sent from St. Louis to Croton over in Iowa, and on Friday we moved part of those rations across the Des Moines river over to Athens in Missouri, and I was put in charge of them, as issuing commissary. The building that I occupied is still standing. When it was learned that the rebels were within one mile of the village the commotion must be imagined.

But above all the din Colonel Moore's voice could be distinctly heard and those large epaulets glistening in the sunshine made him a conspicuous mark. We had no uniforms to distinguish one side from the other side of the question, only Colonel Green's men seemed to be more dusty than us union men. I went to Colonel Moore when he was getting his men into line and asked him what would be my duty, he said, "you will take your men and defend the commissary to the last." My mess consisted of Frank Whitmore, George Wilson and William French.

I had in my care some surplus arms taken from prisoners, one old yeager and three shot guns with our muskets were all carefully loaded and divided out so that each man had his arms. I gave them orders to hold their fire until they were sure to make every shot count and we were ready. We did not have long to wait, the rebels were soon in sight and halted sooner than I expected and began to fire their cannons. We were all out in plain view looking at them. After a little while a column of men left the great mass and marched towards the lower part of Athens. I went out towards them as near as I thought safe and commenced counting them as they passed a tree. One man emptied his double barrel shot gun at me, some of the shot passed over my head but did me no harm. I kept on counting until I had counted one hundred and eighty and still they were coming.

I went back to the commissary, talked to my men, and then with my musket at right shoulder shift went on the street in range of the slugs and reported to Colonel Moore of Green re-inforcing the right wing with 180 men. He turned to his adjutant and said, "Lieutenant Hicks, go to the Luray company and tell Lieutenant Ward to take twenty men off from the left of his company and go to the assistance of our men down below on the river and assist them." Ward acted promptly, the men marched off like veterans. I returned by the street to the commissary and was standing near a window. George Wilson was near me on my right hand, there came a rifle ball fired from near the cannons and broke out a pane of glass in less than four feet of where I stood. That excited Wilson so that he could not hold still. He said if they could shoot to us that we could shoot to where they were. We then went in the house. Wilson took up his yeager; I said to him balls never come twice in the same place, and to take a rest where the glass had been broken out by their shot. He tried it. It was just high enough to suit him, then he carefully rubbed his hand on the barrel of the gun its whole length, then said he would shoot at the man on the mule near the cannon. When he fired the man fell from the mule. That was the only shot fired from the commissary.

In the meantime the fight had become lively in the corn field nearby, buckshot and rifle balls were flying around promiscuously. Moore had started to the bayonet charge. Harrison, the preacher, fell not far from where I was standing. The rebels were in commotion getting away with their cannon. Events come on thick and fast, I will leave it to others to describe them if they can.

A. W. HARLAN,  
Company F, Twenty-first Missouri.

## THE GATE CITY:

THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 1.

—Last Monday about 1 o'clock, W. A. Spruance, nephew of Wm. Spruance, took an overdose of morphine, from the effects of which he died, at the Ennis House, about half past 6 p. m. Mr. Spruance had been in the habit of taking morphine to alleviate pains in his extremities—he having had both feet amputated several years ago, from the effects of having had them frozen. Physicians were summoned and everything done to rally the patient, but without avail. Deceased leaves a wife and two children at Keokuk, Iowa, his mother, who lives in Chicago, and his brother, H. A. Spruance, of Georgetown, besides many relatives, to mourn for him.—Georgetown, Colorado, *Miner*.

## The Daily Gate City.

KEOKUK, IOWA: 1868

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 3.

### MARRIED.

SPRUANCE—DAY—At the residence of the bride's father, Keokuk, Iowa, on the 2d day of June in t., by the Rev. A. Thompson, Mr. Wm. A. Spruance, of Missouri and Miss Frances O. Day, of Keokuk, Iowa.

## THE GATE CITY.

KEOKUK, IOWA 1869

SATURDAY MORNING, AUG. 7.

The anniversary of the Battle of Athens, which occurs on the 5th of August, was not celebrated this year. This is the first failure of the kind since the event transpired.

## THE GATE CITY.

KEOKUK, IOWA 1869

FRIDAY MORNING, AUG. 13

### CELEBRATION OF THE 5TH. ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF ATHENS.

MR. EDITOR:—Your humble servant was on the ground a quiet spectator of the proceedings. It was merely a Sabbath School affair, with scarcely a reference to the battle.

The total neglect or reference to past scenes rather surprised me, and the result was my mind become more active in reviewing the past and almost oblivious of the present.

### REMINISCENCES OF THE PAST.

I walked to the place where the old cabins used to stand, in which Isaac Gray dwelt in the summer of 1834, and cast my eyes over perhaps two acres of ground, and then remembered that on that identical spot, old John Boon dwelt peacefully in the spring of 1832. The Black Hawk war came, and he was advised to leave and retire to the settlements near Canton, Mo. Boon's cabin at that time was the extreme frontiers or outside of civilization in this quarter.

In 1833 the war had ended and Isaac Gray occupied said small cabins, and old Keokuk and his braves started out for a hunt. Coming in sight of the last cabin of the white man they gave him a martial greeting and a friendly farewell. There was more than two hundred of them.

In 1834, '35, '36, and '37, I have seen this ground almost covered with Indian Wickiup's, frequently called wigwams. Indeed I believe there was not a noted chief in the Sauk and Fox nation, but I have met on this ground. In December, 1835, one Indian named Capo-co-ma got drunk at Sweet Home and acted the fool and got whiped. Here



the matter should have ended, but Josiah Roberts, O. P. Thomas and one or two other individuals thought that they could act drunk Indiana also.

There were several Indian lodges where the village of Croton now stands. The white men with two or three guns, some clubs, and one spear, went the same evening and made an attack on those Indian lodges, dispersed the Indians and pursued them as long as they could see an Indian. One old Indian whose name was Muck-a-pin-e-ah ran to Gray's house calling on I-sick-a to save him. Isaac raised a puncheon in the floor. The Indian was soon quietly resting on some potatoes. Josiah Roberts in a rage burst into the house, enquiring for old Muck-a-pin-e-ah. Isaac Gray kept cool, talked to them calmly, and finally shamed them out of their criminal and rash adventure.

But before leaving, Roberts in one of his wild gesticulations accidentally run his spear through a crack in the puncheon floor. It entered Muck-a-pin-e-ah's back near the fifth rib, making a considerable wound. The Indian thought he was gone; indeed, a small thrust would have finished him, but Roberts was not aware that the Indian was then under his spear or the result might have been different.

This is the way Indian wars have often been begun, that have cost our Government millions; but we laid all the blame on whisky (scotchiap) and smoothed it all over.

In 1838, '39 and '40 I was on the ground but seldom, yet during those three years there was scarcely a settler or Indian trader or even an Indian of either the Sauk or Fox nation but passed over this ground.

In the spring of 1841, J. C. Fremont with his party camped on this grounds when acting under a mysterious order of the Secretary of War to make an examination of the river Des Moines.

This mystery may be interesting to old people as well as to the young. It was supposed to be a special favor conferred on young Fremont, by Thomas H. Benton, to keep him out of the way a few months, so that Frank Blair might enjoy more of his daughter Jessie's company. The balance of this little episode is a matter of history.

In August, 1841, Abner Knealand, at that time stigmatized and abused as an old abolitionist and infidel, by special invitation delivered the only lecture that he ever delivered in the State of Missouri, at the house of Isaac Gray, a slaveholder.

The writer hereof was present, by accident, and heard that same lecture. It was certainly not what is called a gospel sermon, in the usual acceptance of the term. But he spoke up boldly for Jesus, of Nazareth, and he also eulogized the teachings of Confucius highly, showing the similarity of doctrine taught by those two great reformers.

"The Chinese," said he, "honored Confucius and adopted his teachings to a great extent, under which their civilization and refinement has been the admiration of the world for many years," but, said he, "the superstition and bigotry of the Jews crucified Jesus, and the fanaticism of Massachusetts had

persecuted Abner Knealand almost to the death."

Let me add that Abner Knealand was a kind hearted, pleasant man, with extensive theological learning. His remains rest quietly in the lower edge of Van Buren county, some three or four miles only from Athens, Missouri.

I shall now pass over several minor incidents, such as the building of Thome's mills, the wrecking and landing of several flat boats on this same bank during 1842, '43, '44, '45 and 1846.

In 1847 there was several Mormon families camped in this vicinity. Those were the fag end of the Mormon emigration from Illinois, that with kind treatment would have left their fanatical leaders and again become quiet members of society. Most of them were industrious and lived as they could. But persecution was the fashion of that day in Illinois and partially in Iowa. Even here in the corner of Missouri a strange *furor* seized the people and threatened those poor Mormons with lynching. Old Isaac Gray laid down his yard fence, had them drive their wagons in and guaranteed them protection. The strange infatuation, I am glad to say, was of short duration. It is now all gone and your humble servant is satisfied with his own acts on that occasion.

Isaac Gray, the same fall of 1847, invited one William Clark, a Mormon Preacher, to come and preach to those lost lambs; that he could preach in his house, saying to Clark that he had once had an infidel lecture in his house—that had not hurt him, neither did he expect that a Mormon sermon would convert him. Clark came and preached.

I accidentally heard that sermon also, and if it had not been a Mormon sermon I should have thought it was a gospel sermon. This was the third and last Mormon sermon that I have ever heard.

Then again, in the summer of 1848, on the forenoon of a Sabbath day, old Isaac and myself witnessed a miracle that changed our views from a general to a special providence. The impression was such that neither of us could ever shake it off. We were sitting on the corner of the fence within a few feet of the place where Joseph Thompson fell during the battle of 1861.

In 1849 David Dale Owen, when ascending the Des Moines, under the auspices of the Government, to effect a geological survey of the valley, landed his canoes on the shore and hired young George Gray to accompany him, having spent the previous night at my house, in Sweet Home, Missouri. It was on this same tour that the Geologist brought to the light of science those extensive beds of gypsum, in the vicinity of Des Moines and Fort Dodge.

Here on this same ground other scenes have transpired in which politics were prominent, that it would be egotistical in me to mention. Therefore I shall pass them by, and in doing this I pass over the years from 1849 to 1861.

Early on the morning of August, 5th, 1861, the battle of Athens was fought on this same ground, or rather a part of it, for be it

known even as small an affair as the battle of Athens was, it was fought on three separate spots of ground, all at the same time. I am speaking of the spirited little contest on the bank of the river, just below Athens. Here from the spot on which old Johnny Boon's cabins stood, might be seen the dead bodies of old Billy Sullivan, a Union man, and Joseph Thompson and Eliwalt, of Lewis county, both rebels. Several others were wounded near by. Other particulars might be given, but that I leave to other hands.

It now lacks but a few days of being thirty-five years since I first saw this little spot of earth. It was then a beautiful grove of sugar saplings. The remaining few have grown to be quite large trees, but still they are diminishing, one or two at a time, as my old friends go to the grave, and when I look on those remaining trees, I think that I can appreciate the feeling of the poet when he wrote those lines commencing:

"Woodman, spare that tree."

Let us have a soldiers' celebration next year, and in the meantime let us devise some means to preserve that grove around which cluster so many sacred memories. For in time those that met there in deadly strife will meet in quite a different spirit, and look alike on the past as the providences of God.

I am willing to own that in passing this place I sometimes become a little absent-minded when those scenes which I have named pass like an invisible panorama before me.

Here I shall stop. This article is sufficiently lengthy, although the subject is only begun, by no means exhausted.

A. W. HARLAN.

## New-York Daily Tribune.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 1861.

### THE BATTLE OF ATHENS.

#### The Union Forces Triumphant Against Large Odds.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

KEOKUK, Iowa, Aug. 6, 1861.

There was quite a battle fought at the village of Athens, on the bank of the Des Moines river, in the State of Missouri, about 22 miles west of this city, yesterday, between the hours of 5 and 7 o'clock a. m., between Union and Secession forces of Missouri, and about 100 men from Iowa, who aided the Union soldiers of Missouri. The Union forces of Missouri numbered 450 men in all; the Secessionist forces exceeded 1,200 strong. Col. Moore of Clark County, Mo., commanded the Union forces; and Col. Green, brother of the late United States Senator, "Jim Green," led the Rebels.

Col. Moore has been for some time engaged in mustering a regiment of loyal Missourians, and had his headquarters at Athens. Night before last word came to this city that Green's Secession army was marching toward Athens, when the home guards of this city, consisting of about 100 men, volunteered bravely to go to the assistance of the Union friends at Athens, and arriv-



ed there by special railroad train before daylight of yesterday morning. The Des Moines River at Athens is about 200 yards wide, and easily forded at almost any place, and our home guards were stationed on the Iowa side of the river along its banks, to act as the exigencies of affairs might require. Col. Moore's Missouri troops were placed in proper position to guard against surprise, but the main portion, about 300 strong, were stationed in line in what is called the Public Square of the village.

A little after 5 o'clock yesterday morning, the enemy approached the town in three columns, the main body having three pieces of cannon and moving directly on the rear of the village, while the other two columns flanked the town on each of its sides. The battle commenced by the opening of the enemy's artillery, which was immediately succeeded by a furious discharge of small arms on all sides. Owing to the uneven character of the ground on which the village stands, the number of trees interspersed through it, and the defenses afforded by houses and fences, the battle soon assumed the character of Indian warfare, where each man fought more or less on his own hook, as his covert gave him opportunity.

The enemy's artillery, although it boomed away continually, and did much harm to property, injured very few of our men. Their shot either went too high, or lost its force on natural obstacles. After the conflict had raged somewhat over an hour, Col. Moore ordered a charge with bayonet on the artillery and main column of the enemy. Three hundred of his men advanced with rapid stride upon the enemy. He encouraged them to show themselves soldiers, and declared if any one of them retreated, he would run his sword through his back. This was a feast to which the rebels did not feel invited, and before they could be reached with the cold steel they broke and fled in wild dismay. The rest of the enemy followed in rapid retreat. They were followed several miles by Col. Moore's command, but with no decisive result. Three of our soldiers were killed, and 19 wounded, some of them very severely. Seventeen of the enemy were killed, and some 40 wounded. Our soldiers took from the enemy 60 horses, 10 mules, a number of guns and pistols, and two flags.

The Union forces of Missouri give great credit to our Keokuk troops for their gallantry. It was the aim of the right flank or wing of the enemy, numbering some 300 men, to get between Col. Moore's command and the river; but the steady and constant fire of our Home Guard across the river killed several of them, wounded many others, and prevented them from accomplishing their purpose. Our men were supplied with rifles, which will readily kill a man at 800 yards' distance. Our Guard have arrived home, and speak in utter contempt of the conduct of the Rebels in allowing themselves to be so soon whipped by one-third of their number.

I have every reason to believe that if our Government would send 50,000 stand of arms and a good supply of ammunition to the loyalists of Missouri, they could and would speedily stamp treason out of the soil of this State.

In reviewing the various battles which have recently occurred, I have noticed that the silk-stocking Chivalry invariably shrink from a close, hand-to-hand fight and bayonet charge from the mud-sills of the North. Why is this?

# The Gate City.

Weekly

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1872.

## Celebration at Athens.

ATHENS, Mo., Aug. 7th, 1872.

EDITOR GATE CITY: Yesterday, August 6th, was the day for the colored folks' celebration, in honor of the battle of Athens—fought Aug. 6, 1861.

Clark's grove, one mile south of town, was amply prepared, and arranged with comfortable seats, speakers' stand, &c. About ten o'clock the martial drum was heard in the distance, and in a short time the procession appeared in sight. Floating, at the front, in the morning breeze, was the old Stars and Stripes. Arriving at the grounds, and the company—numbered by hundreds—being comfortably seated and ready for the business of the day, the band struck up a patriotic air, after which the Marshal proposed three cheers for Grant and Wilson, which were enthusiastically given. Two of the orators of the day were colored men. They spoke plainly and deliberately of the issues of the present campaign, and illustrated fully the fact that the solid negro vote will be given for Grant and Wilson.

The colored people not wishing to appear selfish, had invited the whites to participate in the celebration, many of whom did so. Ample tables were arranged and supplied bountifully with the good things necessary for physical sustenance.

After dinner short and lively addresses were made by Rev. Mr. Botton, Rev. W. Johnson, W. Scott, A. W. Harlan and others.

In the evening the young folks (and some older ones) proceeded to a platform arranged for a cotillion party, and those who wished to "trip the light fantastic toe" did so, even until the wee sma' hours of the morning.

Upon the whole the colored folks' celebration was a perfect success, and is emblematic of the zeal and energy characterized by them in all their undertakings. H.

# THE GATE CITY:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 16.

—During the war some fifteen or twenty union soldiers were buried at Memphis, Missouri, and their remains have lain there unmarked up to this time. The attention of the government being called to this, it has ordered the bodies exhumed and transferred to the national cemetery at this place. The remains will arrive here this evening and tomorrow afternoon Torrence Post No. 2, Grand Army of the Republic, will escort them to the national cemetery and give to them respectful and final burial. These soldiers during the war belonged to the regiment known as Merrill's horse, and were ambushed by Mart Green's band of guerillas. We understand that Mr. Robert Sutherland, of this city, was instrumental in bringing to the notice of the government these uncared for and unmarked graves, he being himself wounded in this engagement, which occurred July 10th, 1862.

# THE GATE CITY:

FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 18.

## Honor the Heroes.

Clayton Hart, superintendent of the national cemetery, returned yesterday noon from Memphis, Mo., where he exhumed the remains of thirteen soldiers of Merrill's Horse, killed in battle near that place, July 10, 1862. One of the number is known and twelve unknown.

Torrence post G. A. R. will escort the remains from the depot to the national cemetery this afternoon. All ex-soldiers and sailors in the city are invited to join with Torrence post and meet at Good Templars' Hall, near corner of Sixth and Main streets; at 1:30 p.m., and assist in paying the last honors to these heroes.

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



# The Gate City.

A. W. SHELDON, } EDITORS.  
S. M. CLARK }

KEOKUK, IOWA: 1866

TUESDAY MORNING, JULY 24.

## Celebration of the Battle of Athens.

ATHENS, Mo., July 1866.

At a meeting of the Radical Union men of Sweet Home Township, Clark county, Mo., at Athens, on the 21st day of July, 1866, among other proceedings, the following resolutions were adopted:

*Resolved*, That the true Union men of Northeast Missouri and Southeast Iowa be enyoked to join the Radical Union men of Sweet Home Township, Clark county, Mo., in celebrating the anniversary of the "Battle of Athens," on Saturday, the 4th day of August, 1866, and that Gen. David Moore, the hero of the day, be invited to be present and address the people.

*Resolved*, That the "GATE CITY," *Alexandria True Flag*, *Keosauqua Republican* and *Memphis Reveiller* be requested to publish the above resolutions.

A. J. BUCKNER, Chairman.

JOHN M. HILLER, Sec'y.

# The Gate City.

KEOKUK, IOWA: 1866

TUESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 7.

## Celebration of the Battle of Athens, Mo.

EDITORS GATE CITY: It is with extreme pleasure that I now put on record the first Celebration of the Anniversary of the Battle of Athens, Mo., which afforded an occasion of great rejoicing to all truly loyal men.

The various roads leading to Athens were almost completely lined with vehicles full of loyal faces, many of these vehicles containing flags and banners, bearing various and significant mottoes. The following I noted among the mottoes: "39th Congress guardian of liberty," "Registration puts out the traitors' pipe," "Mart Green got 'Moore' when he bargained for," "Loyal men must rule the Nation," "Equality before the law," "Gen. Fletcher the right man in the right place," "My Policy don't waste your ammunition," "A Copperhead's politics outranks his loyalty." The gathering was in a grove near where Col. Moore drew up his little handful of men, who were almost surrounded by the enemy, outnumbering the Union men five to one. The first speaker was Col. David Moore, the hero of the battle which we were there to celebrate. He commenced by remarking that he presumed they all knew he was not a public speaker; he would rather if necessary face an enemy on the field of battle, than the large, intelligent audience before him. He saw a great many familiar faces, and was truly rejoiced that we were permitted to meet under such favorable auspices on this occasion, after the lapse of five years. To-day we meet here to celebrate an event, the importance of which, in its

bearings upon the fate of Northern Missouri, could not be easily estimated. At that day it was common to hear these rebels talk about one Southern man whipping five Northern men. This stirred up my blood and impelled me forward. I felt that we would avenge the insult, and most nobly did the little nucleus of the old 21st Missouri reverse the calculations of the rebels on that day. I see before me many of those who belonged to this regiment, and I trust you will pardon me if I allude to some of the noble deeds they performed, as I happen to know all about it. I do this because history does not record it. On the memorable battle field of Shiloh the 21st marched out on that morning and met the enemy about a mile and a half in front of our lines, and there stood and fought the whole rebel horde—one regiment holding back fifty thousand men! There lay behind us the sleepy army of the Tennessee, and would scarcely believe we were in the midst of a deadly conflict; we notified them of their danger and thus saved our army from utter ruin on that day. There this little handful of men stood under the most dreadful fire, and finally, overwhelmed by numbers, fell back to our lines. Very few know the service the 21st Missouri rendered on that occasion, but I know and tell it here to-day, that you may know what the 21st did do; it is but right and simple justice that you who sent this noble regiment out should know these facts. But although we have fought and whipped them, the battle is by no means ended. I wish it could be otherwise, but I greatly fear that here in the State of Missouri those old white washed traitors and corrupt demagogues are going to succeed in bringing about another counter revolution. We must stand up and meet it promptly, and if another civil strife must come, fight it to the knife. Stand by your registration laws and officers, and let it be known far and wide that traitors can't vote and rule loyal men. There are but two parties in this country—*patriots* and *traitors*. In 1861 we had two parties; one was fighting us here in Athens to destroy this Government, the other to maintain it. To-day the same two parties exist, only we are fighting by the ballot instead of the bullet.

After Col. Moore followed other speakers to the number of half a dozen, Rev. Mr. Beaman, Rev. Mr. Cox and others, the substance of whose speeches were as follows: The fact that treason was a crime embracing all other crimes, and should be punished and made odious—that simply debarring traitors from the privilege of ruling a country which they could not destroy, was a much milder penalty than to hang them, which was the penalty affixed by the laws of our country, and the only penalty known to the laws of civilized nations, was duly set forth, and yet these intelligent conscious traitors have the affrontery to grumble because we object to their coming in and destroying a nation by the ballot which they were unable to destroy by the bullet. Rev. Mr. Beaman showed that the evidence was conclusive that the rebels had forty-three killed at the battle of Athens, including those who died in our hospitals, while

the union men had but three killed. The rebels had at least seventeen hundred, while we had about three hundred to combat them, and this was the way "one Southern man whipped five Yankee's."

The celebration at Athens was a success and clearly demonstrated one fact, if such fact needed demonstration; and that is that the great loyal heart of Missouri, as elsewhere, beats for justice, equality, and the eternal perpetuity of this Government, and that those whose memories cluster with pride and exultation around the victory at Athens in 1861, are still as anxious to hand the fruits of this, with other victories, down to future generations untainted and untarnished by traitor hands, that the blood of the martyred Lincoln may not cry to us in vain for a common country, free, one and inseparable. After having our ears greeted with such speeches, interspersed with martial music and splendid songs for the occasion, together with loud cheers for Col. Moore and the sentiments uttered, and having in the meantime partaken of a good basket dinner, we dispersed.

D. M. PUTERBAUGH,  
Croton, Iowa, Aug. 6th., 1866.

DAM CORRESPONDENCE.—There isn't anything profane in that at all. But that ice gorge in the Des Moines river at Croton last winter has given rise to a correspondence that shall be thus entitled. Mr. McKee, President of the Athens Mill Company writes thus to Adjutant General Baker:

ATHENS, Clark Co., Mo., May 1, 1860.

N. B. BAKER, Adjutant General State of Iowa,  
Des Moines, Iowa:

SIR:—We would respectfully call your attention to the condition of the *Dam* at this place which is in a very *damaged* state, caused by the ice-gorge this spring.

We presume you are aware that the State of Iowa is under obligations to supply water to this mill for the next thirty years. There is water sufficient yet, but when the river gets low there will be little or no power. We believe the State would save much by making arrangements at once to repair the *Dam*, as it is in such a condition as to be *damaged* by every freshet, and if it is not attended to this season, there is great danger of the entire structure washing away.

Please inform us at an early day what action may be taken, that we may know how to "shape our ends."

Very respectfully, &c.,

DAVID MCKEE

President Athens Mill Co.

General Baker, not knowing what he had to do with the dams on the Des Moines river in his line of "military," endorses the letter to Gov. Stone as follows:

ADJ'T GEN'L'S OFFICE, STATE OF IOWA,  
CLINTON, May 7, 1866.

Most respectfully referred to His Excellency the Governor for information as the number of militia and the amount of ammunition to be furnished to regulate this *dam*.

There is nothing in the Constitution of laws to "shape our ends on the dam" at Croton or Athens.

N. B. BAKER, A. G.

Thereupon the Governor endorsed back to the Adjutant General as follows:

"This matter is left entirely to the sound discretion of the Adjutant General, and as he runs the Department to which this subject belongs and can 'damn' the institution with a better grace than I can.

AUG. 7, 1866

W. M. STONE.



# THE GATE CITY

KEOKUK, IOWA:

THURSDAY MORNING, AUGUST 6.

## THE CELEBRATION.

### A Grand Meeting in Athens.

### Eight Thousand Loyal Men in Council.

There was a grand meeting at Athens yesterday. The men and women of Missouri and Iowa came out in force. From all over Clark county, from various parts of Scotland county, from Western, Northern and Central Lee, the people came in crowds. A delegation came from the capital city of our own State. The call for the meeting met universal response.

We have no time in this issue for lengthy notice of the proceedings. They were excellent and satisfactory throughout. The Committee of Arrangements, Dr. Buckner, Col. Hiller, Judge Caldwell, and the rest, did their work well.

Dr. J. C. Wright, was made President, with several Vice Presidents. Rev. Dr. A. M. Thorne, of Memphis, Mo., was appointed Chaplain, and opened the proceedings with a brief and excellent prayer. Then with an interval of one hour for dinner, and the appreciated interludes, wherein the Keokuk German Brass Band discoursed charming music, the day was devoted to speech making. In the forenoon, Gen. David Moore, of Missouri, and Adjutant-General Baker, and Hon. Geo. W. McCrary, of Iowa, spoke; in the afternoon, Hon. J. F. Benjamin, member of Congress from the Eighth Missouri District, Gen. H. W. Sample, of Lee; Hon. James H. Blair, of Canton; S. M. Clark, of the GATE CITY; Charlton H. Howe, of the LaGrange American; Mr. Robinson, of Des Moines, and Col. Wm. Leighton, of Keokuk. The speaking continued to the evening, and so did the crowd. Altogether it was a grand demonstration, and shows that Clark, Scotland and Lee counties are wide awake for Grant, Colfax and victory.

With the wonted liberality of the Des Moines Valley Company, Superintendent Williams placed an extra train at the disposal of the excursionists for their return. That was on hand promptly, with the superb engine No. 10, the fastest and best on the Western roads, one of the Company's own manufacture—this under the superintendence of Conductor Patch and Morris Sellers, put the train-going part of the excursionists at home in Keokuk by nine o'clock.

# THE GATE CITY.

KEOKUK IOWA:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 5.

## Mass Meeting at Athens.

### ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE.

The anniversary of the battle of Athens Mo., is to be celebrated on Wednesday, the 5th inst., in the immensest way. Ten thousand people it is expected will be present. Senator Drake, of Missouri, promised to be present if Congress adjourned in time, and as it has done so, we presume he will be there. Gen. Grant has been invited, and as he is now in St. Louis, he might come along with Senator Drake just as well as not. A large number of distinguished speakers have been invited and enough have promised to be there to insure plenty of good speaking.

As Athens was the theatre of a large display of Keokuk prowess, we hope there will be a large attendance from here Wednesday.

**HISTORICAL.**—Charles Negus is writing "The Early History of Iowa," in the Iowa Annals. In the paper for July he refers to localities herabouts. He says:

"Soon after the making of this treaty (1804) the United States commenced the erection of 'Ft. Edwards, now Warsaw, Illinois,' within the limits of the recently acquired territory, which gave much uneasiness to the Indians.

"Some of the chiefs, with a delegation from their nation, went down to the point, where the Fort was being erected, and after having an interview with the commander, the Indians became apparently satisfied and went home.

"They also erected Fort Madison on the West side of the Mississippi, in the territory not ceded by the Indians, about ten miles above the Des Moines Rapids.

"This Fort was constructed by Col. Zachariah Taylor, and named in honor of James Madison, President of the United States."

"The building of Ft. Madison at this point, by any reasonable construction, was a violation of the treaty of 1805. By the eleventh article of this treaty, the United States had a right to build a fort in the vicinity of the mouth of the Wisconsin River: but that would not by any fair construction, authorize them to construct a fort where this was located; and by article sixth they had bound themselves, 'that if any citizens of the United States, or any other white persons, should form a settlement upon their lands, such intruders shall forthwith be removed.' Yet the United States, notwithstanding they had made such stipulations with the Indians, built Ft. Madison within the limits of their reserved territory. This act on the part of the United States gave great dissatisfaction to the Indians; and not long after its erection, a party, of whom Black Hawk was the leader, determined to destroy this fort.—Their spies having ascertained that the troops were in the habit of marching out of the fort every morning and evening for parade, the party concealed themselves near by for the purpose of firing upon them and taking them by surprise when they came out.—

SHEET NO. 84

About sunrise on the morning of the proposed attack, five soldiers came out, and the Indians, not waiting for the regular drill, fired upon the five and killed two before they could return within the protection of the fort. The Indians kept up this attack for two days, firing into the fort and endeavoring to set it on fire; but finding their exertions unavailing, they gave up the effort and returned home."

TER CRIMPED LEAF

CREDITS

## The Valley Whig.

KEOKUK:

MONDAY MORNING, JULY 29, 1861.

### Skirmishing in Clark County, Mo.

CROTON, Tuesday July 23.

MR. EDITOR: The Northeast Missouri regiment, composed of the Croton Guards, Warsaw Guards, Sand Prairie Co., and the Home Guards of Clark Co., have just arrived at Athens, having cleaned the northern part of Clark Co. of the rebels, and wandered as far as Aetna in Scotland Co., which was taken Sunday evening without the loss of a man on our side—the rebels shooting too high. After delivering one volley they fled. There were 50 of them, mounted. We learn that our troops killed 1 and wounded 1.

The prairies near our line of march were scoured by our cavalry, one man being shot and wounded slightly in the shoulder. This was the only injury received by our men.—We learn that four or five rebels were killed. Our scouts captured several horses, hats, guns and prisoners. On arriving at Athens all the rebels that had not fled previously were arrested. Two secession flags were found in private houses. I neglected to mention that we cut down the secession pole in Aetna and took the streamer, which had "Jefferson Davis" on it. It is now in possession of the Warsaw Greys, who are to return it, after being exhibited in Warsaw, to the Croton Company, who were sharers in the capture. Col. Moore now awaits reinforcements to march on Memphis. F.

The Warsaw Greys, mentioned above, arrived in Keokuk last night, on the cars from Croton, and as they marched through the streets, showing that rebel flag, they were loudly cheered.

Another letter from Croton says that there are 300 Union troops at Luray waiting reinforcements, while Col. Moore, with several companies, is waiting for more men at Athens. He intends to join the forces at Luray and then march on Memphis.

It is reported that the Union flag is still flying in Memphis and that the Union company commands the place. But this is doubtful.

Col. Moore has about 30 prisoners and will deal with them in a military way. Dr. Harlan, of Athens, was captured, while attempting to flee. Judge Caldwell and Esq. Robert couldn't be found. Capt. Baker and one Morland left early one morning, with carpet sack in hand, half scared to death. Col. Moore and his men will soon clear the whole region of rebels.

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



FRIDAY MORNING, AUGUST 4, 1871.

ATHENS AND CROTON.

From our Own Correspondent.

In the year 1843 a gentleman by the name of Isaac Gray laid out the town of Athens, Clark county, Missouri, and lived there from that time until our terrible civil war commenced. Twenty-seven years after the organization of Athens as a town, a battle of some note took place there on Aug. 5th, 1861, between Col. Moore commanding a company of Missouri militia, and Col. Green with a detachment from a Rebel regiment. The battle while it lasted was very severe, seven or eight being killed and about forty odd wounded. Col. Moore repulsed the Rebels. If I am wrong in date you must look to one of the oldest citizens in Athens, for he informed me and gave me the date.

Business is looking up, and the farmers are getting ready to transport the already ripened grain to market. Messrs. J. C. Curtis & Co. are dealing in grain and wool; they are also operating the only mill in Athens or Croton. These gentlemen are among the best and leading citizens of the place. Stafford & Townsend, dealers in dry goods, groceries, &c., are business men of worth and good citizens, both having resided in the town for many years, therefore are well acquainted with many people and control a large trade.

W. P. Davis, Esq., successor to Davis & Clark, has a good store, well stocked with the very best of goods, and he is working to build up a larger trade than he now controls—he has an immense trade already. I recommend the people around Athens to visit him.

There are three other stores, besides churches, school-houses and other institutions of interest there, but as my time is limited, I must say farewell to Athens.

Croton is on the Des Moines Valley Railroad, twenty-five miles from Keokuk, and has a fair population and three stores. On the opposite side of the river stands Athens, hid from sight by a grove of trees.

Samuel Saltgaver keeps a good sized store stocked with the very best Groceries and Dry Goods.

Mr. J. W. Lefever is occupied in the same line as Mr. Saltgaver, and deals in the grain trade now and then. Mr. L. is the agent of the GATE CITY at this place.

There are quite a number of the Joe Smith Mormons, a new sect who only embrace the religion (and not the wives), residing in Croton and in the vicinity.

Mr. Beaman, a subscriber of the GATE, is one of Croton's stand-bys.

Hoping business will prove a success everywhere this Fall, especially in Lee county, I am

NATH.

THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION-MONDAY, AUG. 2, 1954  
RURAL THOUGHT AT RANDOM

# The "Action" at Athens Was Battle Between Missourians

By ANGIE HUME

After hearing the engagement between the Confederate and Union forces at Athens, Missouri, on August 5th, 1861 called the "Battle of Athens," all my life, I have been informed by a reliable source that it was recorded by the War Department as an "action." I stand corrected, and bow to the mandate of such high authority, and hereafter shall think of it, and call it by its proper cognomen.

But nobody should have dared to suggest to my father that it was other than a battle! There would have been a vehement protest from him right away! I presume that when muskets were popping and cannon booming, that it seemed like a battle to those who were in the thick of the fight. And father was there.

While the Civil War was raging in the South and Southwest, north Missouri for a time enjoyed comparative peace. Union troops were constantly being enlisted, and detachments of them were stationed at various towns. One regiment, commanded by Colonel David Moore, was posted at Athens, in northern Clark county, on the Des Moines river.

At the same time, to, some soldiers were being enlisted on the other side; among them was a regiment under Colonel Martin E. Greene, who determined to drive the Union troops out of Athens.

About sunrise, on August 5, 1861, Greene's advance guard attacked Moore's pickets, and drove them in. Then the main force, in two wings came up, and the conflict became general.

## Friend Against Friend.

It was a fight between Missourians for there were scarcely a dozen men from any other state on the field. Many of them had heretofore been friends and neighbors. Even fathers, sons, and brothers were arrayed against one another. Colonel David Moore himself had a son, William, who was a captain under the Confederate Colonel Green, and who fought against his father in this conflict. It is said that as Green was marching on Athens, some of his officers remarked in Captain Moore's hearing, "Now, boys, we'll soon have old Moore without firing a gun," to which the son quickly responded, "No, you won't, if you think Dad will not fight, you are mistaken, I know the old man too well!"

His father did fight, and sent the son, his colonel and their men flying in confusion with considerable loss. The fight at Athens, though really little more than a skirmish, was important as being the first in which brother grappled with brother in north Missouri. It was also one of the farthest north actions, although there was one farther, at

Acton, Minn., on September 2, 1861, and also one in far away California, which was one of the newer states. In the Action at Acton, the rebels were repulsed in a short, hard fight by the Ninth Minnesota infantry.

We brats heard of many Civil War stories, that we were under the impression that father, with probably a little help from General Grant and a suggestion or two by George B. McClellan, was responsible for the successful outcome for the Union forces. Father, at that time, was an 18-year-old boy, as so many of the soldiers were, and never, during later life, was of the belligerent type. So, I don't suppose he presented such a formidable appearance, even when equipped with his allotted weapons of war, and when confronting the enemy.

We heard the story of the Action at Athens from babyhood, and during later years, we always took our dinner on the date of the anniversary of the "action," which was my mother's birthday, and journeyed to the house where the cannon ball went through and ate picnic-style near the scene of the bat— pardon me, the action. Father remembered where he was stationed, and always spoke with deep regret of the two from his company who were killed.

Colonel David Moore's youngest son, Tom, lived in Kahoka during the 1920's, having married Miss Anna Nichols, a nurse who taught home nursing under the supervision of the Red Cross. We became the best of friends, and they were often supper guests in our home. He was a newspaperman, and reported news and wrote feature articles for The Gate City, and when they moved to Nampa, Idaho, he held a splendid position with a large newspaper. Charming people they were, and although he is now deceased I still hear from Mrs. Moore occasionally.

Mother was eleven years old on the day of the Actions at Athens, and when they heard, the booming of the cannon at their home south of Kahoka, grandpa, who was a captain, but just at that time not on active duty, hurriedly saddled a horse and galloped off to offer assistance. Those must have been stirring days, indeed. Now the little town peacefully sleeps time away, and the silence is unbroken save by the songs of the birds as they flit about among the trees that overlook the erstwhile ground of action.



# Keokuk Had Narrow Escape From Invasion

## Battle of Athens Fought Aug. 5, 1861

Hundreds of its sons have gone forth to battle during the century or so of its existence but never did Keokuk send them out with more immediately at stake than 82 years ago this morning.

At that time, on August 5, 1861, Keokuk was in imminent danger of invasion with an enemy force only 14 miles away and the skirmish which was joined between the Johnny Rebs and the Union home guards at Athens, Mo., marks the closest the city ever came to being a battlefield.

Although it is now regarded by historians as little more than a skirmish, the historic "Battle of Athens" represented the first Union victory in the Civil war as well as the only engagement to be fought this far north, and since it came on the heels of the debacle at Bull Run, Keokuk was thrown into near-hysteria with the report that an army of 1,500 secessionists was marching on Athens, Mo., just across the Des Moines river from Croton.

The city awoke that morning to the roll of drums as leaders of the soldiers encamped here reacted to the news by mobilizing their forces to defend Iowa from the invaders. In addition to the legitimate message that the Confederates were marching on Athens, rumors spread rapidly that thousands of rebels were on the march in northern Missouri and that Col. Martin Green, noted secession leader, was no further away than Alexandria, Mo., with 1,500 troops.

These rumors started Sunday, Aug. 4, and threw the city into a panic despite the presence of the Sixth Iowa Infantry which was in training here. The residents were well aware that the soldiers were inadequately armed, had had very little training and were scattered all over the city because of the heat, and lack of camp facilities.

With dawn on August 5 came the definite report that Col. Green and his troops were attacking Athens which was defended by Col. David Moore and a scout force of 400 raw recruits whose equipment was decidedly on the indifferent side. Once the alarm had been sounded, three companies of the Sixth Iowa were hastily assembled, Company D under Capt. Walden, Company I under Capt. Boydolph, and Company K under Lieutenant White.

The companies marched to a building on the levee where a quantity of new Springfield muskets and ammunition had been stored for General Dodge at Council Bluffs. Without authorization Col. Cyrus H. Bussey of Bloomfield seized the weapons and armed his troops for a quick trip to Athens on the old Des Moines Valley railroad. Col. Bussey's action in dispensing with military red tape is generally credited with saving the day.

An account of the situation at Athens has been given as follows by John P. Cruikshank of Fort Madison:

"The belching of cannon and repeated volleys of musketry were heard for 15 miles in the interior of Lee county. Excited messengers on frothing steeds carried exaggerated reports to all the towns and villages in the county, so that by noon of the eventful day nearly every man, woman and child in the vicinity heard the terrifying news that Athens and Croton had been sacked and burned, Moore's army routed, and that the invading army was headed for the interior of the county.

"One old gentleman at Dover, rather than take the chances of being massacred, committed suicide; another near Salem became stark mad and commenced killing off his stock. Consternation reigned. Home guards were called to arms, and hurried to the seat of war. Squads of citizens gathered, and armed with squirrel rifles, shot-guns or even some without arms, started out to meet the enemy."

Col. McDowell was in charge of the soldiers on their way to Croton and historians declare that both officers and men were greatly excited at the news reaching them enroute. The tracks lay along the north bank of the Des Moines, and the south bank across the river in Missouri was scanned for a sight of the enemy believed to be waiting to ambush the troops. The men were crowded into old box cars and flat cars. Two miles from Croton the train was stopped to attempt to learn from the refugees the situation in Croton. It was reported that the Union forces had been cut to pieces, and were in retreat. Col. McDowell distributed cartridges and ordered the train to proceed. Bayonets were fixed and the men ordered to be ready to attack the moment Croton was reached.

When the train arrived at Croton the soldiers were given a hearty reception by the people. McDowell ordered his men to take off their shoes and wade across the river which was only knee deep. This was done, and the secessionists

under Green beat a hasty retreat, leaving the field in sadly demoralized ranks.

The four hundred Union men had withstood the attack at daybreak, the Confederates pouring in volleys of musketry, yelling like demons and sending over some solid shots and slugs from their cannon. The battle raged for some hours, but the Union force beat off the enemy. When the reinforcements were crossing the river, Col. Moore's men took courage and charged the foe, dispersing them completely. Two Union men were killed and fifteen wounded. The secessionist's loss was not known.

Guards were posted as night drew on, and additional troops came from Keokuk under commands of Col. Worthington. The next day Col. Moore's men reorganized to drive the secession troops out of northern Missouri, and the regulars returned to Keokuk where they were welcomed by an applauding population. Athens was plundered and it was understood to have been Grant's intent to have carried the invasion to Lee county.

According to J. B. Sansom, of Kahoka, who two years ago wrote an account of the battle and circumstances leading up to it, the battalion of home guards was organized in Kahoka at a Fourth of July celebration in 1861, with David Moore elected colonel, C. B. Turner, lieutenant colonel, and C. S. Callihan, mayor of the town, offering headquarters there. A Confederate battalion was formed at Union, Mo., and raised its flag in Etna in Scotland county, which was torn down.



THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION-  
TUESDAY, AUG. 7, 1951

## Keokuk Man's Father Fought in Battle of Athens 90 Years Ago

Probably the most interested in the large crowd attending the 90th anniversary ceremonies of the Battle of Athens at Croton Sunday afternoon was S. M. Mitchell of 1227 Timea whose father fought in that historic skirmish.

His father, Robert Mitchell was living in Northeast Missouri at the time and was a member of what they called the Home Guard. As a consequence when Col. Martin Green brought his Missouri Irregulars up to attack the force at Athens, Mitchell was with the Union forces under Col. David Moore.

After the battle he and others came to Keokuk and enlisted in the regular Union forces and he fought through the Civil War as a private in the 21st Missouri Infantry.

### Urge Athens Memorial

Sunday's program, conducted near the marker set up last year by the Iowa Daughters of Union Veterans, was arranged by the Rev. Sales Smith of Moline, Ill., a former resident of Lee county and included music as well as addresses and a basket dinner at noon.

In addition to giving the historic background of the battle and an account of the action, Floyd Shoemaker, secretary of the Missouri State Historical Society, added his voice to the many who are urging an appropriate monument at Athens.

### Rich in History

Such a memorial, he said, would add greatly to the already rich historical heritage of this region. It was on the banks of the nearby Fox river, he reminded, that Missouri and Iowa militiamen once set up camp and threatened to shoot each other because of a disputed boundary line in the so-called "Honey War."

The first American military post in Iowa was Fort Madison which was attacked by Indians and burned in the War of 1812. Across the Mississippi at Nauvoo was the great capital of the rising Mormon empire in the 1840's where the Mormons sought refuge after expulsion from Missouri.

At Keokuk Samuel Clemens worked as a printer with his brother, Orion years before he gained worldwide fame as Mark Twain, the author. Athens itself was the home of Major David McKee who was a founder and the first president of the Anti-Horse Thief association which became nationally famous as a law enforcement society after the Civil War.

### Local Project

"The Athens site would make a fine setting for an Athens Memorial Park to be dedicated and maintained as a local project through the initiative of the people of Clark County, perhaps with the assistance of their near neighbors in Iowa, who have already done so much in setting up the memorial here in Croton," Shoemaker said. "The old Benning house, pierced by a cannon ball on that fateful morning 90 years ago, might be made a focal point for park activities, or it could serve as a battlefield museum. It has been suggested that an Athens Historical Society be formed to co-ordinate the work of the many people who are interested in this project.

"And now may a word be said of those who have made this celebration possible through their interest and their unselfish work in bringing the facts of the Battle of Athens to the attention of the public.

"We owe a debt of gratitude to the patriotic women of the Iowa Daughters of Union Veterans, through whose efforts the fine and appropriate memorial here at Croton was made possible.

### Praises Ben Dixon

"Ben F. Dixon, former Kahoka, Missouri, resident, has written a series of historical articles on the Battle of Athens and conducted research to unearth obscure facts about this little known engagement. He has done much to stimulate interest in preserving the site of the battle.

"The Reverend S. M. Smith, president of the Southeast Iowa Civil War Memorial association, has contributed generously of his time and energies to the arrangement of the many details which go into planning such a celebration as this.

"The Kahoka Chamber of Commerce is helping to interest the people of Clark County in making a park of the Athens battlefield. The newspapers of Keokuk and of Kahoka, the Clark County Court, and many other individuals, civic groups, and cultural agencies deserve appreciative thanks for their work.

"I believe that all of us, working together, can help make the site of the Battle of Athens a memorial truly worthy of the courageous men who fought here 90 years ago this day."

THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION-  
SATURDAY, AUG. 4, 1951

## Large Southern Force Routed At Athens 90 Years Ago Sunday

Tomorrow marks the 90th anniversary of the historic battle of Athens, Mo., northernmost skirmish of the Civil war, and a ceremony will be held in Croton under the sponsorship of the Iowa Daughters of Union Veterans.

Programs will be held both in the morning and afternoon and a basket dinner will be served at noon. High school bands and quartets will provide music.

### Missouri Divided.

The battle occurred on August 5, 1861, and had been shaping up for several weeks with southern forces assembled under the command of Martin Green and northern under David Moore. Northern Missouri was divided in its sympathies as is indicated by the fact that Elias V. Wilson had organized a company of 108 Union men at Edina and Nicholas Murrow, Valentine Cupp and Captain Murray had raised small companies at Antioch, Millport, Goodland and Greensburg.

They rendezvoused at Edina where they were joined by Joseph Story

and a company from Wilmothville in Adair county. Wilson was chosen to head the regimental organization.

### Chased from Edina.

Five hundred men at Edina looked like bad medicine to Martin Green and his forces marched on the town which they took in two days. There was a bloodless skirmish on Troublesome creek July 30 and Wilson decided that Macon would be a safer place for union forces because the Iowa infantry had already taken over the Hannibal and St. Joe railroad and were stationed at Macon.

The following preliminary action and the actual battle of Athens is described in another in a series of

articles for The Gate City by Ben Dixon, former Kahoka resident and curator of the San Diego Historical society.

Green left Edina August 3 and made a junction with Franklin's Marion county battalion and camped on the Fabious east of Memphis. He now had a force estimated all the way from 1200 to 2000 men but as no musters are available it is impossible to know just how large his outfit really was. Regardless of size it was poorly equipped—depending more upon enthusiasm than arms to frighten Dave Moore's men across the Des Moines into Iowa.

### Camp on Fox River.

Gathering momentum, Green moved across northern Clark county on August 4 and camped on the Fox river near Chambersburg. A council of war was held about a campfire on the river bank.

Colonel Green there outlined his plan to drive Moore out of Athens and across the Des Moines before suddenly swooping down upon Colonel Woodward at Canton. He said they would start by scaring the daylights out of Dave Moore and his officers roared guffaws of enjoyment. An interruption came from the shadows:

"There's one thing you forgot, Kurnel, and that is that my pap



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don't scare worth a damn." It was John Moore, one of Dave's boys who had contrived to get himself enlisted in Green's Irregulars and was on his way to Athens to fight his "Old Man." Camp broke early and the army headed for Athens where the village was rudely disturbed at breakfast by the first barking of Jim Kneisley's little iron cannon.

#### Battle Report Lost.

Colonel Moore's report of the Battle of Athens was made to Col. W. H. Worthington, 5th regiment, Iowa Volunteers, in command at Keokuk but the document has never been found. If it is as laconic as most of D. Moore's writings, it is short and pungent. However, the local press carried fairly adequate reports. A fairly good job of reporting was done by the Keokuk Daily Gate City, Chicago Tribune, Missouri Democrat and Quincy Herald. The Gate City published the casualty list.

The battle started at dawn with the booming of Kneisley's "black battery." Twelve hundred or more raw militiamen swooped down upon 400 Union men from three directions. Dull and Kimbrough, leading Clark and Lewis county men came from the river to the little village. Shacklett's Scotland county boys pressed north through Ike Gray's cornfields. The main body of Green's troops moved in from the west.

Citizens left their breakfast, took to their heels and dashed across the shallow Des Moines to Iowa and safety. Ike Bills used to say he caught a wagon bed full of Green's shot as he drove his mules across the "crick."

#### Keokuk Men Involved.

The Keokuk Rifles and Rangers, commanded by Hugh Sample and W. W. Belknap, encamped at Croton, joined in the melee, firing across the stream until their ammunition was exhausted. When flying missiles wrecked the railway station they had to move their bivouac. Uncle Joe Benning stood watching the battle from his front door in Croton. He felt a sudden shock as a cannon ball passed through his house and dropped beside the doorway.

The cannon did little damage but the rifle fire began to take its toll. Men fell, killed or wounded—most of them southerners—a surprise to Martin Green. He had expected an easy victory but his men were being killed or maimed by northern bullets. Henry Spellman and Elsberry Small opposed Shacklett's flank movement. A bullet carried Spellman's hat away. He noted the stampede from Athens into Iowa. "Come on men," he shouted, "we'll never stop 'em." He joined the stampede but Small's company held fast.

In a lull of firing Colonel Moore's stentorian voice called from the village streets, "Forward, charge, bayonets." His two boys, John and Gene, behind a worm fence in Ike Gray's cornfield jumped and ran—starting a rebel stampede back trail for Edina. Martin Green's entire army surged and gave way, leaving horses and stores behind. It was a great victory for Colonel Moore and the Union forces.

## THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION

# Martin Green Shifted From Judge to Soldier Just Before Battle of Athens

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 1951

Editor's Note: This is another in a series of articles on the preliminaries to the Battle of Athens, northernmost conflict of the Civil war which was fought on the Missouri-Iowa border August 5, 90 years ago. The series has been prepared by Ben F. Dixon, former Kahoka resident and curator of the San Diego Historical society.

#### JIM AND MARTIN GREEN

Two Green boys were born in Fauquier county, Va., in 1815 and 1817. In 1836 they came to Lewis county, Mo., where they started farming and sawmilling. James S. Green, the younger, entered law practice and became a famous attorney. He ably prosecuted Missouri's claim for a strip of Iowa territory before the supreme court. When the Civil war broke out, Jim Green was a U. S. senator, ably espousing the southern cause in the national congress.

Martin Green, the elder of the two, became a successful and prosperous farmer whose neighbors made him their county judge. Later they sent him to the legislature, and still later, in 1858, re-elected him to the county judgeship. He was serving in this capacity in 1861 when a Fourth of July riot broke out in Canton, the river port. Captain John Howell, a Union home guard officer who tried to preserve order was brutally murdered by Richard Soward, southern sympathizer.

#### Illinois Regiment.

At dawn of the 5th there arrived from Quincy, Ill., on the SS Black Hawk the 14th Regiment, Illinois Volunteers, under the command of Col. John M. Palmer. The troops occupied the College building and soon had things under control. Senator Green jumped on his horse and fled to Monticello. There the Illinois soldiers captured him, and Col. Palmer placed him on parole.

While Jim was riding hard out of town, Martin Green was riding a horse into the village. On learning of the arrival of the Illinois troops he turned about and took to the hills.

July 5, 1861, was Martin Green's last day as a civilian and his first as a soldier. He made his headquarters at the Border Guard camp on Horseshoe Bend near Monticello. There, with Jos. C. Porter of Marion county, he organized a regiment of Missouri southern volunteers. He became its colonel, Porter the second in command. Green became a brigadier general in the Confederate army, falling at Vicksburg, on June 27, 1863. Porter fled from North Missouri with him in September, but came back in 1862 to conduct one of the most spirited underground guerrilla campaigns of the war.

From five counties of northeast Missouri the southern men flocked into the camp at Horseshoe Bend—from Clark, Knox, Lewis, Marion and Scotland. Jim Kneisley, Cyrus Franklin, Frisbie McCullough, J. W. Priestly and Jos. C. Porter were his leading lieutenants and aids. Dependable Jim Kneisley of Palmyra brought two Hannibal-made cannon to throw into action. These two iron babies spoke lustily for the southern cause at Athens, Shelby, Lexington, Pea Ridge, and other battles. To Green's camp also came three brothers from Wrightsville. They were William, John and Gene, the 15-, 17- and 20-year old sons of D. Moore, Unionist.



# Ben Dixon compiles book on historic Athens fight

Ben F. Dixon of 6008 Arosa Street, San Diego, Calif., has published a historical brochure on the Battle of Athens, often called the northernmost battle of the Civil War, which occurred August 5, 1861.

The booklet, entitled Martin Green's Boomerang, covers events leading up to the skirmish between union forces led by David Moore and Confederates by Martin Green, as well as incidents in the aftermath.

## Green routed

The feature article deals with Martin Green, a judge of the Lewis county court, who recruited men for the Missouri State Guard, basically a secessionist army, and led it on a foray to clear Union sympathizers out of northeast Missouri. He was opposed by David Moore, a Wrightsville merchant, who with a much smaller group of men routed Green's forces at Athens.

Title of the booklet, "Boomerang," comes from a

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folklore account relating that David Moore's three young sons joined up with Colonel Green to fight their harsh-handed father. Once they discovered their dad's determination at Athens, however, they realized he would never quit and themselves fled the field, causing panic among Green's motley band of supporters.

## 250 to Athens

Dixon has given the Athens Park board 250 copies of the booklet for sale at the annual celebration. At \$2 each, a sellout would net the board \$500.

## Skirmish schedule

The Battle of Athens was not the only skirmish in northeast Missouri at the outbreak of the war but was the biggest and bloodiest and most far-reaching. Dixon lists the 1861 events as follows:

July 4—Secession riot and murder at Canton brought an army of occupation, the 14th Illinois Volunteers on the Steamer Black Hawk from Quincy.

July 9—Battle at Hagar's Woods, Monroe County. Tom Harris' Rebels attacked 500 men of the 3rd Iowa, 16th Illinois and Hannibal Home Guard.

July 10-11—Harris' Rebels besieged a Federal force in the Monroe City school and were routed by an invading railway battery from Quincy.

July 21—Dave Moore's Kahoka troops, HG, with Coster's Warsaw Grays, drove Shacklett's Rebel State Guard from Etna and captured a flag.

July 22—Skirmish at Conkel's farm between Luray and Chambersburg.

July 30—Skirmish at Troublesome Creek, near Edina, between Wilson's Knox coun-

ty Home Guards and Martin Green's Rebels.

August 1—Green's occupation of Edina.

August 5—Athens fight followed by:

August 14 — Skirmish at Clapp's Ford.

August 17 — Skirmish at Hunnewell.

August 19 — Skirmish at Bee Branch, Adair county.

Sept. 4—Battle of Shelby, Shelby county.

Sept. 6—Skirmish at Monticello Bridge.

Sept. 9—Attack of Moore's troops on camp of Martin Green at Florida with Green escaping.

Sept. 11—Skirmish at West Ely.

Both antagonists at Athens continued to fight in the Civil War. David Moore lost a leg at Shiloh but served throughout the war and became a brigadier general. Martin Green, lost his life at Vicksburg June 27, 1863.

GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT

## Daughters Of Union Veterans Plan Battle of Athens Marker

JAN. 23, 1950

Iowa Daughters of Union Veterans are planning to erect a monument at Croton, little western Lee county town, commemorating the Battle of Athens, during which the Civil War made its closest approach to Iowa.

Information concerning the proposed monument has been received by The Daily Gate City from Mrs. Charles H. Clapp of Fairfield, who says that plans are now well along and that the society is planning to dedicate the marker on the afternoon of Memorial Sunday, May 28.

### Welcome Contributions.

The Daughters of Union Veterans, she says, will welcome contributions to this monument which will become a valuable addition to the historic sites in Lee county.

Rarely mentioned in chronicles of the Civil War, the Battle of Athens, fought in Missouri just across the Des Moines river from Croton, was more a skirmish than a battle with only a few hundred, poorly trained men participating, but it represented one of the first victories for the Union armies.

It was of tragic importance to northeastern Missouri and southeastern Iowa, however, inasmuch as it

pitted relatives and friends against each other.

### Father Against Son.

As Goodspeed said in his "History of Lewis, Clark, Knox and Scotland Counties":

"Oh, the pity of it—between brothers, between father and son. Opposed to Colonel Moore there fought bravely his son, Dr. William Moore who commanded a company.

"Of the men who fought at Athens, perhaps 49 of every 50 received their first baptism of fire, and for the first time in their lives, discharged a gun at an enemy with intent to kill, maim or wound. It was a fight between Missourians, for only a mere handful

of Moore's men were from another state. It was a fight, too, between neighbors, for dozens on each side recognized acquaintances and former friends in the ranks of the foe."

### Praised By Lincoln.

Another account says: "By sheer courage and force of arms, a vast area was cleared of secessionists and saved for the Union."

It is said that President Lincoln, when informed of this Union victory under the leadership of Col. David Moore of Clark county sighed and said fervently:

"Thank God for one soldier who knows how to WIN a battle."

Colonel Moore, although authorized by General Nathaniel Lyon to organize a company, instead organized a regiment and by June of 1861 his popularity had attracted more than 1,000 men to his Union camp. His unit was called the First Northeast Missouri Volunteer Infantry. More than half of his regiment was home on furlough when the Confederates launched their attack on Athens August 5, 1861.

### Col. Green Led Rebels.

Leader of the Confederate forces was Col. Martin E. Green, county judge of Lewis county. He had taken the field with the express purpose of "clearing the four northeastern counties of Missouri of Black Repub-



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ican Unionists."

Events leading up to the battle started as early as February of 1861 when the first company of Missouri Border Guards (secessionists) was organized at Alexandria with Capt. J. W. Johnson in charge. From then on until the actual fight suppressed rebel activities, sympathies toward the North and South become more and more divided in northeastern Missouri.

The battle occurred when the Confederates attacked the Union camp at Athens, located across the river from Croton.

#### Keokuk Companies Help.

The City Rifles and Keokuk Rangers came to the aid of Colonel Moore's troops and engaged the enemy's right wing. They received praise from Colonel Moore for holding that wing in check and finally driving it back.

Contemporary accounts of the battle, written from a Union slant, say that the rebels lost approximately 25 men. No casualties were mentioned on the Union side.

In addition to rifles and muskets, field pieces were used and several cannon balls traveled across the river into Croton, three lodging in the cemetery. An old home in Athens still has a cannon ball hole in its walls.

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

### Former Kahoka Resident—

# Ben F. Dixon Writes Series on Battle of Athens, 90 Years Ago

Ben F. Dixon, former Kahoka, Mo., resident and curator of the San Diego, Calif., Historical Society, has written a series of historical articles on the Battle of Athens, northernmost battle of the Civil War, which occurred 90 years ago on August 5.

Dixon grew up amid scenes of G. A. R. reunions and has boyhood memories of the great annual picnics at Athens. Many years ago he began collecting anecdotes and other material on this episode.

#### No Official Records

When, in 1941, he learned that there are no war department archives of this battle, he turned his hobby into a profession and has compiled more information on the Athens campaign than can be found anywhere else in a single repository.

Born in 1892, he attended the Kahoka public schools where he was graduated from high school in 1910 and was a student at Culver-Stockton college from 1914-1917. In 1917 he enlisted in the navy hospital corps and after 30 years service retired as a lieutenant.

#### To College in 1947

Early in his career he turned to editorial work and historical research. While in China in 1924 he was co-founder of a service publication "The Orient of Shanghai" which continued for many years. On return to the United States he became editorial assistant on the Hospital Corps "Quarterly" and was closer identified with that magazine until the end of World War II.

Late in 1946 he was released from active duty and returned with his family to San Diego where he had established a home in 1932. He entered San Diego State college in 1947 as a GI schoolboy to continue where he had left off at Culver-Stockton in 1917. In 1949 he received an A.B. with distinction in history and was appointed by the city as curator of the Historical Museum. He is now working on a master's degree at Occidental college, Los Angeles while serving as historical curator.

The first of his series of articles on the Battle of Athens follows below. Others will appear in The Gate City each week.

#### "Decisive Battle"

On August 5, 1861, at Athens, Clark county, Mo., was fought a decisive skirmish known locally as "The Battle of Athens," between a small force of Union militia under command of Col. David Moore, and a superior force of secessionist Missouri Border Guards under Col. Martin Green. Moore's men routed the rebels in the face of great odds, and began the drive which squeezed the southern forces out of Northeast Missouri.

In view of the results, this skirmish may well be termed a "decisive battle" in the bloody guerrilla campaigns that were waged in Northeast Missouri in 1861 and 1862. Yet the Battle of Athens has remained un-

known to historians. The archives of the War Department contain no Athens documents. The Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies contain but one meager reference to it in the chronology of the war in Missouri.

#### Irregular Forces

The battle was fought and the campaign was conducted between irregular forces of citizenry not regularly inducted into the military service. Regular musters, if kept or maintained, were either lost or destroyed. Pay-rolls for Union forces were not kept until the organizations came into the national establishment. Men who served in this campaign had to wait two years for Congress to appropriate for their pay. Many of them were never paid at all.

Martin Green's Border Guards also, if mustered at all, were most of them mustered without records. Hundreds of men fought for Green and his lieutenants—with no record whatever of their service. As the historian says, "No document, no history." Of this entire episode the archives of the nation are almost blank.

#### Site Never Marked

The Chamber of Commerce at Kahoka, Mo., county seat of Clark, has recently called attention to the fact that this year will be the 90th Anniversary of the famous battle. The battle site has never been marked. The old Benning home which received a cannon shot from one of Green's Hannibal-made cannon is about to fall into ruin and decay. The State of Iowa has suitably marked the spot across the Des Moines river where cannon shot wrecked the Croton railway station.

"Is it not high time?" asks Glen M. Crockett of the Kahoka Chamber of Commerce Park Committee, "that the story of the Battle of Athens be re-told for the generation that has never heard of it? The battle site should be preserved to posterity as a State Park."

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



## War Memorial at Croton to be Dedicated by D. U. V. on May 28

WEDNESDAY, APR. 5, 1950

Plans are nearing completion by the Iowa Daughters of Union Veterans for the dedication of their war memorial at Croton next month.

The memorial site will mark the spot where cannon balls fell on Iowa soil from the northernmost battle of the Civil War on August 5 and 6, 1861, and will be dedicated in a ceremony attended by Gov. William Beardsley of Iowa and Gov. Forrest Smith of Missouri at 3 p. m. May 28, Memorial Sunday.

Battle of Athens.

The marker will commemorate the Battle of Athens, Mo., in which many Keokuk men participated, and Mrs. Pearl R. Clapp of 201 Hemstead street, Fairfield, says that the Daughters of Union Veterans will welcome contributions from any son or daughter of a Civil War veteran.

Although it is subject to change, a tentative program has been set up as follows by Mrs. Clapp:

**DEDICATION OF WAR MEMORIAL**  
May 28, 1950, 3 p. m.  
Sponsored by the Iowa Daughters of

Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865.  
At Croton, Iowa.  
Program.

Argyle High School Band Concert—2-3 p. m.  
Song, "America," led by Daisy Duckworth, Centerville, Ia.  
Introduction of Master-of-Ceremonies—Rev. Sales Smith.  
Band—Kahoka, Mo., School Band.  
Pledge of Allegiance, led by Mrs. Pearl R. Clapp, Fairfield, Ia.  
Dedication Prayer—Rev. Sales Smith  
Introduction of Missouri Governor, Forrest Smith.  
Male Quartette.  
Introduction of Iowa Governor, Wm. Beardsley.  
Band.  
"Star Spangled Banner," led by Daisy Duckworth.  
Taps.

## Dedicate Croton War Memorial For Battle of Athens May 28

In commemoration of the Battle of Athens, northernmost skirmish in the Civil War, the Iowa Daughters of Union Veterans will dedicate a war marker in Croton Sunday afternoon, May 28 at 1:30 p. m.

Canon balls from this battle, fought across the Des Moines river in Athens, Mo. with the Keokuk militia participating, fell in Croton and one of them has been recovered for dedication with the marker.

### State Officers

Among the state officers planning to attend from Des Moines will be Mesdames Stella Adams, president of the Iowa Daughters of Union Veterans, Minnie DuVall, senior vice president, Leona Freeberg, secretary, Ethel Houlette, treasurer, S. Ella Frick, publicity and Miss Pearl Stutsman, musician.

The war memorial will be presented by Mrs. Essie Jenks of Knoxville, state patriotic instructor and it will be accepted for Lee county by William Heinold of Fort Madison, chairman of the county board of supervisors.

Others appearing on the program

will be representatives from the governors of Iowa and Missouri as well as a number of bands.

### Fought Aug. 5-6, 1861

The Ladies Aid society of the Methodist church at Croton will serve lunch.

The Battle of Athens occurred August 5 and 6, 1861 when a band of Confederate soldiers appeared there. A man was sent post-haste to Keokuk where soldiers had been gathering since President Lincoln's call for men in April. A company was dispatched to Croton and dispersed the foe.

On April 6 the southerners returned and a more urgent call was sent

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1950

to Keokuk. This time the 6th Iowa Infantry was loaded on flat cars and sent by train to Croton, just across the river from Athens. They had three cannons, one of brass, another of iron and a third made of a log. The enemy had four.

The women and children of Croton were taken for safety to a deep draw and the troops waded and swam the Des Moines river to engage the enemy.

### Accounts Differ

The account of the battle, taken from records in the State Historical building in Des Moines, says that 25 men were killed. The Daily Gate City of that day says that several were killed and many wounded. Only one Union man lost his life.

One account said that a single cannon ball fell on Iowa soil and another states that several crossed the river into this state.

At the time of the battle Croton was a lively, progressive town with two stores, two banks, two mills, a blacksmith shop, two churches, a ferry operating between the mills and a school. That was 89 years ago. Now there are only the remembered stories of the old soldiers and their reminiscing of the battle.

## Missouri Historian Speaks at Battle of Athens Celebration

MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 1951

The Battle of Athens, Mo., takes its historical importance from the fact that it prevented the bloodshed of the Civil war from penetrating the soil of Iowa. Floyd C. Shoemaker, secretary of the State Historical society of Missouri told a crowd which gathered at Croton yesterday to celebrate the 90th anniversary of this battle.

Although it is known locally as a battle, Shoemaker said, the engagement at Athens August 5, 1861, is listed in official government records as a skirmish, "but Athens may with propriety be called a battle if it may be judged by its decisiveness in establishing for the Union title to the territory in this vicinity.

### Guarded Gateway.

"For strategically Athens guarded the gateway across the Des Moines river to Croton and Croton, in turn, was situated on the railroad leading

some 20 miles to Keokuk where great stores of federal supplies were kept. If union troops had not triumphed at Athens, all northeastern Missouri and southeastern Iowa could have fallen into the hands of the Missouri state forces, and a full scale campaign might

have been necessary to dislodge them.

"We Missourians have valued a tradition that the Battle of Athens was the farthest north battle of the entire Civil war. Now, I for one always had a hearty respect for tradition, for often it is well founded in the knowledge handed down by local people from generation to generation. But as a historian I've learned to be careful of superlatives such as 'the oldest,' 'the first,' or 'the northernmost.'

"In checking the original historical sources, I found that Athens has a rival for the honor of being the northernmost of the nation's Civil war battles, and that indeed we may have to share the honors equally with that rival.

### Remarkable Coincidence.

"By a reasonable coincidence, the two farthest north skirmishes of the Civil war took place at almost exactly the same degree and minute of north latitude. The site of a



skirmish which occurred 1½ miles south of Salineville, Ohio, on July 26, 1863, lies almost upon the 40°-35' line which runs through Athens, according to the topographic maps of the United States Geological Survey.

"It was there that the Confederate Colonel John Hunt Morgan was defeated in a fight with Union forces which ended his famous raid from Kentucky through Indiana and Ohio.

"The official reports of the Salineville skirmish say that 20 to 30 men were killed, 50 wounded, and 223 men and nine commissioned officers surrendered there. Morgan himself was captured about eight miles northeast of Salineville, where a monument stands today.

"The people of Ohio, however, like the people of Missouri, have not yet erected a monument at the site of their northernmost battle. The inscription on such a monument would have to be very carefully worded. Although the maps show the probable site of the Salineville skirmish as less than a mile north of the line which runs through Athens, who is qualified to define the limits of a battle?

"Neither scientist nor surveyor in the field today can trace the path of the farthest flying cannon ball in any battle, or can locate the most scattered points at which individual soldiers engaged in hand-to-hand fighting.

"When two battle sites are within some 4,000 to 5,000 feet of the same latitude, as are Athens and Salineville, we must consider them as equal partners in the unusual honor of being northernmost in our nation.

"And the very fact of this remarkable coincidence renders our Battle of Athens the more outstanding.



Floyd Shoemaker

For the two northernmost skirmishes of the Civil war, fought two years and nearly 600 miles apart, to have taken place at exactly the same north latitude is in itself a fact worthy of fame in historical annals.

"It is up to us to see that a memorial at Athens will give this unusual battle the recognition it so richly deserves in our nation's history."

# THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION- It Happened 89 Years Ago— Battle of Athens Marker to be Dedicated at Croton on Sunday

TUESDAY, MAY 23, 1950

Many persons from Iowa and Missouri will converge on the little village of Croton next Sunday afternoon when at 2 o'clock the Iowa Daughters of Union Veterans dedicate a Civil War Memorial commemorating the Battle of Athens.

Fought on August 5-6, 1861, this was the northernmost battle of the Civil War and marked the only time that enemy cannon balls fell on Iowa soil.

## General Grahl To Attend.

Representatives of the governors of Missouri and Iowa (Brig. Gen. Charles H. Grahl will serve for Gov. William Beardsley) will be on hand for the dedication as will state officers of the Daughters of Union Veterans. The Rev. Sales M. Smith of Chicago will be master of ceremonies.

Both the Argyle and Keokuk high school bands are scheduled to play and music will also be provided by the Morrell Male chorus of 25 voices from Ottumwa.

Stella Adams of Des Moines, president of the D. U. V. will dedicate the marker which will be accepted for Lee county by William Heindol, chairman of the board of supervisors. The Lee county board has given a triangular piece of ground for the monument.

## Col. Moore Formed Company.

The Rev. Sales M. Smith has been studying the historical accounts of the Battle of Athens and says that a Missouri merchant, Col. David Moore, who was engaged in business at Union in Clark county, felt that something should be done to stop the Confederates who were advancing northward through Missouri.

Colonel Moore had served in the Mexican war, knew military strategy and was well acquainted with the territory. As a consequence of his interest he received authority from General Lyon in St. Louis on May 20, 1861 to recruit a company of men for the Union service. He issued a call and was overwhelmed by the response.

## Camped at Athens.

He soon saw that it would be impossible to support his company on Clark county, he decided to go into camp at Athens where he could receive supplies over the Des Moines Valley railroad and, if necessary, reinforcements from the federal recruiting stations in Keokuk and Burlington. Athens was immediately across the Des Moines river from Croton, a station on the railroad.

Early in August Colonel Moore had furloughed most of his men with only 400 remaining in camp. On the evening of August 4, 1861 he informed Union troops which had arrived on the Iowa side of the river that his scouts had reported the enemy to be advancing in force and that he expected an attack the next day.

On August 5 at 9 a. m. the Confederates advanced with 800 cavalry troops and two cannons. They were

commanded by Col. Martin E. Greene and were met by Colonel Moore with his 400, later supported by two companies of 200 or more men who had crossed the river from the Iowa side.

## Lasted An Hour.

The battle lasted about an hour before the Confederate forces withdrew, leaving nine men dead and a number wounded. The Union forces lost three dead and 18 wounded.

According to reports a majority of the cannon shots passed over the Des Moines river, two going through the roof of the railroad depot at Croton while at least three struck in the Croton cemetery, located on a hill a half mile from the river. One cannon ball passed through the house of Uncle Joe Benning which still stands in Athens.

## Forded River.

General Cyrus Bussey writes in the Annals of Iowa that he reached the Iowa side of the river after a special train had arrived from Keokuk bringing several hundred men, including the companies of Captains Hugh Sample and W. W. Belknap. He says that the forces were forming in line when he made his appearance and that some of the men raised the question of crossing the river into Missouri.

Since he had the authority from both the governor of Iowa and Major Fremont of St. Louis, General Bussey ordered the men to cross and they waded the stream which was very low and fordable at the time. The Iowans launched their attack on the enemy flank and took the Confederates completely by surprise.

Among those taking part in the battle and slightly wounded was a young Keokuk lawyer, John W. Noble who later became secretary of the interior under the Harrison administration.

## Seized Arms Here.

In his account General Bussey tells of seizing a shipment of arms in Keokuk which was enroute from Washington to Colonel Dodge in Council Bluffs. The arms were taken to outfit the men for the Battle of Athens. Later he received a sharp note from Judge Baldwin, aid-de-camp for the governor.

It appeared, he said, that the governor, senators and representatives in congress had been unable to obtain the necessary equipment and Colonel Dodge had been sent to Washington where he had been successful. The superintendent of the

U. S. Express later talked with Judge Baldwin, explained the urgent need and that it was seizure of the arms which aided in the Union victory at Athens.  
General Bussey's acts were later approved and he also received the commendation of Governor Kirkwood of Iowa.

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



THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION-

## A Footnote to History-

THURSDAY, AUG. 9, 1951

## Civil War's 'Message to Garcia' Changed the Battle for Athens

BY MRS. ALBERT BROWN

CANTON, Mo., Aug. 9—Among those who attended the program commemorating the 90th anniversary of the Battle of Athens at Croton last Sunday was Charles Frederick (Fritz) Boone of Kahoka, a grandson of the Rev. Jabez Harrison, Methodist minister and member of Co. F, 21st Mo. Inf., who was one of the four Missourians killed in the battle.

Harrison's death, which resulted from his being shot in the mouth with a musket ball, was ironic in that his two daughters, Miss Drucilla Harrison (who later married George Weiser, a major in the Union army) and Mrs. Frederick (Charlotte Harrison) Boone, played important roles in an incident which may have determined the outcome of the battle.

Sitting in the living room of his country home after he returned from Croton, Sunday, Mr. Boone, now 77, retold to the members of his family assembled there the story with which his daughters have been familiar since they were children, but which his 11-year-old grandson was hearing for the first time. Heretofore unprinted, the story recounts an incident which did not "make the history books" but which was an influential factor in "making history."

## That "Message."

Mr. Boone's story follows:

"In the unsettled days just before the battle took place, Ma (Mrs. Fred Boone) decided she wanted to go to Memphis to see her sister (Miss Drucilla Harrison, henceforth referred to in this article as Auntie); so Dad hitched his team to the wagon and he and Ma started on the long, tedious drive.

"The Harrisons had come to Clark county from Virginia, and Auntie, although she didn't commit herself publicly, was pretty well recognized as a Southern sympathizer. She had been employed at the home of the Buseys in Memphis for some time and had been 'seeing' a Lieut. Wiley, who was with Col. Martin Green's forces.

"When Pa and Ma arrived in Memphis and went to see Auntie, they found her especially upset and un-

usually glad to see them. It had been pretty well understood that the Southern troops were scheduled to attack on August 8, but from her lieutenant, Auntie had learned that Col. Green had moved the date for the attack ahead three days in the hope that a surprise engagement might gain a victory.

"Auntie's Southern sympathies right then were swept aside by the more pressing fears for her family's safety, for everyone close to her lived in that territory sure to be endangered by any conflict between the two forces. Grandpa (Jabez) Harrison was then living in the St. Francisville community.

"After Auntie had learned of Col. Green's change in plans, she had written a note about the advance in late to Col. Moore, but had not found a way to send the message. Pa and Ma and Auntie discussed the situation and Pa decided that, under the circumstances, the only thing for them to do was rest the team as long as necessary, then get back to Kahoka as fast as they could.

## Message Securely Hidden.

"While he was caring for the horses, Ma and Auntie ripped someitches in Ma's slat bonnet, slid the folded note along one of the slats and fixed the rip so that it wouldn't be noticed.

"Pa and Ma started back home and were getting along fine until they approached the creek a few miles east of Memphis and unexpectedly came upon Col. Green's encampment there. They were halted and Pa was taken from the wagon to a tent where he was stripped to the skin and thoroughly

searched. He said he didn't know what might have happened if John Kimbrough (who was with the Southern troops) had not come along about that time and greeted him with a "Hello, Fred. What are you doing here?"

"Asked if he knew the man they were searching, Kimbrough said, 'Sure, he's Fred Boone, and whatever he tells you, you can depend upon.'

## Team Is Raced Home.

"So Pa and Ma were passed without further delay, and they made it back home (the old Boone farmstead two miles northeast of Kahoka) as fast as their team could travel. Pa later said that by overheating it, he ruined one of the best horses he ever owned—and he owned some good ones in his day.

"As soon as they reached home, Pa rushed the note over to Ma's brother, John Harrison, who lived just across the road from them. Uncle John mounted a horse and rode hard to Col. Moore's camp. He delivered the message that night, but there wasn't much the Northern forces could do in preparation, for the Southerners arrived at daybreak the next morning."

Not much the Northerners could do? The startegy they planned in those brief morning hours turned the surprise attack into a rout of Col. Green's rebels and a victory for Col. Moore's Union forces which were outnumbered on the occasion about four to one.

## Changes Her Mind.

Fear for the members of her family had impelled Drucilla Harrison to send a message of the impending attack to the Northern commander, and the same fear had spurred Fred and Charlotte Boone and John Harrison in their combined attempt to get the message through; but the hands of Fate did not remove their father from the dangers of battle, and he fell in combat on the morning of August 5, 1861, when he was hit in the mouth with a musket ball.

The body of the Rev. Jabez Harrison was buried on the slope at the south edge of the Wolf cemetery near St. Francisville, and the small white slab that marks the grave states simply:

"JABEZ HARRISON"

"Co. F,

"21st Mo. Inf."

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

THURSDAY, JULY 12, 1951

## Missouri Went Into Action With Fort Sumpter During Civil War

Editor's Note: This is another in a series of articles by Ben F. Dixon, former Kahoka resident and now curator of the San Diego Historical society, on the events leading up to the Battle of Athens, Mo., in 1861.

## MISSOURI BORDER GUARDS

Fort Sumpter blew up the powder keg in Missouri. Governor Jackson convened his war legislature "to place the state in a proper attitude for defense," and reorganized the militia. While General Frost was ordered into Camp Jackson, other

divisional groups were put into active training and ordered recruited to full strength. In northeast Missouri Thomas A. Harris was made brigadier-general of the Second division. Florida was his rendezvous, his recruit depot, his hideout. On July 13, Col. U. S. Grant with the 21st Illinois arrived in Marion county and marched on Florida with his heart in his mouth.

## Guards Set Up.

Many companies of border guards were set up in April and May. At

Canton, Noah Grant organized a company. The ladies of the city presented the national colors. The company rejected them, declaring they would "never march under it in obedience to the requisition of Abraham Lincoln." Three companies were formed in Scotland by Captains John Boyle, John Duell and William Dunn. At Edina, Knox county, a company was outfitted with handsome uniforms by Capt. John T. Davis, Martin Green, Ralph Smith and John G. Nunn. Lewis county judges, voted \$165.34 for powder and lead for the border guards. At Monticello Senator Green declared: "Every man willing to live under Black Republican rule ought to be kicked out of the state like a dog!" Palmyra Company.

On May 11 the Marion Artillery



company was organized at Palmyra. On the 21st Jim Kneisley reorganized it. Patriotic States Rights men contributed to a fund to purchase artillery. The foundry of Cleaver and Mitchell at Hannibal poured two iron cannon, a 6-pounder and a 9-pounder, before the Federal Reserve Guards commandeered the plant. These two guns became the property of Kneisley's group and served gloriously under secession colors. Kneisley took them to Athens in August and it was one of these guns which sent a shell for breakfast into the old Benning house—and which wrecked the Croton railway station across the Des Moines in Iowa.

Union men were far from contented to see the border guards take over. Union companies were organized in every county. On the very date that Nathaniel Lyon captured Camp Jackson, he issued specific authority to loyal men all over the state to set up union militia groups. Among those who received such authority were Howland at LaGrange, Howell at Canton, William Bishop at Alexandria and David Moore at Wrightsville. John Glover in Knox county was authorized to raise a troop of cavalry. Recruiting blazed up everywhere.



ERECTED IN 1964 this marker marks the spot where the Battle of Athens took place. —Sally Moreland

## Athens to hold annual Battle observance on July 27 and 28

The Daily Gate City

KEOKUK, IOWA THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1968 — 7



CIVIL WAR MARKER and cannon welcomes people to Croton, the sight of the

most northern fought battle in the Civil War. —Sally Moreland

By Sally Moreland

FARMINGTON — The annual observance of the Battle of Athens will be held July 27 and 28 in Athens, Mo. located 6 miles south of Farmington, the two-day event will take place on the site of the Civil War battle which took place August 15, 1861.

Across the Des Moines river from Athens, the hamlet of Croton in Iowa will have its annual observance on August 4.

At Athens the Sunday afternoon program will include a mortgage burning. A total of \$7,800 has been paid with payment of the final mortgage of \$2,800.

The original loan in 1963 was set up on a 10 year program. The Athens Park Development association now has 230 acres of land which has been developed into a park with picnic area, shelter house, and historical marker.

In addition to its annual observance, the group earned money by having motorcycle hill climbs, white elephant sales and fish fries.

The association will continue to schedule fund raising events, to add improvements to the area and preserve the historical site.

The Athens program on Saturday night will include a home talent show. Ham and beans will be served with corn bread. Russell Rathwiler will be the speaker for church services on Sunday. There will be a beef barbecue, memorial service at the marker and entertainment by the Gospellets of Ottumwa with the Rev. James Salvador of Batavia as speaker.

THURS JULY 18, 1968 - 7  
ATHENS - 1968-1

THE GREAT JUSTICE HIGH WALKED HISTORY  
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA



ATHENS - 1968 - 2  
THURS, JULY 18, 1968 - 1/2



THIS SHELTER is one of many things that are being erected on the site of the Civil War battle field at Athens, Missouri. This shelter was erected through donations and by volunteer labor.  
—Sally Moreland



HERE IS THE AREA where each year the town of Croton celebrated the anniversary of the battle of Athens. This year the battle will be remembered with an observance August 4.  
—Sally Moreland

Sunday night will feature the Burlington Clipper Barbershop Chorus of Burlington. At the Croton observance the program will feature Keith Muntz as master of ceremonies and Stanley Shepherd as speaker, both of Farmington. Dinner will be served at noon.



FEBRUARY 18, 1897.

THE DAM AT CROTON.

An Old Lee County Resident Writes of Its Former Existence.

A. L. Cruze of Croton, Ia., has the following communication in the Burlington Hawkeye:

"Our town is in Lee county, one and a half miles south of the half breed tract. Way back in the fifties this place enjoyed an era of growth and prosperity. At this place the state of Iowa built a dam sixteen feet high, also, locks to allow passage of boats. Then the state was making effort to make the Des Moines river navigable by means of slack water navigation. And the dam at this place was the last dam completed, being about thirty miles from the mouth of the river. The dam furnished a vast amount of water power for the running of mills; and three mills were soon built at the ends of the dams, two mills on the Iowa side and one on the Missouri side of the river. During these years these mills were kept busy during the whole year, often running night and day. Their flour was the equal of any flour to be found in the markets of Keokuk and surrounding towns. This prosperity of the mills continued and the quality of flour held its pace in the markets with other output of other mills as long as these mills continued to run, but the mills were carried away in the large ice gorge in the early spring of 1866. After the state's support was withdrawn from keeping the dams along its course in repair, and this dam was considerably damaged in the gorge that carried off the mills. The mill owners did not see fit to replace the mills. Since that time the prosperity of this place has been gradually growing less. Even the telegraph office has been cut out. Old time residents of this place like to talk of Croton's early years of prosperity, and speak of the times when farmers came from thirty to fifty miles to bring their wheat here to be made into standard flour. And carried back to their homes to be sold to their groceryman in exchange for all kinds of merchandise. But of the old dam that was once the pride of the town there is not left one stone upon another to mark where it once stood."

Entered in Keokuk Postoffice as Second-Class Matter.

FEBRUARY 16, 1897.

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THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION-

## Crowd of 200 Gathers at Croton For Battle of Athens Program

MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 1953

By JULIA HUISKAMP

More than two hundred persons marked the fourth annual revival of the observance of the Battle of Athens Sunday afternoon in the school house grounds near Croton with a delicious country style picnic luncheon at noon and a program later in the afternoon commemorating the northern most battle of the Civil war.

The affair has grown every year, and promises to become a really big yearly event in years to come. It was sponsored by the Southeast Iowa Civil War Memorial association whose president, F. H. Anderson of Farmington, acted as master of ceremonies for the program.

### Farmington Band Plays.

Preceding the program a concert was presented by the Farmington high school band.

The program itself consisted of an invocation given by the Rev. Donald Arthur of Farmington, several musical numbers, and the main address. The speaker of the afternoon was Dale E. Carrell, Sr., who addressed the crowd on "The Battle of Athens, Its Memories and Horizons."

Mr. Carrell said that while the battle of Athens, which occurred 92 years ago, August 5, is now little known outside this area, it was an important battle in the preservation of the Union, since it saved the four

northeastern counties of Missouri and all southeast Iowa from rebel invasion once and for all.

### 80 Keokuk Volunteers.

The Union forces under the command of Col. David Moore, he related, were not up to full strength, since many men had been granted extended leaves to harvest their crops. Consequently the 80 volunteers from Keokuk companies were welcome relief to the colonel's Missouri troops. At one time during the battle, the southern forces had Union positions surrounded on three sides, but the bravery and determination of a few leaders inspired the Unionist troops, and the Secessionist forces were routed in a miniature "Bull Run," leaving behind artillery pieces, horses, ammunition, and wagon loads of provisions.

### Lincoln Praises Victory.

When he was told of the Union victory, Abraham Lincoln was said to have exclaimed "Thank God for one soldier who knows how to win a battle!"

Mr. Carrell told his audience that certain horizons or goals were forthcoming from the battle where Iowans and Missourians fought and died to preserve the principal of government in which they believed "The great deeds of the past," he said, "give us the incentive to keep America great." Unity and brother-

Daily Gate City Photo

**ANOTHER CIVIL WAR CANNON BALL** which landed on Iowa soil across the Des Moines river from the Battle of Athens, Mo. was found this spring by Everett B. Wilson of Farmington, in the picture to the right, who is showing it to F. H. Anderson, president of the Southeast Iowa Civil War Memorial association who presided at the Battle Memorial at Croton Sunday. Above a section of the crowd of more than 200 listens to Dale E. Carrell of Keokuk speak on "The Battle of Athens, Its Memories and Horizons."



hood are the horizons of the battle of Athens, he concluded.

#### Musical Program.

Mary Burk, Patty McCarthy and Joy Haffner, accompanied by Donna McCarty sang during the program, and Jacquelyn Smith of Croton played a saxophone solo, "Have You Counted the Cost?" The Rev. S.

M. Smith, a former resident of Croton, spoke briefly about his memories of former celebrations.

The Farmington American Legion post provided the color guard.

Also serving on the committee which so well organized the program were Mrs. Eva Anderson, Mrs. Dorothy Spiesz, Mrs. Laura LaMere, Mrs. Erma Batten, Mrs. Bertha

Springer and Mrs. Mildred Saltz-gaver.

As an interesting sidelight to the program Everett Wilson of Farmington had on display a 2½ pound cannon shot he found on the site of the battleground last spring. Several other missiles from the historical battle have been discovered, but his is the most recent.

## Dedicate Monument at Croton Sunday



THE KEOKUK, IA.. GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT.  
MONDAY, MAY 29, 1950

A HUGE CROWD ATTENDED THE DEDICATION of the Civil war memorial to the battle of Athens in Croton, Ia., yesterday. Pictured above is a portion of the spectators who attended the ceremony. In the background on the platform are the various persons responsible for the erection of the monument. Brigadier General Charles E. Grahl of Des Moines was the principal speaker of the afternoon.

—Daily Gate City Photo

### Battle of Athens Memorial Presented Before Huge Crowd

CROTON, Ia., May 29—"Erected in Memory of those who fought to preserve the Union in the Civil war, 1861-1865. Cannon balls fell here from the northernmost battle of the Civil war at Athens, Mo., August 5-6, 1861."

This is the inscription on the Civil war memorial to the battle of Athens which was dedicated here in this community of 35 inhabitants yesterday afternoon in a patriotic ceremony.

#### General Grahl Speaks.

Brigadier General Charles E. Grahl of Des Moines, who repre-

sented Gov. William Beardsley, unable to attend in person, was the principal speaker of the afternoon. General Grahl, in his brief speech, stated that the people of Croton as well as those in the nation owed a debt of gratitude to the Iowa Daughters of Union Veterans, through whose efforts the memorial was made possible.

General Grahl also gave the military account of the battle of Athens.

"On Aug. 6, 1861," he said, "the sixth infantry of the Union army, then stationed in Keokuk, was ordered to Athens, Mo., where the Confederate army had appeared the day before.

"It was believed that they were attempting to get to the government stores in Keokuk, by crossing the river at Croton. However, the sixth infantry division was dispatched and crossed the river to ward off the would-be invaders. Seven cannons, three Union and four Confederate, took part in the ensuing battle.

#### 25 Are Killed.

"Twenty-five Union soldiers were killed and scores were injured, but they won the encounter, thereby preventing the battle of the Civil War from penetrating Iowa soil."

(Records state that the South attempted to fire cannonballs across the river to Croton. However, it is believed that only one large ball ever touched Iowa soil. This was found over 70 years ago by Ves Surrana, a farmer still living east of Croton. The ball now rests in front of the Memorial.)

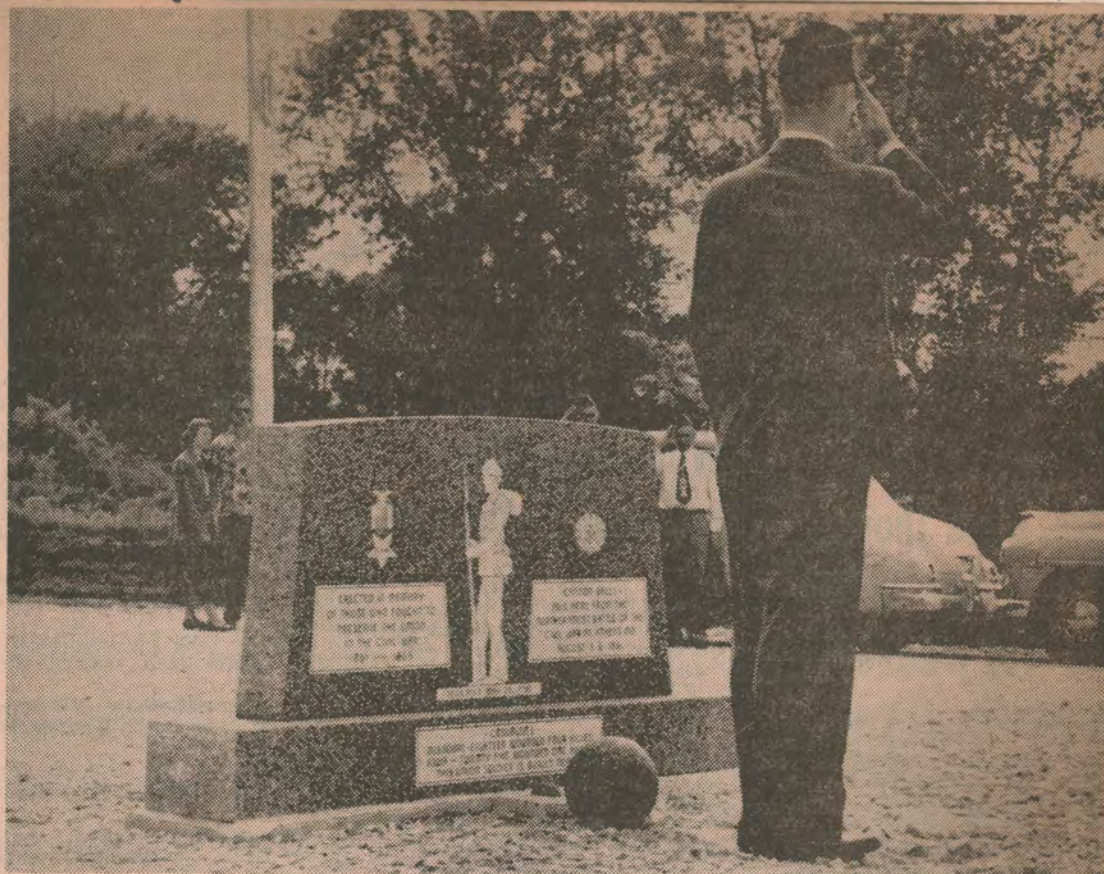
General Grahl concluded his speech by saying, "May those who visit this community and see this memorial re-dedicate their lives to the ideals of peace and freedom so that those to whom we pay tribute today will not have died in vain."

#### Chairman Speaks.

Prior to the general's speech, Pearl R. Clapp, of Fairfield, who had charge of the program committee, told of how the project was

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"  
P. I. RICKET KEOKUK, IOWA





**DEDICATION OF A MEMORIAL** to the battle of Athens, Mo., was held yesterday afternoon in Croton, Ia. The commander of the Farmington American Legion is shown above standing next to the monument during the playing of "Taps" at the conclusion of the patriotic ceremony. The memorial was erected "In memory of those who fought to preserve the Union in the Civil War."  
—Daily Gate City Photo

begun over a year ago, how the cannonball was obtained for the memorial and how the monument was finally completed.

The program chairman, her voice choked with emotion, introduced, one by one, those persons responsible for the success of the project.

The following was the program of the afternoon's ceremony.

2:00 to 2:30 p. m., band concert, Argyle high school band.

2:30 to 3:00 p. m., Keokuk school band.

Opening, department president of Iowa Daughters of Union Veterans, Stella Adams, Des Moines.

Introduction of program chairman, Pearl R. Clapp, Fairfield.

Introduction of master of ceremonies, the Rev. Sales Smith, East Moline, Ill.

"America," led by Daisy Duckworth, Centerville.

Dedication prayer, the Rev. Sales Smith.

Pledge of allegiance, led by Eszle Jenks, Knoxville, department patriotic instructor.

Advance of colors, by Farmington American Legion.

Presentation of monument.

Introduction of Representative of Gov. William Beardsley, Iowa, Brigadier General Charles E. Grahl, Des Moines.

Morrell chorus.

"Star Spangled Banner," led by Daisy Duckworth, Centerville, with Keokuk high school band.

Firing Salute, Farmington American Legion.

Taps.

# **Constitution-Democrat.** **JULY 29, 1904.**

## **BATTLE OF ATHENS**

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CELEBRATION NEARLY COMPLETE.

VERY INTERESTING PROGRAM WILL BE GIVEN.

Hon. Jos. W. Folk and Other Notables Have Been Invited to Be Present.

Peakesville, Mo., July 26.—(Special.)  
—Lest we forget. The day we celebrate is drawing near. The crowd will greet you with a cheer, never fear. The day, both bright and clear and the throngs of pretty girls—O dear. Well! you just want to be there to see. This is principally for the "boys." Our friends the clergy, are by these presents subpoenaed to be present, and by their counsel and countenance aid us in disseminating in the minds and hearts of the rising generation the God given and blessed principles of truth, liberty, amor patriae and the recognition of the obligations laid upon humanity in the sermon on the Mount. Whereof fail not at your peril. The bench and bar of northeast Missouri, southeastern Iowa and western Illinois are cordially invited to attend in a body, without farther solicitation. Out of compliment to his unique and

distinguished position we have given Governor Joseph W. Folk of St. Louis, Mo., a very pressing personal invitation to meet the thronging thousands on that auspicious occasion. We expect him to be there. The candidates are counted on for fair. You couldn't keep them away with an army with banners and big guns. The people! well! it is up to the owners of the grounds to spread their fences around a whole lot of territory to make room for the dear people. They are just simply coming from everywhere and you all know where that is. They are coming all the same. Special arrangements are to be made with the weather man for an ideal day.

**PROGRAM.**  
10 a. m.—Assembly. Chief bugler. Music.  
Invocation. Music.



100

Welcome.  
 Music.  
 11 a. m.—Principal address reserved  
 for Governor.  
 Music.  
 Adjourn for dinner.  
 2 p. m.—Attention.  
 Music.  
 Short talks.  
 Music.  
 Anecdotes.  
 Music.  
 Songs.  
 Band.  
 Irish stories by Pat. Finerty.  
 Band.  
 The great Santa Fe band of Revere,  
 Mo., will furnish the sweetest music  
 for all. Everybody invited and looked  
 for. Your loss if you are not there.  
 Everybody come.  
 ARTHUR J. BUCKNER,  
 Secretary.



Donnellson. Flowers were furnished by  
 Ada Derr.  
 Women of the Croton Community Club  
 served luncheon preceding the program.

### The Daily Gate City

KEOKUK, IOWA TUESDAY, AUG. 6, 1968 — 7

AT THE CIVIL WAR observance at Croton Sunday are from left, Keith Muntz, master of ceremonies; Stanley Shepherd, state representative for Lee county who

was featured speaker, both of Farmington; and the Rev. J. E. McClellan of Donnellson who gave the invocation and benediction. — Sally Moreland

## Rep. Stanley Shepherd speaks Sunday at Battle of Athens observance

The Daily Gate City 12 — KEOKUK, IOWA WEDNESDAY, AUG. 7, 1968

By Sally Moreland

FARMINGTON — At the Battle of Athens observance at Croton Sunday afternoon, Stanley Shepherd, state representative for Lee county, spoke of events preceding the Civil War battle which took place 107 years ago.

"There is no doubt that Col. David Moore, commander of the Union Volunteers, should receive a great deal of the credit and distinction of winning this battle from the Confederate forces. There were plenty of men, in the spring of 1861, who were willing to fight for the Union cause, but they had no leader," he said.

Shepherd explained that it was on May 20, 1861 that Col. Moore, a merchant in the hamlet of Union, Clark County, received authority from General Nathaniel Lyon of St. Louis to recruit a company of men for the federal service. A former captain in an Ohio regiment during the Mexican War, the experienced officer found this a most difficult command to accept because his 3 sons, friends, and neighbors were in the Confederate service.

The Rebel force led by Col. Martin E. Green reached Athens, Mo. at dawn on the morning of Aug. 5 and their defeat was described as a miniature "Bull Run."

"The Civil War taught us many things about our ancestors and their devotion to this new land of theirs," said Shepherd as he described the citizens of a century ago and compared their problems with those of today.

"Once again our nation is faced with a crisis which threatens the very principles which make this country great," he said.

"Dissenters, objectors and those seeking that undeniable 'something' in the dim distance, would just take full and proper advantage of the rights they have inherited as American citizens and assume their responsibilities, the many protests, demonstrations, and disorders with which the country has been plagued would have no purpose," he said.

Shepherd stated that the challenge is to get this nation back on its true course. "We must make our voices heard above the chorus of those who would remake America on a socialistic pattern, destroy America's heritage and down-grade our way of life."

He noted that history reveals that the average life of the world's great civilization has been approximately 200 years during which time each empire progressed through the following evolutions:

From bondage to spiritual.

From spiritual faith to great courage.  
 From courage to liberty.  
 From liberty to abundance.  
 From abundance to selfishness.  
 From selfishness to complacency.  
 From complacency to apathy.  
 From apathy to dependence.

From dependence back to bondage, where the cycle started. "As the United States approaches the end of its 200-year span of existence, it seems wise and prudent to observe where we, the people, stand today on the ladder of this progression and whether we intend to go on to greater heights, or retrogress," he said.

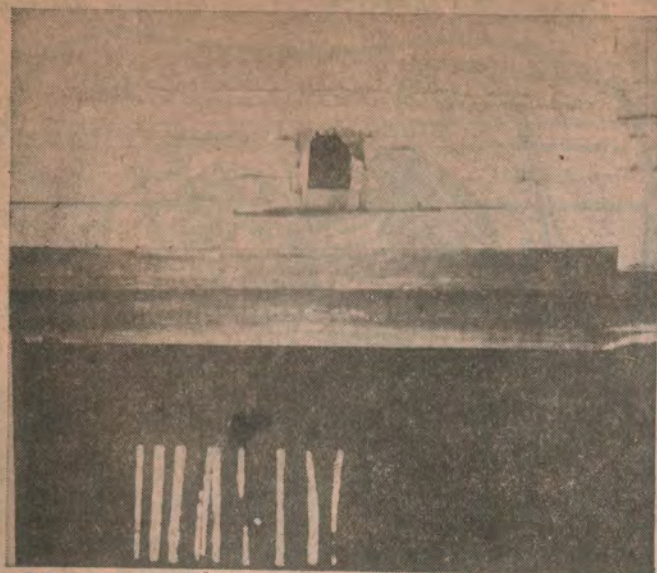
He closed his comments on today with a warning against apathy and concluded his speech by assuming another identity and calling himself "the nation" in a moving poetic salute.

Keith Muntz was master of ceremonies and as a member of the Muntz Music Makers, joined Harold Muntz and son, Ronnie in several vocal selections. Other entertainers were Brenda Palmer who presented accordion selections; dance numbers by Martha and Barbara Wardlow of Montrose and Vickie Kite; Ruth Ekle and her daughter Connie in a vocal duet and also as a trio with Muntz.

The Rev. J. E. McClellan, Methodist minister of Donnellson, who served as

chaplain in World War II, gave the invocation and benediction. The presentation of colors was by Gillaspie-Moodie Post No. 474 of the American Legion at





REAR OF BENNING HOUSE where cannonball passed as it whistled on to the Iowa shore at Croton.  
—Daily Gate City Photo



ARROW POINTS to hole made by cannonball as it entered the Benning home. —Daily Gate City Photo



REMNANTS OF COLTON MILL built in 1856 at Athens near the bank of the Des Moines river.  
—Daily Gate City Photo



VIEW OF DES MOINES RIVER taken from Croton at the site of the entrance to the proposed pontoon bridge. Athens lies directly across the river.  
—Daily Gate City Photo

The Daily Gate City Keokuk, Iowa  
MONDAY, JULY 29, 1957

## Anniversary of Battle of Athens to be Marked Sunday

Next Sunday the little town of Croton will be the site for the celebration of the Battle of Athens which was fought April 5, 1861 and proved to be of importance to Union Army later in the war.

The Confederates advanced as far as Athens before they were met and defeated by two companies of the Keokuk Home Guard and Capt. David Moore of Clark county, who had about 450 men under him.

### Sample and Belknap

The Keokuk Guard numbered about 80 men and was under command of Capt. Hugh Sample and W. W. Belknap who later became Secretary of War. His old home is still standing at 511 North Third street.

The rebels were led by Col. Martin E. Greene who had about 1,500 men under his command.

Both towns were torn apart

by shot and bullets, but about the only building that is still standing in Athens is the home of Uncle Joe Benning where the walls still have the cannon and rifle balls in them.

About 49 out of 50 of the Union soldiers had never been under fire before and they had never discharged a gun with the intent to kill or wound a man.

### Important to Iowa

If the Confederates would have been victorious in the battle they might have very easily taken over Iowa and from there Minnesota. If this was done they would have blockaded the North from the West and the war could have

easily been different. So at the beginning of the tragic war a handful of Union soldiers was able to stop the rebels from entering Lee county and from advancing northward.

Croton has celebrated the battle for many years, but it has just been in the past five or six years that celebration has become so well organized and such a big affair.



## Constitution-Democrat.

3, MARCH 17, 1899

## ONLY DOUBLE-BARRELED CANNON

It Has Been Converted Into a Hitching Post at Athens, Mo.

The Terrible Execution That It Did Upon Being First Loaded and Fired When It Belonged to the Thunderbolts.

A correspondent of Athens, Mo., says everybody will be relieved to know that the ancient double-barreled cannon, once the most cherished possession of the "Mitchell Thunderbolts," has been converted into a monument and stuck in the ground, muzzle end down.

This Siamese destroyer is a Missouri product, and has a history. It is the only double-barreled cannon in the world, and everybody who scans its eccentric records will be glad this is so. It was invented by John Gilleland, a member of the militia, and was designed to fire simultaneously two cannon balls, connected by a long chain, and calculated to mow down the ranks of the enemy in front of it with awful effect.

The town could not sleep from the day Mr. Gilleland sprung his idea until the cannon had been cast and polished up for duty. Then came the eventful time of trial. It was one of those rare spring days that come only in Missouri. The dogwood was in bloom and the squirrels barked and chattered as they discussed the prospects of an early mulberry crop and an abundance of green hickory nuts and pecans to "cut" later on. The catbirds were scolding away over their home-building, and now and then the vivid flash of the redbird drew a curve of scarlet across the somber shadow of the forest. The woodpecker drummed merrily for rich reward, and here and there in the graminant a pair of buzzards floated with motionless wings without apparent effort, even as an anchored ship rises and falls with the swells.

It was on such a day as this that the population of Athens sallied forth to witness the first test of "Chang and Eng," Mr. Gilleland's Siamese destroyer. First came the Athens silver cornet band and then the Mitchell Thunderbolts, in all the glory of their new regimentals.

The cannon brought up the rear of the company, and it was the proudest day of Henry Clay Bolser's life when he found himself cracking his whip over his best span of mules and piloting that wonderful piece of ordnance to Polk Seaton's pasture for its sulphurous christening.

The mayor and city council in carriages came next, and citizens on foot and mule followed the dignitaries in irregular but joyous formation. Arrived at the pasture, the gun was placed, after much debate, near a steep hill, its threatening muzzles pointed toward the declivity, so there would be no danger of depopulating the adjoining township. A charge of powder—not as much, however, as would be used in action, according to Mr. Gilleland's explanation—was rammed home.

The cannon balls were chucked in after the powder and tamped up snug. Everything was soon in readiness, and just to show that they knew a thing or two the spectators were standing on tiptoe, with mouths agape. "Everybody stand back!" shouted the commander-in-chief of the firing squad, and the crowd reluctantly placed about twelve feet of daylight between themselves and the destroyer. "Fire!" yelled the commander-in-chief, and "bang" went the gun, but only one barrel had responded.

One of the cannon balls went to the end of the chain, and then came valiantly back again looking for its companion. It flew over the gun, circled about in the air with a demoniacal shriek, and proceeded to drag that chain sideways, backward and in every other direction through the crowd.

It caved in all the ribs on the right side of the Rev. Hicks, pastor of the Methodist church, and broke a leg for the mayor.

## The Gate City.

Sat., JULY 27, 1899. 1-Class

## BATTLE OF ATHENS CELEBRATION

It Will be Held at Bedell's Grove Two Weeks From Next Saturday.

Nobody in this part of the country is apt to forget the battle of Athens, for if he is too young to remember it, he has heard it told of time and again. The anniversary is to be celebrated on August 5, at Bedell's grove, a quarter mile south of Athens, and great preparations are making for the occasion.

The battle of Athens was the first of the civil war and one of the most picturesque. Not many were killed, but it made a great ripple on the troublous surface of things in those times of civil war, and while it was later overshadowed by Gettysburg and Manassas, it was as important in its way as any of the conflicts of the war.

There will be stories told at the celebration of the fight and how it all happened, and they will be interesting ones. There is the battery of cannon loaded with any sort of thing after the balls gave out, and the mowing down of the confederates with halter chains, rocks and scrap iron of all kinds; there is the dash made by the enemy and

the brave colonel holding his men firm and keeping his head cool notwithstanding the hot hail of bullets whistling all around it; there are the men away on furlough moving to the sound of the firing and meeting stragglers with all sorts of stories calculated to make them think Jefferson Davis had moved his capital to the banks of the Des Moines; there is the retreat of some of the union forces about which accounts differ as to whether they stopped at the Mississippi at Montrose or kept on going to the Atlantic; and above all is the last fact that good management by the officers and brave work by most of the men drove the enemy southward and kept him out of Iowa. All these things and many more will come up in a couple of weeks again, and in memory of them the celebration is planned and is being carried out in its preparations with an energy that forecasts a great success. The program of the day is as follows:

9 a. m.—Grand parade, soldiers of the blue and gray, led by the Farmington cornet band will march from the city to the grounds.

10 a. m.—Opening address by A. W. Harlan followed by other eminent speakers.

Noon—

1:30 p. m.—Balloon ascension and parachute leap by Prof. Ed. Rush.

There will be amusements, bicycle races, sack races, potato races, wheelbarrow races, Kazoo march, fine music and a dancing floor on the grounds and a grand ball in the city hall at night.

The railroad rate on the Rock Island will be one and one-third fare for the round trip.

## THE DAILY GATE CITY.

FEBRUARY 16, 1886

Subscription Price:

FOR SALE.

## MILL PROPERTY

AT ATHENS, MO.

A Good Grist and Woolen Mill, Dwelling House, Barn, Three Acres of Land adjoining Property on Missouri side of the Des Moines River, and Five Acres on Iowa side, with water power. The Mill is four stories high, besides garret and foundation. The foundation is of stone, 30 feet high, length 101 x 60 feet, 8 feet at base. Mill cost, when built, \$42,000. Barn and dwelling cost \$2,640. The Mill has four looms, two good roll cards, fulling mill, etc.

I will sell the entire property for \$3,500—title good—one-third down, one-third October, 1886, and balance in October, 1887.

Will take young live stock in part settlement of first payment. Good reasons for selling. Address I. P. GRAY, Croton, Iowa.

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



## Battle of Athens is Recalled in Ceremony

Dark days of the Civil War, richness of Lee county in history, and bright promise of the future were recalled and extolled in the little town of Croton Sunday afternoon during ceremonies marking the 95th anniversary of the Battle of Athens, just across the Des Moines river.

Speakers included Claude Cook of Des Moines, curator of the Iowa Department of History and Archives, Rep. Fred Schwengel of Davenport who avocation is historical research, and Judge Walter A. Higbee of Lancaster, Mo. Music was played by the Revere high school band and a picnic dinner was served in the school yard.

### Site of Monument

A monument commemorating the Battle of Athens, northernmost skirmish of the Civil War in which cannon balls crossed the Des Moines to land in Croton, was erected several years ago in Croton and the Rev. Sales Smith of Moline, one of those instrumental in its building, gave the invocation. The Rev. Earl Kelly of Keokuk, formerly of Farmington, gave the benediction. William L. Talbot of Keokuk was master of ceremonies.

The speakers' platform was beautifully decorated with gladiolas donated by Rider's nursery in Farmington. Keokuk Company C of the Iowa National Guard fired a salute to the fallen heroes of America. Colors were presented by the Farmington American Legion post.

### "State of Lee"

In his remarks Curator Cook called attention to the rich historical background of Lee county which, in the early days, was often referred to as the 'State of Lee, and to its activities in the Civil War when Keokuk was one of the hospital centers for wounded in the Middlewest. He also referred to the oratory of Chief Keokuk and his efforts as a peace-maker among the Indians and whites.

Judge Higbee commented on America's heritage of liberty and freedom which surpass any

known in the annals of time, pointing out that Americans have the right to choose and select their own work and pursue it without restriction or restraint with the privilege of selling the product of that work, and any other possession, any time, and to any one at any price agreed upon.

### Each is Sovereign

"We can," he said, "invest our money, spend it, or give it away, or send it out of the country, or bury it in the ground without governmental interference of any sort. We can buy and own any sort of property we desire, and enjoy the use of it so long as, by so



A GOOD CROWD was on hand in Croton Sunday afternoon for a ceremony marking the 95th anniversary of the Battle of Athens, a brief skirmish between Iowa and Missouri troops won by the North. Music was played for the ceremony by the Revere High school band, directed by Floy H. Boone, shown in the upper picture. A portion of the crowd is shown before the speakers' platform below.

Daily Gate City Photos





A CIVIL WAR RELIC in Athens, Mo., site of the northernmost battle of the war, is the old Benning home through which a cannon ball passed during the Battle of Athens, the 95th anniversary of which was celebrated Sunday in Croton across the river. After passing through the house directly over Benning's head as he stood at the top of the cellar steps, the cannon ball crossed the river and landed in Croton.

Photo by Herbert V. Hake, Iowa State Teachers College

sack Keokuk. Once the battle was joined, the fighting became general but was brought to an unexpected close by a Union bayonet charge which dispersed the Confederate forces.

From 500 to 1,000 men took part on each side, Schwengel says, five Confederates and two Unionists were killed and a large number wounded. It ended the Confederate threat to Iowa.

In conclusion he commented: "The Civil War represents in our history an unhappy time when our people ceased to have faith in the regular processes of government and put their faith in force. Underlying the drama and the conflict of that tragic time was always this sad fact. As we commemorate today the anniversary of this battle, let us remember that force alone never provide a complete answer to any great problem."

doing, we do not interfere with the rights of other people."

As a result of these and many political rights, he continued, every citizen, no matter how humble, is a sovereign in his own right. In him lies the source of all governmental powers and upon his shoulders rests squarely the responsibility of preserving and protecting and passing on this system of statecraft that we call America. . .

Representative Schwengel dwelt principally upon the Civil War and the important part played in that conflict by Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska, states often overlooked in historical accounts.

#### Important Outcome

Although the Battle of Athens was a small and relatively insignificant skirmish, it served to settle an important question at the time — whether the Union would find itself flanked by a Confederate army in Missouri. Federal troops had seized the St. Louis arsenal and were pursuing the main Confederate

force into the southwestern part of Missouri. In northeastern Missouri, however, there were sufficient confederates to arouse apprehension along the Iowa border.

Early in August 1861 it became known that Col. Martin E. Green was marching northward from Edina with a force of pro-slavery Missourians. A regiment of Union men from northeastern Missouri was concentrated in Athens under Col. David Moore to meet them and across the river several companies of Iowa home guards from Jefferson, Henry, Lee and Van Buren counties were assembled at Croton. Reinforcements were sent from the Fifth and Sixth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, then being mustered into federal service at Keokuk.

#### August 5, 1861

It was early on August 5, 1861 that the Confederates attacked Athens but their principal objective was Croton, a station on the Des Moines Valley railroad, from which they planned to pillage the area and

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



• ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

FOOD

Croton Community Club, Mrs. Marie Horsey, Chairman.

PROGRAM

Lee County Historical Society, Keokuk, Iowa.  
William L. Talbott, President.

FLOWERS

Rider's Nursery, Farmington, Iowa

LOUD SPEAKERS AND CHAIRS

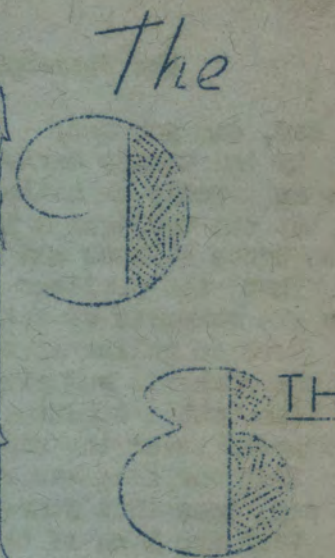
R.E.A. Mount Pleasant, Iowa. Mr. Craig Wilmuth

MUSIC

Revere, Mo., School Band. Mr. Floy Boone, Director.



*That's all  
folks. see you  
next year?*



*Anniversary  
of*

*The*  
BATTLE of ATHENS  
(MISSOURI)

CROTON, IOWA



AUGUST 2, 1959



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The Star-Spangled Banner

Oh, say, can you see,  
By the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hailed,  
At the twilight's last gleaming,  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars,  
Thro' the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched,  
Were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rocket's red glare,  
The bomb's bursting in air,  
Gave proof thro' the night  
That our flag was still there.  
Oh, say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the  
brave?

Battle Hymn of the Republic.

Mine eyes have seen the glory  
Of the coming of the Lord;  
He is trampling out the vintage  
Where the grapes of wrath are stored;  
He hath loosed the fateful lightning  
Of His terrible swift sword,  
His truth is marching on.  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!  
His truth is marching on.

PROGRAM

PRESENTATION OF THE NATIONAL COLORS  
Gillespy Post, American Legion, Donnellson, Ia.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM  
Revere, Missouri, School Band. Mr. Floy Boone, Dr.

INVOCATION  
The Rev. Mr. Varner.

MASTER of CEREMONIES  
William L. Talbott, President of the Lee County  
Historical Society, Keokuk, Iowa.

MONTROSE, IOWA, QUARTET  
Mrs. Van Ausdall, Pianist

ADDRESS  
Lt. Col. Joseph B. Flatt, Iowa National Guard,  
Winterset, Iowa.  
Member of the Iowa State Civil War Centennial  
Commission.

SOLO  
Mrs. Marion Woods.

SINGING (Audience Participation)  
Ronnie Londrie, Pianist

BENEDICTION  
The Rev. Mr. Varner.

TAPS



# Some 300 commemorate Battle of Athens Sunday

MONDAY, AUG. 3, 1959

Amidst the threat of rain and cloudy skies, approximately 300 gathered at Croton to celebrate the 98th anniversary of the Battle of Athens yesterday afternoon with Lt. Col. Joseph B. Flatt of Winterset delivering the address.

William Talbot, recently elected president of the Lee County Historical Society replacing Al Weber, served as the master of ceremonies.

At the opening of the program, the Gillespey-Moodie post of the American Legion from Donnellson presented the colors and the Revere, Mo., high school band played the National Anthem.

## Montrose quartet

After the Rev. Ellsworth Walker of Farmington gave the invocation, Talbot congratulated the Croton Community club for its fine work in celebrating the battle annually and expressed the Lee County Historical Society's feelings about being able to help celebrate the battle.

Following this address, the Montrose quartet consisting of Roger Chatfield, Martin Tweedy, Carl Tweedy, and Charles St. Claire sang several numbers with Mrs. Van Ausdall at the piano.

Athens, on the Des Moines river across from Croton was a hot spot during the Civil War because of the mixture of sentiments between Iowa and Missouri. Col. Greene who commanded a force from Missouri heard that some Union supplies were being shipped by the Des Moines Valley railroad and decided to capture them at Croton. Volunteers from Keokuk under the command of Col. Moore and with soldiers from Farmington and the Croton Home Guard, they went to stop the attack. Only a few rounds were fired, but three men were killed and several wounded.

## Colonel Flatt speaks

The address was given by Lt. Col. Joseph B. Flatt, who is a former member of the

Iowa legislature from Madison county, an officer in the Iowa National Guard, and member of the Civil War Centennial Commission.

Lt. Col. Flatt stressed the importance of the men at the Battle of Athens rather than the battle. While this was the only Civil War skirmish on Iowa soil, it was not large enough to be a battle in a military sense.

"The important thing," he said, "is not the military value, but the fact that in less than 24 hours there were 8,000 men from Keokuk and the surrounding area ready to make the supreme sacrifice, their life, for what they thought was right."

## Iowans killed

He pointed out the value of Iowa regiments fought in the Civil War and the number of lives that Iowans gave during the war. He went on to say that the

13,000 Iowans killed in the war was far greater than died in the Spanish-American, World War I, World War II, and the Korean war together.

He also went on to point out the decline of volunteers during each of the following wars. These men who gathered at Athens were men, not trained soldiers, but farmers and small business men from Keokuk and the surrounding area with no military training whatsoever, who were willing to fight for their beliefs.

## Men not weapons

"Today we have atomic weapons which are capable of destroying whole cities," continued Col. Flatt, "but unless we have the same kind of men who fought at the Battle of Athens our weapons are worthless against the enemy."

Following the address the Revere band under the direction of Floy Boone played several numbers and Ronnie Londrie played on the piano

while the audience joined with the singing. The Rev. Sale-smith of Moline, Ill., gave the benediction.

Food for the picnic lunch was provided by the Croton Community club with Mrs. Marie Horsey, chairman. Flowers were donated by Rider's Iowa Nursery of Farmington, and Craig Wilmuth of Mount Pleasant of the R. E. A. provided the chairs and loud speakers.



THE SPEAKER ARRIVES. Lt. Col. Joseph B. Flatt, a member of Iowa State Civil War Centennial Commission, is greeted at the Keokuk Airport by William Talbot, president of the Lee County Historical Society. Col. Flatt flew from Des Moines to Keokuk in an army observation plane.

—Daily Gate City Photo



DELIVERING HIS ADDRESS at the 98th celebration of the battle of Athens, is Lt. Col. Joseph B. Flatt of Winterset, Iowa.

—Daily Gate City Photo





THE AUDIENCE at the 98th celebration of the Battle of Athens listens attentively as L. Col. Flatt gives his address. Approximately 300 people attended the celebration despite the threat of rain.  
—Daily Gate City Photo



IT'S GOODBYE to Lt. Col. Joseph B. Flatt after his trip to Keokuk from Des Moines to give the address at Croton yesterday afternoon. In the picture William Talbot master of ceremonies yesterday bids him goodbye.  
—Daily Gate City Photo

## Battle of Athens celebration will be held in Croton Sunday

JULY 28, 1959

The 98th annual celebration of the Battle of Athens will be held in Croton Sunday, August 2, at the Croton Community Club.

There will be a picnic lunch beginning at 12:30 and the program will begin at 2:00 p. m. The public is invited to attend.

### Iowa legislator

The Revere high school band will provide music and Lt. Col. Joseph B. Flatt of Winterset, Ia., will be the main speaker. He is a member of the Iowa State Civil

War Centennial Commission and a member of the Iowa state legislature from Madison county.

The master of ceremonies will be William Talbot, president of the Lee County Historical Society.

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*Burlington, Ia. 8-4-61*



F. J. Nimitz

souri in their successful effort to prevent the Confederates from invading Iowa.

The guest speaker at Sunday's celebration will be F. J. Nimitz, former Indiana congressman and Civil War historian.

### Park Suggested

Keokuk Postmaster William Talbot will be master of ceremonies, and Al Weber, president of the Lee County Historical Society at Keokuk, will introduce the speaker. A tribute to Civil War patriots will be delivered by Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Little of the town of Croton remains, and the Iowa Civil War Centennial Commission has suggested that Lee County make the area into a public park.

## To Celebrate Athens Battle

CROTON — The 100th anniversary of the Civil War Battle of Athens, Mo., in which cannon shot landed on Iowa soil, will be celebrated here Sunday beginning at 1:30 p. m. (CST).

The battle occurred when a group of Confederate irregulars attempted to reach Iowa and were intercepted here by a group of Union irregulars.

### Invasion Stopped

Hastily formed civilian units from Keokuk, led by two drill companies, the Keokuk Rangers and Rifles, rushed to this tiny Des Moines River hamlet which is just across the river from Athens. Some of them helped the Union sympathizers from Mis-

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





Historic house, more than a century old, where Battle of Athens victims were treated.

## Iowans Meet Today To Recall the Battle of Athens

### When One Confederate Cannonball Landed in State



# Battle of Athens

NINETY-EIGHT years ago this week, in a tiny Lee County village, Iowans heard the whine of the only hostile cannonball that was fired into the state during the Civil War. It happened during the Battle of Athens, Mo., Aug. 5, 1861. Athens is directly across the Des Moines River from Croton, Ia., where the cannonball landed. Today Croton will be the scene of a meeting and program held annually on the Sunday nearest Aug. 5 to observe the anniversary. The program will include a basket dinner, music and speeches at the community center.

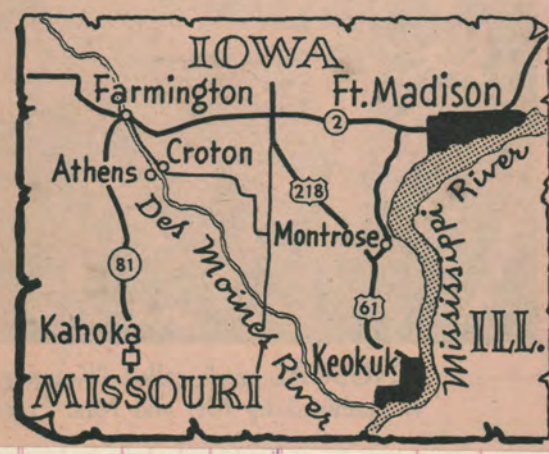
The historic old home reproduced on this page from a sketch by Bill Wagner, Des Moines architect, was used as a hospital during the battle when some of the wounded were brought across the river to Croton. The home is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Sprouse. A great-uncle of Mr. Sprouse was among the wounded. The Battle of Athens occurred when a Confederate officer named Martin Green marched his unorganized regiment of Missouri rebels from Memphis, Mo., to Athens, where Col. David Moore had set up a Union recruiting base and had gathered an unorganized regiment of Missouri and Iowa volunteers. A group known as The Keokuk Rifles, under Capt. W. W. Belknap (who later became a general) also participated in the battle, by firing on rebel outposts from the Iowa side of the river. As an indication of how even families were divided by the war, two of Colonel Moore's own sons were in the enemy camp, fighting for Green. After considerable skirmishing, Colonel Moore, in a loud voice, ordered his men to charge. One of Moore's sons, hearing the order, is said to have shouted:

"Boys, do you hear the old man? He means what he said. They'll be here in about a minute and the old man won't be the last one, either."

The prediction proved true, and Moore's charge drove the rebels out and ended the battle, a victory for the Union. This engagement was fought on the same day as the more famous Battle of Wilson's Creek in southwestern Missouri.



BELKNAP



## THE BATTLE OF ATHENS.

AUGUST 5, 1861.

Here are a few incidents of that day,  
Meant to be told in a unique way.  
As I have often heard old soldiers say,  
He that fears to fight and runs away,  
May live to run some other day.

Just forty years ago yesterday  
The hosts of slavery were on their way.  
They held a roll call near Laray,  
Though 'twas on the blessed Sabbath day.  
They stopped on Fox river to rest and pray,  
But before the dawning of the day  
Had drunk from the stream—were on their way.  
Out among the farms, I've heard them say,  
They met the morning sun's first ray  
That boded the heat of the coming day,  
And the sheen of their arms made a grand display.  
And Athens was only three miles away.

Like Sennacherib's host the Rebs. were seen,  
Commanded by Colonel Martin Green.

Our pickets in haste run all the way,  
Reached Athens just in time to say,  
"The Rebs. are coming, not a mile away."  
Then Colonel Moore was heard to say,  
"I am here first and going to stay."  
He was expecting aid from Iowa.  
Just then their foremost mules began to bray,  
And their cannon was heard into Iowa.  
Their first round balls went here and there,  
The slugs from their big gun went everywhere:  
Some of them went high up in the air,  
And shrieked like ghosts in wild despair.

Our mounted men had no hand in the fray,  
Callahan ordered a retreat and led the way  
And soon they were all over into Iowa.  
The word "halt" he forgot to say,  
But was in Charleston quite early in the day  
Where he slacked his speed and was heard to say,  
"Gather your duds and get out of the way,  
For the Rebs. will surely be here today."  
The horse he rode was a beautiful bay  
That carried him swiftly on his way.  
He passed many men on the road that day,  
Not one to whom did he have a word to say,  
But kept the even tenor of his way  
And let the people see, that day,  
That he could run as well as pray:  
Until the Mississippi barred his way,  
And yet it was quite early in the day.  
The people came running from every way,  
Thinking, that rider would have something to say,  
But he gently waved all of them away  
And crossed on the ferry, all the same day.

Their last round ball was meant for Iowa  
But Joe Bennings house stood in the way.  
It passed through three walls which checked its way:  
It fell in the river and knocked up the spray;  
It sunk to the bottom and there it lay,  
Waiting to be fished up some other day.

### MORAL.

Of the hosts that were here that day,  
Let us ask ourselves, "Now where are they?"  
Only a few of us are here this day.  
The large majority have passed away.  
And again I ask, "Oh where are they?"

A. W. HARLAN, Co. F. 21st Missouri Vet. Vol.

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



## A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

### Food

Croton Community Club, Mrs. Marie Horsey, Chairman.  
Coco Cola Trailer from Keokuk.

### Program

Lee County Historical Society, Keokuk, Iowa.

### Flowers

Iowa Nursery, Farmington, Iowa.

### Loud Speakers and Chairs

R.E.A., Mount Pleasant, Iowa. Mr. Craig Wilmoth

### Music

Farmington Band, Mr. Donald Perkins, Director.

-00-

### DIXIE'S LAND

I wish I was in the land ob cotton, Old times dar am not  
forgotten;

Look away! Look away! Dixie Land.

In Dixie Land whar I was born in, Early on one frosty  
mornin,

Look away! Look away! Dixie Land.

### Chorus:

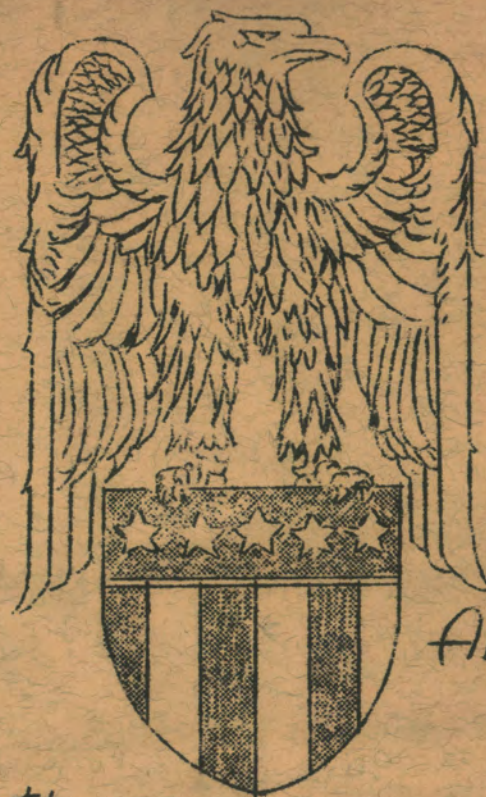
Den I wish I was in Dixie, Hooray! Hooray!

In Dixie Land I'll take my stand

To lib and die in Dixie;

Away, Away, Away down south in Dixie

Away, Away, Away down south in Dixie.



The

99<sup>TH</sup>

Anniversary  
of

The

BATTLE of ATHENS

(MISSOURI)

CROTON, IOWA.



AUGUST 7, 1960.



### The Star-Spangled Banner

Oh, say, can you see,  
 By the dawn's early light,  
 What so proudly we hailed,  
 At the twilight's last gleaming,  
 Whose broad stripes and bright stars,  
 Thro' the perilous fight,  
 O'er the ramparts we watched,  
 Were so gallantly streaming?  
 And the rocket's red glare,  
 The bomb's bursting in air,  
 Gave proof thro' the night  
 That our flag was still there.  
 Oh, say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
 O'er the land of the free and the home of the  
 brave?

oOo

### Battle Hymn of the Republic

Mine eyes have seen the glory  
 Of the coming of the Lord:  
 He is trampling out the vintage  
 Where the grapes of wrath are stored;  
 He hath loosed the fateful lightning  
 Of His terrible swift sword,  
 His truth is marching on.  
 Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!  
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## PROGRAM

PRESENTATION of the NATIONAL COLORS  
 Gillespy Post, American Legion. Donnellson, Ia.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM  
 Farmington, Ia. High School Band. Mr. Donald  
 Perkins, Director.

INVOCATION  
 The Rev. Gordon Shipp, Farmington, Ia.

MASTER of CEREMONIES  
 William L. Talbott, President of the Lee County  
 Historical Society, Keokuk, Ia.

MUSICAL SELECTIONS  
 The Mohawk Quartet of Montrose, Ia.  
 Mrs. Carol Lewis, Pianist.

BILLY YANKS from IOWA view the CIVIL WAR  
 Dr. James I. Robertson Jr., Editor of CIVIL WAR  
 HISTORY, Iowa City, Ia.

GROUP SINGING  
 Sally Thorpe, Farmington, Ia. Pianist

THE EMBURY "MESSY MIXERS" with their KITCHEN BAND

BENEDICTION  
 The Rev. Gordon Shipp

TAPS.





# Painting will be given away at Battle of Athens observance

By Sally Moreland

FARMINGTON — Displaying their combined art work, an oil painting of the first house built in Athens by Isaac Gray, are the artists Kenneth Doud and Mrs. Lloyd Henn of Farmington.

The painting will be given away in a fund raising project at the Battle of Athens observance July 29 and 30 at Athens, Mo. Doud and Mrs. Henn donated their art work and the Athens Park Development Association paid for materials.

## New studio

They are shown standing in front of their new studio which they call Kenny and Alcene's. The studio is dedicated to the memory of Doud's wife Zelma, who died March 13, 1965. Mrs. Doud had helped plan the new studio with her husband and Mrs. Henn (Alcene). The artists work in partnership on the paintings they sell. Mrs. Henn does the drawing and they share the work-load on the oil paintings.

Many friends helped to build the studio. Mrs. Henn helped lay the brick for the flue,



MRS. LLOYD HENN and Kenneth Doud display oil painting of first house built in Athens. — Sally Moreland

The Daily Gate City

10 — KEOKUK, IOWA

MONDAY, JULY 24, 1967



IN CROTON, across the river from Athens, Mo., the Battle of Athens observance will be held Aug. 6. In preparation for the annual event, the monument has been cleaned and decorative chain fence has been installed. Shown in background is the new shelter house. — Sally Moreland

worked on the roof, and her husband put up the ceiling boards. Others who had a hand in the project by either labor or donations of material or furnishings were the Melvin Gordys, James McWilliams, Earl Wright of Burlington, Jack Trager, Richard

Parke, Bertha Parke, the late Edgar Parke, Don Treece and many others.

## Many exhibits

Aside from the artists' workroom, the studio has one of the most varied assortments of exhibits ever found under one roof. Doud doesn't collect in one area or theme, his oddities are so diverse they defy description.

A Malay kriss with a wicked looking blade curved to make a worse wound when used in combat is snuggled up against one of the most exquisite and dainty Spanish fans. The fan is of black silk and the ebony wood has gold leaf trim.

## Circus material

He has a complete collection of old circus material, 1905 circus bills to old snapshots. A piece of chain shot from a cannon used at Athens, Mo. (a short distance from the studio) during the Battle of Athens. A



watch you wind with key shares space with an 1870 lamp used in silver mines.  
Doud said China was the first to manufacture fire arms, and he has an exact replica of one

of the first weapons from about 1200 made from the mold.  
Sultry night club entertainers in the Philippines carry tiny daggers with wavy edged blades in a sheath. These are worn as

necklaces on a chain. The one Doud has is about 5½ inches long.  
From a sawed off shotgun to round playing cards, the collection spills over shelves and

counters.  
Doud produced a silk lined \$100 Stetson hat given to him by a rodeo star. When asked if he ever wore the hat, Doud replied, "That would be like putting a \$40 saddle on a \$10 pony."

The Daily Gate City  
KEOKUK, IOWA 3  
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 1964



THE SPROUSE HOUSE at Croton was turned over to the Lee County Conservation Board by the Iowa Society for the Preservation of Historic Landmarks in a ceremony Saturday afternoon. Kirk Fox of Des Moines, treasurer of the state society, holding papers is on left in center and John T. Talbott of Keokuk, chairman of the Lee County Conservation Board, is at

right of the sign in center. Others in the photo representing the state society are Bill Wagner, sec'y, John Wymore, Des Moines, former officer; Mrs. Oneita Fisher, Westchester, publicity chmn.; Robert M. McQuade of Fort Madison, sec'y Lee County Conservation Board.  
—Sally Moreland

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY  
B. J. RICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA



# Capacity crowd attends Battle of Athens observance Sunday



TWO IOWANS formerly of Missouri are looking at the cannon ball house at Athens, Mo. Sunday. They are from left, Mrs. Ida Smith of Bonaparte who was born in Macon County, Mo. and Mrs. H. H. Sterner of Burlington formerly of Revere. Mo.

—Sally Moreland

The Daily Gate City

KEOKUK, IOWA

THURSDAY, AUG. 12, 1965 — 3

By Sally Moreland

FARMINGTON — "Don't give up hope," advised Lee Fine, director of Missouri State Parks, in his address at Athens, Mo. Sunday.

The speaker referred to the concentrated effort underway for a state park at Athens.

Contrary to a recent AP story published in various newspapers, they do not have a state park at Athens.

A capacity crowd filled the shelter house, Iowans and Missourians who had worked four years toward a common goal, a state park at Athens to commemorate the northernmost Civil War battle west of the Mississippi river Aug. 5, 1861.

Fine spoke of the problems in developing a new state park and the cost of maintaining the present state parks which were visited by 8,400,000 people last year.

Vetoed two years ago

Fine said that if the legislature would grant funds for a state park at Athens, Gov. Hernes promised he would not veto the bill. Two years ago, a Missouri governor vetoed an appropriation of \$50,000.

Gordon Wallace, 72, of Vincennes, Ia., brought a copy of John Wallace's discharge from the Wisconsin Cavalry 1861 - to 1865, which was exhibited by Fine. John Wallace was Gordon's father.

Four years ago a small group of dedicated workers interested in gaining recognition for the historical site, a forlorn and neglected battlefield and the weatherbeaten old Benning house bearing the hole where a cannon ball went through, laid the groundwork to acquire a park with the goal set for establishment of a state park. The Athens Park Development Association started with nothing and

now lists its assets at \$12,500. There is a debt of \$2,500. Shares are sold for \$26.75 an acre. The names of donors will be inscribed on a permanent plaque.

Guests introduced

The growing list bears 87 names. The association now has about 200 acres of land with at least three-fourths of a mile of river frontage. The most recent road cut through the timber is about two miles north and west of Athens and offers a vast potential for camping areas. Help was received from scores of volunteers. The Clark county crew cut new roads. They now have a blacktop road into Athens and three miles of hard surface. Brush has been cut and a shelter house built. A monument donated to the park by the Clark County Historical Society was dedicated last year.

Kenneth Gray of Athens

was master of ceremonies. Glen Crockett, Clark county representative, introduced

Fine. Also introduced was Dick DeCoster, representative from Lewis County, and Karen Swiers of Fort Madison, representative from Lewis County, and Karen Swiers of Fort Madison, rodeo queen. Mrs. Helen Virden of Oakland Mills, spoke of the progress at Athens in four years.

Gray expressed appreciation to all who contributed to the program. The flowers donated by Rider's Nursery and Floral Co. at Farmington and the Clark County Greenhouse at Kahoka, Mo. were given to the oldest man present, Dr. J. L. McConnell, 93, and the oldest woman, Lucy

Boguss, 92, both of Revere, Mo. and Mr. and Mrs. Ory Heyl of Bartlesville, Okla. who came the greatest distance.

The 104th observance of the Battle of Athens was held Saturday and Sunday and drew an estimated crowd of 5,000.

Horse show Saturday

Activities on Saturday started with a horse show sponsored by the State Line Saddle Club and closed with round and square dancing under a tent until midnight because of intermittent showers. Music was by Harold Muntz of Farmington and his

Music Makers. Walter Leffler of Farmington was the square dance caller.

Church services were held Sunday morning and beef barbeque served at noon. The parade was held as scheduled Sunday afternoon despite a drizzle. Gray was parade marshal. The Herman Blum Legion Post 192 of Kahoka, were color bearers. The Marshall State School and Hospital Band was in the parade

and furnished music throughout the day. Sonja Stevenson,



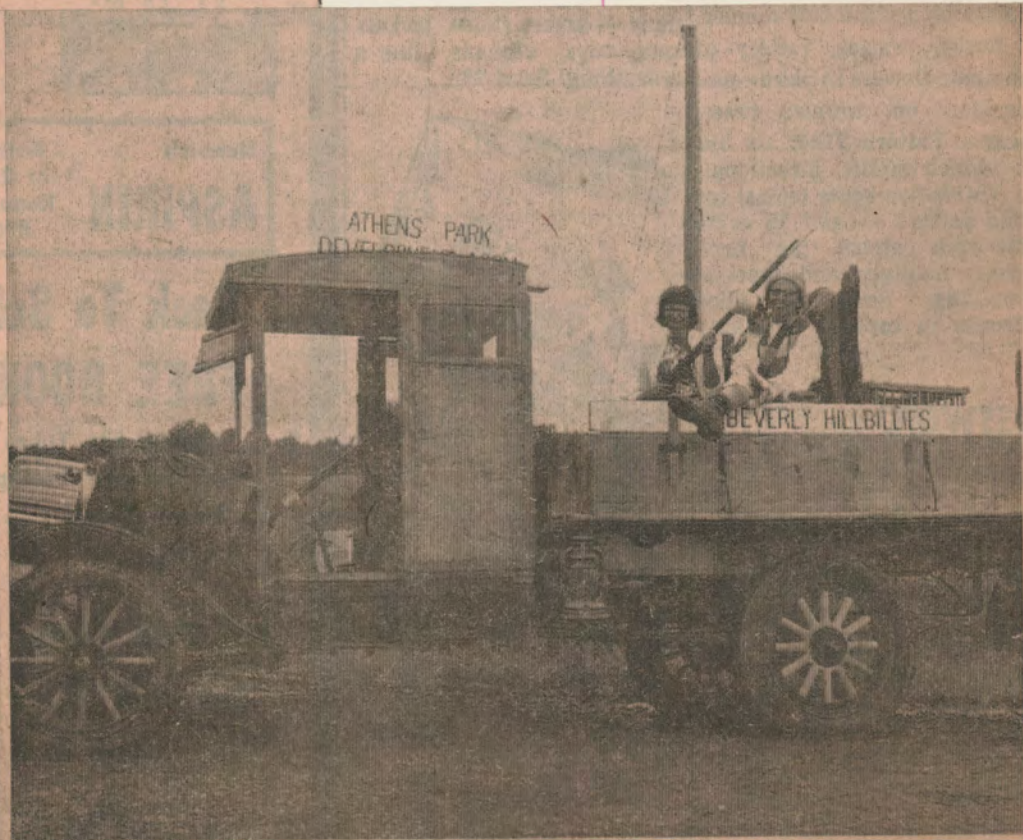


LEE FINE, director of Missouri State Parks, exhibits the discharge of John Wallace who served in the Wisconsin Cavalry 1861 to 1865. The discharge was brought by Wallace's son Gordon, 72, of Vincennes, Ia.  
—Sally Moreland

by a tractor driven by Everett Wright of Mt. Pleasant. The tractor was donated by James Skeens of Farmington.

Pony races were sponsored by the Midwest Pony Trotting Assn. Entertainment on Sunday night was by the All American Quartet of Quincy, Ill. The 16 foot john boat raffled off went to Jill Jiranek of Farmington, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Jiranek. 26, of Marshall, Mo. is band director. There are 8 boys and 14 girls in the band, all are residents of the state school for the mentally handicapped. The Southeast Iowa Antique Car Club cancelled because of the rain.

Free tours of historic Athens were given on the ground train donated by the Midwest Threshers Association pulled



THE ATHENS PARK DEVELOPMENT Assn. float in the parade Sunday, "The Beverly Hillbillies" with Mrs. Richard Parke of Shellsburg on the left and Mrs. Donald Wilson of Athens, Mo. as Granny.  
—Sally Moreland

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



# Croton marks 99th anniversary of Battle of Athens, Mo. Sunday

(By Charles S. Chappell)

The 99th annual commemoration of the Battle of Athens, the northernmost battle of the Civil War was held at Croton Sunday with Dr. James I. Robertson Jr., editor of Civil War History at Iowa City, the principal speaker.

William Talbot, president of the Lee County Historical Society was the master of ceremonies and the Rev. Gordon Shipp of Farmington gave the invocation and the benediction.

## Picnic at noon

The picnic lunch which was served to the public was cooked and prepared by the Croton Community club, which arranged the program for the celebration with the help of the Lee County Historical Society.

Gillaspey Post, American Legion, Donnellson, presented the national colors and the program for the afternoon was opened by the Farmington high school band playing the National Anthem.

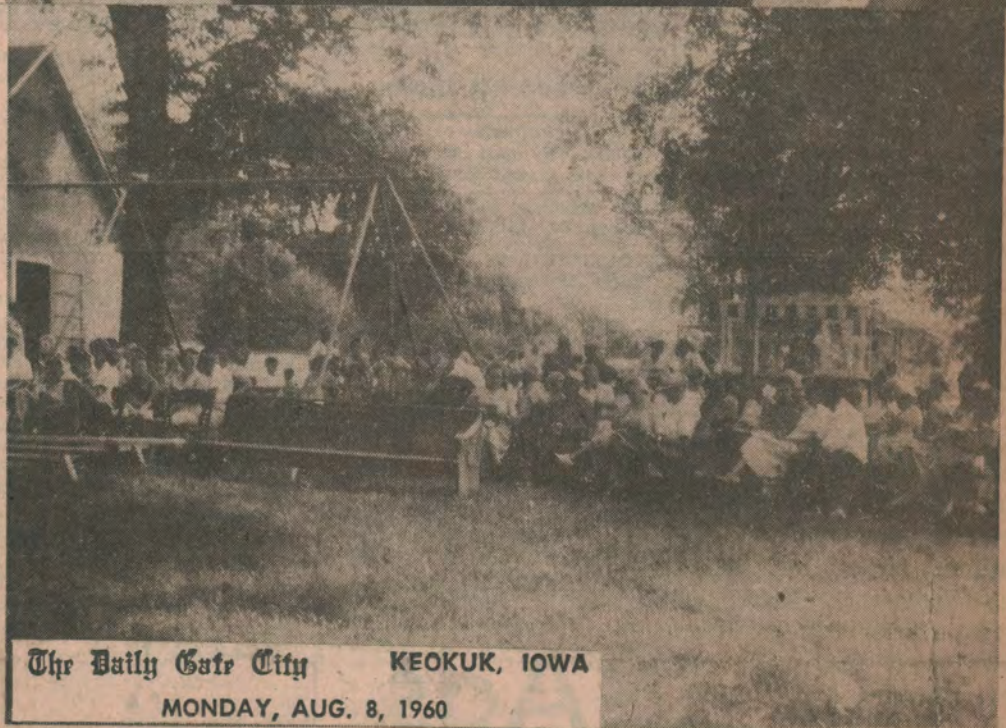
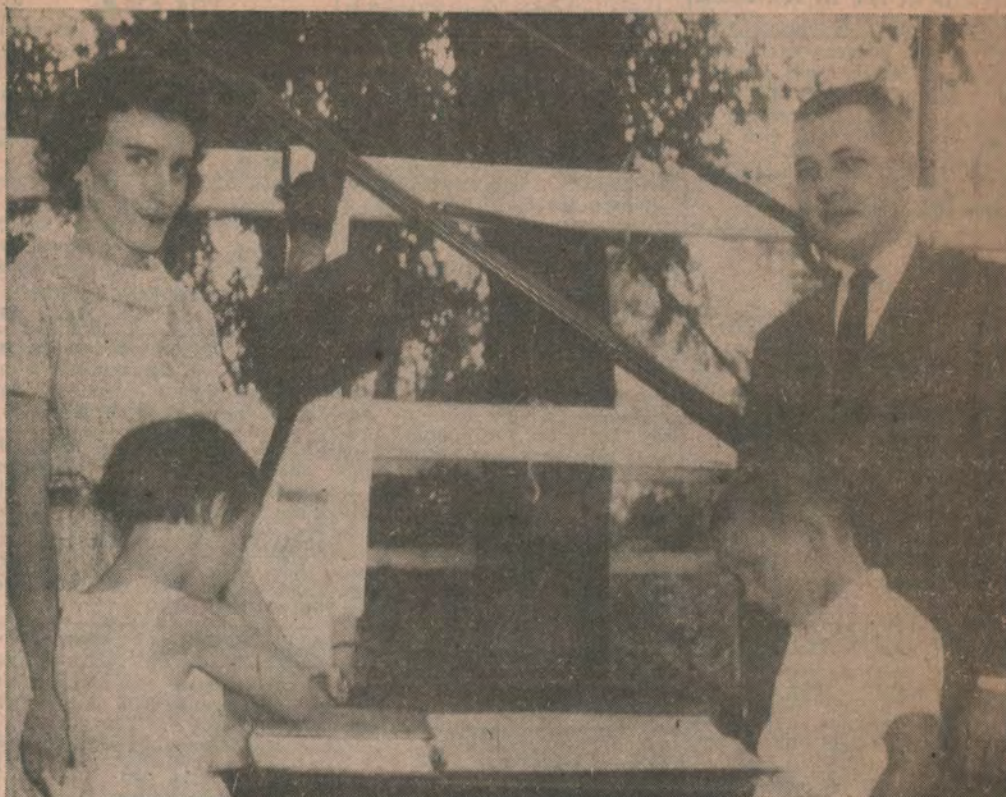
Musical selections for the afternoon included the Mohawk Quartet of Montrose consisting of Charles St. Claire, Carl Tweedy, Martin Tweedy, and Roger Chatfield with Mrs. Carol Lewis, pianist, and the Embury "Messy Mixers" with their kitchen band.

Group singing of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "Dixie" preceded the speaker.

Athens, on the Des Moines river, was a hot spot during the early days of the war in 1861. Confederate troops under the command of Col. Greene at Kahoka got wind that some union supplies were being shipped in on the Des Moines valley railroad and they decided to capture them.

## Only a skirmish

Col. Moore of Keokuk heard of the plans and with



The Daily Gate City KEOKUK, IOWA  
MONDAY, AUG. 8, 1960

THE SOUTH TAKES A LOOK. Looking over some Civil War relics in Croton yesterday was the principal speaker for the 99th annual celebration of the Battle of Athens, Dr. James I. Robertson Jr. and his family. Standing in the back on the left is his wife and their daughter Beth and standing in front of Dr. Robertson is their son, Buddy. In the lower photo is shown a part of the approximately 300 people who attended the celebration yesterday.

—Daily Gate City Photos



The common soldier was eager enough to enlist, but in the weeks that followed he

was greatly disappointed that he had not yet fired a shot except on the practice range and he was lying around in an army camp with only hard work before him instead of the glory he anticipated.

In mixing humor in his talk, Dr. Robertson told stories that soldiers had written home about the food, officers, doctors, chaplains, and the uniforms which were issued in two sizes, too big and too small.

Besides the hardships of the common soldier, Dr. Robertson went on to elaborate on the courage of the Iowa divisions in the war remarking that 13,000 Iowans were killed in the Civil War and 28 received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

40 soldiers from Farmington, the Croton home guard, and the Keokuk volunteers they went to stop the rebel attack on the train. Actually, there was very little action at the battle with Confederate cannon fire landing on the hill above Croton while the union troops were across the river at Athens. In the fighting which was brief a few were killed and several wounded.

After the first round of shots most of the Confederates lost their enthusiasm to fight as did the Union soldiers and they retreated giving up all ideas of capturing the Union supply train.

The subject of Dr. James I. Robertson's talk was "Billy Yanks from Iowa view the Civil War." Dr. Robertson, a native of Danville, Va., is a graduate of Randolph-Macon college and he received his M.A. and Ph.D. from Emory University where he taught history for three years. A member of the advisory council for the Civil War Centennial commission and an official advisor to the Iowa Civil War Centennial Commission, Dr. Robertson has edited two books, written several articles and he is currently writing five more, one of them a history of the 22nd Iowa In-

fantry.

#### 19 Iowa regiments

Dr. Robertson's research on the Civil War is centered around the common soldier who fought for the Blue and the Gray. In his talk, Dr. Robertson clearly pointed out the view that Iowa soldiers had during the early days of the Civil War.

At the opening of the war, Iowa had no troops of any kind with the exception of a few home militia. The state was in complete confusion, but Governor Kirkwood was able to raise 10,000 men in 20 days, and by the end of the year Iowa had 19 regiments in

adviser to the Iowa Civil War Centennial Commission. To date he has edited two books and has written some

10 articles on the Civil War and currently is working on five other books on the period, one of them a history of the 22nd Iowa Infantry. He has just finished editing a collection of letters by Frank Malcom of Fort Madison, who served in the 7th Iowa Infantry. They will appear in the October Iowa Journal of History.

At present he is editor of Civil War History, a quarterly journal published by the State University of Iowa and now in its sixth year.

#### The program

The Battle of Athens program will open with the presentation of the national colors by Gillespy Post, American Legion of Donnellson followed by the National Anthem played by the Farmington high school band, Donald Perkins directing. The invocation and benediction will be given by the Rev. Gordon Shipp of Farmington.

Musical selections by the Mohawk Quartet of Montrose, Mrs. Carol Lewis, pianist, will precede Dr. Robertson's talk. Group singing will follow with Sally Thorp of Farmington as pianist and the program will close with music by the Embury Messy Mixers with their Kitchen Band.

## Croton to mark 99th anniversary of Battle of Athens Sun., Aug. 7th

Postmaster William L. Talbot, president of the Lee County Historical Society will be master of ceremonies for the 99th anniversary observance of the Battle of Athens at Croton next Sunday, August 7.

Guest speaker will be Dr. James I. Robertson Jr., editor of Civil War History at Iowa City whose topic will be: "Billy Yanks from Iowa View the Civil War."

#### Lunch at noon

The Croton Community club will serve lunch at noon and the program will get under way about 2 p. m. with members of the Lee County Historical Society assisting.

Dr. Robertson's historical field is the common soldiers of the Civil War and his talk will be in part humorous and part heroic. He will make mention of the forthcoming Civil War Centennial in 1961 and Iowa's plans for the commemoration.

#### Native of Virginia

Piquancy is added to his talks on the Civil War by the fact that he is a native of Danville, Va., received his B. A., from Randolph-Macon college and his M. A. and Ph. D. from Emory University where he taught history for



Dr. James Robertson Jr.

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



# Battle of Athens Centennial draws crowd at Croton, Sun.

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(By Dorothy Pickett)

The pages of history rolled swiftly back over a hundred years in the span of a few short hours Sunday when the centennial of the Battle of Athens was observed in the peaceful community of Croton, where hundreds gathered in this, the eleventh annual observance of the only Civil War battle to reach Iowa soil.

The Croton park on the banks of the Des Moines river was filled almost to overflowing to hear guest speaker, F. J. Nimtz of South Bend, Ind. who outlined briefly the events that led up to the battle fought August 5, 1861 together with highlights of the engagement itself.

## Specializes in Midwest

Nimtz, former U. S. Congressman from Indiana and a Civil War historian who has specialized in the mid-west war arena, is not a stranger in the Tri State area, having married the former Letha Talbot of Keokuk. He is a veteran of World War II and at present is a Lieutenant Colonel in the U. S. Army Reserve Corps.

He is a member of the Ad-

visory Council to the Civil War Centennial Commission, a member of the Chicago Civil War Round Table and was also Vice-Chairman of the U. S. Lincoln Sesqui-centennial Commission in 1957.

With such a background F. Jay Nimtz spoke with authority on Civil War history but in a narrative style that held the interest of the many listeners. He stated that our nation was pre-destined to have an Abraham Lincoln, who, at

such a crucial period, expounded the tenet of respect for human personalities.

He contrasted the principles for which the Civil War was fought with those of the cold war. "In communism," he said, "There is no respect for individuals or free enterprise."

"In that century old struggle the Civil War," Nimtz concluded, "emerged ideals which are foremost in our

(Continued on Page 2)



THE BOY IN GRAY depicted by Marshall Thayer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Thayer of Mt. Pleasant, wearing copy of Civil War uniform from the 'Warsaw Grays' and carrying musket used at Croton in 1861, now owned by Jack Brumback of Memphis, Mo.

—Daily Gate City Photo

MONDAY, AUG. 7, 1961



## Battle of Athens

(Continued from Page 1)

country today — respect for independent freedom, independent property rights and independent personal rights."

### VFW commander

Preceding the address of the afternoon Lloyd H. Goins, Iowa State commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars gave a tribute to the Veterans of the Civil War.

William L. Talbot of Keokuk was master of ceremonies at Sunday's program, with Alois J. Weber, president of the Lee county Historical society, introducing the speaker.

Music was furnished by the Farmington high school band under the direction of Donald Perkins, Miss Arminda Bishop of Keokuk was soloist, with Bonnie Cahill as accompanist and the "Distortionaires" male quartet sang several numbers.

The color guard was from the Gillespy Post, American Legion of Donnellson and the V.F.W. Post of Fort Madison. Salute to the patriots was given by Troop C, 113th Recon. Squadron, Iowa National Guard, which is the modern counterpart to the "Keokuk Rifles" of 1861.

The invocation and benediction were given by the Rev. Gordon Shipp of Farmington.

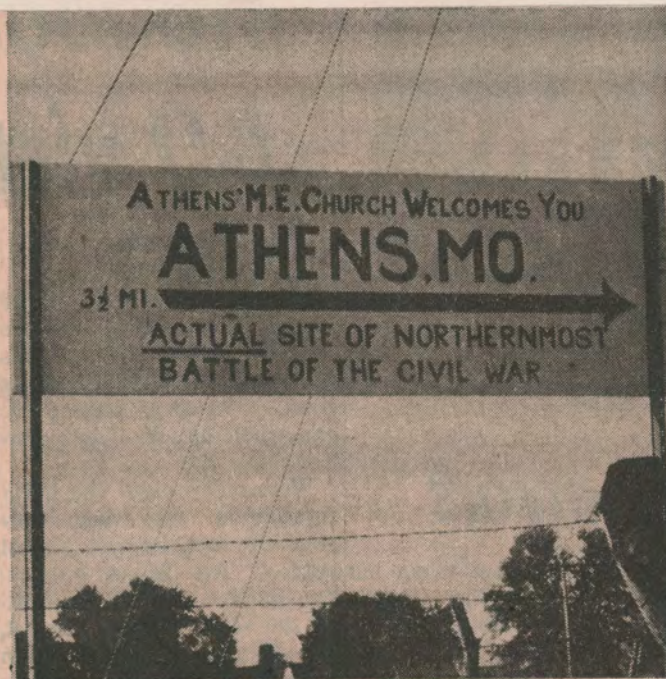
Preceding and following the scheduled program "Ye Old Fife and Drum Corps" of Mt. Pleasant supplied some unusual entertainment, reminiscent of a past era.

The interesting program and arrangements may be attributed to expert planning over a long period of time and acknowledgements are extended to many individuals and organizations —

To Helen Virden of Mt. Pleasant for her Centennial Poem; Refreshments — the Croton Community Club and Coca Cola Co. of Keokuk; the societies taking part in the program; public address system, Rural Electric Administration, Craig Wilmuth of Mt. Pleasant; chairs, Croton Community Club; flowers, Rider's Nursery of Farmington; and press, Mrs. Jessie Williamson of Donnellson.



WILLIAM TALBOT (left), Lloyd H. Goins, Iowa State commander of the V.F.W. (center) and guest speaker, J. Jay Nimtz, look over program at Sunday's 'Battle of Athens Centennial' at Croton.  
—Daily Gate City Photo



ATHENS, MO., which is 12 miles north of Kahoka and five miles south of Farmington, welcomes visitors for its celebration Aug. 5. Sign is on Missouri highway 81 where you turn east on CC.  
—Sally Moreland Photo

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



# Border towns join forces in early Civil War battle

By Dorothy Pickett

The only Confederate cannon ball to touch Iowa landed in Croton August 5, 1861 — and this because the rebels had fired high from their station across the Des Moines river at Athens, Mo.

Thus, the Iowa town and the Missouri town are closely associated in what turned out to be the only Civil War skirmish to be fought on Iowa soil. Both Croton and Athens were sizeable towns in the 1860's but today the combined population is barely half a hundred.

## Plan state park

Each village observes the anniversary of the battle and each is working toward a fitting state park to perpetuate the memory of the incident. The park at Croton is already underway under the auspices of the Iowa State Conservation commission and citizens from three states have launched a campaign to arouse interest in the establishment of a monument or state park, or both, at Athens.

The battle of Athens cli-

maxed a series of guerilla activities in northern Missouri early in the war. It seems there were two separate Home Guards — one for the Union, headed by Col. David Moore of Clark county, and one for the Confederacy, under Col. Martin Green of Lewis county.

In midsummer of '61 Moore camped at Athens with fewer than 400 men. This was an advantageous spot since he had a direct supply line from U. S. Army headquarters in St. Louis via the Des Moines river railway to Keokuk and Croton, the latter being situated on the opposite side of the river from Athens.

## Peace conference

Green, with troops numbering between 1,500 and 2,000, came north hoping to gain control of the federal supplies that were pouring into Croton. On July 25 a peace conference was held in the Joseph Benning home in Athens at which time Moore was urged to lay down his arms. The colonel refused.

On the eve of the battle

Col. Green and his troops camped at Chambersburg, advancing the following morning to Athens, a distance of some four or five miles. During the night a messenger was dispatched from Col. Moore's headquarters to Keokuk, asking for help. Immediately the City Rifles and the Keokuk Rangers, plus additional volunteers, boarded a train and were off for Croton, some 20 miles away.

The City Rifles were led by Attorney William W. Belknap and the Rangers were under Capt. Hugh Sample. Green's troops were made up of boys and men from 12-year olds up to 80 years. They were poorly paid and poorly fed. It has been said that some were barefooted, many in their shirtsleeves. Most of the men had horses but many were without saddles or bridles.

## Some unarmed

Some carried shotguns or squirrel rifles, but others had no weapons at all. A Chambersburg blacksmith had cast one, or possibly two cannon balls. The first of these was the one that hit the Benning house, barely missing the family as they ate their breakfast, then passed through the back side of the building, whizzing on to the Iowa shore. The rebels finally resorted to firing nuts and bolts as ammunition.

The battle proper was fought in Athens. Col. Moore's troops were reinforced by a mounted infantry troop from Alexandria, Mo., and a few troops from companies who had been passing through Keokuk at the time the call for help arrived.

Keokuk's military formed on the Iowa side at Croton and fired across the river with rifles. The river was low at the time and many of the men

took off their shoes, rolled up their pants and splashed through the ford to the Missouri bank.

Volunteers also showed up from Salem, Primrose and other communities, armed only with hatchets, axes, knives or pitchforks.

## Bayonet charge

After a successful bayonet assault by Moore's men there was a gradual Confederate withdrawal, followed soon by a full-scale retreat.

The battle lasted less than two hours and much of the action still remains unrecorded. Casualty reports also vary, according to available records. Perhaps six or eight were killed and 20 or 30 wounded. Other records place the casualties at a much higher number.

Two hospitals were set up to care for the wounded, the Confederates using a saloon and the Union casualties were treated at the Sprouse home in Croton. This house was recently deeded to the Iowa Society for the Preservation of Historic Landmarks by Mrs. Doris Pearce, who uncle, William Sprouse, died in the building following wounds suffered in the battle.

## Athens landmarks

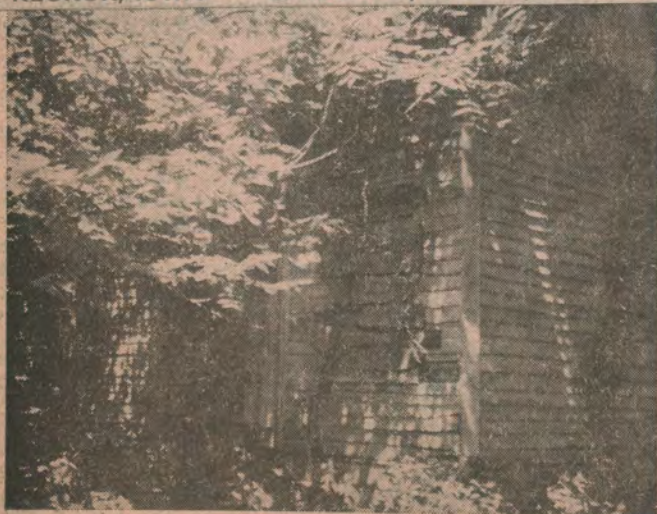
Athens, too, has several Civil War landmarks—the old cemetery where a number of Civil War veterans are buried, the battle field, the "Cannon Ball" house, Col. David Moore's headquarters and the remains of old Colton Mill which was built in 1856. This at one time was the town's principal enterprise.

Details of this year's 101st anniversary of the Battle of Athens are not complete at this time, but according to Missouri Congressman Clarence Cannon, arrangements have been made with army engineers at Fort Leonard Wood to make a survey as the first step in a proposed pontoon bridge across the Des Moines river from Croton to Athens. If carried out this will be ready in time for the celebration.

The Daily Gate City

KEOKUK, IOWA

SATURDAY, JULY 14, 1962 — 3



THE JOE BENNING HOUSE AT ATHENS—now almost completely hidden with low hanging trees and brush. Cannonball entered at side of kitchen door.

—Daily Gate City Photo



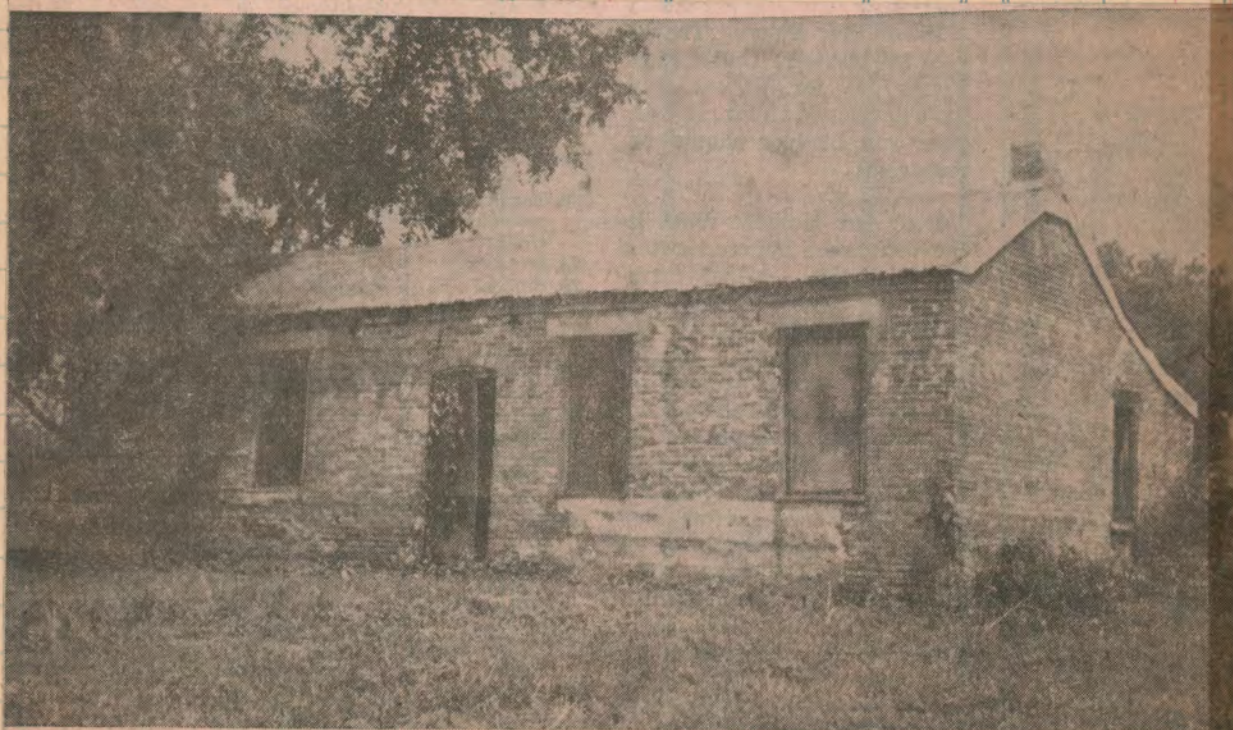


PART OF CROTON PARK with entrance sign to the town. In reality Croton is not the most northerly point

of Civil War activity, but the second. One point in Ohio that is farther north saw battle. Daily Gate City Photo

It is also expected to have roadways cleared which now are overgrown with brush, thus providing access to the cannon ball house and the old mill. It has also been rumored that former President Harry S. Truman has been invited to be guest speaker of the

day. Whatever the arrangements are, visitors may be assured of genuine hospitality on both sides of the river, and it will be a day of historic interest, providing exciting vignettes of Civil War days right in our own back yard.



THE SPROUSE HOME IN CROTON — used as a Field hospital during the battle of Athens. —Daily Gate City Photo

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



# Old letter recalls Battle of Athens

By Sally Moreland

FARMINGTON — The 103rd observance of the Battle of Athens was held on the battle site in Athens, Mo. Aug. 1 and 2.

Through the courtesy of Mrs. Osa Hiller of Kahoka, Mo., a copy of a letter written by J. M. Hiller describing the Civil War battle of Aug. 5, 1861 will be displayed by Kenneth Doud.

Hiller was fighting with the Union Army, a member of the N. E. Mo. Regiment Home Guards at Athens under Col. David Moore.

The following is an unedited copy of Hiller's letter. There are blank spaces where the words were not legible.

## 1500 rebels

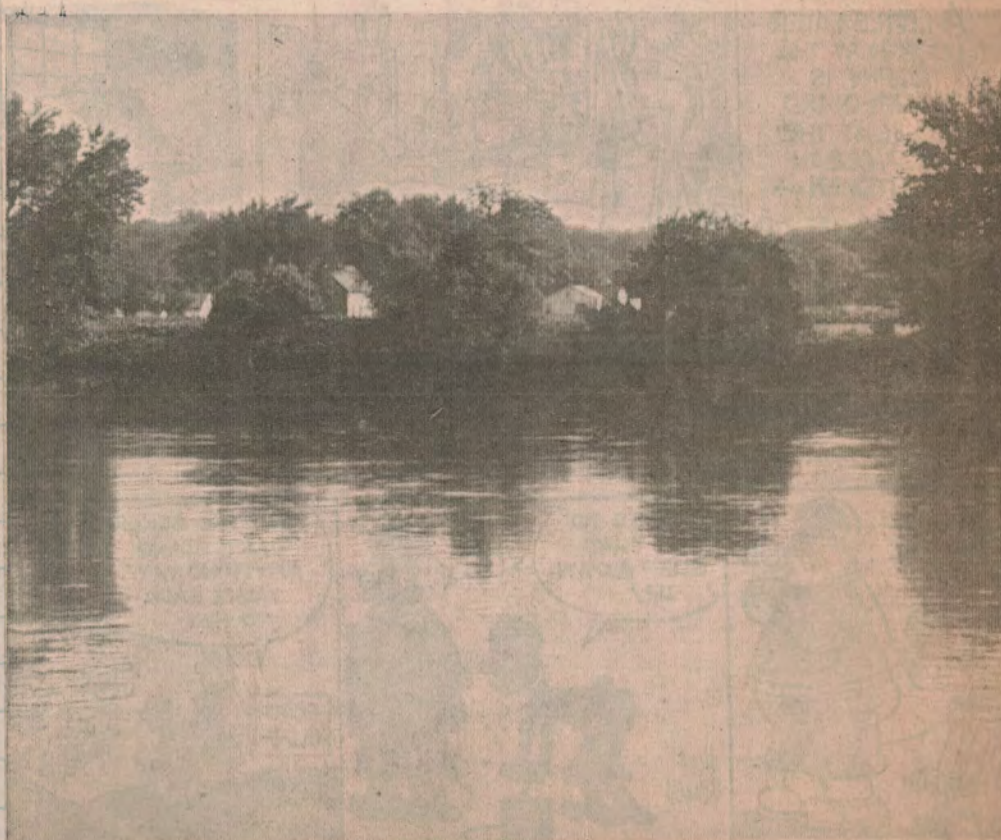
Athens Clark Co. Mo. Aug. 5, 1861

Dear Brother,

I snatch a few moments time to inform you of the transactions of the day — A battle was fought here this morning between 8 to 1500 rebels and about 450 patriots — The N. E. Mo. Regiment Home Guards was stationed here on rather a small portion commanded by Col. D. Moore. We learned from scouts and other sources that a large force was moving on us and would probably attack us last night. I was dispatched to Keokuk for aid but as they had been frequently alarmed on false reports succeeded only in getting some 75 or 80 men, Home Guards and volunteers. A little after daylight this morning the picket guard rushed in reporting the rapid advance of a large force. Our forces had not become fully rallied till they attacked us with two cannon shooting scraps of iron broken castings etc. Our boys stood fine. Remarkably for raw soldiers and returned a volley of musket balls. Their cannon was planted on the hill near Capt. Baker's house. Our forces were stationed on the space between the Armstrong store room, (the one lower down) and the frame house owned by



CLARK COUNTY COURT built this new road into the park area at Athens, Mo. Volunteers made paths through the timber and cleared ground in the 187 acre park.  
—Sally Moreland



A VIEW OF CROTON, taken from the bank of the Des Moines river at Athens, Mo. The 103rd annual observance of the Battle of Athens will be held on the battle site Aug. 1 and 2.



## SUNDRY ACCOUNTS

Wm. McKee. They had a fine chance at us but owing to the unskillfulness of their gunners or some other cause, their cannons failed to kill or cripple a single man. They also attacked us on both flanks having a strong force in the cornfield immediately below Wm. Gray's house where they opened a brisk fire but also with no effect or very little.

**Stampede starts**

A portion of our forces were taken with a panic and made a stampede for . . . A great many shots were fired on our forces in the river but with little effect. Shooting over — the flag that was carried over was pierced with nine balls. I crossed the river and rallied a small force, probably 80 or 40 men, behind the fence when we soon drove the force from the cornfield and the old log house where they fought from the doors and windows.

Their party attacking from the point at Benning's Slaughter House attempted to take possession of the point below the hill but were dislodged by Capt. Hackney's Company.

As soon as the flanks were driven back our small force waded the river below the dam, filled up the hollow between Mrs. Marshbanks and Jo Bennings to reinforce our main body but found the enemy retreating. I then mounted a contraband horse (which is now in our keeping) got a case of holster pistols and a musket and with about 25 others followed in pursuit. Their forces of probably 80 or 100 covering the retreat of their cannon made a halt on the rise beyond Biedman's. We charged on them.

**Form ambush**

When they retreated rapidly we all got shots at them as they hove from the hill at Bob Grays, we being at Stratford's. We then fell back as if retreating and formed an ambush but they were too cowardly to pursue. We took several prisoners and horses, probably 15 or 20 of the latter and guns, blankets, ammunition.

Hiram was not in the fight having gone to Elders the night before. I think the battle lasted about an hour or more. Our loss in killed so far as known is three. Two or three are mor-

tally wounded and probably 8 or 10 less severely.

The loss of the enemy is not known as they had wagons and carried many away. We found three dead on the ground and several mortally wounded. Jim McArtar was wounded in the hip, not mortal (secession) I am not acquainted with any of the killed. Royal took Harriet and Billy and Alexander into Iowa in a buggy just as the fight commenced. I think they went

to Sam Haulswortles where Amelia had been for two weeks or more. Hiram and I both hold positions in this regiment. He is adjutant and I was appointed Judge Advocate and I shall be kept busy for some time trying the prisoners we took. Hon. Wm. Moreland, Capt. Baker, Rev. Walker, Sam Kite, Jessie Mullins, Jonathan Bidell, A. O. Bedell, William Spurgin, John Stewart and many other of our neighbors were engaged with us.

We are much rejoiced over the victory. As they claim they can whip 5 to 1 — and as many of their party said they did not know about these skim milk Yankees fighting, they may find out to their sorrow. We have been reinforced today with a regiment from Keokuk and will take up the line of march probably tomorrow and clean them out.

In haste, yours

J. M. Hiller

Des Moines Sunday Register  
July 21, 1968  
Third News Section

3-T

## EVENTS SET AT CIVIL WAR SITE

(The Register's Iowa News Service)

FARMINGTON, IA. — Annual observance of the Battle of Athens will be held next Saturday and Sunday in Athens, Mo., six miles south of Farmington. The event will be held on the site of the Civil War battle fought Aug. 5, 1861.

Across the Des Moines River from Athens, the hamlet of Croton in Iowa will have its annual observance Aug. 4.

At Athens the Sunday afternoon program will include a



### Observance

The town of Croton, where cannon balls fell in the northernmost battle of the Civil War, will hold an annual observance of the battle on Aug. 4.

mortgage burning by the Athens Park Development Association, which has developed 230 acres of land into a park with picnic area, shelter house and historical marker.

The Athens program Saturday night will include a home talent show.

Russell Rathwiler will be the speaker at church services Sunday. There will be a barbecue, memorial service at the marker, and entertainment by the Gospellets of Ottumwa with the Rev. James Salvador of Batavia as speaker.

Sunday night will feature the Burlington Clipper Barbershop Chorus of Burlington.

At the Croton observance the program will feature Keith Muntz as master of ceremonies and Stanley Shepherd as speaker, both of Farmington.



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



# Crowd of nearly 900 enjoys two day observance at Athens

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The Daily Gate City

KEOKUK, IOWA

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 3, 1966 — 13

By Sally Moreland

FARMINGTON — The motorcycle hill climb at Athens, Mo., Saturday afternoon attracted an estimated crowd of between 800 and 900 fans. Cyclists from Des Moines, Cedar Rapids and other distant points joined local enthusiasts to present a spectacular show on the 98 foot hill.

Youthful spectators scrambled down the hillside with the agility of mountain goats to pick their vantage points while the more cautious types carefully descended the makeshift stairs and clung to the guide ropes.

This was the first program of the 105th annual observance of the Battle of Athens held in the Athens park six miles south of Farmington Saturday and Sunday.

## Barbecue

Over 500 beef barbecue dinners were served Sunday. Missourians and Iowans, all volunteer workers, formed the kitchen staff this year as they have each year.

Contrary to the caustic comments by an apparent publicity seeker who was photographed and interviewed by Lloyd Maffitt of the Burlington Hawk-Eye, there is no friction between Croton, Iowa, and Athens, Mo.

Efforts have been made to schedule the observances on different dates. Iowans and Missourians have worked toward a common goal, a bridge to span the Des Moines river to link the two communities.

The drive for a bridge, conducted several years ago, was unsuccessful. Athens continues its drive for recognition from the state of Missouri and establishment of a state park in the area now owned and being developed by the Athens Park Development association. The association has received assistance from Iowans as well as from Missourians in this project.

## Concert

Entertainment for the two-day event included a concert by the Keokuk Municipal band on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and a rock 'n' roll dance featuring the Rising Sons at 9 p.m.

Charles A. Purkett Jr. of Jefferson City, Mo., Chief Division



KENNETH GRAY of Farmington on left, president of the Athens Park Development Ass'n. and Charles A. Purkett Jr. of Jefferson City, Mo., Chief, Division of Fisheries of the Missouri Department of Conservation, discuss program at Athens on Sunday afternoon.

of Fisheries, Missouri Dept. of Conservation, was the featured speaker for the program Sunday afternoon. He explained the purpose of his department and one of its goals "to try to get good fishing opportunities within 20 miles of everybody."

Kenneth Gray, president of the Athens Park Development Association, was master of ceremonies and introduced other board members present. State candidates introduced who spoke briefly were Rep. Dick De Coster, Rep. Glen Crockett, Nelson Glasgow, presiding Clark County Court judge and Lewis King, candidate for judge in the eastern district.

## Parade

Gray spoke of the project launched at Athens five years ago and of the progress made to date. He emphasized the necessity to pay for the 187 acres of land first and then to con-

## Displays

Civil War relics were displayed under a large tent. Among the many items brought by Jack Brumback of Memphis, Mo., was an old (Harper Ferry) Army musket which was dug up in 1915 by Dr. A. M. Keethler, 87, of Memphis, when digging in a mound at Athens. It was lost during the battle of Athens on Aug. 5, 1861.

Kenneth Doud's display included a piece of chain which dates from the Civil War battle and had been handed down from generation to generation and is owned by Clifford Bell of Revere, Mo. The chain had hit an old oak tree and Newton Lonker was behind the tree according to Bell. After the battle the chain was cut up and the links handed out to the family. Doud also displayed Civil War weapons from the H. M. Hall collection, Kirkwood, Ill. He had



an old anvil used to chop up chains and iron cooking utensils for ammunition in the battle. Among the antiques displayed by Kenneth Muntz of Farmington was the first corn sheller made in 1866 by Beaver and Jones of Pittsburgh, Pa. An ear of corn was stuck into the iron groove and the corn was hand turned to shell. The Jim McWilliams of Revere, Mo., and the Paul Lowerys of Farmington had displays for the "flea market" and the Happy Homemakers Extension club had numerous hand made items for sale with all proceeds to go to the park board.

Flowers donated by the Hiway Flower Shop, Kahoka, Mo., were presented to Mrs. Lucy Bogguss, 93, of Revere, Mo., who was the oldest person present.



UP GOES the cycle and down goes the driver at the motorcycle hill climb at Athens, Mo. on Saturday afternoon opening the 2-day observance of the Battle of Athens.

—Sally Moreland



ATTRACTING AS much attention as a Good Humor man was Duggan Spurgeon of Williamstown, Mo. who gave free rides to the kids in his bright red wagon pulled by his small mule team. He called the mules Henneys, not Jennies. Spurgeon said the Henneys were 5 and 6 years old, respectively. He made the fancy rig. It proved to be the most popular tour at historic Athens on Sunday. Trying out the feel of a mule team are front seat on left, George Benner of Donnellson and Clarence Fett of Farmington. In the rear on left is Emil Ball of Donnellson. Other rider was not identified.

—Sally Moreland

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

*Athens Courier-Examiner*





KENNETH GRAY of Farmington, left greeting State Senator Richard Southern of Monroe City, Mo. featured speaker at the Battle of Athens observance Sunday at Athens, Mo. Gray is president of the Athens Park Development ass'n.

## Over 1700 attend two day celebration at Athens, Mo.

By Sally Moreland

FARMINGTON—History buffs again converged on Athens, Mo., for its annual two-day observance over the weekend. An estimated crowd of 500 on Saturday and 1,200 on Sunday attended the program held on the actual Civil War battleground. The observance commemorates the battle which took place there Aug. 5, 1861.

A barbecue ham and bean supper was served Saturday in the shelterhouse and beef barbecue was served on Sunday. Seven hundred pounds of beef was prepared for the event in addition to pies, cakes, relishes, salads and beverages.

Comments most often heard on the grounds concerned the general improvement of the park area. Exhibits were shown under small tents and the programs were presented under a large tent. The grassy area is now a comfortable site for a

relaxed weekend where old friends can meet and pick up a bit of Civil War history from the many exhibitors.

### Will preserve headquarters

The Civil War headquarters of Col. David Moore, Union officer, has been purchased and will be preserved. Rest rooms have been built. Roads are rocked so the annual observance can take place rain or shine.

Nelson Glasgow of Granger, Mo., presiding judge of the county court at Kahoka, was master of ceremonies for the home talent show Saturday night and also sang. Violins were the instruments of the James R. Kneeland family of Revere, Mo., who opened the program. The Kneeland children, Becky, 9, and Margaret, 7, study at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville. Becky has appeared on KMOX TV and

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KFU radio. Mrs. Kneeland has had five years with the St. Louis Philharmonic. Kneeland is school superintendent at Revere.

### Program

Others on the program were Dwayne, Beverly and Roderick Longanecker; Rodney Brown; Janet, Marilyn and Linda Rider; Steve Swygard of Farfield; Patty Harness and Ila Mae Woods accompanied by Harold Muntz who also appeared with Eddie Munford and Jeff Munford; Gene and Darrell Calvert of Kahoka, Mo.; and Mrs. Helen Beaird.

The Rev. Keith Gilmore of Anamosa, former parole officer for southeastern Iowa, was the speaker for the worship service Sunday morning.

James Skeens gave a grain cradling demonstration preceding the program Sunday after-

noon. Kenneth Gray, president of the Athens Park Development Association, was master of ceremonies. Officers of the Clark County Historical Society were introduced. Bob Isenhardt of Burlington spoke briefly.

### Report

Following the introduction of the Athens Park Development Association, Mrs. James Skeens, secretary, gave a report on the past year. The association met with Mrs. Jessie Gaylord and bought the Gaylord 32 acres with the old hotel for \$2,400. It was agreed to preserve the house and restore it as soon as possible. Ground has been cleared around the house. Other activities included floats in parades in which the association placed first at Kahoka and second at Farmington. Wheat was sowed on five acres of park land in October. In February it was voted to spend \$100 to build a ladies rest room. Timothy and clover was seeded in the wheat grounds the latter part of February. The Park board sponsored four motorcycle hill climbs. In May, three-fourths of the park road was rocked.

Tom Rider, treasurer, gave a financial report, which he said was not complete at this time. The observance last year brought \$2,192.13. Net worth today was estimated at \$15,200; total debts were \$2,800.

### Lifelong resident

Flowers were presented to Doris Wilson, 77, who has lived in Athens all of her life. Nora Epperhart of Revere, Mo., who said she was 84, received a bouquet as the oldest person present.

A musical program was presented by the Clayton Parsons Family of Lowell.

The Rev. Richard DeMont and the Rev. Carl Martin of Kahoka and Freda Gutting were featured in the Civil War Memorial Service. The color bearers were from Herman-Blum Post 192 of the American Legion at Kahoka.

Senator Richard Southern, of Monroe City, Mo., Democrat, spoke of the Civil War battle at Athens on Aug. 5, 1861, and noted that the same cannon used at Athens was used at Monroe City. He spoke of the recent riots in Detroit and of the study of



history from which we can learn so much. He had words of encouragement for the park board and its goals at Athens.

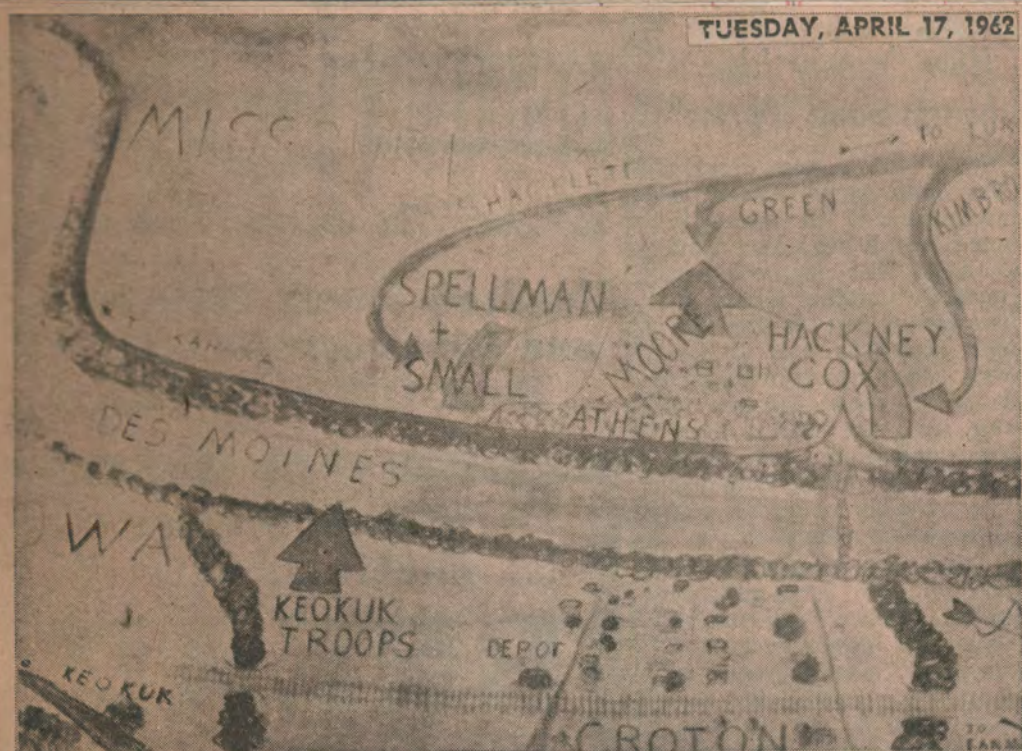
Free will offerings on Saturday brought \$52.65 and on Sunday \$90. The M. Guffey Family of KTVO presented the program Sunday night.

**Oil painting given away**  
Mary Peacock of Fort Mad-

ison won the oil painting and Melvin Gordy of Revere, Mo. won the quilt. The cost of the materials for the painting was furnished by the Athens Park Board and the art work donated by Kenneth Doud and Mrs. Lloyd Henn of Farmington. The quilt was donated by the Happy Homemakers Extension Club which had a country store of hand made items and white ele-

phants table on the grounds for the benefit of the association.  
Exhibitor Jack Brumback of Memphis, Mo., historian, collector, and student of the Civil War, had in his collection an 1875 plate made by Gillander and Sons of Philadelphia and a 1776-1876 book on Iowa Glass. Kenneth Muntz had a Civil War exhibit and

also bunting with 45 stars used before 1912 in a celebration at Farmington. Kenneth Doud displayed the Dr. F. M. Hall collection from Kirkwood, Ill., guns, oil paintings, old pictures and curios. The Horace Sickingers of New London included Jim Beam bottles in their exhibit, and Guy Hummell of Mt. Pleasant had antiques. **END**



**TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 1962**

**THIS MAP OF THE BATTLE SITE** was drawn by Mrs. Lloyd Henn of Farmington from material furnished by Kenneth Doud of Athens, Mo.  
—Photo by Sally Moreland

**The Daily Gate City**

# Proposed Athens State Park campaign is launched Sunday

**FARMINGTON —** A campaign was launched Sunday afternoon to rekindle interest in the establishment of a state park or monument, or both, at Athens, Mo. the site of the Civil War battle Aug. 5, 1861 on the Iowa-Missouri border.

One hundred twenty-five persons from Iowa, Missouri and Illinois attended the meeting in the Methodist church

at Athens.  
Committees were named and plans made to observe the 101st anniversary Aug. 5. Former President Harry S. Truman has been invited as guest speaker for the event which will be held on the battle field site at Athens.

**The speakers**  
Lloyd Redd, county agent of Kahoka, Donald Wilson of Athens, Gilbert Sargent of St. Francisville, state representative of Missouri and member of the State Park Commission, and Kenneth Doud, local historian, were among the speakers.

Doud's talk on the history of Athens and the skirmish there was illustrated by a map and color chalk drawings made by Mrs. Lloyd Henn of Farmington.

Redd, Wilson and Doud conducted tours of the historic sites which included the Joseph Benning house; the old hotel which was the John Smith house and was used as Col. David Moore's headquarters; the old mill and other points of interest.

The weather-beaten Benning house, vacant for more than 31 years, is scarred by two holes made by a Confederate cannonball which whizzed through the kitchen and out the opposite wall, narrowly missing the family seated at the breakfast table.

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



# Battle of Athens annual observance is highlighted with mortgage burning

By Sally Moreland

FARMINGTON — Lloyd Redd of Kahoka, Mo., struck the match that lit the paper that burned the mortgage that freed the Athens Park Development Association from indebtedness.

The ceremony took place Sunday afternoon at Athens, Mo., on the second day of the annual observance of the Battle of Athens.

Holding the \$2,800 mortgage for burning was Archie Buck, vice president of the association, while Kenneth Gray, president, at left in photo, served as master of ceremonies, of Farmington.

The mortgage burning climaxed the business meeting held under a large tent on the site of the Civil War battle which took place there August 5, 1861.

Other officers of the association are Ruth Skeens, secretary, Richard Wilson, treasurer, Don Calvert and Melvin Gordy. Former officers are Tom Rider, Don Wilson, Ernest French, and Dale Phillips.

Gray commended the officers and gave a resume of the progress made since the organizational meeting of the association in 1962 by Redd, Jim McWilliams, Gilbert Sargent, Floyd Millen, Sally Moreland and Helen Virden.

Gray said this group recruited many others to help launch the drive for a park and restoration of the historic site. He gave special recognition to Mayors George Benner of Donnellson, Glenn Crockett of Kahoka, Jay Armstrong of Farmington; the Clark County Historical Society, Art Brightwell, Ed Libby, who has been in charge of food, Jim Skeens, and Kenneth Doud, historian.

Also to Paul Rowe, publisher of the Clark County Courier, Bill Kerr, publisher of the Record-Republican, Bonaparte, and Sally Moreland, The Daily Gate City, Keokuk, Ottumwa Courier, Evening Democrat, Fort Madison, The Burlington Hawk-Eye, and the Des Moines Register and Tribune and KOKX radio station at Keokuk.

Also Joe Yeager, director of State Parks, Governor Warren Hearnes, Dick DeCoster, state representative, Ruby Greene, Senator Mackie, Paul Holliday, Ben Dixon, researcher and historian, Otis Gutting and Jack Brumback, Nelson Glasgow and the Clark County Court, Stuart Ward, Seth Brothers, Joe Dunning, Karl Trump, Barrows and Bartels and Ralph Plenge.

Helen Virden of Oakland Mills recalled that the first time she was in Athens she wore boots and slacks and carried a weed cutter "to look at it." In commending the association, she said that to do this much in five years you have to dream big enough and work hard enough. "We need a country-full of people like them," she said.

Jim McWilliams, who presented the first \$10 check to the association, spoke briefly,



KENNETH GRAY, left, Archie Buck of Farmington and Lloyd Redd of Kahoka burn mortgage of the Athens Park Development assn. during the celebration Sunday. — Sally Moreland



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THE HERMAN-BLUM Legion Post of Athens, Mo. annual observance of the Battle of Athens. — Sally Moreland



also Paul Holliday of Burlington and Dick DeCoster, who is running for re-election as state representative in Clark county.

Gray told the assemblage that much has been accomplished at Athens by purchasing land and improving it into a park area, but this is just the first plateau. Money will have to be raised by cash donations and various projects for future plans to preserve the old buildings on the historic site.

Past methods of raising money were outlined by Ruth Skeens in her report.

This included motorcycle hill climbs, auctions, cash donations and articles made and sold by women's groups.

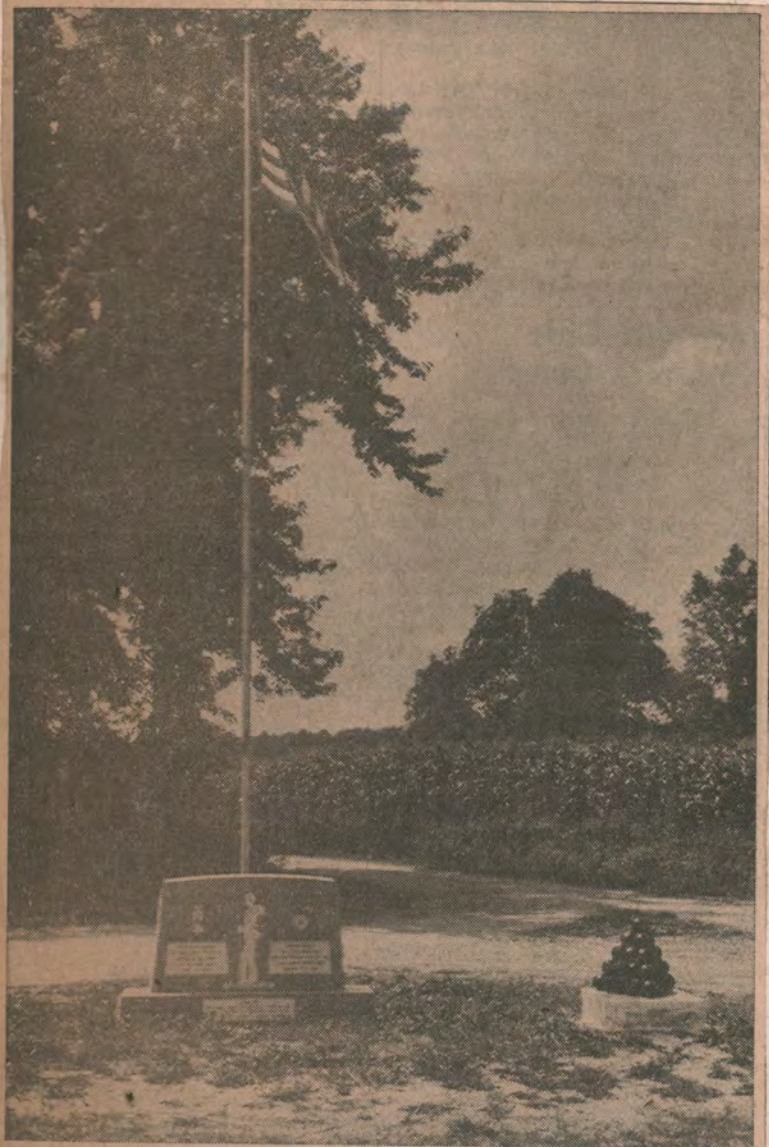
A free will offering of \$106 was collected at the home talent show Saturday night attended by 600 persons. An estimated crowd of 1,000 attended the events on Sunday, 900 persons were served at the food stand where barbecue beef was featured on the menu in addition to side dishes. Russell Rothweiler of Taylor, Mo., was the speaker at church services Sunday. Also featured on Sunday were the Gospels from KTVO

speaker the Rev. James Salvador of Batavia. The Burlington Clipper Barbershop Chorus entertained Sunday night.

Retreat at 4:30 p.m. was by the Herman-Blum Post 192 of the American Legion at Kahoka. Hiram Hiller is post commander.

In charge was Sgt. at Arms, Roland Heinze; color guard — Dave Lewis, Lumas McCoy; Color bearers — Harry Heinze, Nelson Glasgow; firing squad — Russell Dietrich, George Seyb, Bill Kerr, Kyle Peterson. Rudler was Kenneth Wilson.

MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 1953



Daily Gate City Photo

92ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF ATHENS; northernmost skirmish of the Civil War, was observed Sunday afternoon in Croton at the site of this monument and flag staff erected in 1950 as a memorial to the event. F. H. Anderson of Farmington, president of the Southeast Iowa Civil War Memorial association, presided and Dale E. Carrell was guest speaker. Story and picture on page 10.

## WAS AT THE BATTLE OF ATHENS

Charles Bishop, 79, was one of the most interested attendants at the celebration of the Battle of Athens at that place last Saturday.

Mr. Bishop was one of the forty or fifty non-combatant — women and children who took refuge in the J. H. Oldenhouse house, lately torn down when Col. David Moore and his Federals routed an attacking force of Confederates, under Col. Green on the now historic date of August 5, 1861.

Of the non-combatants in the town, Mr. Bishop thinks there remain but two others besides himself. Mrs. Jemimah Miller, nee Hansen, of Iowa, and John Bedell, of Athens.

As Mr. Bishop remembers it, the fight was only 1½ hours duration, when the superior arms and morale of Col. Moore's troops and the threat of Iowa soldiers across the Des Mines allowed his much smaller force to put Green's men to route.

However the Confederates gave the old town quite a scare and with their little cannon shot clear through the old Benning house, as well as lobbed a few balls clear over the river into Croton. Mr. Chamberlain of Luray possesses one of the shot.

It is said they hid the cannon before their flight and slipped back for it the following night.

Mr. Bishop, whose parents were the late Mr. and Mrs. Mordecai Bishop, well remembers being taken by his mother to a brick store building where the dead and wounded were housed.

The Union men whom he thinks were among the dead were: Sprouse, Sullivan Thompson and Rev. Harrison.

Mr. Bishop's father entered the war on the side of the Union. Mrs. Bishop took the boys, William and Charles back to Wyonette, Ill., their former home, until the war was over.

Mr. Bishop is hale and active for his age and can work along side men many years younger.

### An Old Gun

George Wilson, another aged citizen of Ashton, was also an attendant at the celebration and exhibited an old musket, a souvenir of the battle.

Mr. Wilson, a lad in 1861, lived near the Jordan school house where some of Green's fleeing men throw away a number of guns. Mr. Wilson's old relic being one of them. It is a smooth bore, muzzle-loader with an extended wooden stock and is in good condition.

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



# Athens Methodist church marks 100 years of service August 18

By Sally Moreland

FARMINGTON — The Athens Methodist church will celebrate its centennial Sunday, Aug. 18. There will be a morning worship service at 11 o'clock, a carry-in dinner at 12:30 and the centennial service at 2:30 p.m.

The morning speaker will be the pastor, Rev. D. L. Foley and the afternoon speaker the Rev. Homer Morris, district superintendent from the Hannibal-Kirksville district.

Dinner will be at the Athens Park. Everyone is urged to attend and asked to bring own table service. Drinks will be furnished.

The Athens Methodist church, located in northeast Clark county, in Grant Township near the Des Moines River, was built in 1868.

It is in the Hannibal-Kirksville District of the Missouri East Conference of the United Methodist Church. At one time it was included in a circuit with Revere and Oak Grove and was served by a pastor residing in the parsonage at Revere. At another time the church was on the Kahoka Circuit and was served by the Kahoka minister. Since 1956 Athens has been part of the Wayland Circuit. The present pastor is the Rev. D. L. Foley. Services of worship are conducted at Athens the first and third Sundays of each month.

The first Sunday School recorded an enrollment of one hundred for Athens and Alexandria. The Sunday School functioned until 1956.

The building was painted in about 1901 and near that time was redecorated inside.

A coal and wood stove was used for heating and oil lamps for light until 1952 when the electrician Herman Meier of Kahoka, with the assistance of the church men, installed electricity. The people were grateful for this improvement and for other gifts including light fixtures and wall clock. In 1953 the U. S. and Christian flags were given to the church.

The outside of the building was painted again in the late 1940's by a community group. In 1953 the inside was redecorated and pews painted by August Plenge.

The piano was purchased during the 1930's when Rev. La Frenz was pastor.

Carpeting for the platform and center aisle was laid in the late 1940's.

The change from coal to oil heat was enjoyed by all when an oil furnace was installed in 1961. New flooring was laid at that time.

Very recently, in 1966, the interior was almost completely decorated again by lowering the ceiling, wood paneling the walls and installing a new gas furnace. Used pews were given to the church and these were re-



THE ATHENS METHODIST church will mark its centennial on August 18 with spe-

cial services and a carry-in dinner at 12:30 p.m. —Sally Moreland

finished by a community group. M. E. Westerbeck was the carpenter. Labor and materials were donated. The cash cost was about \$1,200. All of this with the addition of new glass doors and venetian blinds has added much to the comfort and appearance of the sanctuary.

Plans are being made to refinish the floor and do some exterior work.

The church steeple was lowered somewhat to its original height in repairing it following a wind storm some years ago, as recalled by Mrs. Alice Wilson.

Some highlights of past and present events include Christmas and Easter observances, Children's Day programs and Vacation Bible School. Annually, until recently, Homecoming was held the second Sunday in August. The offering was used for the upkeep of the Athens Cemetery where twelve Civil War soldiers and one Spanish American War soldier, Herbert Smith of Athens, are buried. The names of the Civil War soldiers buried there are: Warren Cecil, Jim House, Austin McGraw, Ed Smith, George Wilson, William French, J. E. Parker, Wash Miller, Ham Bishop, L. Wetherstone, J. K. Marrs and William McGown.

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KEOKUK, IOWA, AUGUST 3, 1923

## BATTLE OF ATHENS STIRRED KEOKUK INTO FRENZY OF EXCITEMENT



AUGUST 5 is the anniversary of the famous "Battle of Athens", in which a number of the Keokuk youth of 1861 took an active part. The battle was fought at the village of Athens, across the river from Croton, and was one of the first engagements of the Civil war.

General Green's rebel force intended to cross the Des Moines river at Athens and swoop down upon Keokuk and take the city. But they were met by Colonel Moore and his troops, reinforced by the Keokuk volunteers and driven off.

The battle was fought early in the morning and resulted in two men being killed. Rev. Harrison was shot in the forehead and died instantly. A man named Sullivan was also killed and thirty-four men were wounded. The rebel force was equipped with cannon and fired several volleys, but they did no damage.

It was an exciting day for Keokuk and there were many wild rumors in the town which put the people on the

tip toe of frenzy. One report was that the rebels had wiped out the defenders and were marching toward the city. For several days after there were rumors of rebel raids and Keokuk was in commotion for a week. Four days after the battle word came that 2000 rebels were marching on Athens. The fire bells were rung and two or three hundred Keokuk men boarded a special train in the morning and went to Croton. They returned in the afternoon, finding no cause for alarm.

It was reported that day also that three dead bodies of rebels had been found in a corn field near Athens, making a total of forty-three killed, but present day records do not show any such number.

There are a few Keokuk men now living who took part in the battle, which at that time was considered a rather serious affair, but which was afterwards treated more as a joke as the invading force was routed early in the engagement. However, had the result been different, Keokuk might have suffered severely from the rebel raid.

### HER FATHER DIED. ON ATHENS FIELD.

Mrs. Frederick Boone, who died April 23, aged 81 years, at her home in Clark county, Mo., was a daughter of Rev. Jabez Harrison, who came west from Virginia in 1848. He was killed by the rebels in the Battle of Athens.

Mrs. Boone resided in that vicinity and it was she who conveyed the message to Colonel Moore, commanding the Union forces there, that saved them from defeat Aug. 5, 1861.

JAMES P. SMITH WAS AT  
BATTLE OF ATHENS  
Route 1, Box 67, Marshfield, Mo.  
August 16, 1925.

Mr. Samuel H. Brown:  
Clark City, Mo.

My Dear Old Friend and Comrade,  
In reading an article from you in the "Courier," I see you are of the opinion that you are the only survivor of the Battle of Athens. You will excuse and permit me to correct this mistaken impression, when I give you positive proof of two others, Joseph Morris, of Montazuma, Iowa, was a member of Capt. Thomas H. Rossberry's Co., Home Guards, who fought on the left flank, where Evald of Edina and Joseph Thompson of Luray were killed. He was in every battle the 21st Mo. was in, he was never in a hospital and was never even wounded and always ready for any duty.

James P. Smith was a member of Captain Barton P. Hackney's Co., Home Guards, who fought on the right wing at the Battle of Athens and kept the rebel flank from going around by the mill, he was also in every battle but the 21st Mo. took part in and was wounded four times in storming Ft. Blakely, Ala., April 9, 1865. His P. O. address is Marshfield, Webster county, Mo. This is the very highest peak of the Ozark mountains. Yourself, Joe Morris and I are the only 3 survivors of the Battle of Athens that I have any knowledge. Your wife's father, Luther Washburn and I were intimate friends from 1854 at Houzler Greene, Lee Co., Iowa up to and at time of his death in Clark county Mo., of which I was a resident from the 24th of Dec., 1857 until Feb. 6, 1919, when I changed to the Ozarks.

Your Friend and Comrade,

JAMES P. SMITH,  
Marshfield, Mo.



# Cannonball house deeded in Athens

FARMINGTON — Miss Lucy Sadonia Bruner of Winona Lake, Ind. Monday deeded the cannonball house to the Athens Park Development association in memory of the Benning family.

During the Civil War battle at Athens, Mo. Aug. 5, 1861 a cannonball went through the Joe Benning house in Athens, narrowly missing the occupants.

The battle lasted about two hours and all of the action took place in Athens, located six miles south of Farmington in Iowa and 15 miles north of Kahoka. One cannonball hit the depot roof at Croton, across the river from Athens.

Col. David Moore and his Union regiment of about 500 men were in Athens to receive Army material from St. Louis, which was to be shipped by rail to Croton, and ferried across the Des Moines river to Athens on the opposite shore.

Although Missouri remained in the Union, there was a rebel movement to join the Confederacy and its states of the south.

Col. Martin Green and his confederate force of Secessionists an estimated 800 mounted men attacked Athens on Aug. 5 to drive out the federal troops and seize the shipment. Green's forces failed to capture the town. Three of Green's men and two of Col. at least 20 men were wounded. The field hospital where wounded from both sides were treated was in Athens, but the building is no longer standing.

The Athens Park Development association was formed by a dedicated small group of workers to preserve the historic site and its remaining buildings.

A new roof was recently put on the old hotel at Athens

which was the Civil War headquarters for Col. David Moore. The association purchased the historic old building from the Gaylord heirs several years ago.

Now, through the generosity of Miss Bruner who became sole owner of the Benning house in 1967, the cannonball house will be preserved for future generations.



Athens



## Battle of Athens (Iowa)

By Fred S. Downing.

**E**VER hear of the Battle of Athens?

It happened right here in Iowa during the Civil war, and the only living person who saw the battle on Aug. 5, 1861—John Bedell—now 87, likes to tell the tale and to point out the house where a shot in this battle ripped through the walls and zoomed across the back porch right between his uncle and friend who were reloading their arms.

Athens was a little river town in Van Buren county and on this Iowa borderline bitterness over slavery divided families and groups. Southern sympathizers rallied around a Col. Martine E. Green and northern protagonists gathered around Col. David Moore, who made his headquarters in Athens. Augmented by two companies of Iowa Home Guards from Keokuk under command of Capt. Hugh Sample and Capt. W. H. Belknap (later a secretary of war), the northerners made their stand.

*Mr. Bedell recalls that he was out gathering nuts when Colonel Green and his southern cohorts approached. The men told him to get for home—a battle was about to take place. Needless to say*

*young Bedell took to cover.*

Green's men had two cannon and a quantity of black powder but no cannon balls. In their stead they used nuts, bolts, chain or whatever scrap-iron was handy. With these cannon, a six-pounder and a nine-pounder, the southerners had an advantage over the Yankees with their rifles and pistols.

One shot made history for it went in one side of a house and came out on the other between one John Gray and Bedell's uncle, Joseph Benning.

Each family that has lived in the shot-through house has preserved the holes. Time was when a celebration was held each Aug. 5 for the Battle of Athens—but no more.



Marvin Cecil, once resident in this house, points to historic hole where shot went through.



# Historic little Athens, Mo. boasts artist and historian

By Sally Moreland

FARMINGTON—Pour your purse into your brain and no man can steal it.

Ben Franklin's adage might well apply to Kenneth Doud of Athens, Mo. A painstaking historian, Doud has collected a wealth of information. In his modest home five miles south of Farmington, the bookshelves with authentic reference material covering a diversity of subjects from game hunting in Africa to western history.

Information culled from his books, scrapbooks, and correspondence with historians in the West adds authenticity to his oil paintings.

He once read five books to get every detail accurate for his painting, *The Raider's Return*. "The hardest thing is to get the right costume for the right Indian tribe," he reflected.

## Favorite horse

The horse in the oil painting shown in the photo belonged to Doud. It was his favorite mount for several years when he lived in Wapello county.

Doud, 66, retired last January after 14 years at the Iowa Ordnance plant, Middletown as a production operator.

His hobby was launched in 1937 when his wife, Zelma, gave him a set of oil colors. "To save wear and tear on my carpet," she said. He had been off work six weeks due to illness.

Though he received no formal training, he now has 400 oil paintings to his credit. He has sold his work in Oklahoma, Texas, Wyoming, Wisconsin, Iowa, Ohio, Illinois, Delaware and Missouri. He does landscapes, seascapes, action pictures, wild animals in their natural habitat and anything else that strikes his fancy.

He spent his entire life in Athens, Mo., except for 14 years when he lived four miles northwest of Eldon.

The Daily Gate City

KEOKUK, IOWA

THURSDAY, AUG. 2, 1962 — 13



Kenneth Doud at work

—Sally Moreland Photo

## Father saw battle

His father, the late Albert M. Doud, gave him an eyewitness account of the historic battle of Athens. The elder Doud was 11 years old when the action took place. He had come to Athens the morning of Aug. 5, 1861 to visit his father who had a paint shop and also served as bookkeeper for the merchants. (Kenneth's great aunt was the wife of the old wagon maker, Mr. Faxon.)

The day of the Civil War battle, Kenneth's father was picked up by Moore's sentries because they knew his mother was a southern sympathizer. He was taken to Moore's headquarters. It was then he learned first hand about the battle. He later visited the field hospital and saw doctors treating casualties from both sides. The hospital in Athens

was in the old brick store building on the corner of Thome and Spring streets. Col. Moore had commandeered it from W. H. Spurgeon who operated a dry goods store there.

After the war it was used as a grocery and later it housed various other businesses, including a saloon in about 1900. The building, which at that time was owned by Tolbert Beidman and Isaac Wilson, fell into disrepair and was torn down in about 1915 or '16.

## Intrastate battle

Doud refers to the Battle of Athens as a battle fought by Missourians against Missourians in Missouri. About 90% of Moore's men were Missourians. Out of Moore's 400 men, the biggest percent were from Clark, Knox and Scotland counties in Missouri with a

few from Lee, Henry and Van Buren counties in Iowa.

Doud found a minnie ball in his garden. He also has two musket balls and smooth bore rifle balls. He found seven near his house.

An avid reader since childhood, Doud's taste in books is catholic. He recalls hiding from his mother in the grapevine when he was 10 to read *King Solomon's Mines*. A natural bent toward history was fostered in childhood by tales of the West handed down by a crusty old wagonmaster. This prompted his ambition to build his present library. He has a story of the Bible bound in an exact copy of the first Gutenberg Bible.

He and his wife, the former Zelma Parke, has three daughters, Mrs. Jack Trager, Mrs. Cloyce Reighard of Farmington, and Mrs. Margaret Stewart of Keosauqua; two sons, Richard of Newark, Del., and Claude at home. He has three cousins in Iowa: Robert Anthony, Mrs. Vincent Wright,

Mrs. Ola Wright, all of Fort Madison; and nieces, Mrs. Sandra Peterson and Mrs. John Wagner, Jr., of Burlington and Mrs. Richard Biddenstadt of Keokuk.

Doud researched 28 town

sites in Clark county, Mo., for a condensed history which will be distributed during the observance of the 101st anniversary of the Battle of Athens which will be held there August 5.



## THE GATE CITY:

FRIDAY MORNING, FEB. 22, 1878.

## DAM DISASTER.

Sixty Feet of the Mill Dam at Croton Gives Way--Narrow Escape of the Workmen.

The mill property and water power at Athens, Mo., recently passed into the hands of Mr. Grey, of Croton, Iowa, and he immediately put a force of men at work to repair the two bad breaks in the mill dam across the Des Moines. The break on the Missouri side was repaired and yesterday afternoon the men were about ready to weight down with stone the material used in filling the gap near the Iowa shore, when sixty feet of the dam gave way and the men at work on top of it had a lively scramble to escape a ducking. All but one managed to get into a flat boat moored upon the upper side of the dam and were carried on down the river nearly a quarter of a mile, where they succeeded in landing their unwieldy craft. The other man got on the main dam and walked over it to the Missouri shore. The loss to Mr. Grey will be \$300.00 and the repairs cannot be prosecuted until the river falls.

## THE CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT

AUGUST 24. 1891

## A RECOLLECTION

About a Boy from Athens, Mo., Who Had His Feet Frozen Off Thirty Years Ago--The Finding of the Buried Members Recently.

In its edition of Wednesday the Des Moines Register has the following which will be of interest to many CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT readers: "The excavation for the new German M. E church, corner Third and Locust streets, have revealed a bit of history. The little house just east of the old church, which was moved off yesterday, was built in 1861 by Mr. Bastrum Galbraith, who owned the corner, including the blacksmith shop still standing on the corner, where Mr. Galbraith has worked at the forge for thirty-two years. In January, 1861, William A. Spruance, a boy seventeen years old, whose mother, living at Athens, Mo., was a cousin of Mr. Galbraith, was caught in a snow storm on the prairie between Denison and Carrollton, south of the present town of Carroll, and badly frozen. He started out on Friday night with a man sixty years old, and it was Sunday afternoon before they were found. The boy was so badly frozen that both his feet had to be amputated eight inches above the ankle. The operation was performed February 6, by

## SUNDRY ACCOUNTS

Dr. McBride, of Jefferson. Mr. Galbraith learned of the boy's misfortune and went after him, bringing him to Des Moines, where his mother was waiting for him, in a sleigh. The amputated feet were put in a small wooden box in which pepper sauce bottles had been packed, and were buried on March 1, 1861, in the back part of Mr. Galbraith's lot. He wrote out a brief statement of the facts, put it in a bottle and the bottle in a box. Yesterday when the box was taken up it was perfectly sound, the bones were well preserved and the writing was as good as it ever was, after its rest of thirty years in the bottle in such ghastly company. The young man whose bones were the object of idle gazers yesterday was an active fellow. He provided himself with artificial feet and was able to walk quite well with a cane. He crossed the plains to California before there were any railways and died in the far west several years ago."

## DAILY GATE CITY.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 31, 1876

## An Epistle to the Athenians.

For the Gate City.

ATHENS, Mo., May 20th, 1876.

Springtime is here and ye glad Athenians hail it with much joy and regaleth himself plentifully upon fresh fish, and ye fragrant onion shoot. The smile that resteth upon his manly features is like unto an evening in June, for he sees in his mind's eye a new edition of quill-back, much enlarged, and he cries out in the ecstasy of his heart, "the Lord is nigh unto us, and the sweet odors of our 'dressing-blocks' have reached His high abode." Happy are they for day after day are they lulled to rest upon their dip-net stands by the gentle music of the mill dam, and tumbleth not off, nor careth a d--n whether the mill runs or no. Athens is a home for fishermen; it aboundeth with knights of the sein, for our sister declareth against the destruction of fish, and they raised unto the Lord a mighty wail and fled unto our protecting arms, where the law reckoneth not the slaughter of a fish as a criminal act.

When the summer is upon us and fish runneth not, then the Athenian is sad; the boom fadeth from his cheek; he bewaileth his fate upon the street corners and in all public places. He feel eth that he is out of pocket, and he is also out at the elbows and knees, and divers other portions of his garments are muchly gone. By mid-summer he is a faded flower—he walketh in the moonlight, but casteth no shadow. The stillness of the night becometh his mood at that season and he

wandereth along the banks of the river and looketh down upon the dark waters with features that betray he is contemplating something most dreadful. With the first breath of Winter cometh the hues of returning health upon his cheeks. He cannot then with impunity be trampled upon; he feel eth then that he is a man once more; he devour eth much "red top" and brouseth upon the strong onion till he luxuriates and becomes uproarious.

HELEOGASTULUS.

## THE GATE CITY:

THURSDAY MORNING, JAN. 17, '78.

## IN THE TOILS.

R. M. Hiller Postmaster at Athens, Mo., Arrested for Hypothecating Stamps.

For some time past the Postoffice Department at Washington has been annoyed by the practice which prevails to a very large extent throughout the country of trafficking in and hypothecating stamps, and the Postmaster General has determined to break it up. With a view to this Bradbury Williams has been employed in ferreting out this class of cases in this section. A few days since he dropped in upon R. M. Hiller the Postmaster at Athens, Mo., took an account of his stock of stamps and found that there were but few on hand. By referring to the statement of Mr. Hiller's account at Washington he found that he was charged with a considerable amount. He then demanded that the stamps be produced or accounted for. After some hesitation Mr. Hiller was obliged to confess that he had deposited them as collateral security in order to raise money to pay off a judgment which Collier, Robertson & Hambleton of this city held against him.

Mr. Williams then took steps to secure his arrest. He left this city yesterday morning for that purpose and returned on the afternoon train with Mr. Hiller in his charge. Wm. Kirns was also along as a witness. They took supper at the Patterson House and left on the evening train for Hannibal where Hiller is to be arraigned before Commissioner Barnes on the charge of embezzlement in hypothecating the stamps. It is understood that he will waive examination and try to give bail.

Mr. Williams states that on January 2d, 1878, Hiller hypothecated \$47.06 worth of stamps for \$41.00 in money. Mr. Hiller was called upon for any statement of the matter he wished to make, but he declined to make any at present, except that he was innocent of any criminal intent. He expected his brother, Col. Hiller, of Kahoka, to meet him at Alexandria.

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



# Pioneer Historical Ass'n of Clark Co. Met August 8, 1878

(By PEARL GORDON VESTAL)

The first of the three meetings of the old settlers of Clark county, Missouri, that started the organization on its way for later years, was held at old Waterloo, at its Fair Ground on Saturday, Aug. 3, 1878. This was on the west bank of the Fox river.

The data about it comes from the Alexandria Commercial, of Aug. 8, 1878. In earlier years the early settlers had had a day set apart for their interest, as a part of the County Fair, but this is the first formal, program-meeting.

Speakers on that initial occasion included men well known and loved in their home communities. There was Rev. Jeremiah Wayland, then aged 82, and still able to read without spectacles, who came to St. Francisville in 1829; Rev. John Martin, of Kahoka, who settled near Chambersburg in 1836; Joseph McMinn, born in 1789; Hon. N. F. Givens; and John S. Dumas.

## Isaac Campbell

Like a roll of honor is the list of some of the older men and earliest settlers present that day, among whom were: Rev. Jeremiah Wayland, Isaac R. Campbell (in his 86th year), Micajah Weber, Joseph McCoy, N. F. Givens, George K. Biggs, P. S. Stanley (historian of the county), Patrick Cunningham, William Hockaday, C. S. Callihan, Cortes Johnson, Esquire Scovern, William Henshaw, E. Warner, Murdock Cooper, Charles Henshaw, Moses Weaver, Isaac McPherson, Major D. McKee (marshal of the day), Arphaxed Musgrove, Smith Tinsley, David Lapsley, William J. Northcraft, William Daggs, Gen. Garrison, Ruel Murphy, C. O. Sanford, William Hill. It was said that all these men came before the Mexican War, and when the prairie grass was found growing eight to ten feet high.

Prizes were awarded to Jeremiah Wayland, as the oldest settler then living in the county; to Mrs. Sarah Martin, 92, as the oldest lady resident in the county; and to Joseph McMinn, the oldest man then in the county, about 89, being born in 1789. The gentlemen received canes. Dr. Mallett, of Hinsdale, Iowa, was the oldest man on the grounds, for he was in his 96th year, but he was a non-resident and so missed a prize.

On August 31, 1879, again on a Saturday, the second annual reunion of Old Settlers was held at the Waterloo Fair grounds. Short addresses were made by some of the men who had appeared on the 1878 program, and by some others: Hon. N. F. Givens, Rev. Jeremiah Wayland, Rev. Caleb Bush, Rev. John Martin, I. N. Lewis and F. A. S. Rebo, with prayer led by the Rev. Caleb Bush. Note that half of the speakers were ministers of the gospel.

## Ruins of Court House

In connection with this meeting's report the Alexandria Commercial gave an interesting description of the ruins of the old Waterloo court house, "still standing, a monument to its own departed glory. The walls that formerly echoed to the tread of busy feet and the hum of many voices are now ready to tumble to the ground. Jim Green, Uriah Wright and Thomas H. Benton made political speeches in the old building before the Civil War. The county clerk's office is now used as a pig pen, while a colored district school flourishes in another room of the building.

The old jail held its stories. "One end of the old stone jail has gone down in its wars with the elements and is in ruins. The north end is tolerably well preserved . . . the iron door of the cell stands wide open and inside it looks gloomy enough. Cobwebs reach from the

floor to the ceiling, and a few straggling sunbeams peep in thru the small barred windows. John Baird, hanged for the murder of Whiteford, was confined to this cell, previous to his execution at Monticello. The chain with which he was locked to the floor (barbarism) is there, covered with the rust of 18 years."

## Third Meeting

Shall we look in at the third annual meeting, likewise at Waterloo Fair grounds? Plans were laid on Aug. 28, 1880, when an organization was elected. Present at this preliminary were I. N. Lewis, acting as chairman, and Thomas Hill, D. N. Lapsley, W. H. Haywood, George Seaman, Micajah Weber, H. A. Stewart and G. K. Biggs.

When the third annual gathering was held, in Oct., 1880, a constitution was accepted and the name adopted: The Pioneer Historical Association of Clark county, Mo. The officers chosen were George K. Biggs, president; Major D. McKee, vice president; D. N. Lapsley, secretary; William McDermott, treasurer; with five directors: Robert Wayland, John Martin, I. N. Lewis, Joseph McCoy and Micajah Weber.

Speakers at the 1880 assembly included Jeremiah Wayland, Benjamin E. Turner, John S. Dumas, Rev. John Martin, George K. Biggs and Jack Wilson. An exhibition of relics and antiques, used in the pioneer homes of northeastern Missouri, was a pleasant factor in the day's reminiscences.

A century and a quarter has now passed since the first comers cut logs for cabins, turned rich prairie sod, and, figuratively speaking, moulded a little snowball and started it rolling across the farmlands which were to grow into the prosperous Clark county of the present.

The Daily Gate City KEOKUK, IOWA

FRIDAY EVENING, FEB. 21, 1969

## First Kahoka post office established during 1857

Editor's note: The following articles on "Kahoka in Olden Times" was written by John Gilhousen and taken from the files of The Kahoka Review of April 17, 1897 by Thelma Wells.

The writer of these lines first saw Kahoka in the fall of 1857, when there were but a half dozen homes in the place, and has been intimately acquainted with its history since 1861. He is indebted to

Messrs Kramling and Johnson and others for data prior to this time, and for some of the details in the following sketch.

The oldest house now standing in Kahoka may be seen on the northeast corner of Johnson and Main, known as the Johnson house. It was built in 1851, by John Shaw, and first stood a little west of where the depot now stands, and was twice moved. First to where Mrs. Jordan's residence now

is, and finally to where it now stands as a relic of bygone years. After passing through several hands it was purchased in March 1856, together with the 80 acres of land on which it stood, by William Johnson, who is still a resident of the town. In July of the same year Mr. Johnson purchased the 80 acres adjoining him on the west, and in September had the town plot laid out. H. M. Hiller (afterward Col. Hiller) acting

as surveyor. These two eighties, of then primitive prairie, are now in the heart of the beautiful prairie city that now covers nearly 500 acres.

The oldest citizen now living in Kahoka, is "Uncle John Kramling," who came here in 1854, two years before the town was started, and has been a resident of the place ever since. He built the first house (after the town was laid out) on the lot where the Opera House now stands, trading a gun, and an old watch for the lot which was valued at \$25. This house was 12x13, built late in the fall of '56. He carried water from the Johnson house, nearly three blocks away, until the public well on the northeast corner of the square was dug in 1857, the first in town, the Johnson house not being in the town then.



The first post office was established in 1857 and was kept by Wm. Huyck on the northeast corner of the square where Mr. Lange's tailor shop now stands. The building in which the first post office was kept is now used as a Chinese laundry and was built in 1857. It first stood on the Moffett corner and was moved by Mr. Huyck to the opposite corner and then farther east to where it now stands, to make room for the Martin hotel, built a number of years later.

In those days—as by some yet—it was thought that a town couldn't be run without a dram shop, and so the first saloon was started in a little shanty where Hume's Bank now stands, by a man named Beabout, and he was well named for he was ever ready to "beabout" (his fathers) business. Mr. Kramling says this was the only loafing place in town at that time. Another saloon or beer shop was soon after started on the north side by Jake Hudder, who came in 1858 and built the house still standing west of the Opera house. This is one of the oldest houses still standing on the square. Hudder lived with his family in one room and kept his saloon in the other.

Mr. Wm. Cohagan, now living north of town, succeeded Mr. Huyck as postmaster and removed the postoffice to the east side early in the sixties, where he and George W. Mostic run the first dry goods store of any pretensions, in connection with the postoffice. The late John Jordan, who came to Kahoka in 1865, bought out Cohagan and Bostic and added a stock of goods he brought from Canton. He purchased the Hudder House which he occupied as a family residence, and built a good sized store room adjoining on the west, into which he moved his heavy stock of goods. Here Mr. Jordan for a number of years kept the principal store of the town in connection with the postoffice, building up a large and lucrative trade. Mr. George Sansom, another of Kahoka's pioneer settlers, came in July 1865, and embarked in the blacksmith

business. He purchased an old shop standing on the corner where his brick shop now stands, of Mr. Briggs, who was the first blacksmith of the town. Here Mr. Sansom made the sparks fly for a number of years until he had accumulated enough to build and fit up the fine Opera Hall known as Sansom's Hall, which for years was the only public hall of the town. Here through the kindness of Mr. Sansom, the Kahoka Union Sunday School was held from 1874 to 1881. Underneath this hall, Mr. Sansom had his shops, in connection with Mr. Frank Halbeck, the pioneering wagon maker of Kahoka.

The old school house was built in 1857 by the citizens of the district, donating whatever they could in money, hauling, etc. Mr. Kramling donated some \$16 in carpenter work. The first school was taught by Prof. John W. Allen in the winter of '57 and '58 and for several successive years. Prof. Allen, being a finished scholar as well as an excellent teacher, took in pupils from the surrounding country, teaching a select or high school in connection with the public school. The writer succeeded Prof. Allen in 1864 and taught several terms. Here also the first Sunday school was organized in the spring of 1859, Prof. Allen acting as Superintendent, and for a number of years was held only in the summer season. On the 18th of April, 1869, the Union Sunday school spoken of above was organized here which was run summer and winter for 20 consecutive years without a change of superintendent, in which many of the fathers and mothers of today received their early religious training. The records of the school show a list of over fifty conversions during this time.

The old school house was built on the west side of Johnson street opposite Mrs. Jordan's residence, and for many years it was used for church and all public meeting and during the war was an arsenal where many remember attending church when its walls were lined with muskets and army equipages;

but its chief interest to some of our citizens lies in the fact that here they spent the happiest days of their lives, viz: "their school days". Here G. B. Matlock, T. L. Montgomery, Henry and Seymour Strickler, Robert Langford, Dan Creger, all of the Duer boys, and hosts of others attended school, played ball, learned to shoot ideas and when the teacher's back was turned practiced shooting paper balls against the ceiling, when they were tow-headed boys. The old school house was finally purchased by Mr. West and moved to the north side of Commercial street, remodeled and is now occupied as a residence by Bass Weber.

The first drug store was started in 1858 by David Spangler in the house built by Mr. Kramling, from whom it was purchased by Oliver and Spangler. Mr. Oliver used the upper rooms for a residence. About this time Gra and Kinkle came to Kahoka and embarked in the dry goods business on the east side. Mr. Kinkle was also a music dealer and brought the first organ to Kahoka, which he sold to this scribe by whom it is now kept as a relic. The first meat shop was started in 1865 by Mr. Brocket.

The first shoe shop was started by Jacob Trump in 186— in the Beabout building. Mr. Trump soon after built and moved to the north side and kept a shop and shoe store until he embarked in the dry goods business on the south side.

The first exclusive grocery store was established in this same Beabout house by John Clark. James Fulton soon after became a partner and the grocery store was moved to the opposite corner, now known as the Fulton Corner.

The first physician to locate in the town was Dr. Mixer, then came Drs. J. Meyers, Wm. Martin and Stover in the order named.

The first lawyers were Matlock & Hiller, Givens & Meryhew, Bush, Giles, Asher, Callihan and others.

The pioneer preachers were the Revs. John B. Sansom, John Sexsmith, C. S. Callihan, Wainwright and others.

The churches of the town were built in the following order: The old German Evangelical in 1870;

moved away and the present larger edifice built on the same grounds in 1886; Congregational or Brick church in 1871; C. P. church in 1880; Presbyterian in 1886; Baptist in 1886; burned down and rebuilt in 1888; M. E. in 1888; M. E. South in 1889; Christian in 1890.

The first watchmaker and jeweler was Eddie Brown, who came in 1870, and located on the south side of square.

The first harness and saddle shop was started by Lem Stutz in 1871, followed by Adam Lang in 1873; and then came Mr. Oldenhage in 1882.

The first bank, the Clark County Savings Bank was started near the court house in 1874 with Wm. McDermott, cashier, and John Bourn, chief clerk.

The county seat was moved here from Waterloo in February, 1872, after a long and heated contest between this place and Clark City.

The M. I. & N. R. R. reached the town about July 1, 1871.

The pioneer newspaper of the town, the Clark County Gazette printed its first issue on Washington's birthday, 1871, in a room over Trump's store, E. B. Christy being editor and proprietor. In 1888 it was consolidated with the Kahoka Herald, (formerly the Alexandria Commercial, a paper brought here by Guy Childers). Since then it has been known as the Gazette-Herald and has been a chronicler of Kahoka events for over a quarter of a century. The Tribune, now the Review was started by L. Alexander in January, 1888.

Kahoka has been visited by several destructive fires. The east side was almost wiped out three different times. Two have occurred on the north side, the first taking three buildings, the second two. The last fire was on the west side, recently, taking a number of frame structures now rapidly being replaced by substantial bricks. Besides the above fires on the square, three large grain elevators were burned at different times, also the depot, Baptist church, Park Hotel and other smaller buildings. END



## Clark County Gazette Issued In 'Cahoka', Mo. 80 Years Ago

By PEARL GORDON VESTAL

How do the Clark county, Mo., newspapers of today compare with those of the past century? Alike? Unlike? It might be fun for the residents of Clark county and of Cahoka to spread out their current weeklies and see how they "stack up" with my abstracting of the "Clark County Gazette," Vol. 1, No. 35, printed Nov. 2, 1871.

It claimed "The largest circulation of any paper published in the county," and had four pages, six columns wide, published by E. C. Christy, editor and proprietor. It appeared every Thursday at Cahoka, spelled then with a "C," and cost \$1.50 per year, payable in advance.

Here are some men who probably read the "Gazette," since they were "persons authorized as agents to receive subscriptions." They were: "W. Beckett, for Jefferson Tp.; Dr. J. R. Neff, Athens and vicinity; N. T. Cherry, Waterloo; E. L. Christy, Acasto and vicinity; Dr. Sparks, Union and vicinity; Wm. Sherwin, Alexandria; G. H. Roland, Luray; Dr. Henry, Fairmont; H. A. Stewart, Grant Tp.; Wm. McDermott, Jackson Tp.; and J. D. Eagon, Winchester, Mo."

### Little Real News.

Shall we mention a few items which are not in it? Among them are: international, national and state news; local "personals"; births, obituaries; weddings; recipes, beauty hints; agricultural advice; sports; and a department written by high school students.

The first page starts off with a poem, half a column long, "The Old Canoe." The remembered so-called humorist, "Josh Billings," tells "How to Pick Out a Good Horse." The editor talks to his public in "Take Your County Paper." Other front page articles include: "Adroitly Hit"; "A Queer Story from Switzerland"; "The Dog's Stratagem"; "A Mistake"; "A Novel Pair of Stockings"; and shorter miscellany. News? Nary a bit yet!

Page two has a thriller, accredited to the "Chicago Times," and called "A New Version of the Cause of the Chicago Fire." Mrs. O'Leary's famous cow and the lamp play no part in this story, for it is alleged that the fire was arson, a plot of a Communist organization! Two meaty local articles are here, the "Proceedings of the Washington Tp. Democratic Meeting," with "Frank Smith, Chairman, and G. S. Stafford, Secty.," and "Meeting of the Democratic Central Committee," with "Wm. Sherwin, Chairman pro tem, and N. T. Cherry, Secty." The latter lists the Democratic henchmen who are to arrange public meetings in the various townships.

### Court House Satire.

What is apparently a local satire occupies two half-columns, adorned by a clever cartoon of workmen mending cracks in the wall of the court house. It is, "The Court

House Brigade" and features a dialogue with these men speaking: Orr, Robinson, Washburn, Sandborn, and one "Sambo, carrying the mortar, remarks, 'I see, gemmens, yous 'dopted de plan suggested by dis chille.'"

Hardly half of page 3 and none of page 4 is saved out from the demands of the advertisers, who had already bought one column from page 1 and two columns from page 2. The amount of space sold should bring a serviceable return. Dr. E. H. Davis, Supt. of Schools, used over a column on "Common Schools, Paper No. One." Short items are numerous, mostly calling attention to the ads, but we do read that "Judge Roseberry was up in the western part of the county hunting recently," and "The Temperance Lecture by Mr. 'Berry' Rebo last Saturday was not as well attended as it should have been."

The Time Table of the Toledo, Peoria and Western R. R. was inserted by W. E. Dorwin, Asst. Supt. of Warsaw. Three trains daily, a freight, an express and a combined Mail and Express, arrive at and leave Warsaw each day.

### Train Schedule.

Consider the time needed for a train trip on the M. I. & N. R. R. in northeastern Missouri. One could leave Memphis at 2:30 p. m., reach Arbela at 3:10, Luray at 4, Cahoka at 4:45, Clark City at 5, and Alexandria at 6 p. m. Returning, the train from Alexandria, starting at 8:15, reached Memphis at midnight.

Advertisers could tell the world of their wares with "one square, one insertion, one dollar. A square is one inch down the column." Rates are listed for quarter, half and full columns, at 3 months, 6 months, and a year. For a full column-year the rate was \$90. One could economize with one square for a year at \$10. "Administrators' Notices" and "Final Settlements" cost \$3, as did "Estray Notices," with a dollar extra for any additional animal included in the same notice.

Perhaps descendants of the doctors, dentists, lawyers and merchants whose names live on these pages are living now in Clark county and subscribing to the newsy news-sheets of the "now"? Here are some "Professional Cards" from Cahoka: "S. Murdock, Surgeon Dentist; E. H. Davis, Physician and Surgeon; H. W. Stover, Electric Physician and Surgeon." There are five cards from lawyers: Givens & McKee; Paul Henshaw; E. B. Christy; Lawson R. Bane; W. H. Robinson.

Cards from outside of Cahoka were for attorneys: Edward T. Smith, Alexandria; N. T. Cherry, Waterloo; A. D. Lewis, Canton; and Notary Public and Collecting Agent, John T. Lewis, Canton. Cahokians who did not trust their local "medicos," or thought they could save money, might swallow

the bait of one J. W. Vannamee, M. D., of N. Y., who was sure he could make them well by mail.

Four "Final Settlements" appear: Estate of Jeremiah Brown, Edw. Anderson, Administrator; Richard Heath, Edw. Heath, Jr., Adm.; Lucy Mosley, W. L. Smith, Adm.; and Henry Overhulser, with Cornelius Overhulser, Adm.

### Advertisers Names.

The names of some Cahoka advertisers should "ring a bell" for their progeny: J. Trump, Boot & Shoe Mfr.; Miss M. M. Johnson, Millinery (excuse me, her memory may have come down to grand nieces or nephews?); Len Stutz, Leather Goods; E. B. Christy, Real Estate; D. W. Spangler, Druggs; Geo. B. Reid, "The Chicago Store in Cahoka"; John S. Clark, Groceries; Myers & Rauscher, Druggs; D. H. Wolvington, Painting & Paperhanging; Ed. C. Trowbridge, General Mdse.

Some out-of-Cahoka advertisers were: Joseph McCoy, Lumber, "1 1/4 miles south of Fox River Church"; C. A. Gleckler, Gen. Mdse., Farmington, Ia.; J. D. Longfellow, Wagon & Carriage Shop, Clark City; J. T. Johnston, Carriage Mfr., Canton; T. J. Morris, Wholesale Liquors, Alexandria; E. P. Mauzey, Hardware, Canton; Wm. Mineka, Furniture and Coffin Cases, Alexandria; Eaton & Briggs, Groceries, Canton; Clark City Nursery, with branches in Cahoka, Luray, Fairmont and Alexandria; Cunningham & Co., Gen. Mdse., Alexandria. Keokuk, Ia., was represented by: Madden & Doran, 141 Main St., Dry Goods; H. N. Bostwick, 102-4 Main, Dry Goods; and A. C. Buck, Main & 2nd Sts., Dealer in Paper Rags.

In 1871, some advertisers of patent nostrums helped to pay the cost of printing papers of limited or local circulation; at least four columns about "cure-alls," at \$90 per column-year were here. The sick of Clark Co. could diagnose their own troubles and choose their own remedies by the bottle. A dark brown color, a bitter taste and a stimulating dash of alcohol were apt to be components with the drugs. One could choose from the distant firms' offerings of "Vinegar Bitters," Ruback's Stomach Bitters and Blood Pills; Ayers' Cathartic; Heimbald's Compound Fluid Extract Catawba Grape Piltl (now, what in the world does "Piltl" mean?); Fluid Sarsaparilla; Fluid Extract of Buchu, the Great Dierutic."

Other things offered the readers of '71 were: "Hall's Vegetable Sicilian Hair Renewer; Agents Wanted to sell 'Wonders of the World'; One Hundred Pianos, Melodeons and Organs for Sale." Here is one from a firm still operating, and in a big way, in many states in addition to Mo.: "Thea-Nectar is a pure Black Tea with the Green Tea Flavor. Pure Chinese Tea, warranted to suit all tastes. For wholesale only by the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Co., 8 Church St., N. Y., P. O. Box 5506."



THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION-  
ABOUT HONEYBEES 1839—

MONDAY, JUNE 14, 1954

# Iowa and Missouri Almost Had A Little Civil War of their Own

By ANGIE HUME

KAHOKA, Mo.—Clark county occupies a unique position geographically, being situated in the extreme northeast corner of the state, bordered on the north by Iowa and on the east by Illinois. We who live here can eat breakfast at home; do the chores and drive up to Iowa for a dinner at noon and a visit, then in a few moments be over in Illinois for a chat and afternoon tea.

Charming neighbors are these Iowa and Illinois people; industrious, friendly and gracious. We who enjoy these pleasant relationships today find it hard to believe that back in

1839, the citizens of northeast Missouri and southeastern Iowa were hotly engaged in a quarrel that almost led to war!

Missouri's governor, Lilburn W. Boggs, under whose administration the Mormons were expelled from Missouri, found his entire term filled with foreign and domestic troubles. After the Mormons left, the whole state was thrown into a fever of excitement by a conflict which threatened war in north Missouri.

The trouble arose over the disputed boundary line between Missouri and Iowa. The tract of land in question was mostly forest and it was noted for wild bees, therefore the dispute was ironically called "The Honey War."

Instead of pursuing a sensible policy and having the boundary line settled according to law, Missouri and Iowa both stubbornly insisted upon levying taxes and executing writs in the disputed area. A man living in this region could not tell where he belonged.

A Missouri sheriff, Uriah Gregory, while trying to execute papers here, was driven off by Iowa officers. Governor Boggs called out the Missouri state militia, whereupon Gov-

ernor Lucas of Iowa called out the Iowa state militia! Each intended to uphold the laws of its territory (states) but there was only one territory between them! For several weeks the armies of Missouri faced the armies of Iowa and two or three thousand men glared at each other from each side of the disputed territory.

The affair took a ridiculous turn, however, and became a huge joke; bloodshed was averted and anger changed to mirth. A Mr. Campbell of Palmyra, Mo., wrote some doggerel verse which burlesqued the two governors and set everyone to thinking what a ludicrous figure they were cutting. I quote just the first two verses of poetic effusion to give you an idea:

## "THE HONEY WAR"

"Ye Freeman of this happy land,  
Which flows with milk and honey,  
Arise! To arms! Your ponies mount!  
Regard not blood nor money.  
Old Governor Lucas, tigerlike,  
Is prowling 'round our borders!  
But Governor Boggs is wide awake!  
Just listen to his orders.

"Three bee trees stand about the  
line

Between our state and Lucas,  
Be ready all these trees to fall  
And bring things to a focus!  
We'll show old Lucas how to brag,  
And seize our precious honey!  
He also claims, I understand,  
Of us—three bits in money!"

Just get the people to laughing, and they are quite likely to get over their anger. So it was in this case. Seeing the folly of going to war over the disputed boundary, the Clark county court appointed a committee to wait on the Iowa territorial legislature then in session at Burlington, Iowa. The committee was kindly received and resolutions were adopted asking the governors of both states to suspend hostilities until the boundary could be determined by the national government.

Congress established this line in 1840. The decision actually was in favor of Iowa and the "Indian Boundary Line" run by Col. Sullivan was declared to be the true boundary between Missouri and Iowa. The decision was accepted by all, and a few years later the line was run by commissioners from Iowa and Missouri; some corrections were made in the former survey. The boundary line they fixed remains today.

When I taught school in the Upp district in 1907, I could look out over the cornfields and see plainly the Iowa line. No doubt there had been hectic quarreling on these peaceful acres over the right to gather hazelnuts or to cut down bee trees. But now these bones of contention had long ago been relegated to the ash heap of forgotten things and all dwell in neighborly harmony.

When the bee tree controversy was at its most heated pitch, a charming Clark county girl almost had her romance shattered by animosity existing between her father and prospective father-in-law. It was over the honey situation. But that is another story—for another time!

THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION-

# Clark County Excursionists Enjoyed Old M. I. & L. in 70's

FRIDAY, APR. 16, 1954

(By PEARL GORDON VESTAL

The gaiety of big, crowded excursion trains on the M. I. & N. R. R., running across Clark County, Missouri, to the river port of Alexandria, was not marred by what the "soft" travelers of today would call hardships. They were given for fun, for jollity, and the prices were not high, so why not pack a basket lunch and see the sights of the countryside? Train trips were novelty, back in the 1870's. Two yellowed newspaper clippings provide the background for this story.

First J. W. Murphy, who was editing the Alexandria Commercial in 1875-1881, and was later editor of the Burlington Post, "took his pen in hand" for reminiscences. "In the early days of the M. I. & N. R. R.," he wrote, "it was customary to give excursions over the whole line, from

Centerville to Alexandria. These excursions were promoted at the start by John Bradley, a merchant at Centerville. On one excursion he cleared up to \$15,000."

## Sometimes 3 Trains

The profit motif caught then the attention of Henry Hill and Gen. Drake, and soon the road managed its own excursions, though they were not able to drum up such crowds as did Bradley. "Nevertheless, they were moneymakers, thirty coaches to a train, two, and sometimes three trains, each train hauled by two engines. Bob Laughlin, who had a great deal of influence over Henry Hill, and who came on the road about this time, taught them the trick of hooking up two engines to one train. He had learned this back on the Pennsylvania R. R., before

coming west. Another famous engineer of the M. I. & M. was Wm. Powell, who went to Russia with the Winans Brothers, engine builders and contractors of Baltimore, 65 years ago, and helped the line from St. Petersburg to Moscow."

J. L. Greenlee, who says he was the second station master and operator at the Kahoka station, then took up the story of the excursions. "Our familiarity with the M. I. & M. in general, and the Kahoka station in particular dates from the spring of 1875," he wrote.

"The writer rode many a mile on the locomotive with Bob Laughlin," said Mr. Greenlee. "Speaking of excursions in the early days: the coaches were mostly coal and stock cars, with rough planks for seats. One of the largest we recalled started from Alexandria, destination Centerville, with Conductor Wesley Shultz in charge. There were 22 cars, perhaps two of them coaches. By the time the end of the line was reached the cars were crowded and a good time was had by all."

## Centerville to Philadelphia

A longer excursion came to the

April 16, 1954 - page 1

(M.I. & L.)

1-1211 1870

THE GREAT DUST REEF CALLED HISTORY  
M. I. & N. R. R. - KEOKUK, IOWA



memory of Mr. Greenlee. "One of the excursions in which all the cars were coaches was in the fall of 1876. It started from Centerville, destination Philadelphia, Pa. Rates were very low and hundreds took advantage of it to witness the closing of the Centennial Exposition."

How was a special excursion made up, to order? "In those days, if enough people in a town on the line wished to go somewhere, a locomotive and a coach would be sent out for their accommodation. The transfer to Keokuk was made by a small steamer called the Eagle."

#### Fun With Jug

Many men had many laughs, it appears, on an excursion to Keokuk, for a political rally in the fall of 1876. "The usual locomotive and were sent out for a lot of Kahokaitees who wished to attend. Among those aboard the car was Lutz Bruegger, a German, from Nauvoo, Ill., who owned a vineyard at that place and who made a quantity of wine every year, a part of which was always disposed of in Kahoka. Lutz was returning home from one of his periodic trips and had in his possession a gallon jug filled with choice wine."

Aha, it seems the quality of the wine was known to his fellow-passengers! When the transfer was made to the steamboat at Alexandria, Lutz carried his wine aboard and secreted it on the lower deck. Some bad boys in the crowd had their eyes open. They brought aboard a gallon jug filled with Mississippi river water, and managed to exchange the jugs. You can imagine the vocal outcome when the owner of the jug of wine treated a guest and himself to a drink, and found only muddy water in it!

### THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION.

## Northeast Missouri Towns Cling to Their Post Offices

FRIDAY, MAY 28, 1954

Northeast Missouri towns have grown a little more apprehensive about their post offices since it was formally announced out of Hannibal recently that Gregory Landing, Mo. post office was being closed and the listing dropped from the official post office roster.

The apprehension grows out of postal inspectors' reports that several other post offices in Northwestern Missouri are on the borderline for being discontinued, or are definitely scheduled for closing.

Ashton, Mo. just west of Kahoka does not know yet whether it will have a post office for long. A postal inspector some time ago indicated he did not think the post office there had sufficient business, or cancellations as well as sale of stamps, to keep it open. However, he did not say definitely if the office would be discontinued.

Apprehension has also been evident at nearby Medill, Mo. but no official word has just come forth on its continuance or closing. While Medill is on the mainline of the Sante Fe, few trains stop there, mostly locals. The Missouri Highway post office also goes through there, but local residents feel that would not affect the decision, either. According to post office plans, mails for Medill would be sent down to Keokuk and out to Medill as long

as the post office remains, or in the event of the closing, it would become a part of the Ashton, Luray or Kahoka rural routes.

Definite announcement forthcoming from Hannibal that the Gregory Landing post office would be closed brought a re-occurrence of the post office problem to these small Northeast Missouri towns.

Postal authorities for several months now, have pointed out that they have under consideration the closing of several hundred tiny post offices throughout the nation. They list as the major reason that the income from these post offices far from reaches even the minimum salaries of the postmasters. While it is a community service, nevertheless, it does become a tax-payers' loss on a big scale when considered on a nationwide scope.

Gregory Landing, according to news dispatches sometime ago, is slated to "become a ghost town." A visit to the little hamlet along the banks of the Mississippi and 4 miles east of Highway 61 at the St. Patrick junction, proves that fact. By actual count, the postmaster said there were five families left in Gregory; two have recently moved out.

Only a grain elevator, and one of the larger ones along the Mississippi, is about all that remains as a landmark for Gregory Landing. That

word "Landing" brings back memories to older Missourians because Gregory Landing was named in the days when steamboats were the picturesque means of transportation.

Mrs. Harve Johnson, postmaster at Gregory Landing, reported that much of her mail already comes in on the Canton rural route, rather than being thrown off one of the "Q" trains that glide by the village several times a day. She had thought the mail would continue to be routed over the trains until the post office was closed, but much of it already is going on into Canton and coming back the next day on the rural route.

Mrs. Johnson has picked up mail bags thrown from the speeding trains for over 15 years, she said recently. Since the post office is in her home, she occasionally does business after closing hours, especially in a small place where everyone is called by their first name. Her post office consists chiefly of a counter and small pigeon holes for the mail.

A highway sign at the edge of Gregory totals the population at 86. However, there are only eight permanent residences and the others to make up the 86 are summer cottages along the Mississippi. There are about five cottages.

Gregory Landing is a product of steamboat days — it was created by the steamboats who unloaded and loaded cargoes from the farms nearby. It was officially christened "Gregory's Landing" in 1833 for this purpose. With the passing of the steamboat and its replacement by the diesel, Gregory Landing's existence will probably follow the steamboat into the mists of time.

## THE DAILY GATE CITY.

MAY 21, 1887.  
OUR NEIGHBORS.

Through Clark County on the New Train  
—The County Seat a Prosperous Community—Kahoka Business and Business Men—Spring Trade Lively and the Outlook for a Good Crop Exceedingly Bright.

It was Thursday morning when the new two-passenger-trains-a-day running arrangement went into effect on the Keokuk and Western road.

At 10:30 a. m. Conductor Benbow signalled "All aboard" and the new "No. 5" pulled out in the wake of the St. Louis express. The new train was well patronized. On leaving Alexandria almost every seat was taken. One Keo-

kuk man thought it an excellent train by which to look up business in Kahoka for an hour, returning by the east-bound passenger. At Wayland there is two hours between trains. Clark county merchants and people still have their afternoon in the city, returning, leaving Keokuk at 7:45. The trains bring the people along the line of road and of Keokuk in much closer relations than ever.

As to Clark county it has been prospering wonderfully within the past few years. "The county has never been in more prosperous condition," said Colonel Hiram Hiller. The colonel has a big farm near Kahoka, has been long identified with the community and knows whereof he speaks. The farmers in the eastern part of the county have undertaken to raise crops for the Keo-

kuk pickle company and are understood to be doing well by it. Blooded stock is appearing on almost every farm. In cattle, short-horn. In horses, English draft, French Norman and Clydesdales. They were a few years ago a novelty. Now farmers and their boys ride into town every day on a blooded horse. The affairs of Clark county financially are in excellent condition. They have the interest on their debt always ready six months ahead of time. And the debt is growing interestingly less. Scarcely anything is ruffling the temper of the people. Good roads are being sought after. The county supervisors are about to pursue a new policy regarding the building of bridges. They will hereafter be of iron and no wooden structure of this character of any proportions allowed. The building of the



Santa Fe is the principal topic of conversation. This new road is scattering a great deal of money through the county.

Kahoka, the county seat, is a beautiful little town and partakes of the general prosperity. The merchants and people generally had some fear that the building of the Santa Fe two miles and a quarter west of them would injure the business of the place but this has blown over and a feeling of confidence in the present and future is discernable everywhere. The town is well situated, high and dry and healthfully. The town was incorporated recently and under the new government has become a terror to evil doers. The morals of the place, according to the verdict of one who has traveled much, "are above the average." Within the past year much building has been going on. With the exception of one building all the business houses on the east side of the square are entirely new, this side, phoenix-like, arising from the ashes of a great fire last summer.

Strickler & Stafford own a large two-story brick building in this section and are running an extensive double store on the first floor, dealing in clothing, dry goods, millinery and carpets. Kirch & Schreyer have an immense stove and tinware store in this block. Postmaster G. S. Stafford has his office in one of these rebuilt buildings and also handles clothing, dry goods and millinery. John Schlegel has a new meat market on this side. Jos. W. Meyer represents the grocery business in a large store in the new district. Harry Martin carries a stock of watches, clocks and jewelry here also. Geo. Miller has an extensive barber shop on the east side. Dr. Lee Goodman brings up the northeast end of the block with his extensive drug store. On the southeast corner of the burnt district McNealy & Verkler have erected a large blacksmith and wagon shop.

Southeast of the square is J. H. Oldenhaage's extensive harness shop, also the millinery store of Mrs. M. E. Kight and general store of Miss M. J. Crossmond.

Beginning with Jas. Fulton's grocery and watch and clock stores opposite there is an extensive range of stores on the south side, among them Jacob Trump & Bro., well-known reliable clothing and dry goods men, A. F. Turner, butcher, the new Hotel Walker, Turner & Vandolah's big hardware and implement houses, Geo. Trump, another of the well-known Trump brothers, grocer, Geo. W. Bostic in his extensive new and pretty building, Martin Bros. druggists, and John Langford, hardware merchant, Drs. Crawford & Martin bring up the southwest end in a large and handsome drug store.

□ Opposite is S. N. Sansom's plow and repair shop. Mr. S. has been running this business twenty-two years. He has

now a large force at work on Santa Fe contracts. W. H. Johnson is near by with a large livery and feed stable and between them is F. Holbeck's wagon shop. J. F. Longanecker is also southwest of the square and runs the well-known Eureka gun works. Moffet Bros. next door are extensive dealers in agricultural implements.

The Kahoka Savings bank is found on the west side, Geo. W. Bostic president, J. R. Hume cashier and L. C. Bostic assistant cashier. Its capital is \$10,000 and it is now running under a deposit of \$59,000. A. Lang, is one of Kahoka's well-to-do and solid men and has an extensive harness trade. Karle & Hummel, in the furniture trade are well-known dealers and manufacturers, having been identified with the business of the place many years. L. Duer, grocer, is also found on the west side.

Leo. C. Jordan is running two stores north of the square, dry goods and groceries. G. C. Cleveland and S. F. Stocker are running barber shops on this side. Northeast is the enterprising J. E. Thermerhorn to be found with his grocery, notion and wool and hide stores. Also the Kirch bakery, and Mrs. C. B. Ferguson's city restaurant and ice cream parlor.

Kahoka is made up of two business towns. The court house in the north of town holds many houses in that direction. The Clark county savings bank is opposite the court house, capital \$10,000; deposits \$50,000, R. J. Wood, President; Wm. McDermott, Cashier. The Tremont house and Webster houses are in this section of the town. The other places of business are Dixon & Butler's marble works, having a large trade in the country, J. B. Painter, grocery; Mrs. Butler, milliner; Geo. N. Thompson, grocer, W. T. Peet & Co., grocer; D. G. Moore, tinware, stoves and sealing wax factory; Henry Egley, hoop pole factory; J. S. Chew, blacksmith and wagon maker; Amy Lebew, sewing machines, organs, etc. Chas. Holdefer has his mill on this side of town, and Loyd Bros., builders and contractors, their shops. The leather firms are now putting up their new residences on the north side.

A number of new houses are going up all over town, A. Lang has builders at work on a four-thousand dollar residence which is quite a beauty. R. S. Farren is also putting up a large dwelling.

Kahoka's place of amusement is the Martin opera house, west of the square. All week engagements have been played of late. David Martin the proprietor of this hall is also he of the well-known Martin House.

Kahoka's interests are ably represented by two enterprising and excellent newspapers, the Herald and Gazette.

Kahoka church buildings are pretty pieces of architecture, the Presbyterian, Baptists, German Evangelical, Congre-

gationalists and Cumberland Presbyterians being represented.

The town has a well graded public school under the supervision of Prof. Jamison, with six departments. About 300 is the average attendance.

The Kahoka college is a growing institution with a substantial brick building in the north part of town.

The business the present spring has been considerable over that of last year. This is the general expression and a business boom is on which is conceded to be a healthy one. Socially the town is a pleasant place. Only yesterday a number of men were gathered together and a mutual citizens insurance and protective association was talked of by one man stating, "I would be willing to be one of one hundred men to give ten dollars to any of the other ninety-nine in case his house should burn down, or give ten dollars to his widow in case he should die." This is a social feeling of Kahoka people and when one leaves he goes away with the impression that he has seen a good town made up of good people.

**The Daily Gate City.**

WEDNESDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 30, 1870.

**NOTICE**

**To Contractors.**

NOTICE is hereby given that the County Court of Clark County, Missouri, has approved a plan for building a Court House for the said county, of the following description: A building of about 50 feet wide by 70 feet long, after the style of the Scotland county, Mo., Court House, with some improvements thereto, and of the value of about \$22,000. A complete plan of said building, with full specifications and descriptions, on file at the office of the Treasurer of Clark county, at Waterloo, on and after the 1st day of December next, where they will be open for the inspection of all.

The undersigned Superintendent will receive sealed proposals for the building of said Court House at the office of said Treasurer of Clark county, until

THURSDAY, DEC. 22D, 1870,

When the contract will be let to the lowest and best bidder. Full information in regard to the terms of payment can be obtained from the Superintendent.

The County Court reserves the right to reject or refuse any or all bids that may be made.

Waterloo, November 13th, 1870.

P. S. WASHBURN, Superintendent.

nov17dttd

[Established 1865.]

**JOSEPH SNYDER,**

MANUFACTURER OF

And Wholesale and Retail dealer in

**COPPER DISTILLED**

**PURE RYE & BOURBON WHISKY**

**SNYDER'S MILLS.**

☞ Liquors in store from four years old to new.

**Ashton, Clark Co., Mo.**

I EMPLOY NO TRAVELING AGENTS. ORDERS PROMPTLY FILLED.

aug27-6mos

9/24/1874

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY  
BICKLEY KEOKUK IOWA



## Constitution-Democrat

CONSTITUTION—Established 1847.

DEMOCRAT—Established 1888.

Consolidated March 26, 1888.

JULY 9, 1903.

### BUBBLE BURSTED.

MISSOURIANS' DREAM OF WEALTH  
WAS NIGHTMARE.

SIR FRANCIS DRAKE ESTATE WAS  
A MYTH.

And There is no \$70,000,000 Lying  
Loose for Descendents of the  
Illustrious Admiral.

The dream of wealth of the Kahoka and other Missouri people, has come to a rude awakening. Some few days ago the Constitution-Democrat published for the first time, the full particulars of the \$70,000,000 estate of Sir Francis Drake, which Kahoka people expected to collect and become millionaires on the proceeds.

The following letter from the United States consul general in London has been received by C. F. Smith of LaBelle, Mo., since his return from England and bursts the bubble:  
Consul General of the United States of America, 12 St. Helen's Place, Bishopgate Street.

London, Eng., May 15, 1903.

Chas. F. Smith, Cashier LaBelle Savings Bank, LaBelle, Mo.

Dear Sir: I have your letter and I have the honor to say that with the reference to the alleged estate of Sir Francis Drake, who died in 1596, there is no such estate. It is a myth. The whole scheme is a swindle. The United States ambassador, his excellency, James H. Choate, took occasion last fall to so state through the Associated Press of the United States.

If there had been an estate at that time, I care not how valuable, and if it had not been disposed of properly then or at any time for the next three years, twelve years peaceable possession (if there ever had been an question as to title) would give good title—absolute. These English people are intelligent people. They know their rights. They know their titles.

This Drake estate, with its side issues, is only one of many swindles of the kind. I am told there is a book published in America containing 8,000 to 10,000 names (all the Smiths, Jones, Johnsons, Williams, etc.) that have large estates awaiting them in

England, Ireland, Scotland or elsewhere. And it is discouraging to know that there are enough American weaklings to support a lot of fakirs engaged in the business. The alleged Drake estate has supporters from Maine to California—and not a man will ever get a cent. There is no such estate. It is absolutely too absurd to talk about. Again supposing there was such an estate belonging to any person or number of persons in America that needed research, legal ability and good judgment to establish title. The first thing the heirs would do to determine their rights would be to employ a competent man to pass upon the question, but in this case there is no question to pass upon. If all the alleged heirs to the so-called Drake-Corey estate would give me a deed to their interests, I would say, "Don't waste the sheet of paper."

I enclose you a copy of E. C. Corey's attorney's withdrawal from further participation in the case.

Very respectfully,

H. CLAY EVANS,  
Consul General.

## Constitution-Democrat

CONSTITUTION—Established 1847.

DEMOCRAT—Established 1888.

Consolidated March 26, 1888.

AUGUST 25, 1903.

### DRAKE'S FORTUNE.

IS CLARK COUNTY PEOPLE'S POT  
OF GOLD A FAKE?

MILLIONS SAID TO BE AT END OF  
THE RAINBOW.

E. C. Corey's Brief Statement to  
Claimants of the \$70,000,000  
Estate Left by Sir Francis  
Drake.

Kahoka, Mo., Aug. 25.—Special—About one year ago a man giving his name as E. C. Corey came to LaBelle representing himself as one of the descendants of Sir Francis Drake deceased, and claimed that a large fortune was awaiting him et al in England, but that for the lack of means to enable him to take the necessary legal steps to recover the property, he was forced to ask for assistance from the other heirs. He had no trouble to induce many persons in and about LaBelle and some in Kahoka to believe that they were the legal heirs to the "big fortune" and through the assistance of T. L. Montgomery of Kahoka

a large sum of money was soon raised, and on March the 10th, a committee of S. L. Whiteaker, W. G. Johnson, T. L. Montgomery and this man Corey embarked for England on a tour of investigation. All this was done on the strength of the following:

#### E. C. COREY'S BRIEF STATEMENT TO CLAIMANTS.

I landed in England May 27, 1902, and left November 18, 1902, spending nearly six months in that country in the interests of claimants to the Drake estate. I went there on promises of claimants to furnish the necessary means to do the work in hand, and was greatly embarrassed because of their failure to keep this promise. As a result of this the work in hand has suffered and has been greatly delayed by reason thereof, and I have been unable to do what I would have done had means been furnished me as agreed. Some of the claimants who were really unable to do so, on being advised of the situation, came to my relief by selling part of their interests, and thus furnished me with the means to enable me to do the important and necessary work which I did while there.

This experience has taught me the necessity of organization, and those claimants who have interested themselves in my behalf, and also those whom I have had opportunity to consult since my return, have endorsed my suggestion, and a committee of three has been selected by claimants, to-wit: Myself, S. D. Whiteaker, of LaBelle, Mo., and W. G. Johnson of Chicago, Ill., with T. L. Montgomery of Kahoka, Mo., as their legal advisor, to go to England to institute such suit or suits as may be necessary to secure the rights of claimants. Since my return to this country I have been embarrassed by the aforesaid lack of means to give the many claimants a detailed statement of the situation as I found it. As many of you know, I have spent all the money I had in this work and have been working for you without salary, getting only my necessary expenses out of it for about two years last past.

We have a hard battle before us. You must know that if I did not have confidence in winning this fight I would have abandoned it long ago. I know we are right and can and will win it, if you will all stand together and furnish the money to do this work. If you will not do this, our efforts will be, and ought to be, fruitless.

During my investigation I have learned that the property we seek is there and not in the hands of rightful claimants, but in the hands of trustees awaiting the rightful claimants, and from careful investigation and a complete comparison of my proofs with the genealogies and wills obtained from the courts in England while abroad, many of the details of which it is impossible for me to give you in



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this necessarily brief statement, I arrived at the irresistible conclusion that we are the rightful claimants and are going to win. When the end comes depends upon you. On October 9, 1902, I was taken upon, and went over, a part of the real estate to which we are the rightful claimants, by Richard Cook, a coachman of Exeter, England. This real estate consists of 8,551 acres of well improved real estate, valued at about \$400 per acre, with a brick wall around it about eight feet high. There is a magnificent colonial mansion upon it, which is known as Nutwell Court. This mansion is left in its original state, with all of its furnishings, which are magnificent and very costly. As stated above, the land is well improved and in a high state of cultivation, and rents annually for \$5 per acre. I am advised that there are other landed estates to which we are entitled, both in this country and in England, the location of all of which, and the value thereof, I cannot give definitely.

I am unable to give the exact value of the personal property, but from valuable sources of information I learn that the annual rentals and interests amount to something like from \$100,000 to \$150,000, and also that the value of the entire estate is generally believed to be anywhere from \$40,000 to \$72,000,000, although some estimate it at a much greater value.

I had an unpleasant experience with the attorney I employed in England. Although highly recommended by a friend of mine there he proved to be unworthy of the confidence I placed in him and tried to get the case away from me in order that he might handle it himself. He told this friend who interviewed him at my request, "that he had no doubt Mr. Corey had a good case and could not see why he should not win; that he wanted the address of all claimants and a copy of all pedigrees Mr. Corey had; that if he could get to act as attorney for claimants he would never want for any thing more as long as he lived." I employed him on a written contract to produce copies of certain wills I wanted and to ascertain the value of the personal estate from the records. In order to get these I turned over to him only a part of my pedigrees, and he went to the courts and obtained copies of the wills, but refused to get the value of the real estate. I then prepared myself with papers for his arrest and visited him with an officer, which I was obliged to do before I could get my papers and the copies of the wills, which he surrendered on compulsion, and I discharged him, knowing he had been false to me and failed to keep his contract, and had otherwise disgraced the profession to which he belonged.

Many claimants think the consul can give information with reference to private estates of this character, but if he tells you the truth about this matter, you will find he cannot do so, and if he undertook to do so he would be notified that his services as an officer would be dispensed with. Such

private matters can be investigated only through the courts upon legal and competent proofs produced. John Drake, Sr., of Nova Scotia, himself a claimant, and with whom we cooperate, has spent much time in England and says there is enough for all, and confidently believes we are going to be successful in our efforts.

I came back for the purpose of future equipping myself to make this fight in the courts and have not for a moment a doubt of being able to succeed. I have the whole matter in hand and now ask you to do your part, namely, to sign the powers of attorney and contracts, in order to enable us to represent you in England, and furnish us the necessary money to enable us to do this work. It is no small undertaking, but from the start the work necessary to be done is hard and requires constant attention. I am willing to do my part. Are you willing to do yours?

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 1, 1903.

It is claimed by some of the supposed heirs that over a hundred contributed to the expense fund in sums ranging from \$100 to \$500 each, and that none of the money has been refunded. Mr. Montgomery who went to England as legal adviser arrived home about the first of August and although he has been interviewed by the newspaper reporters and others, he declines to give out any information regarding the case. On the other hand he asked the local papers to not mention his going to England, or to publish anything about his connection with the Drake estate. Mr. Montgomery's good standing at the bar and in the community doubtless made him a victim of some designing "buncoer" and though his good name a confidence game has been pulled off on many of the well to do heirs of Sir Francis Drake who died about 307 years ago. END



## First Clark County Fair Held in 1882

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1946

KAHOKA, Mo.—Miss Alberta Callison of Kahoka has the official program for the first annual Clark County Fair, held September 5, 6, 7 and 8, 1882, under auspices of the Clark County Agricultural and Mechanical association.

The catalogue and premium list was printed by the Constitution Printing Co., of Keokuk and comprised 28 pages.

Officers of the association were C. W. Maryhew, Wm. H. Martin, W. H. Bishop, S. Neep, Wm. McDermott, D. McKee, W. D. Moore, Thos. A. Doran and Jas. Vandolah.

This was the first fair under the present name, rules, regulations, by-laws and at the present location.

In 1873 a fair was held at Waterloo near Kahoka. At this location the fair continued for a few years, later consolidating with the Knox County Fair Association. This fail-

ing, the present one was organized, shares were sold and a 30 acre tract of land was purchased which has remained the property of the organization since 1882.

Admission charges at the fair were 25c to all except children under 10 who were admitted free. Receipts for the fair in 1886 were \$3,190.60.

Each harness race premium was 1st, \$12; 2nd, \$5; 3rd, \$3. Entry

fee was 10 per cent of the purse. Race: Best two out of three mile heats.

Featured races were: Fastest trotting double team: 1st, \$20; 2nd, \$12; 3rd, \$8.

Premiums were also paid for the best buggy made in the county.

At the starting of the Fair the association had seven wells dug, four to be used to water stock and three for the patrons.



THURSDAY, SEPT. 2, 1954

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## Centennial Costumes Recall

It Once Took Thirty Yards  
To Properly Clothe One Gal

By ANGIE HUME

KAHOKA, Mo.—Centennial celebrations featuring the quaint customs of yesterday, with their accompanying styles worn by reigning belles, stir memories within the minds of us older girls, for we vividly remember when we were dressed to the teeth.

By the way, those girls who wore the old time flowered print dresses looked just plain sweet in their pictures, and it all left us wondering if maybe a dress made from ten yards of calico, with its underlay of three full petticoats, didn't have something, after all?

While I was never wealthy, far from it, I had some beautiful old fashioned dresses when I was a girl, and they were all made by a local dressmaker, on an old, old, Singer treadle sewing machine. The dear soul has long since passed to her reward, and as I looked at her peacefully asleep in her casket, I thought of the many, many stitches she had taken in my behalf, in order that I might be fully clothed.

One of my prettiest outfits was a beautiful white dress, without which no girl in her right mind would have done without, away back when. But what went on underneath its snowy whiteness was really more important than the dress itself, which was made from ten yards of wide embroidery. When it was selected, there were only six yards of the pattern I wanted, and six yards were not considered to be enough to clothe a ten year old girl, who had not begun to have her dresses drop ankleward. So, four yards of all over embroidery were purchased for the regular skirt, and an overskirt was made of the wide embroidery. That dress was stitched up by a neighbor girl, and all who saw it pronounced it pretty enough for a wedding dress.

## Reputation at Stake.

I first wore it to a Fourth of July celebration, and after a bath, I stepped into a light suit of gauze underwear, and sat down to put on my shoes and lisle stockings. There was a reason for this, for after getting into a corset that reached from under the arms down so far that the mere act of sitting down was torture, one could never get into stockings and shoes. White shoes and white lisle stockings were just coming into style, and were considered to be the most immoral

articles of clothing this side of Hades. In fact only the most daring and courageous ladies had the gall to wear them. For if anyone caught a glimpse of those white hose, just where would your reputation be? Next came that whalebone corset, stiff as a coat of mail, which was

securely hasped around, believe it or not, an 18 inch waist. Then one stepped into a pair of—aw, what did you guess 'em for, when I wanted to tell you?—made from three yards of bleached muslin, with a yard and a half of embroidery ten inches wide gathered around each er—ah—limb. Then a beruffled corset cover, designed to fill out the front of a dress generously, with embroidered eyelets around the top through which blue or pink ribbon was drawn, another daring procedure at which heads were shaken, and dire predictions made. Then came a petticoat with 42 tucks, four rows of insertion, and a ruffle of five yards of embroidery 12 inches wide, another petticoat made from 36 yards of lace sewed edge to edge, to form a ruffle of five yards, and all was ready for the donning of that pretty dress.

At this juncture my hair was let down from its kid rollers, and came in for a drastic going over. After being combed down all around a rat, the size of one's arm, made from the accumulated combings of several years saving, was pinned completely around my head with 16 hairpins. Then my hair was gently coaxed into a good sized knot, which nestled within the circle, and over this was pinned a switch of artificial hair, all moored and anchored in place with 20 additional hairpins. An overhanging pompadour all around the head was the result of these Herculean efforts, and by a gentle pulling and patting, it was induced to hang over one eye, which was the last word in hair style. A light dusting of powder, no rouge, or you would be classed as tough, and you would never be able to live down that disgrace.

Just then, Mother appeared upon the scene of action, and when she saw the beautiful sherr dress lying across the bed, she clucked dubiously, and remarked that she was afraid that with only two petticoats, I would be "seen through." Now, for a girl to be seen through, a worse disgrace there was none, so another betucked, beruffled petticoat, five yards around, of course, was added to the collection and the dress was gently slipped over the fearful and wonderful coiffure. Mother buttoned me up from stem to stern, and at long last I was ready, all but my sash. That sash was over three yards long, made from wide taffeta ribbon, through which a rose design was woven, so rich it would almost stand alone, and after it was tied, hung downward to the bottom of the dress which touched my insteps.

When my one and only escort arrived, driving a satiny horse hitched to a shiny buggy that boasted a green crushed velvet seat, I pinned on a hat the size of a wash-tub with four long murderous look-

ing hatpins, drew on a pair of elbow length white silk gloves, seized my hand crocheted shoulder bag, and was ready to go, in my right mind, supposedly, and my worst enemy, if I had one, could not truthfully say I was not fully clothed.

As we drove along the country roads, people stopped to stare, and one gentleman, as he went about his work, was moved to prayer, for he stopped dead in his tracks and set the slop bucket down, and we distinctly heard him say, "Good God Almighty, I wish you would look!"—I suppose he was going to say, "down upon us, and bless us this day," but we were off in a cloud of dust at the dizzy speed of four miles per hour, and did not hear him.

Well, we got to the celebration all right, and moved about sedately, ye gods! how could we move otherwise? and visited with other people who were wearing just as many clothes as we were, and along toward evening we drove the 14 miles home, arriving tired but happy.

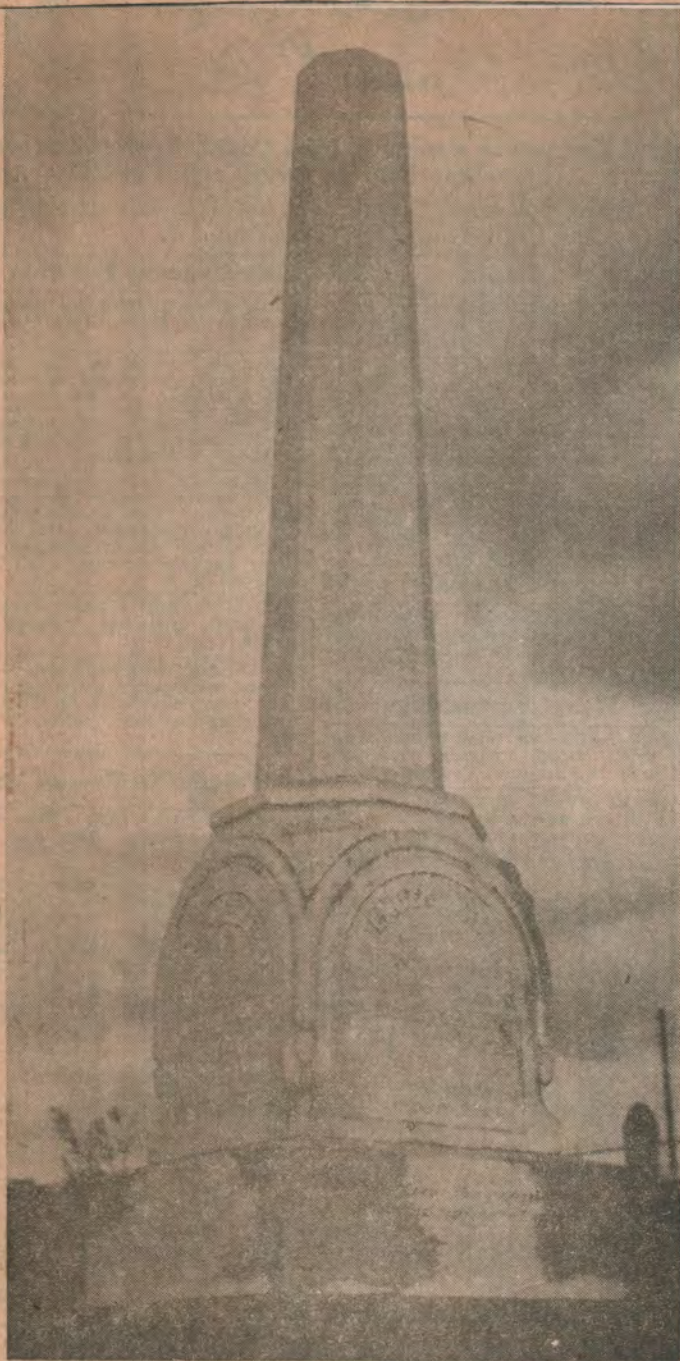
## Laugh, and Lose.

Today when I don my garments made from six yards of material, and pull the zipper, and go about happily sans socks, I breathe a silent prayer of thankfulness that we women have been emancipated from 30 yards of excess yardage, plus miles of tucks, lace, embroidery and ruffles. But there was something nice about those old time costumes.

We had our pictures taken at the celebration, and if anyone can look at us without laughing, I will give them one of my cherished silver dollars.

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY  
BY J. BICKEL KROHLY IDHIE





IN THE BETHLEHEM CEMETERY, north of Luray, Mo., stands this tombstone, erected by the people in the memory of Deacon Spencer and his family who were hacked to death by an ax in a mysterious slaying which has never been solved. The inscription on the monument reads: "A tribute from the people in token of universal esteem. SPENCER FAMILY. We are all here. Murdered with an ax night of August 2, 1877 at their home one mile South by S. W. from here. Their bodies lie beneath this tomb. Their virtues lie above it."

Daily Gate City Photos

## Rural Church Thrives Despite Trend to City

By MRS. CLYDE SMITH  
LURAY, Mo.—The Bethlehem Baptist church, located eight miles north of Luray, has survived the ravages of time and the trend to city churches and plans a big homecoming in June on the occasion of its centennial. Perhaps its membership is small, but its influence in the surrounding community is impressive and its congregation is loyal in its support.

Bethlehem Baptist was the second Baptist church in Clark county—built in 1856. The first Baptist church in the county was located in St. Francisville in 1853. It is no longer a Baptist church but the building is used for another denomination.

Two carpenters are credited with doing most of the work and not worrying about the hours or pay. They were Ed Selby and Charles Matticks. The Rev. Sam Swickard was the first pioneer pastor and he never worried about his monthly "check" either.

### Famous Cemetery.

The first cemetery was established at the church in 1857 when two youngsters died, as many did in those pioneer days. The church was finished in 1866 and it was the following year, August 2, 1867, that the famous "Spencer Murders" were committed in the neighborhood. They have never been solved as to who did it or why. Spencer was a deacon in the Bethlehem church. He and his entire family were hacked to death with an axe and the ghastly scene was discovered later by neighbors.

Bethlehem church is a member of the Pleasant Grove branch of Baptist churches, having withdrawn from the Wyaconda association in 1877. A. J. Alexander and W. B. Mayfield were ordained as deacons in 1878, according to the early church records. Other pioneers serving as clerks included Hiram Parrish, J. L. Snow, James Servers, B. M.

Daniels, J. A. Perry, Ellen Jenkins, H. T. Spencer (later murdered), Helen Hopp, Bailey Glasgow, Wade Glasscock, Mayfield Jinkins, Jinkins Smith and S. Hopp.

### Rough Periods.

Rough periods were encountered by the little Bethlehem church as in any other. The Rev. Ed Dawson of the Luray Baptist church helped it keep life during the depth of the depression by coming out on set Sundays so as not to interfere with his Luray church.

Yet in the heart of the depression, Bethlehem's congregation decided to build a new church—and they did it, in 1935. It was dedicated in a spirit of faith and thanksgiving in 1936, June 21. The Rev. John Salzman of Farmington is credited with also keeping the doors open during the depression years by preaching there regularly. Ben Hufford served many years as its superintendent.

The first wedding in the new church was solemnized in 1939 when Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kelly of Farmington were married by the Rev. Mr. Salzman.

The Jenkins heirs deeded a section of land adjacent to the church to be used as a parking aear in 1940. Electric lights were installed in 1950; the church was redecorated in 1953; Evangelist Bill Riddle injected new life into it in 1954 with his meetings.

### Present Officers.

The Rev. Homer Martin of Memphis has served as pastor since 1953. Mrs. Carson Parrish is the present church clerk; Mrs. Lester Hopp is treasurer; Carson Parrish is Sunday school superintendent and James Adamson is Sunday school treasurer.

The centennial program is being arranged for June 24.

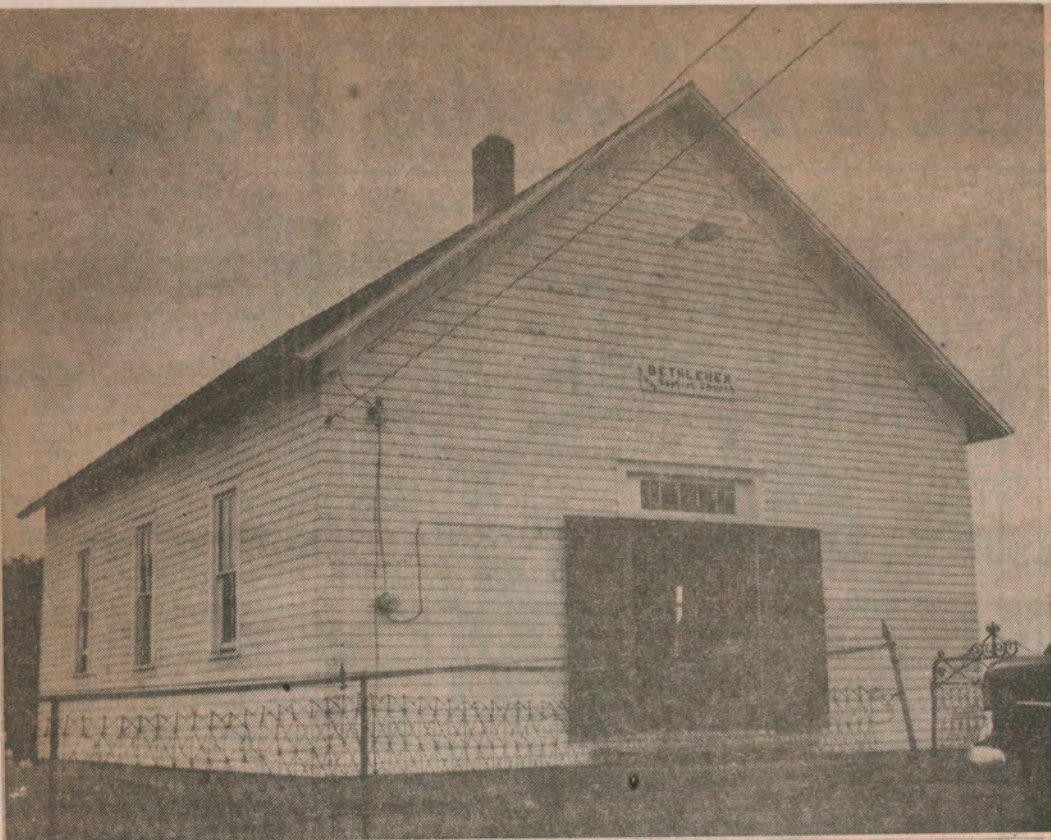


June 4, 1956

Bethlehem Baptist Church

Luray, Missouri

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## The Keokuk News.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 1882.

KEOKUK, IOWA.

We have received a copy of "Outlaws of the Fox River Country," a thrilling story of the Whiteford and Spencer murders and the Bill Young lynching, in Clark County, Mo., The author is J. W. Murphy, late editor of the Alexandria *Commercial*, and until recently, connected with the *Constitution*. The story is narrated in a realistic fashion and is the more interesting, because true. The book sells for 50 cents a copy.



Modern Steam Heating Plant—

# SUPLANTS OLD POT-BELLIED COAL STOVES

—In Clark County Court House

By a Gate City Staff Writer.  
KAHOKA, Mo., Nov. 22.—The Clark county court house is losing its most constant affinity with the 19th century.

No longer will its janitors tote tons of coal up several flights of stairs each year.

No longer will employes of county offices shovel in fuel from hoppers outside their doors.

No longer will pretty feminine secretaries blow warm breath on cold, stiff fingers to make tapping of typewriter keys easier.

No longer will circuit courtroom

spectators seek out seats at the proper distance from the red-hot sides of two pot-bellied stoves—not too close, to avoid the heat; not too far away, to avoid the cold.

The county court—governing body of the county's affairs—has decreed that the stoves, faithful servants since the court house was built 67 years ago, must go. In their absence the big, two-story structure will be made much more comfortable by a modern steam-heating plant.

Sharing the stone-walled basement of the building with the county calaboose, the new heating unit is being installed for use within a few days. It cost about \$2,200.

## Blowers In Courtroom.

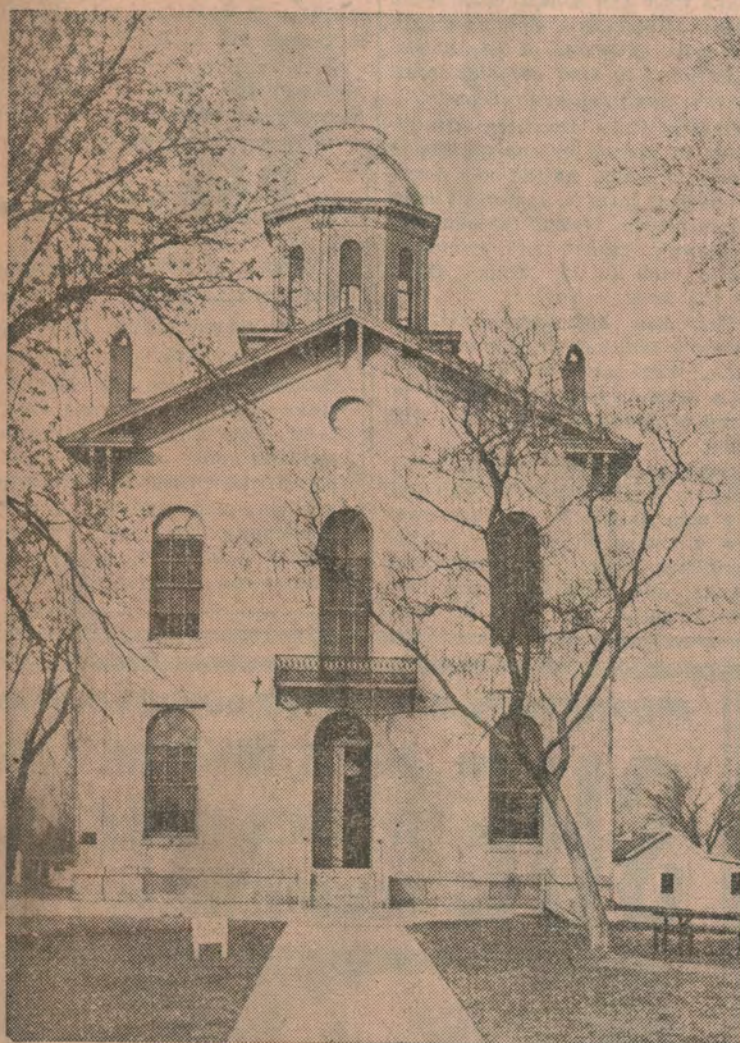
Instead of the two big stoves with their unsightly coal boxes, the courtroom will be warmed by blower-type radiators which will hang from the high ceiling. Offices and corridors will contain conventional coil radiators.

Altogether, eight stoves will be put out of work by the modern move.

It was not the intention of the county court to add to the unemployment lists of old-fashioned stoves, however; nor was it entirely the convenience and comfort of county employes that was in the minds of the judges when they bought the new boiler with its 1940-model coal stoker. Because of the cheaper fuel which is made usable by the mechanical fireman, economy must have carried some weight in the order.

Happiest man on the county payroll today was Lester Wiles, the lively building custodian whose dreams of the future include no more pictures of himself carrying buckets of coal from the basement bin to the coal boxes on the upper floors.

1939



—Gate City Staff photo  
CLARK COUNTY COURT HOUSE AT KAHOKA

• • •





—Gate City Staff photo

"There'll be no more of this with the new heating plant," chorused this bevy of Clark county court house "honeys" as they demonstrated for a Gate City photographer what formerly might be expected on a wintry morn. Refueling the unpretty stove in the circuit courtroom is Melba Miller and hovering close to the old heater, left to right, are Eloise McLaughlin, Bertha Fox, Maxine Pratt, Virgie Jenkins and Nellie Baker. Miss Fox is from St. Patrick and Miss Baker from Alexandria; all of the others reside in Kahoka.

1939



ONCE HOME OF 405 SLAVES— SEPT. 17, 1954

## Clark County Has No Negro Children of School Age Now

(By PEARL GORDON VESTAL)

Where, oh where, have the little black, brown or cream-colored great, great grandchildren of the slaves of Clark county, Missouri, gone? I wonder. Do you know?

Away back in 1860, nearly a century ago, 129 Clark county slaveholders were taxed for 405 slaves, valued on the tax books at a total of \$171,300. Just a year later, in 1861, the value of these human beings, still chattels under the laws of many southern states, including Missouri, had dropped to \$135,000. Slaveowners were beginning to read "the handwriting upon the wall."

### Freed in 1863

On the chance that the Civil War, then begun, might bring freedom to the slaves, buyers of bondsmen were willing to pay smaller sums, sellers were obliged to accept less, or face a complete loss in the near future. On September 22, 1862, President Lincoln issued "his preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, which has been pronounced the most important document ever issued by a civil ruler," wrote the historian, Henry Elson. Slaves held in states in rebellion against the government of the first of January, 1863, should be forever free. Since then the Negroes, either of full blood or mixed ancestry, have, at least theoretically, belonged to themselves.

This history is brought to mind by a recent short article in the Clark County Courier of June 15, 1954. For 91 years, since emancipation, men and women of African origin have striven to gain the civil rights which white men have long enjoyed.

### Education Illegal

It was once illegal for masters to educate their slaves.

After the ending of the "War Between the States" public schools were gradually established in the south, but usually with less money per pupil appropriated for the Negro schools than was allowed for the schools available to white children. In more recent times, and in some areas, really good school buildings, well-trained Negro teachers, have been at the service of Negro children, yet, all the time, a feeling of exclusion from "equal rights" was held by the colored population.

Now to quote the Clark County Courier: "The ending of segregation, handed down by the federal supreme court, will affect Missouri, for Missouri, like all other states now, must allow the Negro to go to the same public school as the white children. Missouri has 46 counties that have no school age negroes. Clark county is one of the counties, but our neighboring county of Lewis has quite a number of Negro children."

So here we find that Clark county, with 405 slaves listed in 1860, has no Negro children of school age

in 1954! Many of the earliest pioneers in the county came from Kentucky and other southern states, bringing with them their household and field slaves.

### One Man Owned 21

Col. Thomas Rutherford was the largest slave owner in Clark county, with 21 owned by him in 1860. "Aunt Cully" was one of the very earliest slaves, being brought to Clark county by her master, Samuel Bartlett. "The 'peculiar institution' never flourished here as in the counties further south, perhaps because this county was bounded by free states, Illinois and Iowa," said the "History of Lewis, Clark, Knox and Scotland counties, Missouri," published in 1887.

Who owned the taxable slaves in the Clark county of 1860? The list we shall quote is from the book just named, with the names of the owners arranged in alphabetic order. Each is followed by the number of the bond servants for whom he paid taxes.

### List of Slave Owners

We start with J. W. Alcorn, 9; J. A. Arnold, 2; Samuel Amery, 1; John T. Boards, 1; Catherine Ball, 5; C. E. Brent, 3; John K. Ball, 3; B. H. Ballard, 1; J. T. Ballard, 4; John N. Boulware, 16; George K. Biggs, 9; Nancy Butts, 3; Lewis Baldwin, 1; William Bartlett, 1; B. F. Bates, 3; T. W. Cloud, 6; Murdock Cooper, 3; W. H. Cull, 4; Benjamin Cowley, 1; Hannah Cooper, 1; Thomas Combs, 1; M. L. Chappell, 3; E. Y. Cowgill, 5; Campbell Chapman, 1; Thomas Cherry, 1; J. W. Curd, 3; J. T. Caldwell, 5; J. W. Campbell, 1; Ruel Daggs, 6; Jacob C. Davis, 3; John Foree, 1; Hez. Foree, 2; P. N. Forsee, 3; H. H. Fore, 2; Thomas Fitzpatrick, 5; R. L. Foster, 5; E. F. Greenlief, 12; B. R. Glasscock, 7; W. G. Gordon, 1; A. B. Gatewood, 1; G. A. Granstaff, 3; George Glasscock, 1; William T. Gay, 1; N. F. Givens, 3; Estate of Isaac Gray, 2.

Shall we start with the letter "H"? Heirs of Benjamin Harris, 4; R. J. Harvey, 1; John P. Hampton, 3; W. D. Henshaw, 2; Alexander Hay, 1; R. E. Hill, 4; G. W. Hill, 2; B. T. Hagerman, 1; Charles Henshaw, 3; Jas. Hackley, 1; James T. James, 1; Garrett Jordon, 8; E. Kerfoot, 5; Elizabeth King, 2; W. T. Kemper, 1; B. J. Kenny, 2; William Littard, 1; William Lambreath, 1; Richard Ligon, 1; John P. Lowry, 7; I. N. Lewis, 4; Jacob W. Lewellen, 2; James H. Lapsley, 2; A. W. Lawrence, 1; John Langford, 1; T. Lyon, 1; Diedrick Mangles, 1; Ruel Murphy, 5; William McDermott, 2; W. C. Mitchell, 4; A. Musgrove, 4; J. M. McKim, 1; Edward Moseley, 4; R. A. McKee, 10; J. F. McWilliams, 2.

Following down the lines we find: W. F. Mitchell, 3; William Moreland,

1; Samuel Musgrove, 4; A. W. Mitchell, 3; Abel L. Morris, 6; Isaac McPherson, 1; H. C. Montgomery, 2; Andrew Maxwell, 2; R. E. Musgrove, and A. B. Peyton, 6; M. S. Mitchell, 1; Jacob Niswanger, 1; W. J. Pierce, 1; W. H. Pritchett, 1; Helen Rebo, 5; Thomas C. Rutherford, 21; Armenia Roberts, 1; Rice Smith, 3; Francis Smith, 12; Frank Smith, 1; John Snyder, 1; John H. Schnebley, 3; Jeremiah Seaman, 3; Joseph G. Scott, 6; Milton J. Sisson, 1; W. A. Shropshier, 1; Albert J. Sibley, 3; Harriet Sniveley, 1; Z. T. Clark and Janet Sniveley, 1.

We are nearing the end of the list when we begin with "T": W. H. Todd, 2; Heirs of P. Thomas, 1; John Taylor, 2; W. S. Tinsley, 4; Abraham Wayland, 4; William Walker, 7; Lycurgus Wilson, 1; Jeremiah Wayland, 4; Richard Young, 3; Joseph F. Wayland, 2; Susan Thompson, 1; M. Webber, 2; William M. Wright, 1; Heirs of Joseph Wilson, 10; Granville Wilson, 2; W. E. White, 2; J. R. White, 6; R. J. Wood, 2; and T. R. Wilson, 1.

Missing are the names of some of the "first-run" pioneers from the south, whose time in this world had run out, and those of early settlers from northern, non-slave-holding states.

An interesting side issue to this story is the study of the surnames of these men of 1860, to guess at the nationality of their family origins: note the heavy percentage of names traceable to Great Britain and the low percentage, as compared with the present, of names brought over from Germany.



# FUNERAL HELD FOR MARTHA SCOTT, LAST CLARK COUNTY WOMAN SLAVE

MONDAY, APRIL 7, 1941

(Gate City Tri-State News)

KAHOKA, Mo., April 7—Funeral services were held from the Karle Funeral home here Saturday morning at 10 o'clock for Martha Scott, 87, last of Clark county's Negro women who were born in slavery.

Martha, who died last Wednesday, was born on the farm of her master, J. Scott, on Honey creek just south of Kahoka. While still a small girl, she was given by her master to his daughter, Mrs. Catlett LeHew, and she declined to leave the service of the LeHew family when the slaves were freed.

For many years she resided with Miss Ludie LeHew in west Kahoka, and continued to reside there after Miss LeHew's death. She was a devoted servant to Miss LeHew who taught in the Kahoka public schools for many years. Martha was always interested in the little white children who started their educations under the tutelage of Miss LeHew.

Martha is survived by a nephew, Henry Shanninghouse, and a niece, Lenna Shanninghouse, both of Keokuk.

The Rev. C. W. Carter, pastor of the Pilgrim Rest Baptist church of Keokuk, assisted at the funeral services which were conducted by the Rev. H. T. Guthrie, pastor of the Kahoka Presbyterian church. Mrs. Nell Hiller and Miss H. Jess Watson sang "Just As I Am" and "Jesus, I Come," accompanied by Mrs. Velma Williams. Pallbearers were Harry H. Kearns, Marshall Story, Verne Howell, Frank Greenlee, Ralph Hill and Marion Wilson. Burial was in the Kahoka cemetery.



MARTHA SCOTT

The Keokuk Gate City and  
Constitution Democrat  
Page 12—Thursday, Nov. 8, 1945

## Postmaster Kirchner Helped Put St. Patrick on the Map

ST. PATRICK, Mo., Nov. 8—Residents of this little Irish community were preparing today to pay their final respects for John N. Kirchner, the German native whose work was largely responsible for putting St. Patrick "on the map" as the only postoffice in the United States named for the Emerald Isle's patron saint.

Kirchner, postmaster here for 33 years during which time he affixed the St. Patrick postmark to countless items of mail, died in St. Joseph hospital, Keokuk, Wednesday morning at 11:34 o'clock. He had been in failing health in recent years and more seriously ill for the past six months.

The body was removed later yesterday from the Greaves Mortuary,

Keokuk, to the home of his son, Nicholas, here at St. Patrick and funeral services will be held from the St. Patrick Catholic church on Friday morning at 10 o'clock.

### Merchant 46 Years.

A son of the late Nicholas and Conda Grein Kirchner, he was born in Germany on Oct. 20, 1865, and came to this country in early life. For several years he engaged in farming near Antioch, Mo., until he moved to this community and opened a general merchandise store.

For 46 years he was the village's leading merchant, handling the community's postal needs during the last 33 years until he retired in 1940.

During that time, people throughout the country learned of St. Patrick, Mo., and the local postoffice joined with Santa Claus, Ind., in becoming a choice postmark for collectors. Using a rubber hand stamp nearly all through his career, Postmaster Kirchner cancelled many thousands of covers sent to him from near and far every year, particularly early in March and on St. Patrick's Day.

### A Large Shamrock.

A feature of the St. Patrick cancellation as the village's unique fame grew was a large shamrock stamped on the cover in green ink.

On Oct. 10, 1894, Mr. Kirchner was married at St. Patrick to Susan Banker who died in 1937. He was also preceded in death by his parents and one sister.

He is survived by two sons, Nicholas and Joseph Kirchner, both of St. Patrick; one daughter, Mrs. Agnes Ellison, of St. Patrick; two brothers, Henry Kirchner, of Kahoka, and Nicholas Kirchner, of Centralia, Mo.; four sisters, Mrs. Anna Ellison, of St. Patrick; Mrs. Margaret Cameron and Mrs. Lizzie Toops, both of Kahoka, and Mrs. Lena Fee, of Williamstown; 17 grandchildren and a number of nieces and nephews. xxx



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



# Kahoka's Sever Memorial Library Open



WITH A BEQUEST OF \$100,000 FROM H. E. SEVER, Kahoka, Mo. built this beautiful Sever Memorial Library which is now open and will be formally dedicated this fall. It represents the realization of a dream on the part of the Business and Professional Women's club which has worked hard to keep the library movement active in Kahoka.

—Daily Gate City Photos

## Plan Dedication In Connection With Old Settlers Day

By FREEMAN ROSENCRANS  
KAHOKA, Mo. — Sever Memorial library, for the last nine years merely a dream in the minds of the Business and Professional Women of Kahoka, together with a few interested Kahoka residents, is today a reality — and a beautiful reality. Sever Memorial library is a credit

to Kahoka.

When one walks past the huge glass doors that fairly glide open and turns to his left, a quiet beauty symbolic of a library, but spots brilliant in color, greets the visitor.

### Reading Nook

First, one is impressed with the



gleaming, highly polished blond tables and chairs sufficient to accommodate nearly 100 persons. Next the brilliant color drapes catch the eye. Yet on second look, they blend in perfectly with their surroundings and show exceptionally good taste in color and harmony.

On the right at the far end of the spacious room is a reading nook with large comfortable davenport and easy chairs—all the comforts of home. These are surrounded by attractive, neat shelves of books—all very inviting. The drapes form a pleasing background to all this. This section of the library is known as "Browsing Area".

Flowers artistically placed about the room add just the right touch of atmosphere. Up near the front is the reference shelf which contains encyclopedia volumes sufficient to meet the need of the average library patron.

#### Houses 14,000 Volumes

In another corner is the children's section which contain the best in juvenile literature and in an atmosphere conducive to good study as well as entertainment.

To the right are the steel book shelves. There are eight rows of these and it is here the bulk of the books are kept. Librarians estimate Sever Memorial library now houses 14,000 volumes of various types and it has been said that Sever has more current fiction and other good reading than many libraries twice its size.

Another section near the front entrance is known as "Teen Corner" where books and publications of interest to teen-agers are kept. This, too, is as attractive as any other section of the library.

#### Gift of H. E. Sever

Members of the Sever Memorial staff are Mrs. Lyndell Mayfield, chief librarian; Mrs. Joseph Stevenson and Mrs. Stuart Hiller, Gilbert Young also assists the staff.

Also in the building is a small auditorium which can be used for community meetings, programs etc. It can easily seat 150 persons without crowding.

Sever Memorial library first became a possibility back in 1941 when the late H. E. Sever left a bequest of \$100,000 for a memorial library for Kahoka and \$10,000 for the site. Citizens of Clark county voted some years ago on the proposition to support the library with a few mills tax. It actually means only a few cents a year to the average taxpayer, and not more than a dollar or so to those large property holders.

#### Former County Superintendent

H. E. Sever wished that the town in which he taught for many years and acted as county superintendent of schools for several terms, should have a first class library. Therefore, his dream and that of the Business and Professional Women has become a reality. He served Clark county more than 50 years ago.

Special credit is due the Business Women because they launched the project that created the first Kahoka library. At first the library was on the square, but it had to be moved to a basement near the square when

finances became short and no one but the Business Women seemed interested enough to continue the project. However, through personal solicitation, the women were able to keep the library open and it was in 1944 they turned it over to the Sever Memorial library board. It was estimated they had 4,000 volumes at that time.

Because of the war it was felt no building project should be started. It was thus the time between 1941 and 1949 were years in which the board made preliminary plans, studied specifications and waited.

#### Dedication This Fall

A formal dedication program is being planned for this fall, in all probability on Old Settlers' day in Kahoka, when it is felt the greatest crowd will be in town and therefore can inspect the library.

Also controlled by the Sever Memorial library is a bookmobile service operating out of Kahoka and serving all Clark county. The bookmobile visits each rural school and town school in the county, supplying all types of books necessary for supplementary education. In addition there are eight stations throughout Clark county from which adults can secure the latest books and good library service.

Kahoka can well be proud of its Sever Memorial library; few counties or towns in Missouri have any facilities that compare to it, at least only in the larger cities. Kahoka can thank H. E. Sever who loved the town in which he spent many happy years well enough to supply it with a beautiful library.

Jordan. John Scott, Robert E. Scott and Robert E. Lee entered Section 20.

In establishing the town, the original charter was granted and the work finished in December of 1856, but the charter was afterward re-enacted two or three times, and it was not until 1868 that the final re-enactment occurred. The land was purchased from William Muldrow, who held much of the land in the vicinity of Kahoka and Clark City.

#### Indian Name

David W. Eaton says that Kahoka derived its name from the division of the Illinois tribe of Indians by that name who were commonly called the Kahokia or Kaoukia. The Indian word is "Gawakia" and means the "lean ones."

John Cramlin built the first house here in 1856 on the site of the bank building on the northeast corner of the public square. A gun and old watch were traded for the lot. The first business house was a dram shop and the second and third improvements were a blacksmith shop and a dry goods store, opened in 1858.

There were several important improvements in 1857. About six houses were built in the southern part of town, which was settled first. In the same year both the first postoffice and first school were erected. The postoffice was built by Bill Heyck and later made into a Chinese laundry. The next postoffice was run by William Cogahan early in the '60's. All of the people contributed to the support of the school. Also in 1857, the public well was dug on the northeast corner of the square.

#### "Kahoka House"

In 1858, the "Kahoka House," the town's first hotel, was built by W. H. Huyke, who later sold it to John C. Kelly. The two story frame building contained 11 rooms, and its patronage came from "drummers" and travellers going from Keokuk to Memphis. A small frame building near the hotel was used as a "sample room," in which the salesmen displayed their wares to the merchants. The hotel later burned.

Although the school building was used as an arsenal, Kahoka played no important part in the Civil War. After the war, however, several new businesses were opened here, and in June of 1869, Kahoka was incorporated.

Kahoka began to grow rapidly after the county seat was located here. The old court house which still is used, was ordered built by the court in October of 1870. The site was donated by Mr. and Mrs. William Johnson, and \$12,000 was given by John Hiller for the building which was erected in 1871.

Completion of the Keokuk and Western railroad through Kahoka aided in Kahoka's prosperity. In 1871, a Fourth of July celebration was held with the new railroad as the great attraction. Free rides to Clark City and back were given and from 3,000 to 5,000 people attended.

Kahoka has had several news publications. The Gazette published its first issue on February 22, 1871, and in 1878, the Clark County Democrat was established. In the fall of 1879, The Democrat became

## THE DAILY GATE CITY FIRST WHITES SETTLED NEAR KAHOKA IN 1830

Town Was Established in  
1856 and Incorporated in  
in 1869 — Prosperity  
Followed Civil War  
and Railroad Construction.

**Aug. 1937**  
KAHOKA, Mo.—Many wild animals greeted the first white settlers who came to this vicinity to till the virgin soil and establish their homes about 1830. There were Indians of the Sac and Fox tribes but these were rather peaceable and showed little interest in the white man's greediness. Some of the first settlers in this community were James H. and Rezin Jordan, Aaron J. Lewis, Thos. J. Lewis, David Scott, Michael E. and Thomas Spillman, James Yergan, Geo. W. Powell, William Lambreth and Wm. H.

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(Kahoka 1830)

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"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"

R. L. RICKEL, KEOKUK, IOWA



the Kahoka Journal, and this same year the Free Press began publication. The Kahoka Herald was established January 1, 1881, and in 1888, the Gazette and Herald were consolidated. The Courier started publication in 1890.

Among the several disastrous fires suffered by Kahoka was the one during the last week in November, 1880, in which the east side of the square was completely razed except for a new brick building of the Bishop brothers. The estimated loss from the fire was \$25,000, and the total insurance on the property was \$4,000.

The Clark County Savings Bank, which was organized in 1874, was discontinued a few years ago. The Kahoka Savings Bank was organized in 1883.

Early development of the church in Kahoka was closely allied with the school development. The first Sunday school was organized here in 1859 and ten years later the Union Sunday school was organized. The Kahoka Methodist Episcopal church was organized in 1862; the Congregational church organized in 1865; the Southern Methodist church, about 1870; the Presbyterian church on July, 3, 1883; the Cumberland Presbyterian church in May, 1880; and the German Evangelical church in 1885.

Kahoka's first school house was a little frame building in 1857. In August of 1884, citizens held a meeting to discuss establishing a college in or near Kahoka. The college was erected in 1885 on the north end of Washington street at a cost for building and grounds of about \$5,000. The college, owned by a large group of stockholders, was a two-story brick building with two rooms and a hall on each floor. During the year of 1909, seven graduated from the college. The Kahoka school has been located many places, and the present fine building was erected and put into service on February 22, 1918.

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(Kahoka 1830)

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



# A HORRIFYING SPECTACLE.

The Hanging of Fred Bronstein Was a Most Terrifying Scene and One Full of Horror.

## THE DOOMED MAN WAS A PITIFUL WRECK

Prayed to God for Mercy and Told the Spectators to Take Warning --- Graphic Account of the Shocking Execution.

"He has asked in vain for mercy from a human court and now will seek it from one above." As a priest was saying these words, Fred Bronstein fell from the scaffold and his neck was broken. The execution took place yesterday at Kahoka and the trap was sprung at 12:30. Fifteen minutes afterwards the body was cut down, all signs of life being extinct.

The hanging of Bronstein was one of the most horrifying of spectacles. He was carried to the scaffold, limp and unconscious, he called repeatedly to God for mercy and cried out, "All take warning." His condition was most pitiful and the hanging was a shocking sight. Death is a horrible thing; to witness it is horrible; to see a man hung is most horrible. Bronstein's death was a sickening sight; his hitherto strong nerve forsook him at the last moment and he had to be carried to the scaffold and held upright; his knees gave way and he hung limp in his assistants' arms; his eyes were closed and he was supported while on the scaffold platform, a helpless, wilted wreck. He was as limp as a rag and when he opened his eyes and gazed at the crowd, assembled to see him die, the ghastly look from his eyes was one of helplessness and terror. He died believing in God and called repeatedly for mercy from on high; he asked that everyone hear him and take warning.

He died with his hands and limbs tied, his head covered with a black cloth and his eyes darkened. No sight of this world was his as his life was given up, no friends stood by his side and encouraged him, no comrade held his hand and gave him courage. Standing in the darkness, bound hand and foot, the words of the priest in his ears, the



flooring beneath him gave away and he shot down eight feet like a bullet; the rope fastened to his neck gave him a jerk, his spinal cord was pressed, and he died. He had killed his wife and paid for the crime with his life.

### HIS LAST MINUTES.

A few minutes before the time appointed for the hanging, Bronstein was visited by two priests, the Rev. Fathers Brand and Cooney. They and Sheriff John F. Kelly led him from the room and along the hall toward the scaffold. He fainted in the room before the march, but regained consciousness and they proceeded toward the spot where his life was to be taken up. He bore up bravely until he caught sight of the beam from which dangled the rope. Then he collapsed again and sank to the floor. He had to be carried up the

The Gate City.  
MAY 9, 1899.  
E GATE CITY COMPANY,  
KEOKUK, IOWA.

few steps to the platform and five men held him upright when he reached the place.

Two priests dressed in their robes of office and each holding a lighted taper stood on each side of the condemned man. The sight was terrifying as this helpless, limp man was carried up to the spot where he was to die. A hundred and fifty people gathered in the stockade gazed at this unfortunate man and as his wretched body was brought out of the court house and carried upon the platform, the crowd outside the fence, some of whom were perched in the trees, set up a cheer. This cheer awoke the doomed man and he gazed bewildered at those in front of him, his head lolled on his shoulders, his eyes bulged out and he wilted. His limbs trembled and he gasped for breath. He

was held up in an upright position and his limbs were tied, the black cloth drawn over his face, the noose fitted around his neck, and he was alone in the darkness. Alone with his Maker.

### HE MOANED AND MUMBLED.

Then he pitifully moaned and mumbled. From beneath the cap of death which covered his head, the lips moved and uttered a prayer to God. He wailed: "Oh Lord, Oh God, Oh God, stay with us all, Oh Jesus, everybody pay attention to me, all take warning, all take warning, Oh God, Oh Lord, God be with me, have mercy with me." Then the lips were silent.

This man would have died in despair. Death, for him, was like an abyss. Standing shivering, trembling and helpless upon the dreadful brink, he recoiled with horror. He was not



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(Hanging Bronstein)

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

ignorant enough to be indifferent. The terrible shock of his condemnation had in some sort broken here and there that dark veil which separates us from the mystery of things beyond, and which we call life. Through these fatal breaches, he was constantly looking beyond this world, and he could see nothing but darkness. The priest showed him the light. Though filled with terror, he went to his death believing in his salvation.

AND NOW—

When he had finished his prayer, one of the priests said: "Gentlemen, this man condemned here to death has requested me to say one word to you. He says that he forgives all and he asks that all forgive him. He is perfectly satisfied with his sentence. He has asked in vain for mercy from a human court and now—" then the trap was sprung and the body shot down through the opening in the floor. The fall was eight feet and death was instantaneous. What thoughts passed through this man's mind as he felt the platform beneath his feet giving away, must have been horrible; perhaps his mind was gone, the spring of his brain snapped.

As the body reached the end of the rope, a mighty jerk bounced the body in the air and then it hung with but little motion; a slight circular swinging was all; no convulsions or writhing was perceptible, showing that death came swift and sure. At the end of fifteen minutes the corpse was cut down and the body removed to the city hall, where, lying in a coffin, hundreds of people viewed it. A puffiness and bluish tint below the eyes was all that distinguished the body from that of any other dead person.

DOCTORS DISAGREE.

After the body had been taken to the city hall, a dispute arose among the physicians as to whether his neck had really been broken or not, and they took the corpse from the coffin and cut the head nearly off to examine the spinal column. The vertebrae were not broken and for this reason one doctor said the neck was not broken. The spine was dislocated, however, even though the bones were not broken, and death was caused from a broken neck and not from strangulation. The man might have died of fright, however, but that is unlikely.

Bronstein was cheerful in the morning. Hopes of a commutation of sentence buoyed his spirits up and he seemed to be indifferent as to his future. He slept like a log the night before and was awake at 6 o'clock in the morning. He had breakfast consisting of a biscuit, a piece of cake and a cup of coffee. Dinner was served him before the execution and he was cheerful up to within an hour of the fated moment.

THE DRAMATIC SCENE.

The execution took place at the north side of the county court house. A plat of ground thirty-two by fifty feet had been fenced off by a pine board stock-

ade made of half inch boards and sixteen feet high. Spectators entered the front door of the building, their cards of admission were punched by a guard and they passed through the hall and into the yard. The scaffold was built up against the wall of the building and consisted of a raised platform eight feet above the ground level, and about eight feet square with a railing around it. Above was a beam four inches square from which hung a rope one-half inch thick. This rope was tied to the beam, wound about it eight times and been dropped through an augur hole in the beam.

Below the rope was a hinged door, four feet square held in place by a leather strap. This strap was cut by a sharp chisel at the proper time by Sheriff Kelly and the trap door flew open letting the doomed man drop through the hole.

The scaffold, indeed, when it is prepared and set up, has the effect of a hallucination. We may be indifferent to the death penalty; and may not declare ourselves, yes or no, so long as we have not seen one with our own eyes. But when we see one, the shock is violent, and we are compelled to decide and take part, for or against. The scaffold is the concretion of the law; it is called the avenger; it is not neutral, and also does not permit one to remain neutral.

AN IMPRESSION.

He who sees it quakes with the most mysterious of tremblings. The scaffold is a vision. The scaffold is not a mere frame, the scaffold is not a machine, the scaffold is not an inert piece of mechanism made of wood, of iron, and of ropes. It seems a sort of being which had some sombre origin of which we have no idea; one would say that this frame sees, that this machine understands, that this mechanism comprehends; that this wood, this iron, and these ropes have a will. In the fearful reverie into which its presence cast the soul, the awful apparition of the scaffold confounds itself with its horrid work.

The scaffold becomes the accomplice of the executioner; it devours, it eats flesh, and it drinks blood. The scaffold is a sort of monster created by the judge and the workman, a spectre which seems to live with a kind of unspeakable life, drawn from all the death which it has wrought. Thus the impression is horrible and deep.

The court house square was crowded with people, the trees were full of curious folks and the stockade was crowded. Before 11 o'clock, Sheriff Kelly came out on the balcony of the building and addressed the crowd gathered there. He said that he had heard that an attempt would be made by those who had no tickets of admission, to tear down the stockade. "If this is attempted, I will take the names of the parties and present them to the grand jury. The first man, or men who try to tear this stockade down, I will do my best to send you to the pen. I believe this should be public but the general assembly has decided different.

I talked to the governor Saturday and he said to take the names of any who attempt this and present their names to the grand jury. If it happens, I will do my utmost duty if it is against the wishes of all Clark county."

INSIDE THE STOCKADE.

There was no attempt made, however, at violence, although there was a large crowd outside of the stockade. The spectators were admitted at 11:30 and the execution took place at 12:30. Inside the fence the crowd stood and laughed and joked each other until the execution took place. There were six cameras leveled at the scaffold. The ground was sloppy, but the sun was shining brightly when the trap was sprung. The crowd acted anything but like a gathering to witness the death of a fellow man. The majority of them seemed to think it was a pleasing entertainment gotten up for their pleasure and benefit.

Sam H. Mitchell, the sheriff of Schuyler county, came upon the platform before the prisoner was brought out and addressed those present. He asked that when the man appeared on the scaffold that everyone inside the stockade would uncover, the same as if they were in the presence of God Almighty. He said: "You are in the presence of death; don't for a minute speak or cheer, but uncover your heads as a mark of respect to this man. This is indeed a solemn duty, but when we take the oath of office, we must carry the law out, so let us have order as though we were in the most sacred house of God." His words were heeded, for when Bronstein was carried to the scaffold, every head was bared and they were kept bared after the lifeless body was hanging suspended by the rope.

REPRIEVE REFUSED.

Attorneys J. A. Whiteside, Mose Dawson and Ben Smith were with the governor of Missouri for several hours doing their utmost to influence him to commute Bronstein's death sentence to one of imprisonment for life, but they failed in their mission and the message never arrived that was expected by the condemned man. There were five sheriffs at the execution: Kelly of Clark county, Mo., Davis of Scotland county, Mo., Mitchell of Schuyler county, Mo., Tucker of Lee county, Iowa, and Helm of Hancock county, Ill. Deputy United States Marshal John McCormick of Keokuk was also present.

KILLED HIS WIFE.

The crime for which Bronstein gave his life was that of killing his wife. On March 12 of last year Bronstein and his brother-in-law were at Williamstown in Lewis county, Mo., and had spent the day in drinking. Bronstein went to his wife's home in Clark county, five miles northwest of Williamstown, where she was making her home with her mother, Mrs. Rowe. He met his wife at the door and after some words with her, he shot her three times with a revolver, one bullet entering her eye and causing her death in three hours. He then threatened to



shoot himself and went behind the house and fired one shot. A slight flesh wound on his forehead was the result, although he afterward claimed that this wound was made by his wife with a shotgun and that he killed her in self defense. Bronstein was married once before, but his first wife left him. He and his second wife had been married fourteen years and were the parents of four children.

The grand jury of the April term of court, 1898, brought in a bill charging him with murder in the first degree and the trial was set for April 21. and continued two times until at last the case was tried on Monday, June 20. The attorneys for the defendant were J. A. Whiteside, S. Tall and Eli Gwynne and those for the state Prosecuting Attorney C. T. Lleyellyn, Ben Smith of Clark county, and George Davis of Lewis county. The twelve men selected as jurymen were as follows: John Hanslow, foreman; Robert Crow, James Harkness, Wesley Yolton, G. L. Grayson, S. W. Jester, Joe Hasle, Noel Woodruff, Joe Northrup, Eugene Ferguson, Corey Cheney, S. E. Leslie.

#### PLEADED INSANITY.

The counsel for the defense labored hard to have their client acquitted on the insanity plea, but the counsel on the other side worked just as earnest to have him convicted as charged in the indictment. The evidence in the case closed on the afternoon of Thursday, June 22, and Friday afternoon the attorneys closed their argument and the jury took the case. On Saturday morning at 7:30 Judge McKee was handed the following verdict:

"We, the jury, find the defendant guilty as charged in the indictment, murder in the first degree.

[Signed.] "JOHN HANSLOW,  
"Foreman."

On this verdict Judge McKee sentenced him to be hanged on Friday, August 12, 1898. The case was appealed to the supreme court of the state but that august body at its January session, 1899, confirmed the decision of the lower court and fixed the day of execution March 9, 1899. Two weeks before this date Governor Stephens issued a respite suspending the sentence and execution to May 8, 1899.

#### ESCAPED TWICE.

Twice had Bronstein made escapes from the Kahoka jail. The first time was December 23, when he ran a foot race with A. G. Townsend, his jailer, and got away, but was recaptured in Lewis county three days later. Again on Friday, February 5, he escaped together with Charles Case, another prisoner, by digging out under the jail wall. They were both captured the next day.

Since the organization of the county in 1835, Bronstein's execution by law is the first in the history of the county. John Baird who murdered James Whiteford, near Athens, October 8, 1860, was granted a change of venue to Lewis county and was publicly hanged,

near Monticello, May 10, 1861. For the murder of the Spencer family in Folker township, August 3, 1877, William J. Young was hung at his home, near Luray, by a mob October 29, 1879. John E. Bryant, who shot and killed Elijah Lee at Alexandria October 6, 1886, was sentenced to be hanged but afterwards the sentence was commuted to life imprisonment.

#### FROM KEOKUK.

Those from Keokuk who witnessed the execution were John McCormick, H. H. Craig, Edward F. Carter, Ed. S. Lofton, John Vogt, J. A. Whetstone, Wm. Dooley, Tim Hickey, Richard W. Wood, W. F. Foote, Henry Sells, Ed. Woolley, John Tumelty, Isie Carwalho and Will Henneman.

The corpse is to be buried this afternoon at Kahoka by the state unless some of the dead man's friends claim it, which they had not done yesterday. The hanging of Bronstein will remain to those who witnessed it as a most horrible sight and a spectacle not soon forgotten.

### The Gate City. MAY 11, 1899.

E GATE CITY COMPANY,  
KEOKUK, IOWA.

#### MAN WHO HANGED BRONSTEIN.

Sheriff Kelly of Clark County Comes  
to Keokuk and Gives  
His Ideas.

Sheriff Kelly, of Clara county, came to Keokuk yesterday with his father-in-law, Mr. Lovelace, who has a serious eye disease and came over to consult an oculist.

A representative of The Gate City asked the sheriff who officiated at the Bronstein execution how it feels to be compelled to hang a man. Sheriff Kelly said that in the first place he is a firm believer in capital punishment for cold blooded murders, and in the next place he had no doubt of Bronstein's guilt. Hence he did his duty without any qualms, feeling that the law is right, and he is but an instrument of the law. If he had had a doubt of Bronstein's innocence, he said, he would have resigned before hanging a man that might be innocent.

Sheriff Kelly is a plain man of few words but a face that shows him to be capable of any deeds that become necessary in the line of doing his whole duty. He is modest, quiet and reserved, and of great native courtesy, and looks exactly as if he would hang without an emotion a man that should be hanged, and die fighting to save a man that should not be injured. There has been much talk of his feelings in the Bronstein matter, and this is the first publication of what he says about it.

### Constitution Democrat. FEBRUARY 8, 1899

## BERNSTEIN ESCAPED.

The Man Under Sentence of Death  
for Wife Murder Digs Out.

It Is the Second Time That He Has Gotten  
Away From the Peculiar Kahoka

Jail Which Seems  
Unsafe.

Bernstein who deliberately and brutally murdered his wife and is under sentence of death for the crime escaped from the Kahoka jail again Monday morning early.

The other time he ran a race with the janitor, each going around the building in a different way, and Bernstein keeping on. This time he took a convenient shovel and dug out through the floor of his cell which had a hole in it big enough for a man to crawl through.

Another prisoner went with him, and one had to remain because he was too big to get his body through the hole, which was hard on the poor fellow, especially as it was so easy for the others. The man who stayed was Bupps, the man under arrest for criminally assaulting a woman and nearly killing her. The other man who escaped was named Case and was jailed Saturday evening for breaking into railroad cars at Tama, Mo.

The discovery that the birds had flown was made at 3 o'clock Monday morning, and the sheriff was immediately notified. The two men, with Bupps also, were in one cell and the sheet iron floor was perforated with a hole when they were placed there. The hole was near the wall of the building, and a fire shovel was conveniently near in some place.

The men dug down where the hole was in the sheet iron and made a tunnel reaching under the wall of the jail and up on the outside to the surface of the ground. Then they crawled through the tunnel and hurried away.

Case, the alleged car thief, was caught at 5 o'clock Monday morning near Revere on the Santa Fe railroad and brought back to Kahoka. The sheriff and his deputy continued the hunt for Bernstein. The latter was thinly clad and the officers reasoned that if he did not reach some of his friends soon he would freeze to death before he got out of the country.

The idea that Bronstein would strike for his friends south of Kahoka for refuge from the cold and hiding till he could get away turned out to be correct and he was caught at 10:30 o'clock Monday forenoon 8 miles south of Kahoka walking along the road. Before noon he was back in his cell with one of his feet frozen.

Of course the capture was made by Constable John McCormick. He was out

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(Hanging of Bronstein)

BRONSTEIN - 3



in that section and at once went to work energetically in aid of the sheriff in the search for the convicted murderer. His scent seems to have been

the keenest, and he picked up the escaped convict the same morning that he escaped.

# BRONSTEIN WAS FIRST LEGAL VICTIM OF ROPE

Constitution-Democrat. — MAY 10, 1899.

Held His Nerve Until Just Before the Execution, Then He  
Broke Down Completely, Having to Be Carried to  
the Scaffold, Fainting Several Times.

## THE MURDERER'S NECK WAS BROKEN.

Doomed Man Became Hysterical at the End, Moaning and  
Crying Piteously, Making a Horrible Spectacle Be-  
fore the Drop Fell, But Died Without a  
Struggle in a Few Minutes After  
Trap Was Sprung.

Kahoka, Mo., May, 8.—Special to The Constitution-Democrat.—Fred Bronstein was hanged here today for the murder of his wife.

The drop fell at 12:30 and the man did not struggle, his neck being apparently broken.

The stockade was completely filled by about 250 people.

Many kodaks were used.

The crowd inside was orderly but outside the stockade the people several thousand in number, jeered and howled at times.

The stockade was surrounded by trees which were filled with boys and men, and others had climbed to the top of the stockade but all were ordered down by Sheriff Kelly, who threatened arrest. They obeyed.

Father Cooney went to Bronstein at 10 o'clock and remained until the last, accompanying him to the scaffold.

Father Brandt also came home and was with the doomed man to the end.

Bronstein was very game all morning but toward noon he broke down completely and cried and moaned piteously.

Bronstein fainted about noon and required a physician's services.

Sheriff Davis of Scotland county, made a speech asking the spectators to be orderly and to uncover when the prisoner was brought on the scaffold.

In the presence of death he asked the crowd to respect the solemnity of the occasion and the demands of the law by refraining from unseemly conduct. His requests were observed.

At 12:24 the march to the scaffold begun.

Two priests came first, then Bronstein, carried by Sheriffs Kelly and

Davis.

He was almost unconscious and was held up while Sheriff Helm and John McCormick pinioned him.

### A HORRIBLE OBJECT.

He fainted again and was a horrible object.

The noose was adjusted by Sheriff Kelly and the black cap pulled down.

The priests prayed and Bronstein prayed all to take warning, and said: "Oh, God! Oh, God! Have mercy on me. Everybody pay attention to me. Oh, God! be with me!"

Father Brandt said: "This man asks me to speak for him. He is satisfied with his fate. He forgives you all and asks you to forgive him. He has applied in vain to a human court for mercy and now goes to a higher one."

### THE DROP FALLS.

At these words the drop fell and the law was vindicated.

He was cut down 14½ minutes after the drop fell, faint pulsations being perceptible until then, although his neck was broken at once.

The crowd cut the rope in pieces and carried them away.

### THE GALLOWS.

The scaffold was erected at the north door of the court house. It was in an enclosure about 32 by 50 feet, surrounded by a stockade sixteen feet high. Around the outside and about twelve feet from the ground was a foot board for the guards. Sunday there were vague rumors that this stockade would be torn down by the crowd eager to see the hanging. The scaffold was fifteen feet high. Eight feet from the ground was a platform seven and a half feet square, reached by steps from the court house door. In the center of

the platform was the trap, three feet square and made of two trap doors. The cross tree was seven feet above the platform and the rope was fastened to this. It was so adjusted that the body would drop about seven feet, swinging about a foot from the ground, and with the head under the level of the platform.

Sheriff Kelly and his assistants have given everything careful attention. The sheriff arrived home from Jefferson City Sunday noon, where he had delivered six prisoners at the penitentiary. He has been a busy man, but never too busy to be obliging and courteous. He had been flooded with requests for tickets, but refused most of them by necessity. One woman wrote for a ticket for her thirteen-year-old boy and several women asked for tickets for themselves.

The law requires that a stockade be built if the execution is not inside a jail, and provides that no one under twenty-one years of age may witness a legal hanging.

### BRONSTEIN'S LAST HOURS.

Sunday night was rainy and stormy until 7 o'clock.

Bronstein passed the evening as he had the day, conversing with his guards and the few visitors that ventured out.

The stars came out and he looked on them for the last time. The crickets in the grass of the court yard chirped mournfully. There was a solemn stillness but for this, yet the man's nerve was unbroken.

He went to sleep, a little after midnight, and slept until 5:45 o'clock. His slumber was undisturbed save that once or twice he stirred uneasily and threw out his arm.

At last the night came to an end and Bronstein's last day on earth dawned, dark, gloomy and forbidding. Some slight changes were made in the gallows which stood outside, the naked timbers showing stark, grim and ghastly in the damp and gloomy air.

Here, was where the pitiless law demanded vindication. The man who had violated divine and human laws was drawing near his fate.

He ate a small breakfast, some cake, a biscuit and a cup of coffee.

His spiritual adviser had been called to St. Louis to dedicate a church and Father Cooney of St. Patrick, Mo., took his place. He came and prayed with the doomed man and went away, returning later and leaving again at 8:30 promising to return some time before the execution.

His spiritual adviser wished Bronstein to place his children in an orphans' home, but he directed that they be left where they are.

### THE DEATH WARRANT.

Sheriff Kelly read the death warrant to Bronstein at 8 o'clock, but it seemed to make no impression on him. His manner was almost cheerful. Father Cooney left word to admit no one but those Bronstein wished to see and the guards, William Caskey and Joe Kelly, saw to this.

The Constitution-Democrat reporter send word to Bronstein and the latter

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came to the door and called him in. The reporter was with him for about fifteen minutes. His first words were: "Well, I guess they're going to do it."

"It looks that way," said the reporter, "but you have some good men working for you at Jefferson City and they'll hang on until the last minute."

"I know, but I'm afraid they can't help it now," said Bronstein.

#### THE BLACK NECKTIE.

He said his nerve was strong yet. The sheriff brought in a black alpaca coat and necktie. Bronstein expressed a desire to try it on, but showed an aversion to the necktie, saying he would not wear it.

"Even that don't scare me," he said, indicating the coat.

He looked out of the window and tapped on the glass at a man whom he recognized in the crowd, beckoning to him. He paced nervously back and forth in the small room, now and then making some ordinary remark.

A friend called and said that Hon. J. A. Whiteside and Moses Dawson had an audience with the governor from 8:30 to 12:30 o'clock.

Bronstein said he had no hope of executive clemency, but "I'd stand up and laugh at everyone if my sentence is commuted."

Bets were made Sunday that Bronstein would not hang.

#### THE GOVERNOR REFUSES.

The sheriff arrived at noon and said the governor had said that of eight executions to occur soon in Missouri the Bronstein case is the worst, and it would take a strong plea to change him. This changed the general opinion.

At 11 o'clock all hope of executive interference was abandoned.

#### THE ROPE TESTED.

The scaffold was tested and the new three-quarter inch hemp rope stood the strain.

As the reporter said good-bye, Bronstein said "Don't forget to come back."

Although the roads are in fearful condition, there are many teams in town and more are coming.

#### THREATS WERE MADE.

Threats are made that the stockade or palisade will be torn down, but the authorities anticipated no trouble.

#### SUNDAY WITH BRONSTEIN.

The death watch was set on Bronstein a week ago. He was then removed to the jury room on the second floor in the southwest corner of the court house. Since then he has never been left alone, one or more guards being constantly with him. He has been given every liberty not inconsistent with safe keeping. People by scores have visited him and he seemed to enjoy seeing them. A Constitution-Democrat reporter spent about two hours with him Sunday afternoon and had an opportunity to observe him closely. He talked freely, but avoided all mention of his crime, and the guards would not allow questions regarding it put to him. He is a man of medium size, five feet, seven and a half inches tall,

weighs 140 pounds, and seemingly was in good health. He had dark, almost black hair, a heavy brown mustache and heavy eyebrows. He had a weary look and his brow was always wrinkled with an anxious expression. When unoccupied, he would nervously play with a cigar, a pencil or piece of paper. His eyes sought the floor or gazed with a distant look out of the window. He seemed downcast, but in reality was not greatly so, for at times he would burst into a hearty laugh at some remark of a guard or a visitor, greatly to everyone's surprise. He talked of people he knew and asked with interest about acquaintances and friends.

His nerve was phenomenal, but there were those who thought they could detect a braggadocio about him, that would be lacking at the final moment. The Constitution-Democrat reporter remarked that he seemed to have strong nerves and he replied:

"Nerve—there isn't a man in the country has steadier. Feel that arm." And he stretched it forth. There was not a quiver of a muscle. "Why, I walked all over that thing (the scaffold) yesterday and today I went and looked at it and it didn't affect me any more than it did you."

"Will you keep your spirits up when the time comes?" asked the reporter.

"I will if I feel as I do now," was the reply.

"Do you hope for interference from the governor?" was the next question.

"You can't ever tell about that," he said. (His guards said that for several days their prisoner had abandoned hope.) "I have some good men talking for me in Jefferson City now."

"Do you sleep well?" queried the reporter.

"I go to sleep as soon as I go to bed and rest well. This morning I didn't wake until the breakfast bell at the hotel across the square sounded."

"Do you have a good appetite?" asked the newspaper man.

"Only fair, but I never did eat very much," was his reply.

"Do you have any clergymen visit you?" was the next question.

"Yes, Father Brandt comes to see me, but he went away yesterday. I am a Catholic now. I used to be a Lutheran, but became a Catholic within the last few weeks. I am a Christian. I believe it is a good thing and helps me. It can do no harm anyway."

"Do you have many visitors and do they bother you?" asked the reporter.

"Oh, yes, lots of people come to see me and I like to see them. They help me to keep up."

"Do they treat you well here?"

"Yes, they treat me all right. They give me everything I want. Mr. Caskey there (one of the guards) wants to give me lots of things I don't want."

Here Bronstein showed the reporter a collection of cigars, candy, cake, and fruit brought to him by visitors.

"Oh, I'm not dead yet," he said. "I've got till tomorrow noon, who knows how much longer?" All Sunday people streamed in and out of the jail. Several hundred must have vis-

ited him, and a large majority of them were women and children. He was careful to shake hands with everyone, and seemed especially interested in the children. Ten little girls came in at once and sang several Sunday school songs and afterwards they spoke pieces, all of which seemed to greatly interest him. Now and then he would sink into an apathetic state and a distant look would come into his eyes, but he would spring another surprise suddenly by joining in the conversation. One old lady told him she was seventy-one years old and her husband ninety-two years old. He seemed impressed and several times after she had gone remarked that both of them had lived long lives. His guards say that except for his two escapes he has been a model prisoner. He could hear the carpenters working on the gallows and asked to be taken out Saturday to see it. He said it wasn't made just right but would do.

#### BRONSTEIN'S VERSION.

From a man who has been much with the prisoner and has gained his confidence, the reporter learned Bronstein's version of the murder. He said that three or four years ago his mother-in-law asked him to live on her farm of eighty acres and keep her in comfort. He agreed, but before a year she notified him to quit. He went and staid away a year, during which time his

wife became quarrelsome. They finally made friends again and went back to Mrs. Rowe's on the same terms, but before another year she served him with another notice to quit. He rented a farm and from that time he and his wife quarreled constantly. One day he was going to Williamstown and his wife said she would go to her mother's with the children and return the next day, which was Sunday. He agreed, and when Monday and Tuesday came, he became uneasy. He went to town that day and a man said, "Fred, you're having lots of trouble. I hear you and your wife have separated." "Not that I know of," he said. He then went home and searched the house and found all her clothes and those of the children gone. He then got a man to go and see her and she sent word she wouldn't live with him again. He then went to town and got some whisky and a revolver. He felt the liquor, but was not drunk, he said. He went home and after thinking awhile, went to see her. He asked her if she would live with him and she said she wouldn't. "Then," he said, "something got to boring on top of my head, and honest, but God be my judge, before I knew it I had her dead. I helped put her in the house. I killed her and I'm sorry for it, but I can't remember where nor how." He repeated this story a week or so afterward.

Every visitor shook hands with him and said "Good-bye Fred." He didn't seem to be affected but returned to the next.

Bronstein had one brother and left four children, three girls and a boy, ranging from nine to fifteen years old.

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# STORY OF THE CRIME.

The crime for which Fred Bronstein today paid the extreme penalty of the law was one of the most brutal and cold blooded ever committed in northeastern Missouri. Indeed, the positive evidence of it, the horror caused by it led a jury in Clark county to find him guilty of murder in the first degree, a crime the penalty of which is fixed by law as death. This was the first time in the history of Clark county that this has been done, and the execution today was consequently the first legal hanging in the county.

The story of the crime is unreheved by anything that would tend to mitigate its utter brutality. A man shot his wife down in cold blood and the law demanded his own life in payment for that which he had taken. The figures in the tragedy are not surrounded by any halo of romance. Instead their lives were the usual hard work-a-day lives of poor people in northern Missouri. Education and its consequent refinement were almost unknown to them. Poverty had set its cold hand upon their hearts. The only warmth and joy their natures knew was the mutual love of husband and wife, and when that was extinguished life degenerated to mere existence, hope and joy fled, aims were lost and misery, unrest and discontent wrecked the home that only these circumstances differentiated from thousands of others in all parts of the country. Now, as the result of a moment of violent passion, a mother lies in the little Missouri cemetery, a father is dead by the dread demand of relentless law, and four children are orphaned, never again to know a mother's love, and always through life to remember the shame and dishonor of their father's death.

The story of the crime is given here as it was secured from one whose part in bringing the murderer to justice was most prominent. He told the tragic story of Fred Bronstein's life as it was developed on the witness stand during the trial. He was born near La Grange, Mo., on March 4, 1852, and, as his name indicates, was of German descent. He lived in his native town for many years, his entire boyhood being spent there. At no time in his life has he been considered bright. As a boy he worked in a tobacco factory. He never had schooling of any appreciable extent, either through neglect or a lack of opportunity because of poverty. He was married in La Grange to a woman who he mistreated, and who afterwards left him because she said he had threatened to kill her. He then drifted to St. Louis and, for a time, contemplated enlisting in the regular army, but for some reason, he did not do so. He came back to Lewis county and worked on a farm.

About fourteen or fifteen years ago, he was married to Amelia Jane Rowe, who lived in Clark county near Williamstown, a country village, just over the line in Lewis county. From that time on, they lived in that neighborhood, part of the time in Clark, but

principally in Lewis county. He was always a tenant, never owning his farm, although he had a team. His judgment was bad and he was improvident, and with these disadvantages, combined with poverty, he struggled to support his family, consisting of his wife and four children. According to the testimony, he was peaceable and law abiding but of a sullen, melancholy habit of thought. One of his relatives described him as "sullen and mean, but not insane."

For about four years before the crime, he lived in the woods on the North Fabius river in Lewis county. He farmed and worked for the neighbors. During this time his domestic relations were not at all pleasant, and in February, 1898, his wife, after much persuasion and on condition that she return the next day, got his permission to visit her mother who lived with her son about six miles north in Clark county. She accordingly left in the wagon taking all her children with her. While thus left alone, a friend named Carlin, who had no home at that time, "bached" with him. His wife did not return and kept the team for about two weeks. The eldest boy then took it back and walked home to his grandmother's. The man Carlin had an old revolver but no cartridges. On the night of March 11, 1898, Bronstein borrowed this for the purpose of securing ammunition. The next day, he went to Williamstown and secured the cartridges. While in town he saw his brother-in-law, who told him about his children and asked why he did not go to see them. His wife had given two of them to the neighbors where they might find good homes. Herein some claim to find his motive, saying he had the impression his children were being bound out. After a lunch with his brother-in-law, the latter went home, and Fred went to his mother-in-law's house.

This was near the center of an 80 acre field. It was peculiarly constructed, the main part having two rooms and about two feet south of the east end of this was another building of one room. Bronstein rode into the field and up to the house, where he called to his wife. She came to the door and he asked if he could see his children. She assented and asked him in the house. Just then her mother called and asked who was there and the wife answered that it was Fred. He dismounted and, without tying his horse, went to the door. He asked if she was going to live with him again and she replied that she never would. He then pulled his revolver and shot at her but missed. She did not turn back into the house, but ran by him into the main house. He fired as she passed him but missed again. He then followed her and fired into the house missing a third time. She then ran back, either past him or out of another door, to the west door of the south house, where she had met him as he rode up. Here he caught her and with his left hand held her up against the casing of the door, while with his right hand he fired again, the ball striking in the

internal angle of the right eye. She sank down dead, with her feet on the stoop and her head on the ground while a pool of blood oozed from the wound.

The crime was so brutal and the murderer so persistent in his chase of the doomed woman that mitigating circumstances seem to be entirely lacking. He walked up and down in front of the house with his revolver in his hand, while his wife weltered in a ghastly pool of blood. Her mother, a woman of 72 years old, came to the door and asked if he would help carry her into the house. And he and the grief-stricken mother carried her inside the house and laid her on the floor. Meantime, the eldest girl ran to the neighbors for help. There was some testimony to show that he fired after her but this as not fully verified. The neighbors were slow in coming and while walking up and down, he declared he would kill himself. Mr. Rowe replied that he should not do it there, that he had killed enough around there. He reloaded his revolver and going on the other side of the house, discharged it once, but no one saw him. He came back to Mrs. Rowe and giving her his pocket book, again said he would kill himself, and that there was sufficient money to bury himself and his wife. He rode away about 50 yards and returning, asked for his pocket book, saying he was going to Monticello to give himself up.

County Attorney Llewellyn of Clark county heard of the crime within an hour and a half and telephoned to the sheriff of Lewis county at Monticello and to the prosecuting attorney at La Grange to have Bronstein arrested. Late that night he received word from Monticello that the sheriff had found him coming in to give himself up and had taken him into custody. He made no resistance whatever. Meantime a physician reached the Rowe home in less than an hour but could do nothing for the woman, who was already growing cold. She was buried the next day in Providence cemetery, and the next Monday the body was exhumed and the coroner's inquest held. The verdict was in accordance with the facts herein related.

In April, 1898, the grand jury found an indictment against Bronstein, charging murder in the first degree and on June 22, following the trial began. It lasted about a week. The prosecution was conducted by Hon. C. T. Llewellyn, county attorney of Clark county, assisted by Geo. R. Davis, county attorney of Lewis county and Mr. Ben Smith of Kahoka. The defense was conducted by Hon. John A. White-side, who had associated with him Eli Gwinn. The defense was insanity. The case was given to the jury at 10 o'clock at night. At midnight they went to bed and after a short session in the morning, reported in court before 9 o'clock with a verdict of guilty as charged in the indictment. The law fixes death as the penalty for murder in the first degree. The convict was sentenced to hang August 12, but a stay was granted, pending appeal to

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## BRONSTEIN WAS FIRST LEGAL VICTIM OF ROPE

the supreme court. It came before this tribunal at the October term and in November it affirmed the decision of the circuit court, finding no error. March 9 was set for the execution, but the governor extended the time sixty days until today, when the law exacted its penalty from the murderer.

The presiding judge was Circuit Judge E. R. McKee of Memphis.

Since March 14, 1898, Bronstein has been confined in the county jail at Kahoka. He has twice escaped. He was an exemplary prisoner and had come to be regarded as a "trustworthy." He was allowed to carry out cinders from the jail but was constantly under guard. Just before last Christmas he was engaged in this work and asked the guard if he could go in by a coal hole and meet the guard at the cell doors in the cellar. This was permitted and the guard passed around the building, into the front door, and down to the cells, where he failed to find Bronstein. The latter had crawled out of the coal hole and made off. He was found the next day, twenty miles away in Lewis county at the home of a nephew, where he had walked. The owner of the house was away at the time and Bronstein took possession. He was re-arrested by the sheriff of Lewis county and made no resistance.

Again, early in February, 1899, during the severe cold weather, he and a prisoner named Case tunneled under the south wall of the jail and made their escape. They removed a portion of the cell floor, and dug a tunnel, burning the dirt in the stove. They went out late at night. The murderer started back to his Lewis county home but was captured five miles south and west of Kahoka by John McCormick, deputy sheriff and constable. The other man was caught also and is now serving a two years' sentence for jail breaking.

Early in the present year, a brother of the convict, Wm. Bronstein, of La Grange, applied for a reprieve, presenting petitions with 200 or 300 names of the most prominent citizens of Lewis county. In addition letters asking for commutation from the death sentence to life imprisonment poured into the governor's office. Not many Clark county citizens signed the petition. Bronstein's brother was aided by John A. Whiteside, Senator Dowell and Representative MacRoberts. The governor put them off by asking for letters from Prosecuting Attorney Llewellyn and Circuit Judge McKee. Mr. Llewellyn declined to give a letter as he believes the death penalty a just one in this case if it ever is. Judge McKee also declined. Mr. Llewellyn has been through the case three times, before the coroner's jury, before the grand jury and at the trial. He has had the praise and admiration of the people for his able and unswerving devotion to his duty, however unpleasant it may have been to him.

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=, MARCH 8, 1899. =

## GRANTS RESPITE TO BRONSTEIN

Jefferson City, Mo., March 2.—Governor Stephens has granted a respite to William Burns, sentenced to be hanged at Benton on March 30. The respite is until May 29, 1899, and is granted in order to give the attorney for the condemned man time to prepare an appeal for a commutation of the sentence.

The governor also granted a respite to Fred Bronstein, under sentence to be hanged in Clark county on March 9, until May 9, for the same reasons assigned in the respite granted to Burns.



# THE A. H. T. A.

THE ANNUAL CONVENTION NOW  
IN PROGRESS IN THIS CITY.

Over Two Hundred Delegates Present  
at the Morning Session—A Historical  
Paper on the Aims and Purposes  
of the Organization.

## MORNING SESSION.

The annual meeting of the members of the Anti-Horse Thief association is now in progress in this city. The convention was called to order at 10 o'clock this morning at the court house, with President Suter in the chair. Organization was effected and the report of the committee on credentials received. There were over two hundred members in attendance from the states of Iowa, Illinois, Missouri and Kansas. After the usual preliminary business had been transacted the session was adjourned until 1 o'clock.

## Historical.

The following article setting forth the aims and purposes of the Anti-Horse Thief association is from the pen of G. N. Sansom, of Kahoka, Mo:

The question is often asked, what do these anti's amount to and what are they? I will endeavor to explain some of their advantages, their origin and progress. In the first place they were styled Vigilants. This is not the old Vigilance committee. The anti's are a body of men banded together for the protection of person and property, to assist in the enforcement of the civil law; not to take the law in their own hands, by any means, but to aid civil officers to enforce the law and to see that thieves and rogues are brought to justice and made to feel the weight of the law. In no case have the anti's been known to take the law in their own hands, but to assist the officers to bring criminals to justice after they have been captured by the anti's; and I will say that but few of them escape their vigilance, and they have been the cause of hundred of thieves and violators of the law getting their just deserts. That is why the great hue and cry is raised by certain parties against this noble order. This organization is aimed to be composed of the best men of the community. Do not understand me to say there are no good men outside the order. There are many whose religious views keep them out of any secret order. A lack of knowledge of the designs of the society, age and many conditions may prevent good men from uniting with us. The same might be said of any secret society, for this is a secret order. We meet in secret,

have our secret work for the purpose of recognition, the same as all secret orders. At the same time we welcome all good and honest men to our ranks. We have a grand order which governs the subordinate orders. The grand order meets once in each year to revise the work and transact all business connected with the order. The subordinate orders are chartered by the grand orders or by the grand worthy president during vacation. The grand order is composed of the worthy presidents of the subordinate orders who, by virtue of their office, are members of the grand order, also by delegates sent by the subordinate orders. The grand worthy officers are elected out of the grand order, and consist of a grand worthy president, a grand worthy vice president, a grand worthy secretary, a grand worthy treasurer and a grand worthy marshal, who hold the offices for one year. We now have subordinate orders in Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Indiana and Nebraska.

As to the origin of the order it dates back to September, 1863. The cause for origin in Missouri and Iowa was this: In the latter part of the late war men of both sides became more reckless and desperate in everything, especially in the stealing of horses, cattle, and, in fact, in anything they saw that they wanted. Men would come from Iowa into Missouri and steal and take it back into Iowa, and the Missourians would follow and when they got into Iowa some person would tell them the best thing they could do was to get out of Iowa, and they, being of a timid disposition, would 'git,' and generally without stolen property. And the Missourians would go to Iowa and do likewise, and the forming of the order did more to put down lawlessness of all kinds and bring about a good feeling between the two parties—that is, northern and southern men—than any other plan or means yet adopted, and to get up the best of feelings between Missouri and her sister states.

The first organization was effected in September, 1863. There met at Luray, Clark county, Mo., Daniel Shuler, David Mauck, John Wilson, James Day, H. L. McKee, and Major David McKee, of Clark county; Wm. Eaverhart, Johnathan Longfellow, S. Grant, William Beach and W. Matlick of Scotland county, Mo.; and Jas. McGowen, of Upton, Iowa. They framed the first constitution and by-laws of the society, and adjourned to meet in October, same year, at Millport, Knox county. At that meeting quite a number of the most influential men of Scotland, Knox, Lewis and Clark counties, Missouri, and of Lee, Van Buren and Davis counties, Iowa, were present. I am at present unable to give the names of those present at that meeting, as the papers are not in my possession. After examining the constitution and by-laws framed at Luray, they were taken up, read and adopted section at a time, and the grand order was then organized, and the grand officers elected were as follows: Major David McKee, grand worthy president; Wm. Beach, grand worthy vice-president; Wm. Eaverhart, grand worthy secretary; Wm. Grant, grand worthy treasurer, and H. L. McKee, grand worthy marshal. Major McKee served as grand worthy president for eight years, with credit to himself and honor to the society. I am sorry that I cannot give the names of all the grand worthy presidents up to date. H. L. McKee served several years, and the present incumbent has served five years. The present grand officers are G. N. Sansom, grand worthy president, Kahoka, Mo.; John Ewalt, grand worthy vice-

president, LaBelle, Mo.; C. W. Gray, grand worthy secretary, Acasto; A. A. Hayes, grand worthy treasurer, Kahoka; John Neil, Rushville, Ills., grand worthy marshal. Iowa can boast of some of the best sub-orders in existence, but I must say the same of all other sister states organized.

The order started out weak, with the prejudice of the old vigilants to overcome. Good men for a while were afraid to come into the society, but we have outlived all the prejudice and to-day have 125 sub-orders, with a membership of over 4,000. The next grand order meets in Keokuk, Ia.,

not buy them off, and I do say when the anti's are thoroughly organized they are the cause of more arrests and of bringing more criminals to justice than any other society in existence, for many criminals pass through the hands of the anti's, not to be hung or mobbed, but to feel the fullest extent of the law. Well may all violators of the law fear and dread them. Ask the convicts in the penitentiaries of the states having the organization their opinion of the anti's. Hundreds will tell you if it had not been for the anti's they would not be there; and the reports of many good men are that if it had not been for the anti's their property would not be safe. Now, look over the columns of our police papers, in fact, all newspapers; it is crime upon crime, theft, murder, and the cry of the assassin, coming from all quarters. It is not safe for our wives or daughters to remain at home in our absence for fear of tramps, thieves and murderers—who are all embodied in the name of tramp. I defy anyone to name a section of country where the anti's are thoroughly organized, that has any trouble with tramps, so I would urge the spreading of the order, throughout every state, link by link, and from one solid chain from east to west, from north to south, thus keeping villains at bay or under the eyes of men who are banded together to protect each other and to see that the civil law is dealt out to all. In speaking of the anti's do not think for a moment that I would throw any shadow on our detective associations. We have in the United States as good detective force as the world can boast of. That is Pinkerton, of Chicago, whose fame goes forth to the world unequalled. All farmers cannot get to be Pinkerton detectives, but all good, honest men, whether farmers, judges, mechanic, lawyers or ministers, who are found worthy, can get to be anti's and assist in putting down crime which has grown to such an alarming extent in the United States. So I would say to all honest men: Come to the rescue, organize and help suppress crime.

We will be glad to correspond with anyone on the organization of the society in any state in the union, and will send constitution and by-laws to any parties desiring them free of charge, or answer any question anyone may wish to ask on the third Wednesday in October, 1879, at which time we expect to have over 300 sub-orders, all in the most prosperous condition. I am proud to say we are marching at the swiftness of a "Hiawatha, who outsped his arrow in the race, and made a mile at every pace," and gaining fast in sub-orders, and the society saves thousands of dollars to every county where they are organized, as the anti's get the evidence before they prosecute, and seldom ever fail, as we have the best men in the society to attend to the prosecution, but always on fair square evidence, which can be vouched for by many of the most able judges on the bench to-day. And with a

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(The A. H. T. A.)

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



# THE GATE CITY:

THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 6, '79

## THE ANTI'S.

The Aims and Purposes of the Organization Set Forth.

The History and Growth of the Anti-Horse Thief Order and What it Has Accomplished.

The question is often asked, what do these Anti's amount to and what are they? I will endeavor to explain some of their advantages, their origin and progress. In the first place, they are styled Vigilants—this is not the old Vigilance Committee. The Anti's are a body of men banded together for the protection of person and property, to assist in the enforcement of the civil law; not to take the law in their own hands, by any means, but to

### AID CIVIL OFFICERS

to enforce the law and to see that thieves and rogues are brought to justice and made to feel the weight of the law. In no case have the Anti's been known to take the law in their own hands, but to assist the officers to bring criminals to justice after they have been captured by the Anti's, and I will say but few of them escape their vigilance, and they have been the cause of hundreds of thieves and violators of the law getting their just deserts. That is why the great hue and cry is raised by certain parties against this noble order. This organization is aimed to be composed of the best men of the community. Do not understand me to say there are no good men outside the order; there are many whose religious views keep them out of any secret order. A lack of knowledge of the design of the society, age and many conditions may prevent good men from uniting with us. The same might be said of any secret society, for this is a secret order. We meet in secret, have our secret work for the purpose of recognition, the same as all secret orders. At the same time we welcome all good and honest men in our ranks. We have a Grand Order which governs the Subordinate Orders. The Grand Order meets once in each year to revise the work and transact all business connected with the order. The Subordinate Orders are chartered by the Grand Order or by the Grand Worthy President during vacation. The Grand Order is composed of the Worthy Presidents of the Subordinate Orders, who, by virtue of their office, are members of the Grand Order, also by delegates sent by the Subordinate Orders. The Grand Worthy Officers are elected out of the Grand Order, and consist of a Grand Worthy President, a Grand Worthy

Vice President, a Grand Worthy Secretary, a Grand Worthy Treasurer and a Grand Worthy Marshal, who hold their office for one year. We now have Subordinate Orders in Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Indiana and Nebraska. As to the

### ORIGIN OF THE ORDER

it dates back to September, 1863. The cause for the origin in Missouri and Iowa was this: In the latter part of the late war men of both sides became more reckless and desperate in everything, especially in stealing of horses, cattle and in fact in anything they saw that they wanted. Men would come from Iowa into Missouri and steal and take it back into Iowa, and the Missourians would follow and when they got into Iowa some person would tell them the best thing they could do was to get out of Iowa, and they, being of a timid disposition, would "git," and generally without the stolen property. And the Missourians would go to Iowa and do likewise, and the forming of the order did more to put down lawlessness of all kinds and bring about a good feeling between the two parties—that is, Northern and Southern men—than any other plan or means yet adopted, and to get up the best of feelings between Missouri and her sister States.

### THE FIRST ORGANIZATION

was effected in September, 1863. There met at Luray, Clark county, Mo., Daniel Shuler, David Mauk, John Wilson, James Day, H. L. McKee and Maj. David McKee, of Clark county, Mo.; Wm. Eaverhart, Jonathan Longfellow, S. Grant, William Beach and W. Matlick, of Scotland county, Mo., and James McGowen, of Upton, Iowa. They framed the first constitution and by-laws of the Society, and adjourned to meet in October, same year, at Millport, Knox county, Mo. At that meeting quite a number of the most influential men of Scotland, Knox, Lewis and Clark counties, Missouri, also of Lee, Van Buren and Davis counties, Iowa, were present. I am at present unable to give the names of those present at that meeting, as the papers are not in my possession. After examining the constitution and by-laws framed at Luray, they were taken up, read and adopted section at a time, and the Grand Order was then organized, and the Grand Officers elected were as follows: Maj. David McKee, G. W. P.; Wm. Beach, G. W. V. P.; Wm. Eaverhart, G. W. Secretary; Wm. Grant, G. W. Treasurer, and H. L. McKee, G. W. M. Maj. David McKee served as G. W. P. for eight years, with credit to himself and honor to the Society. I am sorry I cannot give the names of all the G. W. P's. up to date. H. L. McKee, served several years, and the present incumbent has served some five years. The present grand officers are G. N. Sansom, G. W. P., Kahoka, Mo.; John Ewalt, G. W. V. P., Labelle, Mo.; C. W. Gray, G. W. S., Acasto, Mo.; A. A. Hays, G. W. T., Kahoka, Mo., and John Neil, Rushville, Ill., G. W. M. Iowa can boast of some of the best sub-orders in existence, but I must say the same of all sister States organized.

### GROWTH OF THE ORDER.

The order started out weak, with the prejudice of the old vigilants to overcome. Good men for a while were afraid to come into the society, but we have outlived all the prejudice and to-day have over 125 sub-orders, with a membership of over 4,000. The next G. O. meets in

Keokuk, Iowa, on the third Wednesday of October, 1879, at which time we expect to have 300 Sub-orders, all in the most prosperous condition. I am proud to say we are marching at the swiftness of a "Hiawatha, who outsped his arrow in the race, and made a mile at every pace," and gaining fast in Sub-orders, and the society saves thousands of dollars to every county that they are organized in, in any State, as the Anti's get the evidence before they prosecute, and seldom ever fail, as we have the best men in the society to attend to the prosecution, but, always on fair square evidence, which can be vouched for by many of the most able judges on the bench to-day. And with a membership of 4,000, each man constituting himself as one of a body, as it were of detectives, it is impossible for a thief to escape with any stolen property, as we protect all property belonging to a brother of the order, and having the means and influence of the society if it is necessary to keep a committee out twelve months the expense is light. This is why thieves and rogues fear us so much. They know when they get into the hands of the Anti's money will not buy them off, and I do say when the Anti's are thoroughly organized they are the cause of more arrests and of bringing more

### CRIMINALS TO JUSTICE

than any other society in existence, for many criminals pass through the hands of the Anti's, not to be hung or mobbed, but to feel the fullest extent of the law. Well may all violators of the law fear and dread them. Ask the convicts in the penitentiaries of the States having the organization, their opinion of the Anti's. Hundreds will tell you if it had not been for the Antis, I would not have been here; and the reports of many good men are, if it had not been for the Anti's my property would not be safe. Now, look over the columns of our police papers, in fact all newspapers; it is crime upon crime, theft, murder, and the cry of the assassin, coming from all quarters. It is not safe for our wives, mothers, sisters, nor daughters, of any age, even at home in our absence, for the dread of tramps, thieves and murderers, which are all embodied in the name of tramp. I defy anyone to name the section of country where the Anti's are thoroughly organized, that they have any trouble with tramps, so I would urge the spreading of the order throughout every State, link by link, and form one solid chain from East to West, from North to South, and villains are at bay, or under the eye of men who are banded together to protect each other, and to see that the civil law is dealt out to all. In speaking of the Anti's, do not think for a moment I would throw any shadow on our detective associations. We have in the United States as good detective force, I am proud to say, as the world can boast of. That is Pinkerton of Chicago, whose fame goes forth to the world unequalled; also the A. & E. S. S. D. A. of Cincinnati; also the W. D. A. of Versailles, Mo., and a number of others I might add. All farmers cannot get to be Pinkerton detectives, but all good honest men, farmers, judges, mechanics, lawyers, ministers, and men of any station, who are found worthy, can get to be Anti's and assist in putting down crime which has grown to such an alarming extent in the United States. So I would say to all honest men come to the rescue, organize



and

#### HELP SUPPRESS CRIME.

We will be glad to correspond with any one on the organization of the society in any State in the Union, and will send Constitution and By-laws to any parties desiring them free of charge, or answer any question any one may wish to ask relative to the order; will also send full report of lodges, where located, Worthy President's and Worthy Secretary's address in any lodge, as we are not afraid nor ashamed for the world to know who are Anti Horse Thieves. We are proud of the name and of our past record, and are fast growing into a body that will defy villains of any cast. We are willing to work in confidence at any time, with any detective force, to assist them in ferreting out criminals. This is no money making scheme, but for the good of the community at large. Any person wishing any information can address G. N. Sansom, Kahoka, Mo., or any of the grand officers, who will be pleased to answer any communication. Wishing you safety from all perpetrators of crime, admonishing you to stand firm to the civil laws and see them executed regardless of fear or favor, I subscribe myself your obedient servant,

G. N. SANSON,  
G. W. P. A. A. H. T. A.  
Kahoka, Clark Co., Mo.

## THE CONSTITUTION.

By S. H. CLAGETT.

KEOKUK, FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 1876.

### HE TOOK A HORSE.

#### And the Anti-Horse Thief Society Took Him--A Stern and Successful Chase.

We were aware last Tuesday that a horse belonging to J. M. Doyle, living at the four-mile house, was stolen from Judge Moog's place, three miles west of the city, on the plank road, Monday night, but, by request, kept the matter silent in order that the thief might be the more readily captured.

As soon as the theft of the animal was discovered, the anti-horse thief society of Summitville was notified and in an hour, by the watch, the members were in the saddle and off on the trail of the thief.

They followed him into Van Buren county, and when they arrived near Greasy Point, were satisfied that they were close upon his heels. They had proceeded but a short distance further, when they met some members of the anti-horse thief society of Athens, Mo., who had gobbled the man they were in search of, and were returning him. The Athens men turned the rascal over to the Summitville party, who started with him on the double quick for Keokuk. A party from the society consisting of J. L. Walcott, J. M. Doyle, J. J. Brown, and V. B. Walker, arrived in the city about 5 o'clock last night, and lodged their prisoner,

whose name is H. F. Collins, in jail. They then filed an information charging Collins with the theft, and the preliminary examination will be held on Saturday. The society recovered the horse, saddle and bridle, these articles being all, except the halter, that were taken with the animal.

Lee county with such societies as the Summitville and Charleston anti-horse thief organizations, is getting to be a bad place for horse thieves, and it will be made exceedingly warm for all of these rascals who come here to indulge in their thieving propensities, hence, they had better "stop a leedle away."

The Summitville society feel under great obligations to the Clark county society for their prompt action in capturing the thief; also to Messrs. Greenleaf, McKee and their ladies for their generous hospitality.

## KEOKUK CONSTITUTION

KEOKUK, THURSDAY, AUGUST 15.

### The Old Settlers of Clark County

There was a gathering of the old settlers of Clark county, at Waterloo, on the 3d which was an interesting event. The following is a list of the veterans present:

Jeremiah Wayland, 82 years old; has been a resident in the county for 50 years; he is a Democrat.

F. N. Bartlett came to this county 49 years ago, is comparatively a young man; is a Democrat and present candidate for the office of county clerk.

Rev. John Martin, 71 years old; is the father of fifteen children, and has thirty-four grand-children; he served through the late war and is a sound Democrat.

John S. Dumas, aged 77; a native of Kentucky; has lived in this county forty-nine years; is a Democrat.

Joseph McMinn, aged 90 years, the oldest man now a citizen of Clark county; saw Geo. Washington after his second inauguration. Has seen all the Presidents except Grant and Hayes. Is a good dancer and good fiddler has voted the Democratic ticket 70 years.

Isaac Campbell came to the mouth of the Wyaconda in 1821, where he afterward built a mill; is 90 years of age; has been a Republican ten years and is growing very feeble.

Mrs. Sarah Martin, 92 years of age. During the hot weather she carried 20 pounds of wool to the carding machine at Clark City on foot, and spun on two of the hottest days twenty cuts of yarn. She is a Democrat and is the grandmother of about 300 Clark county citizens.

Mrs. Bartlett, the lady on the grounds that had been longest resident in Clark county. She is a Democrat.

There was present also Dr. Mallet of Iowa, aged 94 years; practiced medicine for 58 years; is possessed of all his faculties, and is of a very jovial disposition; did not learn his politics.

Dinner over, Jeremiah Wayland was called to the stand and addressed the eager listeners as follows:

"I am eighty-two years; I came to Clark

county in 1828 on horseback; came to the Des Moines river and liked the country. At that time no one had settled in Clark county. Going back to my home I again returned to this county in 1829 and found three cabins erected—one by Weaver, one by Sullivan and one by Sacket. I put up in a hunter's shanty until I built, and when I raised my home every man in Clark county, six in number, assisted me. These men are now all dead except myself. In that day there was no road and but one path in Clark county. When men went anywhere they put their grubbing hoes in their wagons and made their own road by digging down the banks of the creeks so as to enable them to cross. Our nearest mill then was at Palmyra. The snow fell so deep one winter that when you cut a tree down you could only see the brush sticking out, and where a steer would pass it appeared as if a log had been drawn through the snow. We could not go to mill that winter and had to beat our meal. I sowed the first wheat raised in Clark county, and presented every head of a family in the county with a sack-full. This we could not get ground and we beat it into flour with an iron wedge. \* \* \*

I was on the first grand jury ever empanelled in the county. The court sat at Mr. Hill's. After we were duly sworn, we were charged by the judge to inquire into the lawless acts of the people. We went out and sat down on a log and being unable to find any wrong doing, came back and told the judge that all of the citizens had behaved themselves, and we were then discharged. I will, as suggested by an old friend, relate an occurrence that took place on the Des Moines. The Indians coming down the river would frequently stop at a point near St. Francisville to mend their canoes. One day while some squaws were cooking it was noticed that the pot, suspended on a pole which was supported by two forks, was shaking a good deal. One of the settlers walked to it to ascertain the cause, and upon raising the lid, out jumped a live turtle and made for the river. A squaw gave chase, and seizing it by the tail, after it had reached the water, it was brought back, put in the pot, a rock put on the lid to hold it down, and the cooking went on. Providence has blessed Clark county, and though her people have occasionally needed food for themselves and animals, they have never yet been reduced to absolute want. And here let me say a word about the Indians. I found them a noble people, free from treachery toward us. They were more free from falsehood than our own people; lying with them was a capital offence, for which, when they were detected the third time, they suffered death. In closing, I would refer to the close ties of friendship that bound the early settlers in a common brotherhood. Let us cultivate this spirit, that this friendship, my friends, may hold us together in affection through death unto eternity."

THE GUYTON JUST NEW VALLEY THING  
R. J. PICKEL  
KEOKUK, IOWA



# A.T.A. Will Dedicate Its Monument to Major McKee

SATURDAY, OCT. 2, 1937

(Gate City Tri-State News)

KAHOKA, Mo., Oct. 2—Kahoka will greet delegates to the national and state conventions of the Anti-Thief association here Monday and will continue as host to the visiting members through Tuesday and Wednesday.

Outstanding in the events of the national convention program will be the dedication, Tuesday, of the imposing monument which has been erected on the David McKee lot in Kahoka cemetery, honoring the memory of Major McKee, who in April of 1863, near Luray in Clark county, organized the first Anti-Thief association.

Among the charter members of the order in this county were Major McKee, Judge E. R. McKee, D. N. Lapsley, I. N. Lewis, David Martin, John W. Riley, Joseph McCoy, William Hill, G. N. Sansom, Dan Hull, John Schee and some others.

Major McKee, the founder, was a native of Kentucky who came to Illinois with his parents when he was a small child. They settled near Bushnell and when he was a young man he came to Clark county with members of his family. A prominent farmer of this county, he also took an active part in all important affairs of this community until his death at the age of 72, March 7, 1896.

The imposing monument which will be dedicated to his memory is of Missouri red granite and in a crypt at its base was placed a metal box containing a number of valuable papers, pertaining to the organization and the life of its founder. Cliff Hutton, Hennessey, Okla., national vice-president of the A. T. A., will give the dedicatory address. The convention will be held at the court house.

Among the survivors of Major McKee are the following sons and daughters: E. M. McKee, Spokane, Wash.; Charles McKee, Hermosa Beach, Calif.; Mrs. Alice Huffman, Marshall, Okla.; Mrs. Cora Arnold, El Reno, Okla.; Mrs. Della Pollock, Sterling, Kans.; Mrs. Maggie Arganbright, Cherokee, Okla.;

Mrs. Anna Randolph, Bloomfield, Iowa; Mrs. Celestine Cameron, Arbela, Mo.; Miss Mary McKee, Kahoka, Mo.

The national convention will be held Monday and Tuesday and the Missouri state convention will be held Wednesday.

Another feature of the three days will be "Clark County on Parade," sponsored by the Kahoka Kiwanis club, Kahoka business men, Business and Professional Women, the P. E. O., the Tuesday club, the Junior Tuesday club and the Old Settlers.

Following is the program and those in charge of the various departments of the parade:

Kahoka high school band, 1:10 to 1:30 p. m.

Parade around city square, 1:30 p. m. Mrs. Joe Stevenson and Mrs. Clem White, superintendents.

Doll Show Parade, 2:15 p. m. Mrs. Harry Muhrer, Supt.

Pony Show, 2:45 p. m. K. R. Peterson, Supt.

Baby Show, 3:15. Mrs. S. S. Ball, Supt.

Old Settlers, 3:35. Band stand. S. S. Ball, Supt.

Style Show, 4:00. Mrs. Joe Stevenson, Supt.

Twin Show, Mrs. Mary Thompson, Supt.

Athletics, A. B. Norman, Supt.

Amateur Hour, 7:45 p. m. Mrs. Otis Gutting, Supt.

Window Displays, Mrs. Ed. Weaver, Supt.

Agricultural Window Display, R. N. Nelson, Supt.

Clark County Garden Club Projects, Mrs. Clem White, Supt.

Guessing Contest, Chevrolet Garage.

Combined Garden Club Flower display in park.

The window displays will be in 19 windows on the square.

monies today. The visitors were being cared for in the homes of Kahokans. Many of the meals were being served by ladies of the Baptist church.

The convention opened Monday morning when an address of welcome was given by Mayor John Miller and President Holben made the response.

Incumbent national officers of the A. T. A. are Sydney H. Holben, Edinburgh, Ill., president; Cliff Hutton, Hennessey, Okla., vice president; Charles McDonnell, secretary-treasurer.

Missouri state officers are F. W. Corne, Chillicothe, Mo., president; W. A. Sanford, Galena, Kans., vice-president; F. A. Cornell, Monett, Mo., secretary-treasurer. New state officers will be elected at the state convention, Wednesday.

DAILY GATE CITY  
MONDAY, AUG. 16, 1937

## Major McKee Will Be Honored

(Gate City Tri-State News)

KAHOKA, Mo., Aug. 16.—Concrete for the monument on the McKee lot in Kahoka cemetery, to honor Major David McKee, as the organizer of the Anti-Horse Thief Association, has been poured under the supervision of representatives of the monument company of Chillicothe.

The monument will be dedicated in October when the state and national Anti-Horse Thief associations will convene here.

DAILY GATE CITY

## MONUMENT TO A. T. A. FOUNDER UNVEILED TODAY

TUESDAY, OCT. 5, 1937

KAHOKA, Mo., Oct. 5.—Delegates to the national convention of the Anti-Thief association here today honored the memory of the organization's founder, Major David McKee, by unveiling and dedicating a huge Missouri red granite monument on his grave in Kahoka cemetery.

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Forming at the local public square and led by national and state officers, the procession of delegates marched to the cemetery and there, with National President Sydney M. Holben of Edinburg, Ill., in charge, witnessed the unveiling ceremonies. Vice President Cliff Hutton of Hennessey, Okla., delivered the dedicatory address.

A brief response to the dedication on behalf of the Kahoka, Sub-Order, No. 470 and local citizens was by S. S. Ball. Addresses were also made by Tom K. Smith of Illinois and C. B. Morgan of Kansas.

An election of national officers will be held before the convention closes today. Tomorrow many of the delegates will remain here for the Missouri state convention of the organization.

There were more than 50 delegates enrolled here last night and more were here for the main cere-



Over 100 years old

# Anti-Thief association meets in Kahoka convention Sept. 12-14

The Daily Gate City

KEOKUK, IOWA

TUESDAY, SEPT. 7, 1965 — 9

By Thelma Wells

KAHOKA, Mo.—The Anti-Thief Association meeting to be held here Sept. 12, 13, 14 in conjunction with the McKee family reunion Sept. 11 and 12 is being sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

Gary Dawkins, president of the Kahoka Chamber of Commerce, reports a large crowd is expected at these events. Attendance will include representatives from Iowa, Illinois, Kansas and Oklahoma for this annual convention.

Preparations are being made for around 150 to attend the dinner Sunday evening, Sept. 12, at the Methodist church, for descendants of Major McKee and others. Tickets are on sale by members of the local Chamber of Commerce and anyone may attend.

Registration of the McKee descendants will be at the American Legion hall rather than the library, which place had been previously announced by the chamber.

In the story of Major David McKee, founder of the Anti-Horse Thief Association, published by Hugh C. Gresham in 1937, more history of that association was revealed and date of the organization affirmed.

The following is from the book by Mr. Gresham:

Major McKee, as did most of the early settlers of the Middle West, had some very thrilling experiences during the pioneer days.

He was a clever detective. Living on the border line between Missouri, Iowa and Illinois, he was in a region where horse thieves worked continually. Several times he disguised himself and captured criminals and returned stolen horses.

Mr. McKee returned from California in 1853 leaving San Francisco Dec. 15. Upon his return he conceived the idea of forming an organization for the protection of property, especial-

ly horses, which were the most sought after by thieves of this locality. Accordingly, the next year, or about that time he called a meeting of his friends together at the Highland school house in Jefferson township, Clark county, and organized the first A.H.T.A. of which he was elected it's first president. From this other like organizations sprang up, but owing to an imperfect secret work and the coming of the Civil War, the organization was not very effective.

Returning from the war in 1863, because of disability, he reorganized the A.H.T.A. with the imperfections corrected, as we now have the organization.

He called a meeting at Luray in September, 1863 when a few citizens of Clark and Scotland counties, Mo. and one other from Iowa met there and framed the first constitution and by-laws and adjourned to meet at Millport in Knox county in October. The constitution and by-laws framed at Luray were adopted at this meeting. The meetings of the Grand Order were held at Memphis, Mo., until 1871, when they met at Bonaparte, Iowa October 1873 at Farmington, October 1875 at New London, Iowa October 1876 at LaBelle Oct. 1877 at Augusta, Ill. Oct. 1878 at Keokuk, Iowa, Oct. 1880; at Keokuk and Oct. 1881 at Keokuk. At this meeting the Order was divided into State Grand Orders, the G.W.P.'s of the several states forming a National Grand Order, which met at Palmyra Sept. 20, 1882.

The McKee family names were also given in this book. Mr. McKee was the father of 19 children, seven by his first wife and 12 by his second:

David McKee was born in Sangamon county, Ill., Dec. 14, 1823. He married Martha J. Kee-sucker, a native of Kentucky, Aug. 15, 1841. She died Oct. 25, 1855 in Clark county and is buried at Athens.

Their children were:

Samantha Ann McKee, born Dec. 4, 1842 in Illinois. Her married name was Cameron. She died Sept. 18, 1934. Burial at Kahoka.

William Thomas McKee, born in Appanoose county, Iowa, Oct. 18, 1844. Died at Hutchinson, Kansas. Buried at Nickerson, Kansas.

Henrietta McKee, born in Lee county, Iowa, March 28, 1846. Her married name was Wilson. She died and was buried at Hutchinson, Kansas in 1930.

James Mathias McKee born in Clark county March 12, 1848. Died Dec. 12, 1867, at Anson and buried at Athens.

Celestine McKee, born in Clark county June 18, 1850.

David Perry McKee born in Clark county Dec. 10, 1852. Died Aug. 23, 1935. Buried at Sterling, Kansas.

Lloyd Rollins McKee, born here Feb. 6, 1855. Died Feb. 6, 1891, near Peaksville. Buried there.

On October 18, 1836, Elvira Randolph Breeding was born in Shelby county, Indiana. She and David McKee were married June 1, 1856 in Clark county. Their twelve children were all born in this county:

Alice McKee born March 25, 1857.

Mary McKee born Oct. 24, 1858.

Robert McKee born Nov. 1, 1860. Died Jan. 14, 1902 in Oklahoma City. Buried at Fairlawn cemetery.

Frankie McKee born Oct. 18, 1864. Died Aug. 18, 1866 at Athens. Buried there.

Edwin Musselman McKee and Ettie Laurah McKee (twins) born Jan. 4, 1867. Ettie Laurah died Oct. 4, 1871 at Anson. Buried at Athens.

Charles McKee born Dec. 25, 1868.

Corah Belle McKee born Nov. 1, 1870.

Della McKee born April 14, 1874.

Maggie May McKee born Oct. 6, 1875.

Anna Elizabeth McKee born July 16, 1877.

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Andy McKee born Jan. 24, 1881. Died Feb. 3, 1881 near Winchester. Buried at Sisson chapel.

David McKee died March 7, 1896 in Kahoka and his second wife Elvira McKee died Nov. 3, 1910. Both are buried in Kahoka cemetery.



membership of 4,000, each man constituting himself as one of a body as it were of detectives, it is impossible for a thief to escape with any stolen property, as we protect all property belonging to a brother of the order, and having the means and influence, if it is necessary to keep out a committee twelve months the expense is light. This is why thieves and rogues fear us so much. They know when they get in the hands of the anti's money will relative to the order. Will also send full report of lodges, where located, worthy president's and worthy secretary's address in any lodge, as we are neither afraid nor ashamed for the world to know who are anti-horse thieves. We are proud of the name and of our past record, and are fast growing into a body that will defy villains of any caste. We are willing to work in confidence at any time with any detective force, to assist them in ferreting out criminals. This is no money making scheme, but for the good of the community at large. Persons wishing any information can address N. N. Sansom, Kahoka, Mo., or any of the grand officers, who will be pleased to answer any communication. Wishing you safety from all perpetrators of crime, admonishing you to stand firm to the civil laws and see them executed regardless of fear or favor, I subscribe myself your obedient servant, G. N. SANSOM, G. W. P. A. H. T. A., Kahoka, Mo.

## THE KEOKUK DAILY CONSTITUTION,

JANUARY 25, 1888.

### Clark County, Mo., Historical Items.

From a new history of Clark, Lewis, Scotland and Knox counties, Mo., issued by the Goodspeed Publishing Co., of St. Louis, we gather the following interesting information regarding Clark county:

Jacob Weaver, his wife and five children, who settled near the site of St. Francisville in 1829, were the first permanent white settlers of Clark county. Jacob Weaver, Elizabeth Bartlett and Martha Heywood were the first white children born in Clark county. The first postoffices in the county were established at St. Francisville and at Sweet Home in 1836. Geo. Heywood was P. M. at the former place, and M. Couchman at the latter. The first slave brought to Clark county was "Aunt Cully," by S. Bartlett, in 1829, and she is now at the poor farm, aged 84 years. At the breaking out of the war there were 405 slaves in the county, and 129 slaveholders.

## THE WEEKLY GATE CITY.

Entered at Keokuk Postoffice as second class matter

### Subscription Rates:

DAILY, BY MAIL, 1 WEEKLY.

JANUARY 25, 1888

### Clark County History.

A history of Clark county, Mo., has just been prepared. The Gazette takes from it these items of general interest: "Jacob Weaver, his wife and five children, who settled near the site of St. Francisville in 1829, were the first permanent white settlers of the county.... John Weaver, Elizabeth Bartlett and Martha Heywood were the first white children born in Clark county.... The first postoffices in the county were established at St. Francisville and Sweet Home in 1833. George Heywood was postmaster at the former place and M. Couchman at the latter.... The first slave brought to Clark county was "Aunt Cully," by S. Bartlett, in 1829, and she is now at the poor farm, aged 84 years.... At the breaking out of the war there were 405 slaves in the county and 129 slave holders."





DELEGATE

29th

Annual Session

A.H.T.A.

Oct. 12-13th.

Windsor, Missouri

1910

# YOUNG TALKS.

The Man Indicted for the Spencer Murder  
Speaks for Himself.

He Undertakes to Account for the Goods  
--And Thinks the Bottom Will  
Drop Out of the Whole  
Darned Thing.

[Kahoka Democrat.]

While at the court house Monday we got the keys that opens the door to the basement and went down the steps into the cellar, where Clark county preserves those whom she knows to be, and also those whom she assumes to be, offenders against law. Going up to the heavy iron door the prisoner saw and recognized us, and coming forward thrust his fingers through the bars to shake hands, and at the same time remarking, "I was just writing to 'Natty' Davis to take care of some business for me at Luray."

Question—Your confinement here leaves your business in a bad condition does it not?

Answer—Yes; I cannot attend to anything.

Q—The air is damp and offensive here. How is it that they did not give you a chance to get out at the recent term of court by trying your case?

A—I don't know; I know nothing about the postponement; my lawyers did it and said nothing to me about it.

Q—This will be a bad place through the summer—don't you think so?

A—Yes; I don't know how I will stand it; it will kill me I expect; but I will do the best I can.

Q—How have you been getting along so far?

A—Been sick nearly all the time. Been down with the fever.

Q—How long have you known Detective Lane?

A—The first time I ever saw him, to know him, was about three weeks before I was arrested.

Q—Is the report that he worked for you on the farm true?

A—No, sir; it is false.

Q—Was he ever 'round peddling soap?

A—No, that is just like all the rest of the d—d reports they have started.

Q—Your son has returned, has he not?

A—Yes, and I was never so glad to see any one. You see, that set who have put this job up on me, had got around the boy, and by telling him that I'd never give him anything and that he could do so much better at such and such places, got him to run off.

Q—How did he learn that you was arrested?

A—He saw my picture in the *Police Gazette*. No, I am wrong. He saw an account of a Young being arrested and wrote back to Luray to inquire about it. His letter was sent here and we telegraphed to him to return. We also sent a man after him, but before either the man or telegram reached him he saw the *Gazette* and came.

R—When was Lane first at your house?

A—He first came there with Walt Brown and was introduced to Laura.

Q—Did he ever call to talk with you before your arrest?

A—No. (After some further conversation, Young said:) They have been doing everything against me. Did you notice that just before my case was before the grand jury they took a fellow up to see if he would not identify the goods found at my house as those of the lost peddler?

Q—Where did you procure those goods?

A—I bought them of a peddler named O'Connor or O'Bannon, or something like that. I paid for them with two notes for \$150 each. Jesse Swisher saw me buy the goods, brought the peddler to my house and took him away, and Bill McDermott here bought the peddler's notes, and he will tell you so.

Q—What about the report that a grave was found on your place?

A—There is a grave on my place, or was. My little girl that got burned to death was buried there.

Q—Where was her grave situated?

A—She was buried two hundred yards north of my house, but was taken up last summer and placed in the cemetery. Since this case come up they have been running over my farm hunting graves almost constantly; but I don't care; they may dig ten feet deep over every foot of it and they won't find anything.

Q—Mr. Young, just before the last political campaign you thought you had a clue to the Spencer murder. Did you follow it up? Did you find out anything?

A—No. I think I might have found out something, but I told ———, and they said they would attend to it.

Q—Did they?

A—I don't know. You see I tried to find out all I could; and many of the expressions I have made were made by agreement with the Antis. It was understood I was to use these expressions to find out things.

Q—Well, I hope you may have a fair trial.

A—Well, if I can only get that I am not afraid but that it will all come out right. If they would only let me out of this place I would feel better. I have offered to pay for guards—offered to do any thing to get out. I offered to give any sum as bail.

Q—But you are not charged with a bailable offence, are you?

A—Judge Wilson said that I was. He has known many instances of it.

Q—Is Judge Wilson going to assist in your case?

A—If it ever comes up for trial, I guess he will, but somehow I think the bottom will drop out of the whole d—d thing some of these days. There are too many in it. I don't think it will ever come up for trial.

The sheriff had by this time handed the prisoner a good dinner, to the enjoyment of which the man of the pencil piously left him.

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# Building of railroad put Wayland on the map in the early 1870's

(By Dorothy Pickett)

When William Hagerman, migrated from Ohio to Clark County, Mo. in 1854, he selected, as a spot for his future home, a tract of land which was eventually to become part of the present site of Wayland. At the time there was only one farm house in the area, the John Hubbard place.

A few settlers arrived from time to time, building a home here and there, but a town was not founded until the early 1870's, at the time of the building of the Keokuk and Western Railroad.

## Stanley home

The Honorable P. S. Stanley built the first dwelling in the town proper and he was also the first railroad agent. The station itself was originally housed in a box car. A Dr. Jester built and operated the first store.

Since 1854 the Hagerman family has lived in or near Wayland — Louis H., son of the early settler, William Hagerman, was born on the original farm place. His son, Otho, was born near-by and still lives just a mile or so south of Wayland.

When the railroad company was negotiating construction of the line, several of the settlers put in bids for the sale of a piece of ground for the station. Otho Hagerman has in his possession a sheet of ruled paper, yellowed with age, on which was written a letter from A. C. Goodrich, general manager of the company located in Keokuk, dated June 6, 1872 at 12:40 p. m., addressed to his grandfather. The contents disclosed that the company could not accept the Hagerman site, intimating that too big a price had been set.

## Named for Jeremiah

Instead, a plot of ground was purchased from Morgan Cooper. Mrs. Cooper was a



VIEW OF WAYLAND'S MAIN STREET IN 1900—Horse and buggy at left were owned by White Yates.  
—Photo courtesy of Otho Hagerman.

"Wayland" before her marriage, so it is thought that the family name would be a suitable one for the new town, in honor of Jeremiah Wayland, founder of near-by St. Francisville.

Before a post office was established in Wayland, the residents had to go to St. F. for their mail.

One of the earliest construction projects recorded in the area, other than the log cabin homes, was the building of a covered bridge over the Fox River at Wayland in 1858. This river, with its circuitous course, touches the outskirts of Wayland at three different spots.

## Fox River Baptists

A grain warehouse was built just after the railroad was completed and the first grain was brought there in 1875. This is still a leading industry of the community.

Early settlers attended services at the Fox River Baptist church for it was not until 1878 that Wayland had a church of its own — it was a Methodist church.

At one time Wayland had four general stores, two millinery stores, three doctors, two dentists, two hotels and a boarding house; two grain elevators, a pickle works, broom factory, tomato canning factory, two drug stores, and several blacksmiths.

The railroad provided work for many maintenance men, and was also the focal point of a substantial shipping business — grain and livestock.

Names still remembered by some of the old timers are those of the smithies, Lew Taylor, R. M. Gaines, John Thresher and the Stuttenburg Brothers. Early merchants included H. L. Long, Stamper and Fleming and the stage Mercantile Co., managed by R. Hand.

Today, Wayland is without its hotels and millinery stores; the shrill whistle of the railroad engine is not heard, there are no great manufacturing plants, but it still has its original aura of friendliness, three churches, several active civic and social organizations, a bustling grain elevator, and retail establish-

ments ... all of which are surrounded by some of the finest farm land in northeast Missouri.



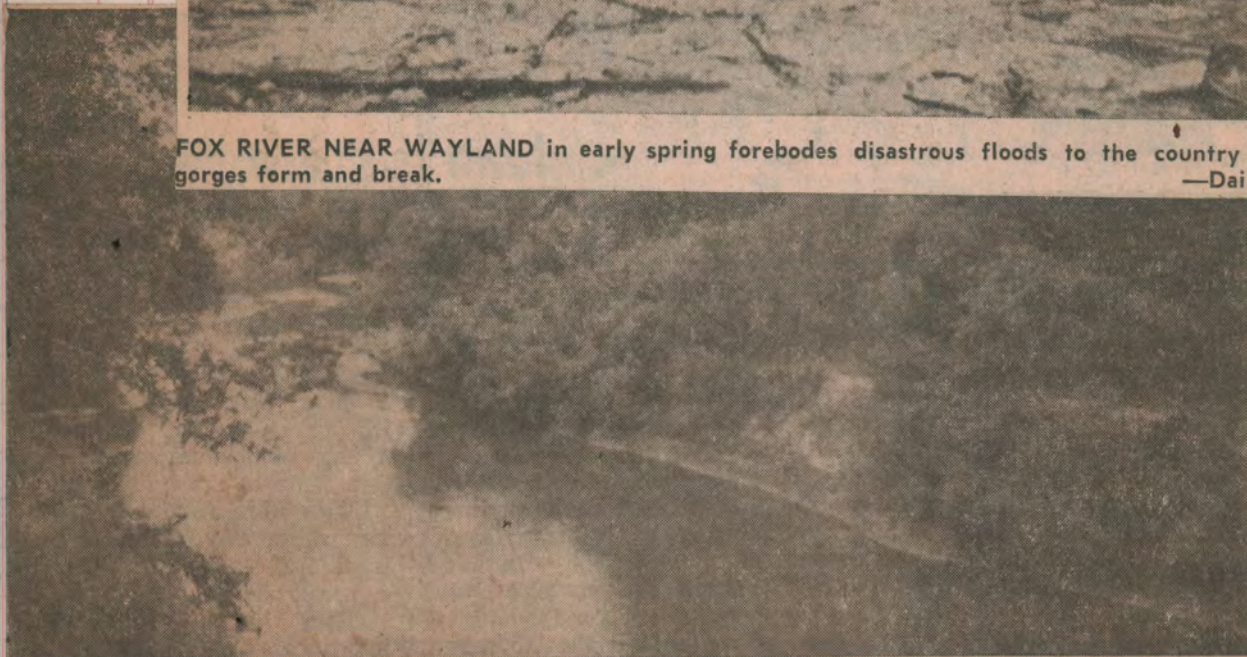


WAYLAND'S MAIN STREET TODAY



FOX RIVER NEAR WAYLAND in early spring forebodes disastrous floods to the country side as huge ice gorges form and break.

—Daily Gate City Photo



But in midsummer is a fisherman's paradise.

—Daily Gate City



# PIONEER'S DAUGHTER WROTE ABOUT EARLY 18TH CENTURY LIFE NEAR SITE OF WAYLAND

*Mrs. Harriet Wayland Sniveley  
Penned Article At Age of 82*

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article was written for publication by Mrs. Harriet Wayland Snively on March 20, 1908. The author died fifteen and a half months later, on June 4, 1909.

A copy of the article has been preserved by Mrs. Anna Lonis of Wayland, Mo., through whose courtesy it is republished via the Gate City's Wayland Tri-State News Correspondent.

JAN. 29, 1938

By HARRIET WAYLAND SNIVELY

A few lines from me may be of interest to your many readers, concerning some early history of Clark county. I was born in Shelby county, Kentucky, on Jan. 27, 1827, and came to Clark county, Missouri, in 1832, where I have since resided.

My father located and built a cabin near where T. J. Spurgeon now lives, a short distance south of Wayland. (The reader should bear in mind this article was written in 1908.) Our neighbors were William Henshaw, William Bartlett, George Haywood, Samuel Bartlett and Jerry Wayland. Jerry came here in 1829.

## Established First Church.

The country was wild and the blue grass high as a horse's back. The first church ever established in the country was the Fox River Baptist church, near the Rev. George Beard farm. I was one of the members who organized that church and am the only survivor. That church was the father of all the Baptist churches of Clark county and was constituted in 1834.

The farming of the pioneer was not very extensive, yet we raised corn, potatoes, pumpkins, etc. The pumpkins were fine and we traded them to the Indians for things the settlers needed.

## Knew Chief Keokuk.

The Indians gathered at our place, some 40 in number, to dry pumpkins. Great strings of pumpkins were dried and braided and stowed away to feed the papooses during the winter when the men could not get out to hunt. One old squaw said she dried 700 pumpkins.

Indians were expert counters. They counted in numbers of ten.

Five tens, "sickacaloo"; and ten tens, or 100, "nickatwack."

Many a time have old Chief Keokuk and Chief Blackhawk taken bread from my hand. It was a pretty sight when Chief Keokuk came to pay us his last farewell. He was dressed in citizen's clothes, with black breeches, white stockings and pumps (or slippers) and a piece of red calico thrown over his shoulders. Some half a hundred Indians on ponies accompanied him.

The Indians also thought a great deal of Uncle Jerry Wayland.

## Went Miles for Groceries.

Markets were few and we had to go to Canton or Palmyra to do our trading.

Most all the settlers here at that time were Kentuckians, and among the number was a cabinet maker, Thomas Sawyer, who kept in stock a supply of seasoned walnut lumber from which he made coffins when needed.

On what is known as the Roberts farm on the bluff was established the first school and it was attended by children from miles around. The first store in the county was set up at the present site of St. Francisville, by one Stakes, who kept a few groceries, tobacco, ammunition, etc.

## Enough for Her.

Later the Francis church laid out St. Francisville and also a part of Alexandria.

The country settled rapidly and the frontier was soon turned into a thriving community.

All may talk of going to new country that want to, but for me—I have seen enough of early settlement life.



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



DAILY GATE CITY

# SITE OF OLD FORT PIKE IS NOW MARKED

JUNE 22, 1933

Clark County D. A. R. Memorialize  
Old Fort Which Was Located  
At St. Francisville

KAHOKA, Mo., June 22.—Another historical site in Clark county was marked on June 18 by the Clark county chapter D. A. R. It was marking the site of Ft. Pike which was located at St. Francisville, Mo. The historical facts concerning Ft. Pike were collected and compiled by Mrs. Emmet Wayland of St. Francisville, Mo. At the outbreak of the Black Hawk war some of the settlers feared an attack from the Indians so the women and children were taken to Tully and Palmyra for safety, while the men returned to till the field. In May 1832, Gov. John Miller began to prepare for the anticipated attacks of the Indians by issuing orders to the generals commanding Missouri militia to hold themselves in readiness to respond to a call. On May 25 he ordered Gen. Richard Gentry of Columbia, Mo., to raise 1,000 volunteers for the defense of the frontiers of the state. Afterwards a mounted battalion of the Seventh Division under Gen. Ben Means was raised from Pike and Ralls counties, consisting of a company from each county. The company from Pike county was commanded by Captain Mace. Their headquarters were at Palmyra, Mo., and from there the Pike county company marched to the present site of St. Francisville and there built a fort which they named Ft. Pike. The company busied itself the first weeks with scouting, picketing and fort building. There was plenty of timber at that time and great logs were felled to form the fort which was built with logs standing upright, as close together as possible, then chinking the cracks. Ft. Pike had a sort of underground story or basement for the foundation this was topped by another story which jutted out over the lower one to prevent the savages from firing the fort without considerable danger to themselves as the soldiers within could look down and see them if they tried such a trick. A tall log stuck up through the middle from which the roof poles radiated in the shape of an umbrella. The fort was large enough to contain the whole company in comfort.

But little use was made of the fort as a means of protection since no hostile enemies showed themselves. Inaction palled on the soldiers soon after the fort was completed and being volunteers they asked leave to return home and tend their crops. This privilege was granted and two companies under the command of Captain David Hickman of Boone county and John Jamison of Calloway county were sent to relieve them. These companies left Columbia on

## Old Slave House Still Stands

### KEOKUK DAILY GATE CITY



JAN. 15, 1938

#### REMINDER OF PRE-EMANCIPATION DAYS

(Gate City Tri-State News)

ST. FRANCISVILLE, Mo., Jan. 15.—On the new gravel road in St. Francisville, a few blocks south of the Des Moines river bridge, stands this old brick slave house, probably the only one remaining in Clark county. It was built by Jeremiah Wayland for his slaves and had two rooms with a passage between them. This passage was later boarded up to make a third room.

One of Mr. Wayland's slaves was "Aunt Ann", a cook, who outlived her former master and made her home in Kahoka after his death.

Another who was known throughout the county, was "Old Dummy." This faithful slave was born deaf and dumb in Virginia and brought to St. Francisville by Mr. Wayland, whom he served until the latter's death, working as "housekeeper and valet" after the emancipation. After Mr. Wayland's death, he lived in Kahoka, and later became a model ward at the poor farm. He died when he was about 100 years old, leaving a reputation of always having done his work cheerfully and willingly.

July 9, 1832, under the personal command of Major Thomas Conyers of the first regiment, accompanied by General Gentry. They arrived at Ft. Pike on July 15, 1832. Here finding that there were no hostile Indians about nor any likelihood of attack, General Gentry returned to Columbia, arriving July 19. Major Conyer's soldiers remained at Ft. Pike with supplies of forty barrels of flour, two hogsheds of bacon, four barrels of whisky and a hundred bushels of corn. From the list of food the men planned to live well. The fort was only occupied a short time as the term of service for the men expired early in August, so on August 2, another company of volunteers under command of Captain Sinclair Kirtley left Columbia for Ft. Pike and Captain Hickman's company thus relieved reached Columbia August 14, there to be disbanded. Major Conyers remained in command of Ft. Pike. In the meantime, however, the battle of Bad Ax marked the close of the war and soon after the formal end of the war came. Captain Kirtley's Boone county company stationed at Ft. Pike was the last in the field and it was disbanded at Columbia, September 22, 1832. Hon. George K. Biggs who, afterwards served in the Missouri legislature was a soldier in the ranks of Ft. Pike and he returned later with his family to make a permanent settlement in Clark county.

The fort stood for many years and was used for many purposes and was always an historical landmark. No vestige of it now remains, although some who are living today can remember seeing the decaying logs which marked the original site. Exactly where the fort stood is a matter of debate but it is entirely fitting that a commemorative stone and marker should be placed somewhere near the location which was on the Des Moines river. The marker was unveiled with appropriate ceremonies, conducted by the regent, Mrs. Guy Hummell of Kahoka.

The last meeting of the chapter will be held at the home of Miss Marjorie McLachlan with Miss Alberta Collison and Miss Jess Watson assisting, on July 23, 1933.



## ST. FRANCISVILLE ODD FELLOWS HALL IS RAZED



THE KEOKUK DAILY GATE CITY

MONDAY, DEC. 11, 1939 - Gate City Staff photo

No longer needed as a meeting place, the I. O. O. F. hall at St. Francisville, Mo., was razed last week by a crew of men working for Richard Swanson who purchased the building. The well-constructed two-story building was erected in 1906 but its usefulness ended last September when the local Odd Fellows, Lodge No. 16, surrendered their charter to the Grand Lodge after an existence of nearly 75 years. Sills under the building were formed from large walnut timbers. The above picture shows workmen cleaning up last remains of the lumber after the hall was torn down.

### THE KEOKUK DAILY POST.

D. REDDINGTON. GEO. REES. BEN. F. DODSON,  
POST COMPANY.

D. REDDINGTON, W. F. B. LYNCH  
JAN. 10 EDITORS. 1857

SATURDAY MORNING.

For the Keokuk Post

Keokuk and Kansas City Railroad  
--- Meeting at St. Francisville.

At a meeting of the citizens of St. Francisville, held at the Mansion House, in that place, Dec. 29, 1856, for the purpose of considering the best means to promote the interest of the proposed Railroad from Kansas City to Keokuk, and also to determine what we, as citizens, will do in the matter.

On motion, G. M. Ochiltree was elected Chairman, and E. C. Hyde, Sec'y.

The following preamble was then read and unanimously adopted:

Whereas, The citizens of Clark county Missouri, in view of their interests, and the interest manifested by the different counties on the proposed route where meetings have been held, and feeling and knowing that the interest of said road requires that it should cross the Des Moines river at this place, have met and pledged themselves to use their influence and means in promoting the interests of said road, provided said road does cross the Des Moines river at St. Francisville.

On motion, it was unanimously

Resolved, That this meeting appoint a committee of three to wait upon the originators of this proposed Railroad, and ascertain their views and purposes.

Messrs. Cave, J. Hancock and N. Smith were appointed that committee.

On motion it was

Resolved, That a subscription of \$200 be pledged by the citizens of St. Francisville towards defraying the expenses of furthering the undertaking.

On motion, the meeting adjourned to

meet at the public school house, on next Saturday evening, at 7 o'clock.

JANUARY 3rd, 1857.—Pursuant to adjournment the citizens met at the School house. G. M. Ochiltree in the Chair.

Minutes of last meeting read and adopted.

Report of committee appointed by previous meeting read, and on motion unanimously received.

On motion it was unanimously

Resolved, That the Chair appoint a Committee of eight, whose duty shall be to correspond with all parties interested, select and employ some suitable person to act as our agent in looking after, and advancing our interest and the interest of the proposed Railroad in Jefferson City.—Said Committee to remain as a permanent committee for the above specified purposes, and to use all means in their power to further the prosecution of this road.

The Chair then appointed the following named persons said committee:

H. H. Fore, C. O. Sanford, C. C. Wolf, John Hancock, Nathan Smith, F. N. Bartlett, and Robt. McKee.

On motion it was

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the Chairman and Secretary, and published in the Keokuk and Alexandria papers.

On motion the meeting adjourned *sine die*.

G. M. OCHILTREE, Ch'n.  
E. C. HYDE, Sec'y.

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



# On His 86th Birthday-**THE GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION** **ST. FRANCISVILLE MAN RECALLS HIS TRIP** **WEST AND SOME HARDSHIPS OF PIONEER DAYS** **MARCH 30, 1940**

(Gate City Tri-State News)  
ST. FRANCISVILLE, Mo., Mar. 30—Recovering from his first illness in nine years, Thomas F. Zane, the second oldest resident of St. Francisville, quietly celebrated his 86th birthday yesterday in his home here.

From that hill-top vantage point he looked out over the fertile valley of the Des Moines river with its beautiful background of Iowa bluffs. Spread out before him were several farms which he had tilled during his 51 years spent in this community—and through his vivid memories he recalled pioneer days when life was less secure.

Mr. Zane, who claims relationship to Author Zane Grey and says that the town of Zanesville, Ohio, was named for a relative, was born March 29, 1854, on a farm in Salem county, N. J., the fourth child in a family of 10 reared by his parents, Thomas C. and Catharine Layton Zane.

He was named Thomas for his father; but two uncles, one named Flannagan and the other Fox, both wanted him named for them. The middle initial "F" was added to please them both.

## **Came to Iowa.**

Educated in the New Jersey common schools, he married Annie Lynn on January 19, 1876, and they settled on a farm in New Jersey. Here the first three of their nine children were born and in 1881, they heeded Horace Greeley's advice and decided to move westward. At Philadelphia, they purchased emigrant tickets to Farmington, Iowa, at \$16 each.

The train trip was arduous, even with the then-swift wood-burning engine eating up the miles, but the family finally reached its destination and settled on a farm between Bonaparte and Farmington. After a few years of Iowa farming, the west again beckoned, and Mr. Zane loaded his family and possessions into a covered wagon which he headed toward a Nebraska homestead.

They first settled in York county, but a short time later moved to Broken Bow which then consisted of one store and a blacksmith shop.

Their 240 acre farm was 25 miles from a railroad and they lived in a "soddy" house, on the roof of which a lone coyote sometimes perched for a nocturnal howling party.

## **Lose Nebraska Homestead.**

After several years of drought, during which they could not raise enough feed for their livestock, they were quite discouraged. Even in a good crop year, the prices were so low that the schoolhouse was heated all one winter with Mr. Zane's corn as fuel. Coal, which had to be hauled several miles, cost 35 cents a bushel and Mr. Zane sold his corn to the school for 16 cents a bushel.

One day Mrs. Zane took butter to town and was offered only eight cents a pound for it. Disgusted, she told them she would rather "take it home for soap greas" than sell for that.

Along with many other homesteaders, Mr. Zane finally lost his Nebraska acreage through mortgage foreclosure following the drought years.

In the meantime, Mr. Zane's parents had moved to Clark county, Missouri, and in 1889 they persuaded their son to come to St. Francisville's rich bottom land and start over again.

After renting several different farms around the community, Mr. Zane bought his present acreage in 1902. Plans were made for several years to build a new home there and the lumber was finally contracted for, when, in 1917, three of the Zane youths were called to serve in the World war. Mr. Zane said that "if my boys have to sleep in trenches, the old house is good enough for me," and postponed building the new home.

In 1922, with his sons back safely from the war, Mr. Zane saw his dream come true and the residence was erected. In this home, on Jan. 19, 1926, Mr. and Mrs. Zane celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Despite the fact that mud was so deep that it was necessary for them to come on horseback or in high-

wheeled wagons, 70 guests were present for the reception. Mrs. Zane died 18 months later, in June of 1928.

## **Thriving Community.**

When the Zanes came to St. Francisville, it was a thriving community. The school employed two teachers and both rooms were filled with pupils, possibly 100 compared with today's 14. Many pioneer families lived here then, the trade and agriculture flourished.

Mr. Zane has eight living children; five sons, John of Alexandria, O. W. of Wyaconda, and Levi, James and Waldo of Santa Barbara, Calif.; three daughters, Mrs. Eva Jones and Mrs. Lillie Davis, both of St. Francisville, and Mrs. Elizabeth Timmerman of Santa Barbara, Calif., as well as 10 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. A son, Elmer, one of the three who served in the World war, died in 1930 of injuries received during the war.

Mr. Zane has remained active up to his recent illness, milking a cow twice a day and doing other farm chores. His mind and memory are clear. His family is rejoicing that he was well enough to enjoy the beautifully decorated birthday cake, with its icing greeting of "Happy Birthday, Grandpa," from Mrs. Edward Jones, 418 A street, Keokuk.



# St. Francisville Mo. is rich in early Clark county history

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The Daily Gate City

12 — KEOKUK, IOWA

MONDAY, OCT. 17, 1966

SPEED  
ZONE  
55

ST. FRANCISVILLE

from the Wolf cemetery which dates back to 1838.

In the early days there was a thriving port and steamboats plied the Des Moines river. There was a packing house, a distillery, academy and many stores.

## Population 1100

At one time the town could claim four churches, a weekly newspaper, two saw mills, two stove and tinware stores, two brick yards, two wagon makers and one plow maker.

The average price of land was ten to forty dollars an acre and the population was 1100.

The river could be forded in times of low water by teams and a ferry boat was

By Marcia Buss

Autumn is a splendid time for rediscovering little towns in the tri-state area that have interesting stories to tell. Such a town is St. Francisville, Mo. a village that was first laid out in 1834 by Francis Church, who named it for himself.

In 1832 there had been trouble with the Indians and a company of soldiers had been sent to protect the few families living there. A fort was built on the Des Moines river which was called Fort Pike. The soldiers stayed for several months but no battles were fought.

## First settlement

Called the first permanent settlement in Clark county St. Francisville can also claim the first church in the county as well as the first school. It is also said that the first white child in Clark county was born just across the road



THIS LOVELY OLD FARM HOME is well over a hundred years old and remains today in the family of its original builders. Called the Wolf home it is now owned by Ralph and Frances Orr. Mr. Orr is a grandson of the builder. His mother, Sophronia Wolf and his aunt, Fannie Wolf were both born in the house. Fannie Wolf Allen was the mother of Mrs. Ralph Schouten and Mrs. Norman Kiedaisch of Keokuk. The house, it is said, was hurriedly completed because of the impending arrival of a new baby, who was later Mrs. Allen.

—Gate City

Oct 17, 1966 - pg #1  
(St. Francisville history)

ST. FRANCISVILLE

"THE GREAT DUSK WHARF CALLED HISTORY"  
"R. J. BICKEL" KEOKUK, IOWA



used up until the beginning of the 1920's. In 1926 the voters of Lee county, Iowa and of Clark county, Missouri voted to erect a bridge over the Des Moines connecting Iowa and Missouri. This bridge now provides a shortcut to Iowa 218 from points in Missouri. A toll of ten cents is collected on automobiles and it is higher for trucks.

Descendants of some of the early settlers are still living in the area including Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Orr, and Roy Campbell. Their ancestors include the Haywoods and the Wolfs.

#### New park

Although some of the stores are gone and the mills, St. Francisville is very popular as a recreation area and the Missouri Dept. of Conservation is now in the process of building a boat ramp and parking area and park just east of the bridge. This project will draw many boating enthusiasts to the river.

For history buffs the first log cabin built in Clark co. may still be seen. It is located in the Des Moines valley north and west of St. Francisville. The D.A.R. has placed a marker in the city park commemorating the site of the early fort.

#### View worth seeing

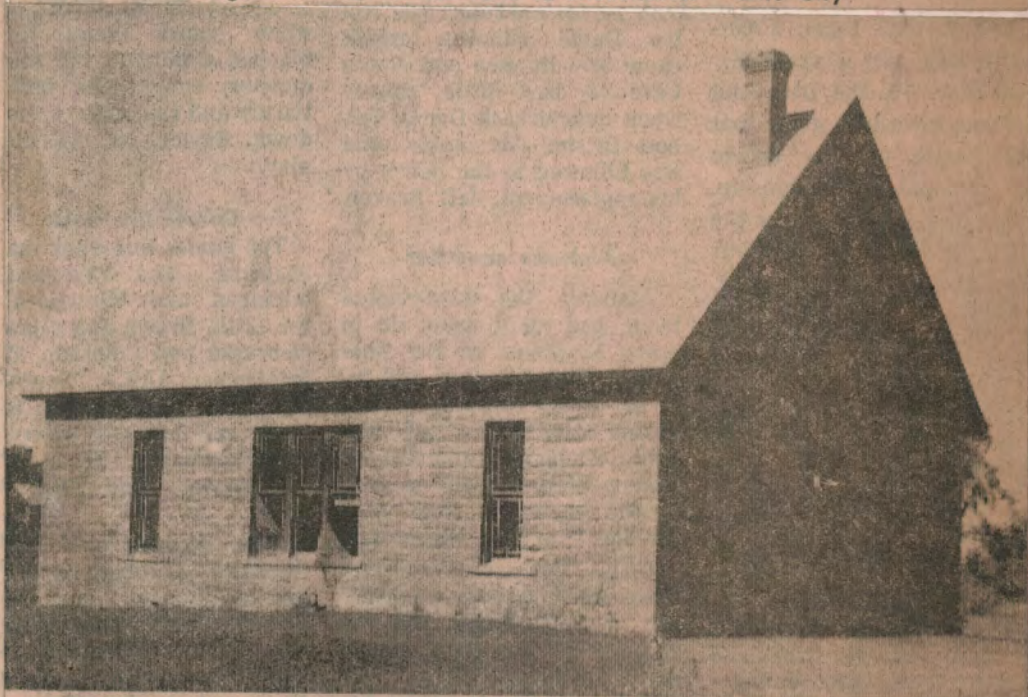
Children are bussed into the elementary school and play at recess in the city park where families still gather for reunions. The Methodist church carries on an active program for both adults and children.

Two filling stations, combined with a restaurant and grocery store serve the community. Many of the residents however either engage in farming or commute to a job in Keokuk or some larger town in Missouri.

The view from the bridge looking west with the foliage a beautiful red and gold is worth driving to St. Francisville to see. The tranquility of the little village is a rewarding change from the noise and hurry of more urban areas.



THE ST. FRANCISVILLE BRIDGE built in 1926 and 1927 provides a shortcut to Iowa 218 for Missouri residents. It also provides a way to Missouri when high water floods the road to Alexandria. —Gate City



THE BAPTIST CHURCH built of native stone was erected in St. Francisville in 1853 by a congregation organized in 1835. It is the oldest church in Clark county but is no longer in use today. —Gate City

Oct 17, 1966 - pg #2  
(St. Francisville history)

ST. FRANCISVILLE



# St. Francisville Rich In History and Soil

The Daily Gate City

Keokuk, Iowa

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 1956

By Angie Hume

ST. FRANCISVILLE, Mo.—

One of the most beautifully situated towns, and one of the oldest in northeast Missouri is St. Francisville—it was a thriving community when St. Louis was a mere village!

Natural scenery surrounding St. Francisville is unsurpassed. The winding Des Moines river serves as a boundary line from the bottomlands of Iowa and adds further beauty to the picture.

Quite likely early settlers were attracted by the many advantages they found so freely offered. At a very early date in the history of the middle west, this pleasant location was home to early pioneers when Indians were still very much in evidence in the area.

## Town Founded in 1834.

St. Francisville was laid out by Francis Church and William Clark on April 9, 1834. (Keokuk was still in its log cabin stage then, too.) Plans for the town contained a public square and 16 blocks. Church's first addition was laid out in October of 1835. His second addition was platted in March of 1836.

Wayland's first addition was laid out by Jeremiah Wayland April 6, 1837. (The name of Wayland is a pioneer one in St. F., still carried down to the present.) Wayland's second addition was platted September 26, 1848. This completed plans for a rather ambitious city.

## Soil is Rich.

Backed by a beautiful bluff, the town of St. Francisville lies on a sandy plain, which runs to the river. Its soil is rich and productive today as it was in pioneer days. Agricultural products flourished with a maximum amount of food being produced with a minimum amount of labor. This condition made it pleasant for all who lived within its borders.

Pioneer life must have been unusually pleasant amidst such ideal circumstances. Quite likely the pioneers went about the business of making a living in an atmosphere of contentment and happiness.

## First Postoffice—1935.

As the town grew in population, the need for communication with the outside world also grew. As a result, the first postoffice was established in the spring of 1835. George Haywood was the first postmaster. The mail, which arrived only once a month, came up over the state road via stagecoach from Lewis county. Each letter cost the receiver 25c.

The second postoffice in Clark county was established at Sweet Home (farther up on the Des Moines river). It was located on what is today the extinct village of Athens, scene of the famed Civil war skirmish. There was a thriving Indian post there.

Vivian Harlan's home, where there are some of the most beautiful pines to be found anywhere in the midwest, is at the top of the bluff that overlooks the site of the old settlement (of Sweet Home) which is now only a name and a memory.

## First Store in County.

The first store to be opened in St. Francisville was operated by Robert Taylor. He was followed in quick succession by Levering and McPherson, Thomas E. Palmer, Robert McKee and Lyon and Garnes. These merchants catered to the public with groceries, dry goods and hardware. Hezekiah Mills made and sold boots and shoes. Samuel Roberts operated a village blacksmith shop; John Bryant and Smith Tinsley were carpenters.

## First School in 1838.

In December of 1838 the county court issued a license to Richard Small to operate the first tavern here (December, so he could provide liquid Christmas cheer to those who

desired.) Early settlers were said to have considered whisky one of the essentials of pioneer life.

Besides having the first stores, the first postoffice, the first tavern, St. Francisville can also boast the first school in Clark county, in addition to the first Baptist church. Joseph Wayland established a school here and was followed by A. M. Faxton. Early teachers, known as "professors" included Piper, Sharon, Jackson, Dinsmore, Welch, Kerrick, McLaughlin and Kelly.

A sawmill was built by John Hancock in 1840 and later converted into a flour mill, later into a distillery. This provided an excellent market for the grain raised in this rich farm area. It thrived for many years, in fact, until after the Civil war.

During the last years Prichett operated a general store here, he engaged in the pork packing business and it was not unusual for three thousand hogs to be slaughtered, packed and be shipped from here. They went mostly to southern markets, by flatboat down the Des Moines, thence south on the Mississippi. Merchandise from the south reached here by the same route.

## Railroads—Then Decline.

The reader may wonder what happened to St. Francisville in the intervening years. It began so prosperously, now is a quiet little village.

The answer is railroads.

When the big iron horses began covering the plains below and above St. Francisville, trade went with them. Then began the decline of St. Francisville. Gradually its population moved away to communities served by the railroads.

## Today—All is Quiet.

Today this beautiful little village is home to a group of fine citizens. It has two churches, a school and a store or two left. The soil is still rich, is still unsurpassed in productivity—as proven by the many fine gardens that produce beans, onions, tomatoes and watermelons abundantly.

As one drives along its quiet sandy streets and looks upon the old buildings which still stand, memory goes back to a hundred years ago and en-

visions scenes that must have taken place in St. Francisville, one of the most picturesque towns of Clark county.

It also reminds one of a basic fact of life—time and change are indomitable forces which, more than anything else, determine our destiny! END





OLD JORDAN INN more than a hundred years old, is a reminder of stage coach days when Garrett Jordan drove the stage from Palmyra to Brookfield, stopping overnight at the Inn.  
—Daily Gate City Photo

## Early years colorful in old St. Francisville

By Dorothy Pickett

Like a page torn from an old history book is the fascinating story of St. Francisville, site of the first permanent settlement in Clark County, Mo. It was in 1829 that Jacob Weaver, with his wife Elizabeth and their five children came to this area, and it is easily understandable why they chose this spot to call 'home.'

Thickly wooded glens, fertile land, and a foreseeable potential of excellent river transportation on the then navigable Des Moines river offered all the necessities pioneers could ask for.

### Faithful slave

Just a few months later Jeremiah Wayland and his brother-in-law, George Haywood, together with Samuel Bartlett joined the Weavers. Their families were wintering in Palmyra but came up to the new site the following spring.

In addition to the above personalities who were so closely associated with the early days of St. Francisville, other colorful characters are mentioned in the community's history. There were Jere-



ST. FRANCISVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH of native stone, built in 1853 was used regularly until recently. Jeremiah Wayland provided most of the money for its construction. —Daily Gate City Photo

miah's faithful slaves who were so carefully provided for both before and after the Civil War. Two of his favorites seemed to be "Aunt Ann" his cook, and "Old Dummy," a blind Negro.

Probably the first slave to set foot on this new frontier was old "Aunt Cully" who came from Virginia and was brought in by Samuel Bartlett. She is buried in the old

Wolf cemetery with her "white folks."

Military personnel were known to the community also — a certain "General Harrison" camped in near-by Marysville about 1820 and 12 years later Fort Pike was erected by Captain Richard Mace near the spot which later became the center of the town.

An early diary recalls that

Chief Keokuk was a frequent guest in St. Francisville. On his last visit to his white friends he is described as "dressed in white man's style — black suit, white stockings, slippers and a piece of red calico for a cape".

In an entirely different category might be mentioned Nathan Smith, described as a lucky gambler" who arrived on the scene about 1850. Displaying great riches he offered "Jerry" Wayland his weight in gold for Wayland's land holdings. When Jerry refused, Smith purchased land across the road and built himself a big stone house, which probably was the show place of the town at that time.

The first store in the community was opened in 1833 by John Stakes, with stock of "powder, lead, tobacco, pipes and whiskey."

### Laid out in 1838

St. Francisville was laid out April 9, 1834 by Francis Church, the same gentleman who fashioned "Alexandria." Since Alexandria was originally called "Churchville", after the surveyor, St. Francisville had to be content with his first name.

The town's early patriarchs lost no time in establishing a sound community. As early as 1835 church services were being conducted in "Jerry's" cabin. A postoffice was established in 1836, the first in Clark County, with George Haywood the postmaster. (One record gives the date as 1834).

The first schoolhouse in the county was built of native stone with Joseph Wayland serving as its schoolmaster. The following year brought business establishments and mills. Early in the 1840's the first seminary in northeast Missouri was built. Originally the structure was used both as a church and a school.

### First church

In 1853 Jeremiah Wayland was instrumental in building the first real church, the St. Francisville Baptist church which is still standing and was used regularly until just a year or so ago.

He guaranteed the cost of the building but allowed any interested person to donate funds or labor. However, it was he who furnished most of the money.

During the construction period more than one labor dispute arose and twice was



the building struck by lightning. But "Uncle Jerry," in his determination to give the town a fine church, saw it through, and upon its completion is reported to have said that any denomination might use the edifice, "so long as Christ is preached in the pulpit."

MADE BY B

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RIMMED LEAF

CREDITS



**JEREMIAH WAYLAND'S HOME FROM 1832 to 1883.** His first cabin on the banks of the Des Moines river was swept away in the great flood of 1832 so he built a 2-room cabin with 6-foot fireplace on higher ground.

Additions have been made, but the slave house which once adjoined the home has been torn down.

—Daily Gate City Photo

The Daily Gate City

— KEOKUK, IOWA SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 1962



**MRS. SUSIE KEITH**, who has lived all her life in St. Francisville, has lived in the house, once the Jordan Inn, for 62 years. —Daily Gate City Photo



**CHARLES JONES**, born 92 years ago a block from the old church, was official bell ringer for 80 of those years. The bell hung originally in the church steeple but later was moved to a post outside the building. —Daily Gate City Photo

#### 1,100 population

St. Francisville reached its greatest prosperity shortly after 1855 when it had a population of some 1100; "Two steamboat lines in operation, three stage routes, four churches, a weekly newspaper and a college publication, one seminary, five stores, a flouring mill, two stone and

tinware establishments, two brickyards, two wagon makers and one plow maker." Average price of land was between 10 and 40 dollars per acre.

St. F, as it is familiarly called, is no longer the flourishing community it once was, but seldom does one see an unhappy countenance in this

quiet, country town. Rich in history it still is rich in contentment.

If this is hard to believe just wander down to the wooded banks of the Des Moines River any summer afternoon. There you'll find the town's Walt Whitmans with

their rods and lines, experiencing a thrill of contentment such as often eludes the urbanite. END



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**AS A BOY OF TEN**, Charlie (Chat) Jones, 85, started ringing the bell at the old brownstone and brick Baptist church at St. Francisville and, although he is not a church member himself, he has been doing so ever since. Oldest church

building in Clark county, it was built in 1853 and originally had rear entrances for the slaves whose church attendance was insisted upon by their owners.

Daily Gate City Photo

## Chat Jones of St. Francisville Has Rung Church Bell 75 Years

**ST. FRANCISVILLE, Mo.** — Seventy five years of devotion to a job is a long record. Seventy five years spent in ringing a church bell for worship services, Sunday school wedding and funerals, is more unusual. Charlie (Chat) Jones, 85-year old native of St. Francisville, has that record to his credit.

Jones lives across the road from the old St. Francisville Baptist church—the oldest church building in Clark county. It was built in 1853 and has one of the richest religious histories in the county by virtue of its venerable service to the community.

### Started at 10

Back in 1880, when the St. Francisville Baptist church was a thriving religious edifice, Charlie Jones, then a lad of 10 years, took it upon himself to ring the church bell. He has been ringing it ever since.

Jones has seen many generations come and go from the old landmark here. He has seen the face of the countryside change—he has even seen the church remodeled lightly from its original structure of brownstone and brick.

St. Francisville Baptist church was built in 1853 through the efforts of the Wayland family (northeast Missouri pioneer family or whom the town of Way-

land, Mo., was named). "Uncle Jerry" Wayland was one of the prime movers in an effort to have a church in "St.F.". Others put money into the project but local residents say "Uncle Jerry" put the most. He specified later that the church could be used by any denomination "so long as Christ is preached from the pulpit—that I insist on", the pioneer church builder is reported to have said. The land still is owned by the Wayland heirs and when the building turns to dust, the land goes back to the heirs.

### Carved Wood Altar

Beginning in the 1870's the church was thriving and filled every Sunday. During the first part of its history, the altar and pulpit were in the east end of the church. Jones says it was a beautiful piece of carved wood. There were doors on each side of the altar where "whites entered". There were also two entrances at the rear (or west end) of the building where Negro slaves entered quietly and sat in

the back. "White folks" sat in the front. Northeast Missouri's

slaveowners insisted on their slaves attending church.

On one occasion the church was turned over to Negro residents of this area for a revival. Jones said he will never forget the enthusiasm of that revival.

### Baptism in River

Many other revivals, or evangelistic meetings have been held within the walls of the old brownstone church, Jones said. He remembers well the processions of the converts down to the banks of the Des Moines river for baptism.

Jones is not a church member himself. He says his religious philosophy is based on "The Golden Rule".

In recent weeks the old church is the scene of Penecostal church meeting conducted by Maude Glines. She plans evangelistic services soon with a guest evangelist in charge.

The Methodist church is a block north of the old Baptist church.

The old bell serves as a town fire warning signal in case of emergency.

Jones is proud of the fact he has never missed a Clark county fair. He says he attended the last one held at Waterloo (now non-existent) and the first near Kahoka. He has been there very year since its opening. x x x



# FT. PIKE, BUILT 105 YEARS 1937 AGO AS PROTECTION FROM INDIANS, WAS NOT NEEDED

## Old Stronghold At St. Francisville Unattacked

ST. FRANCISVILLE, Mo.—One hundred and five years ago, on the banks of the Des Moines river near where the new bridge now spans that stream joining Missouri and Iowa, rose the log walls of Fort Pike, built to protect the settlers in this region during the Black Hawk war. This protection, however, ultimately proved unnecessary, since the fort was never attacked.

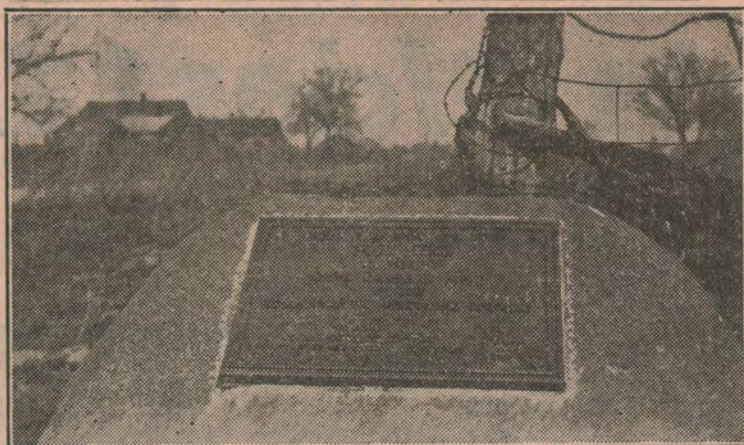
Gov. John Miller of Missouri, anticipating Indian attacks along the Missouri-Iowa border, ordered the generals commanding the state militia to hold their troops in readiness. On May 25, 1832, he ordered Gen. Richard Gentry of Columbia, to raise 1,000 volunteers for defense of the state's frontiers.

### Built of Logs.

A mounted battalion of the Seventh division under Gen. Ben Means was raised in Pike and Ralls counties—one from each county. The company from Pike county, commanded by Captain Mace, marched from Palmyra to St. Francisville and here they erected Fort Pike, named in honor of their home county. It was built of logs, stood upright with the upper story jutting over the lower one, like beetling brows. A tall mast stuck up through the center from which the roof poles radiated like ribs of an umbrella.

Huge logs, close together and set upright, formed a stockade around the entire fort, which was provisioned with water, arms and ammunition; ready for a long siege if one occurred. Supplies for the fort were purchased from Isaac Campbell, Keokuk, Iowa, trader, whose bill to the government for meat, beans, and other staples, and for various beverages, suggests that the soldiers ate, drank and were merry while keep-

## \* \* \* \* \* THE KEOKUK DAILY GATE CITY



ALTHOUGH the old structure stood for many years after the Indian "scare" had passed, this tablet now marks the site of Fort Pike near St. Francisville, Mo.

ing the fort for the protection of the settlers.

The pioneers of the territory were so alarmed by the war talk that the women and children were sent to Tully (near Canton) for safety, while the men cultivated their crops with their guns by their sides, in constant readiness for attack.

### Idleness Bores Men.

Days and weeks flew by and service at Fort Pike, mainly passing the time in any way they could devise, irked the men so that they asked for and received permission to return to their homes and tend their crops. On July 15, 1832, two companies arrived at Fort Pike to relieve the men then on duty. One of these was under Capt. David M. Hickman of Boone county, and the other was commanded by John Jamison of Calloway county. The whole was under the command of Major Thomas Conyers of the First regiment, accompanied by General Gentry.

Finding "no hostiles had crossed

or were likely to cross into Missouri," General Gentry returned to Columbia, July 19. Major Conyer's detachment was left at Fort Pike under Captain Hickman.

On August 2, a company of soldiers under Capt. Sinclair Kirtley left Columbia for Fort Pike to relieve Captain Hickman's company which reached Columbia on August 14. Two hogsheads of bacon, 40 barrels of flour, about 100 bushels of corn and four barrels of whiskey were left with the Kirtley troops, so it is thought they did not suffer from hunger or thirst.

### No Indians Came.

No Indians ever came near Fort Pike during the war. The battle of Bad Axe had been fought on Aug. 2, 1832, the Indians were defeated, Black was taken captive a short time later and the Indians sued for peace.

On Sept. 22, Captain Kirtley's company, the last in the field, was disbanded and Fort Pike sheltered no more soldiers, although the old log structure stood for many years afterward.



SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 1959

# Revolutionary soldier buried in St. Francisville

Through the efforts of R. J. Bickel, Keokuk historian, the grave of another Revolutionary War soldier in the area has been authenticated and the Sons of the American Revolution will place a government gravestone of white marble as a permanent marker.

The grave is that of George Reading in the Wolfe cemetery near St. Francisville, Mo., which already is marked by an old stone from which Bickel has taken the following rubbing:

## Died in 1846

"George Reading. A soldier of the Revolution and elder in the Presbyterian church for near 50 years. Died. August 4, 1846. In the 85 year of his age."

In correspondence with Warren Van Dine, member at large of the Revolutionary Graves Registry committee of the S. A. R. and Reginald Runge, chairman of that committee in Huntington L. I., N. Y., Bickel has received proof that Reading was a soldier in the Revolution in the form of a copy of a certificate of pension issued Oct. 17, 1833.

At that time Reading was living in Pike county, Mo., and was inscribed on the roll of Missouri at the rate of \$62.33 per year commencing on the 4th day of March 1831. He was listed as a private in the company commanded by Captain Logan of the Bat. commanded by Col. Kirkham in the Pennsylvania and Virginia line for 18 months and 21 days.

## Served in 1777

The petition for pension in Pike county, Mo., is dated May 23, 1833 and was made in county court when Reading appeared in person as a resident of Buffalo township aged 71 years in December 32. On his oath he made his declaration in order to obtain benefits of the Act of Con-

gress passed June 7, 1832.

Sometime in the month of September in 1777 in the county of Westmoreland, Pa., he testified that he enrolled in a company of militia commanded by Captain Knox and was stationed on a creek called Loyal Manor on the road from Pittsburgh to Bedford wherein the troops engaged during part of that fall in building a fort which "he believes was called Legganor, and for the building of this fort the company received some pay from the government during that fall." He nerved three months at that time and then returned home.

In April of 1778 the Indians became troublesome and he again enrolled in a company of militia and was again stationed at the fort called Legganor on which he helped build additions during the company remained until November when he again returned home.

## Indian again

Afterwards, in April or May of 1779 the Indians again became troublesome and he again enlisted in a militia company and was again called to the fort to guard the place, women and children and property of the inhabitants of the neighborhood. He again served seven months until November in that period.

In the spring of 1780 he with his father and family moved toward what is now Kentucky and settled at Sturges Station near the present city of Louisville until the next fall when the removed into the interior of Kentucky to John Crow's station where Danville is now situated. In the month of June 1781 he was drafted into the militia and marched immediately to the falls of the Ohio where General Clark was in command and building a fort.

## Hard labor

The company was engaged

in hard labor about three weeks and then permitted to return home. During 1782 he attached himself to troops commanded by Col. Logan at Bryant's station in Kentucky and was engaged in sundry scouting parties after Indians. He recalled that the dead were buried that were killed at the battle of the Blue-Licks.

In October of 1782 he again was drafted into a company of militia commanded by Capt. Kirkham and marched in the command of Col. Logan to the Ohio river at the mouth of the Licking. He was among a group left to guard the boats while Gen. Clark's army went on to the Shawney (sic) villages and knew nothing further of the movements of the army until their return. This last service was for 30 days when the troops were discharged and he returned home.

## Joseph Patterson

Bickel also has had much correspondence with S. A. R. and government officials in Washington on Joseph Patterson, believed to be another Revolutionary War soldier buried in Oakland cemetery and has received a duplicate set of index cards listing all Revolutionary War soldiers known to be buried in Iowa.

Among them is George Perkins buried in the Sharon cemetery in Harrison township of Lee county.



MONDAY, SEPT. 19, 1960

# Mark Revolutionary War soldier's grave

ST. FRANCISVILLE, Mo.—Warren L. Van Dine of Burnside, Ill., was the guest speaker Sunday when the Clark county chapter of the Missouri D. A. R. dedicated an American white marble headstone for George Reating, Revolutionary War veteran, in the Wolfe cemetery at St. Francisville.

Van Dine is member-at-large of the National Revolutionary graves registry committee of the Sons of the American Revolution.

He stated in this talk: "Barely a third of the American people ever gave the Revolution any support." But he explained that in spite of the fact "so few Americans approved of us leaving the British Empire or cared anything about the matter" "we finally managed to beat the ancient empire of Britain to its knees and to wrest the brightest jewel from the royal crown of the House of Windsor."

"We waged war with the mother country England for eight years" according to Van Dine, "fighting battles with the famous British regiments from the snows of Quebec in the far north to the swamps of Georgia in the far south." "The embattled farmers' who 'fired the shot heard round the world' at Concord and on other historic fields of the Revolution severed our political ties with the British Empire on which the sun never sets."

Van Dine has announced he will act again in 1951 as Hancock county representative of the Constructive Citizenship Committee of the Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution in presenting Good Citizenship Awards to Senior Class high school boys in the nine high schools of the county. Six high schools participated in the Sons program this year: Carthage, Dallas City, LaHarpe, Hamilton, Bowen and Plymouth.

## Marker to Revolutionary War veteran to be dedicated Sun.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 15, 1960

Warren L. Van Dine of Burnside, member at large of the National Revolutionary War Graves Registry committee, S. R. R., will be the speaker Sunday, September 18 at 3 p. m. when the Clark county chapter of the D. A. R. holds a dedication ceremony of a monument to George Readings in the Wolf cemetery at St. Francisville, Mo. Reading was a Revolutionary War veteran and Presbyterian church worker. The monument will be a government, upright marble headstone.

The Clark County D. A. R. and Clark County Historical society will hold a joint basket dinner in the St. Francisville park at 1 p. m.

Five D. A. R. chapters and two Historical societies outside Clark county, including Keokuk, have been invited as guests.

Van Dine is a graduate of Carthage high school and the



Warren L. Van Dine

State University of Iowa, and long has been a worker in the Reorganized Latter Day Saints church. He is descended from two families which have

been in America more than 300 years.

Mrs. Charles R. Phillips of Luray, the chapter regent, has released the following program to the press and radio of the tri-state area:

Call to Attention—Kahoka, Mo., American Legion post.

Posting of the Colors—Boy Scouts of St. Francisville, Mo. (Gilbert Sargeant in charge).

Star Spangled Banner—Revere, Mo., high school band (Floyd Boone, director).

Invocation — Rev. Vernon C. Bowman, Presbyterian pastor at Alexandria, Mo.

Introduction of prominent guests—Mrs. H. Dale Hagerman of Wayland, Mo., first vice regent of chapter.

Introduction of speaker — Mrs. H. Dale Hagerman.

Address—Warren L. Van Dine, member-at-large National Revolutionary Graves Registry committee, Sons of the American Revolution.

Dedication of Headstone—Mrs. Charles R. Phillips, chapter regent and Mrs. Oscar Calvert, chapter chaplain.

Unveiling of Headstone — Mrs. Alta McKee, a prominent chapter member.

Placing of Floral Tribute—Six members of the Children of the American Revolution, as follows: Miss Joan Fore, Miss Jean Fore (twin sisters) and Miss Sara Orr, Miss Carolin St. Clair, Miss Janice Phillips and Miss Frances Fore.

Benediction — Methodist pastor of St. Francisville.

Salute—Revere, Mo., high school band.

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



## SHORTEST TOLL BRIDGE IN IOWA

By a Staff Writer

VINCENNES, IA. — Jerry the toll-taker collects nickels and dimes near here on Iowa's only "inland" toll bridge.



Jerry, 82, doesn't have a tooth in his head. His name isn't Jerry, really, it's Robert Hopkins. Everyone calls him Jerry. He says he doesn't know why.

He's the fellow in the steel-rimmed glasses and baseball cap who takes tolls from motorists as they cross the bridge over the Des Moines River near here.

The 800-foot bridge connects Vincennes and St. Francisville, Mo., across the Des Moines River. It is the shortest toll bridge in Iowa. It also is the only toll bridge in the state not located on either the Mississippi or Missouri rivers.

### Built in 1936

The bridge was built in 1936 by a Clark County, Mo., special road district because motorists wanted to cross the Iowa-Missouri border without driving through Keokuk, 10 miles east of here on Highways 61-218.

Jerry's job is to help recover the original cost of the bridge, a few cents at a time, from the motorists who use it. The toll for cars is 10 cents. Straight trucks pay 25 cents and "seem-is," as Jerry calls them, pay 50 cents.

Like any job, the toll-taker's has its own special problems.

One of them, Jerry says, is sneaky motorists who try to fool him by dropping pennies, metal slugs and pieces of hard candy into his hand as they drive by.

"Bridge-runners" are a more serious problem. "Bridge-runners" turn off their lights and speed past his wooden toll booth in the dark to avoid paying the 10-cent toll.

"One of those damn fools is goin' to hit this booth one of these days, sure as anything," said Jerry.



REGISTER PHOTO BY LARRY NEIBERGALL

## His Role: Take Toll

Robert (Jerry) Hopkins, 82, waits on the Missouri side of the St. Francisville Bridge to take the toll from an approaching motorist. The Missouri-owned span crosses the Des Moines River linking St. Francisville with Vincennes, Ia.

### "A Living"

He doesn't hold any romantic or philosophic notions about his job. "It's a livin'," he says, matter-of-factly.

Jerry has lived on the St. Francisville side of the river all his life. Sixty years ago, he says, he was a southpaw pitcher who used to baffle the batters in this area with his "dipsy doodle" pitch.

Now he's a left-handed toll-taker.



11/12/1870

OLD PEG HORNS, THE PIONEER COW OF THE  
DES MOINES VALLEY.

I cannot go back to any fictitious Herd Book for her pedigree, for none has as yet been written.

As for a Eulogy, I leave that to Old Bill Phelps; he could do it eloquently, feelingly and conscientiously.

I shall only try to give an abridged Biography.

Peg Horns was a sucking calf in 1809, not far from where the town of Brookville, Indiana, is now situated. That was almost three years before the last British war. John Phillips owned her mother, who was a family favorite. Said John Phillips emigrated to Ten-Mile Creek, near Fort Clark, now Peoria, Illinois, at an early day. At this place old Billy Clark, who is still living near me in Clark county, Missouri, became acquainted with her in 1824. Peg Horns was at that time only fifteen years old.

Then said John Phillips emigrated to the lead mines in 1828, taking Peg Horns along with him, and remained about two years near Galena, Illinois. Then again, about the year 1830, said John Phillips came on to the Rapids, and crossed over to Mexico Point, now known as Nashville, in Lee county, Iowa. He remained about one year, and then moved over to Missouri, taking his stock of cattle with him—most of them descended from old Peg Horns. He settled near Jerry Wayland, where is now the town of St. Francisville, Missouri. Here Phillips thought of settling. There was at that time a great range for stock, and Dr. Trabue had a tread mill on Honey Creek, that was within ten miles of him. This was a convenience that he had not been used to for many years.

In the Fall of 1831 winter set in more than a month earlier than usual, and proved the severest ever known. In February, 1832, the great ice freshet came. Let me try to describe. The ice was very heavy, even for the Des Moines river, so from one to two feet thick. The cut-off at the island was but partly made. Here the ice first started to run, and commenced gorging at the lower end of the cut-off, and become stationary; and as the ice would break loose above it would run down on to this first gorge and run up on the stationary ice, thus rendering it still more immovable. The river was rising rapidly; the ice crowded down until it overflowed the banks and filled in amongst the timber; then it broke over the bank at Wayland's place and took down through the prairie next the sand ridge, and as the water would spread on the prairie it at first became shallower, thus letting the ice stop on the prairie, and soon it all become a vast ice gorge in many places about St. Francisville, being from 10 to 15 feet deep in the timber, and thus it continued to gorge on up to Bentonsport.

During most of this time Phillips' cattle—that is old peg-horns and her family—were swimming around in the timber above the island. But old Peg-Horns seemed to be aware that the whole surface of the earth was not likely to be flooded again, so she led the way to the sand ridge, the others following. About one-half of them reached terra firma, the balance died by the way.

The distance that they must have worried through this ice was all of a half mile, and the only strange thing about the matter was that any of them reached land. But old Peg Horns made the riffle, and took a new lease of life.

After Phillips had lost most of his cattle he concluded this was rather a poor, cold country, so he sold his cattle, or most of them, to old Samuel Hearn, and went to Texas.

I do not remember whether Wm. Phelps bought Peg Horns of John Phillips or Samuel Hearn. The first time I saw her was at Sweet Home, Mo., in the fall of 1834, and at that time she must have been twenty-four or twenty-five years old. No one disputed her age after looking at her horns. I will not boast of her fine appearance, for I have seen many better looking cows in appearance. She bore a stronger resemblance to the Alderney stock than I see did to Durhams. I am aware that there has been many good milch cows in the west; almost every pioneer family have had their favorite, but old Peg Horns was a gem among the favorite milkers; the quantity was fair; the quality most excellent, and then she was always on hand at milking time, and never kicked the pail over. She never was inclined to run away or lay out of nights. True, after raising more than twenty calves and seeing none of her progeny about her she concluded to quit raising calves, but she did not quit giving milk, and wherever Bill Phelps moved, old Peg Horns went as one of the family, and he moved almost every year, as all the Indian traders did. Peg Horns seemed to know she had a pretty good master. Phelps knew she was one of the best of milch cows. The last time that I saw her was at Fort Sanford, near Agency City, in 1842. She was then about thirty-three years old, and still a good cow; had been giving milk more than seven years without having a calf. When Bill Phelps left the Des Moines, in 1844, I did hear that he gave old Peg Horns to some friend of his, so I never heard of her dying.

This is a tolerable tall cow story, and if any antiquarian wishes further items, they can inquire of old Samuel Hearn, in Keokuk, of Jeremiah Wayland and George Haywood, at St. Francisville, Missouri, or of Mrs. Nancy Bedell, J. J. Benning, Mrs. Susan Benning, or old Billy Clark, of Athens, Missouri.



FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 1954

## The Wolf Cemetery at St. Francisville Was One of The Oldest In Clark County?

The oldest decipherable stone bearing the death date of August 21, 1836 was erected over Samuel Bartlett one of the early settlers. Mr. Bartlett was killed when a load of wood he was bringing home slipped from his wagon and rolled upon him. People were buried in the Wolf Cemetery whose birth dates are as early as August 4, 1775. One man buried there was born in Sheffield, England, the wife of a revolutionary soldier and her children and also soldiers of the War of 1812. A monument which is interesting from its form was one composed of a tall shaft, on the top of which stood a brown jug, overflowing with liquor. The monument was erected over the grave of a man who was a teetotler, never drank a drop in his life, but was put up at his request, for what reason no one seems to know. A picture of this monument, sent to Robert R. Ripley was printed in his popular "Believe It or Not". One of the most often repeated ephtaphs in Wolf Cemetery was the following: Brothers and friends as you pass by As you are now, so once was I. As I am now you soon will be. Prepare for death, and follow me.

## CHURCH IS 85 YEARS OLD



SATURDAY, MAY 7, 1938

(Gate City Tri-State News)

ST. FRANCISVILLE, Mo., May 7.—This year completes the eighty-fifth for the old Baptist church, built here of native stone in 1853. The structure once served both masters and slaves.

The St. Francisville Baptist congregation organized in 1835 in Jeremiah Wayland's cabin which still stands here, although it has been remodeled. Soon after organization, the group erected a building on the road south of Wayland which has been torn down in recent years.

In 1853, "Jerry" Wayland guaranteed funds for a church to be erected here. According to Dr. A. S. Ingman, of LaGrange, all was not peace while the church was being erected. The builders quarreled and stopped work. Lightning struck the church and the workers believed this to be a judgment sent upon them, made up and resumed construction. Presently another quarrel occurred and the work halted again. Once more lightning struck a corner of the church and so frightened the builders that they hastened to complete the building, and agreed to worship in unity.

The church was first called the Baptist Union church and was built square with two entrances. One of these was for whites and the other for slaves. There was a gallery above in which the slaves worshipped.

The church is still in use and every other Sunday night the bell in the churchyard rings out its summons to divine worship.



THIS MARKER was placed in the St. Francisville park by the Clark Co. Chapter, D.A.R. to commemorate the site of the old Fort Pike built in 1832 to protect the few settlers in the area from the Indians.

—Gate City



## Memoirs of St. Louis Centenarian Tell of Keokuk at St. Francisville

### Hundred Year Old Banker and Broker Recalls Visit of the Old Chief to Little Village with His Braves.

A man who saw Chief Keokuk in a war dance at St. Francisville, Mo., has written those memories and many others in a book that relates his life's story. This man is Leonard Matthews, centenarian of St. Louis, pioneer broker and banker, who will celebrate his hundredth anniversary on December 17. In anticipation of this event he has privately published a book, "A Long Life in Review."

According to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, the book was begun by Pioneer Matthews when he was 92 years old as a family document and was published, finally, at the instigation of his children. It is bound in black cloth, lined with gold and contains 178 pages. The narrative is written as if he were addressing his children, and contains many engrossing anecdotes of peculiar interest to residents of Missouri and St. Louis.

#### Goes Back to 1837.

The Missouri recollection of Mr. Matthews goes back to 1837. He writes: "One Sunday (at St. Francisville, Mo.), there came

down the Des Moines river, in forty canoes, a company of Sac and Fox Indians, among them was the squaw of Keokuk. For our entertainment they gave a war dance in the public square. I remember one of the braves had his back bared to show that it was covered with a lot of ghastly scars, seemingly proud of them, although on his back! He was beating a drum made of a whisky keg covered with a sheep-skin.

#### Describes Pioneer Home.

In 1842, after Mr. Matthews' father had gone to sea, the family moved to St. Francisville, Mo. The home they took "was built of large hewn walnut logs, with two stories and an attic, and with the back building covered quite a space." The residents of St. Francisville, Mr. Matthews relates, looked upon the family as "aristocrats, as we boys were wearing boiled and starched shirts."

"We were more than two weeks going from Baltimore to St. Louis," Mr. Matthews writes. "At Wheeling we took a boat, 'The West Wind,' for St. Louis. But to compensate for the trip we had good food—at least I thought so. One Hoosier sitting at the table stuck his fork into a small, toothsome roast pig, drawing it on his plate. When he had devoured it he called out: 'I say waiter, have you any more of them little hogs?'"

that the women and children were sent to Tully (near Canton) for safety, while the men cultivated their crops with their guns by their sides, in constant readiness for attack.

#### Idleness Bored Men.

Days and weeks flew by and service at Fort Pike, mainly passing the time in any way they could devise, irked the men so that they asked for and received permission to return to their homes and tend their crops. On July 15, 1832, two companies arrived at Fort Pike to relieve the men then on duty. One of these was under Capt. David M. Hickman of Boone county, and the other was commanded by John Jamison of Calloway county. The whole was under the command of Major Thomas Conyers of the First regiment, accompanied by General Gentry.

Finding "no hostiles had crossed or were likely to cross into Missouri," General Gentry returned to Columbia, July 19. Major Conyer's detachment was left at Fort Pike under Captain Hickman.

On August 2, a company of soldiers under Capt. Sinclair Kirtley left Columbia for Fort Pike to relieve Captain Hickman's company which reached Columbia on August 14. Two hogsheds of bacon, 40 barrels of corn and four barrels of whiskey were left with the Kirtley troops, so it is thought they did not suffer from hunger or thirst.

#### No Indians Came.

No Indians ever came near Fort Pike during the war. The battle of Bad Axe had been fought on Aug. 2, 1832, the Indians were defeated, Black Hawk was taken captive a short time later and the Indians sued for peace.

On Sept. 22, Captain Kirtley's company, the last in the field, was disbanded and Fort Pike sheltered no more soldiers, although the old log structure stood for many years afterward.

### THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION

## Fort Pike Built as Protection From Indians Who Never Came

FRIDAY, SEPT. 6, 1946

One hundred and fourteen years ago, on the banks of the Des Moines river near where the St. Francisville bridge now spans that stream joining Missouri and Iowa, rose the log walls of Fort Pike, built to protect the settlers in this region during the Black Hawk war. This protection, however, ultimately proved unnecessary, since the fort was never attacked.

Gov. John Miller of Missouri, anticipating Indian attacks along the Missouri-Iowa border, ordered the generals commanding the state militia to hold their troops in readiness. On May 25, 1832, he ordered Gen. Richard Gentry of Columbia, to raise 1,000 volunteers for defense of the state's frontiers.

#### Built of Logs.

A mounted battalion of the Seventh division under Gen. Ben Means was raised in Pike and Rails counties—one from each county. The company from Pike

county, commanded by Captain Mace, marched from Palmyra to St. Francisville and there they erected Fort Pike, named in honor of their home county. It was built of logs, stood upright with the upper story jutting over the lower one, like beetling brows. A tall mast stuck up through the center from which the roof poles radiated like ribs of an umbrella.

Huge logs, close together and set upright, formed a stockade around the entire fort, which was provisioned with water, arms and ammunition; ready for a long siege if one occurred. Supplies for the fort were purchased from Isaac Campbell, Keokuk, trader, whose bill to the government for meat, beans, and other staples, and for various beverages, suggests that the soldiers ate, drank and were merry while keeping the fort for the protection of the settlers.

The pioneers of the territory were so alarmed by the war talk

### KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY

JULY 7, 1943

## St. F. Postoffice Had Been Serving 107 Years

ST. FRANCISVILLE, Mo., July 7—The St. Francisville postoffice, which was discontinued on July 1, had been in existence for 107 years, it has been determined here, instead of 75 years as was incorrectly stated in a news article last week.

Mr. Stump has received a letter of congratulations from the Postmaster General, stating that in all of the 40 years he had served as postmaster here, there had been no complaints filed against him.

Stump is consequently credited with a perfect record.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAR CALLED HIS LUCK"  
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA



# Canton and LaGrange Observe Centennial of Their Founding

**Plat of Former Community  
Was Filed in February  
While April is Birth  
Month of Other.**

**FEB. 20, 1930**

(BY MARY E. VAUGHN.)

LA GRANGE, Mo., Feb. 20.—Two Lewis county towns almost within hailing distance of each other will celebrate their centennial anniversary this year. Canton, the oldest town in Lewis county from the point of registration, was 100 years old February 15. It was laid out in the winter of 1830 by Edward White, Robert Sinclair and Isaac Bland. The plat was filed in Palmyra, February 15, 1830. Canton was incorporated as a town, January 28, 1851. The first board of trustees were Henry F. Hughes, John M. Puckett, Herman Munday, William Fagan and M. C. Hawkins. The corporation was amended a number of times, the final amendment being March 19, 1873, when a municipal control was vested in a mayor and a board of trustees.

The town of LaGrange was laid out by William Wright in April, 1830. The plat was acknowledged in Palmyra by Mr. Wright and his wife, Mary C. S. Wright, May 5, 1830.

LaGrange was the first incorporated town in Lewis county, being incorporated September 3, 1838, under the name and style of "The Inhabitants of the Town of LaGrange." February 24, 1853, LaGrange was incorporated as a city by the legislature. The act was amended by successive general assemblies, February 14, 1855, March 24, 1868, March 9, 1871. The present charter was granted February 29, 1872.

## The First Officers.

The first officers under the incorporation as a city were V. M. Smith, mayor; Joseph Fowler, recorder; D. C. Hawkins, marshal; S. H. Williams, street commissioner; Thomas Richardson, treasurer; John LaFon, mayor; David Wagner, attorney and clerk; Samuel McAfee, engineer; Joel S. Van Ness, assessor. The city councilmen were, J. H. Hay, G. M. Triplett, P. P. Cluff, Ferd Gill, John H. Talbot and A. C. Waltman.

Lewis county was not organized until January, 1833, almost three years after the towns of Canton and LaGrange were laid out and the plats acknowledged. It will probably never be known why either town was so named.

In May, 1830, three months after Canton was platted, a new township was formed in Marion county and named Canton. This township included what is now Lewis and Clark counties and the

northern part of Marion county. It consisted of 675,000 acres of land, which had but seventy-two taxable inhabitants. No doubt the town took its name from the township in which it was located.

## Origin of Name Unknown.

It is not known how the name LaGrange came to be chosen, or who stood sponsor for the christening. Doubtless some one of French extraction among the early inhabitants named it for Lafayette's home in France, or perhaps realizing the great agricultural possibilities of the new country, thought of the town as a future store house named it LaGrange, "The granary." The French word also carries the idea of rural home, and no more appropriate title could be found, for while its citizens enjoy the benefits of city life, they have all the advantages of the rural dwellers, including pure water, pure air and abundant sunshine.

As far as known the first white men who looked upon the shores of the Mississippi where Canton and LaGrange now stands were Fathers Marquette and Joliet, when they sailed down the Mississippi in June, 1663, shortly after the discovery of the great "Father of Waters."

The next Europeans to look upon the sites were Father Louis Hennepin and two French companions who went up the Mississippi in the spring of 1680 on a voyage to the head waters of the river. It is known that Pierre LaCade Liguist, a French fur trader who founded the city of St. Louis in 1764, as a trading post, sent his trappers as far north as the Des Moines river in search of fur bearing animals.

## First White Settler.

Godfrey LeSeur, a fur trader and the first white settler in Lewis county, who established a trading post with the Indians near the mouth of the Wyacunda in 1775, no doubt hunted and trapped on the present sites of Canton and LaGrange. Prior to this time few white men had visited this part of the country through fear of the fierce northern Indians. After about 1804 hunters, trappers and explorers passed up and down the Mississippi river, but during the war of 1812, when British Indians were on the war path, they remained at headquarters. But soon after the close of the war a few adventurous pioneers began to settle in the country north of St. Louis. In 1819, John Bozarth and family and his two sons-in-law, John Finley and Jacob Weaver, came from Kentucky, and settled near the present site of LaGrange.

In the same year Captain William William Prichard and family came from Ohio, and settled a short distance from where Canton now stands. These men were

the advance courriers of civilization in this part of the country.

Settlers came in slowly. In 1824 and 1825 a few families settled on or near the present site of Canton. Among these families were those of Churchill Blakey, Lockwood Clafin, Thomas Hanan and Elijah Rice. The Fullocks, Wrights, Nunns, Singletons and others settled on lands adjacent to LaGrange and in 1828 John S. Marlow built a cabin on the present site of LaGrange. In 1829 more settlers came into this part of the country than there had been in the previous five years. Cabins were built along the river bottom, as far north as six miles above Canton and for six miles west of the river, chiefly along the Fabius river.

## Early Buildings.

In 1822, John McKinney built a saw and grist mill and a cabin or two, near the mouth of the Wyacunda, on the site of LeSeur's post. Soon after this some St. Louis speculators arrived on the scene, laid out a town and called it "Wyacunda." Beck's Gazetteer of 1823, after describing the location of the site has the following to say:

Early in the thirties, LaGrange became a steamboat larding, and many of the settlers who came after that disembarked from the snail-paced steamers at LaGrange. In due time large stocks of goods were housed in substantial brick buildings and LaGrange became the leading trading point for northeast Missouri.

From 1850 to 1861 LaGrange enjoyed its greatest prosperity, the merchants were prosperous and did an extensive business. They bought coffee by the hundreds of sacks, salt by the thousand barrel, sugar by the hundred hogshead and other merchandise in proportion. Merchants from Memphis, Lancaster, Unionville, Edina, Kirksville, Newark, Shelbyville and from all over the northeastern part of the state came to LaGrange to trade. Day after day the streets were thronged with teams to deliver produce and stock up with goods from the wholesale houses. Boats landed regularly with large shipments and LaGrange became known as a shipping point from St. Louis to St. Paul.

## Pork Packing Extensive.

Pork packing houses were operated on an extensive scale. Ten thousand hogs were packed during a season. The slaughter houses had a capacity of between seven and eight hundred hogs a day.

Two large tobacco factories were in operation, giving employment to more than 200 persons and paying each week from \$1,500 to \$2,000. The LaGrange flouring mills erected in 1857, had a capacity of 300 barrels a day, equal at that time to any mill north of St. Louis. Two planing mills, a saw mill, a door, sash and blind factory and two cooper shops were also in operation. The consolidation of packing interests, the grouping together of manufacturing plants, and the general trend



of all lines of business toward metropolitanism seriously crippled the smaller towns and Canton and LaGrange were no exception. Competition was too lively for the smaller towns.

But the pendulum of commerce that swung so far away in compliance with the law of gravity, must return again. For years factories have been located in a few great centers and under united management, but the great pendulum is returning, and factories are coming back to the small towns. Canton and LaGrange are favorably located as factory towns, on one of the best lines of the C. B. and Q. system, with sixteen trains daily; on the great Mississippi river and on one of the greatest highways in the country, and with the mania for concentration of factories abating, the time seems favorable for the securing of factories.

**Crippled by Civil War.**  
At the peak of their existence Canton and LaGrange were crippled by the Civil war. The colleges in both towns were turned into military barracks for federal troops and much of the trade of the towns went to Quincy during the war, especially that of LaGrange as it was the seat of military operations, the headquarters for the federal forces.

LaGrange and Canton have had much in common. They wore the swaddling clothes together, they grew up together, they went through the dark days of the Civil war together. They rejoiced together at the coming of the railroad, when a big celebration was held in Canton, and they have reached the century mark together.

Many changes have taken place in one hundred years, but the people of Canton and LaGrange have put behind them the successes and failures of the past, realizing there is no time like the present to grow and to build for the future.

## DAILY GATE CITY

### BIGGEST SNOW 100 YEARS AGO 15 FEET DEEP FEB. 28, 1931

LA GRANGE, Mo., Feb. 28—The mild winter of 1930-31 experienced in this part of the country, and other unusual weather conditions of the last two or three years, brings to mind some of the extreme weather experienced by the pioneer settlers in Marion and Lewis counties, as recorded in the early history of these counties, and in data handed down by pioneers. One hundred years ago this section was covered with the biggest snow recorded in its history, which is referred to as the "big snow." The first of this snow came the last of October, 1830. Subsequent snows fell in November and December, and a heavy snow-fall on the 29 of December and again on the third

of January increased the depth to three and four feet on the level, with drifts twelve and fifteen feet in many places. A slight thaw followed, succeeded by intense cold which formed a crust strong enough to bear up dogs, wolves and smaller animals, but not strong enough to hold up deer. Many deer were killed by the wolves and dogs. The deer became so tame they would come to the barn lots and eat with the cattle, and settlers tied up their dogs to keep the deer from being exterminated. Flocks of wild turkeys, pheasant and quail also came to barnlots for feed and grain was scattered by the settlers, but many of them starved to death.

With plenty of corn meal, home made hominy, hog meat and game, the settlers suffered no hardships from lack of food, but they had to resort to mortars and graters for their supply of corn meal. Their greatest inconvenience was isolation from their neighbors and caring for their young stock, which had to be guarded day and night from the wolves. The snow lasted until the fourth of March, when it went off with warm rains, resulting in great floods.

The summer of 1831 was known as the "cold summer". The season was so unfavorable for the settlers that the situation became distressing. Corn was the principal crop raised and was their chief dependence. The corn crop was a complete failure that year. The season was backward and corn was planted late; cool east winds and light frosts prevailed throughout the summer; a killing frost which destroyed the corn, came in August. The sun did not shine a week at a time during the summer. The next year seed corn was very scarce and high; the most of it was brought by boat from Indiana and Kentucky and was sold at the steamboat landing at Hannibal, from two to four dollars a bushel. The season of 1832 was also unseasonable and a poor corn crop was raised. The year 1835 was known as the "cold year". The winter of 1834-35 was extremely cold; in May the ground froze to a depth of several inches, killing all vegetation. In September another heavy freeze came which did great damage, especially to the corn; the fall continued unusually cold.

Marion and Lewis counties were greatly affected by the "great panic" in 1837. Prices of land, stock and produce were extremely low. Following is a sample of some of the prices of stock and produce in Lewis county from 1837 to 1841: Pork, \$1.25 to \$2.50 per cwt.; cows and calves from \$8 to \$12; good four year old steers \$9 to \$15; good horses from \$10 to \$30; wheat 25c per bushel; oats 10c, and corn 12½c per bushel. On the St. Louis market, wheat was 35c per bu.; corn and potatoes 18c per bu.; cured hams 5c per pound; best tobacco \$3.10 per hundred. On the other hand groceries were proportionately cheap. Coffee was 10½c a pound, sugar 7c; molasses 25c a gallon; whiskey by the barrel 18½ per gallon, single 25c. Dress material was comparatively high; cassinette, a wool material was \$2.00 per

yard; black lawn \$1.00 per yard, and calico 37½c a yard. The following prices were taken from the history of Marion county, were paid at a sale near Hannibal in 1843 and is an evidence of the scarcity of money at that time. Three colts, \$1.50 each; one large ox, 12½c; five sows, two small steers, one calf, the lot \$3.25; 20 sheep, each 13c; 24 hogs, 75c each; 3 stacks hay, 25c each; 1 stack of fodder, 25c. The terms were cash in hand.

## THE KEOKUK DAILY GATE CITY

MONDAY, FEB. 22, 1931

### 'Uncle' Lew Dave, Ex-Slave Was Familiar Canton Figure

#### BONE-CARVER LAID TO REST

(Gate City Tri-State News.)  
CANTON, Mo., Feb. 22.—With the passing of Lew Dade, 89, whose funeral services were held yesterday afternoon in the Barkley Funeral Home, another link with the old pre-Civil war days was broken. Uncle Lew, as he was familiarly known, was born a slave in Lewis county, on the Garnett farm, south of Monticello, October 16, 1847. He had many an interesting story to tell of his early life and many warm words of praise for "Old Miss" and also "Young Miss," for he was a house servant.

Immediately after emancipation, Uncle Lew came to Canton, where he worked at whatever he could find to do. In a period of leisure—when he was "just projecting"—he discovered a method of cleaning bone and horn and of carving them. He made paper knives, spoons, napkin rings of beauty and utility. He said that he took a piece of bone in his hands and it became an "idle" and then he made a cake stirrer, a tooth pick or a pipe bowl.

#### Sold Creations At Fair.

The World's fair in Chicago in 1893 was a great event to Uncle Lew. Friends secured a concession for him and his business prospered so well that he came home after the close of the fair and bought property at the corner of Bland and Eleventh streets and established a home, where he lived to the close of his life. He set out a grape vine near his front gate. As it grew he bent down the outstretched branches, covered them with earth and a new vine was started. He continued to do this year after year until the vine had returned to the beginning making a continuous hedge entirely around his lot.

For more than fifty years he supported himself with the sale of his unique wares. He used to say, "The people of Canton have been good to me."

In 1869 he married Mary Ann, who had belonged to the Rev. Mr. McMurray, a Methodist minister and presiding elder. He is survived by two sons and two daughters, all of Canton.

Lewis Co. Mo

THE GREAT NEWS HELP CALLED HISTORY  
W. L. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA



## This Year Marks Centennial Of Lewis County Missouri

**Plans are Being Made to Observe Event with Appropriate Ceremony Marking Its Early Establishment.**

**MONDAY, FEB. 13, 1933**

LA GRANGE, Mo., Feb. 13.—The first of this year marks the centennial birthday of Lewis county. The LaGrange Improvement Association at its annual meeting voted to ask the county to celebrate its birthday here next fall, probably at the time of the fall festival. The towns will be asked, through their Chambers of Commerce or town organizations, and the farming communities through their granges, farm clubs or other organizations.

The first white settlement in the county was made within what is now the corporate limits of La Grange, and the site is marked with a memorial stone placed by the D. A. R. Chapter of LaGrange. The first term of the Lewis county court was held in this vicinity in the home of the Bozarth family who were the first permanent settlers in the county. LaGrange is the only town in the county that sponsors an annual fall celebration. For these and other reasons it seems fitting that the centennial should be held here.

### First Settlement.

The first settlement was made by Godfrey Leseur, a French fur trader who came from St. Louis in 1795, built some cabins near the banks of the Wyaconda and established a trading post with the Indians. From the appearance and number of the old cabins on the site of Leseur's post, when the first settlers came, they were led to believe that a number of inhabitants, probably French or Spanish traders, had lived there prior to 1800.

As far as known the first permanent settlers in Lewis county located in this vicinity and were John Bozarth and family, two sons-in-law, John Finley and Jacob Weaver and their families. They came from Kentucky in 1819 and were the advance of civilization in northeast Missouri.

According to the records eight other men entered land in Lewis county in the spring of 1819 as did John Bozarth, but while Bozarth returned to Kentucky in the fall and brought his family back with him to their new home in the wilderness, the others did not become permanent settlers for a time. These men were John Taylor, Lewellen Brown, Robert M. Easton, Isaac Norris, Edward White, Robert Jones, Aaron T. Crane and William Pritchard.

### Early Land Entries.

These entries were all made in Union township except Pritchards which was in Canton township just below the present site of Can-

ton. No entries are recorded until 1824, those of Churchill Blakey and Lockwood Glaffin. There were twelve entries in 1825 made by James Thomas, John Thompson, Edmond Rutter, William Bourne, Dabney Bowles, Jeremiah Taylor, Elijah Smith, Eli Merrill, James Gardner, Thomas Hanan, Elijah Rice, and one entry by John Bozarth. There were five entries in '26 as follows: Greeg McDaniel, Hazard Wilcox, Lucian Durkee, Clement C. White and Washington Young. Only two entries in 27 by Jacob Meyers and Edward White. There were six entries in 28 and in 1829 there were twenty-two entries, more than in the three previous years. In 1830 there was considerable immigration into the county, the settlers pushing out into Highland, into parts of Dickerson, and the northern part of Canton township. There were 73 entries made that year. No entries were recorded and probably no settlements made in Salem, Reddish or Lyon prior to 1830. Previous to this time the settlements were made chiefly along the river and fabius bottoms, however, it is said that in some instances the land was settled on for some time before the entries were made; for this reason it cannot be authentically stated when some families settled in this county, only when land entries were made.

Until 1833 the area composing Lewis county was attached to Marion county; in December 1832, Charles H. Allen the representative of Marion county introduced a bill into the legislature for the organization of Lewis county; the bill passed and was approved by Governor Dunklin January 2, 1833. The county was named for Capt. Merriweather Lewis, a native of Virginia. He was the companion of Capt. William Clark, on the famous voyage of exploration known as "The Lewis and Clark Expedition," and afterward became governor of the Louisiana Territory, then embracing Missouri. Clark county organized in 1833, Scotland in 1841 and Knox in 1845 were all taken from the territory originally set apart as Lewis county.

The first term of the Lewis county court was held in June 1833, and lasted three days; at this session the county was divided into two townships, Union and Canton. Dickerson township was organized in 1833, Highland in 1836, Salem and Reddish in 1841 and LaBelle and Lyon after the Civil war.

### Natural Facilities Good.

The natural facilities of Lewis county are good and advantageously proportioned; its rich bottom land drained by the Mississippi and Wyaconda rivers, by the North and Middle Fabius, and smaller streams, its rolling prairies, its timbered hills and uplands, adapted to farming, stock raising and dairy farming, give prospective home seekers a choice of habitation. The county is known for its number of clear and sparkling streams that attracted the early

settlers, and also for its mineral springs that have brought many people to the county in search of health. Its scenic beauty along the Mississippi bluffs, and the historic Wyaconda river and many spots along the smaller streams is unsurpassed. It has fourteen miles of paved road and ten in course of construction; practically all main roads are graveled, or plans being made to this end, with two railroads and Federal Highway 61 passing through the county, bordered on the east by the Mississippi and with adequate truck and bus service over the county, its transportation facilities are of the best. Its location gives it easy access to a number of large cities.

The school facilities of Lewis county are among the best in the state; there are nine approved high schools all conducted in modern brick buildings; there are fifty-five rural schools in good financial condition whose buildings are adequate and well equipped, there are fifty-seven rural teachers, and every teacher except one has had college training. Culver-Stockton college, the pride of Lewis county, is putting forth every effort to make it possible for the girls and boys of the county to attain a college education. The first subscription schools in the county were taught in 1834-35, and the first school district was formed in 1837. Culver Stockton college originally Christian University, was founded in 1853, LaGrange College in 1856. Other schools operated in the county for a number of years were Western Academy at LaBelle, founded in 1880, and Monticello Seminary, found in 1872.

An institution that is a source of much pride to the county is the new County Home, located near Lewistown, modern in every respect, beautiful in architecture, with adequate room to care for the county's unfortunate.

Lewis is the manner Grange county in the state, having twenty subordinate Granges with a large membership. The county has two court houses, six banks and six county papers.

### Oldest Towns In State

LaGrange and Canton are the oldest towns in the county; both were laid out in the early part of 1830, and both towns took a leading part in the early history and development of the county and territory to the north and west. In the early thirties these towns became the trading posts for north east Missouri. Both towns enjoyed great prosperity for many years; boats landed regularly with large shipments of goods for the wholesale houses. Pork packing and other plants, factories and mills were operated on an extensive scale, but the pendulum of commerce swung far, large factories were moved to metropolitan centers, and while these towns did not become the great cities their early history indicated, they do not have to exist on the glories of the past, for both are in the front ranks with any town of equal size in the state, and each have their outstanding assets.

Canton, the largest town in the county is the home of the oldest co-educational college west of the Mississippi, whose beautiful buildings and campus are unsurpassed. The largest wholesale fish market north of St. Louis is located there. It has a number of small factories,



a municipal light plant, a court house, a public library, a community hospital, tourist park, two bands and a live Chamber of Commerce. An added asset to Canton and Lewis county as well, just now, is the building of the government locks and dam at Canton. The locks will cost approximately \$800,000, and it is said that the dam will cost more than \$1,000,000.

The city of LaGrange has the distinction of being the only incorporated city in the county, and the greatest shipping point between St. Louis and Burlington, due to the fact that the state gravel pits are located here. The largest factory in this part of the state, the Gardner-Denver Foundry, and the best co-operative creamery outside of the metropolitan districts are located at LaGrange. A large amount of limestone rock is taken from the quarries here to be used in river work, and is a source of industry in season. LaGrange has a new city hall, a public library, city band, an outstanding Civic Association, and Farmers Co-operative Elevator. The town has attained much fame as a summer resort. Quincy maintains a Y. W. C. A. camp here, which brings many visitors each year, and some residents of Chicago and St. Louis have their summer homes in LaGrange.

#### Monticello, Old Town.

Monticello, the county seat and the next oldest town, was laid out in 1833, the site being one of the most picturesque in the county; it was also a town of much prominence in the early days. In 1834 the first court house, a one room log cabin, was built. A brick court house was built in 1841, and the present large brick building was erected in 1875; new wings were added in 1824 containing office rooms and fire proof vaults. There is coal underlying the ground near Monticello, but no attempt has been made to mine it.

There are seven other towns in the county, LaBelle, Lewistown, Williamstown, Ewing, Durham, Maywood, Steffenville and the little village of Tolona. There are two obsolete towns, Tully founded in 1834, adjoined the town of Canton for seventeen years; Canton was located on higher ground, and when the flood of 1851 came and practically washed Tully away, the town was moved to Canton.

Kennonsville, laid out in 1836, was located in the central part of Highland township. It contained at one time an extensive tavern, general store and other buildings. The Holstein Female Seminary was chartered to be built there in 1837; a number of the most prominent men in the county were on the board, but for some reason it was never built. The town dwindled gradually and was vacated by the legislature in 1861.

#### Churches Organized.

The first churches organized in the county were Baptist churches; Wyaconda church near Canton, organized in 1831, Gilead church near the present site of Ewing in 1833, and Dover church west of LaGrange in 1834. A Christian church was organized near the present site of Benjamin in 1837, a Methodist church in LaGrange in 1840. Rev. Joseph Armstrong, a Presbyterian minister, who founded Kennonsville, established early Presby-

terian church at Monticello, Travis school house and McPheeter's Mill.

The early settlers of Lewis county brought with them the tradition of their forefathers, that no country would prosper and grow unless it believed in and worshiped God. They laid the foundation well. As an evidence that this tradition is being maintained is the fact that there are more than fifty active churches in the county today.

## DAILY GATE CITY NO BRIDGES IN LEWIS COUNTY BEFORE 1837

APR. 4, 1931

LA GRANGE, Mo., April 4—In going through some of the early records of Lewis county the fact was brought forth that there were no bridges in the county before 1837-38. In 1838 the county court took action toward building the first bridges, when \$400 was appropriated to build a bridge across the North Fabius south of Monticello on the Palmyra road. A similar amount was appropriated to build a bridge across the Wyaconda west of Canton. As this amount was not sufficient to build the bridges, the citizens in the vicinity of the bridges were expected to donate work to make up the deficiency. Lay's bridge across the North Fabius was the third bridge in the county. It was built in 1838 at a cost of \$550. The bridge across the Wyaconda, north of LaGrange, was built about the same time, and cost the county \$600.

Other bridges followed, but these early bridges were not permanent as they were all pile or mud sill bridges. In a little more than a decade the county started to replace them with the covered wooden bridges, also called the lattice bridges. There were eleven covered bridges in Lewis county at one time. Some of them were in use for a half century before they were replaced by the steel bridges. The covered bridge across the North Fabius south of Monticello, the one across the Wyaconda on the upper Monticello road, and the one across the Wyaconda north of LaGrange, were the first built in the county and were the first replaced by steel bridges.

The covered bridges were all built between 1845 and 1875. The one across the Wyaconda at LaGrange, was built in 1851; it was 180 feet long, with center pier, fourteen foot floor and twelve feet high to the square. It had a one-quarter pitch roof requiring 36,000 shingles; the lattice was of 2x12 white oak and was fastened together with wooden pins one inch in diameter; five thousand and forty-one pins were used in this bridge. The pins for the covered bridges were made by men who followed the trade, traveling from one bridge to another. The side walls were of one-half inch black walnut. This bridge was torn down in 1899, after having stood for 48 years; with the exception of the floor and shingles the timber was as sound as the day it was built. It is said that the ma-

terial used in this bridge would equal in value today the material used in the best steel and concrete bridges, of the same size, built by the state today. Nothing but first class lumber was used in the covered bridges, but black walnut was not always used as in the LaGrange bridge. The old wooden bridges had to be covered for protection from the weather as there were many joints, all fastened together with wooden pins, and they were made from rough sawed lumber that could not be protected by paint. Not one of the covered bridges remain in the county; a few were carried away by high water, and the others were torn down and replaced by steel structures.

Interesting anecdotes connected with Civil war activities in this section had their setting at the LaGrange and Monticello covered bridges. A report was circulated in LaGrange one day that some of Porter's men would pass through town that night. The militia stationed here decided to waylay them at the bridge and turn them back. They secreted themselves south of the bridge and waited far into the night; the Confederates failed to come, but a large herd of cattle north of the bridge, became frightened in the night and stampeded across the bridge. The terrific noise put the militia to flight; they hurried back and reported that Porter and all of his men were sweeping down on the town.

At another time, when Confederate soldiers at Monticello heard that Federal soldiers were headed that way on the Palmyra road, they hastened to the bridge south of town and started to saw the stringers in a way that when the Federals rode on the bridge it would go down with them, but before they accomplished their purpose, a patrol brought word that the Federals were almost there; the Confederates hid in the brush near the bridge and fired on the Federals as they passed; in the exchange of shots, the only loss was one horse shot from under his Federal mount, and the shingles on the covered bridge, for as the Federals rode through the bridge, they raised their guns and literally shot the shingles off the bridge.

## DAILY GATE CITY SEPT. 23, 1936 Old Land Marks At Canton, Mo., Being Torn Down

CANTON, Mo., Sept. 23.—Two old land marks in Canton are being razed to the ground to give place to modern improvement. The Henderson building on the corner of Fourth and Clark is giving place to a service station and sales building for the Lewis County Motor Co., Earle Zenge and Tom Maggard proprietors. The Henderson building was erected in 1892 by D. P. Henderson for a mercantile plant. Mr. Henderson who is always remembered in Canton with the founding of Christian University, now Culver-Stockton college, engaged in the mercantile business in this place for a few

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(Old Landmarks at Canton)

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



years. His foster son and nephew, Frank Henderson, continued the business. The firm of Durkee, Hawkins and Lillard followed Mr. Frank Henderson and continued for more than twenty years. Mercantile projects have continued there until a few weeks ago when the Gamble Store vacated to give place to the Canton Motor Co. The building was bought from the Henderson heirs. It was a frame building faced with brick.

The Smoot dwelling on the corner of Fifth and Clark is being razed for the purpose of establishing a tiny park with rest rooms and band stand. The Smoot building was of three tiers of brick, very substantially built. With its bay windows and balconied verandas it was for many years one of the show places in Canton. The Smoot brothers, William and Middleton Smoot were among the very earliest settlers in Lewis county. They came to Canton in 1831 from Virginia. William Ransom, whose produce business on Lewis street is a grandson of William Smoot and was born in the Smoot house. William Smoot entered a large grant of land just back of Culver-Stockton college building. The sheepskin grant, issued by Martin Van Buren in 1838 is now in the hands of William Ransom. This dwelling was built by William Smoot and later by his heirs sold to Capt. Middleton Smoot, a former river captain. The property was bought by the town of Canton from the Middleton Smoot estate.

of the country. Great crowds were wont to congregate at the old Pemberton tavern, erected in 1836, where with an abundance of good food and plenty of good whiskey on tap in the ample barrooms, it is said that the pioneers would pass the time right merrily at these gatherings.

It was the trading point and market place for many pioneers from Lewis, Knox and Scotland counties. Merchandise for the early stores was unloaded at the steamboat landings at LaGrange and Tully, and hauled by wagon to Monticello. It was one of the first towns in the county to receive mail delivered by the government; the old fashioned stage coach which brought mail from Palmyra to LaGrange followed the ridge trail across the country from LaGrange to Monticello, before the public roads were surveyed. There were four postoffices in the county in 1836, located at LaGrange, Tully, Monticello and Barnes View. A stage barn was kept in Monticello for many years, and the mail was relayed from there to Kirksville by way of Edina, and to Memphis by way of Bunker Hill and Fairmont.

When the railroads came, instead of passing by way of Monticello as was generally expected, they passed by a few miles on either side; this is the only reason perhaps that Monticello did not retain her former glory as one of the leading towns of the county. Many attempts have been made to remove the county seat; as early as 1843, one year after the second court house was completed, a petition was presented to the court signed by men from Canton and LaGrange, asking for the removal of the court house from Monticello to Tully; the petition was rejected. Since that time several attempts have been made to remove it to the railroad, but with hard roads now leading into Monticello and owing to its central location, it would be illogical for the attempt to ever be made again.

At the present time Monticello has a bank, hotel, Farmer's exchange, telephone exchange, restaurant, garage, blacksmith shop, barber shop and a number of retail stores, where the town's population of 204, as well as the surrounding community can purchase all of the necessities of life. The oldest A. F. and A. M. lodge in the county, established in 1842, is located there. The town is lighted with electricity, and three beautiful, and convenient church buildings replace those of an earlier date.

The first newspaper published in Monticello was established by John Moore, in 1872; after a short time it ceased publication; the present county seat paper, the Lewis County Journal, was established by R. E. Hicks in 1878; it is now owned and published by C. W. Stinson, of Canton, and press representatives say it is the best paper in the United States in a town of like population. Mr. Stinson has not only made the Journal an outstanding weekly, but he is editor of other Lewis county newspapers which rang with the best weeklies in the state, and no doubt in the United States.

The town was laid out in 1833 on land donated by Andrew P. Williams; it was surveyed in 1834 and the first court house, a one

room log cabin, was built that summer. The first term of the Lewis county court was held at the home of John Bozarth near LaGrange, June 3, 1833; during this term the county was divided into two townships, Union and Canton. Successive county courts were held at the Bozarth home, and at private homes in Canton. At the fifth term the contract was let for the first court house, and the sixth term, in June 1834, was held in the new court house in Monticello. The first court house soon became inadequate and a new one was ordered by the court, which was completed in 1841. It was built in the center of the public square; it was a single wall brick building, and the bricks were burned near the site. The first jail was built in 1843; it was a double wall log building, two stories high, with a ten inch space between the walls, filled with hewn timbers set in palisade form in the earth; the upper floor was made of hewed logs 8x10 inches, laid close together and covered with plank. The log jail was used until some prisoners burned their way out in the night and escaped. A new iron jail and jail house was then built, being completed in 1859. This jail is still in use, but the third and present court house was erected in 1875, on the site of the first brick court house which was said to have been poorly built. The present building is one of the best in the county; wings were built on the court house in 1924 containing office rooms, and fire proof vaults to insure the safety of the county records.

The first and second terms of the circuit court of Lewis county were held in Canton; the third term was held in July, 1834, in the log court house in Monticello; the circuit court was divided in 1897, and since that time one division has been held in Canton.

No one seems to know from whence Monticello derived its name; it is probable that it was named in honor of the country home of Thomas Jefferson, but as the name is Italian, signifying "Little Mountain," it may have been named from the appropriateness of its surroundings.

The old town spring at Monticello, where the early residents obtained their drinking water, must have contained the "Elixir of Life" or perchance it was the "Fountain of Youth," for which Ponce De Leon searched; for there no one seems to grow old. J. A. West, the oldest native born resident is 80 years of age; he has been actively engaged in the business enterprises of the town for 63 years; he now assists in the general store of his son, Lance West. He is on the job every day, active and alert and would pass for a man many years younger.

J. D. Million was born in Monticello 79 years ago and has lived there all his life. His father settled in Monticello in 1833, and helped to build the first house, a two-room log cabin built like a block house for protection from the Indians.

Another resident who has passed the four score mark and who is actively engaged every day is J. P. Dixon, custodian of the court house. He was born in Kentucky but located in Monticello early in life. James W. Barnes, the ton-

## DAILY GATE CITY

### MONTICELLO IS PICTURESQUE, TUCKED IN HILLS

MAY 2, 1931

LA GRANGE, Mo., May 2.— Picturesque as an old world village, the little town of Monticello, the county seat of Lewis county, is tucked away among the hills bordering the east bank of the North Fabius, and as near the geographical center of the county as it could be located. Removed from the clang and clatter of modern day life, the spirit of the past seems to brood over the town. But in spite of this it can be truly said that Monticello has a satisfying present as well as an illustrious past. Ninety-eight years old, or ninety-eight years young, just as you please, it has a charm all its own. Mingled with buildings almost a century old are modern homes, and the splendid modern school building, housing one of the best consolidated schools in the county where pupils receive free transportation, is a long step from the first subscription school taught by a Miss Bradley in the little log court house in 1835-36.

For a number of years after Monticello was established it was one of the leading towns in the county; it was not only the county seat of the county, where lawyers, politicians and other leading men of the day, would congregate when court was in session, but it was also the social center and favorite resort for a large section

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(Old landmarks at Canton)



social artist of the town, is in his 79th year; he was born and reared in Monticello and with the exception of some years spent in the west, has always made that his home. Two Monticello residents lived beyond the century mark, Mrs. Mary Smith, who died about two years ago, and "Daddy" Breen, who died in 1925. Both lived to the age of 103 years.

**THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION.**  
**One Now Retired—**

## Sellers Sisters On LaGrange Switchboard Almost 100 Years

THURSDAY, DEC. 10, 1953

(By MRS. ALBERT BROWN)

CANTON, Mo.—"We can tell who is calling in by the sound of the drop; can't we Alma?"

The reality behind this casual remark by Miss Myrtle Sellers and the equally casual affirmation of her sister, Miss Alma, was as amazing to me as it was commonplace to the two "Sellers girls" who, together, have spent nearly 100 years at the switchboard in LaGrange, Mo.

### Started in 1906

Miss Alma became chief operator in LaGrange in September, 1906, and has worked continuously at the switchboard there since that date. Miss Myrtle joined her sister at the LaGrange exchange in November of the same year and worked continuously as an operator there from that date until October 1, 1953, when she retired and was honored by her fellow employees and presented a wrist watch from the company.

Referring to the two veteran operators, Walter Day, manager of the Canton and LaGrange exchanges, called them his "trouble shooters," saying, "I couldn't service both exchanges if it weren't for the co-operation and aid Alma and Myrtle give me at LaGrange. They know the system so well that when any trouble arises, they can analyze it almost perfectly. In almost every instance when a subscriber calls in to report trouble with his phone, they can tell from the office whether the trouble is in the ground wire, the receiver, the transmitter, or wherever it is. They have put in drops, put on connections, replaced batteries, adjusted bells, and done almost every conceivable kind of repair work. I can't say enough in their praise."

Analyzing troubles has evidently been as natural with them as recognizing parties calling in by the sounds made by the drops on the switchboard.

### Father Had Store

Although "Alma and Myrtle" became associated with the Lewis County Telephone company in the fall of 1906, their previous experience with telephone work dated back many years prior to that date. Their father, John Sellers, had built a home and store building on the prairie between LaGrange and Monticello, about 12 miles from La

Grange, when they were small children. "Sellers Store" handled general merchandise which Mr. Sellers bought in Quincy and transported by boat to LaGrange, then by team and wagon or sled to the store. In connection with his merchandise business Mr. Sellers also operated a post office and a telephone exchange, and like the store they, too, acquired the name of the country storekeeper.

The Sellers Exchange used a Kellogg, or "bell-type, board; that is, there were bells on the switchboard instead of drops or lights; and when a subscriber "rang his phone," his bell on the switchboard sounded. In those days an operator did not sit at the switchboard constantly, ready to "plug in" as soon as a light came on—or in their case, when a bell sounded.

### Recognize Tones

The two little girls playing and "helping" about the store, even when they were too small to see well over the counters or to "make connections" at the switchboard, learned to recognize by the tone of the bells who was calling in, then report to their father or mother, who would make the necessary connections at the board. When the parties finished talking, they "rang off" to signal that they were through, and the connections were broken.

The first line to the central office at Sellers was built from LaGrange (It now is the 140 line out of LaGrange). It later was extended to Monticello and other lines were built connecting the Sellers exchange with Canton, Ewing, Lewis town, Tolona, and Weber (also a country store). On addition there were party lines into the office and a few subscriber lines on bells not attached to the board, which required special connections.

When Mr. Sellers moved to LaGrange, he sold his holdings to the Lewis County Telephone company. Miss Alma worked at the LaGrange office by herself until her parents moved there in October, and Miss Myrtle remained with the Sellers exchange until the business was entirely converted. She began working for the Lewis County Telephone company on November 11, 1906. There was no lineman until Mr. Sellers took over the local management. At that time the manager also walked over town and collected from

MISS MYRTLE SELLERS shown at the switchboard in the LaGrange, Mo., telephone exchange of the Western Light and Telephone Co., Inc. The snapshot was taken by Walter Day, manager of the Canton and LaGrange exchanges.

the subscribers.

### Two Telephone Companies.

There were two telephone companies in LaGrange then, the Citizens and the Lewis County. In February, 1911, while the Lewis County Telephone Exchange was located in the Crouch building, the office was devastated by a fire which burned out three store buildings. After the fire the Lewis County Telephone company "bought out" the Citizens company and located in the Westhoff building.

The company later moved to the Lewis building where fire reportedly caused by faulty electric wiring, broke out and some of the furnishings from the floor above fell through the burned ceiling while Miss Myrtle sat at the switchboard. Check marks, where the heat blistered it then, may still be soon on the board.

The switchboard, now a magneto type, is located in an office on the ground floor in the Klusmeier building, and the number of subscribers has increased from the original 48 telephones in LaGrange and a few country lines to 538 subscribers. In the beginning "Alma and Myrtle" provided 24-hour service for the subscribers. After the first fire the number of operators was increased; now there are eight regular operators. During the years, according to Miss Alma, the exchange changed names a number of times without changing management. Today it is the LaGrange exchange of the Western Light and Telephone company, Inc.

### Takes Up Hobbies.

Miss Alma will continue as chief operator. Now that Miss Myrtle has retired she has a number of hobbies to keep her busy. She crochets and has a stamp collection; but the hobby that will claim most of her time is her dog collection. Up to press time today the collection numbered 804 dogs of every size, color, and material imaginable; big dogs and little dogs; China, glass, wood, metal, shell, hand-carved



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THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY  
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ivory, pipe cleaner, plush, chenille and gingham dogs; charm dogs; comic strip dogs; walking dogs; barking dogs and dogs with movable parts; dogs in houses; dogs from all but eight states in the U. S., and from a number of foreign countries; and at least one dog over 75 years old. All are numbered and their proud owner keeps a record of where each came from, the donor, and when she received it. Dusting the collection, she admitted, requires at least one-half day.

Miss Myrtle will gladly show a guest her collection. She is shy about exhibitin her handiwork which is exquisite; but she fairly bursts with pride when she shows the 17-jewel wrist watch which C. B. Chenoweth, commercial manager of the Western Light and Telephone company, Inc., gave her on behalf of the company, and the new Bible which the "chief operator" gave her upon her retirement.

Both Miss Alma and Miss Myrtle are members of the LaGrange

Methodist church.

Of her work she says it has "been fun," but now she says she is looking forward to next summer when she plans to devote a lot of time to gardening and growing flowers.

This was to have been Miss Myrtle's story, but her story cannot be separated from that of Miss Alma; and when their story is told, it is, in reality, the history of the growth of the telephone system in LaGrange and vicinity.

## DAILY GATE CITY CHOLERA BROKE OUT 101 YEARS AGO IN LAGRANGE

Many Persons Died and  
There Were 150 Died  
During the Epidemic  
That Year at Palmyra, Mo.

JULY 14, 1934

LA GRANGE, Mo., July 14.—As we are sweltering in the heat and enduring one of the worst droughts in recent years, we should be thankful that the status of health and the general well being of the people is if anything slightly above par. We have only to spend a moment in retrospection of pioneer days to realize how much better off we are than the early settlers, for they not only endured the extreme heat, cold and lack of rain, but many prevalent and contagious diseases that we know nothing about. In those days chills and malaria, dysentery, smallpox, typhoid fever and cholera, as well as bites from poisonous snakes and insects, were a menace to every settlement.

In the month of July 101 years ago, Asiatic cholera broke out in the little hamlet of LaGrange. It was brought here by Col. John Bullock from Palmyra where the disease was raging. When the plague

broke out in LaGrange some of the families left for the homes of relatives in the country; those who remained were forbidden to see relatives or friends. While some recovered, the most of the stricken died in a few hours suffering agonizing pains and cramps.

Dr. Higgins, the only physician in LaGrange, sent his family to the home of Justin Mills, a relative three miles west of LaGrange, while he gave his time to the care of the cholera patients, working day and night without rest. Every evening he went out to see his wife and children, remaining fifty yards away as he talked to them. On July 9 he rode out for the last time; that night he was seized with cholera and died the next day, after suffering intense agony.

The disease ran its course here in about two weeks; it was overcome, it is said, by the precaution taken by the small population and the skill of Dr. Higgins, who saved other lives from the dread disease, but could not save himself; he died when the disease was abating.

During the epidemic in Palmyra in 1833, 150 died out of a population of 600, besides a number in the surrounding country. So rapid and terrible were the deaths that panic seized the people and many fled from the town. As soon as the victim was dead, he was buried without ceremony; sometimes within an hour after the patient was taken sick, if the attack was violent, word was sent to the coffin maker to have a coffin ready. Sometimes the bodies were buried close to the house in which they died, when those in charge refused to wait for the "dead carts" to take the corpse to the "cholera graveyard," west of Palmyra where many were buried. Usually negro slaves drove the "dead carts;" they would go from house to house to take the dead to the graveyard; they would stop in front of the house and call "bring out your dead."

In 1835 cholera again broke out

in Palmyra but did not reach La Grange. Owing to their experience with the cholera in 1833 it caused a genuine panic, when a physician pronounced it as "genuine Asiatic cholera." So many sought refuge in flight, according to an old Marion county history, that all roads leading from town were thronged with fugitives, but some who sought safety in flight died in the country, as the germ of the disease was carried with them. The loss from death was much smaller at this time, being about sixty in the entire county.

It was claimed that the plague was first brought to this part of Missouri by Gen. Scott's troops from Prairie du Chien, who were sent here during the Black Hawk war.

In the summer of 1849 cholera again visited Marion county and was quite severe in Hannibal. Although the excitement was great in Palmyra, there were no deaths. The town took every precaution against the disease, and on the first Friday in August the town observed a day of fasting and prayer, petitioning the Almighty to remove the plague from Palmyra; it would seem that their petition was answered, for while the epidemic had been extraordinarily severe in Palmyra in '33 and '35, there were no deaths from the disease that year. The cholera raged all around them, causing deaths in Quincy, Hannibal, Canton and other towns. It reappeared in LaGrange for the last time that year, but it was in a lighter form, causing only one death, that of James Jenkins, a tanner, who had moved to La Grange in 1832.

There is no doubt that some were buried alive while in a trance or fainting spell during the cholera epidemics as they were buried immediately after they appeared to be dead. One case is recorded where a man at Kirksville came to and recovered after he had been lowered into the grave.

## THE KEOKUK DAILY GATE CITY

### La Grange College Only Memory Now as Buildings Are Razed

JUNE 27, 1934

It Was Established in Fall of  
1856 and First Building  
Erected Next Year.

LA GRANGE, Mo., June 27.—Fins is written upon the screen of old La Grange College, the Alma Mater of hundreds of men

and women, and a land mark in northeast Missouri for more than three quarters of a century. A firm in Decatur Illinois, is making arrangements to wreck the administration building. It will be with genuine grief that former students, as well as the citizens of La Grange, will witness the leveling of the old college building, built and maintained throughout the years by sacrifice and

self denial. For many years it was the center of the social and educational life of this community.

In the fall of 1856 a committee appeared before Wyaconda Association and asked for the establishment of a Baptist school at LaGrange, Missouri. The Association voted to establish a school, and appointed the Rev. James M. Lillard to raise funds for this purpose. The Association elected a board of trustees Dr. J. A. Hay, Ralph Smith, George K. Biggs and Ezra Kerfoot. Memphis, Scotland county, was a strong competitor for the school, but LaGrange contributed more money and was also considered the best location for the school.

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(Sellers Sisters)



APRIL 5, 1899

## A TABLE WITH A HISTORY.

A Massive Walnut Affair Built of Logs  
Cut Eighty Years Ago in Missouri  
and Used in the First Court.

A correspondent at Canton, Mo., says that Abner Bozarth, a prominent farmer, who lives two miles south of La Grange, presented a table to the circuit court of Canton that has many and interesting historic associations with courts that have passed into the history of pioneer days of Lewis county and with the men who have helped to make that history. The table is a massive walnut affair that suits well the dignified surroundings of a court. It is polished and handsomely carved, but it is not for the skillful workmanship that it reveals that it is regarded as precious by the court and its attaches.

The wood that the table was made of was hewn from the logs of log house built by John Bozarth, grandfather of the donor, in 1819, while the Indians were still roaming the hills and prairies of the county and the men who have since made for its fame and material progress were unborn or unknown to its soil. The house was built for a residence, two miles south of the present site of La Grange.

The first court ever held in Lewis county sat in this rude log cabin. The court that sat there on the fifth day of June, 1833, would stand aghast at the severe solemnity of some of the wool-sacks and silken gowns of the present day, but the article of justice they handed down to the litigants was just as satisfactory as that of the present. The first court was the county court and was presided over by Judges Gregory Hawkins and John Taylor. History does not record what were the cases they passed upon. July 14 of the same year the first circuit court was held in the same building, with Circuit Judge Priestly McBride on the bench.

After the use of this house as a court house had been discontinued it was still used for a residence by the Bozarth family for some years. Later it was used as an outbuilding and within the past few years it had been entirely abandoned. Finally it was torn down. The walnut logs of which it was built were found to be finely preserved and Mr. Abner Bozarth had several pieces of furniture made of them, among the pieces being the table just presented to the circuit court at Canton.

## School Opens in 1857

A brick administration building 70x90 feet was erected in 1857, and in September of that year school was opened in the new building. The Rev. W. M. Ellis was the first principal. The school was chartered in 1859 as LaGrange Male and Female College. The school was successfully operated until the Civil War, when it was forced to close.

In 1866 extensive improvements were made on the building and it was changed to a Senior College. Dr. J. F. Cook was elected president; he served for 30 years. Succeeding presidents were, Dr. Jere T. Muir, Dr. Ransom Harvey, acting president for two years, Dr. J. D. Scott, and Dr. John W. Crouch.

During Dr. Scott's presidency, Brown Hall for girls was built, and a permanent endowment of \$50,000 was raised, LaGrange contributing \$13,000 of this amount. Dr. Scott resigned and in 1919 Dr. Crouch was recalled, having previously served as president of the school.

## Raise Endowment Fund

About this time a campaign was started to raise a \$300,00 endowment; this sum was raised by December, 1920. The success of the campaign was largely due to C. R. Watson, financial secretary of the college, and the Rev. J. A. Garret, pastor of the LaGrange Baptist church.

The last year the college was operated in LaGrange there were 278 students enrolled, of which 20 were ministerial students. There were 58 graduates, the largest class in the history of the school.

## Operated Summer School

LaGrange College was one of the first of the schools in the state to offer a state approved summer school. It was in operation here for 21 years, and was largely attended, many students selecting the school for the natural beauty of the location, the advantages of river sports, and the mineral springs in the town.

The large and commodious Gove addition, built in 1896, was largely financed by Mrs. Redwah Gove, of Quincy, Illinois.

Brown Hall, the new gymnasium, the Smith house, Nunn Hall and a number of dwelling houses, remain the property of the college. The following property has been disposed of: Gullion house, College printery, athletic field, and a dwelling purchased by the First Baptist church for a parsonage.

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



# LIST OF SUBMITTERS TO SURNAME REGISTER

|      |                    |                         |                            |
|------|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| A-1  | Maribeth Augustyn  | 119 West O Street       | McCook, NE 69001           |
| A-2  | Helen A. Allen     | P.O. Box 364            | McCook, NE 69001           |
| A-3  | Sylvia Altman      | R.R. 1 Box 38           | Culbertson, NE 69024       |
| C-1  | Connie Chrisman    | 801 East Second         | McCook, NE 69001           |
| C-2  | Kerry K. Chrisman  | 1921 North Dodge        | North Platte, NE 69101     |
| C-3  | Viola Carter       | Box 215                 | Trenton, NE 69044          |
| C-4  | Trish Collister    | 219 South Second Street | Seward, NE 68434           |
| C-5  | Mrs. John D. Clark | 11410 Blair Rose        | Houston, TX 77077          |
| C-6  | Zolona Chinn       | General Delivery        | Indianola, NE 69034        |
| C-7  | Jean Christensen   | R.R. 1 Box 25           | Alma, NE 68920-6713        |
| C-8  | John F. Coyle      | R.R. 1 Box 112          | McCook, NE 69001           |
| C-9  | Alice Coyle        | R.R. 1 Box 112          | McCook, NE 69001           |
| C-10 | Barbara Clausen    | 141 Homestead Avenue    | Salinas, CA 93901          |
| C-11 | Rene Creasman      | #8 Parkview             | McCook, NE 69001           |
| D-1  | Marian B. Davis    | Rt. 1 Box 57            | Curtis, NE 69025           |
| D-2  | Erciel A. Drake    | 1310 Norris Avenue      | McCook, NE 69001           |
| F-1  | Elsie Ferguson     | 3000 Drakestone         | Oklahoma City, OK 73120    |
| F-2  | Alta Fahrenbruch   | 111 West Main           | Norton, KS 67654           |
| F-3  | Joyce I. Finch     | 1200 County Line #166   | Delano, CA 93215           |
| G-1  | Barbara H. Gillett | 1103 West First         | McCook, NE 69001           |
| G-2  | Helen Goodson      | Box 318                 | McCook, NE 69001           |
| G-3  | Ruth P. Gard       | Rt. 1 Box 206           | Beaver Crossing, NE 68313  |
| G-4  | Kenneth Giespert   | 812 West Third          | McCook, NE 69001           |
| H-1  | Mary E. Harris     | Rt. 4 Box 315           | McCook, NE 69001           |
| H-2  | Shirley Y. Hudson  | H.C. 2 Box 26           | Trenton, NE 69044          |
| H-3  | Dorothy Hauxwell   | 1204 Westridge Parkway  | McCook, NE 69001           |
| H-4  | Louise Harris      | Rt. 4 Box 317           | McCook, NE 69001           |
| H-5  | Velda J. Hill      | R.R. 1 Box 34           | Wilsonville, NE 69046-9723 |
| K-1  | Martha Korbe       | 2600 Donald Drive       | Hays, KS 67601             |
| K-2  | Alta E. Krasser    | R.R. 1 Box 198          | Beaver Crossing, NE 68313  |
| L-1  | Sara Lacey         | 524 West First          | McCook, NE 69001           |
| L-2  | Sharon B. Lytle    | 1408 West Second        | McCook, NE 69001           |
| L-3  | Mrs. Floyd Lotker  | Rt. 3 Box 103           | Oberlin, KS 67749          |
| L-4  | Elvin D. Lytle     | 26219 Ozone Avenue      | Harbor City, CA 90710      |
| L-5  | Diane M. Lyons     | 1515 West Fifth         | McCook, NE 69001           |
| M-1  | Ralph Miller       | P.O. Box 6              | McCook, NE 69001           |
| M-2  | Gay Morris         | R.R. 2 Box 176          | Benkelman, NE 69021        |
| M-3  | Merna Moravec      | Rt. 2 Box 147           | Seward, NE 68434           |
| M-4  | Wayne C. Martin    | 539 North Second        | Seward, NE 68434           |
| M-5  | Mary M. Mullanix   | Box 474                 | Imperial, NE 69033         |
| M-6  | Sylvia G. Moore    | 501 East Seventh        | McCook, NE 69001           |



# LIST OF SUBMITTERS TO SURNAME REGISTER (cont'd)



|      |                   |                          |                      |
|------|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| MC-1 | Jacki McKillip    | Rt. 4 Box 285            | McCook, NE 69001     |
| MC-2 | Helen L. McNew    | 1405 West Second         | McCook, NE 69001     |
| P-1  | Dorothy Phillips  | 424 West First           | McCook, NE 69001     |
| P-2  | Edna Parker       | Box 67                   | Danbury, NE 69026    |
| P-3  | Marcia Pierce     | P.O. Box 295             | Imperial, NE 69033   |
| R-1  | Robert T. Ray     | 1008 East Second         | McCook, NE 69001     |
| R-2  | Lois Rutledge     | 1604 West 4th #67        | McCook, NE 69001     |
| R-3  | Marilyn Ringering | 24601 S.W. 65th          | Tualatin, OR 97062   |
| S-1  | Ms. Billie Short  | Rt. 4 Box 155            | St. Maries, ID 83861 |
| S-2  | Katherine Smith   | 2514 30th Street         | Columbus, NE 68601   |
| S-3  | Ruth Swanson      | 1105 West First          | McCook, NE 69001     |
| S-4  | Troy E. Smith     | 216 Park Avenue          | McCook, NE 69001     |
| S-5  | Norma Steinkruger | R.R. 2 Box 159           | Franklin, NE 68939   |
| S-6  | Alene A. Stoner   | 6330 Blackfoot Drive     | Helena, MT 59601     |
| T-1  | Loren E. Townsend | 610 West G Street        | McCook, NE 69001     |
| V-1  | Sally Viets       | 646 North Second         | Seward, NE 68434     |
| V-2  | Helen K. Vaughn   | Box 24                   | Padroni, CO 80745    |
| W-1  | Frieda Wolfe      | Rt. 3                    | Oberlin, KS 67749    |
| W-2  | Sue Wilkinson     | Rt. 1 Box 75             | Culbertson, NE 69024 |
| W-3  | Maude Wilkins     | 504 North Buxton Apt. #7 | Indianola, IA 50125  |
| W-4  | Alta Whitten      | 1311 West Second         | McCook, NE 69001     |



# News and Such

By Hazel LeMaster

In the southeast section of St. Francisville, stands a large red brick house, setting well back in a large yard dotted with cedar trees. Built in the year 1857 by James Henning, some of the materials were brought from Ohio. The original brick used to build this 2½-story home was made at the kiln which stood just below the hill, north of Sand Cemetery. The bricks are of a sand mixture.

Although it looks much larger, the house has only 10 rooms, and two of them are small as far as floor space is concerned. The ceilings are 11 ft. tall, the doors seven ft., and the windows, six ft. high.

In the kitchen a stairway leads to the second floor. A wide hallway runs the full length of the house, both upstairs and down. You can stand in the lower hallway and see the ceiling of the second floor. A stairway with a walnut handrail leads all the way to the attic door. The attic was never finished, although it is large enough to make two nice rooms with a big window in each.

On the attic door are these words plainly written in old-fashioned script: We, the undersigned, declare that we will get — (the last two words are unreadable). Signed: Matt Whickey, Bur Urne, Sunday, Sept. 26, 1886. (This tends to look as if some time in the past, meetings of some sort were held in the attic.)

Each of the large rooms in the house has a fireplace. Twin chimneys on each side of the house served these fireplaces. There is a crawl space of about three feet under the east side of the house and a basement under the west side. The sills are 12 x 12 hand-hewn, solid walnut timbers. The adze marks are plain to be seen. Where the beams are joined together, the timbers are carved in a sort of an angling S shape, and fitted closely together with large wooden pins.

The walls are double brick, and every window and door has a wide sill, the thickness of the wall. Heavy iron rods run through the length of the house, in three places, to give stability to the walls. Huge iron stars fasten the end of each of the rods.

The house still has its original windows, with two sashes, each having six oblong panes. The front door is a single door, flanked with sidelights and decorative panels, almost a duplicate of the front door at the Sickles Tavern, a few miles west on what is known as the "Old Divide."

I have been told many times this home was used at one time as a tavern or hotel for people traveling through, driving their livestock to market. Evidence of such an operation was still visible, when the Deck family moved there Dec. 10, 1940. A short way east and south of the house was the remains of the slave quarters. The rocks from the ruins were removed and put in the driveway, when Lee Deck was building a new fence for his cow lot. Remains of pens made of rails could be seen, where the stock may have been kept overnight when people traveled through.

The old windmill still stands, at the back of the house, which was used to furnish the power to pump water. It is still today, as the well is dry. A new well had to be drilled in the 1940's.

As electricity became available, the house was wired, but no bathroom was put into the house until 1979. The fireplaces were closed when they became unsafe in 1942. A new chimney was built on the east end by Franney Brammer at a cost of \$88, a large sum at the time. It has its footing on the ground and reaches the full height of the building.

Henning, who built the house, was a merchant and brought his bride there to live. The house has been in the same family ever since.

Mr. and Mrs. James Henning had three children: Ellen



The Henning House

Elizabeth, Alecia and Robert. Robert died while a student at Westminster College in Fulton; Alecia married Cortes Johnson, at the age of 16, and moved to LaGrange. After Henning's death, Mrs. Henning married Charles Henshaw and they lived in Alexandria in the old Rebo home, which has since been torn down.

The Henshaws had one daughter who married Robert McLachlan. Mrs. McLachlan bought out the other heirs to the Henning place after her mother's death.

McLachlan was a school teacher and while teaching in St. Francisville roomed with Miss Matt Wayland, the daughter of Jeremiah Wayland, one of the first settlers. McLachlan became a wealthy man and owned wheat land in Kansas; sugar land and orange groves in Florida; and other holdings. In time, all were let go, but Mrs. McLachlan kept the old Henning place and passed it on to her daughter, Marjorie. Marjorie was a school teacher and never married. She is now retired and lives in Arcadia, Calif. with a cousin.

After Henning's death, the farm was rented out and has been ever since. I have not been able to trace the renters any further back than

about 1907 when a large family by the name of Day lived there.

Miss Alberta Callison, a cousin of Miss Marjorie McLachlan, roomed at the Henning house about 1890 when she taught school in St. Francisville. During this time, an earthquake occurred, which shook the beds.

Bill and Elsie Wayland lived in the house many years and raised their family. After Wayland's death, their son, Emmett and family came to live with his mother. They stayed about one year. Elsie then moved elsewhere in St. Francisville. In recent years, Elsie has been living in the Clark County Nursing Home. She recently passed her 100th birthday.

Carved in the brick on the east side of the house are the names "Leland and Emmett Wayland," and "Jack and Jesse Deck."

In 1940, Lee and Gladys Deck rented the house from the McLachlans, and the place has been referred to since as the Deck place. They raised two sons: Jack and Jesse. The boys are gone now and Lee has passed away, but Gladys still lives on by herself in the stately brick home, built so many years ago.

It looks as if it could house several more generations and last at least another 100 years.

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