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J. M. Lee

HISTORY OF  
HAMILTON COUNTY  
IOWA

By  
J. W. LEE

ILLUSTRATED

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Volume I

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1912  
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# Editor's Preface

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This volume brings the General History of Hamilton County down to the beginning of the Twentieth Century and no attempt has been made to make a systematic record of events occurring later than the above date. It presents the first serious attempt at compiling and publishing a History of Hamilton County that has ever been made. Chapters three to ten inclusive are the work of F. Q. Lee, deceased. They were written in 1890 and 1891 and are presented, practically, as they were prepared by him and in the preparation of these chapters, Mr. Lee was always glad to acknowledge valuable assistance from Isaiah Doane. Chapter twenty-eight entitled "The Mills of the County," was prepared by Mrs. Effie McKinley Kantor.

Chapter twenty-nine entitled "The Kendall Young Library" was prepared by E. D. Burgess.

Articles on Church History have been contributed by Chas. Biernatzki, Capt. Frank E. Landers, Dr. W. R. Homan, Rev. M. L. Melick, H. A. Maxon and Prof. F. C. Runkle.

The editor desires to acknowledge great assistance from the files of the Hamilton Freeman, of which an almost complete set is in existence and from the writings of J. H. Stephenson, Isaiah Doane, W. L. Clark, S. B. Rosencrans and Chas. Aldrich which have appeared in the press of the county from time to time. He also desires to express gratitude for the kindly interest taken in the work by Capt. Frank E. Landers and for the immense fund of information he has always so promptly and willingly supplied. He is also grateful for the kindness of E. S. Boudenot, in making certain drawings to illustrate the work.

J. W. LEE.



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# History of Hamilton County

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## CHAPTER I

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#### LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

Hamilton county is located very near the centre of the state of Iowa. Its present limits were established by an act of the legislature in 1850 and it was then named Risley, in honor of a Colonel Risley, who was killed in the Mexican war.

The county is twenty-four miles square and embraces, according to government survey, the congressional townships, 86, 87, 88, and 89 north, in ranges, 23, 24, 25, and 26 west of the 5th principal meridian.

It is bounded on the north by Wright county, on the east by Hardin county, on the south by Story and Boone counties, and on the west by Webster county.

The topography as a whole, presents a comparatively level plain with a gentle slope to the south, which will average perhaps from one to two feet per mile. This level plain is broken by the Boone river which extends from north to south through the western tier of townships and by a range of small morainic hills which extend from the southwest corner of the county eastward through Marion, Clear Lake and Ellsworth townships until near Jewell the direction changes to the northward, through Lyon, Liberty and Williams townships. These hills are very interesting to the student of geology. They are curious both in individual appearance and arrangement. Sometimes there will be a single hill, quite regular in shape resembling an Indian mound. Sometimes they are in groups, and again they are found in a continuous range. These hills were not caused by the action of wind and water but were caused by forces that affected the whole topography. Mr. Thomas H. McBride in his report of the geological survey of Hamilton county gives the following description of their origin:

“Such hills or knolls, are thought to represent the modified remnants of an ancient *moraine*, a glacial deposit left here at some time in the history of the world, not very long gone by, when the great mass of snow and ice which

still persists about the north pole of our world came very much further south, even here to Iowa, a vast glacier, pushing and spreading by its own weight along the ground, leveling the hills, filling the valleys, so long as it moved, and finally leaving these scattered piles of drift and debris where its margin rested, and the glacier along its southern border, checked its southeast advance, shortened it, diminished it, caused it to recede even farther and farther north until it paused at last only as a great snow cap to the planet, covering Greenland and other icy lands, generally away north of the Arctic circle even as we see it this day.

"Wright and Hamilton counties are just within the limits of the old glacier's furthest eastward spread or push. Traces of similar topography extend almost to Ackley along the line of the Illinois Central and almost to Hampton along the Great Western Railway, but the high hills of Dows, and those about Iowa Lake are the most striking evidences of the glacier's pause, while points near Hampton and Ackley may fix for us the very furthest reach of glacial action. The hills referred to, mark perhaps a second limit when the glacier, once melted quite away, came down again, only once more to meet with check, once more dissolve away, and this time disappear for good."

#### OUR SOIL AND ITS ORIGIN

The surface of the earth throughout Hamilton County is composed of what geologists call "Wisconsin Drift." It is a sort of clay more or less intermixed with pebbles and the later formation is of a light yellowish color. When this yellow clay has been exposed to the weather and is mixed with decayed vegetation, it becomes black and forms the richest and most fertile soil. The Wisconsin Drift varies in depth from five or six feet to 100 feet, the average depth being perhaps about 50 feet.

If the student who is interested in the study of this formation will go to the high bluff which flanks Boone river on the south just north of Lawn Hill addition to Webster City, he will find a vertical exposure some 85 feet in thickness. This shows about 70 feet of Grey Wisconsin drift, 12 feet of yellow Wisconsin drift, and about 3 feet of black soil.

It is thought that the river at this point cuts clear through the Wisconsin drift formation and that the exposure here furnished is one of the best to be found in the county, though there are of course many others along the course of the Boone river. The surface of this formation in Hamilton county, while, on the whole almost level, was filled with small depressions from a fraction of an acre to 20 acres in extent. These depressions filled with water and formed sloughs or swamps and in pioneer days, there was hardly a quarter section of prairie land in the entire county that did not have within its borders, several of these sloughs. These sloughs were not confined to the lower lands but were found at all elevations, some even on top of the Morainic hills which range through the county. These swamps, though looked upon with extreme aversion by early settlers, were in fact storehouses of agricultural wealth for when they were once thoroughly drained, they became the richest and most productive land to be found.

The soil of Hamilton county is very uniform in character and is usually described as "black loam." This black loam is from three to five feet in depth and when thoroughly drained and cultivated, is of most astonishing productiveness.

The soil along the river and over the Morain hills is of a sandier nature, lighter in color and not so rich as the heavier prairie soil but even this lighter soil has its advantages, for it warms up earlier in the spring and is easier to cultivate.

#### ECONOMIC PRODUCTS

The economic products of a geological nature are limestone, fire clay, sand and gravel and coal, and there is at least one exposed stratum of very good sandstone, though a quarry has never been developed.

Before the universal adoption of cement as building material, large quantities of limestone were quarried for foundation purposes. There was a quarry at Bell Mill, one on the old Snell farm in Webster township and several in and about Webster City.

In the pioneer days, lime was manufactured, and this industry was carried on to considerable extent by both Ullis Briggs and Jacob Paine. In the earliest pioneer days "mud brick" were manufactured from a sort of river silt deposited along the Boone river and this same river silt when mixed with stronger clay or shale shipped from Lehigh is now made into the best quality of brick and tile.

There are fine deposits of shale and fire clay along the Boone river but lack of cheap transportation facilities has prevented the development of any extensive pits.

Coal of good quality and in large quantities has been found along the Boone river between Webster City and the Des Moines river; indeed it is quite well settled that the whole southwest one-fourth of the county is underlaid with coal. In earlier days, mines were developed and the coal consumed within the county was nearly all mined at home. J. N. Bell is credited with having first discovered coal in Hamilton county. When a small boy, while digging along the river bank he came across a bright glistening material which his youthful imagination pictured as gold. It turned out to be sulphur deposits in a vein of coal. And so the discovery was made and the first coal mine was opened near Bell Mill. Later, quite a number of mines were developed, among which might be mentioned the Brockschink and Silvers mines, the Chaffin mines and the Stockdale mines. Coal of good quality was mined here for years and transported by wagon or sled to the home of the user or to market at Webster City and hauling coal was the usual occupation of the teamster during the winter months. At times the demand for coal was so great that teamsters arriving at the mines before daylight in the morning might have to wait the greater part of the day before their turn came to have their wagons filled. With the building of the Northwestern and Crooked Creek railroads, the coal mining industry in Hamilton county began to decline and now comparatively little coal is mined in the county.

#### GEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

Hamilton has been, since its first discovery, so rich in agricultural advantages that little attention has been paid to its mineral wealth. A geologist by the name of David D. Owen passed up the Des Moines river and made some slight observations in Hamilton county prior to 1852, but about all that he recorded, was that Hamilton county was "the Beautiful Prairie."

Dr. Chas. A. White visited the county about 1869 and noted the Morain Hills and the coal deposits.

Mr. Warren Upton studied our Morainic deposits in 1880. Aside from these observations, little attention had been paid to the geology of the county until the survey made by Mr. Thos. McBride in 1909.

It is known however that shortly after the time of the Des Moines River land grant, the Des Moines Navigation and R. R. Company sent scientific men out to investigate the natural resources of the land they expected to acquire from the state, and that the reports of these men were such as caused the company to insert a mineral reserve clause in many of its deeds to Hamilton county land.

In 1885, Will L. Clark who was at that time writing for the Freeman made some inquiry into "Our Mineral Wealth" and wrote an article which is here reproduced:

#### W. L. CLARK'S ESTIMATE OF OUR MINERAL WEALTH

HER VAST COAL AND CLAY FIELDS, WITH STRONG INDICATIONS OF RICHER DEPOSITS,  
IN THE WAY OF COPPER, LEAD AND PORCELAIN

By the developments already made, together with the observations taken in numerous geological and mineralogical surveys, there is every indication that the past ages have made a rocky frame work, the inner cells of which contain an accumulation of untold wealth, which at no distant day will fill human hands and enrich the coffers of those who possess and develop these rich mines. This is not an idle speculation or fanciful dream, but rather the rational conclusion deduced from the critical and scientific investigations made by those thoroughly acquainted with such subjects, who have made this particular location a special study for more than thirty years. Away back, as early as 1854-5, the Des Moines River Land and Navigation company employed experts, operating in various departments of natural science, to prospect and survey the Des Moines valley for the purpose of ascertaining the value of their lands, both as to its topographical and subterranean formation. This research was all conducted by practical as well as scientific men, who reduced every observation bearing on the subject to records, charts and plats, which are now intact. This company also spared no expense to procure and carefully preserve all valuable specimens of mineral ore curiosities, some of which have proven to be "missing links" as it were, to a pre-historic people, who have been lost and forgotten within the folds of a mysterious winding sheet, the true texture of which will ever remain an uncertainty to the present inhabitants of the earth. The River Land Company had in their corps of topographical engineers, Mr. Huitt Ross, still a resident of this county, who is today in the possession of more valuable knowledge concerning the mineral deposits of Hamilton county than any one now known to us. Through a reliable source we learn that there is a certain tract in which may be seen positive and well defined traces of a mineral deposit, in which lead and copper ore are to be found in quantities sufficiently large to pay for mining. Specimens of copper ore, taken from this locality, were sent to eastern cities and there tested by competent assayers who pronounced it a large per cent copper. There were also found chunks of lead ore, which assayed 60%. One acquainted with geological formations can

go to several points on the Boone and Des Moines rivers and find nuggets of lead ore in great abundance, which to the casual passerby would look like so many common stones. Men have gone from this county to the far off Rocky Mountain country and there risked life, money, and all that was dear for the purpose of prospecting in mines, where the "croppings" or outside prospects were not half so auspicious as those to be seen along the Boone and Des Moines valleys. At different times during the past quarter of a century Mr. Ross has tried to induce capital to invest in a mining plant, by which the hidden treasures of these undeveloped mines might be unbosomed and utilized, but so far all such attempts have failed by reason of various causes, the principal one being the fact that the title of a portion of this land was in litigation, and also that the owners of the same are not inclined toward enterprise and speculation, growing out of their ignorance concerning the vast bonanza which in all probability rests beneath the very house they now live in. We believe that if some of the wealthy men of this county would take pains the coming season to allow Mr. Ross and others to make them acquainted with some of the by-paths and trails of Nature along the banks of the Boone river, that they would be astonished at the prominent features of our county's mineral wealth, and also become induced to form a stock company for the purpose of making some more certain test of this supposed deposit. A three days' trip up and down the meanderings of this stream piloted by one who knows whereof he speaks, would not only be a very pleasant trip, but doubtless bring to light that which would be of vast financial benefit to this section of Iowa. Our county has been looked upon by our state geologists as being one of rare value and importance both as to its coal and potters clay deposit, and also to the finer, more valuable minerals. There is another feature so full of wonderment in regard to this strange part of our county, and about which there is so little known, of which it may be of interest to speak in this connection. There is a point on Boone river at which one may see a well defined right angular line of earth works thrown up as systematically as those produced by our well trained modern soldiery for a protection against an enemy. In the immediate vicinity of this line of earth works, which are elevated to quite a height above the surface there have been found many odd relics bearing unmistakable evidence of having been fashioned by a people with whom this age is unacquainted. Among these rare curiosities is a peculiar shaped dish of pottery ware, resembling the porcelain goods of today, though not half so highly finished. Also unique designed stone hammers, axes, and other curiously fashioned tools, which must have been made by some extinct race, who no doubt, from all that can be seen, used them in some kind of mining or manufacturing work. Here may be found irregular shaped pieces of lead and copper ore, through which is trickling a stream of spring water, containing mineral properties, the same as that found discharging from every rich copper mine in the world; it is of a peculiar green color, perfectly transparent, yet leaving a deposit on the stones over which it flows, containing both sulphur and salts of copper. There is a reason to believe that at one time this plateau was the site of a thriving little villa, the inhabitants of which, however unlettered, were possessed with a peculiar skill, by which they made implements in a manner, and from a mixture of material now unknown to artisans. There may also be seen excavations in the bluffs along the river at this point, resembling the opening to a coal shaft, which has caved in and over which debris

has collected and underbrush is now growing. There is a theory among those who have studied well the subject, that these were the mouths of ancient copper and lead mines. At least who can contradict it by telling the inquisitive who these relics were made by and for what purpose, and at what date in the world's history were they wrought out?

#### OTHER VALUABLE MINERALS

to be seen in great quantities in the above described section are fine qualities of ochre, so called by some, and by other chemists pronounced a species of red graphite, (red lead), which produces a very valuable paint for both wood and iron surfaces. Also there is to be found a good amount of the same sort of white clay from which porcelain ware is made. Specimens of this valuable mineral have been experimented with by those skilled in this peculiar art, and it is proven beyond a peradventure that a vein of sufficient thickness, to pay for working, is to be found within this wonderful mineral land of the Boone valley. This alone is worth its tens of thousands to the county when properly developed.

#### THE COAL AND CLAY

fields of our county are more generally understood and conceded as facts; yet the almost boundless stratas of these more common minerals have been but scarcely touched, and much less developed. One particular grade of coal, thus far only found in Scotland, abounds here, and which has never been used, save in small pieces by a few experimenters, who claim it contains eight times the carbon found in bituminous coal. There is but little doubt that the scope of country lying between the Des Moines and Skunk rivers is underlain by valuable coal stratas, varying from 10 to 1,000 feet in depth. There are a number of other rare minerals found in this "Wonderland of the Boone," including a fine grade of mica, better known as isinglass, which we have no space to elaborate upon at this time. Suffice to say that we have a mineral treasure locked up within the chambers of the earth which will certainly guarantee the organization of a stock company, the purpose of which shall be to spend a few thousand dollars in determining just what these minerals will prove themselves to be worth. From what we can glean as to the above we are again constrained to assert that this is no idle fancy, but a correct conclusion.

W. L. C.

And still after nearly 30 years the wonderful mineral wealth of which Mr. Clark speaks is still undeveloped. Agriculture and the things necessary to agriculture have absorbed the entire attention of the people. They have had little time to prospect for lead, copper or the fine clays, even if they would have been able to recognize these minerals had they come upon them.

#### WATER SUPPLIES

Hamilton county is well watered by streams and formerly she was the possessor of three very respectable lakes.

The Boone river traverses the west tier of townships from north to south and into this river empties Brewer creek, Lyon creek and White Fox creek, besides



BOONE RIVER, WEBSTER CITY



numerous small rivulets. This system is now fed by a vast net work of underground tile which is continually supplying fresh, clear, cold water.

The Skunk river with its branches, traverses the eastern part of the county.

Lake Cairo, better known as "Mud Lake" is located near the centre of the county on the line between Hamilton and Lyon townships. This lake formerly covered about 1,200 acres and was a great rendezvous for wild game. In late years it has been drained, and, but for the still well defined banks, that border of the old bed, one would scarcely know that a lake had ever existed there.

In the east part of the county, in Rose Grove township, was Iowa lake, almost as large as Mud lake. This too has been drained and converted into farm land.

In the southern part of the county, in Ellsworth township, is "Wall Lake," almost entirely surrounded by Morainic hills. This lake is still in existence. It is only about half the size of the other lakes. It is shallow and filled with rushes and other aquatic plants and probably at some time in the not very distant future, it too will be converted into farm land.

Boone river has many natural advantages. Beside revealing along its banks much of geological interest, it for many years furnished power for a number of mills. This little river, silent and unpretentious in dry weather but stormy, turbulent and dangerous in flood times, has by reason of its economic value earned a place in history.

In 1910, Mr. Geo. D. Dobson and T. L. Blank, acting under direction of the Iowa State Drainage Waterway and Conservation Commission, made a thorough examination and survey of the Boone river. Below is given a report of their findings made by Mr. L. V. Hites, secretary of the commission:

#### THE BOONE RIVER—DESCRIPTION

The Boone river rises in the northwestern part of Hancock county and flows in a southeasterly direction to the vicinity of Webster City in Hamilton county, where its general course changes to the south and southwest to its junction with the Des Moines river at a point about three miles from Stratford but in Webster county. The total length of the river is about 98 miles by river measurement, and 65 miles by air line. It has a drainage basin above Webster City, the area drained by the river being about 100 square miles, making a total of 920 square miles. The latter area was not considered in the calculations of stream flow used in this study.

#### CHARACTER OF VALLEY

The valley of the river throughout the territory covered by the surveys is comparatively narrow and deep, rarely exceeding one-half a mile in width, and often as narrow as 500 feet at a height of 80 or 90 feet above the river bed.

The banks of the river are in general about 12 to 20 feet high, backed by a second bank 4 to 10 feet high and 10 to 200 feet back from the river. The slopes of the sides of the valley are comparatively steep, varying from vertical bluffs, where native rock outcrops, to slopes of about a  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 pitch which rise to a height of from 50 to 150 feet above the river bed.

The bed of the stream and the nature of the soil through which it runs are variable. The lower five or six miles of the river valley, from the junction to the

vicinity of Bell Mill, is characterized by a wide flood plain and the channel is tortuous and frequently interspersed with sand and gravel bars. The soil is a rich river silt.

Near the Bell Mill bridge, the character of valley changes. Coal outcrops in the bluffs, and the river bed is a sort of black or blue clay. The surface of the native limestone is at this point about 10 feet below the bed of the river.

From the Bell Mill bridge to the Tunnel Mill bridge, the river bed is clay or shale covered with sand, the depth of bed rock in this section varying from five to ten feet. Coal outcrops are frequent, and though the veins are quite thin, they contain exceedingly good coal.

Sandstone and limestone outcrop about one-quarter of a mile above the old Tunnel Mill dam and form the bed of the river. These outcrops are characterized in a number of places by vertical bluffs in which 20 to 50 feet of lime and sandstone is exposed. No out-crops of native rock appear from Bone's Mill bridge to the Allbright bridge, but rock foundation is only a few feet below the bed of the river. There are low bluffs of native rock from a point a half mile below the Millard bridge to a short distance above the Chicago and North-Western Railroad bridge. From this point to the end of the survey no more outcrops appear and no probings were made for foundation on account of the large number of boulders in the soil.

#### DISCHARGE

The discharge of the Boone river at various seasons of the year is a factor very difficult to determine, and in fact, could not be accurately computed, without a series of gaugings and discharge measurements covering a number of years. However, during the month of August, 1910, the survey party took an accurate wier measurement of the discharge one-fourth of a mile below the Haskell bridge. This measurement shows a discharge of 12.6 second feet which, according to the testimony of people acquainted with the river and according to the most accurate data obtainable in regard to the run-off for the watershed of the river, is about one-third or one-half of the usual minimum discharge. Since this past season has been one in which all previous low water records have been broken, 20 second feet could be taken as the minimum discharge upon which to base power estimates.

The maximum discharge of the river could only be obtained in a very rough way. High water cross sections were taken at several points in the river above the Millard bridge, and the slope of the river determined. With these factors, the maximum flow was estimated by means of Kutter's formula and was found to be about 7,000 second feet. This figure is for the year 1903, during which this section of the country experienced the heaviest rainfall in many years.

#### FLOODS

The floods of the Boone river are usually very sudden and of short duration. This is a favorable factor for the development of water-power since the quick passing of floods shortens the time of low head due to high water.

FALL

The total fall of the Boone river from the upper end of the Webster City reservoir, about eight miles above Webster City, to its junction with the Des Moines river, a point about twenty-eight miles below Webster City, is 133.5 feet, giving an average of 3.73 feet per mile. In some places however, the gradient is as much as eight feet per mile, while in other sections it reduces to less than three feet per mile.

The maximum fall attained at certain points is found, where there is a succession of rapids as, for example, just below the Allbright bridge and about one-half mile below the Millard bridge.

The average fall of the river at various sections is shown by the following table:

LOCATION	DISTANCE	FALL PER MILE
Mouth of river to Haskell bridge.....	3.31	3.66
Haskell bridge to Bell Mill bridge.....	2.81	3.20
Bell Mill bridge to Tunnel Mill bridge.....	4.88	3.38
T. M. bridge to Tunnel Mill dam.....	1.75	4.85
T. M. dam to Bone's Mill bridge.....	3.38	5.07
Bone's Mill bridge to Allbright bridge.....	2.25	4.31
Allbright bridge to Millard bridge.....	3.44	4.31
Millard bridge to Chase Mill dam.....	4.06	2.88
Chase Mill dam to Webster City dam-site.....	2.00	2.90
Webster City dam-site to north end of reservoir.....	7.90	3.29
Total .....	35.78	Av. 3.73

THE WEBSTER CITY RESERVOIR

Before going into the calculations, as to the power to be developed and the location of power sites, it would be well to call attention to the results of the survey of the Webster City reservoir site. This investigation has shown that an earth dam 26 feet high to the flow-line and 1,200 feet long on top, could be built just above the Chicago and North Western railroad bridge, north of Webster City, which would impound about 8,500 acre feet of water. The reservoir would extend about seven miles up stream and would have a superficial area of 647.5 acres when full. The cost of such a reservoir, including the expenses incurred in building the dam, installing controlling devices, and buying lands necessary for the reservoir, would be approximately \$35,000.

The flow line of this reservoir was taken at the assumed elevation of 210. If the elevation of 197.5 be taken as the lowest elevation to which the water should be drawn, the reservoir would have an available capacity of 6,250 acre feet with a minimum head of 13.5 feet to be used in developing water power. The superficial area at the 197.5 foot contour is about 375 acres, and the length of the reservoir at this elevation is approximately four miles. From 70 to 90 horse power could be developed continuously at this dam. This power could be measurably increased by the use of a steam auxiliary to carry the plant through the

dry season. If this reservoir were to be used for power only instead of being used to regulate the flow of the river, the horse power developed could be practically doubled.

If the 6,250 acre feet of storage be applied toward increasing the dry season flow of the Boone river, it would amount to 35 second feet for 90 days on a 24 hour basis. Ninety days were assumed as the time through which the flow of the reservoir was to be distributed, since that number of days would easily cover the low water period. Adding this 35 second feet to the minimum flow of the river gives a total dry season flow of 55 second feet, which is safely the minimum flow that could be expected with the aid of this reservoir, since it would seldom be called upon to supply water to the river more than 75 days.

#### POWER POSSIBILITIES—SIZE OF PLANTS

A few statements in regard to the water-power plants in operation in this state at the present time will make clear the reasons for the conclusions drawn from these studies. There are 101 power-plants in operation in the state, of which 87 have reported to this commission. Of this number 60 develop 100 horse power or less, with an average head of 9.6 feet, and of these, 27 develop 50 horse power or less, under an average head of 9.5 feet. This average head would reduce to about eight feet if three plants which utilize the extraordinary heads of 20, 30 and 50 feet were left out of the calculations. We find also that the majority of the plants developing over 100 horse power are on rivers which have a minimum flow several times that of the Boone river. Hence, it seems reasonable to conclude, that in suggesting power projects for this river, plants of the above mentioned capacities would be the most practicable, and, in fact, the only kind feasible.

#### BASIS OF ESTIMATE

In the following considerations of power projects, no attention has been paid to the question of the use to which the power would be applied, but since there always has been a use for such power, it is safe to say that it would be saleable in some form or other. In the estimates which follow, all calculations of horse power are for a theoretical horse power, minus a 20 per cent loss, which would give approximately the power that could be delivered at the plant.

On account of the large flood discharge of the river, most of the dams suggested would necessarily have long spillways, or be submerged dams. Concrete dams would be practicable in several places on account of the presence of materials for their construction. Timber dams would probably have to be used in several locations where the small amount of power available would not permit of such expenditure as a concrete dam would demand.

#### BELL MILL SITE

The lower five miles of the river present no very good locations for dams of any size worth mentioning, and the lack of good foundation makes dam construction unfavorable for this section. There is, however, a good dam-site about two miles above the old Bell Mill dam. A dam here, if made from ten to twelve feet

high, would be about 150 feet long and would easily furnish 50 horse power continuously, which would amount, if transformed into electrical energy, to about 900 kilowatt hours per day. The flowage from such a dam as suggested would cause but little damage, as it would remain almost entirely within the banks of the river. The stage of the river would be affected for about three miles above the proposed dam to a point near the Tunnel Mill bridge.

#### TUNNEL MILL SITE

The next feasible site is at the location of the old Tunnel Mill project. At this point the river makes a loop of about one and three-fourths miles to within less than 1,000 feet of its own channel. The old Tunnel Mill project consisted of a low timber and brush dam which diverted the river into a tunnel about 450 feet long, which carried the water through the intervening bluff and delivered it to a mill, whence it was returned to the river at the other end of the loop by a short mill race.

Our surveys show that there is a fall of 8.6 feet in the river around this loop, and that a 13-foot dam less than 300 feet long could easily be constructed at the point where the old timber dam was located. This dam would cause but very little overflow, and would affect the river for only about three miles up stream.

There is an abundance of gravel and sand, as well as outcrops of native rock, to be found within the immediate vicinity of this place which could be used in the construction. Bed rock at the dam site is about four or five feet below the bed of the river. The tunnel would not need to be over 450 feet long, and would be straight earth excavation with perhaps, a few boulders.

By the construction of this proposed dam and tunnel, it would be possible to create a head of from 20 to 21 feet which, with the water available, would easily develop 100 horse power on a 24-hour basis equal in electrical energy to 1,800 kilowatt hours per day.

#### BONE'S MILL SITE

The next point where a good head could be created is immediately below the site of the old Bone's Mill dam. It would be possible here to construct a dam 20 to 22 feet high, which would not exceed 200 feet in length.

There would be some little flowage damages, due to the effect of the dam during the floods unless large flood gates were installed. The back water would reach about four and one-half miles up stream. Rock foundation is about four feet below the river bed at this point. There is an abundant supply of sand, gravel, and native rock in the near vicinity.

Assuming that a head of 22 feet could be obtained the plant would develop about 120 horse power continuously, which, when transformed into electrical energy, would be equal to 2,148 kilowatt hours.

#### MILLARD BRIDGE SITE

Between the limits of the reservoir created by the Bone's Mill dam and the Webster City reservoir site, there is but one point favorable for the construction

of a dam. About one-half mile below the Millard bridge, a dam could be constructed fourteen feet high and 150 feet long very reasonably. There is a good foundation here, and rock outcrops in the banks. Sand and gravel are also easily obtainable.

There would be some flowage damages in high water, due to this dam, but the most of this could be remedied if the dam should develop 70 horse power on a 24 hour basis, equal to 1,250 kilowatt hours in electrical energy.

#### CONCLUSION

The investigations on the Boone river lead to the following conclusions:

1. The minimum flow of the Boone river is too small to warrant the development of the water power except by the use of large storage-reservoirs.
2. The proposed Webster City reservoir, if constructed either for a power site and a pleasure resort for Webster City, or for the treble purpose of a power site, a pleasure resort, and for regulating the dry season flow of this stream for the improvement of other power plants below, would be practicable.
3. It is probable that a further investigation of the river would result in bringing to light more such reservoir sites. Wall lake and Owl lake, east and west respectively, suggest themselves as promising fields for further investigation and are likely to afford sites for satisfactory storage.
4. The Boone river valley abounds in good sites for small power projects which could be profitably constructed by the aid of the Webster City reservoir.
5. The addition of other storage reservoirs, or the use of steam auxiliaries would materially increase the horse power and the value of these plants.
6. With the exception of the Webster City reservoir, the power sites of the Boone river are impracticable without the study and development of the river as a whole.
7. Bottom lands along the Boone river in the part referred to above are not extensive, yet there are some. These are now subject to constant destructive erosion. Of course, much of this waste would cease with the control proposed for this lawless stream.

Respectfully,

L. V. HITES, *Secretary.*

#### FISH AND CLAMS

In the waters of the Boone, swim a few choice fish: Bass, pickerel, perch-pike (wall eyed pike) catfish and carp are the principal varieties. While these are not as numerous, as they were in early days, the skilled angler seldom fails to secure a "mess" if he is at all persistent.

The clams, which are numerous along the sandy river bottoms, contain many valuable pearls; indeed pearl fishing has become quite an industry during the summer months.

#### TIMBER

Along the banks of the rivers and creeks and about the margin of the lakes of the county is a plentiful supply of native timber; red cedar, of which only a few

specimens have been found, cottonwood, quaking asp, willow, walnut, butternut, hickory, oak, maple, box elder, basswood are chief among the larger varieties. Besides this there is an abundance of small fruit trees and bushes, such as wild crabapples, plums, thornapples, Juneberries, haws, gooseberries, raspberries, etc., to say nothing of the vines and creeping plants of which the wild grape is a useful specimen.

ARTESIAN WELLS

Another feature of interest is the artesian wells and springs that are found in nearly all parts of the county. One of the most wonderful springs in the county bursts from the rocks near the margin of Boone river on the McLaughlin farm in Cass township.

Perhaps the most notable artesian well in the county is located at Webster City. A company organized to prospect for gas, commenced drilling near the Chicago & North-Western Railway track on Bank street. After going down over 1,200 feet, they failed to discover gas, but they did develop a magnificent flowing well of very superior water.

MCMURRAY'S REPORT

Fortunately, at the time this well was sunk, L. A. McMurray, a member of the company became interested in the project from a scientific standpoint and kept a record of the strata through which the well drill passed. He not only made a report to those in charge of the state geological survey, but he preserved in a glass tube, actual samples of each stratum of earth and rock in the order they were originally formed. This graphic portrayal of the foundation stones of Webster City may be seen by any one who will call at the Auditor's office in the Hamilton county court house.

Mr. McMurray's report to the geological survey is as follows:

XIX. WEBSTER CITY

Owner .....	Gas Well Co.
Depth .....	1,250 feet
Diameter .....	8 inches—6 inches
Elevation of curb A. T. ....	1,048 feet
Head of Water A. T. ....	1,064 feet
Date of beginning .....	Feb. 3, 1888
Date of completion .....	June 28, 1888

This first flow from this well was obtained at the depth of 675 feet and its head was six feet above the curb. The source of the present flow, heading sixteen feet above the curb, is at about 1,200 feet. The discharge was originally about seventy gallons a minute. It has since diminished, owing presumably to neglect, but is still strong. The water has both the odor and taste of sulphur, and so rapidly corrodes iron that the best galvanized pipe withstands its constant flow but about two years. For these reasons it is only used in a public watering trough. The well is cased to or near the bottom.

ANALYSIS

	Grains per U. S. Gallon.	Parts per million
Silica (SiO <sub>2</sub> ) .....	1.889	32.571
Alumina (Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> ) .....	Trace	Trace
Ferric oxide (Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> ) .....	Trace	Trace
Lime (CaO) .....	14.285	246.286
Magnesia (MgO) .....	2.593	44.714
Potash (K <sub>2</sub> O) .....		
Soda (Na <sub>2</sub> O) .....	8.791	151.571
Chlorine (Cl) .....	.596	10.286
Sulphur trioxide (SO <sub>3</sub> ) .....	24.890	429.143
Carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) .....	12.354	213.000
Water in combination (H <sub>2</sub> O) .....	2.494	43.000

UNITED AS FOLLOWS

	Grains per U. S. Gallon	Parts per million
Calcium bicarbonate (CaH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> .....	22.529	388.428
Calcium carbonate (CaCO <sub>3</sub> ).....	.265	4.571
Ferrous bicarbonate (FeH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> .....	Trace	Trace
Calcium sulphate (CaSO <sub>4</sub> ).....	15.494	67.143
Magnesium sulphate (MgSO <sub>4</sub> ).....	7.747	133.573
Sodium sulphate (Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> ).....	18.891	325.714
Sodium chloride (NaCl).....	.994	17.143
Alumina (Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> ) .....	Trace	Trace
Silica (SiO <sub>2</sub> ) .....	1.889	32.571
Oxygen replaced by chlorine.....	.084	1.428

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Solids .....67.893 1,170.571

Analyst, Prof. J. B. Weems. Date, July 9, 1896.

RECORD OF STRATA

	Thickness	Depth
20. From surface to rock, 180 feet, soil, clay, sand, thin layers of rock, etc. ....	180	180
19. Sandstone, gray, of quartz of various colors, yellow, pink and black, grains imperfectly rounded; mingled with the sand is a large quantity of light yellow limestone.....	20	20
18. Limestone, light gray, soft, earthy, in flaky chips, fossili- ferous .....	150	350
17. Shale, blue .....	10	360
16. Limestone, dark drab, mottled with white calcite, crystalline.....	100	460
15. Limestone, magnesian, hard brown, crystalline.....	40	500

14. Shale, calcareous, dark gray, siliceous with microscopic particles of quartz.....	20	520
13. Dolomite, or magnesium limestone, dark brown, compact crystalline .....	30	550
12. Limestone, dark blue gray, crystalline effervescence slow...	45	595
11. Limestone, light yellow-gray, soft, crystalline, effervescence slow .....	55	650
10. Dolomite, or magnesian limestone, as No. 13.....	30	680
9. Limestone, light gray, saccharoidal.....	95	775
8. Limestone, close-grained, no samples.....	45	820
7. Limestone, brown, crystalline.....	60	880
6. Limestone, or shale, highly argillaceous, blue-gray.....	120	1,000
5. Shale, drab, calcareous.....	75	1,075
4. Limestone, magnesian, brown, crystalline.....	15	1,090
3. Limestone, in pure, white crystalline sand.....	40	1,130
2. Limestone (?), pure white, no sample.....	120	1,250
1. Limestone, light buff, in fine sand.....		1,250

SUMMARY

This section is a difficult one to interpret with the data at hand, and the following assignments are made more for general stratigraphical reasons than because of any direct evidence carried by the drillings themselves.

	Thickness	Depth A. T.
19-20. Alluvium, Drift and Coal measures.....	200	848
17-18. Mississippian .....	160	668
7-16. Devonian and Niagra.....	520	168
5, (6?) Maquoketa .....	195	27
1-4. Galena-Trenton penetrated .....	175	202



## CHAPTER II

### OUR TITLE

ABSTRACT OF TITLE TO HAMILTON COUNTY—INDIAN RIGHTS—THE NEUTRAL STRIP—CESSION OF 1842—HENRY LOT'S TROUBLE WITH THE INDIANS—THE LOT MONUMENT—REPULSE OF GOVERNMENT SURVEYORS BY INDIANS—HENRY LOT'S REVENGE—A PIONEER INQUEST.

#### ABSTRACT OF TITLE TO HAMILTON COUNTY

When the prudent citizen buys a tract of land, he is always concerned about the abstract of title. This document shows the names of all who have owned or held legal claims against the land since it was first sold to the settler by the government. Perhaps it would be interesting to know who owned or claimed the land of Hamilton county before the United States government had the right to sell it to the settler. This information was collected by Capt. Frank E. Landers some years ago, and was published in the "Annals of Iowa" under the title of "An Abstract of Title to the State of Iowa" and so much of it as refers to the territory of which Hamilton county was a part is given below:

#### GRANT TO THE KING AND QUEEN OF SPAIN

1493. Pope Alexander VI granted to Ferdinand and Isabella, King and Queen of Aragon and Castile—Spain—all the continents, inhabited by infidels, which they had discovered, extending the assignment to their heirs and successors, the kings of Castile and Leon. The boundary between the grants to Spain and Portugal was fixed on a line drawn from pole to pole, one hundred leagues west of the Azores. All countries east of that meridian not actually possessed by any Christian prince were to belong to Portugal; all to the west, to Spain. Owing to the dissatisfaction of Portugal, as to the boundary fixed in the grant to that country and Spain, a commission was appointed, which, on July 2, 1493, agreed on a line two hundred and seventy leagues farther west. In the first assignment, Portugal secured only the title to what was found to be a vast expanse of ocean, and the change of meridian was made in the belief that she would thereby acquire some portion of "terra firma." But in this she was also doomed to disappointment.

#### THE CABOT PATENTS

1496. Henry VII, King of England, granted to John Cabot and his sons, Lewis, Sebastian and Sancius, a patent of discovery, possession and trade. This

was to include all lands they might discover, of which they were to take possession in the name of the English Crown. England laid claim in 1498 to all of North America, through the discoveries of the Cabots.

#### THE PLYMOUTH COMPANY'S CHARTER

1620. James I, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, granted to the Council at Plymouth, England, all that part of America lying between the fortieth and forty-eighth degrees of north latitude, and extending from "sea to sea." This grant included within its limits the whole of Iowa, and challenged any rights Spain may have received from the Pope.

#### THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY COMPANY'S CHARTER

1628. The "Council established at Plymouth," England, granted to Sir Henry Roswell and others, all that part of New England in America, extending along the Atlantic coast from three miles north of the Merrimac to three miles south of the Charles river, and westward between the latitude of 42°, 2' and a point three miles north of the most southerly bend of the Merrimac, to the South Sea. This grant gave to the Massachusetts Company that part of Iowa lying between parallels passing through the north edge of Clinton county and the south part of Clayton county and includes Hamilton county. Charles I, King of England, granted, March 4, 1629, to Sir Henry Roswell and twenty others, a charter similar to that of 1628, with the exception, that no part of the lands therein granted were, on the 3d day of November, 1620, inhabited by any other Christian prince or within the limits of the Southern Colony of Virginia. The associates were made "one body corporate and politic in fact and name, by the name of the governor and company of Massachusetts Bay in New England."

#### THE PLYMOUTH COMPANY'S CHARTER

1635. The charter of the Plymouth Company was surrendered to the Crown of England, to obtain a confirmation of the respective rights of the original members of the company. The grant was divided into twelve parts, and distributed by lot. No territory was partitioned lying west of forty miles west of the Hudson. The province of Virginia, on the surrender of the charter of the Plymouth Company, extended its jurisdiction to the forty-first parallel, the south line of the Warwick grant. The territory of Iowa was then claimed by Virginia, the assignees of the Earl of Warwick, and Massachusetts, to the north line of Massachusetts, and from thence north by the Crown of England.

#### LA SALLE'S PATENT

1678. Louis XIV, King of France and Navarre, granted a patent to Robert de la Salle, permitting him to endeavor to discover the western part of New France. April 9, 1682, La Salle, having descended the Mississippi and explored the shore of the Gulf of Mexico to the westward, took formal possession of

the country in the name of the King of France, "from the mouth of the Ohio; also along the Mississippi and the rivers discharging themselves thereinto from its source beyond the country of the Nadouessioux as far as its mouth at the Gulf of Mexico."

#### THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY COMPANY'S CHARTER

1684. The Court of Chancery of Westminster, England, decreed that the patent of Massachusetts should be brought into court and cancelled.

#### THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY COMPANY'S CHARTER

1691. William and Mary, King and Queen of England, granted a charter uniting the colonies of Massachusetts, New Plymouth and others under a new name of "Province of Massachusetts Bay in New England." The charter included the same territory in Iowa as did that of the charters of 1628 and 1629.

#### CROZAT'S PATENT

1712. Louis XIV, King of France and Navarre, granted a patent to Anthony Crozat, for fifteen years, with the right to carry on a trade in the country between Carolina and New Mexico. The country was to retain the name of Louisiana and be annexed as a dependent of New France. The laws of France were extended to the province.

#### THE WESTERN COMPANY'S PATENT

1717. Crozat surrendered his patent to the Crown of France, and King Louis XV granted to the Western Company, for twenty-five years, the exclusive commerce of Louisiana, and the right of beaver trade with New France. The charter gave rights of civil and military jurisdiction. It was surrendered to the crown in 1730.

#### THE ACT OF FONTAINBLEAU

1762. A preliminary treaty was signed between England, France and Spain by which it was agreed that the boundary between the provinces of England and France should be irrevocably fixed by a line drawn in the middle of the Mississippi river, from its source to the Iberville, etc. Louis XV, King of France, ceded Louisiana to Spain. The province was formally taken possession of August 18, 1769. By this treaty the territory comprised in the bounds of the state of Iowa was definitely placed in the province of Louisiana, and the rights of the English claimants terminated.

#### THE TREATY OF PARIS

1763. A definitive treaty was signed between England, France and Spain, confirming the boundary between the possessions of England and France as agreed upon by the Act of Fontainbleau, of 1762.

## THE TREATY OF ILDEFONSO

1800. A secret agreement was entered into by which the King of Spain was to re-cede the province of Louisiana to France, upon a fulfillment of certain considerations to be performed by the French Republic.

The agreement of the treaty of Madrid, made the following year, provided that the retrocession of Louisiana as provided in the treaty of Ildefonso should be carried out.

## THE TREATY OF PARIS

1803. France ceded the province of Louisiana to the United States. The treaty was ratified and proclaimed October 1, 1803. The province comprised all west of the Mississippi river north and east of the Spanish possessions, with the island of Orleans.

## DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

1804. The part of the province of Louisiana south of the thirty-third parallel was detached to form the territory of Orleans, by act of congress, and the residue named "District of Louisiana," and placed under the control of the governor and judges of Indiana territory.

## TERRITORY OF LOUISIANA

1805. A territorial government was established by congress in the District of Louisiana, and the name changed to "Territory of Louisiana."

## TERRITORY OF MISSOURI

1812. The government of the territory of Louisiana was re-organized and the name changed to "Territory of Missouri."

## TERRITORY OF MISSOURI

1821. Missouri was admitted as a state, and the remaining portion of the territory, that part north and west of Missouri and Arkansas, left without any form of government.

## MICHIGAN TERRITORY

1834. The boundaries of Michigan territory were extended by act of congress westward to the Missouri river. This act again placed Iowa among the governments east of the Mississippi river. Michigan territory extended from Lake Huron to the Missouri river, and from the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri north to the British possessions.

## WISCONSIN TERRITORY

1836. Michigan territory was divided by act of congress April 20, 1836, and the western part established as "Wisconsin Territory."

## IOWA TERRITORY

1838. Wisconsin territory was divided by act of congress of June 12, 1838, and the western part given a territorial government and named "Iowa Territory." This territory embraced the territory of the present state of Iowa, North and South Dakota east of the Missouri and White Earth rivers, and Minnesota west of the Mississippi river and a line drawn from its source to the British possessions.

## STATE OF IOWA

1846. Application was made to congress February 12, 1844, for admission of Iowa as a state. On the first day of November of that year a constitution was adopted by a territorial convention. An act of admission was passed by congress on the 3d day of March, 1845, but at the election held on the 4th of August following, the people rejected it. The reason for this action is given below. On the 18th day of May, 1846, another constitution was adopted by a second convention, called for that purpose. This constitution proved acceptable to the people and was adopted at an election held August 3 of the same year. On the following August 4, 1846, congress passed an act repealing the law of March 3, 1845, and accepting the boundaries of the state as defined in this last constitution and as they exist today. On the 28th day of December, 1846, congress passed an act admitting Iowa as a state. The boundaries were set forth in the act as follows:

"Beginning in the middle of the main channel of the Mississippi river, at a point due east of the middle of the mouth of the main channel of the Des Moines river; thence up the middle of the main channel of the said Des Moines river to a point on said river where the northern boundary of the state of Missouri—as established by the constitution of that state, adopted June 12—crosses the said middle of the main channel of the said Des Moines river; thence westerly along the said northern boundary line of the state of Missouri, as established at the time aforesaid, until an extension of said line intersects the middle of the main channel of the Missouri river; thence up the middle of the main channel of the said Missouri river to a point opposite the middle of the main channel of the big Sioux river, according to Nicollett's map; thence up the middle of the main channel of the Big Sioux river, according to the said map, until it is intersected by the parallel of forty-three degrees and thirty minutes, north latitude; thence east along said parallel of forty-three degrees and thirty minutes, until said parallel intersects the middle of the main channel of the Mississippi river; thence down the middle of the main channel of the Mississippi river to the place of beginning."

## INDIAN RIGHTS

The examiner of the above "abstract" might well make the objection that it is not complete in so much as it does not take into account the rights of the American Indian, who occupied the land, at the time the United States secured its title from foreign claimants.

About the time of the Louisiana purchase, when the United States first

acquired a proprietary interest in the state of Iowa, a large portion of the state was occupied by the Sacs and Fox Indians, and for many years, there was a running warfare between these tribes and the Sioux, that swept down from the Dakotas and Minnesota. During this warfare, Wright and Hamilton counties were without doubt the scene of many a fierce Indian battle and it is believed that at one time of uncertain date an Indian battle was fought upon the ground now occupied by Webster City. Credence is given to this supposition by the fact that in excavating for cellars and cisterns in the block now occupied by the new government postoffice, many human bones have been brought to light and these were most probably the bones of Indians killed in battle.

#### THE NEUTRAL STRIP

In 1825, Governor Clark met in council with about 3,000 Indian chiefs and warriors at Prairie Du Chien. Here he assured them that the "Great Father" wanted "not the smallest piece" of their land, but he did want them to quit fighting with each other and to become quiet, peaceable people. To this end it was agreed that the Sioux should stay north and the Sacs and Foxes, south, of a certain line extending east and west across the state. This line extended from about 20 miles south of the northeast corner of the state to the fork of the Des Moines river in Humboldt county and thence northwest to the forks of the Big Sioux river in Lyon county. The line passed through Wright county near Belmond, Clarion and Goldfield. But this imaginary line was not sufficient to keep the warring tribes apart and the uncertainty as to its exact location was a constant cause for controversy. So in 1830 the line was broadened. Certain of the Sioux tribes ceded to the United States a strip of land 20 miles wide, abutting this line on the north and extending from the Mississippi to the Des Moines river. At the same time the confederated tribes of the Sacs and Foxes ceded to the United States a corresponding strip 20 miles wide abutting the treaty line on the south and extending to the Des Moines river, and also some other lands in the western part of the state. This was known as the "Neutral Strip." The south line of this strip enters Hamilton county at about the northeast corner of section one, in Rose Grove township, crosses Boone river near the Bone's mill bridge and leaves the county at Homer in Webster township. The United States now had dominion over this territory, but the contracting tribes had the right to hunt upon the ceded lands. The neutral strip and the other lands ceded in 1830, cost the United States in money and presents about 3 cents per acre.

#### THE CESSION OF 1842

That portion of Hamilton county lying south of the neutral strip was still in the dominion of the Sacs and Fox Indians, but in 1842, they ceded to the United States, all of their land east of the Missouri and agreed to evacuate within three years. Land had evidently commenced to advance in price, for the cession of 1842 cost the United States 10 cents per acre.

So, the prudent man who has an abstract showing an unbroken chain of conveyances, from the United States to himself, may feel assured that no human

being, either civilized or savage, has a legal or moral claim to the acres he owns equal to his own. And if it is suggested that the Indians did not receive enough for their lands, and that their ignorance was taken advantage of, it may well be retorted that the Indians drove a harder bargain and received much more per acre for their land than did Napoleon when he sold Louisiana to the emissaries of Thomas Jefferson.

But in spite of the fact that all of the territory within the present limits of Hamilton county had been purchased from the Indians, some tribes were loth to surrender their hunting grounds to the white man, and consequently it happened that when the first settlers arrived, they were received with unveiled hostility. Among the manuscripts of F. Q. Lee is found the following account of the trouble between Henry Lot, and the Indians.

#### HENRY LOT'S TROUBLE WITH THE INDIANS

"In the summer of 1847, Henry Lot with his family, consisting of a wife and three children, moved up from near Des Moines to the forks of the Boone and Des Moines rivers and built himself a cabin. He brought with him a couple of barrels of whiskey, some cattle and a horse and a few articles intended to be used in trading with the Indians.

The country was occupied by a tribe of Sioux Indians, Si-dom-i-na-do-tah being their chief. Lot had not been long at his new place of residence when he was visited by Si-dom-i-na-do-tah and a few of his warriors and informed that he was an intruder and that he must leave within a given time. Lot did not leave and when the given time had expired, the old chief and his band came again, no doubt to drive him away. While Lot evidently did not believe the Indians would return to interfere with him, he was nevertheless on the lookout for them. But it happened that when they came, he, with two older sons, was at some distance from his cabin, unarmed. They saw the Indians enter the cabin, heard the screams of Mrs. Lot, and saw the younger boy run from the back door of the house westward toward the Des Moines river. The screaming of Mrs. Lot soon ceased, and Lot, judging that the Indians had murdered her, took the two boys he had with him and made his way down the river to Pea's Point in Boone county, and reported that his wife had been murdered by the Indians. His arrival, and the news he brought, alarmed the whole settlement, and fearing the Sioux might follow Lot and fall upon the settlement, the settlers assembled at the house of John M. Crooks and took measures for their defense in case they were attacked.

John Pea proposed an immediate expedition to take vengeance upon Si-dom-i-na-do-tah and his band, but as the force of settlers was small, it was thought best not to leave their own families, but to procure assistance. Accordingly, Lot was sent to Elk Rapids for aid. When he reached Elk Rapids he found Chemisne, a Pottawottomie chief, with whom he was acquainted, and several hundred of his tribe there encamped. This chief was known among the settlers as Johnnie Green. Lot appealed to Johnnie Green, who, after hearing his story, immediately called a council of his braves wherein it was determined that the chief with twenty-six of his warriors should accompany Lot. Accordingly, they painted themselves in a most hideous manner, their custom when going upon

the warpath, and mounting their ponies, the whole party, with several white men, set out for Pea's Point to join the settlers there in an expedition against the Sioux. From a history of Boone county we copy:

'Lot, with several white men and the Pottawottomies were rapidly advancing across the prairie towards Crook's house, the Indians in front, yelling as was their custom when starting upon the warpath, and not in the vicinity of danger. The settlers, supposing them to be the Sioux coming to attack them, prepared for action, each singling out his Indian, and were upon the point of firing, when they recognized Lot and other white men, and were happily disappointed to find them all friends.'

John Pea and six other white men accompanied Lot and the Pottawottomies to the mouth of Boone river and there found that the family had not been tomahawked as Lot had represented, but that no serious harm had been done to them. But a cow and one or two hogs had been killed and Lot's pony had been taken. The whiskey, however, was safe and after scouting the country over for a few miles, and failing to find any of the Sioux, Lot gave his Indian friends all the whiskey they could carry and they returned to Elk Rapids, where, to celebrate the expedition, they took a rousing spree.

All this happened late in November or in December. The boy, who had escaped and ran towards the Des Moines river, had not returned, nor had he been heard of. Lot was able to track him in the snow, and after following the track about twelve miles down the river, he found him lying in a hollow log. He was dead. Lot fastened up the log to keep away the wolves, and left him there until the next spring. The boy was only about eight or nine years of age and it is supposed he became exhausted and hid. While he rested, he went to sleep and froze to death. Lot also found, a few miles north of his cabin, the carcass of his pony. The Indians had killed it, as he always thought, to settle a quarrel among themselves, as to who should have it.

The Sioux did not return again to molest Lot and his family, but early the next spring Mrs. Lot (who by the way, claimed to be a daughter of ex-Governor Huntington), died and was buried on a knoll near where their cabin stood. Until recently, the grave was marked only by a wild grape vine that grew upon it. It was located in what is known as the "Viger's cemetery a few miles southwest of Homer."

#### THE LOT MONUMENT

The fact that Mrs. Lot was the first white person to be buried in the locality of Homer actuated the old settlers to do something to perpetuate her memory. Accordingly a subscription fund was raised and a monument erected at her grave in the fall of 1911. The monument is built of cement and is a plain shaft. The work of making and erecting the monument was done by J. N. Bell, who was largely instrumental in creating interest in this worthy enterprise. The monument was unveiled with elaborate ceremonies in September, 1911. Prof. C. F. Runkle was the orator of the day and he was listened to by a large audience.

Si-dom-i-na-do-tah was perhaps honest in his claim to dominion over the territory invaded by Lot, though he was mistaken as to the extent of his right. The Sioux did own some territory west of the Des Moines river, in what is



Drawn from an old print by E. S. Boudinot

SI-DOM-I-NA-DO-TAH

The Indian Chief Murdered by Henry Lot



now Humboldt county, but this did not extend south of the forks of the Des Moines and Si-dom-i-na-do-tah was claiming territory some twenty miles south of the southern border of his rightful possessions.

#### THE REPULSE OF GOVERNMENT SURVEYORS BY INDIANS

In 1848 the government survey of the lands lying north of the Raccoon Forks, (now Des Moines) was commenced and in May of that year a Mr. Marsh, with a surveyor's party and outfit commenced to run a correction line from the Mississippi river, near Dubuque, west to the Missouri river and passing through Hamilton county. The surveying party proceeded with their work unmolested until they reached the Des Moines river. There they were met by a party of Indians who opposed their further progress. The chief, whose name was Si-dom-i-na-do-tah, claimed that the lands lying west of the Des Moines river belonged to his people and ordered Mr. Marsh and his men to "Puc-achee," which meant to "be off" or "be gone." After this interview, the Indians retired and the surveyors encamped for the night to consider the matter. The Sioux were the most savage and warlike tribe of Indians in the west and they were brave, fearless, and bloodthirsty as well. However, the surveying party decided to move on and the next morning crossed the river and proceeded with their work. They had not gone far, however, when at a point near section 30, township 89, range 28, they were suddenly surrounded and attacked by Indians. Their animals and supplies were taken, their instruments broken, their stakes pulled up, their mounds torn down and the party driven back across the Des Moines river. Stripped of everything, there was nothing left to do but to take up the march on foot, back to civilization. Some of the party returned over the line of their recent survey to Dubuque, while others went south to Des Moines. They were kindly assisted on their way at the settlements along the Des Moines river, and their report of the hostile attitude of the Indians filled the frontier settlers with apprehension and alarm. And this alarm was considered all the more serious since the Indians had maintained a sullen and threatening attitude since their difficulty with Henry Lot in 1847.

The repulse of the surveyors, and the threatening attitude of the Indians toward the settlers further down the river, caused the government to establish a military post at Fort Dodge. Although the post was established as soon as the report of the surveying party reached Washington, and orders could be returned, it was not until 1850 that a detachment from the Sixth U. S. Infantry, under command of Maj. Sam'l Woods reached the point designated for the fort and built it. When the fort was first built it was called Fort Clark, but another fort having been built and named Fort Clark, the secretary of war, to prevent confusion changed the name to Fort Dodge, in honor of the distinguished frontier statesman, Senator Dodge.

In 1851, the Sioux territory in the northern part of the state was ceded to the United States, and after that Si-dom-i-na-do-tah made no further attempts to check the invasion of the white man. But in spite of his attempts to be a good Indian and live in peace with his white neighbors, an avenger was on his trail, and he was soon to fall the victim of treachery more terrible, even, than the treachery of the Red man. We quote again from the manuscript of F. Q. Lee:

## HENRY LOT'S REVENGE

"After the death and burial of his wife, Henry Lot took his children and went to Des Moines where he met and formed the acquaintance of Squire and Francis McGuire. Sometime the next winter he married the daughter of Francis McGuire, and in the spring of 1849 he and his wife and the two McGuires, with their families, moved into the neighborhood where he had lived before, and where his first wife had died.

"After his trouble with the Indians he swore vengeance on the Sioux, and many stories have been told of his attempts to poison them. But we are inclined to think that none of these stories rest even upon probable grounds. But be that as it may, it is certain that he did meditate harm to them.

"Some five years later, in November, 1854, Lot took three barrels of whiskey and some other articles and proceeded north of Fort Dodge about thirty miles with the apparent intention of trading with the Indians. Si-dom-i-na-do-tah, the Sioux chief, was located in this locality. The chief was then quite an old man and had ceased to go about with his tribe. He had built a cabin, where he lived with his wife and four children, his aged mother, and two other Indian children.

"Lot built his cabin about a mile from that of the old chief and not far from where the town of Livermore, in Kossuth county, now stands.

"Sometime during the winter, Lot and his step-son went to Si-dom-i-na-do-tah's cabin and told the old chief that they had seen a large herd of elk and deer on the creek bottom some distance from his cabin and induced him to go with them to kill some of them. The old man, not suspecting treachery, mounted his pony, and with gun in hand started on the hunt. When they were well out of sight and hearing, Lot shot the old chief and killed him, and leaving his body where it fell, took his pony to his own cabin.

"That night Lot and his son painted themselves to look like Indians and went to the old chief's cabin where they murdered the aged mother, the wife and four of the children. A little girl eleven years of age escaped and hid among the willows near the creek, and a boy of twelve, who was left for dead, afterward recovered.

"Having thus murdered seven of the Indians, including Si-dom-i-na-do-tah, they took such furs, skins and other things as they could carry, burned their own cabin, and taking a circuitous route through Hamilton county to avoid Fort Dodge, they crossed the Des Moines river southwest of Homer and made their way westward toward the Missouri river. On their way they camped one night about a mile and a half south of Homer, and tried to sell some of the old chief's property to the settlers. But the settlers, on account of certain suspicious actions were afraid to buy, fearing no doubt that it would later develop that the goods had been stolen from the Indians.

"About ten days after the murder, some members of the tribe went to the chief's cabin and found the dead bodies, and the two children that had not been killed. The children told their story, from which it was believed that the Fox Indians were perpetrators of the outrage. The Indians hastened to Fort Dodge and gave information of the murder. Major Williams and two or three other white men immediately went to the scene of the tragedy and soon discovered

that it was Lot who had committed the crime. They buried the bodies found at the cabin and were soon on the track of the fleeing murderers. They tracked them to where they crossed the Des Moines river and there all trace was lost, and as they had had ten days' start, the pursuit was abandoned.

"Lot and his step-son went to California, and a few years later the son returned and reported the death of his father."

#### A PIONEER INQUEST

The body of the old chief was not found until about a year later, and when the report of the finding of the skeleton reached Homer, Granville Burkley, acting as county attorney, advised the coroner that it was his duty to summon a jury and hold an inquest. The Indians were notified of the proceeding and a few of them were present, bringing with them the two children that escaped massacre at the cabin, as witnesses. None of the Indians could speak, or understand the English language, nor could the coroner or any of his jury understand the Indian language. A man by the name of William Miller, who joined the party at Fort Dodge could have acted as interpreter, but between him and Burkley an ill feeling existed and he was not allowed to take any part in the proceeding. Professing to know the language himself, Burkley proceeded to question the witnesses, who answered all of his questions with "Ho wah sech che nepo Dakota," meaning, "yes, white man killed Dakota." Burkley interpreted this answer as often as it was given, to suit himself, but Mr. Miller objected to his interpretation, whereupon a quarrel ensued between them. Burkley made a great speech to the coroner and jury, claiming to be a college bred man, and acquainted with all languages, and quoted from several literary works, and some poetry to prove his knowledge. Miller, being an illiterate man and not able to answer Burkley's high flown speech, left in disgust and the inquest proceeded as Burkley directed. Before leaving, Burkley prevailed upon the Indians to allow him to take the skull of the old chief away with him. The Indians considered the whole proceeding as of very great importance and supposed when it was finished the white men would capture the murderer and turn him over to them. In allowing Burkley to carry off the skull they thought they were doing their part toward this much desired end.

Burkley took the skull to his home in Homer and hung it by the hair that had adhered to the skull, to the limb of a tree in his back yard where many of the old settlers have seen it swinging in the wind. Later, when it fell from the tree, he nailed it to the corner of his house as a sign. William Miller was often in Homer and saw the skull and reported to the Indians the use that was being made of it. They became very wroth, and for some time meditated a descent upon Homer and a massacre of the settlers in retaliation for the murder of the old chief and the indignity put upon his memory by Burkley. The expedition against Homer was abandoned, however, but the Indians were always sullen and morose afterwards and their ill-temper broke out at last when Ink-pa-du-ta, a nephew of Si-dom-i-na-do-tah, made an attack upon the settlers at Spirit Lake in 1857.



## CHAPTER III

### THE FIRST SETTLERS

*By F. Q. Lee*

THE ARRIVAL OF PRESTON BELL—SETTLERS IN 1850—SETTLERS IN 1851—SETTLERS IN 1852—HOW "JAS" CAUGHT A DEER—THE FIRST STORE—OTHER SETTLERS IN 1852—THE FIRST MILL—AN ECCENTRIC CHARACTER—A PIONEER PRAYER MEETING—ARRIVALS IN 1853—CLAIM JUMPERS—THE FIRST LAND ENTRY—SLOUGHING DOWN—PIONEER HOSPITALITY—ARRIVALS IN 1854—DAVE BEACH WALKS TO DES MOINES—THE FIRST BRIDGE—THE ARRIVAL OF W. J. SILVERS—STORY OF MR. SILVERS' TRIP TO HAMILTON COUNTY—SILVERS FINDS HIS HOME—AN EARLY DISASTER—ARRIVAL OF THE WILLSONS—MRS. WILLSON'S STORY—OTHER '55 SETTLERS—HOMER AS A PIONEER CITY—THE SECOND STORE—ARRIVAL OF BENJ. MILLARD—FIRST SETTLEMENT ON SKUNK RIVER.

#### ARRIVAL OF PRESTON BELL

Early in the spring of 1849, a young man, born and raised in the state of Indiana, seeking a home on the frontier, and who had been stopping for some time near Des Moines, Iowa, loaded his few worldly possessions into a covered wagon and with an ox team, started northward in search of a location. He followed the course of the Des Moines river, passing through the small settlements on the way until, at Swedes Point in Boone county, he left all settlements behind him. When he came to where the Boone river empties into the Des Moines, he followed that stream a few miles, where he found a location to his liking. It was on the west bank of the Boone. What he found was from forty to sixty acres of what is called "weed bottom," which made it possible to plant a crop at once. A high bluff ran back of the cleared bottom lands and at the foot of this bluff, he built a pole cabin and blazed out a "claim" running from the river over the bluffs and back over the level lands to the west. All of the lands thus "blazed out" were wooded, except the weed bottom.

Having brought with him one of those old "bull plows," he went to work to raise a crop of corn. The soil was intensely rich, and was as mellow as an ash heap. He succeeded in raising the finest corn he had ever seen, and was in position next year (1850), to supply the U. S. surveying party with corn when they arrived to survey the lands. This young man, whose name was PRESTON C. BELL, better known as "PRESS BELL," proved to be the first settler within the present limits of Hamilton county. And there, where he staked out his first claim, he continued to live most of the time until 1892, when he sold

out and moved to Kansas. When the writer visited him in 1888, he found him, and his wife, whom, by the way, he married in 1850, living in a neat farm house within a few rods of the site of his original cabin.

When Mr. Bell settled on the Boone river, no survey of the public lands north of Boone county had yet been made. Boone river had not yet been named and for several years it was known to the first settlers as "The East Fork of the Des Moines" or more commonly, "The East Fork." It presented altogether a different appearance then, than it does now, being narrow and deeper and having no sand bars. The broadening out of the river came with the settling up of the country, and of the many excellent water power sites then to be found along the river, scarcely any now remain.

The river was probably given its present name at the time the government survey was being made near its mouth, in 1850.

When Mr. Bell first settled here, he knew of no neighbors nearer than sixteen miles. When the government survey had been made, Mr. Bell found most of his claim to be within the northeast quarter of section No. 30, township No. 87, range No. 26, west of the fifth principal meridian Iowa, and this quarter was therefore entered by him.

During the course of the summer, he discovered that he had neighbors within four or five miles, as three families had moved up into the forks of the Boone in Webster county. These families were those of Squire and Frank McGuire and Henry Lot.

The second settler in this county was Osborne Brannan, who came sometime during the summer of 1849 and located a claim on what is now section 28-87-26, and thus he became Mr. Bell's nearest neighbor. They were the only settlers in the county, prior to 1850.

In recording the events of the early settlement of a county, where no effort has been made to preserve its history, it is difficult to be entirely accurate as to dates. It is found that the recollection of early settlers is so treacherous as to dates that it is difficult for some of them to tell with certainty just when they came. It is not strange, therefore, that different claims to priority in settlement should arise, and it is almost impossible to determine who was first upon the ground. Their recollection of the time of coming is often expressed in such terms as "early in the spring" or "just as winter was breaking up," which expressions admit of considerable doubt whether the time was March, April or May, as any of these months might have been thought to be early in the spring, and in any of them, it might have appeared to the settler that "winter was just breaking up." They often came from different directions, and did not discover each other's presence, sometimes for months, so that, looking back now, it is not strange that each should think he was here before the other. Several of those coming in 1850 claimed for a long time to be the first settler and in nearly every sketch of the early settlement, credit is given to Wilson Brewer as being the first settler, but upon that point there is no room for doubt.

#### SETTLERS IN 1850

Whoever may have been first, we find that in the spring of 1850, THOMAS HOGAN came and took up a claim on what is now section 21-87-20. John Tolman,

who was afterward school fund commissioner of Webster county came also and located a claim on the farm which was afterwards owned for a long time by John Robinson. Very shortly after Tolman had located his claim, Mintor, or "Major" Brassfield came and purchased it. Tolman then moved to Webster county. Brassfield remained but a few years, when he moved to Wright county. He took up a claim near Goldfield, where he resided for many years, claiming to be the first settler of that county.

In the fall of 1850 Wilson Brewer and family, and a nephew, William Brewer, and William Stanley and family arrived and settled near Bone's mill, about six miles south of Webster City. As usual in those times, they came with ox teams in covered wagons. They had a large tent which they set up. Game was so plentiful that Wilson Brewer was able to bring in a fine yearling deer and the party partook of a bountiful supper of venison.

Wilson Brewer staked out a claim just south of the mill site, and built a cabin, but soon sold to his nephew, and coming up the river, staked out a new claim within the present boundaries of Webster City. Mr. Brewer was therefore the first settler within the present limits of Webster City.

Mr. Stanley located his claim a short distance up the river from the mill site. He built his house on the east side of the river and cleared a truck patch on the west side. Being a hunter and trapper, he made no other improvements. The site of his cabin is still plainly to be seen, the land being now owned by county clerk, J. C. Sterling. After occupying this claim about a year, Stanley sold it to Peter Lyon and it was occupied by his brother, Isaac Lyon, and family for some time. Shortly after the sale of his claim Mr. Stanley died and his family moved north of Webster City and took up another claim. William Stanley was the first white person to die within the present limits of Hamilton county. His death occurred in the fall of 1851.

These were all the settlers who came during the year 1850, and at the close of that year, no more than seven families had permanently located in Hamilton county.

#### SETTLERS IN 1851

ISAAC HOOK was the first settler to come in 1851. He took a claim and settled at Hook's Point. D. S. Jewett followed and took a claim and built a cabin in section 21-87-26, but soon thereafter sold to Jacob Crooks and left the county. He afterwards returned, however, and for many years was a prominent citizen of Cass township, where he resided until his death. Nick Bonnet, a son-in-law of Mr. Crooks, came also in 1851. In September, Ed Leastman and James Brock arrived, and it was also in this year that Peter and Isaac Lyon, with their families came, and settled on the Stanley claim as above mentioned.

These were all the settlers coming in 1851, so that at its close, only fourteen families had located in the county and the population did not, perhaps, exceed fifty people.

Among these early settlers, the Lyons were noted for their fashion of wearing buckskin clothes, nicely fringed, giving the men a very picturesque appearance. An old settler said to the writer, that he would never forget the first time he saw Joth Lyon. Joth, then a boy, was dressed in full buckskin, with a coon-skin cap and moccasins. He was going to the "Bruce" mill with an ox

team, attached to a "lizzard" loaded with sacks of grain. A lizzard was a sort of sled, made of a tree fork, shaped like a letter V, with boards laid across for a bed upon which to lay the load. The team was hitched to the point of the V. This primitive sled was not uncommon in early times, though, no doubt, there are many young people in this community today, who never saw or heard of one.

Though the settlement of the county up to January 1, 1852, had been slow, the settlers had from time to time gone to Des Moines, Iowa City, and even as far as Keokuk for supplies, and the fame of the splendid country along the Boone and Des Moines had gone forth. So, the year 1852 was destined to be an important one in the settlement of the county.

#### SETTLERS IN 1852

The first settler to come in 1852 was BENJAMIN BELL, familiarly known throughout the county as "Uncle Benny Bell." He came up from Des Moines, where his family was stopping for the winter, early in the year, and, after looking about, returned, and in the spring brought his family, including his father, Benj. Bell, and they rented the Press Bell claim and lived there during their first year. They came, of course, with ox teams, but Uncle Bennie brought a horse along. As the wagon with the household effects was going down a steep hill, Mrs. Bell's spinning wheel, she had brought all the way from Indiana, and had guarded with great care, fell from the wagon and was broken. It was upon this wheel that the flax and wool for all the family clothing had been spun and it was regarded as quite a serious accident. During the year Mr. Bell staked out a claim and made improvements, built a cabin and prepared to move to it by the next spring.

#### HOW "JAS" CAUGHT A DEER

For the benefit of our boy readers, as well as others, we insert here an account of the capture of a deer by Jasper Bell, the oldest son of "Uncle Bennie." Jas was thirteen years old at this time and it was his business, as it is that of many boys, even at this day, to prepare and bring in the kindling with which to start the morning fire. It was late in the fall, and ice had frozen for four or five feet along each side of the river, but the center was open. Jas had forgotten to get in his kindling at night, and was ordered out of bed just at daybreak to supply it. He ran out to the "woodpile" without dressing himself and was clothed only in his night clothes. When reaching the wood pile, he chanced to look up the hill toward the house and saw an antlered deer. He forgot his undressed condition, and ran back to the house calling the greyhound and bulldog. Returning with them, he pointed out the deer to them. No sooner did the hound see the deer than she went after it like a shot, and the deer, to escape, ran down the hill. The bulldog headed it off and it plunged into the river and swam across, but was unable to land on account of the rim of ice frozen there. The bulldog plunged in too and seized the deer by the throat. Under the water they went, then up again, and a fierce struggle took place, churning the water into a foam. The dog held on and gradually worried the deer out while he towed him toward the shore upon which young Jasper stood

shouting at the top of his voice: "Sick em Bull, hold on Bull." When the dog reached the edge of the ice, Jas ran out and taking him by the short stubby tail, lifted him up and taking hold of his hind legs, tried to draw him into the ice, yelling all the time, "Hold him fast, Bull." All this noise and racket brought "Uncle Bennie" to the scene and as the deer was about worried out, half drowned, and was held close to the ice by Jas and the dog, he took it by the horns and killed it. When it ceased to struggle, he drew it onto the ice. Then looking around and discovering Jas in his unclad condition, said, "You'd better get to the house, boy, or you'll freeze." Jas then remembered, for the first time, his lack of proper raiment, and, of course, scampered off to the house double quick. But he declares to this day that he wasn't a bit cold, nor were his feet frozen by standing on the ice. He thinks in his excitement he danced about so energetically that he was kept perfectly warm. What boy in these days would not glory in such a chance to catch a deer! But the opportunity for such good luck comes only to the earliest settlers in the countries where deer are found, and before the sight of men and human habitations have so alarmed them as to keep them far away from the settlements. In those days deer were plenty, and were often seen near the dwellings of the early settlers, and few, indeed, were they who did not have a nice fat deer always hanging in the "smoke house" and "venison" was an every-day supply that would gladly have then been traded for salt pork.

#### THE FIRST STORE

David Carroll came next, and to him may be accorded the credit of keeping the *first store* near Hook's Point. His stock of goods was exceedingly limited, and it is reported that he kept most of it under the bed. Still it was a source of supply to the settlers for gunpowder, lead, and a few other indispensables. Indeed a much larger stock would have gone begging among so few customers.

Whiskey was considered a prime necessity and while almost all the settlers brought with them a small amount for present use, ISAAC HOOK was the first to keep it for sale. His place was therefore resorted to to such an extent that he also put in a small stock of goods and became the second storekeeper, if indeed, he was not the first, as some aver he was. Both stores, however, were started the same year, and probably but little time intervened between the opening of each.

It must not be thought that these stores began business with a "grand opening" as do the mercantile institutions of the present day. They simply brought forward a supply of those articles most needed by the early settlers, and as customers were few, the members of the storekeeper's family were his clerks, and they chalked on the door, the items of credit or carried them in their minds. Whichever way it was done, there was little grumbling by storekeepers about bad debts, for the men and women who braved the hardships of pioneer life, were honest, as a rule, and whether any account was kept of debts or not, they were usually paid.

Mr. Hook, in addition to his small store, opened a hotel, and Hook's Point, as the place was called, became the principal trading point in the county.

## OTHER SETTLERS IN 1852

W. W. MCKINNEY first came to Iowa in 1839, but moved to Hamilton county in August, 1852. He settled just north of Hook's Point.

ELZIAR RUSSELL came in September, 1852, and settled on the southeast quarter of section 9-87-26, the farm which is now known as the Low Lawn Stock Farm. He began at once to make permanent improvements, and resided there until the winter of 1853-4, when he moved to section 7 in the same township. His new claim was a piece of ground claimed by the Des Moines River Land Company and joined the town plat of Homer. Mr. Russell made some improvements, but did not occupy the land long, becoming interested in town property in Homer, as well as in some mill property in Webster county.

## THE FIRST MILL

ANDREW GLOSECLOSE, with his son and daughter, came to the county in the summer of 1852. He built a dam across Boone river on section 15-87-26, preparatory to building a mill. He had been in the milling business on Big Creek, about three miles north of Polk City, in Polk county, for several years, but that stream had gone dry in the summer and the location was not good. Major Brassfield had visited the mill and told him of some excellent mill sites on the "East Fork" and persuaded him to move up here. After finishing up the dam and putting up a pole cabin, to the square, he went back to Polk county, and in December brought the rest of the family. The snow was deep, the weather cold, and the cabin had no roof. He planted two "forks" in the ground, put a pole across, and stood up poles, covering them with bark, thus providing a temporary abode until the cabin could be finished. The next year he had his mill moved and set up, and sometime in 1853 was ready to grind wheat and corn. Lewis McCrary and Wm. Strickler were the men employed to set up the mill. The burrs for the mill were made of an Iowa "Niggerhead," in Polk county, and though not equal to the finer burrs of a modern mill, they did fair work. This was the first grist mill in the county. Mr. Gloseclose also brought along a hand mill, called in these days a corn cracker, for grinding corn. He also put in a sawmill in connection with his grist mill. He ran the mill about two or three years and sold to Snell, Butterworth & Messmore, and they sold to Charles Fisher and it is known to most of the residents of the county as the "Fisher Mill." Miss Sarah Gloseclose was a girl of thirteen when she accompanied her father and brother to this county in 1852. In 1857 she married Morgan Hill and lived for many years near the place where her father first settled, and from her we learned the facts above stated. Mrs. Hill can remember when elk were so plentiful that her father and a neighbor caught two of them in the deep snow, and after tying them up, came to the house for a sled and brought both of them in alive. They tried to tame them but they refused to be tamed and finally died. She feels quite sure that Isaac Hook must have brought the first goods into the county, for she remembers that before moving to Hamilton county, Mr. Hook rented a house near their mill in Polk county and brought goods there and opened a store. Frank Hook, then a young man was in charge of it. The goods were supplied from his store in this county and the

reason given for bringing the goods back was that there were not enough people to sell them to.

Among the other arrivals in 1852 were John Whaley, who came in September; Washington Neese, who came in November; and W. W. McLaughlin, who came in December; while Dan and John Devore, Philamen Johnson, Mr. Eckerson and John Cofer all came during the year and settled near Hook's Point and Homer.

#### AN ECCENTRIC CHARACTER

There was also another, a very eccentric character, who settled near Homer about this time. This was E. H. West, who afterwards became sheriff of the county. He was part of the time a most devout leader in religious matters and part of the time an equally persistent worshiper at the shrine of Bacchus. His revels rarely passed without his becoming deeply intoxicated. He was greatly elated over the honor of being sheriff of the county and was anxious that everybody should recognize his importance. If he met a stranger he would always stop and inquire his name and where he was going, and would then add, "My name, sir, is West, E. H. West, sir, high sheriff of Webster county." He left the county after a few years and while all of the old settlers remember him and have many a hearty laugh over his many eccentricities, no one knows where he went or what became of him.

There may have been other arrivals during this year, but if so no record of the fact has ever been made and no one recollects that others came.

#### A PIONEER PRAYER MEETING

Up to this time, January 1, 1853, if any minister or schoolteacher had plied his vocation in the county, we have failed to find the old settler who remembers the fact. Spiritual matters were not, however, entirely neglected. Prayer meetings were occasionally held at the cabins of the settlers, and these devotions were as earnest and devout, if not more so, than those held in palatial cathedrals where the auxiliaries of civilization count for more than a contrite heart.

It is reported that at one of these early meetings, while all were on their knees, a billy goat walked into the cabin door, and cautiously advancing behind the one leading in prayer, slowly, but harder and a little harder bumped the praying settler while louder prayed the devout man. Finally the goat, intent on attracting attention, gave a resounding butt, which sent the leader of prayer over the chair in front of which he knelt. In the meantime everyone in the house had become aware of the goat's doings and was holding fast his mouth, and suppressing his "risibilities" with might and main. But when the good brother went sprawling over his chair, and, in anger bred in this moment of misfortune, exclaimed, "d—m the goat," a roar of laughter filled the cabin. Further prayers were dispensed with for that time, but it is scarcely necessary to remark that when prayer meetings were held in that house thereafter, the goat was safely tied up.

## ARRIVALS IN 1853

Fewer settlers came to the county in 1853, than had come in the two previous years. We do not make mention of the settlements in what is now Webster county. Those who came to Hamilton county, so far as they have been reported, were John N. Maxwell, J. M. Funk, Wm. W. Funk, J. R. Payne, N. Branch, Elisha Neese, Geo. Neese, Patrick Frakes and his sons and Rosco Royster. There may have been others, but we have not met them or heard of them.

Jacob Funk and Wm. W. Funk came in June, 1853, and went back east the following fall. While here, they entered about two hundred acres of land on the Boone river just south of what is now Webster City. They employed Wilson Brewer to get out five thousand rails with which the work of fencing could be done. They returned to this county the next spring.

George Neese settled on the southeast quarter of section 21-87-26, where he continued to reside until his death, which occurred a few years ago. His widow, Susan Neese, resided there until her death in 1888.

Patrick Frakes took up a claim in what is now Cass township, but as the land lying north of the correction line did not come into market until in the summer or fall of 1854, he was unable to enter his claim until then.

Rosco Royster settled near Homer.

John N. Maxwell looked over the country, entered a claim and went back to Indiana, but returned the next year. His favorable report of the country brought his father, Judge John D. Maxwell, and several other families within the next two or three years.

## "CLAIM JUMPERS"

In the spring of 1853 the lands had all been surveyed and placed on the market. Quite a number of early settlers made a business to enter choice lands in the name of different members of their family and many transients came and went, entering lands.

The land office was then at Fort Des Moines and choice lands were selected and frequent trips made to Des Moines, not unfrequently on foot. Speculators came, selected lands, and entered them on their return.

It not unfrequently happened that they took the numbers of land already occupied by a settler who was making improvements and had neglected to secure the title to his claim by formal entry. Men who did this were called claim jumpers, and the settlers made it very unpleasant for a claim jumper if he returned in person to claim one of these selections. These claim jumpers were speculators, however, and very seldom returned, as their entries were made to sell, and were usually sold to emigrants, while on the way. In consequence of this class of entries, much litigation and bad blood was engendered, and the settlers, acting together to protect each other in their improvements, usually succeeded in making it so unpleasant for a man with a "jumped" claim, that he was glad to compromise by receiving his entry money back.

Another reason why settlers were so annoyed, was that many of them did not have the money with which to make entry and so took possession, made improvements and trusted to the future for the opportunity and means to secure their titles. Speculators sometimes took advantage of this, and filed against their lands.

## THE FIRST LAND ENTRY

The oldest entry in this county that we have been able to find, was made by Thomas Williams. He entered 400 acres in 31-88-25 and in 36-88-26 June 25, 1853.

## "SLOUGHING DOWN"

During this year the first mill was built in the county. Prior to that for awhile, the nearest mill was at Red Rock, south of Des Moines, but later there were erected one or two mills in Polk county. Trips were made to these mills with ox teams and as there were no bridges north of Des Moines, and only a few south of there, the going was anything but pleasant. Ox teams were better however, for wading sloughs and crossing streams than horses, as they could work through where horses and mules would mire down. Still it not unfrequently happened, that even ox teams were stuck in a slough, when it would become necessary for the wagoner to carry the load out on his back, piecemeal, then draw the wagon out, usually by means of a cable chain hooked to the end of the wagon tongue. So often did the "sloughing down" process happen, that no settler even ventured away from home with a team without being supplied with cable chains or heavy rope, with which to draw out if he got stuck in the mud. There was not a bridge in the county, as yet, and more curious still, no apparent effort had been made to get one.

## PIONEER DWELLINGS

The settlers were mostly poor and unable to buy lumber sufficient for their own wants, and as the revenues of the county for the first year after its organization did not reach \$1200, it will be seen that there were no means at hand to secure bridges, even where they were most badly needed. Houses were built from cellar to garret without sawed lumber and in many instances, without nails. The walls were of round or hewn logs, the opening between them being chinked up with strips of wood and "daubed" with mud. The floors and doors were made with "puncheons" split out of logs and dressed with an ax. The roof was made of "shakes" rived out of logs and held in place by weights laid over each layer of "clapboards." Some were fortunate enough to have glass windows, but even this luxury was denied to many; in which case slats were fastened across the window opening and greased paper pasted over them. In some cases even this was not done, and the openings were left open, and were closed only when severe cold weather demanded it. Large holes were bored into the logs which formed the wall of the house and into these seasoned stakes were driven, extending into the room far enough to support a bed, and sometimes two or three bunks of this kind were made, one above the other. Slabs or "puncheons" were fixed against the wall in the same manner for cupboard and water bench. Chairs were made without backs, though some settlers could make rough ones with "splint" bottoms. Every log cabin had its huge open fire place—for stoves were not used by the earliest settlers—where great log fires were built, and upon the broad stone hearth the good wife and sturdy daughters did the family baking. When good flour or corn meal was to be had, what grand light bread or corn "pone" these pioneer dames could make, and many a pioneer's mouth will water at the recollection of

it. Suspended from the crane over the fire was a chain with a hook upon which pots and kettles were hung for cooking. Coffee, corn bread, venison, crab apples and hominy, these were the substantial of life. Wheat bread, sugar, etc., were luxuries, to be set out on holiday occasions or when "company" came, and not infrequently they were taken off the table before the children (at the second table) got at them. Sometimes, however, a lump of sugar was given to a hungry little fellow to give him an idea of the good things he too could enjoy when he grew up and became "company."

#### PIONEER HOSPITALITY

The rough and rugged lives, thus environed by such uninviting conditions, were filled with much kindness, and it was rare, indeed that the needy passerby failed to obtain free shelter and relief.

The rude doors were fastened by a wooden latch on the inside. A string was attached to this latch and passed out through a hole in the door above, which, being pulled from the outside, raised the latch. To draw in the string, was to lock the door more securely than can be done with the patent locks of the present day. There was no picking such a lock. These latch strings were always out to the new comer and neighboring settler. It was the sign of hospitality, a very hearty invitation to call being often expressed by the sentence: "Our latch string will always be out."

Was a new cabin to be built, all the settlers for miles around were sure to be there. The logs were cut and put in place, the cabin roofed, floored, daubed, and not infrequently a country dance was held in the new cabin at night. Every settler worked with a will all day, and if any imbibed so freely as to be a little uncertain on his feet at night, little heed was paid to the fact.

Still, a sentiment in favor of temperance, caused no doubt by witnessing the frequent drunks which the ever present whisky jug created, ripened into a prohibitory law which at an election had the sanction of a majority of the electors of this county.

#### ARRIVALS IN 1854

The year 1854 was destined to be one of more importance to the county than any that had yet preceded it. It was in this year, that what might be called the real settlement of the county began.

As has been seen by those who have read the former chapters of this history, the emigrants prior to 1854 were few and far between. It is probable that the whole population of the county of Webster did not exceed 300 on the first day of January, 1854. The garrison at Ft. Dodge had abandoned the place in September, 1853, and moved westward to Ft. Ridgley, leaving, according to an old Iowa bulletin, only three men at Ft. Dodge, viz: Wm. Williams, his son James B., and a discharged soldier named Joseph Sweet.

Among the arrivals this year—1854—were T. J. Ament, H. Gage, W. J. Silvers, L. B. Hill, Benj. Beach, B. B. Segar, Tolman Wiltsey, R. D. Remington, S. K. Boak, H. V. Boak, Joseph Fisher, A. Brock, Bailey Brock, H. M. Barstow, Robert Scott, J. F. Butler, W. C. Royster, George Cooper, Alanson Dickinson and A. J. Barr.

David, Than and Ben Beach, Geo. Cooper and Tolman Wiltsey, came together

and arrived at Wilson Brewer's, May 12, where they put up. The women of the party had been left at Marshalltown and the men came on prospecting. They all received a hearty welcome at Mr. Brewer's and the next day he went with them to select lands. The Beaches selected the Woolsey farm, now Lawn Hill addition to Webster City, and the Shipp farm near the cemetery. Mr. Dickinson selected the farm afterwards for so long the home of B. Millard.

#### DAVE BEACH WALKS TO DES MOINES

When the party had made selection of lands, David Beach and Alanson Dickinson went to Des Moines to enter them, and Wiltsey and Than Beach went back to Marshalltown after their families. Beach and Dickinson went to Des Moines on foot. They stayed all night the first night at Alexander's, below Ridgeport, in Boone county. Beach had not been accustomed to walking, and next morning, he was so stiff and sore that he wanted to give up the trip, but, being assured by Dickinson that he would "limber up" in a short time, he started forward again and got through. One thing that made the trip uncomfortable was that he carried about \$700 in gold in his trousers pocket, which became very heavy as the journey proceeded and chafed him terribly.

#### A PIONEER HOTEL

When the parties had returned, the Beaches built a log house on the land west of town and kept hotel. The house had only one room in it, but travelers could not pick and choose in those days, and so the house received a good patronage. As many as seventeen guests were sometimes accommodated here at one time. Of course the accommodations were not what would be considered by commercial travelers of today, first class, as most of the guests had to sleep on the floor, but it was the best they could do and there was no grumbling. Indeed those who stopped here were homeseekers and hardy pioneers, and they not only expected but rather enjoyed the hardships met. As some of these were light in comparison with what they experienced in a hundred other ways, they were not thought of until long years afterwards as being anything out of the way.

#### THE FIRST BRIDGE

Following close upon the Beaches and the Wiltseys, came L. B. Hill and five other families, the Harts, now residents of Webster county. The party arrived at Rose Grove just at night, and camped on the east side of Skunk river. During the night there came up a very heavy thunder storm with copious showers of rain, causing the ox teams to stampede and raising the Skunk river so it could not be forded. Their stampeded cattle were found next day many miles south, probably in Story county, and brought back. The wagons, in the meantime had been wheeled into a circle by those left at the camp, and the camp fire built in the center of the circle. The next morning, after returning with the cattle, the Skunk not being fordable, the men set to work to build a bridge. Tall, straight trees were cut and placed across from one bank to the other, and poles were placed on these stringers for a floor, being keyed up, to hold them in place. When the bridge

was finished, they brought their wagons as near as possible, then swam the cattle across,—fearing to put them on the bridge—and with chains and ropes attached to the wagons, drew them across. This was probably the first bridge built in the county. Other settlers coming in soon afterwards, drove over it, but it washed out during the summer or fall.

The party proceeded westward to the home of Mr. Turnham, about three miles south of Webster City, where they camped. One of the children, Lucius Hart, had taken sick on the way and died here during the night. The party were headed for Webster county, but the Boone river was too high to cross and they remained several days. In the meantime Mr. Hill looked about and selected a claim north of Webster City and moved to it while the balance of the party went on to Webster county.

#### ARRIVAL OF W. J. SILVERS

W. J. Silvers came in the fall of 1854. He, in company with his brother-in-law, A. J. Barr, and two men named Gregory, started from central Illinois, in a two-horse wagon for Kansas. They crossed the Mississippi river at Burlington, Iowa, arriving at Mitchelville, Iowa, and while eating dinner and talking of Kansas and Iowa, concluded to look Iowa over, before proceeding any further westward. The next morning therefore, they started northwest. Mr. Silvers says:

#### STORY OF SILVERS' TRIP TO HAMILTON COUNTY

“There were no roads and after driving about fifteen miles we came to a grove; saw an old log shanty, and on driving up to it we were met by a pack of dogs. There were four women at the shanty, and one of them blew a long tin horn, and very soon six rough looking men came out of the brush. We asked there about a camping place and they told us of a favorable place down on the creek bottom. We drove down about 80 rods distant from the cabin and found a grassy spot—thick willow groves on both sides and only a narrow road cut through. While going down, we noticed one of the men following us, but we thought little of it. We had a splendid team of horses which we staked, and lit a fire. While eating our supper, our two dogs began barking savagely and the horses snorted as though they scented danger, refusing to eat. We knew that something was wrong, but could only guess that our neighbors of the cabin were prowling round, meditating a raid on our team, though we could hear nor see nothing. Finally at the suggestion of Mr. Barr, we concluded to break camp and move out of there. We put out our fire, hitched up our team as quickly as possible and began to get out. It was so dark we could not see the road. After a long time, we came out of the timber onto a prairie where we found a cabin but no one lived in it so we concluded it would be safer to pass it by. We drove out on to the prairie; found a low spot of ground, unhitched, and settled down for the night. It was not long until we found our move had been a judicious one, for we heard the men coming. We had no light and kept perfectly quiet but each man had his gun ready to give them a warm reception if they attempted to molest us. They were evidently looking for us, for they passed us on one side, and after a while came back and passed us on the other side, thus going round us. Failing to find us, they went to the deserted shanty, built up a fire and sang and yelled

for a couple of hours. As soon as day began to break, we hitched up our horses and set out on our journey, concluding to take our breakfast farther on the way. I have no doubt, if we had not been on our guard, our horses would have been missing, for those fellows were not prowling about in that manner for nothing. We arrived that evening at Nevada, Story county, but found there only one log house and with its owner we swapped a wild turkey, that we had captured, for a loaf of bread. I bought a farm here for \$5.00 per acre but when we came to make out the deed the man backed out. We then started on and coming to the place where Story City now is—there was no house there then,—we met an old trapper named Brown, who told us there was a good country on the Boone river, so in the morning we started out across the big prairie for Boone river.”

#### SILVERS FINDS HIS HOME

“A team had gone over before us and little rags had been tied onto the gum weeds along the track to mark the way, and, by following this trail, we reached the Boone river at a point where Bone’s mill now stands. A man named Tom Williams then owned the place. We crossed the river and went out of the timber on the west side, and found only one log house, Nate Prims’, which stood on the place now occupied by Robert Martin. Coming out upon the prairie west of the timber, we saw a sight never to be forgotten,—the land covered with a luxuriant growth of grass, known as the ‘blue stem.’ It grew tall as a man could reach. I said to the boys, ‘This is good enough for me, I guess I won’t go any farther.’ We could have our pick of the land as it all belonged to Uncle Sam and he only wanted \$1.25 per acre. I selected the southeast quarter of section 26-88-26 where my present house now stands. I went back to Illinois next fall, with my wife and one child, returned to Iowa in a wagon drawn by three yoke of cattle. We arrived on the 8th day of October, and stopped with Mr. Prims until I could cut logs and build a cabin. On the first day of November, Mr. Prims, Mr. Pricket, Mr. Standsbaugh and Jacob Bibler helped me raise the cabin. I got it chinked, and the north and west sides mudded, when a great blizzard came and froze everything up. We lived in that way all winter. My wife and I froze our heels so we could scarcely walk. The timber along the river was all claimed, but I bought some about two miles from my land. Deer were plenty, though I never had the good luck to kill one. While I was away from home one day, a half dozen took shelter from the wind at the side of the cabin. My wife got the gun and tried to shoot one, but knowing nothing about guns, only raised the hammer half way and could not get it to go off, so she put the gun away and went out and scared them away. I paid ten dollars a hundred for flour that year. There were plenty of elk and some talk of buffalo but I never saw one. The first corn pen and wheat bin I ever had was under the beds, so it will be seen the crop was not so large. I had all my fence burned twice by prairie fire, and barely saved my house and stable by hard work.”

We have given the above account of Mr. Silvers, at length, because it illustrates the trip westward by the average pioneer, and the effect a view of the country had upon him. It also shows how many starting for other parts were by slight circumstances caused to look at this part of the country and finally settle here.

## AN EARLY DISASTER

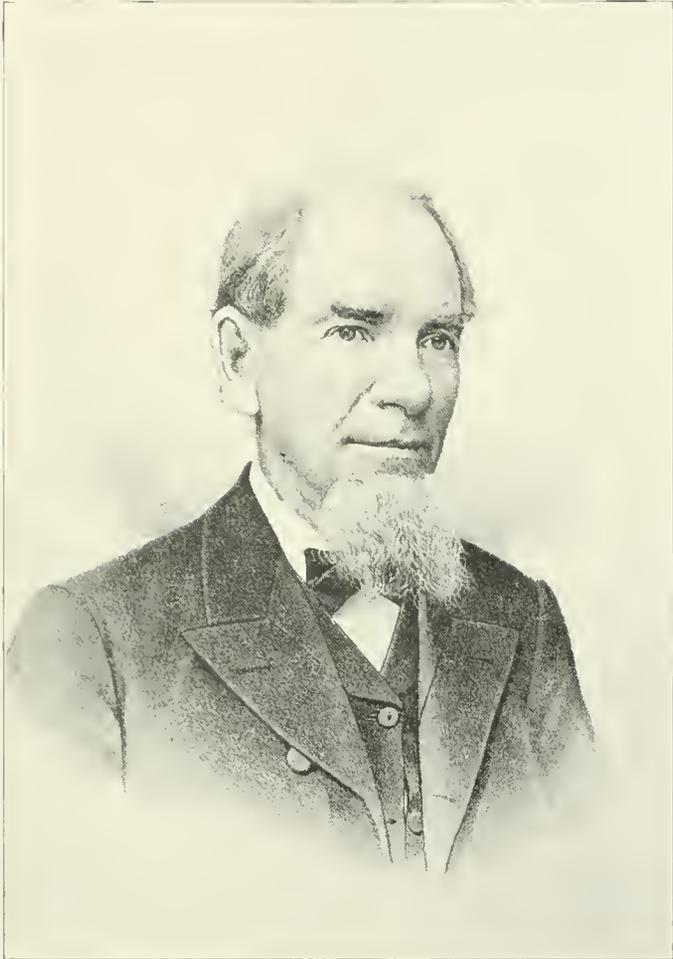
Early in the year 1854, Benj. Bell lost his house by fire. This was the first house burned in the county. The house took fire near midnight and the fire made such rapid progress that it was impossible to stop it. By dint of hard, and part of the time, dangerous work, most of the household goods were removed. A wild winter "blizzard" was howling and the snow was blowing quite thickly. The children tumbled out of bed and out of the house without having time to dress and a neighbor about eighty rods away, seeing the fire came with his ox team and bundled the children and Mrs. Bell into the wagon and took them to his house. Jas. Bell, being the oldest boy, then near fifteen years old, had lost all his clothes in the fire and besides did not notice the departure of the family so he had to take a quilt which he found there, and wrap about him and walk, or rather run barefooted through the snow to the neighbor's house. Next day the neighbors all turned out and went to work to build a cabin. It was intensely cold, but the logs were cut, hauled up and the cabin put up. A huge log pile was kept burning and with hot water mud was mixed and the house "daubed" though the mud froze as fast as it was put on. As soon as it was completed, the family moved in. Very few people of the present day would think of building a house under such conditions and fewer still, of living in one so green and newly made. But houses were scarce and small, and it was really a "ground-hog" case, a sort of "Hobson's choice" affair and no bad consequences resulted from it.

## ARRIVAL OF THE WILLSONS

Among the earliest settlers in the spring of 1855 were W. C. and S. Willson, and as Mrs. W. C. Willson, in an essay read before the Old Settlers Reunion Society in 1886, gave a very graphic description of the journey and many important happenings, we quote from that essay so much as pertains to the year 1855.

## MRS. WILLSON'S STORY

"We left Wisconsin the last of October, 1854; went by rail as far as Rockford, Ill., that being the terminus of the railroad at that time. There we fitted up teams for our journey to this state. Our party consisted of Mr. William Hammond, Mr. Levi D. Stearns, Mr. W. C. Willson, S. Willson, and the writer. We crossed the Mississippi at Fulton and Lyons. The ferry having stopped at 4 o'clock the day previous, we took rooms at Clinton, expecting to remain until the river froze over, there being no bridge across the Mississippi at that time; fortunately a cake of ice floated down that night and lodged between the two places, and early the next morning we crossed over it. The cake of ice was fully a quarter of a mile long and the water surged incessantly both above and below it, making the passage exceedingly perilous. Our first stopping place for any length of time was Iowa City, then the capital of the state. The legislature being in session at the time made it quite lively and attractive, and I was quite desirous of making it our home. I remained there two months while the gentlemen took prospecting tours throughout the state. Mr. Hammond and W. C. Willson in particular came back with glowing descriptions of Webster county and a little town called Newcastle.



W. C. WILLSON



But we decided it was altogether too far from civilization to suit any of us. However, after every trip, W. C. would invariably wind up with 'Well, I have found no place that suits me like Newcastle.' The last of December we went to Independence. On our journey we frequently passed farmers plowing in their shirt sleeves. After a few weeks stay at Independence, W. C. prevailed on his brother, Sumler, to accompany him to the famous 'Castle.' The last thing they said was, 'We will buy land there, but it is altogether too far west to live.' On their return they had bought the 'Castle' and surroundings, and with hearts beating high with great expectations of the ever bright future, and a railroad within two to five years sure, we turned our faces toward the west and started for our new home in hopes of reaching our destination before the breaking up of the sloughs. Two days travel brought us to Beaver Creek. The ice had gone out and taken the bridge with it, and we were delayed there over a week, while the men worked in the water up to their waists building a bridge. This obstacle being overcome, we continued our journey to 'Pilgrims Grove' on the south fork of Iowa river, our next stopping place. I had got the impression that Pilgrim's Grove was quite a town where we would have to stop over until the next morning in order to cross the forty miles of prairie between there and Newcastle; but what was my astonishment when we came in sight of the Grove to see only the smoke from one chimney, and as we approached a log shanty with one shaky door and a quilt for the other. W. C. dropped the lines and called out 'whoa,' and two strapping girls, barefooted, came running out to see what was wanted. We ordered dinner—and such a dinner—all the delicacies that that thriving commercial centre afforded, which consisted of strong coffee without sugar or cream, fried pork in a sea of grease, and corn dodgers, served on a red chest without table cloth. The eating utensils were three knives, two forks and the same number of plates and cups. The next morning bright and early we started for Newcastle. We left the road north of Rose Grove and followed stakes W. C. and S. Willson had set up on their return, for fifteen miles into Newcastle, crossing the Boone river near where Millard's bridge now stands, and made the first halt at Wilson Brewer's log cabin where we received a hearty welcome. They not being able to keep us, we drove on to Tolman Wiltsey's and stopped with them two weeks, until our log house was in readiness for us. We arrived on the 26th day of March, 1855. We moved into our house on Wednesday and on Saturday following we had twenty to stay all night and from that time to October, we never had less than forty to one hundred at a meal. The cause of this rush was the opening of the general land office at Fort Dodge which occurred in April, 1855.

"We sent a team to Boone for lumber and could only get enough for one door and table 14 feet long and half a dozen stools. We used a quilt for our back door.

"Among the first arrivals were B. S. Mason, Alonzo Thompson and a Mr. Hancock, also a Col. Dewey and Toby of Des Moines, who entered considerable land here at that time. Cyrus Smith came with a peddler's wagon, and started the first store in Newcastle. At the same time a Mr. Leavitt, now of Waterloo, arrived.

"The first town election was held at our house. The polls were our dining room table, and the ballot box, J. M. Funk's hat. He acted as one of the judges of the election. The names of the voters were: Wilson Brewer, Peter

Lyon, Tolman Wiltsey, George Cooper, David and Nathaniel Beach, Levi D. Stearns, Jack Brewer, Jake and William Funk, Ross Payne, N. Osbourne, A. W. Frakes, W. C. and S. Willson, and Messrs. Bradshaw and Griffith. Homer was then the county seat of Webster county and we received our mail from there until the first of July. It was usually brought up in a pocket handkerchief, the boys taking turns as mail carriers. The first physician was Dr. Jewell. The first minister Rev. Mr. Skinner, congregationalist. The first lawyer was L. D. C. MacGart. Henry Martin was the first postmaster. The first school was taught by Mrs. Wheeler in the rear of her husband's store. This was in July, 1855. Up to this time W. C. Willson had erected log cabins and a saw mill on the site of the Webster City water mills now owned by Judge Chase. The first boards were sawed on the 18th day of September, 1855, and were used in the construction of a house for B. S. Mason now occupied by Mr. Goit, and in November he brought his bride from Massachusetts and commenced housekeeping.

"The first of October we sold our log hotel to Mr. Lockwood, moving into a slab barn, where we lived three weeks until W. C. completed a frame building known as the Webster City hotel. The plastering was done by W. C. Willson and M. Sweeney the day before we moved in. They got as much on the floor as the walls, and that night it froze solid, so that it required that fancy team of oxen that John Maxwell spoke of to scrape it off. The walls were wet all winter so that our beds required new hay every few weeks.

"On the 9th of November,—I remember the night well, was ironing,—Mr. McChesney, the stage agent, drove up wanting to see Mr. Willson immediately. He had just received orders to change the mail route by way of Alden, Eagleville, Batch Grove and Fort Dodge. Mr. Willson jumped onto a mule and left at once for Fort Dodge although it was storming fearfully, not being willing to surrender the route so easily after giving the best carriage and team we ever owned to get it here. After consulting with Major Williams and John F. Duncombe, they decided that Mr. Willson should go to Dubuque and see Gen. Jones, which he did at once, not giving himself any rest until he had seen him. The general said: 'My God, Willson, I don't know what to make of it; the mail shall never pass over that route and I know what I am talking about.' He wrote a line to the agent to disobey the order and he would be personally responsible. He wrote to President Buchanan if that order was not changed he would resign as he thought he ought to have something to say about mails in his own district. The final adjustment was made through his influence with Senator Bigler, of Pennsylvania.

"People of today cannot realize the fearful hardships we had to endure in crossing the forty miles of prairie east of us without a house or stopping place, many losing their way or becoming sloughed down, came straggling in all hours of the night hungry and tired."

#### OTHER "55 SETTLERS"

While 1854 had been an important year, 1855 was still more important. The following is a partial list of the new comers this year. W. W. Boak and family, P. C. Babcock, B. S. Mason and wife, Joseph Adams, Richard Sacket, Cyrus Smith, James Key, I. E. Church, W. C. Willson and wife, S. Willson, W. L.

Church and family and Mrs. Swanger (now Gillispie), G. T. Adams, Uncle Jimmy Adams and family, W. I. Worthington, John McFarland, Israel Woodward, M. Sweeney, Huitt Ross, Zera Hayden, Jacob Duckett and wife, James Duckett, E. P. McCowen, C. F. Kent, A. Hazwell, Morgan Hill, P. Clayball, E. Lakin, L. Lakin, A. B. Lakin, B. Millard.

There were of course many others but we are unable to secure their names. Most of the above mentioned men were probably married but we have only mentioned the fact where we were sure of it.

These came in companies from two to six or eight families and though many of them started for other parts of the west most of them made this their stopping place for the reasons given by Mr. Silvers and Mrs. Willson.

This year also made Webster county a center of attraction on account of the location of the land office at Fort Dodge which, of course, brought everybody desiring to enter lands within the district, to that place. As a stage line was started between Des Moines and Fort Dodge early this year, most of the home-seekers passed through what is now Hamilton county and many of them were induced to settle here.

#### HOMER AS A PIONEER CITY

Homer, as the county seat of Webster county, grew with surprising rapidity and its fame reached the eastern states and it became the most noted city in northern Iowa. Had Homer secured the Land office instead of Fort Dodge, it would probably today, be one of the first cities of the state, and the line of the east and west railroads would probably have passed through there. But while its citizens were building up and swelling with importance over being the most populous and prosperous town in the northwest, the shrewder citizens of Fort Dodge secured the land office which took everybody to that place, and as a matter of course, where everybody goes, a great many will stay. Fort Dodge now began to build with a vigor that surprised the Homerites and a rivalry was at once started, and so constantly were the eyes of the Homer people kept upon the Fort that they almost forgot that another, equally powerful rival was beginning to spring up at Newcastle. But Homer was the county seat and she grew almost as fast as both her rivals until the fall of 1856.

#### THE SECOND STORE

As has been mentioned, a store had opened there in 1854, and now early in the spring of 1855, Philip Detrick and Benjamin Bell opened a second store. The goods for this store were brought from Keokuk by Benjamin Bell, Ike Murphey and J. N. Bell, with ox teams, and a store opening up in the new town, with three ox loads of new goods was indeed an event of great importance and tended to remind the settlers of the stores in the east. How much of the three ox loads was whiskey we have not been informed, but as no store was considered complete in its stock without that delectable beverage, we have no doubt they had enough to supply the customers. These were the days when whiskey was untaxed, and consequently cheap and a little black jug could be found under the bed of almost every settler; if not for his own use, to play the agreeable to his neigh-

bors when they called, and to have handy in case of a snake bite, for snakes were as numerous as whiskey was plentiful, and nothing was more plentiful than both of them, unless it was mosquitoes and unoccupied land.

#### ARRIVAL OF SNELL AND BUTTERWORTH

Snell and Butterworth came in 1855 and as both were men of means, they branched out into all kinds of business and came as near owning the town as it is possible for men to own a town. They started a store that, within a year did a wholesale as well as a retail business. They purchased a mill. They owned and speculated in land. They traded with everybody who came along, and trusted everybody who wanted goods whether settlers or emigrants to points further west. They took everything in exchange for goods that could be turned into money, and infused a spirit of enterprise, trade and dicker into the settlers that made the town a "teeming mart of trade." A couple of years ago the writer was engaged in conversation with a gentleman in Des Moines, who, finding that we were from Webster City, inquired about Homer and stated that about the time of which we are now speaking, he came west with some money, looking for a future home and a chance for speculation in some new town that would in a few years become a city of importance. He looked Des Moines over, heard of Homer, came to see it. From the thrift and enterprise apparent, its location, and the rapidity of its growth, he made up his mind that here was to be one of the first cities of the state, and invested all his means in town lots expecting to get rich on the rise in valuation of property; and he laconically remarked, "That money is still invested there. Do you think there is any prospect of every realizing upon it?" We replied that inasmuch as he had no doubt, already realized a very large dividend of disappointment, he could hardly hope to reap further emoluments, and he said he supposed he'd have to be satisfied with that. The incident shows what splendid prospects appeared then to lie before the now desolate town of Homer.

John F. Duncombe came to Fort Dodge this year (1855) and that town began to grow too. The land office, the hotel, and in fact almost everything there was in the deserted government buildings, and crowds of men came and went during the summer and fall.

#### ARRIVAL OF BENJAMIN MILLARD

Benjamin Millard, who came to this county that year, relates that he came from Des Moines, going through several counties southwest of here, and finally arrived at Fort Dodge in the last days of April. He says there were so many people stopping at the old Waukonza House—the principal building of the old fort,—that there was little accommodation or comfort, a man being thankful if he got shelter of any kind, and usually made no objection if he had only a nice good hard floor to sleep on. As soon as it was light, the guests at the hotel ranged themselves as near the dining room door as possible, and held their places for almost two hours, so as to get in at the first table, and for two reasons: first, to get away to their business as soon as possible, and second, because there would not be much left to eat for those who came last. Hotel keepers had no competi-

tion in the Fort, and while they tried to provide for their guests as well as possible, there were so many of them, and they were so far from sources of supply that what they could not conveniently get, they did without, and the traveler who didn't like the fare and accommodations, knew he couldn't do any better and found it wisest to keep quiet and take things as they came.

Mr. Millard didn't like the looks of things at the Fort, and so, hearing of Newcastle, started out to look it over. There was then no road, and being on horseback he started according to directions, across the trackless prairies. He travelled so long, he began to think he had missed the place and would probably have to stay out all night, but was happily disappointed just before night while crossing a ravine near where Millard's bridge now is, to come upon the cabin of Mr. Dickinson where he called and arranged to stay for the night. Being thirsty, he asked Mrs. D. for a drink and she directed him to the spring. When he saw that spring, he determined to buy the place if possible. Accordingly the next day, May 1st, '55, he made a deal with Mr. Dickinson for the farm, trading in his horse as part payment and was to have possession in the fall. The next day he started on foot across the prairie east, for Cedar Falls. He moved his family out in the fall. As an illustration of the severity of the cold the next winter, he says he purchased a lot of potatoes of Jake Funk at 75 cents a bushel, and had Mr. Dickinson bury them for him. They were buried so deep that Mr. Millard told him he would never be able to dig through to them in the spring, and yet the whole lot was lost.

#### FIRST SETTLEMENT ON THE SKUNK RIVER

The first settlements made in this county away from the Boone river, were made at Lakin's Grove on the Skunk river. In the fall of 1854, Luther Lakin, Elisha Lakin, Dr. Cochran and Oscar M. Lakin, came to Hamilton county, entered land lying on the Skunk river, and returned east. In the spring of 1855, Luther Lakin left home, intending to get married and meet his father and other settlers on the Skunk, but he arrived about two weeks earlier than the rest and can therefore lay just claim to being the first settler in the east part of the county and in Lyon township. About two weeks after his arrival Elisha Lakin, B. A. Lakin, and E. P. McCowan came and all settled near each other. The men turned in and helped Mr. McCowan to build a cabin, which was the first house built in that part of the county. McCowan moved into his new house and shortly afterwards Evaline McCowan was born, being the first white child born in the east half of the county. The next house built was Luther Lakin's, which stood about a half mile west of his present residence. The house was not built until about three months after his arrival. In the meantime, the cooking was done on a stove in a bark shanty, and they slept in the covered wagon.

Elisha Lakin put up the next house, and it remains yet on the farm of Palmer Tatham, having been used for many years as a stable. In the fall of the same year, Geo. and Henry Staley moved in and took a claim about four miles south of Lakin's Grove in what is now Ellsworth township and so far as we have been able to learn, these were the only settlers in the east of the county prior to the year 1856.



## CHAPTER IV

### EARLY EVENTS CHIEFLY OF A POLITICAL NATURE

*By F. Q. Lee*

THE FIRST ELECTION—ORGANIZING WEBSTER COUNTY—TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION—THE FIRST COUNTY OFFICERS—THE COUNTY SEAT—THE STATE ROAD—THE SECOND ELECTION—GRANVILLE BURKLEY—THE BUILDING OF HOMER—NEW CASTLE—A MILD WINTER—PRAIRIE VS. TIMBER FARMS—A STATE ELECTION—THE FIRST SCHOOLS—PROBIBITION SUSTAINED—A CONTEST OVER COUNTY JUDGE—C. C. CARPENTER VISITS NEW CASTLE—TIMBER STEALING—ANOTHER "WILSE BREWER" STORY—SOME NEW TOWNS—THE THIRD SCHOOL HOUSE—THE HOTEL SIGN—MOVING THE COUNTY SEAT—BALLOT BOX STUFFING—THE MOON HOUSE—THE "OLD WILLSON HOUSE"—HON. W. C. WILLSON—RAILROAD BOND ELECTION—A HARD WINTER—PORK AND HOMINY—HAMILTON COUNTY ORGANIZED—CHOOSING THE NAME—THE FIRST HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION—WEBSTER CITY IN 1857.

It must be remembered that when the first settlers arrived there was no county or township government of any kind and no officers of the law among the settlers. Heavier settlements had taken place along the Des Moines river within what is now Webster county, than on the Boone in Hamilton. But the settlements in the two counties were really one large settlement and they were all neighbors and friends.

In laying out Webster county the Legislature had named it "Yell," after a colonel who fell in the Mexican war.

#### THE FIRST ELECTION

Without county organization or any provision for holding elections, the people did not forget that they were citizens of a great nation and entitled to vote and with true democratic instincts determined to exercise that right whether there was any law for it or not. County lines adopted by a state legislature did not stand in the way and it was determined to hold an election and vote for state officers. There was no sheriff to make proclamation or other officers to direct affairs, but this did not deter them from their purpose. Word was sent out that an election would be held. It was carried from neighbor to neighbor, as there were no newspapers to publish the news, and there is little doubt but every settler within both counties of Risley and Yell was duly notified. The election was held in August, 1852, at the house of William Pierce, a short distance southwest of Homer and near the line of the two counties. When the settlers met to hold

the election, they chose for judges, Isaac Hook, William Pierce and John Tolman, and for clerks, L. Miracle and William T. Woolsey.

The following is the poll list and will give a fair idea of the population of the two counties at the time: W. A. Kratzer, Isaac Bell, Henry Lot, John Huffman, Theodore Eslick, Samuel Eslick, Perlonzo Bell, Jesse Goodrich, John Galer, Daniel P. Devore, Joseph Hardin, Levi Hall, Jacob Booker, John Hefley, Lazarus Wright, Franklin McGuire, Philomen Johnson, Isaac Hook, Adam Mesmore, Wm. T. Woolsey, Henry Harden, Jesse McGuire, Jacob Dick, Pearley C. Bell, James Anders, Richard M. Bonnet, Wm. Creller, Thos. Hogan, Jacob Crouse, E. B. Hall, John Tolman, Lodorick Miracle, Francis McGuire, Linas Gilmore, Squire McGuire, James McGuire, Wm. Pierce, Wm. R. Williams, James Doty, Benj. Bell, Jacob Miracle, Jacob Bell, John Drought, Ephrem Doty.

At the time of holding this election, the settlers called the two counties Cass township, and it is stated by old settlers that no more than a dozen residents of the two counties of Risley and Yell failed to vote.

#### ORGANIZING WEBSTER COUNTY

The holding of this election brought all the settlers together and through it they got a taste of politics and the subject of organization into a county began to be agitated and a general sentiment favorable to it was created.

The settlers of the counties of Risley and Yell, therefore, late in the fall of 1852, united in petitioning the legislature for a separate county government embracing the territory of both counties and that the new county be called Webster.

The legislature therefore passed the following act at the session which convened Dec. 1st, 1852:

#### AN ACT TO CREATE THE COUNTY OF WEBSTER

Section I. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa: That the counties of Yell and Risley, be and the same are hereby united into one county, to be called "Webster."

Section II. This Act to take effect from and after its publication in the Iowa Star; Provided, the State shall incur no expense for such publication. Approved Jan. 22nd, 1853.

By an act approved the same day the counties of Yell and Risley were attached to Boone county and it became the duty of the county judge of Boone county, to appoint commissioners and supervise the organization of the new county and under these commissioners the first election for the selection of county officers took place and returns were made to the county judge of Boone county.

#### TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION

Before the counties of Yell and Risley were attached to Boone county they, with all the other unorganized counties in the northwest portion of the state, had been attached to Polk county. While so attached for revenue and judicial purposes, an assessor was sent up to assess the property and he returned an assess-

able valuation of about \$40,000.00, which included probably all of the assessable property in all of the unorganized counties north of Boone county. But the settlers objected to paying taxes without having any voice in the matter and whether their objection was considered legally good is not known, but no attempt was made to collect the taxes then levied and they were never paid.

Preparations having now been made for a county government, the county judge of Boone county ordered an election to be held on the first Monday in April, 1853.

#### THE FIRST COUNTY OFFICERS

The election was held at the residence of Wm. Pierce. Theodore Eslick, A. Gloseclose, and John Tolman were judges. L. Miracle and Earven Allen, clerks. Wm. Pierce was elected county judge, Jesse Goodrich, clerk of district court; James T. Hook, treasurer and recorder; J. H. Cofer, prosecuting attorney; Samuel Eslick, county assessor; James Doty, sheriff; John Johns, coroner, and Philomen Johnson and John Tolman, justices of the peace.

These officers were elected to hold their offices until the general election to be held on the first Monday in August, 1853.

The salary of the judge and treasurer was small. Warrants were issued to each for \$12.50 for services from April 1st to August 1st, 1853, though additional compensation was afterward paid to the judge.

The first record made by the county judge, after taking his office, was that of the issuance of a marriage license to John J. Holmes and Miss Emily Lyons, daughter of Isaac Lyons, and bears date May 14th, 1853.

#### THE COUNTY SEAT

A commission was appointed to locate a county seat. Elisha Anderson and Samuel McCall acted upon the commission and selected the southwest quarter of section 6, township 87, range 26, as a location, and the county seat was named Homer. The land belonged to the government, but the county officers took possession of it and had it "run out" into town lots. The following persons were employed to survey it: W. R. Williams, R. W. W. Alcorn, Francis Eslick, Granville Burkley, L. Gilmore, S. C. Wood, Benj. Bell, John Manling and Geo. W. Hill.

It was not until October 14th, 1854, that the county obtained title to the land. On that day Judge Pierce received a warrant for \$114 with which to enter the land upon which the town plot of Homer is located.

#### THE STATE ROAD

One of the first acts of the county government was to appoint a commission to locate a state road from Fort Dodge to Fort Des Moines. William Pierce, John Taylor, Peter J. Nickolson, Francis McGuire and Samuel Luther were the commissioners. S. C. Wood was employed as surveyor on the road, and with the assistance of Geo. Morgan, Richard Green, James Oliver, David Carroll, R. W. W. Alcorn, Elisha Kounts, and David Hamilton, made the survey, and the

road was duly established. It was over this road that the Northwestern Stage company afterwards ran its line between the towns above named. The entire county was included within one township, and it was called Washington.

#### THE SECOND ELECTION

The next election was held in Homer on the first Monday in August, 1853, and at this election 79 votes were cast. There was no court house at Homer, at the time, and to improvise a polling place a wagon box was inverted, and over it a brush canopy erected. The judges and clerks sat upon the wagon box. The candidates for office and the votes received by each were as follows:

County Judge, William Pierce, 39; James Hook, 37. Treasurer and recorder, W. T. Woolsey, 39; James Hook, 37. Sheriff, James Doty, 39; Benj. Bell, 35. Prosecuting attorney, Geo. Warner, 31; Geo. W. Hall, 10; John H. Cofer, 34. Coronor, Jacob Miracle, 40; David Carroll, 32. Justices of the peace (no opposition), E. Russell, L. Miracle.

#### GRANVILLE BURKLEY

We deem it proper at this time to call attention to a character who played an important part in the early history of Webster and Hamilton counties. We refer to Granville Burkley, the first lawyer to settle within the present limits of the two counties. Burkley came to Yell county in the fall of 1852 and during the following winter taught a school a short distance southwest of where Homer was afterwards located. The school was attended by pupils from both counties. J. H. Lyons, whose parents resided near where Webster City now is, attended this school and lived with the family of the teacher. He relates that the school was closed for two weeks during the winter while Mr. Burkley took a petition from the settlers, praying for a county government, to Iowa City, where the legislature was in session. He managed matters so well that the act authorizing the organization of Webster county was passed. He took an active interest in the organization of the new county, and was largely instrumental in locating the county seat at Homer. He was a man well suited to be a "backwoods" lawyer. Though of considerable ability, he had a bulldozing disposition, and when he desired to carry a point, he had very few scruples as to the means employed. He undertook to run the county, and succeeded fairly well until John F. Duncombe of Fort Dodge and W. C. Willson of Webster City joined forces and carried things against him. For the first three years after the county was organized there is little doubt that he directed most of the public matters, and dictated the county policy.

#### THE BUILDING OF HOMER

The town of Homer having been platted and established as the county seat in the fall of 1853, David Carroll built the first house in it early in the year 1854. It was a hewn log house about sixteen feet square and into this he moved his family and his stock of goods. Granville Burkley also built a house and moved his family into it. A post-office had been established and he was appointed postmaster, and was the first postmaster in the county. It is said that the mails

were very light and that he kept them in a box under the bed and when anyone called for mail, they were directed to pull out the box and look for themselves. But this charge is also denied, and in the main is probably pure fiction. It was during this year that the first regular hotel was opened. Its location was at Homer and Alexander Turner was the landlord. The hotel was opened in the fall and Mr. Turner kept it until the next June when he moved to Swedes Point for a year. He then returned to Homer again, and in 1857 moved to Webster City where he remained until his death. He built one of the first brick houses in Webster City and it was for many years the finest residence in the city. While he was landlord of the hotel in Homer, the land office was opened at Fort Dodge, and the stage line from Des Moines to that place was started. His daughter, Mrs. M. R. Dalby, then a little girl, remembers distinctly the stirring incidents of the time, and tells how utterly impossible it was for the hotels, with their limited capacity, to accommodate the general rush of travelers, and how they slept in barns and out of doors, for want of better accommodations. A number of houses were built during the year, forming quite a village. Among the buildings erected was a schoolhouse built by Granville Burkley for the settlers but some difficulty occurred about accepting the house and Burkley pocketed the key and refused admission thereto until it should be accepted. A compromise was finally made, and school was held in it the winter of 1854-5, and we believe R. W. W. Alcorn was the teacher, though here again there is some dispute, while those disputing Mr. Alcorn's title to being the first teacher at Homer are unable to name the person who was entitled to that honor. It was in this school house that Judge McFarland held the first district court ever held in the county. It was in the fall of 1854. There was little or no business of importance to attend to, for up to this time, except for justices of the peace and their courts, the people had been a law unto themselves. They regulated the evil doers summarily. If there were those who were not "square" the displeasure of the community, with all that that implies in a new country, was sufficient to hold most of the would-be criminals in check, and from that displeasure there was no appeal.

#### NEW CASTLE

In the fall of 1854 Wilson Brewer and Wm. Frakes laid out the town of New Castle, now part of Webster City, and began selling lots. It was located on the west side of Boone river and consisted of eight blocks, lying between Division street and the Illinois Central R. R. and east of Superior street as now seen on the maps of Webster City. The plat was two blocks wide and four blocks long and was the second town laid out in the county.

The laying out of this town and giving the place a name tended to bring this place into more notoriety, and homeseekers heard of it as they journeyed westward, and made it a point to pass through on their way. Many arriving in that way being pleased with the location and surroundings concluded to stay and became permanent settlers.

#### A MILD WINTER

The winter of 1854-5 was perhaps the mildest and pleasantest winter ever witnessed in Iowa. Very little snow fell and very little cold weather was ex-

perienced. It was asserted that so mild was the weather that the mosquitoes lived over. They were unusually plentiful in the following April, at any rate. Josie R. Middleton has often told the writer that on Christmas day, 1854, he walked from Homer to White Fox in his bare feet, carrying his shoes and coat on his arm, and that the roads were dry and dusty and the day was much more like one in May than in December.

#### PRAIRIE VS. TIMBER FARMS

Our readers, if they have noticed the settlement of the county as recorded herein, will observe that up to the end of the year 1854, no settlements had been made except along the Boone river; or, at least within a couple of miles of it. The prairie land at that time was shunned, unless it could be had near the timber, or in connection with timber land. Looking about us now, it will also be observed that though the prairie was then shunned and the timber sought for homes, the finest farms and farm buildings are to be found on the prairie, and it has been true of the settler on the prairie ever since the settlement of the county that the general farmer, who went right out into the prairie did much better than the man who stuck his stake in the timber and grubbed out his fields. Along the timber, the first start was more cheaply made because a log cabin could be put up with no outlay of money. But it was on the prairie that the neat white farm houses first appeared, giving the country the appearance of civilization and thrift that is not usually expected where nothing but log cabins are to be found.

#### A STATE ELECTION

During the year 1854, Francis Eslick was elected district clerk; John H. Cofer, prosecuting attorney; Samuel Eslick, sheriff; and Henry B. Martin, surveyor.

For senator, Theophilus Bryan received 94 votes and James Gordan, 19 votes.

For representative in state legislature, Samuel McCall had 81 votes; Granville Burkley had 33 votes; Franklin Thompson had 13 votes. Phineus Cassody received 96 votes for district judge and Wm. McKay 12.

The vote for governor in the county gave Curtis Bates 104, and James W. Grimes, 22.

From the above vote it will be seen that the population of the county in August, 1854, was about 600 and that politically the county was largely democratic as is shown by the vote for governor, Bates being the democratic candidate.

Settlers were coming in, singly and in groups, during all of this year and while a larger proportion than common stopped within the present limits of Hamilton county, the larger number went into the present limits of Webster county.

#### THE FIRST SCHOOLS

In the fall of 1854, the Frakes, Downings, Skinners, Segars, Paynes and probably Storys, organized a school district and built a log schoolhouse on the present site of the White Fox schoolhouse. Josie R. Middleton was employed as the first teacher and as there was no school being taught at Webster City,

the Lyons and Brewers also attended there. This was the first school in the northern part of the county, and one of the first in the county. The same winter a school was taught at Homer by Mr. Alcott, and another north of Hook's Point was held in a claim cabin, taught by Miss Abedience Bell,—now Mrs. Woolford, of Boone county. These were the first schools taught within what is now Hamilton county.

At the April, 1854, election there were 213 votes cast and the following officers were elected: N. W. Meservey, county judge; Granville Burkley, county attorney; D. Carroll, drainage commissioner; A. Gaines, coroner.

For district judge, W. W. Williamson had 123 votes and C. J. McFarland, 73 votes. McFarland was elected in the district but it will be seen from the vote at the different elections in Webster county that he was not popular with the voters and never carried a majority of the votes. The board of canvassers for this election were Judge Pierce and Justices of the Peace L. Miracle and E. Russell.

#### "PROHIBITION" SUSTAINED

The question of prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors came up at the April election of this year and resulted as follows: For prohibition, 99; against prohibition, 76. The democrats were prohibitionists and the whigs were for license though the vote shows that not all of the democrats voted for prohibition, and it is probable that some of the whigs voted for it. About one-fourth of the voters refrained from voting on the question at all.

The second election of the year took place on August 7th, when there were 283 votes cast.

#### A CONTEST OVER COUNTY JUDGE

Judge Pierce had resigned and W. N. Meservey was elected judge at the April election to fill the vacancy and the office was to be regularly filled at the August election. W. N. Meservey was again a candidate and John D. Maxwell was his opponent. The contest between these two candidates was very spirited, the people of Homer and vicinity voting for Meservey while the citizens of Fort Dodge and New Castle and vicinity voted for Maxwell. The election resulted as follows: J. D. Maxwell, 156; W. N. Meservey, 136.

Notwithstanding, Maxwell was clearly elected by a majority of 20 and no fraud was charged. The canvassers at this election being Homer men, gave Meservey the certificate of election. The entry made by them of the election return book shows the vote as recorded above. Maxwell entered a contest and the trial resulted in his favor, but Meservey appealed to the district court and continued to hold the office. When the time for trial in the district court came, Meservey succeeded in obtaining a change of venue and the case was sent to Pottawottomie county for trial. The office was not a very valuable one so far as salary was concerned and therefore Maxwell failed to follow the case and Meservey continued to hold the office until after the county was divided.

The other officers elected at the August election, 1855, were: Geo. Gregory, district clerk; W. T. Woolsey, treasurer; Wm. Royster, sheriff; C. C. Carpenter, surveyor; N. L. Osborn, coroner.

## C. C. CARPENTER VISITS NEW CASTLE

C. C. Carpenter had been working as a surveyor during the year in different parts of the county and a good story is told of his first visit to New Castle after the Willsons had opened their hotel. As stated by Mrs. Willson, the number of guests at their house was out of all proportion to the means for comfortable accommodation and Carpenter and his gang of surveyors were obliged to sleep on the floor of the main room. In one corner of this room was a bed with curtains around it in which Mr. and Mrs. Willson slept.

Now Mrs. Willson, notwithstanding her rough surroundings, was as neat and trim all the time as though just out of a band-box, and a great beauty as well. Walt was full of rush and enterprise, going in where anything was to be done without regard to personal appearance. He was at this time working on his mill dam, and was covered with mud and tanned by exposure. In his personal appearance, in his every day clothes, he was not a beauty. Mrs. Willson looked after the hotel and Walt looked after everything else and worked at everything. While Carpenter knew who the landlady was, he did not know and had not met the landlord, and when he was pointed out to him he could not refrain from remarking: "Well, it's an infernal shame that so nice a woman as that should be married to that galoot of an Irishman." Walt didn't hear of this remark until after acquaintance had changed Mr. Carpenter's opinion, and of course, when he did hear of it he could laugh as heartily over it as anybody.

Among the deaths this year was that of a man named Crawford at Homer. His funeral sermon was preached by a newcomer who claimed to be a preacher and we are informed he preached a very excellent sermon. The preacher must have been an imposter, however, for the night after preaching the funeral, he stole a horse and skipped out and was never heard of again.

The first physician to locate at Homer was a Dr. Coyle, and the second was a Dr. Corbin, both coming in 1855.

The winter of 1855-6 was the hardest yet seen by any of the settlers and was a great contrast to the mild and pleasant one that had preceded it. Deep snows, blizzards and bad roads were the chief attractions.

## TIMBER STEALING

We must not forget to mention a matter that had been going on ever since the settlement of the county but which first began to be noticed about this time and that was what would now be called stealing timber off non-residents' lands. The fact was that much of the valuable timber lands had been entered by speculators who were holding it for a high price, to buy it and as the work of improving their farms could not be carried on without timber, they helped themselves to any timber not guarded by a settler. As the settlers winked at these depredations to speculators' land, it was difficult and usually impossible to punish any of them, though the law was stringent enough.

A story is told of Wilson Brewer that will illustrate how this thing was carried on. An eastern speculator came out to look after his property and stopped with Mr. Brewer. The next day Mr. B. took the man out to show him his land, which was timber land.

On the way Mr. B. pointed out a piece of timber land here that he said belonged to Mr. So and So and said Mr. A. stole the timber of that; another piece belonged to another and Mr. B. stole the timber of that; finally coming to a strip of land that had evidently been well covered with timber said: "This is your land and I stole the timber off of it and if you don't like it, I'll lick h—l out of you." The fellow said he liked it and returned east disgusted, and let his land go to tax deed, never again paying any more attention to it. But if one settler was found taking timber belonging to another settler, it was made exceedingly torrid for him. In relation to taking speculators' timber the settlers reasoned like this: "The improvement of our land will necessarily increase the price of the speculator's land without his doing anything; therefore it is only fair that enough of his property be put into the improvements to make him pay in part at least for the cause of the advance of the price of his land," which seemed to be good logic, if it was not law. Another way the settler had of making the speculator pay for the advance in the price of his land was to assess his unimproved lands as high as the improved farms, thus making him pay as high taxes as the settler, and for the same reason as given in the timber case. For these two causes, speculators' lands were, no doubt, often sold for a much smaller price than if they had not existed, and the settler benefited thereby.

#### ANOTHER "WILSE BREWER" STORY

Another story is told of "Wilse Brewer" which illustrates the summary methods of doing justice then.

There had been a shooting match and "Wilse" had won a quarter of beef. That evening, before starting home, somebody stole the beef. One Beemas Hayden was accused of taking it, and Brewer having satisfied himself that he was the culprit went to his house next morning before Hayden was up and hauled him out of bed and gave him a sound thrashing. Nothing was done with Brewer for this, but Brewer went to the office of Esquire Russell and plead guilty to assault and battery and paid a fine of \$5.00 on his own motion. When the grand jury sat next, they were proceeding to indict Hayden for stealing the beef. Brewer heard of it and went before the body and said that he had chastised the man sufficiently and asked that the case be dropped and the jury dropped it.

#### SOME NEW TOWNS

During the year 1855, the people of Hamilton county, like the people of most new countries, found numerous places where it was thought a town would be needed in the future, therefore, in addition to the towns of Homer and New Castle, there was a town laid out July 2, 1855, on the southeast quarter of section 6-86-26. The town consisted of a row of blocks around a public square and was called "Paris." The projection of the town of Paris was a flat failure and perhaps few, except the early settlers, know that such a town was platted. This town, however, was laid out on the same section of land upon which the villages of Hook's Point was afterwards situated.

On July 5th, Walter C. Willson, Henry Kellogg and Chas. Wilder filed for record the original plat of "Webster City." It included New Castle and joined

West New Castle on the south. It extended west to Broadway, the line being the alley north of Bank street, south to the present cemetery, and east to the Boone river and north to the I. C. R. R. track. The postoffice was named Webster City; the name of New Castle was after a few years changed to Webster City by act of the legislature, though the original names still appear on the maps of the town, and a large part of the business portion of the town is now on what was platted as West New Castle.

On the 24th of July, 1855, a town was laid out on the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 12-87-26 and was called "New Saratoga." This town was laid out on what is now the John N. Maxwell farm, and it was a prominent candidate for the honor of the county seat at, and after the division of the county. It was, however, always a paper town, no buildings ever having been, so far as we can find, erected upon it unless it was a farm house. A story is told, that the question of deciding whether Webster City or Saratoga should be the county seat was submitted to N. G. Olmstead and S. B. Rosencrans, who were to wrestle to decide it, the victor to name the town; that Rosencrans was successful and named Webster City. It will hardly be taken by the average citizen that it was officially so determined, though we believe the wrestle really took place.

New Castle, during the year 1855, made considerable growth. As stated in Mrs. Wilson's essay, a saw mill was built the fore part of the year near where the Chase flouring mill now stands. A store was opened by Cyrus Smith. There was one regular hotel kept by W. C. Willson; and Wilson Brewer and the Beaches also kept lodgers.

In December, Jacob M. Funk and Joseph Funk laid out and placed in market West New Castle which extends from New Castle on the east nearly to Des Moines street and from the Illinois Central railroad south to the alley north of Bank street. Joseph Funk was not a resident and the dedication of the town plat was signed by Jacob M. Funk and "Joseph Funk by J. M. Funk, his agent."

#### THE THIRD SCHOOL HOUSE

As will have been noted, the first two school houses in the county were built in the fall of 1854 at Homer and White Fox. The third school house was built by James Faught in 1855 on the site of what is now known as the "Bethel" school house in Webster township. The building then erected, and used for years, is now to be seen at the home of Mr. William Spicer, and is used by him as a granary. There may have been other school houses built in the county that year but if so, we have failed to hear of it. Quite a number of schools were taught in the county during 1855, but so far as we have heard they were kept in claim cabins or temporary buildings, and among the rest Miss Richey, later Mrs. Levi Emmerson, of Stratford, taught a school at Hook's Point in a room of a private residence arranged for the occasion.

#### THE HOTEL SIGN

About this time "Uncle Ike Hook," having a hotel at Hook's Point, concluded that the dignity of the place would be enhanced if a nice sign was painted and erected in front of it. The sign was to be a square board hung in a frame in

which it would swing and elevated upon a post. The sign was painted which should announce the locality of "THE MARIAN HOTEL." The pole was provided upon which it was to be placed and a few neighbors had been invited to help raise the sign and celebrate the occasion. On the night before the pole was to be raised, the boys of the neighborhood carried the pole off and hid it. The old man was in a towering passion when it was discovered that it was gone, and swore and threatened, but all to no purpose. No one seemed to know anything about it. In a few days, however, "Uncle Ike" changed the front, told the boys it would be all right and offered a small reward for the pole. It is needless to say that the pole was found and a new day was set for raising. This time the sign had been fastened on, the hole dug in which to plant it, the neighbors invited and the old man was on the lookout for tricks, but the boys were too many for him, and while a few of them engaged in business in the house, the others carried off the pole, sign, and all, and planted in good shape on a knoll in an adjoining cornfield where in plain view, it was seen next morning, the sign gaily swinging in the wind in the midst of the growing corn. When the neighbors came next day to raise the sign, the old man treated the matter as a joke, the whole crowd "irrigated" and then the sign was brought from the corn field and placed in its legitimate position.

#### MOVING THE COUNTY SEAT

And now the project of moving the county seat from Homer to Fort Dodge began to be agitated by citizens of the latter place and New Castle. But the Homerites paid little heed to it for, were they not prospering and growing without precedent? All over the town, houses were springing up or were projected. A large two-story wholesale and retail store added dignity and importance to the place that not even Des Moines could rival. A brick yard was a thing being prepared for, and which, when completed, was to furnish materials out of which brick blocks were to be made and cified airs be taken on as well as to make substantial, that, which as yet, was but temporary. The settlements around Homer were more populous than anywhere else, hence the idea of removing the county seat was little less than madness, as viewed from a Homer standpoint. But they reckoned without their host, for John F. Duncombe, as leader of the Fort Dodge forces, made an agreement with the people of New Castle by which both towns were to join in removing the county seat to Fort Dodge after which the counties were to be divided and the Fort Dodgers were to assist in securing the county seat of the new county for Newcastle. A proposition, therefore, was submitted to the voters at the April election, 1856, to remove the county seat to Fort Dodge. The very greatest interest was manifest on all sides in the result of this election.

#### BALLOT BOX STUFFING

Each side sent emissaries to the voting precincts of the other to watch and see that no illegal votes were polled; and notwithstanding the greatest precaution, the result of the election showed plainly enough that each party had been busily engaged in trying to get in all the votes it could on its own side regardless of the right of the matter. Homer, to prevent illegal votes from being cast at New Castle sent Lawyer Granville Burkley there to watch the polls. But a future

county seat here was at stake, and so the boys and transients who were willing to vote if they could get a chance, got in readiness, and then a crowd would surround Burkley and engage him in a heated discussion, during which many votes would be cast.

A good many people were daily arriving on the stage from the east and a man was sent out to meet the stage and secure as many votes as possible among the passengers. The passengers of that time were usually willing enough to enter into any project that brought the treats and cost nothing, and as a rule they passed right on out of the country. So when the stage arrived, the settlers surrounded Burkley and got up an unusual hub-hub and while it was going on ran in the stage passengers and voted them. It is not improbable that they voted again when they arrived at Fort Dodge where most of them were going. And yet, what was being done at New Castle or Webster City, was scarcely up to the average ballot stuffing at other places, for when election was over it was found that about three times as many votes had been cast as at any previous election and Fort Dodge succeeded by a vote of 407 against 264. The Homer people felt very confident that they were carrying the election for they were polling within about 20 votes of as many as the whole vote of the county had ever been before. They knew, too, that by an honest vote, they could not count much more than half that number. Imagine their surprise, when the returns were brought in to find themselves so far outdone at their own game. That game, which they fondly believed they were playing alone, had been more than discounted at Fort Dodge and New Castle.

Had an honest vote and a fair count been had, it is more than probable that Homer would have retained the county seat; however, the record of both sides was too rotten to bear inspection, and no contest was made over the election. Indeed it is doubtful whether anyone desired the matter brought before the courts where an investigation might involve so many in personal difficulty on account of illegal voting. Instead of a contest, a good many Homer people declared that the election was a monstrous fraud and the county records should not be moved. Guns were cleaned up and no little amount of large talk indulged in, but it all amounted to nothing and the books were removed and nobody hurt.

At this election, some of the Homer people thought it would be a good joke on John F. Duncombe to elect him coroner and 110 of them voted for him for that office. Having in view, perhaps, Homer's probable triumph at the election, they no doubt thought that Duncombe would be a proper person to sit upon the remains of the dead town of Fort Dodge. But Rev. John Johns received 420 votes and was elected. Granville Burkley was elected prosecuting attorney at this election and the question of restraining stock was defeated.

Another election was held on the first Monday of August following, and while perhaps two hundred voters had been added to the population since the county seat contest, only 565 votes were polled, of which Elias Pecoek had 290 votes and W. C. Willson 275.

S. B. Rosenerans was at this election selected for district clerk. He did not personally take charge of his office, but on the 19th day of August appointed Hezekiah Beecher as his deputy. This arrangement did not prove satisfactory however, and on the 29th day of August, he revoked that appointment and appointed Chas. A. Sherman as his deputy.

Among the new comers this year who have reported to have signed in the Old Settlers' Register are: Gil Perry, F. J. McConnel, C. T. Fenton, Morg Everts, W. H. Richardson, Thos. Bonebright, W. B. Howard, A. Keplar, S. B. Rosencrans, F. A. Harris, H. C. Hillock, S. L. Richardson, A. McLaughlin, Simon Day, W. L. Clark, Wm. Howell, M. W. Howland, Chas. Stoddard, Wm. Oleson, Geo. Shipp, W. H. Bates, G. H. Daniels, J. P. Tucker, W. H. Frasier, Wm. Willis, J. M. Jones, S. Rickard, G. W. Perry, John Whaley, W. S. Worthington, N. H. Hellen, Robt. W. Martin, Isaiah Doane and Theodore Phillips.

One-third of these have held offices of some kind, county, township or school, and the reader of today, looking over this list will be struck by the very important part in the county development so many of them have played. None of them were legal voters at the election above mentioned. Four of them were here at the election when the county seat question was voted upon. JUDGE DOANE was one of the four. He arrived in March and but a few days prior to the election, and, coming as he did when the ground was covered with snow and slush, the scene was dreary in the extreme. The Judge and his family were so disheartened and homesick at the first that he didn't care if they moved the county seat to "Tophet." But a few weeks changed the aspect of affairs, and becoming satisfied with the country and its prospects, a home was purchased and he has remained ever since. He was among the unfortunate persons whose selection and entry of land was upon what is known as the Des Moines river grant, but finding that no certain title was likely to be soon, if ever, obtained, he sold out his claim and never dabbled in that class of lands. He was a farmer in summer and taught school in winter, and no old settler was to be found whose fund of anecdote of early times was greater than his. From his great store of information we have drawn largely for material in the makeup of this history.

W. H. Frazier lived until '59, near, and just east of Homer, when he purchased land and built a house in what is now Clear Lake township. At this time there was only one house within the present limits of that township; that of Theodore Phillips, who moved there in '56 and was, therefore, the first, while W. H. Frazier was the second settler in that township. He had only just completed and moved into his new house when he concluded to return east, and went to Illinois, remaining six years, and returned in 1865. He was a member of the first jury drawn in Hamilton county.

#### THE FIRST STEAM MILL

In the spring of 1856, J. M. Funk and Sumler Willson brought from Dubuque, by teams, a steam mill, the first set up within Hamilton county. There were but two or three bridges on the whole route, and as the streams were swollen by recent rains and the melting snow that had fallen during the winter, the work was arduous and sometimes full of danger. When the steam mill was in operation, S. B. Rosencrans and C. T. Fenton purchased a half interest in it, and in connection with J. M. Jones and J. M. Funk, owned and ran the mill for several years. The first year Rosencrans was superintendent and J. M. Jones engineer.

## THE MOON HOUSE

What was then considered as the "first class" hotel of Webster City was the Moon House, a plank structure 16x40 feet, one and a half stories high, with a lean-to on one side. The main building had one partition in the center, making a barroom in front, out of which was a stairway; the back part had a partition lengthwise, making a bedroom and sitting-room. The lean-to on one side was the kitchen and dining-room, while the whole upstairs without partition, was filled with beds except a narrow alley down the center between them. These were filled nightly with men, as were also the floors of the barroom and sitting-room, the men bunking down on the floor with buffalo robes under them and blankets for covering. The bill of fare was as unpretentious as the other surroundings, for vegetables were scarce, and the main articles of diet were bread, butter, ham, bacon, beans and coffee.

There was what is usually called a "cold snap" in April, freezing up the river so that people could cross it on the ice, making the spring very late and considerable of the planting was not done until June. Indeed the whole winter of '55-6 was a very severe one, so much worse than had ever occurred before that the deer were all driven out of the country and but very few of them ever returned.

## THE "OLD WILLSON HOUSE"

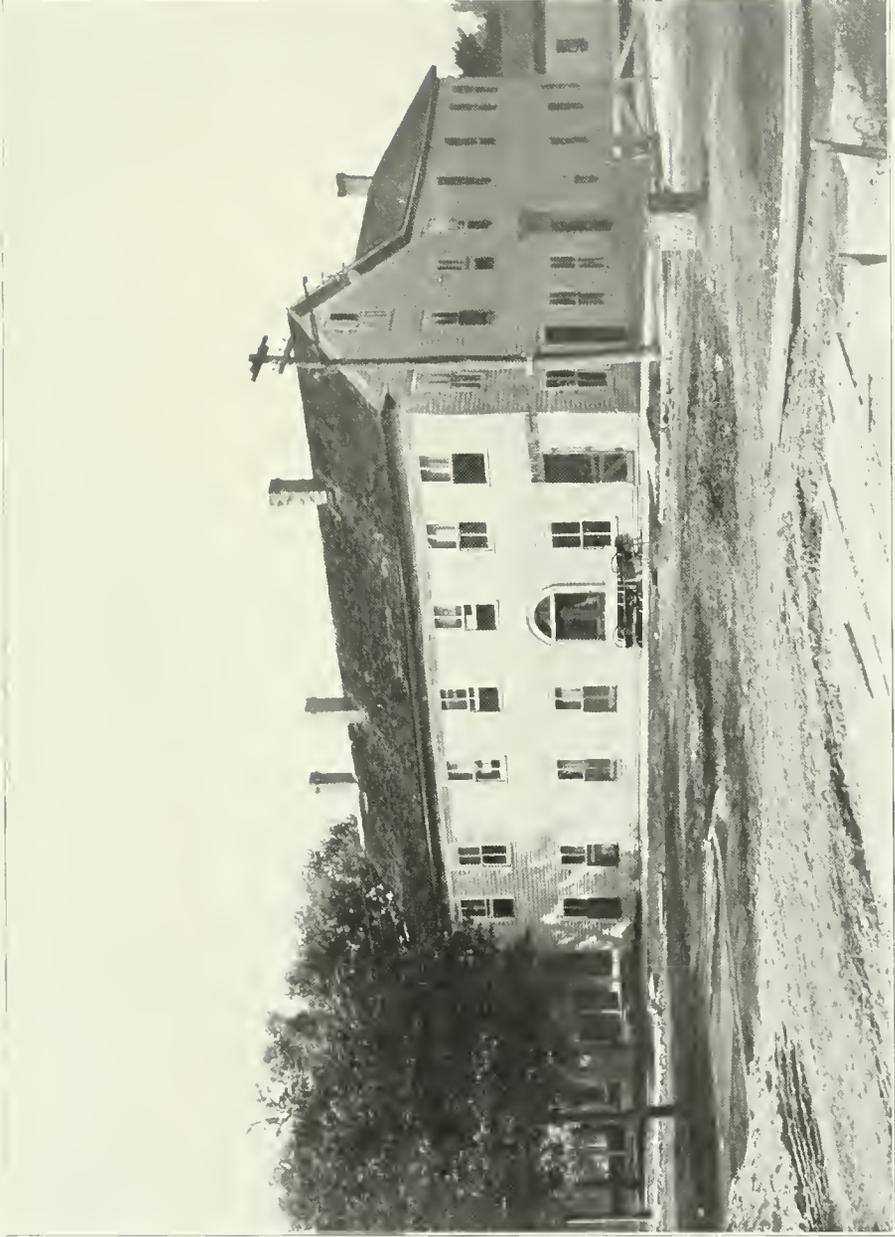
During the season, the old Willson House, now the Park House, on the corner of Seneca and Bank streets, was built and opened. Most, if not all of the houses in town, were then east of that house and to illustrate the wildness of the surroundings, we mention the fact that a few deer were, during the year, seen upon the town plat, and in the fall a prairie fire burned over most of the ground where the business portion of Webster City is now situated, burning around the residence of S. B. Rosencrans, which was then being built and which was only saved from the fire by great effort.

## HON. W. C. WILLSON

At the fall election, Walter C. Willson was elected to the state legislature and was the first Hamilton county man to sit as a member of that body. The one grand object Mr. Willson had in view was the passage of a law organizing the present county, and having the county seat located at Webster City. In this he succeeded admirably as will be seen as we progress with this history.

## RAILROAD BOND ELECTION

On the 19th day of August, 1856, John F. Duncombe appeared before the county judge with a petition signed by one hundred and fifty residents of the county, asking the county court to call an election for the 22d day of September, at which the question, "Whether Webster county would subscribe for the \$200,000 of the capital stock of the Dubuque and Pacific Railroad and issue bonds therefor, payable in seventeen, eighteen, nineteen and twenty years, with ten per cent per annum, to provide for payment of the principal and interest thereof."



WEBSTER CITY'S OLDEST HOTEL

Once known as the Willson House, later, for many years, as the Hamilton House, and now as the Park Hotel



The judge granted the request and entered an order calling said election, but we have been unable to find any record of the election having been held, and what makes the matter all the more uncertain is the fact that while part of the old settlers declare the vote was taken and carried, about an equal number declare that no vote was ever taken. Those who hold that the election did take place and carried say that after the division of the county it was put upon Hamilton county to assume \$90,000 of the bonds, and Webster to assume \$110,000, and that when Hamilton county came to vote to ratify the agreement and issue the bonds, the voters repudiated the whole matter.

While Hamilton county was united with Webster, nine townships were made, four of them being within the limits of this county. They were Cass, Boone, Webster and Clear Lake, and they probably extended clear across the county, twenty-four miles, and were six miles wide, and these were the organized townships of the county when the separation took place the next spring. Benjamin Millard was one of the first justices of the peace of Boone township, but he soon tired of the office, and August 7, 1856, resigned, and Ammon Moon was appointed to fill the vacancy.

#### A HARD WINTER

All of the old settlers will yet remember the winter of 1856, the longest and most severe that has yet been seen here. In the fall the weather up to about 3 o'clock in the afternoon of December 1st had been unusually fine, when the sky became overcast with black clouds; the wind rose almost to a hurricane and by night the snow was falling, blowing, drifting, and the storm lasted for three days, during which time it was dangerous, and most of the time impossible to leave the house. The air was so full of flying snow, that objects at only a few feet distant could not be seen. Many were unable, during those three days, to even feed or care for their stock, and when at last the wind died down and the snow had ceased to fall or fly, stables and houses had, many of them, to be dug out of the snow. In places drifts of snow were twenty or thirty feet high and especially was the drifting to be seen around the houses and stock yards, where it seemed all the snow had been collected. So hard had the wind blown and so solidly was the snow packed, that horses and cattle could walk over the highest drifts without any danger of breaking through, and many farmers fed their stock on top of the rifts clear above the stake and ridged fence that enclosed the yards. To illustrate the depth of the snow it is related on good authority, that one of Judge Pierce's horses had its leg badly injured by the snow giving way just over the end of a tall stake and letting the foot down the side of the stake, where it was not so tightly packed. This storm was only the beginning of a series of blizzards lasting all winter and until late in the spring. There seemed to be very little "let up" to the storms and it kept the settlers busy between storms to provide fuel and keep their stock dug out of the drifts and fed. The roads were almost impassable, and it was dangerous to go out of sight of the settlement for fear of getting caught in a blizzard and freezing. Flour became scarce, indeed, in many instances nothing like flour or meal was to be had, and whole families subsisted for days upon corn ground in a coffee mill and made into coarse mush or bread. Others varied the monotony of such

a diet, with what is known as lye hominy and these delectable viands,—this attenuated menu,—of Johnnie cake, hog and hominy was a compulsory diet, though we cannot say that the settlers came out any thinner in flesh on account of it. But when the storms let up, flour was produced and wheat bread was again upon the table, what a luxury, indeed, it seemed.

#### PORK AND HOMINY

Speaking of hominy, we should mention a kind that was made by some of the settlers without lye. To make this a hominy mortar had to be made. A log from sixteen to twenty inches thick, and about three feet long, was cut square at both ends. Its outside was shaped something like a druggist's mortar. At one end a cavity about ten or twelve inches deep was dug and made smooth. An iron wedge fastened into the end of a cleft stick with a band around it to prevent the stick from splitting was prepared, and these two tools completed the equipment. Corn was then washed and soaked in warm water and put into the mortar and pounded with the iron wedge until the hull of the grain was beaten off and the grain broken into pieces. The corn was then taken out and dried and the husk blown out, leaving the grain clean. It was put into a large kettle and boiled, sometimes for a whole day, and before the boiling process was finished, a huge chunk of fat pork was put into the kettle and cooked with it. The whole mass was then taken out and was fried and used as it was wanted. This was a tedious and laborious way of getting hominy, but when made by this process it surpassed in sweetness and richness all other kinds and was a favorite wherever found.

During the hard winter we have just described, many incidents are told of narrow escapes from being frozen to death and numerous were the heels and toes, fingers, ears and noses that were frozen and peeled off. Schools could only be kept going about half the time and then only the larger pupils, or those living near the schoolhouse dared to venture, for fear of being caught away from home in a storm. Persons were often caught out when a storm came up and would put up at the first cabin reached, and stay for days, fearing to attempt to reach home, while their friends would worry about them, not knowing where they were and fearing they had perished in the storm. Of all the winters in Iowa, this one of '56 and '57 is looked back to by the settlers as the hardest ever seen here, and it tried the nerve and stirring qualities of those who were here for the first time, making them heartily wish themselves "back east."

#### HAMILTON COUNTY ORGANIZED

The legislature of the state, early in its session in 1856, passed the following act providing for the organization of Hamilton county.

#### "AN ACT TO CREATE THE COUNTY OF HAMILTON

"Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa, That so much of the county of Webster, as lies east of range twenty-seven, west of the fifth principal meridian, according to the official survey of lands by the

United States Government be, and the same is, hereby created and organized into a new county to be called Hamilton.

"Sec. 2. All the estate of which the county of Webster is now seized shall belong to, and the county be seized thereof to its own use, in which such real estate may be situated, after the division by the organization of such new county.

"Sec. 3. The said county of Webster, and said county of Hamilton, shall both be and remain liable for any and all indebtedness existing against the county of Webster, at the time this act takes effect, to the same extent as if this act had not been passed, and the money rights and credits or other personal property belonging to the said county of Webster at the time this act takes effect, shall be apportioned between said counties, in such manner as shall be just and equitable.

"Sec. 4. For the purpose of ascertaining and fixing upon such apportionment of money, rights and credits, or other personal property provided for in the preceding section, the Governor shall, on the complete organization of said county of Hamilton by the election of county officers, and upon the request of the county Judge of said county of Hamilton, form a Commission who shall meet at a time to be fixed by the Governor, at the County Seat of Webster County, and make such apportionment of said money, rights and credits or other property above mentioned, as to them shall appear just and equitable. The decision of said Commissioners or any two of them, shall be final, and such decision shall be reduced to writing, and signed by the Commissioners making the same, and a Commissioner to be appointed by the Governor, shall, before proceeding to act as such, take and subscribe an oath for the faithful performance of his duties.

"Sec. 5. Said Commissioners shall each receive three dollars per day, for every day they shall be actually employed in making such apportionment to be paid by the county of Hamilton.

"Sec. 6. At the next April election after the passage of this act, there shall be elected by the qualified voters, residing within the county of Hamilton, the same county and township officers as are now allowed and required by law in organized counties: Provided, township officers shall be elected only in cases where an election would have taken place had this act not been passed; And further provided, that the said county officers so elected shall hold their offices as if elected to fill vacancies. The votes cast at such election shall be returned to and canvassed by the county Judge of Webster county who shall canvass the same, and notify the persons elected of their election. The person elected county Judge of Hamilton County shall qualify before the county Judge of Webster County; and when so qualified, the organization of said county shall be deemed complete. The expenses of said election shall be paid by the county of Hamilton.

"Sec. 7. The Judge of Hamilton County may, whenever he shall deem it expedient so to do, cause to be transcribed so much of the public records of the county of Hamilton, and the copies so made, if duly certified to be true and correct copies by the proper officer having the original records in his custody as a public officer, at the time of so certifying, shall be received by all Courts with like effect as if the original records were offered in evidence.

"Sec. 8. Webster City is designated as the county seat of Hamilton County, subject however to the provisions of the general law relating to the re-locating county seats.

"Sec. 9. This shall be in force from and after its publication in the Iowa City Republican and Fort Dodge Sentinel. Approved 22nd Dec., 1856.

"I certify that the foregoing act was published in the Iowa City Republican and in the Fort Dodge Sentinel, Jan. 8, 1857.

"ELEJAH SELLS, *Sec'y of State.*"

#### CHOOSING THE NAME

The county was named Hamilton in honor of Judge Wm. W. Hamilton of Dubuque, who was president of the senate, and who rendered Mr. Willson much valuable assistance in securing the passage of the act.

We cannot find that the question of a name for the new county was ever discussed among the settlers and it is probable that it was generally supposed the old name of Risley would have to be adopted. But Mr. Willson felt very grateful to Judge Hamilton for his kindly and efficient assistance in preparing and securing the passage of the act, and the new name was received by the settlers with great satisfaction and was liked much better than the original name of Risley had been.

#### FIRST HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION

In accordance with this law, the first election of officers of the new county of Hamilton was held on the first Monday in April, 1857, at which there were 347 votes cast as follows:

County Judge—J. D. Maxwell, 204. Hampton Corbin, 143.  
 District Clerk—G. W. McClure, 206. J. C. Pemberton, 119.  
 Prosecuting Attorney—E. R. Green, 197. Wm. R. Daniels, 139.  
 Treas. and Recorder—Cyrus Smith, 206. J. C. Pemberton, 119.  
 County Assessor—R. D. Remington, 154. Alex Turner, 142. E. Lakin, 44  
 Sheriff—Wm. Royster, 343. S. Sufficool, 2.  
 School Fund Commissioner—J. W. Payne, 188. J. H. Cofer, 152.  
 County Surveyor—E. Huntington, 242. Sam. H. Lunt, 72.  
 Drainage Commissioner—H. M. Barstow, 190. J. Gilcrist, 150.  
 Coroner—L. Lakin, 148. A. Gaines, 119.

The above are the returns as certified by the commissioners of election, but as Elisha Lakin appeared a few days after the election and qualified for the office of coroner, it is probable that the transcript is in error.

All of the officers were elected to serve only until the August election, except assessor and drainage commissioner, who were commissioned to serve for two years, and coroner for one year.

R. D. Remington resigned the office of assessor on June 20 and on June 30, 1857, Judge Maxwell appointed J. C. Pemberton to fill the vacancy.

Thornton Parker and B. D. Jewell were elected justices of the peace of Boone township at this first election. Elisha Lakin and A. O. Hall for justice of peace for Clear Lake township; Wm. Weaver, justice of peace for Webster township, and if Cass township elected such an officer the record does not disclose the fact.

A correspondent to the Dubuque Express and Herald under date of February

19, 1857, wrote a long article upon Webster City and its prospects which was afterwards copied in the Hamilton Freeman and from which we quote as follows:

## WEBSTER CITY IN 1857

"A spacious and handsome frame hotel sixty feet front by thirty feet deep, two and a half stories high, has been erected and furnished by Messrs. Millard and Browning. This is one of the best built, and best designed hotels in the western country and is the largest west of Independence." (This was the main building of the present Park House.)

The water power is an excellent one and has been finely improved by Messrs. W. C. and S. Willson. One large saw-mill (water power) with nine feet head with a rose wheel propelling one upright, and two buzz saws, with turning lathe, boring and morticing machine. This mill, owned by W. C. and S. Willson, will saw eight thousand feet of lumber in twenty-four hours.

One large steam sawmill, fifteen horse power, with fine machinery, is capable of sawing twelve thousand feet of lumber in twenty-four hours. The enterprising proprietors are Messrs. Fenton, Funk & Co. S. B. Rosencrans, Esq., a member of the firm, personally superintends the mill. J. M. Funk, Esq., of the same firm, owns a large amount of town property, and is a valuable and enterprising citizen."

MERCANTILE—W. C. Willson, general merchandise; Robertson & Barton, ditto; D. O. Laughlin, do.; T. W. Solsberry, do.; Rhodes & Halsey, druggists.

LAND AGENTS—Wadsworth & Baum, C. Smith, E. Huntington, Morgan Everts, Garnut Parker.

NOTARIES PUBLIC—J. J. Wadsworth, A. Moon, C. Smith, E. Huntington.

MUSIC TEACHER—Mr. P. Page.

PHYSICIANS—Dr. A. C. Baum, Dr. Benedict, Dr. Jewell.

MECHANICS—Sackett & Sons, carpenters and joiners; Babcock & Mason, cabinet-makers; Sage & Bros., masons; Chambers, wagon maker; Robt. Ferguson, blacksmith.

RELIGIOUS—One Presbyterian organization, Rev. Mr. Dodder, pastor; one Methodist organization, Rev. Mr. Day, pastor.

A public school building has been built, which cost \$1,000, and a large and prosperous school is now in operation, taught by Mr. N. Hathway.

One lodge, Good Templars, and an excellent lyceum is established.

HOTELS—Western Hotel, A. Moon; Webster City Hotel, by Millard & Browning; City Hotel, by H. Kellogg.

POSTOFFICE STATISTICS—J. J. Wadsworth, Esq., postmaster. This office was established December 3, 1855. The gross receipts for the quarter ending March 31, '56, were \$14.54; gross receipts for the quarter ending December 31, 1856, were \$65.09, showing a surprising increase which fully indorses the prosperity of the town. There were tri-weekly mails from Dubuque; also from Iowa City; also a weekly mail route is established from this point to Belmond, county seat of Wright county. This office is neatly fitted up and has one hundred and twenty boxes.

Improved lands within three, six, ten miles, range from \$10 to \$15 per acre. Wild prairie lands range from \$3 to \$8 per acre. Timber land from \$20 to \$30 per acre."



## CHAPTER V

### THE SPIRIT LAKE MASSACRE

THE MASSACRE—THE RELIEF EXPEDITION—COMPANY "C" ORGANIZED—LIEUT. JOHN N. MAXWELL'S STORY—INK-PA-DU-TAH, THE OUTLAW—DEPREDATIONS IN CLAY COUNTY—INDIANS AT THE GARDINER HOME—THE INDIANS AT THE MATTOCK HOME—THE HOWE FAMILY MURDERED—AT THE MARBLE CABIN—THE MASSACRE DISCOVERED—TRIALS OF THE PRISONERS—THE INDIANS AT SPRINGFIELD—THE FLIGHT OF THE FUGITIVES—RECOLLECTIONS OF F. R. MASON—DEATH OF CAPTAIN JOHNSON—THE GREAT INDIAN SCARE—THE FRONTIER GUARD.

*By F. Q. Lee*

#### THE SPIRIT LAKE MASSACRE

On about the 8th of March, 1857, Ink-pa-du-tah, a Sioux renegade, with about forty followers, made an attack upon the settlements at Spirit Lake and killed or captured everyone found there. This massacre was perhaps the most horrible affair that has ever occurred in the history of Iowa, and on account of the intense impression it made on the minds of our people, it properly becomes a part of our history.

Ink-pa-du-tah was a nephew of old Si-dom-i-na-do-tah, the Sioux chief, who was murdered by Henry Lot in 1854, and some authors are of the opinion that the death of the old chief was the proximate cause of the Spirit Lake horror. Other causes are assigned and perhaps a discussion of causes will be more appropriate after a description of the affair itself has been given and its connection with Hamilton county history more fully shown.

#### THE RELIEF EXPEDITION

It was not until the 22d of March that the news of the massacre reached Webster City. A meeting of citizens was immediately called and volunteers to go to the relief of the settlers at the lake called for. Nearly everybody volunteered. As it was not thought advisable for so many to go, especially as the whereabouts of the Indians was not known and they might at that moment be moving to attack Webster City, and the settlement north; it was decided to send thirty of the youngest and strongest men. Judge Maxwell was appointed to select the men from the many who had volunteered. The volunteers were therefore drawn up in line, and the following were selected: John C. Johnson, John Maxwell, Frank Mason, Harris Hoover, A. N. Hathway, Sherman Cassady, A.

K. Tullis, Elias D. Kellogg, A. S. Leonard, John Gates, T. B. Bonebright, Alonzo Richardson, Michael Sweeney, J. Brainard, Humphry Hillock, M. Howland, F. R. Moody, Wm. K. Laughlin, E. Gates, W. L. Church, Jareb Palmer, J. C. Pemberton, Thos. Henderson, J. Griffith, John Newland, Jas. Hickey, Patrick Colan, John Erie, Patrick Stafford, H. E. Dally.

The above list is that given by H. Hoover, a member of the expedition and published in August, 1857. The company left Webster City about 1 o'clock on March 23, and arrived at Fort Dodge that evening. They were received by a large and enthusiastic meeting of citizens and found that about seventy-five men had been enrolled there for the expedition, and were divided into two companies, with John F. Duncombe and C. B. Richards as captains, and these companies were named "A" and "B."

#### COMPANY "C" ORGANIZED

The volunteers from Webster City immediately organized as Company "C" and they elected J. C. Johnson, captain; John N. Maxwell, first lieutenant; F. R. Mason, second lieutenant; H. Hoover, sergeant. Major Williams, an old man near seventy years of age, was chosen as commander of the force. The expedition was one of almost incredible difficulty and hardship, and as the particulars of the march to the lakes, the burial of the dead and the return has been so graphically written by Lieutenant J. N. Maxwell, we give his account:

#### LIEUTENANT JOHN N. MAXWELL'S STORY

"We left Fort Dodge March 24th, but owing to our commissary being hindered in procuring transportation, we were obliged to camp at Beaver Creek, not more than four miles north. We built up large camp fires, provided a hasty meal, dried our clothes as well as we could and without tents we lay down and slept soundly. On the morning of the 25th we resumed our march, crossing the east branch of the Des Moines without difficulty and camped at Dakota City. The 26th the roads became more and more difficult. In some places the snow was so deep that it was necessary to break a road before our teams could pass through. In other places it had drifted in the ravines to the depth of eight or ten feet. The only way to proceed was to wade through, stack arms, return and unhitch the teams, attach ropes to them and draw them through, then perform the same operation with the wagons. This performance took place every mile or two and by such progress we were two days reaching McKnight's Point, on the east side of the west branch of the Des Moines river, twelve miles from Dakota City, where we camped on the night of the 27th.

"On the night of the 26th the command camped out on the prairie, but a detail under Captain Duncombe had gone ahead to look out the road to the Point. Duncombe had been ill during the day and he became so exhausted that he had to be carried into camp, and came near losing his life. Resuming our march on the 28th, we camped that night at Shippy's on Cylinder creek.

"On Sunday, the 29th, we reached the Irish colony in Emmet county and all were cared for by the settlers who had assembled for protection in case of an attack, and were greatly relieved when we came in sight. The morning of the 30th found the command greatly refreshed, having butchered a cow that had

been wintered on prairie hay. The beef was not exactly porterhouse steak but it was food for hungry men. We left our teams which were nearly exhausted, and impressed fresh ones. We camped that night near Big Island grove. At this place the Indians had kept a lookout in a big cedar tree that grew on the island in the middle of the lake, and their camp fires were still burning. A platform had been built in this tree forty feet from the ground from which one could easily see twenty miles. The place had probably been deserted for several days, except by one man who had remained to keep watch.

"The morning of the 31st the command moved out early. Ten men were sent forward as scouts. When about eight miles out we met the Springfield refugees, the Churches, Thomases, Carver and others. We went into camp and our surgeon dressed the wounds of the fleeing party. On the morning of April 1st Major Williams sent an escort with the Springfield people back to the Irish colony, and proceeded northwest, with an advance guard ahead. We camped that night at Granger's Point near the Minnesota line. Here we learned that the U. S. troops from Fort Ridgley were camped at the head of Spirit lake and that the Indians had fled to Owl lake some eighteen miles away. As we were on foot and the Indians were supposed to be mounted there was no chance of overtaking them.

"A council was held and it was decided to return the main part of the command to the Irish colony and wait for the rest to come in. Twenty-six men were selected including those having friends at the lake to cross the river, proceed to that point, to bury the dead, reconnoiter and see if there were any who had escaped the Indians. I was one of this party. On the morning of the 2d day of April, under Captain J. C. Johnson, we crossed the Des Moines river and took a south and west direction. The traveling was much better than it had been since we left Fort Dodge. It was warm and clear. About two o'clock we struck East Okoboji lake on the southeast shore. The first cabin we came to was that of Mr. Thatcher. Here we found the yard and prairie covered with feathers. Two dead men were lying at the rear of the house, both bodies being badly shot in the breast. They evidently had been unarmed and everything indicated that they had been surprised. The rest of the family had been killed in the house or taken prisoners, and everything indicated that there had been no defence. From here we went to Mr. Howe's, where we found seven dead bodies. There was one old and one middle-aged woman, one man and four children—all brutally murdered. It seemed that the man had been killed by placing the muzzle of a gun against his nose and blowing his head to pieces. The other adults had been simply shot. The children had been knocked in the head. We divided into two parties to bury the dead, camping for the night near the residence of the Howe family. Old Mr. Howe was found on the 3d of April some distance from the house, on the ice, shot through the head. We buried him on a bluff southwest of the place some eighty rods from the house. The next place was Mr. Mattock's. Here we found eleven dead bodies and buried them all in one grave, men, women and children. The ground was frozen and we could only make the grave about eighteen inches deep. It was a ghastly sight. The adults had been shot, but the children's brains had been knocked out, apparently by striking them across their foreheads with heavy clubs or sticks of wood. The brains of one boy about ten years of age had been

completely let out of his head and lay upon the ground. Every one else shrank from touching them. I was in command, and feeling that I would not ask another to do a thing at which I myself revolted, I gathered up the poor scattered fragments upon the spade and placed them all together in the grave. About forty head of cattle had been shot at this place, the carcasses split open in the back and the tenderloins removed—all that the Indians cared to carry off. The house had been burned with one dead body in it at the time. At this place it seems to me that the only man who fought the Indians was Dr. Harriott who had formerly lived at Waterloo. He made a heroic defense, probably killing and wounding two or three Indians. He was falling back toward Granger's, evidently defending the women and children when he was finally shot himself. He still grasped his Sharp's rifle, which was empty and broken off at the breech, showing that he had fallen in a hand to hand fight. I have little idea that any other man about the lakes fired a gun at the Indians. It was simply surprise and butchery.

"From here we went to the Grangers' and found the dead body of one of the brothers of that name. He had been first shot and his head had been split open with a broad axe. He and his brother had kept a small store, and the Indians had taken everything away excepting a dozen bottles of strychnine. We buried him near his own house. The next house was Gardiner's. Here were the bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner, one grown-up daughter and two small children in the yard and a baby in the house. We buried this family all in one grave about two rods from the house. Tired and hungry, we went into camp in a small grove at the rear of the house with nothing to eat but potatoes.

"Some of our party had visited the lake in the fall and had seen Mr. Gardiner bury two bushels of potatoes in a box under the stove. These we found and roasted in the camp fire. They lasted two days. On the morning of the 4th we completed our sad task, and without any food, turned our faces homeward, taking a southeast course hoping to reach the Irish colony the same day. In the forenoon, it was quite warm, melting the snow, and consequently traveling was very difficult. We were obliged to wade sloughs, waist deep, or go miles around and run the risk of losing the course. We were wet to the shoulders and while in this fearful condition the wind changed. About four o'clock a blizzard was upon us. In a short time our clothes were frozen stiff. Many of us cut holes in our boots to let the water out, and several pulled their boots off and were unable to get them on again. Up to this time the detachment had kept together. About sundown we came to a township corner placed there the year before. Laughlin and I wanted to be governed by the pit. While we were talking, part of the detachment came up and passed us some distance to the right. Those who happened to be with Laughlin and me stopped on a piece of dry ground close to the township corner, determined to remain near it all night lest in the night we should lose our course as shown by the corner. We marched back and forth all night long. When a comrade would fall others would help him to his feet, encourage him and force him to keep moving as the only hope, for no living being could survive an hour in such a storm without hard exercise. Captain Johnson's party, led by a trapper, became a little separated from us by a slough, where they found a dry place, and commenced pacing back and forth as we were

doing. They stayed there all night but in the morning took a southeast direction, while we went east. They seemed to have perfect confidence in the old trapper's knowledge of the country.

"During the night some of our men begged to lie down, claiming that it was useless to try to keep up any longer as the ice on their clothes gave them fearful annoyance. But the more hopeful would not consent to any one giving up. In this distressed condition we traveled up and down that path all night.

"One man by the name of Henry Carse from Princeton, Ill., had taken his boots off in the evening and wrapped his feet in pieces of blanket. He succeeded in getting along as well as the rest during the night, but in the morning when we went on the ice to break a road, his feet got wet and the wraps wore out. I staid with him until within three or four miles of the Des Moines river, when I became satisfied he could not get there, as his mind had failed. Every time I would bring him up he would turn away in any direction. Finally Henry Dally came along and succeeded in getting him to the river. The river was three miles from the Irish colony. We had no matches, but some of the party knew how to strike a fire by saturating a damp wad with powder and shooting it into the weeds. In this way we succeeded in striking a fire. Henry Carse was now unconscious and the blood was running from his mouth. We cut the rags from his feet and the skin came off the soles of his feet with the rags.

"As soon as the fire was well going Laughlin and I, being the least frozen, determined to try to cross the river and reach the settlement for help. We walked to the middle of the river, laid poles over the weak ice and crawled over. We reached the Irish colony and sent back help to the rest of the party. I went to sleep soon after entering a warm room and did not waken until the next day when I took some nourishment and started on to overtake the command under Major Williams which had been detained at Cylinder creek. In the morning C. C. Carpenter tried to get a guide to go and help search for Johnson and his friend Burkholder, but failed. As we left the colony I looked back and saw Carpenter going down the river to see if they had struck the river below. At Cylinder creek the party broke up into squads, each reaching his home as best he could and all of us more or less demoralized. Laughlin and I came by way of Fort Dodge, while Frank Mason and some of the others came across north of here. Most of us had our ears and feet frozen, but we only lamented the loss of the slain settlers and our comrades, Johnson and Burkholder, whose precious lives had been given for the relief of the helpless. But it has always been a wonder to me that we did not leave the bones of more of our comrades to bleach with these, on those wild and trackless prairies."

Ink-pa-du-tah was, it seems, an outlaw among the Indians, having killed his chief and fled from his tribe. He was brave, cruel and blood thirsty, feared by the Indians and despised by all except the scoundrel element of the Indian tribes that he drew around him.

Several minor difficulties are reported between his followers and the scattered white settlers in the northwest mostly resulting from the thieving propensities of the alleged braves, who not being allowed to commit depredations upon the settlers' property with impunity, became sullen and revengeful.

## DEPREDACTIONS IN CLAY COUNTY

They started on a raid that ended in the massacre, in the late fall of 1856, from the lower valley of the Little Sioux river, and went slowly northward shooting cattle and hogs here and there, and committing other depredations. They stopped a few days in Clay county at a place now called Peterson, and killed a few cattle belonging to A. S. Mead (Mr. Mead being away), knocked down his wife, destroyed other property and carried off to their camp his daughter Hattie, seventeen years old, and started to take a younger sister, Emma, but she resisted and cried so loud that an Indian took a rod and whipped her all the way back to the house. At Mr. E. Taylor's house they knocked him down, kicked his boy into the fire place and carried his wife off to their camp. The captive women were kept over night at the camp and permitted to go home next day. They then proceeded northward and on the 7th day of March arrived at Okoboji lakes. Strange as it may seem, the settlers here had heard nothing of the depredations committed but a few miles south of them, nor did they anticipate any trouble when the Indians camped at the edge of the settlement. Mr. Gardiner had made arrangements to start early in the morning of the 8th for Fort Dodge for supplies and the family were up early, but just as they were about to sit down to breakfast an Indian came in. A place was prepared for him and in an apparently friendly manner he partook of the hospitality of the family.

## THE INDIANS AT THE GARDINER HOME

He was soon followed by others, until Ink-pa-du-tah with fourteen warriors, their squaws and papooses had entered the house. They appeared friendly, and the scanty store of the household was freely divided among them. Then they became sullen and insolent, demanding ammunition, etc. Mr. Gardiner was giving one of them a few gun caps, when he snatched the box. Another tried to get the powder horn which hung against the wall but was prevented by Mr. Luce, who seized a gun and pointed it at the Indian's head.

The Indians continued to prowl around the premises for some time, and Mr. Gardiner, fearing trouble, put off his trip. Dr. Harriott and Mr. Snyder came while the Indians were still there. Mr. Gardiner thought there was trouble ahead and believed that the neighbors should be warned, and that all should get together for defense but Harriott and Snyder thought it was only a pet of the Indians and that no danger need be apprehended, and after doing some trading with the Indians, they left. When the Indians left they drove Mr. Gardiner's cattle before them and shot some of them. After that Mr. Luce and Mr. Clark went out to notify the settlers, and Mr. Gardiner was in favor of barricading the house and fighting it out, but his wife thought it better to treat the Indians kindly, and prevailed upon him to adopt this plan.

Clark and Luce did not return, and about 3 o'clock firing was heard, and just as the sun was setting, Mr. Gardiner went out and saw the enemy coming. He told his wife and both went out to meet and pacify them. They demanded more flour and when Mr. Gardiner turned to get it for them, they shot him through the heart. One of the women seized the gun when the Indians began beating Mrs. Gardiner and Mrs. Luce over the heads with their guns, dragged them both

out of the house and killed them. They then took the little children and dragged them out into the yard and beat their brains out with sticks of wood, but took Abbie a prisoner. They broke the furniture, scattered the contents of the featherbeds about the yard, and dragging Abbie after them left behind the bodies of six of their victims, some of whom were not yet dead, as their groans were still to be heard.

#### THE INDIANS AT THE MATTOCK HOME

When the Indians arrived at the camp which was at the home of Mr. Mattock, Abbie Gardiner, who was a prisoner, found that the work of massacre had been done here before going to Mr. Gardiner's, for the cabins were on fire; the bodies of Dr. Harriott, Mr. Mattock, Mr. Snyder, Carl Granger and several others were lying about the ground, while the shrieks and the groans of two or three helpless victims were heard from within the burning buildings where they were confined. Clark and Luce were killed near the outlet of the southern shore of East Okoboji.

#### THE HOWE FAMILY MURDER

That night a war dance was held and next morning the savages blackened their faces and started out again. Only four families remained and they, all unconscious of the fate of their neighbors, were pursuing their domestic duties. The Indians had proceeded but a short distance when they met Mr. Howe, whom they shot and then cut off his head. His skull was found some two years afterwards on the southern shore of the lake. They then went to Mr. Howe's house, where they murdered Mrs. Howe and six children. They then went to the cabin of Noble and Thatcher. Mr. Noble and Mr. Ryan were at home, and the Indians feigned friendship until they had an advantage, when both men were simultaneously shot. They then seized the two children by the feet and dragged them from their mother's arms, carried them out in the yard and dashed their brains out against a tree that stood there. They plundered the house, slaughtered cattle, hogs and poultry indiscriminately, and started back to camp, taking Mrs. Noble and Mrs. Thatcher prisoners. In going back they passed the house of Mr. Howe, where Mrs. Noble saw her mother's corpse. Her brother, Jacob, some thirteen years old, who had been left for dead, was found sitting up in the yard, conscious, though unable to speak. The savages, before they left, killed him before her eyes. On the 10th they broke camp and moved northwest and on the 13th accidentally came upon the cabin of Mr. Marble.

#### AT THE MARBLE CABIN

Mr. Marble had not heard of their being in the neighborhood, and was taken completely by surprise. They feigned friendship and were supplied with victuals, after which they proposed to Mr. Marble to shoot at a mark. Wishing to humor them, he consented. A board was set up, and when his head was turned, they shot him through the back and he fell dead in his tracks. Mrs. Marble saw her husband killed and started to run, but was captured and taken along as a prisoner. Mr. Marble's cabin was on Spirit lake, and he was the only person killed there. All the others were killed on Okoboji.

Twenty persons were killed the first day, twelve the second, and one the sixth, while four were taken prisoner.

#### THE MASSACRE DISCOVERED

The massacre was discovered by Mr. Markham, who left home on the 7th to look for some cattle, and returned after dark on the 9th to the house of Mr. Gardiner. Here he found the dead bodies and started at once to the cabin of Mr. Mattock and was almost in the midst of the Indian camp before he knew of their whereabouts. He cautiously withdrew and went to Mr. Howe's cabin. Here also, he found only the work of destruction, and pushed on to the cabin of Noble and Thatcher which was also his home, only to find the lifeless bodies of his friends.

He stayed all night in the forest, and next day, supposing Mr. Marble had also been killed, struck out for Springfield (now Jackson), eighteen miles distant in Minnesota, to inform the settlers there of the massacre at the lakes. The Indians, with their prisoners, went in a northwesterly direction, camping at different places at night, and on the 26th camped on Heron lake, about fifteen miles from Springfield. Here the squaws, papooses and prisoners were left, and the warriors, by signs, gave them to understand that the settlers at Springfield were to be butchered. Miss Gardiner's sister was there and she therefore was in great suspense until their return two days later and even then was not sure, but that the last of her family had fallen victim to the butchery of the savages. The next day they were pursued by U. S. Cavalry and were nearly overtaken but while the Indians were hiding and expecting an attack, the soldiers turned back, then began forced marches for the captives who were loaded down with plunder taken from the settlers.

#### TRIALS OF THE PRISONERS

Mrs. Thatcher was sick, but bore up with remarkable fortitude for six weeks, when, in crossing the Big Sioux, and when near the middle of the river, a young Indian pushed her off into the ice cold water. With almost superhuman effort, she swam to the shore from which they had just come, and was clinging to the root of a tree, when some Indians came up, threw clubs at her and with poles pushed her back into the angry stream. She made another desperate effort for her life and would doubtless have reached the other shore, but was met by her tormentors and beaten off. She was then carried down the stream while the Indians ran along the banks whooping and yelling and throwing sticks and stones at her and she was finally shot and her lifeless body left to float down stream. Mrs. Noble was afterwards killed by one of the Indians. Miss Gardiner and Mrs. Marble were ransomed afterward.

Those desiring a complete history of the massacre and captivity can find the same in Abbie Gardiner Sharp's book, from which most of the facts here stated are gleaned.

Let us now return to the settlement at Springfield where lived Mrs. W. L. Church, Miss Swanger and many others who before and since have long been residents of this county and learn what happened to them and the settlers there.

The settlement at Springfield was about eight miles north of the line of the territory of Minnesota and consisted of seven families and eight or ten single men. The houses were scattered up and down the river for seven or eight miles. The Wood Brothers had a store, and in addition to supplying the settlers with necessaries did a considerable trade with the Indians located in that vicinity. When Mr. Markham arrived at the settlement late on the evening of the 10th of March, and reported the massacre at the Okoboji, great excitement prevailed and most of the settlers gathered at the house of Mr. Thomas and took measures for defence. Mr. Thomas' house was the largest in the settlement, being a double log house, and as favorably situated for defence as any. Those gathered at this house were Mr. Thomas, his wife and six children, the eldest, twelve or thirteen years old; Mr. Strong, his wife and two children; Mrs. Church and two children; Mr. Stewart, wife and three children; Miss Swanger, Miss Gardiner, Mr. Markham, J. Bradshaw and Mr. Carver. Henry Trets and Mr. Chiffen were sent to Fort Ridgely for soldiers, carrying with them the written statement of Mr. Markham and the application of the settlers for assistance. At another house about three-fourths of a mile from Mr. Thomas' were the following named persons: Mr. Skinner, his wife and two children; Mr. Nelson, his wife and one child; Mr. Smith, who had had one of his legs amputated a short time before, and his wife; Mr. Henderson, who had both legs amputated; and Mr. Shiegiey and his boy, about three years old. This house stood on the prairie.

The Wood Brothers, upon hearing Markham's story, doubted its correctness and the other settlers also doubted it because Markham was a stranger to all of them and they did not believe that such a wholesale massacre could have taken place so near them without their hearing of it sooner. Still fear and excitement reigned, and at Mr. Thomas', where so many were crowded in, the excitement became so great that Mrs. Stewart broke down and became insane and had to be removed. Her husband took her and his three small children to his cabin and remained there. On the 20th of March Jareb Palmer, who had been away north for ten days, returned to find the settlement in this state of excitement and heard at Wood's store that one of the friendly Indians had said that another Indian had told his squaw that all the settlers at the lakes had been killed. Two strange Indians, one of them in war paint, were at Wood's store, buying powder and lead when Palmer arrived, and they said they would be back with twenty lodgers in two days. The situation therefore began to look very dangerous. Palmer took up quarters at Thomas' cabin, and thus matters went on until the morning of the 26th. The messengers sent to Fort Dodge had not returned. There had been no demonstration on the part of the Indians, the most suspicious incident being the sudden departure, two days before, of all the friendly Indians who had been staying in the neighborhood all winter. The little garrison at Thomas', having now been cooped up for fifteen days, began to feel that no trouble was imminent, and on the 26th the supply of wood having run short, the men went out after wood without their guns, and had returned just before 3 o'clock P. M., remarking that "They guessed they had wood enough to last until the war was over." They had scarcely entered the house when Willie Thomas, a lad of eight years, entered and said that Henry was coming down the road. Supposing it to be Henry Trets, all the people in the house, except Mrs. Church and Mrs. Thomas, went out to see and learn the news. No sooner were they

outside, than a volley of shot came rattling among them, causing a precipitate retreat into the house. The doors were quickly barred, but as shot came through the door, puncheons were taken up and placed against it. It was found that in the attack on the outside, Mr. Carver had been shot in the arm and in the side; Mr. Thomas had been shot through the wrist; Miss Swanger had been shot in the shoulder; and poor little Willie Thomas, who had given the alarm, had been shot down. His groans could be heard, but the settlers did not dare open the door to take him in lest the Indians make a rush for it and all be lost. When they did dare go out for him, it was found that he had been mortally wounded in the head and had died. The chinking was removed from the log house to make port holes and a vigorous fire was returned, the women loading guns, and even firing them, and the Indians seeing as high as eight guns at one time (the whole number in the cabin), pointing from the port holes and being rapidly discharged, concluded that the number of men in the cabin was larger than it was, and the siege was soon raised, the Indians driving Mr. Thomas' horses away before them. They were seen going away, but it was feared this would be only a ruse to bring the settlers out and shoot them down from under cover of the stacks and stables, so they still kept close within.

Let us leave them here for awhile and find how it fared with the other settlers. The store of Wood Brothers had been rifled of its contents. The brother who had had so much confidence in the Indians had been killed and brush had been piled upon his body and set on fire, leaving his remains charred and blackened. The other brother had evidently attempted to escape, but had been shot down at some distance from the store. Brush had been piled upon his body also, and fire set to it, but the fire had gone out without reaching his remains. The Indians then went to the cabin of Mr. Stewart (who had left the Thomas cabin on account of his wife) and under the pretense of wanting to buy a hog, got him to start out to show his swine. When a few rods from the house they shot him down. His wife, with a babe at her breast, saw her husband fall, and ran out to him, and as she leaned over his dying form, the red skins tore her infant from her bosom and murdered it as well as the poor woman and another child. Little Johnnie Stewart, eight years old, hid behind a log while the Indians were killing his mother, and remained concealed until they had gone away. He then ventured up to the cabin of Mr. Wheeler, but hearing talking inside, supposed the Indians were inside and fled in the Thomas cabin. When the occupants of that cabin saw him coming they thought he was an Indian trying to crawl upon them, and were about to shoot him down when some one recognized him. When he came up he was taken into the house through the window.

Mr. Sheigley was seen passing, on his way to the Wheeler cabin where his little boy was stopping. They called to him through the port hole and he came to the house and was taken in. No attack had been made upon the house on the prairie where he had been, nor upon the Wheeler cabin and he did not know until then that the Indians had made any attack upon the settlers. But having heard firing in the afternoon he had grown alarmed and had started out to see if all was right.

Our readers will remember the account heretofore given of the severity of the winter and the extreme danger of venturing away from home for fear of getting caught in a blizzard and lost. The experience of the winter had, no

doubt, caused the settlers to remain at home as much as possible, and this accounts for the fact that they knew so little of each other's condition and were so taken by surprise when the Indians came upon them.

#### THE FLIGHT OF THE FUGITIVES

These two persons having come to the house without molestation, it was apparent that the Indians had gone, but how soon they might return again could not be told. A consultation was therefore held by the inmates of the Thomas house, and supposing all the settlers except those in the prairie house had been slain, they determined to attempt to reach the settlements at Fort Dodge and Webster City. They knew that if they started and were overtaken on the prairie, they could make but little resistance as Mr. Thomas and Mr. Carver were both badly wounded and only three men in good condition were with the party, while the number of women and children was over twenty. Yet to remain seemed equally dangerous, for it was not certain that the men sent for help had not been killed themselves. Then, the soldiers might not believe their story and refuse to come. They did not know that the news had reached the southern settlements and that help was coming and they feared the Indians might creep upon them in the night, set fire to their cabin and they would all miserably perish. Whichever way they looked at the situation the prospect was indeed a gloomy one as must be apparent when it was decided as the most feasible chance of escape, to attempt to reach the settlements at Fort Dodge and Webster City, one hundred and forty miles away, though to reach them they must go on foot through the deep snow and slush and added to which was the fact that the weather was intensely cold and they were liable to perish from that cause. No sooner was the resolution formed than active preparations were commenced. It was found that the Indians had left the oxen, and they were hastily hitched to the sled by Mr. Markham, and such things only as were absolutely necessary for the journey, loaded. Mr. Carver was unable to walk and was placed on the sled, but the women and children were compelled to travel on foot. About 9 o'clock, they sallied forth. The night was intensely dark and they hurriedly and silently left the place, leaving the body of little Willie lying where he fell and died. Slowly and painfully, the fugitives traveled on through the cold and snow for several miles, expecting every moment to hear the dread war whoop of the merciless savages in the rear. Finally, worn out and fearing they were going in the wrong direction, they stopped and spent the balance of the night the best they could. As soon as it was light next morning, they continued their weary march in the direction of George Granger's, but their oxen became entirely exhausted and Mr. Palmer was sent ahead to get Mr. Granger to come with his team and help get them in. Their team, having stuck fast in a snow bank, they abandoned it and the wounded and all were compelled to make their way on foot as best they could. They were met by Mr. Palmer and George Granger, but as only a team had been brought, intending to hitch onto the sled, they were compelled to struggle on, on foot, until the sled could be brought up. On the prairie, they were joined by Dr. Strong, who had left the Thomas cabin before the attack. They were joined, also, by other settlers who were fleeing. It was afterwards learned that the Indians, in passing the Wheeler cabin began

firing at it and that some one got out a big cow bell and began ringing it, which had the effect of frightening them away. Dr. Strong's family was at the Thomas house and not having the courage to go himself the next morning to see what had been their fate, he persuaded Mrs. Smith to go, which she did and finding the body of little Willie at the door and, on looking in, seeing the floor torn up and covered with blood marks, her courage failed and she returned and told what she had seen. Dr. Strong without making any further inquiry fled for dear life, not even attempting to further learn the fate of his family.

Mrs. Sharp in her book says:

"To cap the climax of woes, shortly after Dr. Strong left his neighbors in the Wheeler cabin, they likewise concluded to flee, leaving poor Henderson, who had both legs off, behind. Mr. Smith, who had only lost one leg, attempted to accompany the fleeing party, which consisted of his wife, Mr. Skimmer and wife, Mrs. Nelson and child about a year old, and a little boy of Mr. Shiegley's, a year old, but after going a short distance, he was compelled to give up the journey by reason of his bleeding wound. Seeing that he was unable to travel, Mrs. Smith and the others abandoned him and Mr. Shiegley's little boy, on the prairie where no white man could offer assistance or administer consolation. Thus he was left to crawl on his hands or hobble along and drag his torn and bleeding body back to the cabin."

The party reached Mr. Granger's where they rested two nights and a day, when they again took up their march for the settlements. They traveled all day and without tents or shelter, spent the nights on the bleak and snow covered prairie, until the 30th of March, when they met the relief expedition from Webster City. And here we wish to note an incident showing the bravery of Mr. Bradshaw.

It will be remembered that Carver and Thomas were both wounded and comparatively helpless, while Bradshaw and Markham were the only able bodied men with the women and children. It was a hazy day and objects at a distance could not be plainly distinguished. Away off on the prairie appeared suspicious looking objects. Soon they came nearer, appearing to be a long line of Indians wrapped in their blankets, and crossing the prairie. At first it was hoped that they might pass on without discovering the party or at least without molestation, but it was soon seen that they had been sighted and that a consultation was taking place among them. Next they scattered themselves out and began slowly and cautiously to advance upon the fleeing settlers. The settlers had no other thought but that the Indians were now upon them and that their time had come. The women and children were ordered to dispose themselves behind the sled and team and keep perfectly quiet. There were eight guns loaded and Mr. Bradshaw had them carried forward about fifty steps to the front of the fugitives and in the direction of the advancing enemy and stacked so as to be quickly reached. He then ordered all the others back and took his position by the guns. He was a good marksman and he intended to kill as many of the advancing foe as possible and to sell his life as dearly as possible in defense of the party. The suspense of the waiting party was terrible, as the foe advanced very slowly and cautiously. But this supposed foe was the volunteers from Webster City, led by Lieutenant Maxwell. When they saw the fugitive settlers, they concluded from what they could make out in the distance that this was a party of Indians

with a lot of women and children captives and immediately began to advance upon them, being ordered to use the utmost caution in case of a conflict, not to direct their fire so as to imperil the lives of any of the captives if it could be avoided. Thus, each party was deceived as to the character of the other, and being thus deceived, the one waited quietly and determinedly the approach of the other, while the other approached as quietly and determinedly to a supposed conflict, resolved to rescue the supposed prisoners or perish in the attempt. Imagine then, the surprise and joy on both sides when it was discovered that what seemed advancing foes were friends coming to their rescue. Here, far out on the prairie, the rescue party had met a part of those in whose defense they were pushing forward to the frontier settlements. It was indeed a joyous meeting. Mr. Church was with the volunteers and was glad indeed to find his wife and her sister, Miss Swanger, alive. A detail was made from the volunteers to return with the fugitives, while the rest went on to Okoboji Lake to bury the dead. Where, in all the scenes of noble daring can be found an example of bravery more sublime than that of Bradshaw, quietly awaiting what he firmly believed to be a conflict with a cruel and merciless foe, and a certain and perhaps awful death at their hands at last.

Sitting around the quiet fireside in the midst of friends and the comforts of civilization, it is scarcely possible to realize the terror and suffering through which these pioneer settlers passed; not to sufficiently admire the courage and fortitude shown by most of them at every stage of it. Even in cases where courage failed and the heart grew sick and coward legs carried the luckless ones away from duty, making men forget the wild terror of the times, the instincts of nature and the promptings of human sympathy, we may well draw the veil of charity. And this will be the more easily realized as in the progress of this history the terror and flight of many others will be recorded and that too, when only an imaginary danger threatened.

But our story of the relief expedition is not yet complete. We have read Lieutenant Maxwell's graphic account of the march, but he did not tell all. It was left to his comrade, Lieut. Frank R. Mason, to complete the story of the march, and his account, one of the most thrilling we have ever read, is here given;

RECOLLECTIONS OF SOME OF THE INCIDENTS OF THE TERRIBLE MARCH TO RESCUE  
THE SETTLERS OF THE NORTHWEST

*By Frank R. Mason*

The next morning after arriving at the Irish colony, Major Williams selected ten of the strongest men from the company to scout the country north, northeast and northwest for Indians and Indian signs. Our stock of provisions consisted of about four pounds of coarse corn meal, and twenty pounds of flour. I was one of the ten men selected with Lieutenant Maxwell, Church, Thatcher and Hathway. I do not recollect the names of the other five. Major Williams ordered corn bread prepared for us. Each man was allotted a piece about the size of a common skimmer, and not much thicker. This was to be each man's rations for three days. Being very hungry when my portion was given me, I resolved that the easier and more convenient way of carrying it would be to eat it, which I did with a relish. We took our departure from the company

about 6 o'clock in the morning, and a beautiful morning it was. The snow at that time was more than two feet deep. We took a northeasterly direction, and traveled about twelve miles that forenoon when we reached the top of a hill and Lieutenant Maxwell ordered us to halt. We scraped the snow from the hill and there the boys dined. Having eaten my dinner for breakfast, I could only look on. Lieutenant Maxwell, with his natural tact, suggested that I act as sentry, while the others ate. I stationed myself about two or three rods from the men. Looking directly north I discerned an object in the distance, which at that time appeared like a mere black spot on the horizon. After observing it closely for several minutes, I became satisfied that it was a moving object. I then called Lieutenant Maxwell's attention to it. We put our ramrods in line with it and sighted. We soon concluded that it must be a band of Indians. A consultation was held immediately, and it was decided that we should meet them as quickly as possible. The band of Indians (as we then supposed) must have been about two miles away. There was a small creek bordered with willows about half way between us and them, which we wished to reach before they did, as we did not want to give them the advantage of the ambush. Therefore it was a race, long legs coming into active service. Church and Hathway being short and somewhat stocky did more rolling than walking. But we succeeded in passing the bushes, and as we ascended a knoll we beheld what appeared to be red-skins. After a hasty examination of our arms and ammunition, we got in readiness for a fight. Presently they saw us, halted, and prepared to defend themselves. We remained in this position a few moments, awaiting Lieutenant Maxwell's order to fire. Every man was eager for the fray, some of the boys expressing their surprise that our worthy commander did not give the order to fire at once. He ordered us to advance and keep in position. We did so until we were within twenty rods of the party; we then halted. Suddenly, Mr. Church (whose station was next to me) sprang forward and exclaimed: "My God, there's my wife and babies!" We then discovered our mistake. Such a heart rending scene as was then presented I never had witnessed, as the relatives and friends of those refugees had supposed they were dead, and this meeting was one long to be remembered. It was at this meeting that Mr. Thatcher was told of the probable fate of his wife and child. A number of the party were wounded and in terrible condition. Mr. Thomas was traveling with his hand dangling by the cords of his arm, having been shot through the wrist. It now began to rain. Lieutenant Maxwell ordered me to return to the main company as quickly as I could and inform Major Williams of our discovery. I ran every step of the way, about eight miles, and was seen by the company when two miles from them. Captains Duncombe and Richards came to meet me. Major Williams soon came up and I told him my story; a brief consultation followed. It was now about 4 o'clock. Major Williams ordered me to return to the refugees, in company with Captains Duncombe and Richards, and the surgeon. We made a quick march, arriving at the camp about 9 o'clock p. m. The remainder of the company came up at 12 o'clock. When we reached camp it was storming furiously, and the scene that greeted us was terrible to behold: Men, women and children in a wounded and starving condition—no fire, no tent covers excepting wet blankets, and worse than all, no food. We were a mournful company. Every man was as silent as the grave. Many of us were then feeling the worse for wear—from exposure

and hunger. The next morning we marched without breakfast. We marched till about 4 o'clock p. m., when we went into camp and had a very scanty meal prepared from a small quantity of flour which we found buried in a stable. We started on our march the next day about daylight and continued till sundown, expecting to see Indians at any moment, as their camp fires were burning where we camped last. We halted that night near where the town of Estherville now stands. As we were going into camp we saw a mounted horseman approaching us from the north, and he proved to be one of the U. S. soldiers from Fort Ridgley, Minn. He informed us that the company to which he belonged was at Springfield, Minn., and that the Indians had killed or taken prisoners all the settlers at the lakes, and left two or three days before. Here a noble band of men volunteered to go to the lakes and bury the dead. Lieutenant Maxwell has given an account of this march.

The next morning we began our homeward journey. Many were sick, snow-blind and nearly naked, no boots or shoes, and some were barefoot. I well remember my comrade, Mr. Brizee, in that day's march. We were far behind the company and he was discouraged and somewhat deranged, while I was so fatigued and sick I could scarcely move. We plodded along until about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when a blizzard set in from the northwest. Brizee begged of me not to leave him on the prairie alone. I assured him that I would stay with him and if it came to the worst we would perish together. Darkness came on, and we had not seen our company for some hours. My comrade was determined to lie down, but I urged him to keep moving for a time, but he finally sank exhausted. Not being able to carry him, I laid down also, wrapping our blankets around us and never expecting to see the sun rise again. Sometime after I was aroused by being shaken. I could hardly believe my senses. Not finding us in camp, our lamented friend, Newton Hathway, had gone in search of us, facing that fearful storm. He found us about two miles from the company. I fully believe that nothing less than Divine Providence directed him to us through such a storm. We arose and he guided us to camp. Next morning we started for the Irish colony. The day was fine and the snow was thawing rapidly. We got on very well until we reached a creek which was much swollen by the thaw. It was very deep and some ten rods wide. At this time occurred the first insubordination among the men. As my captain or lieutenant was not with us, I was in command of Company C. I was driving the team, which consisted of three yoke of oxen. We came to the creek, the water was deep and cold, and every man wanted to ride across; but being already heavily laden and feeling sure the oxen would have to swim, I refused and the boys plunged in and got through some way. I managed to get the oxen into the water, and when I reached the middle of the stream and the oxen had to swim, the middle team turned around so I had four oxen going one way and two the other. I called for help but no response; therefore I was obliged to get out into the stream and take the yoke from the oxen and get out without assistance. We resumed our march and that night camped at the Irish colony. Many of us slept in an abandoned hog pen, while the rest sat around the camp fire. Major Williams had asked me that evening if I knew of anything in our supplies to cook. I answered "yes" as I remembered having a small amount of flour. About 4 o'clock in the morning I put the kettle on the fire and heated the water to a boil-

ing point, stirred in the flour and boiled it continuously for two hours. About the time I took it from the fire Comrade Howland came crawling out of the hog pen and asked for something to eat. I told him that was all the food we had or were likely to have for some days, and that it must be equally divided among ninety men. The poor boy burst into tears, saying, "Frank, I'm starving to death." I could not refuse him after this, and I gave him his plateful of this villainous mixture that was worse than melted lead—the stomach of a mule could not have digested it.

The morning was bright and warm and the snow was melting rapidly. About 9 o'clock the rain began to fall in torrents and continued till late in the afternoon. About 4 o'clock we arrived at Cylinder creek, which ordinarily was a small stream, but the descending rain and the melting snow had swollen it to the dimensions of a large river. We were now drenched to the skin and as the wind had shifted to the northwest it was rapidly growing cold. It was not many minutes until our clothes were frozen stiff. We were very scantily dressed—few of the men having more than an undershirt and a pair of pants. I was as well dressed as any of them and all I had to brave that fearful storm with, was a flannel shirt, a pair of pants with one leg torn off at the knee, and the seam in the other ripped from top to bottom, one boot with the leg cut off—the mate having been burned a few days previous. We began to look around for a place to sleep. Some of the boys spread their blankets upon the ground and arranged themselves "spoon fashion." Brizee, Howland, Hathway and myself lay between the hind wheels of a wagon. We got through the night but I hardly know how, as the mercury was about thirty-four degrees below zero. We were all glad to see daylight, but many did not dare to crawl out of their blankets that day. The poor boys were almost freezing and some of them becoming insane. I think we were all more or less insane during a part of that terrible night. Brizee would frequently put his face to mine and beg me to "go down the creek, where only half a mile was a big hotel, and we could get a warm breakfast with hot coffee!" When I would tell him it was only a dream he would sob like a child and still insist that we must go. After daylight I fell into a doze, and dreamed that I was at my dear old mother's home, that I had been away and come home hungry. She and a favorite sister prepared some toast for me. I can see them now as I saw them then.

The next morning was still and bright. Mr. Howland and myself concluded to cross the creek. We staggered to our frozen feet and arm in arm hobbled toward the stream. All eyes were upon us as we went upon the ice. We began to feel encouraged, but when we neared the center of the creek we found open water. This open space was about thirty feet wide and very deep. We had resolved never to return to that camp again. Looking up the stream we saw a clump of willows and went to them. Here we found that ice had floated down, lodged against the willows and frozen, thus forming a complete bridge. After passing the channel we signaled back, when a truly joyous shout went up from those poor, half insane boys. I will here state that there was not a man among our number—about eighty—who had strength enough to reach the opposite shore. I do not understand why they were so affected—it seemed to be weakness and a shortage of breath. Every man's mouth was open wide, their tongues hanging out, and in some instances blood running from their noses or mouths.

Shippey's cabin, where Major Williams, Captains Duncombe and Richards and Private Smith had been during the storm, was two and a half miles southeast of the creek. Howland and I kept together until we reached the cabin, being among the last to arrive; he, being the stronger, had rendered me considerable assistance, for which, now after thirty years, I thank him most sincerely. Major Williams met us with great big tears streaming down his furrowed cheeks. Those who remained at the cabin rendered us all the assistance in their power.

We soon devoured the provisions they provided and all sank down in the warmth of the sun and slept. We were allowed to sleep till about 3 p. m., when we were aroused from our slumbers and a consultation was held. It was decided to disband, separate into small squads and strike out for the nearest settlement. Every man was ordered to leave all baggage except blankets. We all did so to a man except my friend Hathway (brother of George and Miss Hathway, of this city), and he, being deranged, left his rifle, blanket, etc., but gathered up a lot of rubbish which was useless to him and every one else. As I had been as far north as the head timber on Lot's creek the summer before, I was detailed to pilot our Webster City men across the prairie to that point, about eighteen miles from us.

After bidding adieu to our comrades we took up our march in a southeasterly direction. Immediately after starting, our friend Hathway took the back track. When we were about half a mile from him I went back to where he stood and putting my hand upon his shoulder urged him to come along; but his eyes fairly flashed fire as he resolutely refused. I signaled for help and John Gates came to my assistance—a tower of strength and manliness, a man who never flinched from the performance of a duty. We approached Hathway; the fire had disappeared from his eyes, and he fell into our willing arms nearly helpless. John and I carried him almost every rod of the way by taking turns. Occasionally he would arouse from his stupor; at such times we would cross our hands together, forming a seat for him, but when he was too weak to sit erect we would take him in our arms or upon our backs. About dark the boys all complained of hunger and exhaustion, and often asked me how far it was to the timber. I admit I prevaricated some, telling them the distance was much less than I really thought it was. I had learned that a person could imagine seeing almost anything at night on the prairie that he wished. I looked to the southeast and asked them if they could not see the timber; they looked and in a few moments all exclaimed, "Frank, you are right!" But it was merely imagination. We struggled along until about 11 o'clock, when we reached the timber. Then came the question I had so much dreaded: "Frank, where is the house you told us about?" I was somewhat dumbfounded and confused—no house could we see. We ascended a little elevation about eighty rods south of the grove and scraped away the snow and otherwise prepared to stay there during the balance of the night. We had nothing to eat and were nearly naked. Exhausted and discouraged, heart-sick and freezing, the boys lay down upon the snow-clad ground to rest and sleep. I was blamed by all for not leading them to the house. I lay on the ground with my hand supporting my head. I felt that I had assumed too much, but that the reprimand was uncalled for, and I cried like a child. I thought I could never forgive them for saying so many unkind things which pierced my heart like a dagger. But, thank God! I did

forgive them, and that too before another day. Yes, comrades, all of you, I do not in my bosom entertain anything toward you except brotherly love.

We were there probably an hour when I heard a woman's voice. I feared my senses were leaving me and that it was only a delusion. She spoke again, asking me who we were. I told her who we were and of our condition and asked her where she lived and what her name was. She said her name was Mrs. Collins, and she lived only a little way north of us. She and her husband had been to a neighbor's and in returning home had accidentally found us. I asked if she would give us something to eat and a place in her house for Hathway and Emery Gates, who had given out about two hours before. She answered me in these words: "We will do all we can for thee." God bless these Quaker wives! I have one myself.

A fire was soon started after we arrived at their house, and as the room began to warm, Hathway and Gates fainted. Mr. Collins put them on the bed and administered to their wants. Mrs. Collins' larder seemed to be well supplied with flour, meat and molasses, and she immediately commenced to bake biscuits and fry meat; that, with molasses, was the grandest meal I ever ate. After we had satisfied our hunger, Mrs. Collins turned her attention to our sick comrades, nursing them until morning. We slept in the loft of the cabin that night and rested well. The next morning we were out early, but Mrs. Collins had already prepared our breakfast. We ate heartily and were then in joyous spirits, as our hunger was appeased and we were only forty miles from home. We made arrangements with Mr. and Mrs. Collins to take care of Gates and Hathway until they were able to be moved; but these good people were unwilling to accept any compensation for their services. In behalf of my comrades—some living and some dead—I thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Collins, and may God bless you always!

We spoke a few cheering words to Hathway and Gates and then started on our homeward journey. We pushed rapidly forward until we came to the east fork of the Des Moines river. The ice had broken up and some had gone; where it had not been carried away by the current the water was so deep along the edges that we were unable to reach the ice. We went south (were now between Lot's Creek and Bloody Run) and waded Bloody Run, but found no place to cross the river. We retraced our steps and went north to Lot's creek, which we waded, and found a place in the river where the ice had come down and formed what is commonly called a jam; we quickly crossed and I cannot describe our joy after getting safely over. We were now getting hungry. In the haste of our departure from the Collins house we had forgotten to get a lunch, which I know Mr. and Mrs. Collins would have gladly given us. We again resumed our march and about 4 o'clock came in sight of Boone river timber. It had never looked so good before and we felt that we were at home. We were about two miles from the Cosort farm and our progress was very slow. We ascended a knoll and made a halt for rest. Darkness came on. Candles were lighted in the house and we were mustering our courage to make another effort to reach this refuge. I told the men one of my best stories, of which, in those days, I had a goodly supply. It seemed to stimulate us and we pushed on with all our energy. We walked and crawled on our hands' and knees, and in this manner succeeded in reaching Cosort's house about 10 o'clock.

The family were all in bed. We routed them and the first person coming to the door was Mr. Wesley Camp, of this town, who was spending the night there on his return trip to the north. He seemed to be much surprised and did not recognize any of us though in a lighted room. He at once went to the stable and mounting a horse rode to Webster City, aroused the people and told them he had seen the survivors of the Spirit Lake expedition; that all but nine were dead, and who they were he could not tell. Of course, all who had friends in the expedition feared they were lost.

Mrs. Cosort prepared supper for us and after eating we went to bed but not to sleep, as our frozen limbs pained us so we could not lie still. We arose early next morning, and as Mr. Cosort was coming to town with his team and wagon, we paid our bill and started, feeling as well as circumstances would permit, and arrived at the Willson House (now the Hamilton House), about 11 o'clock a. m. Mr. Cosort demanded from us and we paid him \$14.50 for the twelve-mile ride. Most, if not all of the men borrowed the money to pay him. This climate soon became distasteful to him and he left the country. Our friends met us and with a hearty good will welcomed us home again.

#### DEATH OF CAPTAIN JOHNSON

All who went out with the expedition finally returned safely to their homes except the gallant Captain Johnson of Hamilton county, and Burkholder of Webster county. These two became separated from the rest and becoming lost, perished on the bleak prairie. Eleven years passed before their bones were found and the place where they gave up their lives was at last made known.

Of all the heroes of ancient or modern times, none endured greater hardships or died in a nobler or more unselfish death. Their fame is safe in the grateful memory of the people of Iowa.

#### THE GREAT INDIAN SCARE

After the return to Webster and Hamilton counties of the volunteers and fugitives, the stories told by them of the murders and cruelties committed by the Indians, filled the hearts of all with affright, ready to turn upon the slightest pretext into terror and a stampede.

These stories were told on the streets, in the places of business, and around the firesides. Vague rumors filled the air to the effect that the relentless Sioux, having had a taste of blood, and having escaped without a scratch, were preparing to make a descent upon the settlements along the Boone and Des Moines rivers. And these rumors held such credence in the minds of the people that scouts were detailed to make excursions to the frontier settlements and beyond, to note if savage Indians were to be seen and inform the settlers in time for them to escape or prepare for defense.

These precautions were entirely unnecessary, as what we have already written as well as the sequel will show. But the settler did not know then, what we do now, and the desire for the safety of their families justified the vigilance which they adopted and which led to scenes which we are about to describe.

On the 27th day of April, as two of the scouts (we believe they were John

Maxwell and W. L. Church) were returning from an expedition far up the Boone river, and when they were about fifteen miles north of Webster City, another scout, going out, saw them in the distance and mistook them for Indians. They wore shawls, as the weather was chilly, and no doubt looked like Indians. But the scout not only saw them, and mistook them for the enemy, but his imagination pictured farther to the north the tepees of a numerous encampment of redmen. He immediately turned and began to make for home. The two scouts saw him, too, and from his actions, guessed that he had mistaken them for the enemy, and, supposing they could overtake him before he reached the city, drew their shawls over their heads and started after him, single file, on the gallop. Their actions were seen by the lone scout. Now thoroughly convinced that the Indians were coming, he threw down his whiskey bottle and powder horn in the road, in the hope that they would find them and be delayed, for a time at least, and rode with might and main for town, avoiding the road and high grounds, however, and keeping down the ravines and out of sight. He gave the alarm at every cabin on the way, and aroused the town as soon as he could possibly ride in. From his statements it was supposed that a large force of mounted Indians were hurrying down upon the settlements and that Webster City would be attacked that night. The news spread through the settlements up the Boone like wild fire and almost on the heels of the scout came rolling into town the terror stricken settlers. Three or four farmers from south of town who had not yet gone home, heard the news and hurried home, arousing the neighbors on the way, so that in a comparatively short time the whole neighborhood was in a panic.

The people north of town came in and the work of organizing and preparing for defense was commenced. South of town, the settlers fled down the river to Hook's Point and Boonsboro and by the time the runaways reached Homer and Hook's Point, the story had grown until reports had it that all the settlers north of Fort Dodge had been killed and that town was then besieged and the people were liable to be all murdered during the night; that a large force was rapidly approaching Webster City, killing the settlers and destroying their property as they came. So perfectly panic stricken and wild had the people become, that they paid no heed to anything that did not lend additional fuel to the flame of fright. For instance, Judge Doane had been at Fort Dodge that day and when he left in the afternoon, all was quiet and serene. When he reached Homer, the people were gathered in groups on the streets, telling how Fort Dodge was under siege, and when he told them he had just come from there and there was nothing in the story so far as that town was concerned, they paid no heed to him, but ran away all the same. It is said that Judge Pierce and Judge Doane and their families alone stayed at home, but inquiry shows that even these stayed because Doane didn't have a team to run away with, and Pierce had loaned his wagon to Mr. Royster further down the river, who, when he heard the news, hitched onto the borrowed wagon and made tracks for the south, and left Judge Pierce with no wagon or other vehicle to run away with. As the women folks were unable to walk with any hope of outrunning their pursuers if they were really coming, they concluded to stay and take chances.

The two scouts, having lost sight of the fleeing one, thought no more of the matter and rode leisurely along until they found the whiskey bottle and powder

horn, and again the idea that they were mistaken for Indians came into their heads, and it was exceedingly funny, too, to them. They drank the whiskey and laughed at the fellow's folly, but when they got to town and found the uproar the people were in, they did not dare to make the true statement of the case, but averred that they had been far up the country, and that they had seen no Indians nor any signs of them, and that it was all folly to be scared at all about it. While their story had a quieting effect, the work of guarding the town was not abandoned and not a few of the settlers declared that both the scouts were so drunk that they wouldn't know an Indian if they saw one.

All night long, and until the next afternoon, the settlers from the north kept coming into town, and it seemed that when one started to run, his imagination turned many objects in the rear into the likeness of Indian pursuers, and so not a few that came to town asserted that they had seen the foe with their own eyes. Thus again was the reassuring report of the two scouts discredited, and the theory of their being drunk strengthened. Josiah Downing's people, six miles north of town were engaged in making maple sugar and had a quantity of sap just ready to "sugar off," but everything was quickly abandoned. Mr. Downing used to declare afterwards that his one regret at leaving was that he had no poison to put into the sap, that the Indians when they came might eat it and be poisoned, and he always declared that if he had had any he certainly would have put it in. It is well, however, that he had none, for several of the younger men scouting up in that direction before the return of the family, finding there were no Indians, went to the camp and ate their fill of the sugar, and among those was Angus McLaughlin, whose earthly career would undoubtedly have closed then and there for he filled himself full of that deserted sweetness.

South of town the panic was even wilder than north of it. Many settlers left their tables setting on the floor with meals prepared, and ran away, in some cases neglecting even to shut the door. One settler whose name we refrain from mentioning, had put what corn he had left under the bed to save it better, left his house and everything in it with the door open. When he returned, the hogs and cattle had taken possession and his corn was all gone, while the room was in a state of destruction that even the Indians, had they come, could scarcely have made worse. Almost everybody ran away and some never stopped running, we fear, for they never returned.

J. T. McConnell, who then resided on the Robison farm north of Hook's Point, relates that about 10 o'clock that night, Press Bell came to his cabin and told the news and went on over the river to tell the other settlers. After he had gone, McConnell went out, and could hear the rumble of wagon wheels and see numerous lantern lights all moving south. His wife insisted on going too. He hitched up his team, brought it up to the door and proceeded to load on such things as they could easily carry along, but while loading, the team took fright and ran away. They ran into a field, however, and after a time ran against a fence and stopped. He brought them back and loading in his wife and child, went to Hook's Point. Here he found a number of settlers, with others constantly coming, while some had already passed on, going to Boonsboro. A parley was held and it was decided to remain there together 'till morning, when, if no authentic news came, scouts were to be sent north to find out something reliable in relation to the danger. Morning came, and still no one had seen an

Indian or seen anybody who had. Mr. McKinney furnished two horses and Mr. Hook one, and McConnell, Smith (who afterwards killed Gatchell), and Jones, were sent out to reconnoiter while the others were to remain until they were heard from. The scouts were charged if they found danger, not to spare the horses but to bring in the news quickly at all hazards. When these men got to Homer, they found that a courier had been over from Webster City the night before and purchased all the powder and lead there was in town. They therefore hurried on to Webster City, but when they got there they found the excitement dying down and the settlers starting out north to their homes again. They concluded that no danger was to be apprehended and Jones went back by way of Homer to tell the news, and the other two went down the river. About half way down, they saw a couple of ox teams and a horse team coming up. These settlers were returning home. Anxious to let them know, they started towards them on a gallop, but the returning settlers, seeing them coming on a gallop, jumped at the conclusion that the Indians were after them and without waiting for them to come up, turned their teams, laid on the "gad," and were running away again for dear life. They made such good time that it was quite a while before the horsemen could get near enough to tell them there was no danger.

As soon as the news reached Boonsboro, Judge McFarland raised a company of volunteers and made a forced march across the country to the relief of Webster City, arriving there on the afternoon of the day after the fright began. Many of the old settlers remember the coming of the little army, commanded by the redoubtable judge, how the soldiers were drawn up in line on our streets and welcomed by the citizens; the speech of the judge; and how, the danger being passed, the soldiers were feasted, and how a general drunk was indulged in that night in which the would be gallant soldiers, and the but lately panic stricken citizens, vied with each other in a hand to mouth conflict with "red eye" and "fortyrod," and how the list of the fallen would have paralyzed the heart of the stoutest warrior had they fallen in battle; and in which conflict, no one became more gloriously drunk than the commander of the army.

By the time the scare was over, along the Boone, the news had reached the Skunk river, and many of the settlers from there began to flock over, only to learn that it was all a mistake and happily they could return in peace.

#### THE IOWA FRONTIER GUARDS

During the fall of 1857, there was considerable talk of another Indian outbreak at Spirit Lake. As near as we can learn, Jared Palmer was responsible for most of it. Several letters written by him were printed by the newspapers of the settlements. He succeeded in creating a sentiment of fear and a demand for state protection, thus securing the passage of an act by the state legislature at its session in 1857-8, providing for a company of mounted militia to be enlisted as near the scene of the expected outbreak as possible and Palmer was made the commissioner to enlist the company. The company was recruited at Boonsboro, Webster City and Homer. Its officers were Capt. Henry B. Martin, Webster City; First Lieutenant W. L. Church, Homer; Second Lieutenant D. S. Jewett, Boonsboro; Sergeants W. D. Grason, W. S. Defor, E. N. Wilcox, C. C. Stratton; Corporals R. D. Haskell, D. N. Carver, T. Mulraney, A. McPheters.

The company was called "The Iowa Frontier Guards." Governor Lowe issued an order that the company should march for the frontier on Tuesday, March 2, 1858. On Saturday before marching the company assembled in Webster City and a ball was given at the Willson House in the evening, in honor of the company, at which the ladies of Webster City presented it with a flag. It was formally presented on behalf of the ladies by Colonel John Peak, with the following remarks:

"Captain Martin, officers and soldiers of the Iowa Frontier Guards: I have had the honor of being appointed by the ladies this day, to perform an agreeable duty. You are on the eve of marching to defend the homes and firesides of many unprotected families on our frontier, from the savages. Your duty is an arduous but noble one, and to cheer you in its performance, these ladies have prepared this emblem as a token of their regard for you and their confidence in your ability to perform the task you have voluntarily espoused. While on tedious marches, through privations and fatigues, storms and dangers you may have to pass, look on it and take renewed courage. Remember that the eyes of the state and nation are upon you. Think of the many hearts that beat for your success; think how the bright eyes of these ladies will sparkle with delight when they hear you have acted bravely and nobly. Prove that you will be as true to your trust as the 'Old Guard' were to Napoleon, or the 'Tenth Legion' were to Caesar. Remember with this flag I now present you—in behalf of these ladies—that you carry with you the honor of northwestern Iowa, and may you prove by your valor, and the bravery of the Iowa Frontier Guard, that it is safe in your hands, and that you will be as ready to defend, as to bear, these colors—that *never run.*"

Captain Martin received the flag and replied as follows:

"Ladies of Webster City: Permit me in behalf of the Frontier Guards to tender you a thousand thanks for this acceptable and sacred gift. The American flag is always looked upon with emotions of pride by every lover of liberty, and well it may be, for the stars and stripes proudly float over millions of free men and are seen and respected on every sea. And such a gift at this time is in true keeping with the spirit which has been manifested by the ladies of Webster City—lovely, intelligent and patriotic—they are first in every enterprise, in every act of benevolence. But a few months since, when the sad tidings reached us of the cruel depredations that had been committed upon our northern frontier, the willing and efficient aid rendered in sending relief to the sufferers fully demonstrated that the spirit which animated the mothers and daughters of the Revolution is alive in Webster City. And now, fair ladies, we take leave of you to hasten to the northwest to prevent the recurrence of the Spirit Lake outrage. We go with the expectation of suffering privations and encountering dangers by flood and field, but in the darkest hours this manifestation of your kindness, well wishes and patriotism, will nerve us to indure every danger. The 'Ladies of Webster City' shall be our watchword, and this cherished gift shall be the standard around which we rally, and although its bright colors may be bleached by the storms of heaven, and the sweeping winds of the boundless prairie, or perchance the bullets of the enemy may riddle it, yet we promise that it shall not be disgraced by deeds of ours, that it shall be returned with fame as untarnished as the hand that wro't it."

The above addresses are copied from the Freeman of March 4, 1858.

The company, numbering thirty-one men, left Webster City on Monday, March 1st, but never saw any active service, as the Indians made no hostile demonstration towards the settlers. They were out four months, when they were recalled and disbanded by the governor.

In November, 1858, a new Indian scare arose at Spirit Lake, caused by the camping in that vicinity of a large body of the red skins. Applications were made to Governor Lowe for aid, and Captain Martin and his frontier guard were again ordered out. They started for the seat of war on November 23. Captain Martin had orders from Governor Lowe to order all Indians, whether friendly or otherwise, to leave the state, and if they refused to drive them out at all hazards, and he was enjoined to make every possible effort to capture Ink-pa-du-tah, and as many of his tribe as could be identified as implicated in the massacre in the spring of 1857, in order that they might be dealt with according to law. The command stayed out all winter, but no difficulties were met with.

August 12, 1887, was set apart by the people of Hamilton as the day for the unveiling of a tablet erected in honor of the company of men who went to the relief of the sufferers from the Spirit Lake massacre in 1857. This enterprise had been promoted and organized by Charles Aldrich and contemplated the erection of a brass tablet in a prominent place in the county court house. The tablet was completed, appropriately inscribed and fixed to the west wall of the court house hall. A large assemblage of people attended and appropriate ceremonies were held. The following is the inscription as it appears on the tablet:

IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF THE HEROIC VOLUNTEERS FROM HAMILTON COUNTY,  
IOWA, IN THE SPIRIT LAKE EXPEDITION

Commanded by Major William Williams, of Fort Dodge, for the relief of the  
settlers who survived the Indian massacre of March 8, 1857

*Roster of Company C*

Captain, J. C. Johnson; First Lieutenant, John N. Maxwell; Second Lieutenant, Frank R. Mason; Sergeant, Harry Hoover; Corporal, A. N. Hathway.

Privates—Michael Sweeney, John Gates, James Brainard, William K. Laughlin, J. C. Pemberton, James Hickey, Morris Markham, Andrew S. Leonard, Sherman Cassaday, Humphrey Hillock, F. R. Moody, Jereb Palmer, John Howland, Patrick Stafford, A. K. Tullis, Alonzo Richardson, M. W. Howland, William L. Church, Henry E. Dalley, John Eric, Elias D. Kellogg, Thos. B. Bonebright, Josiah Griffin, Emery W. Gates, Thomas Anderson, Patrick Colon, John Bradshaw.

This tablet was erected at the public expense to commemorate the patriotism, valor and sufferings of these gallant men in one of the severest marches recorded in Indian border warfare. In memory also of Mrs. William L. Church, who shot an Indian while defending her babies, and of her sister, Drusilla Swanger, who was severely wounded.

## CHAPTER VI

JUST BEFORE THE WAR—EVENTS OCCURRING IN '57-'58-'59 AND '60

*By F. Q. Lee*

FOUNDING OF THE FREEMAN—THE FIRST FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION—COUNTERFEITERS—ANOTHER PAPER TOWN—A COUNTY ELECTION—AN ELECTION CONTEST—A COUNTY FAIR IN '57—AN EARLY TRAGEDY—RIVER LAND GRANT—WILD CAT MONEY—HORSE THIEVES—RAILROAD EXCITEMENT—THE TOWN OF HAWLEY—BUILDING THE FIRST BRIDGE—ARRIVAL OF JACOB SKINNER—CARPENTER VS. DUNCOMBE—THE FIRST HAY SCALES—AN ATTEMPT TO INCORPORATE—RESCINDING THE RAILROAD BONDS—THE WET SEASON OF '58—WADING THE SLOUGHS—THE FIRST BREWERY—PROMINENT MEN ARRIVE—THE RIVER STEAMER REACHES FORT DODGE—THE SWAMP LAND FUND—AN ATTEMPT TO GET A NEW COURT HOUSE—AN INDIGNATION MEETING—JUDGE MAXWELL—MORE RAILROAD TALK—PIONEER POLITICS—A COUNTY ELECTION—A NEW SCHOOL HOUSE—POLITICS IN 1860—STATISTICS—THREE NEW BRIDGES.

### FOUNDING OF THE FREEMAN

As we progress with our history, we record no event that gives more pleasure than the establishment of a newspaper in Hamilton county. Such a medium of intelligence is so entirely necessary to every locality, that no community, no matter how well it may be endowed in every other respect, can do without it.

About February 15, 1857, Charles Aldrich arrived at Webster City, searching for some suitable place to locate and start a newspaper. He was an experienced printer, having worked at his trade in Buffalo, New York, and Warren, Pennsylvania, and for three years had published a weekly paper at Olean, New York. He quit the newspaper business once, and went to farming, but his love for the old trade called him back and he began to look about for a location. He afterwards accidentally got a book in which the writer spoke in glowing terms of Fort Dodge and the valley of the Des Moines and also mentioned, incidentally, Webster City. This somewhat aroused his curiosity and animated a desire to see the great western country where Greeley advised all young men to go and he resolved to make a tour of inspection extending as far west as Fort Dodge, Iowa. Accordingly in the fore part of February he set out. All along the idea of starting a newspaper at Fort Dodge was foremost in his mind; but when he arrived at Dubuque he learned that a democratic paper had already been started there, and as he did not believe two newspapers could live in so new a locality, he gave up the project. He had been informed, however, that Webster City was a lively little

place and wanted a paper. So he made up his mind to visit it, and accordingly set out across the country by stage, a journey which gave him ample opportunity to get familiar with the inconvenience of being snowbound, and "sloughed down." This gave him a good practical idea of the rough venturesome life the pioneer must endure.

As we have said before, he arrived at Webster City about the 15th of February and at once made known his business. He was well received by the citizens who fully understood the necessity of having a newspaper, for how could a town grow and prosper without some way of proclaiming its existence to the world; without some medium of conveying intelligence?

A public meeting was held and after ample consideration, it was resolved that providing Charles Aldrich should start a paper, a guarantee of five hundred subscribers and a bonus of five hundred dollars would be given; the bonus to be paid when the printing office had been equipped. In spite of the above very liberal offer, things looked somewhat discouraging to the young editor at first. Times were very hard, prices very low and money, which consisted mostly of "wild cat" currency, was very uncertain. But when he considered the fact that Webster City was the county seat, and had unusually fine agricultural country to support it, he knew the hard times could not last always, and that the country was bound to settle and become more or less wealthy in time, so he concluded to accept the offer, and returned to New York for his family and printing materials for his office.

About May 1, 1857, Mr. Aldrich had purchased the outfit for the Hamilton Freeman and had it shipped to Dyresville in this state. Here he was met by C. T. Fenton with good teams, and the types and furniture were loaded in and started for Webster City. The Washington hand press was so heavy it had to be left for several weeks until the roads became more settled and then John Meeks with his ox teams brought it forward.

On the 26th of June, 1857, the first number of the Hamilton Freeman, the first newspaper published in Hamilton county, and the first Republican paper in the state, north of Boone, was issued.

#### THE FIRST FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

The people of the county held great reverence for the "Declaration of Independence," but their numbers had been too few, heretofore, to properly celebrate its birth. But this year (1857) it was resolved that all delinquencies of the past should be "made up" and a "grand and glorious fourth" was prepared for. The festivities commenced in the evening of the third with a grand ball at the Willson house where the young folks "tripped the light fantastic" until the national salute was fired at sunrise. At ten o'clock a procession was formed under direction of Col. John Peake, and marched to the grove west of town (near where A. N. Boyce now lives). A. Moon was president of the day, Rev. J. K. Large offered a very impressive prayer and J. J. Wadsworth read the Declaration of Independence. John F. Duncombe, of Fort Dodge, was to have delivered an address, but for some reason he failed to be present, and S. B. Rosencrans took the stand and made a very excellent, though very hastily prepared oration. He was loudly applauded for his witty "hits" intermixed with much good solid

wisdom took well. When the address had been concluded, the procession returned to the Willson house for dinner, after which toasts were proposed and responded to. Peter Lyon told about shooting elk, but a short distance from where he was then speaking. Judge Maxwell bore down hard on "land sharks" and expressed a determination to stand by Hamilton county to the last.

"The Merry Boys of Webster City" then appeared in grotesque costume and danced on the public square and sang songs composed especially for the amusement of the spectators. And thus ended the first 4th of July celebration in Webster City, if not in Hamilton county.

#### COUNTERFEITERS

The peaceful tranquillity of Webster City was just a little ruffled during this month (July) by the arrest of a counterfeiter named Charles Stuart with about two thousand seven hundred dollars of bad money in his possession. He was a bold, cheeky man, and when Judge Maxwell fixed his bail at one thousand five hundred dollars he offered to pay it in his currency, but he went to jail instead. He afterwards escaped, however.

#### ANOTHER "PAPER" TOWN

On July 15, 1857, the town plat for the village of Mettamora was filed with the county recorder. The town occupied the greater part of section 20 in Williams township and was owned by Wm. H. Merritt. This town on paper was one of the finest a person often sees, and by means of liberal advertisement, quite a number of lots were sold to eastern purchasers. But as no buildings, to our knowledge, were ever erected on its soil, it did not flourish very extensively, except perhaps, in the imagination of eastern men who owned lots within its limits. But as time moved on the foreign property owners of this "phantom city" became aware of the true condition of things, and their lots were either sold for taxes, or they went back to the original owners on account of incomplete title.

#### A COUNTY ELECTION

At the election here the first Monday in August, 1857, the following vote was cast:

COUNTY JUDGE—J. D. Maxwell, 172. Ammon Moon, 158.

RECORDER AND TREASURER—Cyrus Smith, 203. F. J. Allen, 121.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY—W. R. Daniels, 240. I. S. Smith, 79.

SHERIFF—C. C. Leonard, 166. Wm. Royster, 163.

CORONER—E. Lakin, 211. L. Lakin, 98.

SURVEYOR—H. B. Martin, 258. E. Huntington, 68.

For new constitution, 199.

Against new constitution, 82.

For amendment to new constitution by striking out word "white" from article on right of suffrage, 48. Against, 251.

## AN ELECTION CONTEST

About the 18th of August, 1857, William Royster, through his attorney, Granville Burkley, appeared before Judge Maxwell contesting the election of C. C. Leonard as sheriff of Hamilton county, charging illegal voting. The judge issued a precept and gave it to N. W. Browning to serve. Browning returned it with the following report:

"I tried to serve it upon the within named C. C. Leonard, but he ran off and I could not. On the 21st of August, I served said precept by leaving a copy, etc."

N. W. BROWNING.

The trial took place Sept. 17, 1857, with J. D. Maxwell as judge, Geo. Smith as deputy clerk and Levi Olmstead as constable. The attorneys for the plaintiff were W. N. Messervey and H. B. Martin; and the attorneys for the defendant were W. R. Daniels and E. W. Salisbury. After a heated contest, the judges of election came to the conclusion that Leonard had 162 legal votes and Royster 160.

All along there was a desire in and about Homer and the southern part of the county to move the county seat from Webster City to Saratoga and this fact figured not a little in local politics. This feeling perhaps gave rise to the above contest, as Royster was a Homer man while Leonard decidedly favored Webster City.

## A COUNTY FAIR IN '57

The Hamilton county agricultural society held a fair at Webster City, October 14 and 15, 1857, and in order to give an idea as to who were here at the time and what they were doing, it might be proper to give the names of those who received premiums on different exhibits.

S. Willson, Wm. Frances, W. W. Boak, David Bibler, Wm. Silvers, I. W. Payne, D. Beach, T. J. Chesney, G. Burkley and J. A. Rhodes, all were honored with ribbons, on different kinds of horses and mules.

On cattle, D. Bibler, Hiram Bennett, J. H. Cofer, L. B. Hill, J. A. Rhodes, D. Beach, G. W. McClure, and J. D. Maxwell received premiums.

Peter Lyon was the only exhibitor of swine and of course he received 1st premium. Peter Lyon and Granville Burkley also made fine exhibits of poultry.

On improved farms, Wm. W. Funk received the first premium, while L. B. Hill, Wm. Frakes, and John Frank were complimented by the committee on the fine condition of their lands.

On field crop and vegetables, premiums were received as follows:

Simon Day received premium on wheat; H. Corbin on oats; O. W. Story on potatoes; H. M. Barstow on carrots; John Frank on beats; T. L. Richardson on turnips; Chas. Royster on squashes; James Hamilton on pumpkins. H. M. Barstow and S. B. Rosencrans showed the best variety of fruit trees, while John Frank had the finest variety of vegetables.

The best samples of butter were shown by O. W. Story and R. Willis. The best bed quilt was by Miss Lizzie McLaughlin; the best blacksmith work by R. M. Furgeson; best pair of boots by J. H. Hartman; the best joiner's work, Harris Hoover; and the best sample of cabinet work, W. Leonard. W. W. Wells exhibited finest tailor's work.

The finest lady equestrians were Mrs. J. J. Wadsworth, Miss C. J. Maxwell and Miss Teresa Malooley. Mrs. A. Moon exhibited some fine wax fruit and a



RHODES BUILDING, WEBSTER CITY

The first brick business building erected in Hamilton County



wreath of hair work. D. A. Eckerson showed samples of flour from his mill; and H. N. Brockeray exhibited some fine brick of his own manufacture. Mrs. S. B. Rosencrans displayed some fine embroidery. An Indian coat and a necklace of bears' claws were supplied by A. Moon. The society was addressed by G. W. McClure, S. B. Rosencrans, Chas. Aldrich, Peter Lyon, W. C. Willson, J. D. Maxwell and C. C. Carpenter..

#### AN EARLY TRAGEDY

We have never yet read a history whose pages were not somewhere darkened by tragedy and we are afraid it will be impossible to write a truthful one covering any long degree of time while frail humanity figures in it without such shadows. And as the people of Hamilton county were but human beings, in common with the people of all other communities, it will not be expected that they should have unconsciously acted at all times with such precision and virtue as to have laid the foundation for a history entirely free from the blots of crime. Although they had been permitted to live in an unusually quiet and peaceful neighborhood, the faults of man had not been entirely controlled; nor the impetuosity of his nature entirely curbed by a strong reign of self control.

George P. Smith, the chief actor in the tragedy we are about to relate, was not an unusually wicked man. When volunteers for the relief of the Spirit Lake settlers were called for, he enlisted and accompanied the expedition. Aside from a fiery and impetuous nature, he was considered a harmless, amiable sort of a fellow, and nothing but a lack of self-control led to the crime he so foully committed.

Charles Gatchell and George Smith had always been apparently good friends. They were in each other's society a great deal about Hook's Point, and joked with each other and told their adventures with the greatest amiability. One day when both were at the residence of Isaac Hook, they became involved in a quarrel about some fence rails. The hot words led to blows, and Gatchell, who was the larger and stronger of the two, gave Smith quite a severe pounding. They were separated, however, and both went into the barroom of Hook's hotel, where more angry words were indulged in, which lasted two or three minutes when Smith turned to leave the room. When he reached the door, he saw a gun which had been left there. He stopped and picked it up. It was loaded and capped. He whirled around, leveled it at Gatchell, and fired. Gatchell threw up his hands and fell on his knees but immediately rose and was helped to bed. He had been shot in the side, just below the heart and died in about twenty-five minutes. The news was at once conveyed to Webster City, where a warrant was issued and Sheriff Leonard sent to execute it. Smith did not try to escape and was taken to Webster City before Judge Maxwell for preliminary examination. District Attorney Daniels appeared on behalf of the State, and Skinner and Berkley for the defendant. After the evidence had been carefully considered, George P. Smith was held for the murder of Charles Gatchell. The crime was committed at Hook's Point on Saturday evening, November 14, 1857. Smith was confined at the residence of Sheriff Leonard until the next spring, when he succeeded in escaping and was never heard of again, although the prairie was scoured by the citizens for miles. After the

excitement had somewhat died down, some one started the report that the murderer had been hiding in a barn in town while the hunt was going on, and that he had been seen leaving. This started another "fox hunt" but with no success.

#### RIVER LAND GRANT

Thus far we have passed over the history of the county without mentioning the troubles arising over what is known as the River Land Grant. Away back in the forties, Congress granted the odd numbered alternate sections for six miles on each side of the Des Moines river as far north as the Raccoon fork, to aid in making the river navigable. The Raccoon fork was at Des Moines, but the Des Moines Navigation and Railroad company to whom the lands were granted, made claim to the lands to the north line of the state. This claim was, part of the time sustained by the General Land office and part of the time denied. During the times the land office held against the company, settlers were permitted to pre-empt these disputed lands and patents were issued for them. Then when the ruling of the land office would change, the Navigation company would attempt to put the settlers off the lands and thus a conflict arose that lasted for over 35 years. The settlers formed themselves into a society to support each other and prevent eviction. Contests in the courts usually terminated against the settlers but when the officers came out to evict, they were met by force and driven off, or if they succeeded in setting the settler out before the other settlers knew of it, a force would gather and put him back in again. Several of the Navigation company's agents were lynched, others driven out, never caring to return, and others barely escaped a like fate.

#### WILD CAT MONEY

In the history of all peoples, it is not only interesting but necessary to have some knowledge of the financial conditions under which they lived in order to thoroughly understand their actions. We pause here, then, in the narration of events, to find the information indicated above. This is peculiarly a fitting place, too, in our history, for about this time there sprang into existence a new industry of very great importance to the settlers, and without which their condition would have been lamentable, indeed.

Most of the settlers were poor men who brought little, if any more money with them than enough to pay the entry fee for their lands. They had no market for their product except to newcomers, and there were no fixed prices for anything, unless the product was very scarce. The price was very low, and money was so scarce that when one had anything to sell he usually had to trade for something he needed worse than what he had to dispose of. What made their condition infinitely worse, was the great financial panic of 1857 which broke nearly all the banks and filled the country with worthless bank bills. The law under which this money was issued provided that it should have a *specie basis* and the affidavit of the banker issuing the bills was taken as proof of the fact that the specie was on hand when the bills were issued. Strangely enough, the law did not provide that the specie should be kept on hand, or if it did, the provision was not obeyed, so the *specie basis* that did duty in starting one bank and eased the conscience of the banker over the affidavit he made, was carted off to the

next town and became the *specie basis* for another bank and so it traveled round the country starting "Wild Cat" banks. The bills of these banks of issue promised to pay gold or silver on demand but as paper money was so much more convenient than coin, few people demanded coin and having confidence that the coin was behind the bills for their redemption the bills were readily taken and did all the offices of money. If the fraud had not been discovered this money might have gone on doing the business of the country as perfectly as any money could have done. So long as a man thought the banks had the coin in its vaults to redeem the bill he had in his pocket he did not want the bill redeemed—he preferred the paper; but the moment he had a well grounded suspicion that the bank did not have the gold, he wanted gold, and wanted it at once.

The fraud of carting the specie about and starting many banks on the same supply of coin was discovered and the people took fright. A general run was made on the banks and of course all the spurious banks went to the wall at once. Banks, honestly started, redeemed their paper as it came in, and kept on in business for a time but a second run almost inevitably followed, under which few could stand, so if a man accepted a "Wild Cat" bill quoted good one day, the bank issuing it was liable to break before he had an opportunity to pass it off on some one else and it became "dead money" in his pocket.

The banks were mostly located in the states east of the Mississippi and as the means of communication was not as complete as now, it was sometimes weeks after the bank failed, before the news reached the frontier. "Bank detectors" were printed, in which a list of all banks appeared and those that had suspended were noted. These "detectors" were regularly sent for by the merchants and when one would arrive, every settler who had a bank bill in his pocket would go to the store to see if it was yet good. Most of the money among the settlers was of this kind and as almost every dollar of it sooner or later became worthless, it is easy to imagine how scarce money became and how hard it was to get. Old settlers say that there were months at a time during 1857-8 when they never saw a cent of good money of any kind. After things had been going on in this way for some time, and times had become most pinching, two Jew peddlers from the southern part of the state began to buy fur and pay *cash* for it. Of course everybody wanted cash and almost everybody went to trapping as the only means of getting it. Old settlers have told that the first money they had had for months they received from these Jews for furs. The business having been started, other buyers of fur put in appearance, and the settler became a trapper. The muskrat was the principal fur bearing animal, but mink, otter and beaver were also frequently caught in the earlier days.

The hard times continued until after the breaking out of the war, when money became plentiful, and times flush. Occasionally, however, a new settler came with plenty of good money, and for him, times were always exceptionally good, for with it he could buy almost anything he wanted and at his own price.

#### HORSE THIEVES

About this time horse thieves began to make themselves very troublesome to the settlers. In July, 1857, B. Millard, who resided a short distance south of Webster City had a very fine span of horses stolen. He offered \$50 reward for

the return of the horses or the capture and conviction of the thieves and for a time nearly everybody was hunting them. Though he and many others were constantly on the hunt, and the loss was advertised, it was six months after they were taken, before they were found. They were at last discovered over in Marshall county where they had been taken up as strays and sold. He got the horses back but they had been foundered so badly that they were not worth the money spent to recover them. The thieves were never caught. Millard got on the track of them as he believed then, and still believes, and overtook them (there were two), at Indianola, Ia. He captured one but the other got away. He brought his prisoner back to Boonsboro, but the prisoner produced a man who swore he had accompanied him to Des Moines and that he had no horses, and Mr. Millard being unable to get any positive proof, had to let him go. Horses were being stolen in other settlements around and to protect their property a thief detective society was organized with B. Millard, E. W. Salsberry and J. S. Letts as the principal and moving spirits.

#### RAILROAD EXCITEMENT

And now the people were thrown into a fever of excitement over the prospect of having a railroad, and this is not to be wondered at when it is remembered how far they were from railroad markets. About August 1, 1857, Capt. G. W. Smith of New York, and A. Warren, agent for the state, arrived in Webster City, exploring the line of the proposed Dubuque and Pacific railroad. This railroad company had received a grant of land through the state of Iowa to aid in building a road from Dubuque to Sioux City. Captain Smith represented the foreign bond holders interested in the proposed road. The coming of these men, and the representations of Capt. Smith, caused the settlers to believe that the road would be built at once, and great was the rejoicing and high were the hopes of all on account of it. But it amounted to nothing at that time, though it no doubt had the good effect of bringing more people in and keeping those already here, in high expectation of better times.

#### THE TOWN OF HAWLEY

The railroad excitement and the apparent certainty that the railroad would be constructed upon the line proposed, caused the laying out of another new town named Hawley, a short distance east of the present town of Blairsburg. The proprietors of this new town were Thos. J. McCartney, Geo. Greehenk, W. C. & S. Willson, Smith Bros, J. M. Funk and others. They intended to have several buildings erected during the year and it was to be one of the Western Stage Company's stations. The town was named Hawley in honor of the chief engineer of the D. & P. R. R. However, it absolutely and utterly refused to grow. There was a farm house on the land when platted, and this was the only house ever erected there. A number of lots were sold however, but they were allowed to go to a tax sale, and were afterwards bought up and the town plat annulled and what was to be a thriving little city, is now a fine farm.

## BUILDING THE FIRST BRIDGE

Up to this time, no bridge had been built across Boone river, but the urgent need of one caused the subject to be discussed upon all sides. It seems, however, that the condition of county finances was such that the county authorities would take no steps toward building a bridge at public expense.

The project of building a bridge by private subscription was therefore brought forward. Accordingly, a public meeting was called, signed by "many citizens." The meeting was held at the schoolhouse in Webster City for the purpose of accepting proposals for building a bridge across the river at the foot of Dubuque street (the present site of the east bridge), and to take measures to raise the necessary funds with which to pay for the same. Several meetings were held before the necessary funds were pledged, but the contract to build it was let in October to one Alden Baker. Work was at once commenced and the first bridge across Boone river was completed and opened for travel the last of December, 1857.

## ARRIVAL OF JACOB SKINNER

In October, 1857, Hon. Jacob Skinner took up his residence in Webster City and opened a law office after which Lawyer Burkley didn't have things all his own way.

Mr. Skinner was a lawyer of considerable experience. He had been a member of the Wisconsin legislature and therefore at once took a leading position at the bar, and in all public affairs.

## CARPENTER VS. DUNCOMBE

A very exciting political campaign took place in the fall of 1857, the chief interest centering upon the candidates for representative in the state legislature. Hon. C. C. Carpenter was the republican candidate and Hon. John F. Duncombe, the democratic candidate. These candidates and their friends got out and made the air blue with villification and abuse of each other, both on the stump, and in the press and created a great deal of partisan bitterness all over the district.

Carpenter was elected by a small majority but the friends of Mr. Duncombe claimed that this result was obtained by a dishonest count and so the contest was kept humming for some weeks after the election was over, and we doubt whether the animosities engendered in this campaign were ever wholly wiped out. They certainly have not yet been forgotten, and they continued to live as long as the principal actors were alive.

It was during this year, also that Sheriff Leonard appointed John N. Maxwell, deputy sheriff, and he has the honor, therefore, of being the first deputy sheriff of Hamilton county.

## THE FIRST HAY SCALER

The first hay scales were erected in Webster City in December, 1857, by John Peak, Esq. Prior to that, all articles for sale, that could not be weighed on the common counter scales, had to be "lumped off."

In December, 1857, the treasurer of the county gave notice that he was ready to receive taxes. Accompanying the notice was the following statement: "The total value of taxable property is.....\$1,361,251.00

State tax is .....	4,086.71
County tax is .....	4,767.84
School tax is .....	1,362.28
Road tax on poll and personal property is .....	1,537.81
Road tax on real estate is .....	1,702.38
Total taxes .....	\$13,457.22

## AN ATTEMPT TO INCORPORATE

As early as December, 1857, the citizens of Webster City began to agitate the question of incorporating the towns. Meetings were frequently held at which the question was discussed pro and con, with a great deal of heat and vigor. At a meeting in January '58, it was decided to incorporate and a charter was therefore prepared and forwarded to the state legislature for legislative action. However, the incorporation was not at this time effected.

## RESCINDING THE R. R. BONDS

While Webster and Hamilton counties were united, the county by a vote of its citizens agreed to take \$200,000 worth of stock of the D. & P. R. R. and issue county bonds in payment for the same. After the counties were divided, a question as to the legality of the vote and the liability of Hamilton county for her share of these bonds, arose. In the settlement between the counties, it was arranged that if the counties were liable and were compelled to take the bonds that Hamilton county's share to assume would be \$90,000. So grave and uncertain was the question of the liabilities of the counties, that legislative aid was invoked, which resulted in the passage of a law legalizing the division of the bonds but providing that a vote should be taken upon the question of rescinding the former vote. If the former vote was rescinded at the election, the bonds were to be void, but if the former vote was sustained or ratified, then each county should issue the bonds according to the former agreement. A spirited contest was held over this election. The railroad company promised, if the bonds were sustained, to put a large force of men to work and push the same as rapidly as possible. But it was an enormous debt to saddle upon a county whose whole tax collection for all purposes amounted to but little over \$13,000, and the election resulted in a defeat of the bonds by the following vote:

For rescinding, 196 votes.

Against rescinding, 182 votes.

## THE WET SEASON OF '58

We are now writing of matters happening mostly in 1858 and our history would fall far short of what it ought to be if it failed to mention as impressively as possible that *this was the wet season*, remembered by all the old settlers so

vividly and with good cause. The ponds and sloughs were overflowing all summer. The creeks were always bank full, but every few days, owing to heavy rains, would be flooding the whole adjoining country.

The river was broad, deep and muddy, always bank full and every few days it would "get on a mighty bender," threatening to wash away the only bridge in the county—the one built by private subscription the year before. It is needless to say that this bridge was highly prized now, for it was the only place where the river in its swollen condition, could be crossed except in boats.

The fields were everywhere so soft and muddy that but little farm work could be done. The crops, started on the high lands, were greatly damaged by red and black rust, for in the intervals between lands, the sun shown out with its fiercest heat, and as a result the oat and wheat crop was nearly a complete failure and the corn crop was but little better.

#### WADING THE SLOUGHS

Many are the incidents told by pioneers of the trials and dangers passed through at this time. If one went abroad, if only for a short distance, he had sloughs to wade. One of the pioneers of that time, says that when he started to go anywhere and came to water which he was sure to do, and that pretty often, he spent no time in trying to find a place to cross, but at once took off his boots and trousers to keep them dry and boldly waded in, and that he had had to thus disrobe a half dozen times in going as many miles. Even the women had to bow to the necessity of wading, or staying at home much more than they liked to, and so when they wanted to visit a neighbor, they dressed in suitable style for the trip and skipped out alone. When they came to a slough, they waded through.

This kind of adventure might seem very funny for a little while, but it lasted all summer and everybody was heartily sick of it. The general despondency amounting almost to despair, prevailing throughout the whole community, can scarcely be imagined. Added to this, was the general hard times mentioned before. The Freeman, the only paper in the county at the time, took as hopeful a view of the situation as possible, but still it could not ignore the facts. A few extracts from its columns during the time relating both to the hard times and the floods will no doubt assist in forming a more correct idea of the veritable horrors of the times and a few of them are given for that purpose.

"MORTALITY—Some poet has stated that the world is full of change. We don't believe it. If so where is it? It isn't in the banks. It isn't in the groceries. Don't the poet mean by 'the world' old woolen socks and broken shaving cups? We propose that the poet be called on to resume!"

#### "HELP, CASH-US OR WE SINK"

"We were never quite so hard up for a little ready money as at the veritable present. The elephant, hard times, stepped on our pocket book six weeks ago, and we have not in that time taken in enough cash to pay our expenses three days. We paid out our last dime so long ago that we have entirely forgotten how it looks. We are owing divers little debts which ought to be paid, but some one

must pay us first. If quarter sections were selling for a cent a piece, we couldn't buy a gopher hill."

"SOOZANNA'S ERPOSTROFY TOO THE PANICK"

"Amazin Creecher! say wot giv yew birth? Was't sum anormus river, on ooze banx you made such orful runs? did'ent you know they'd kave? Dew say, wot makes ye run around, smashin' and breakin' things so fritfully, with such a hol-sail slorter? Aint yew sick of smashed and broken vitals? Don't you think you'd better dri up or else simmer down? I dew.

"The Western Stage Company have just begun to issue money of their own manufacture. The denominations of this scrip are \$1, \$2, \$3 and \$5 bills; is redeemable one year from date at Iowa City and bears six per cent interest. The company receive it for fares and all debts due them and will not suffer it to depreciate a fraction."

Many such as the above besides an elaborate article running through several numbers of the paper on the money crisis show how hard times pinched.

As early as the latter part of January, 1858, the Freeman began to speak of the wet season:

"BOONE RIVER ON A BENDER"

"Our quiet, classical little river has been behaving rather obstreperously of late, in fact getting above its business. The recent heavy rains, together with the melted snow has made it swell up prodigiously. Gophers and muskrats have had to retreat to higher grounds. They may brag about their Des Moines, Iowa, and Cedar creeks, but there's fluid enough in the Boone this Wednesday morning, January 27th, to make a dozen such feeble riverlets and have enough left for a majestic river still. If the primitive geographer had only happened along here at such a time, the Boone would have been laid down in all the maps as a navigable stream. Such a whistling of the currents through the woods and thickets, such a deep sullen roar, nights; such a snapping, crackling and crashing of the huge cakes of ice; such tremendous gorges of ice and such a wayward cutting across lots, of the young currents, each trying to set up a river on its own hook never was seen since the day of the big Indian whose spirits rot out their burial places like the genii of the Oriental world.

"But to drop down suddenly from this lofty sentence, considerable damage has been done by the tall water. A portion of Pray and Stoddard's mill dam has gone out and our new bridge has come very near leaving us without any sort of permission. The bridge was only retained in its place by the best efforts of our citizens who have watched it and worked at it, day and night, for the last four or five days. The bridge has stood firm, but the embankments have suffered considerably. The damage will be promptly repaired and communication with t'other side of Jordon will not be interrupted."

April 15—The recent heavy rains have laid an embargo upon travel. The roads are very soft, the streams very high and the sloughs bottomless. Communication with the outer world is pretty much cut off. ("When it will be resumed, let those who are better versed in nudology predict.")

With many intervening notices to the same effect, on June 3rd, this item appeared:

"Another heavy rain is sending up the rivers and creeks. We have scarcely had three consecutive days since spring opened without a heavy rain. Farming operations have been considerably delayed and travel attended with great trouble. When the weather will become settled is a difficult matter to predict. All signs seem to fail in a wet time."

And this:

"Our supply of paper having become exhausted and the roads continuing so bad as to render it uncertain when we will receive any, there will probably be no regular issue of our paper for a week or two to come."

And it was two weeks before the paper was again issued.

"September 10, 1858—There are many long faces among the farmers of Iowa at this time. With the panic which brought down the prices of their farms from imaginary figures to sober realities, tested by actual production and greatly reduced means of paying debts; with an almost total failure of wheat and oats and the loss by reason of continuous rains of an opportunity to raise a full corn crop, there is truly some cause for the farmers feeling blue. But despondency will not pay debts or repair disaster. There is but one sensible thing to do, pick the flint and try it again."

Having now given a fair idea of the conditions under which the settlers labored, in 1858, we proceed to the general history.

#### THE FIRST BREWERY

The first brewery was built in the county by Mr. Dezeyk, who began the work early in July and promised to complete and have it in operation by October. That was the old stone building which stands to this day at the south end of Willson avenue.

#### PROMINENT MEN ARRIVE

In August, Hon. D. D. Chase came to Webster City and opened up a law office. It was in this year also that Kendall Young and L. L. Treat settled here, after a few years residence at Irvington, Kossuth county. John W. Lee, who was one of the county supervisors at the time of the building of the new court house in 1876, and whose name is inscribed on the corner stone, also arrived in July of that year.

At the October election this year John Porter was elected district judge, W. P. Hepburn, district attorney, and Julius M. Jones, clerk of the court for this county.

In November, Superintendent of Schools D. A. Baum, resigned and Judge Maxwell appointed Rev. T. N. Skinner to fill the vacancy.

On November 27, 1858, "The First Baptist Church" was organized in Webster City, and Rev. O. A. Holmes was chosen pastor, and services were held in the new Town Hall.

The winter of '58-9 was not unusual in any of its aspects, simply a regular Iowa winter; March was a fine month in which considerable farm work was done, but April came in cold, windy and disagreeable and kept it up, frosting and freez-

ing the life out of early vegetation and the high blown hopes of the farmers. However, May brought good weather and the season of '59, abundant crops.

#### THE RIVER STEAMER REACHES FORT DODGE

Early in April, while the Des Moines river was in a high stage, the steamer Charles Rogers, came up from Des Moines to Fort Dodge. The citizens of Fort Dodge were in ecstasy and declared the Des Moines river navigable, and so much excitement was engendered that the question was seriously entertained and discussed whether the Boone river might not be navigable too, and a serious editorial appeared in the Freeman of May 26, arguing the feasibility of the question and urging the people to look into the matter.

#### THE SWAMP LAND FUND

At the April election in 1858, the question, "shall the swamp lands belonging to Hamilton county be appropriated for the erection of county buildings" was submitted to a vote of the people.

There were 315 votes cast of which 246 were *for* the proposition and 69 *against*.

#### AN ATTEMPT TO GET A NEW COURT HOUSE

Pursuant to this vote, Judge J. D. Maxwell advertised for bids for the construction of a court house 50x70 ft. on the ground, with the basement of cut stone and two stories above of brick and let the contract for building the same to Hyde and Hoskins, contractors of Des Moines. Under the contract, the county was not obliged to issue any warrants or bonds in payment for the work until the building was under roof.

On the 26th day of July, 1858, ground was broken for the erection of the building, and the work began. It was carried forward with a spirit of enterprise that betokened an early completion. The people of the southern part of the county were opposed to the erection of the building. They hoped to be able to remove the county seat to Saratoga. The sentiment, however, in Webster City and the northern part of the county was almost unanimous in favor of putting up a building that would forever settle the county seat question in favor of Webster City. It is a notable fact that in a public meeting largely attended, Judge Maxwell and B. Millard were the only ones who spoke in favor of a cheap house for present purposes leaving it to the people, when the county became more populous to build a large and costly court house. It was, therefore only out of deference to the universal sentiment about him that Judge Maxwell consented to let a contract for such an imposing and costly structure.

The work had gone on but a short time when the contractors represented to Judge Maxwell that they would be unable to proceed unless bonds which they could negotiate, could be issued to them in advance, as they were without means to purchase material and pay the laborers. They had given bonds for the faithful performance of their contract, and as complaints were becoming loud and persistent from the workmen that they were not being paid, a pressure was brought to bear on the judge to issue \$6,000 in bonds, of \$10 each. With this act, at the

time, nobody found fault. It must be remembered, however, that the bonds were drawn upon the express condition that the proceeds should be deposited in the judge's hands and paid out by him on warrants given for work and material upon the court house. Mr. Hyde took \$2,000 of the bonds to Des Moines and traded them off, but deposited no money with the judge, nor did he pay their hands as promised. Sumler Willson took the other \$4,000 of bonds to Chicago, but was unable to sell them at any price and returned with them. Now Hyde and Hoskins, the contractors kept away from Webster City, but left a Mr. Killian as foreman in charge of the work, but without authority to bind them as their agent except as to the work done, but as he was unable to pay his hands and work was about to be suspended, Judge Maxwell agreed that if the \$4,000 in bonds in Mr. Willson's hands were surrendered, he would issue \$1,000 in warrants. Mr. Killian procured and surrendered these bonds and received warrants for \$1,000, upon which money was realized and part of the indebtedness incurred on account of the work was paid.

And now Hyde and Hoskins began to clamor for the issuance to them of bonds for \$10,000 or \$15,000, saying they could now sell them, and would put the money in the judge's hands to be paid out on the work, but the judge refused flatly to do anything of the kind for now the work had stopped, and fault was being found with him because he had before issued bonds as requested. He was severely censured by many who were very anxious to see the work go on and was attacked and abused in a most shameful manner in the Freeman by Granville Burkley. Judge Maxwell replied in a very frank and gentlemanly way stating the whole matter connected with the court house just as it existed. Still there were many who believed that if the bonds were issued the work would go on and the house be finished. As those who find fault or have a grievance always do the most talking, the judge came in for rounds of abuse on every street corner. Now that the \$3,000 in bonds that were out were likely to be a dead loss, many began to find fault with the judge for issuing any bonds at all and yet took care not to commend him for his refusal to issue more. Added to the hub-hub raised about the court house bonds, the Freeman began to accuse him of a lavish prodigal and unlawful expenditure of the county funds in the way of paying high salaries, to which the judge answered defending his course. The salaries of \$400, to the judge, treasurer, etc., and certain payments for deputies were complained of and a fierce newspaper controversy resulted, and Judge Maxwell became the most talked about, and "best abused" man in the county. But he held firm and work on the court house was not resumed.

Though Judge Maxwell had been in favor of a cheap court house in the beginning, after a basement had been excavated and walled up and the county had expended \$3,000 upon it, he became in favor of going on with the work, that the money expended should not be lost. There seemed to be a general opinion in favor of having the house finished if any one could be found who would take the contract and receive as pay therefor, Hamilton county's interest in the swamp lands. But the old contract of Hyde and Hoskins stood in the way. They had done no work during the year 1859 and all attempts at a settlement with them had failed. Mr. Maxwell had not been a candidate for re-election and it was strongly suspected that the judge elect, Dr. Corbin, of Homer, would oppose any further progress towards completion of the court house. The friends of that pro-

ject, therefore, were anxious that something decisive should be done before Mr. Maxwell retired from office. E. R. Salsbury, B. Millard and S. B. Rosencrans were willing to take the contract to build the court house that should cost \$50,000 and take the county's swamp land as pay therefor, but to prevent difficulty every effort was made to get rid of the former contract. But as that could not be done Judge Maxwell entered into a contract with these gentlemen, by which they were to build a \$50,000 court house. They were to have the benefit of the work already done, and all of the materials on hand, and were to have a quit claim deed from the county for all its swamp lands, and all the interest of the county in the swamp land grant. This contract was signed on the last day of Judge Maxwell's term of office.

#### AN INDIGNATION MEETING

Sometime afterward, a meeting was held at the school house in Webster City, denominated "An Indignation Meeting" at which resolutions strongly condemning the action of Judge Maxwell in letting the contract and recommending that the then county judge refuse to recognize it in any way, were pasted. The most scathing resolution and the one which showed malice and meanness to the utmost degree, was drawn and presented by Granville Burkley, who had so severely criticised Judge Maxwell, through the newspaper, because he refused to issue \$10,000 or \$15,000 in bonds to aid in the completion of the building, and it was passed in the excitement of the meeting.

As the new administration of county affairs refused to do anything further about the building, nothing more was ever done. The stone was taken piecemeal from the foundation and within the last few years the stones were all taken out, the ground leveled down and now no trace of it remains. The site of that building was near the center of the city park opposite the Park House.

#### JUDGE MAXWELL

From what we had been told of the controversies and actions in relation to the court house, we had formed the opinion that Judge Maxwell, while perfectly honest and conscientious, was too easily persuaded into doing injudicious acts, and that he was rather weak and vacillating in character. A thorough investigation into all the matters connected with his acts as a public officer and a careful reading of all the controversies, between him and his enemies has caused us to reform that opinion, and we believe that no more honest and capable man ever held office in this county. It is perfectly plain that every effort of the man was put forth for what he believed honestly to be for the best interest of the people. He made some mistakes—what man has not—but no man was more ready than he to rectify a mistake or to acknowledge it. In all his controversies through the press, he exhibited an honesty, fairness and openness that in contrast with his opponents, was marked indeed, and which ought to have put them to shame.

He was charged with being parsimonious and again with being lavish with the public funds. He was in fact neither, but a just and honorable man who aimed at simple right always. He has been severely blamed for making the contract on his last day in office and it may not have been the most expedient thing

to do, and yet from his view of matters, he could scarcely refuse to do it because he thought it right and indeed we are not sure that, had he been sustained and the court house built, the town and county would not have been greatly benefited thereby.

#### MORE RAILROAD TALK

During the year 1859, there was much talk of a railroad. The line had been surveyed through Webster City and the great object of interest was the location of the depot. In this matter no one took a more active part than W. C. Willson, who desired to have the depot located on the Brewer farm, the present intersection of Third and Grove streets, in the west part of town. The business men generally wanted it located at the head of Seneca street and that point seems to have been fixed at one time for the location. But as the war was coming on and all present prospects of the road vanished, talk to a considerable degree died out and when the matter was again renewed, everything was done over again.

#### PIONEER POLITICS

In nothing did the average citizen take more interest than in politics, which was carried on with much more heat and venom than is exhibited at the present day. Then the two parties were very nearly equal in strength and a nomination did not mean certain election. There was no Democratic paper in this county, but the Fort Dodge Sentinel was Democratic and was taken generally by the Democrats, while the Freeman did equal service for the Webster county Republicans. We have never seen a full copy of the Sentinel, but in reading its opponent, the Freeman, we conclude that it was a paper of pretty good editorial ability as it kept Mr. Aldrich in considerable of a fever. Personalities took the place of logic, and John F. Duncombe, one of the editors of the Sentinel, was called Ridiculous Pomposity, while the other editor was called Jackass White. The Sentinel called Mr. Aldrich, "Jakey." Of course all this personality and nicknaming among the rival editors was highly entertaining to the people, who laughed and were willing to be bottle holders if the editors would put their vaunted valor and bloody threats into execution and punch each other's heads. But it was always noticed that the lion roared loudest, when twenty good American miles divided them, and that the lamb element predominated when they were brought near together. It is suspected that there are editors of similar dispositions even at the present day and it has even been doubted by some whether the race will ever become extinct.

Now in the midst of this political fight, and newspaper wrangle, a poem entitled "Spring Cometh" was sent from Webster City to the Sentinel for publication. The following clipped from the Freeman will explain the whole matter.

#### "SOLD AND GOT THE TIN"

A short time since the following notice appeared in the Fort Dodge Sentinel: "Spring Cometh."—We have received a good piece of poetry with the above title from Webster City, but unaccompanied by the author's real name, though we readily divine who she is. The sentiment is good and the style promising.

We will publish her lines when she complies with a rule from which it would be dangerous for us to deviate—"no communication inserted unless accompanied by the author's real name."

Time passed on and the "quid nunes" of our town had well dropped the subject of the authorship of "Spring Cometh," until last Saturday when the "good piece of poetry from Webster City" appeared conspicuously in the Sentinel. Ida, it seems, either passed in her name or the sagacious editors trusted to their well known power of "divination"—and we can't tell which. Here it is, a very pretty poem, covering up a villainous acrostic on the editors of that able journal, as will be seen by reading the first letter of each line downwards. But "the sentiment is good and the style promising."

FOR THE SENTINEL—BY IDA FAIRFIELD

Robed in her emerald vesture,  
 In her jewelry of bloom,  
 Deftly spreading her verdure  
 Is spring the maiden, comes.  
 Caressed by the clasping sunshine,  
 Upland, valley and wood  
 Lift up their humble flower buds,  
 Opening their eyes of gold.

Under the spell of her presence  
 Soft and silvery rills  
 Prattle and tinkle in gladness,  
 On all the sunny hills;  
 Moved by the vernal impulse,  
 Parting its walls of shell,  
 Open leaved may a floweret  
 Sunmeth itself in the dell.

Impelled by the heart of nature,  
 Thrilled by her pulse's beat  
 Young leaflets darken in greenness  
 And spread to the coming heat,  
 Nourished by earth's rich life-blood,  
 Dried by the sunshine warm,  
 Joyful and blest in their plenty,  
 Are the flowers which smile to charm.

Coldness, and storm cloud, and darkness,  
 Keep to your hills of snow!  
 Away to your country of icebergs—  
 Spring tosseth her garlands now.  
 She biddeth us wake from our dreaming  
 When voices of duty call,

Hopefully waiting and working.  
 In our own sphere, though small;  
 The labor of none is wasted.  
 E'en a sparrow may not fall.

We believe it was never confessed who wrote the above acrostic, but think it perfectly safe to guess that the editor of the Freeman procured it if he did not write it himself. He was first to discover it and made much of the sell on the Sentinel editors.

#### COUNTY ELECTION

At the October election of 1859 there was an unusually spirited contest over county officers resulting in the election of the following persons by small majorities, viz:

County Judge—Dr. H. Corbin of Homer.  
 Recorder and Treasurer—George Shipp of Webster City.  
 Sheriff—Dan A. Underdown of Webster City.  
 Superintendent of Schools—E. H. Blair of Webster City.  
 Drainage Commissioner—Peter Lyon of Boone township.  
 Surveyor—James Faught of Webster township.  
 Coroner—Luther Lakin of Cedar Lake township.

Hon. S. B. Rosencrans was elected member of the legislature from this district and Col. Scott, of Story county, was elected senator.

The board of supervisors were I. S. Wilcox, of Webster, D. Averell, of Cass, E. Renner, of Hamilton, Benjamin Bell, of Marion, A. Turner, of Boone.

#### A NEW SCHOOL HOUSE

In June, 1859, a contract was let to W. S. Worthington to build a new school house in Webster City. The structure was to be of brick—32x54 feet, two stories high with a front projection sixteen feet square and three stories high. In the beginning, only two school rooms were fitted up on the first floor and the second floor was fitted up for an assembly room and here town meetings were held until the need of more room brought that room into use as a school room. That building stood upon the site of the present three story, twelve-room school building. When finished, it presented a very imposing appearance and was perhaps as good a school house as was to be found in any town west of the Mississippi, of twice the population of Webster City.

In November, 1859, Judge Porter held his first term of court in this county. H. C. Henderson acted as district attorney. There were a large number of cases on the calendar. A number were for trespass brought by the River land Company, against settlers and since that time, for many years, no term of court passed that did not present one or more of these River land cases.

#### POLITICS IN 1860

The winter of '59-60 was but an ordinary one and the season of 1860 a tolerably fair one for crops of all kinds. Settlements were being made in all parts of

the county but nowhere in groups so that while a goodly number of people came during the year, they scattered out over the county and did not seem to materially increase the population.

As we have noted before, politics in the county had always brought out a good deal of enthusiasm and a good deal of heat and this was particularly true of the campaign of 1860. The democrats, mostly of the Breckenridge wing, charged the republicans with being abolitionists in disguise, intending to free the negroes if they got into power. The republicans replied that they had no intention of interfering with slavery where it then existed but were opposed to any further extension of it. Epithets were applied and abuse freely indulged in and it caused such an enmity to exist between the members of the parties, that afterwards, when the war broke out, the feeling of ill-will towards the party in power rather than a lack of loyalty prevented, for a time, many democrats from enlisting. But when the war became serious, these feelings were swallowed up by a more loyal sentiment and enlistments went on without regard to past party affiliations.

#### STATISTICS

In December, 1860, J. M. Jones, clerk of the board of supervisors prepared and had published the following "abstract of the late census of this county."

Population 1860, 1710.  
 Total valuation of county, \$1,306,744.00.  
 Value of live stock, \$53,365.00.  
 Number of acres of improved land, 8,207.  
 Improved farms, 138.  
 Bushels of wheat raised in 1859, 10,590.  
 Bushels of corn, 45,505.  
 Bushels of oats, 8,209.  
 Bushels of potatoes, 10,209.  
 Pounds of butter made, 40,810.  
 Mills run by water, 7.  
 Mills run by steam, 4.  
 Flouring Mills, 2.  
 Population of Webster City, 464.

#### THREE NEW BRIDGES

Up to the fall of 1860, only one bridge had been built across Boone river, and that had been built by private subscription. Now an earnest demand was being made for three other bridges. But as the finances of the county would not admit of appropriations for the purpose it was determined to appropriate eight thousand acres of the swamp land to raising of sufficient funds with which to build bridges. Before the swamp lands could be appropriated, it became necessary to submit the proposition to a vote of the people, and accordingly on the 2nd day of October, 1860, Judge Corbin issued a proclamation setting forth the need of three bridges. "One at, or near the Olmstead mill ford, just west of Saratoga, one at "Fish Trap Ford" and one north of Webster City (near the site of the present North bridge) and also urged the need of a jail, submitting the question of appropri-

ating for the building of the same, the proceeds of eight thousand acres of the swamp lands. The proposition carried at the election by only 66 majority, out of a total vote of 337.

On December 17, Judge Corbin issued a notice to builders asking bids for the building of three bridges and a jail in separate contracts; bids to be opened Jan. 3, 1861. Payments to be made in swamp land, or the proceeds of the sale thereof, when the work was completed. But a new order of things was ushered in at the beginning of the year 1861. The last legislature had passed a law creating the board of supervisors, consisting of one from each township, and lodged with that body the financial management of the county. Up to that time, the county judge had been autocrat of the county with almost unlimited power and discretion as to the management of the county's business. He allowed all claims against the county, made all contracts and performed, generally in his own single person, all the acts now performed by the board of supervisors. In the election of the board, the judge found himself stripped of almost all his authority and occupation. Judge Corbin found so little in his office to do that in the spring of 1861 he moved back onto his farm, and set apart two days in each month when he would be at his office for official duty. His proclamation for bids on the bridges and jail went by default and the board of supervisors assumed control of the matter. At the April session, they advertised for bids upon the three bridges and the jail and at the June session rejected all bids, changed the condition under which bids would be received and appointed a committee to let the contract in accordance with a resolution passed by them, provided the resolution received the endorsement of more than one-half the voters of the county. One person in each township was appointed to circulate a paper in his township for signatures for or against resolution.

Here the more exciting matters connected with the breaking out of the Civil war intervened, and the matter of the building of these bridges was passed over for more than a year. We therefore follow the course of events and pass them too.



## CHAPTER VII

### THE CIVIL WAR—LOCAL EVENTS OCCURRING DURING THE GREAT STRUGGLE

*By F. Q. Lee*

THE FIRST MAN TO ENLIST—COMPANY F ORGANIZED—ROSTER OF CO. F—POLITICS DURING THE WAR—GROVE TOWNSHIP CREATED—THE COUNTY OFFERS BOUNTIES—BOUNTIES INCREASED—TRAGEDY AT FISH TRAP FORD—CO "A" 32ND INFANTRY—SWAMP LANDS—CLERK J. M. JONES RESIGNS—THE FREEMAN RESUMES PUBLICATION—D. D. MIRACLE ARRIVES—HORSE THIEF EXCITEMENT—THE CIRCUS COMES TO TOWN—THE SHEEP INDUSTRY—DRAFTING SOLDIERS—STATE MILITIA—THE FIRST TEACHERS INSTITUTE—SOLDIERS AS GUESTS—THE FIRST CEMETERY ASSOCIATION—A DRAFT AVOIDED—THE ASSASSINATION OF LINCOLN—A TRAGEDY AMONG THE SOLDIERS—THE SORGHUM AGE.

And now the mutterings of a civil war began to be heard through the land. Citizens became wild to procure the latest news. It seemed hardly possible that the south would have the hardihood to precipitate a war with the north upon so small a pretext as they claimed to have. But when ABRAHAM LINCOLN was inaugurated president of the United States, on the 4th of March, 1861, many of the southern states had already passed the Ordinance of Secession, and when but a short time after LINCOLN'S inauguration, Forts Sumter and Pickens were attacked and the Federal garrison forced to surrender, and evacuate while other acts of violence and treason were daily occurring, an intense feeling and excitement in the north was aroused. When LINCOLN issued his proclamation calling for 75,000 troops, the country was at once ablaze with patriotism. James Buchanan approved LINCOLN'S course and gave \$5,000 to equip troops. Stephen A. Douglas threw the weight of his influence in favor of the union, and in Webster City, we find a public meeting called at which a "Liberty Pole" was raised with the greatest enthusiasm. Speeches were made by Judge Porter, Peter Hepburn, John A. Hull, Granville Burkley, John F. Duncombe, Jacob Skinner and many others, all breathing the highest patriotism. Five months before these men had been nearly equally divided, and engaged in a political canvass of great earnestness and bitterness. Now that the country was in danger, they stood like brothers, determined that treason should die. In a neighboring county, the republican and democratic flag poles were taken down, spliced together and raised again amid the wildest enthusiasm. How grand that act. How suggestive of the purposes then in view. Iowa was called on for only one regiment, but five were raised and offered, and as the news flashed over the country of the disastrous

defeat at Bull Run, enthusiasm and patriotism burned still more fiercely and the grand refrain, "We're coming, Father Abraham, three hundred thousand more," was more than a reality. From every avenue in life, the citizen came forth and became the soldier, and the civilized world stood aghast at the marvelous rapidity with which the armies formed, and how they fought like veterans though only a few weeks or months in the service. Without an army, one rose up as if by magic, and the endurance, bravery and skill it showed was something new in the history of war.

Hamilton county people shared in the excitement, patriotism and enthusiasm. The Board of Supervisors at the June session, 1861, appropriated \$1,000 to be used in expenses of volunteers and caring for the families of all who enlisted or might enlist.

#### THE FIRST MAN TO ENLIST

Perhaps the very first Hamilton county man to enlist was Captain H. B. Martin of the Frontier Guard, who, it seems, was visiting in the east, and joined a Kentucky Company of which he was made First Lieutenant. He was shot through the leg at the battle of Barbersville, Va., one of the first conflicts of the war, and did not recover until the three months' term for which he enlisted had expired. While convalescing, he went on a furlough to visit friends in Ohio and all traces of him seem to have been lost.

The second man most probably was George Grechoneke, who became Captain of a company in Gen. Sickles' Brigade. So far as we have been able to learn, he never returned to this county, and nothing more was heard of him.

The next two to enlist were Harris Hoover and Isaac Soule, who went to Eldora and joined Capt. Thompson's Cavalry, Company G, First Iowa Cavalry, which was to be attached to the regiment being raised by Col. Fitz Henry Warren.

#### COMPANY F ORGANIZED

In the meantime, an earnest effort was being made to organize a company in this county, G. Burkley, Lieutenant W. L. Church and others leading in the matter. It was not until about the 20th of August, 1861, that a sufficient number of men were collected to muster a company, and they were drawn up in line in front of the town hall and sworn into service by J. M. Jones, clerk of the district court. The company numbered about 60 men and were ordered into camp at Davenport during the month of September, where they were organized as Company F, 2nd Iowa Cavalry.

The following is a roster of the company:

- G. Burkley, Captain, Webster City.
- W. L. Church, First Lieutenant, Homer.
- G. R. Ammond, Second Lieutenant, Webster City.
- J. Faught, Quartermaster Sergeant, Webster City.
- P. Riley, Orderly Sergeant, Homer.
- A. Patterson, First Sergeant, Belmond.
- A. V. Ballou, Second Sergeant, Webster City.
- F. A. Harris, Third Sergeant, Webster City.
- J. A. Norwood, Fourth Sergeant, Webster City.

E. D. Kellogg, First Corporal, Cresco.  
H. Overacker, Second Corporal, Belmond.  
W. H. Cheney, Third Corporal, Webster City.  
I. Whited, Fourth Corporal, Goldfield.  
S. Hartman, Fifth Corporal, Webster City.  
S. Gilpin, Sixth Corporal, Upper Grove.  
E. Eastabrook, Seventh Corporal, Iowa Falls.  
T. Brassfield, Private, Goldfield.  
J. J. Berkley, Webster.  
C. E. Biggs, Homer.  
H. H. Battles, Homer.  
L. Barns, Goldfield.  
J. Brock, Webster City.  
B. Brock, Webster City.  
J. B. Bolden, Alden.  
S. K. Baker, Delanti.  
S. Craig, West Liberty, N. Y.  
L. Cary, Algona.  
L. D. Cobb, Hampton.  
S. Church, Iowa Falls.  
M. F. Collins, Webster City.  
J. Clemmen, Homer.  
C. C. Coulter, Belmond.  
C. F. Dalley, Homer.  
A. Esterbrook, Iowa Falls.  
J. Elenger, Algona.  
T. Fisher, Webster City.  
J. B. Gray, Belmond.  
V. R. Gray, Belmond.  
J. Gray, Goldfield.  
J. Gilpin, Upper Grove.  
W. W. Gates, Eagle Grove.  
W. C. B. Howard, Homer.  
N. S. F. and W. Hall, Webster City.  
J. Hartman, Homer.  
J. C. Hickart, Algona.  
L. M. Harris, Webster City.  
B. Hayden, Homer.  
N. Hayden, Homer.  
T. J. Hussey, Bridgeport.  
J. Killing, Iowa Falls.  
S. Kimman, Delanti.  
C. F. Kellogg, Cresco.  
D. Knoll, Belmond.  
R. McKirkland, Iowa Falls.  
J. W. Kimberlain, Homer.  
R. Lyon, Webster City.  
D. Lake, Webster City.

A. Louison, Alden.  
 E. Loomis, Luni.  
 A. Listenberger, South Bend.  
 A. F. Munson, Webster City.  
 J. V. Neary, Webster City.  
 D. Okerson, Webster City.  
 L. F. Parks, Homer.  
 S. Powers, Iowa Falls.  
 J. Riebhoff, Algona.  
 J. G. Reiley, Algona.  
 J. C. Taylor, Algona.  
 H. W. Todd, Alden.  
 W. A. Wood, Homer.  
 T. Wheelock, Upper Grove.  
 D. Weaver, Webster City.  
 Wm. H. Wood, Iowa Falls.  
 J. M. Whaley, Belmond.  
 S. S. Westgates, Iowa Falls.

The following persons were rejected: Frank Packard, cut on wrist; Leander M. Pemberton, age; James Brock, eyes; Daniel W. Cole, defective hands; D. M. Hartman, eyes; Samuel Osburn, age; Wm. M. Okerson, age; Francis C. Cromwell and Wm. Mann refused to take the oath.

Although this company was recruited here it will be seen that many of its members were from other counties.

#### POLITICS DURING THE WAR

It will be remembered that nearly all the democrats were Douglas men and of course were what were known during the war as war democrats. There was, therefore, no sentiment here but that of loyalty to the flag, and desire for an earnest prosecution of the war. It was, therefore, proposed in the fall of 1861, that a Union party be formed and old party names be dropped until the south was subdued. The Union party was organized and a ticket was put in the field but the republican leaders insisted upon keeping up their party organization and declared the Union movement to be an attempt of the democrats to share in the offices. S. B. Rosencrans who had been a republican from the first was charged with being the leader of the Union movement.

The republicans put a ticket in the field in opposition to the "Union Movement" and a hot and bitter contest resulted.

The nominees of the two parties were as follows:

County Judge—Republican, W. R. Daniels; Union, James Sanford.  
 Treasurer and Recorder—Republican, J. M. Bell; Union, John W. Funk.  
 Sheriff—Republican, Michael Sweeney; Union, N. G. Olmstead.  
 Superintendent of Schools—Republican, J. W. Lee; Union, J. W. Lee.  
 Drainage Commissioner—Republican, Israel Woodward; Union, T. J. McConnell.  
 Coroner—Republican, James Sanford; Union, Mr. Phillips.  
 Surveyor—Republican, L. L. Richardson.

Dan Underwood, then sheriff of the county, became an independent candidate for reelection and J. S. Smith ran independent for recorder and treasurer. The contest resulted in the election of the straight republican ticket. At this election Hon. D. D. Chase was elected district attorney to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of Peter Hepburn who had gone to the war.

#### GROVE TOWNSHIP CREATED

The board of supervisors created the township of Grove, west of Cass, and made the dividing line between them to be the east line of the west tier of sections in township 89, range 25, and authorized the voters in the new township to meet at the house of Elizabeth McLaughlin on the day for general election and elect a full complement of township officers. Later in the session, the board seems to have been struck with a species of patriotic fever, for on motions, following each other in succession, they changed the name of Grove township to Fremont, Clear Lake to Lyon, Wall Lake to Ellsworth and Norway to Scott.

They levied taxes as follows:

County tax, three and one-half mills.

Support of schools, 1 mill.

State tax, 2 mills, besides two township and school taxes.

The new board of supervisors organized at the January session, 1862, with Huitt Ross as chairman. The membership of the board was as follows: Cass township, Robert Willis; Fremont township, W. W. Boak; Boone township, J. M. Funk; Hamilton township, David L. Hook; Webster township, Isaiah Doane; Marion township, Huitt Ross; Lyon township, Luther Lakin; Ellsworth township, J. S. Wald; Scott township, Israel Biggs.

This was the board that provided for building the bridges and repudiated the county bonds as above related.

Under the law of the state it was left discretionary with the board to publish the delinquent tax list or the proceedings of the board or not. They refused to sanction the publication of the tax list and only agreed to authorize the printing of the proceedings of the board on condition that the cost should not exceed \$150. The amount offered was \$50 less than had been paid the previous year, and though we nowhere find an acceptance of the offer, we presume it was adopted for the proceedings appeared in print. The board must have changed its policy upon the publication of the tax list also though the record is silent as to that; at any rate the tax list was printed as usual each year until September 27, 1862, when the Freeman suspended publication. It did not resume again until May 28, 1864.

#### THE COUNTY OFFERS BOUNTIES

At the September, 1862, session of the board the following resolution was offered by Mr. Boak and adopted.

*Resolved*, that the board of supervisors of Hamilton county, Iowa, pay to each resident volunteer the sum of fifty dollars upon his being sworn into the United States Service and that the further allowance of four dollars per month to the wife and two dollars a month to each child under fourteen years of each

resident volunteer who shall go from this county under the recent calls of the president.

"*Resolved*, that if there should be a draft made from this county that the same allowance be made to each man so drafted, and to each member of his family as is given to volunteers and their families."

The clerk was directed to issue warrants in payment of claims under said resolutions when vouchers showing that claimant has been mustered into service are presented.

The first order drawn under the above resolutions was at the October session and was in favor of John S. Sanford.

There were three changes in the board of supervisors during the year 1863. J. C. Hayse took the place of I. Doan, E. W. Salsbury that of J. M. Funk, and Samuel Oakes that of J. S. Ward, but the policy adopted by the old board was followed up.

At the June session the resolution offering bounty of \$50 to volunteers and \$4 a month to the wife and \$2 to each child under fourteen years old was reenacted.

At the June session, County Judge W. R. Daniels, having made preparations to go to Pike's Peak, tendered his resignation. This was accepted and Isaiah Doane was appointed to fill the vacancy.

It was at this session also that two propositions to publish the delinquent tax list in papers in adjoining counties were tendered the board. One of these propositions was made by J. D. Hunter of Eldora, Hardin county, at that time publisher of the Hardin County Sentinel. This was the first appearance of Mr. Hunter in the county.

Three years later he became a resident of the county and has ever since held a leading place in its political affairs.

#### BOUNTIES INCREASED

In the fall of 1863, the call for men to fill the quota of the county in the military service made a draft seem imminent and a special meeting of the board was called to devise ways and means, if possible, to avert it. This meeting was called for two very good and sufficient reasons: First, the county did not want it said that there were not patriots enough to fill every demand made by the government without force being used to procure them, and second, nobody wanted to be drafted. Perhaps the last consideration was the more weighty of the two, but both reasons were sound and as a draft would directly or indirectly strike almost every property owner in the county there was little danger that any measure adopted would not meet hearty support and cooperation from everybody. The board, therefore, concluded that the best way to meet the situation was to offer sufficient bounty to induce men to volunteer. Two hundred dollars seemed to be the prevailing amount offered by other counties and it was soon agreed to offer that amount. But as volunteers were being called for all over the country and it was not certain that even that liberal offer would induce enough to volunteer to fill the quota, in which case a draft would have to be resorted to, it was agreed that drafted men ought to have the same bounty as enlisted men. It was finally agreed to repeal the resolution giving \$50 and per capita support to the volunteer and his family and in lieu of that to offer a bounty of \$200 to each volunteer or

drafted man mustered into the United States service and accredited to this county, and a four mill tax was levied to raise the money necessary to meet the payments.

Having now recounted the doings of the officials of the county for a couple of years, let us go back and note the private happenings of general interest.

It is well perhaps to note that during the winter of '61-2 very heavy snow fell and the spring did not open up until April when the snow going off with a rain raised the rivers and streams higher than they had ever been known to be before, and the high water continued to the middle of May.

#### TRAGEDY AT FISH TRAP FORD

On the first day of May, 1862, occurred a most shocking casualty at Fish Trap Ford, and as a full account thereof was published in the Freeman of May 3rd, we can do no better than to give the article.

"The most startling calamity that has ever happened in our county occurred in Marion township at the crossing of the Des Moines road on Boone on Thursday last resulting in the drowning of Mrs. S. M. Sherman and Mrs. Chas. A. Sherman and an only child of the latter, aged about a year and a half—all of Fort Dodge.

"It has been the custom of the stage company during the prevalence of the high water, to ferry the mails and passengers over in a skiff, a team being always in readiness on the other side to carry them forward. On Thursday these ladies were passengers from Des Moines and upon arriving at the ford, a lad of thirteen or fourteen by the name of Jakeway, undertook to ferry them across. The party with their baggage and the mails loaded the skiff down very much besides making it 'top heavy.' Upon nearing the swift part of the current, one of the oars caught upon a brush or other impediment, causing the boat to dip water and at the same time one of the mail bags slid into the river. The rower at once strove to secure the mail and while thus engaged and evidently frightened, the boat struck a sunken tree and capsized, precipitating its contents into the flood. The boy caught upon a branch of the tree and reached the shore, but the two ladies and the child were drowned. Neither of the stage drivers could swim and consequently could render no aid. A Mr. Curtis of Marion township, who appeared to be present, plunged into the river, but was so burdened by his clothing as to be unable to render any assistance. The elder Mrs. Sherman maintained herself upon the water and swam down with the current several rods before she became insensible. Her body floated so near to the shore some 300 yards below, that the stage driver on the right bank managed to reach it and bring it ashore, and had medical assistance been at hand there seems but little doubt that her life might have been saved. The younger of the two, having the child in her arms, very soon sank. The child becoming disengaged, floated down the stream with one of its little hands above the water, seemingly clutching the air. The news of the accident was quickly carried to the village, a mile or two below, and also to Homer, and the inhabitants all rushed to the spot, to render such aid as they could in recovering the bodies. The body of Mrs. C. A. Sherman was recovered about half a mile below, as was also that of the child. Dr. Corbin, of Homer, made an effort to resuscitate the body first recovered, but too much time had intervened and life was extinct.

"The elder of the two ladies was the wife of S. M. Sherman, Esq., postmaster

at Fort Dodge, and the younger was the wife of his son, Capt. Chas. A. Sherman, late of Fort Dodge, but now somewhere in Eastern Virginia in the discharge of his military duties."

During the season of 1862, Hiram Bennett built a flouring mill on Boone river, two miles north of Webster City.

Dr. H. N. Crapper, who was for many years a successful practitioner in Webster City, came in the summer of 1862. He had for some years prior been a resident of Liberty (now Goldfield), Wright county.

#### COMPANY A, 32ND INFANTRY

In September, 1862, a company of volunteers was raised in Wright, Hamilton and Humbolt counties. L. H. Cutler, of Belmond, member of the legislature from this district, was made captain. The roster of the company shows that the following men residents of Hamilton county enlisted in that company (Company A, 32nd Iowa Infantry):

John Eckstein, J. P. Paine, W. K. Laughlin, T. C. Allen, H. Church, J. S. Sanford, J. Brock, N. G. Olmstead, J. Duckett, John McMiller, J. S. Cross, J. N. Maxwell, L. Olmstead, J. M. McFarland, S. L. Richardson, J. Adams, B. R. Brewer, C. Church.

This company was named "A" and became a part of the 32nd Iowa Infantry.

On the 19th of Sept., 1862, a company was organized at Webster City, consisting of 50 men, designed for the Northwest service, that is, as a guard to prevent invasion by Indians. Of this company, Dr. H. N. Crapper was made captain, Wm. L. Church, 1st lieutenant, and Sam M. Pardell, 2nd lieutenant. No roster of the men enlisting appears to have been preserved and there is no record that the company was ever called out, or did any service.

On Sept. 27, 1862, the Hamilton Freeman suspended publication, its editor and publisher, Mr. Charles Aldrich, having enlisted in the service of the U. S. and the people of the county were without a local paper for almost two years.

As the years of the war slowly passed and men were constantly dropping out of the line of civil life into the ranks of the great army that was battling for the Union, it is not strange that settlements within the county should be fewer and improvements less in value than when the attention and energies of so large a number of men were engaged in civil, instead of military, pursuits. Still the work of settling and improving the county did not wholly stop. A scattering settlement had been effected along the Skunk river. There the Sowers, Staleys, Hendersons, Lakins, Churches, Everetts and others had built their cabins and with the aid of a few scattered prairie settlers, had organized townships and were building school houses, roads, bridges and placing the handmarks of civilization upon the wild and untamed prairies. It seemed incredible that under the circumstances, any improvements could be expected, yet the fact is that the county continued to gradually increase in population and material resources until in 1865 and '66, when a great influx of settlers began to find homes here and put new life and vigor into all private and public enterprises.

The newly elected members of the board of supervisors, taking their places Jan. 1, 1864, were for Fremont township, W. W. Boak; Cass, Robert Willis,

Hamilton, I. C. Woodard; Marion, W. Neese; Lyon, W. R. Patrick, W. W. Boak was elected chairman of the board.

The county officers were: County judge, I. Doane; recorder and treasurer, J. M. Bell; sheriff, M. Sweeney; drainage commissioner, W. R. Patrick; coroner, J. W. Payne.

#### SWAMP LANDS

The swamp lands had always been looked upon by the people as a means whereby public improvements might be made, and, as we have seen, several attempts had been made to utilize them for this purpose but so far to little purpose. But now a new question regarding these lands came up which gave the county a great deal of trouble and litigation and the whole question was not finally settled until quite recently. It will therefore be of interest to explain the situation in relation to them so that the future actions of the officials in relation thereto will be understood.

The swamp land grant was a grant to the counties of the state of all the swamp lands within their boundaries and the intention of the grant was to encourage the draining of, and making productive, this otherwise almost valueless land. Taken according to government survey, the smallest subdivision of that survey being the basis, if a forty acre division, or a lot adjoining a meandered lake or river, was more than half so swampy as to be unfit for cultivation or use as meadow land without drainage, then that forty or lot was swamp land and covered by the grant. The government had sent a commissioner to report these lands and heretofore the county had relied upon the lists of lands so reported. As it proved this list had been made without much care on the part of the commissioner and a considerable amount of land that was not swamp was reported. After this grant had been made, other grants were made to railroad companies. The grants to the railroad corporations provided that where the lands included in the grant to them had been already sold by the government, they in view thereof could locate any other unsold lands within the state. These railroad grantees, therefore in looking for lands outside of their grant, discovered that a great deal of land claimed by the different counties was not swamp lands at all, though so reported by the commissioners. They therefore laid claim to this land, and the land commissioner made a ruling that before patents would issue for swamp lands, the counties should make proof of the swampy character of each tract of land claimed.

The swamp land grant provided that where any swamp land had been sold by the government, the county entitled to it should receive cash or script. With the script the county could locate any unsold land belonging to the government in the state, whether swamp or not.

As the government had sold considerable land which really belonged to the county, the county received its script and located other land in Emmet and Kossuth counties. It may be wondered at that any one should buy swamp land when there was plenty of good land to be had at the same price. But people generally did not know about the swamp grant and would enter quarters, one fortieth of which was swamp, while speculators would locate tracts of lands without seeing them at all or knowing anything about their character, and in this way much swamp land was sold by the government.

As we have said, up to this time the county had relied upon the selections made and reported to the government by the commissioner. But now they were compelled to make proof of the swampy character of each forty acre tract and also make proof as to the swamp land sold to settlers or speculators by the government, but they were not allowed to make proof upon any lands except such as had already been reported or designated as swamp land.

At the June session of the board, 1864, one Wm. Baker, a non-resident, presented a proposition to the board offering to prove up and settle the swamp land claims for county for twenty per cent of cash or land shown by the proofs to belong to the county and ten per cent of the indemnity lands. The board thereupon entered into a contract with said Baker, to settle the county's swamp land claims, and upon terms substantially according to the proposition. This led to immediate steps being taken to settle the claims, but it led also to a lawsuit with Baker that hung in the courts for years for Baker's work was but partially and imperfectly done. Several other attempts were made by other persons at different times, but it was many years before it was finally settled, as will be seen as this history proceeds.

#### CLERK J. M. JONES RESIGNS

At the September session of the board, 1864, J. M. Jones, who had been its very efficient clerk from the organization of that body, presented his resignation, he having determined to enlist in the army. It is but proper to state here that no set of records in the county were more neatly and systematically kept than those under his control, and the board was loath to part with so efficient an officer. But his reasons for resigning were all sufficient and his resignation was accepted and a vote of thanks was tendered him for his efficient services while clerk. On the same day, M. Sweeney presented his resignation as sheriff of the county, which was accepted, and he was elected to fill the vacancy in the clerk's office. Humphrey C. Hillock was elected sheriff to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Sweeney.

#### THE FREEMAN RESUMES PUBLICATION

In May, 1864, Mr. V. A. Ballou came home from the war and renewed the publication of the Freeman. His first issue appeared May 25, 1864. Mr. Ballou was a young man who had been employed in the Freeman office soon after it was established in 1857 and had worked on the paper during all the time, when not attending college, until the fall of 1861, when he enlisted in Company F, Second Iowa Cavalry, in which he served, making an excellent record as a soldier. On account of poor health, however, he was discharged.

His service in the army had not cooled his patriotism for the first issue of his paper he set up as his motto, "My Country when right, My Country, always, whether right or wrong." In the first issue of the paper we notice under the head of "war items," that at the battle of Pleasant Hill, in which the Thirty-second Iowa was engaged, that Sergeant J. Ripley was wounded; Henry Franks, R. D. Faught, Chas. Gray, John Haskins, missing. Joshua McFarland wounded in the leg, John M. Miller wounded in the head; Joseph Payne, missing. All of these were Hamilton county men.

## D. D. MIRACLE ARRIVES

Just at this time, Hon. D. D. Miracle arrived and took up his residence. An article from his pen entitled "My first trip in a stage coach," was printed in the first issue of the Freeman in 1864, as also a local notice stating that "D. D. Miracle, Esq., a lawyer from Oshkosh, Wis., has just arrived and intends to remain permanently in this place."

## HORSE THIEF EXCITEMENT

In the latter part of May, 1864, there was great excitement in the county over horse thieves. On the 27th day of May, six horses and three sets of harness were stolen in the northwest corner of Story county and the thieves passed northward through this county into Wright. They were pursued and in consequence, between Skunk Grove and Alden, they turned loose two of the stolen horses. From Alden they turned northwest and stopped at the house of Wm. McCormack, a homesteader living about a mile and a half southeast of where Clarion now stands. The sheriff of Wright county had been notified, and with a posse of men went in pursuit and found the thieves at McCormack's and attempted to arrest them. There were three of them and they, knowing that "Judge Lynch" would probably officiate at their trial if arrested, and that a hanging bee would occur as soon as a tree could be found to hang them to, fought with the greatest desperation and succeeded in escaping with part of their plunder, leaving behind them two horses and the three sets of harness. The harness was hid in three separate places in the tall grass where they were soon afterward found. In the fight between the sheriff's posse and the thieves, guns and pistols were freely used, but the thieves escaped so far as known uninjured, while of the sheriff's posse Mr. Donaldson was shot through the breast and was supposed to be fatally wounded. However, he recovered and lived many years, though always suffering from the effect of the wound. John Melrose was shot in the neck. The thieves started southwest and the next day, a courier from Batch Grove came into Webster City for help, and was immediately joined by a goodly number of horsemen, but upon searching the grove nothing was found. It was reported that they had gone east in the direction of Eagle creek and Wall lake. The horsemen followed until near midnight, and coming to the conclusion that they were not on the right track, returned home. It seems that the thieves after eluding pursuit stole four horses on Lizzard creek and were next seen near Forest City, Iowa. This affair created a great sensation at the time and nearly every old settler will remember the great excitement it created. It became the leading subject of conversation for weeks and while the excitement was at its height, the wildest rumors were freely circulated with reference to the thieves' organization, the desperate characters of the gang. It was claimed to be the determination of the horse thieves to steal all the horses in the neighborhood worth stealing, and shoot down any person who attempted to interfere. It was strongly urged that Story, Hamilton and Wright counties should unite in offering a reward for the capture of the thieves. Hamilton declined, Wright offered \$150 reward for each of the men. The thieves passed over into Minnesota, where they were pursued so closely that a battle took place and again they escaped, leaving, it was reported, three of the pursuing party

dead on the field. The matter was freely discussed in the newspapers of the state and it was decided by them that Hamilton and Wright counties were dangerous places to travel-through. To show the tenor of the comment, we present here a clipping from the Sioux City Register.

"It is becoming rather dangerous for strangers to travel in the neighborhood of Hamilton or Wright counties, without the proper papers to identify themselves. Two citizens of this county, Dr. Ordway and Able Bacon were over east buying stock a few days ago, and while riding along, thinking there was nothing to molest them or make them afraid, they saw five or six horsemen approaching, riding furiously. When near enough, they halted our astonished citizens with a dangerous display of firearms and informed them that they were hunting for horse thieves and that Ordway and Bacon were the fellows. Imagine their astonishment. They protested their innocence and demanded to see the warrant for their arrest but all of no avail. Bacon was pronounced guilty as an old offender, because he is, unfortunately, a little deaf, which they averred was feigned and a 'trick of the trade.' Our friends were taken back several miles and were lucky enough to be able to prove that they were not the thieves they were taken to be, and were allowed to go on their way rejoicing."

The above shows how thoroughly aroused the people generally were, and how suspicious they were of all strangers.

#### THE CIRCUS COMES TO TOWN

On the second day of August, 1864, Hamilton county saw her first circus. It exhibited at Webster City, and was the then world renowned "Yankee Robison's Big Show." Everybody turned out and everybody was loud in the praise of the performance, notwithstanding the fact that it rained almost all day. Even in the midst of war and horse thieves, a big draft for soldiers impending, the people gave themselves up to one day's enjoyment at a circus.

#### THE SHEEP INDUSTRY

Prior to the fall of 1864, but a few sheep had been brought into the county; but those had done well and as the price of wool was high, it was thought that this was "par excellence" the country for sheep. J. D. Sells brought in about 700 from Ohio, while W. S. Worthington and J. M. Funk, with one or two others, brought in a drove of over 2,000. Everybody began to talk sheep, and everybody was anxious to get some of them. Quite a number of farmers went away with the intention of bringing in new droves. We pass the progress of this industry for the present, but at the proper time will be compelled to note how it died out and give the causes therefor.

#### DRAFTING SOLDIERS

During the summer, a new call of the president of the United States for 500,000 men necessitated a draft in almost all localities of the Union. In Hamilton county special pains had been taken to prevent the necessity of a draft by the

offering of a bounty of \$200. This bounty was supplemented in some of the townships by an additional bounty of \$200 raised by private subscription, which with \$100 offered by the general government brought the bounty up to \$500. The draft was escaped in some of the townships but was enforced in others. It was to have been made on the 5th day of September, and had it taken place then, every township in the county but Fremont would have been on the list. But it did not take place until about the 28th of the month and the result of the draft by the townships was as follows:

Ellsworth—Christian Peterson, John Smith, Henry Staley, F. A. McClelland.

Cass—Ulis Briggs, Henry P. Corbin, Harrison Averell, John P. Downing.

Scott—Barney Charleson, Andrew Christianson, Ole H. Johnson, Ira Stephens.

Hamilton—Isaac Hanley J. N. Maxwell, John McFarland, Jacob Ohmstead, R. R. Royster, Addison Woodard.

Webster—Wm. H. Banks, Thos. J. Rinwell, E. B. N. Strong, M. R. J. Coffey, Wm. K. Rush, Milton Fisher.

Marion—James Brundage, Reuben Neese, Francis Neese, J. F. Hook.

In a draft for Webster township, when the first draw was made, two names were drawn sticking together. The names were Isaiah Doane and E. B. N. Strong. These names were laid aside and when the draft for that township was otherwise concluded, the names were all taken out and these two again placed in the wheel and a draw made which fell upon Mr. Strong. The incident shows how near the county judge came to going to war. Judge Doane got the news that he had been drafted and immediately made arrangements to go, but the next day found that by one chance in two he had escaped.

Prior to the draft, Hon. S. B. Rosencrans had been appointed by the governor as draft commissioner. He employed Dr. Phimeas Sage, a resident physician, as examiner and opened an office. To this office came all persons whose names had been listed as subject to draft, and who claimed exemption on account of disability, and the scenes enacted here filled the whole space between the sublime and the ridiculous—the piteous and pugnacious.

One great strapping fellow, who looked like he could fell a bull with a blow of his fist, claimed exemption because when a boy he fell on a stone and cut a hole in his scalp, leaving a scar. He wanted to get off on account of the scar.

Tom Striker, then quite a notorious character on account of his pugilistic proclivities, claimed exemption on account of a gun shot wound in the nose. The claim was allowed and before he left the office he swore he could whip any man in the county.

Men, who were never before suspected of being unsound, suddenly developed most startling physical debilities, so much so that there were people who hinted that the fright taken at the thought of going to war suddenly developed active complaints that had lain dormant for years and most probably would never have been heard of but for the draft. Another curious fact has been noticed. When the war was over, many who complained of such utter debility, suddenly got well (in the joy of the occasion) and were never again attacked with the old troublesome complaints.

## STATE MILITIA

Under a law to raise a state militia, Hamilton county was to supply three companies. The first company was raised about the 20th of August, in the southern part of the county. Wm. M. Neeley was elected captain; Smith, first lieutenant, and David Carroll, second lieutenant. The second company was raised at Webster City and Major Geo. W. Crosley, formerly of the Third Infantry, was chosen captain; W. L. Church, first lieutenant; L. L. Estes, second lieutenant.

The election for 1864 resulted as follows: Clerk, M. Sweeney; recorder, I. Doane; sheriff, Humphrey Hillock; superintendent of schools, O. A. Holmes; drainage commissioner, Wm. H. Adams, all elected by the Union party.

Following the horse thief excitement in May as related above, a team of horses was stolen from Huitt Ross of Marion township, on the 18th of October. Another team was stolen from Wm. Spicer, of Webster township, and excitement was again aroused.

## THE FIRST TEACHERS' INSTITUTE

On the 17th of October, 1868, a teachers' institute was held at Webster City for one week. It was conducted by Prof. J. L. Enos of Cedar Rapids and from the best information we can get it was the first real institute ever held in the county and at the time was regarded as a very important affair. There was no roll of teachers published or preserved, but we have been able to secure the following partial list. John W. Lee, superintendent; H. M. Cass, I. N. Averell, Miss Belle Williams, Adam Kepler, Viola Kellogg, Sarah Craft, Laura A. Cooper, W. J. Covil, John W. Funk and Miss Ella E. Elder.

## SOLDIERS AS GUESTS

On November 8th, a detachment of 221 soldiers under command of Capt. McCarthy, of the Sixth Iowa Cavalry, passed through this county and camped near the east bridge in Webster City, where they were visited by almost everyone in the community. It was very interesting to civilians to witness the routine of a real camp of soldiers. This detachment was a part of an expedition of General Sully, who, with his staff, passed through the county about a week later.

## THE FIRST CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

During the month of November, 1864, the first cemetery association in the county was organized at Webster City. Sumler Willson was made president and Rev. O. A. Holmes, secretary. The cemetery was located north of town on land owned by Mr. Willson, on a bluff north of the north bridge.

## A DRAFT AVOIDED

On the 18th of December, 1864, a call for 300,000 men by the president made another draft imminent and the board of supervisors at the January session of '65 offered \$500 county bounty to volunteers. Local subscriptions were freely made



SENECA STREET, WEBSTER CITY

Showing the "Old Town" practically as it was forty years ago



and several recruits went out from the county while some re-enlistments were accredited to it. The draft was avoided and of the amounts subscribed to encourage enlistments, 64 per cent was returned to the subscribers.

In March, 1865, County Treasurer J. M. Bell resigned and a special meeting of the board was called to elect his successor and for other purposes. The board met on the 27th day of March, accepted the resignation of Treasurer Bell to take effect June 1st, and elected Major J. M. Jones as his successor. They also created the township of Rose Grove by dividing Boone township, cutting off all that part of it lying east of sections 5 and 32 and intervening sections in township 88, range 24, to county line.

Early in January about 500 head of government stock was brought to Webster City for wintering and to these were added considerable numbers from time to time until by April several hundred head were being fed here and forty soldiers were detached from several companies stationed at Sioux City.

#### THE ASSASSINATION OF LINCOLN

On April 9th, the surrender of General Lee put an end to the rebellion but the news did not reach here for some days and the people, wild with delight, were in the very midst of their jollification when the news flashed over the country of the assassination of President Lincoln, and the attempted assassination of several other officials of the government. It is impossible to describe the state of feeling which this news created. All who witnessed and felt it will ever remember it with feelings of such poignant sorrow as to still bring tears to the eyes. The governor issued a proclamation requesting the people of the state to meet in their respective places of worship on the 27th of April, for humiliation and prayer, and that all travel and business within the state be suspended for that day. The day was generally observed throughout the country. At Homer, a very large meeting was held and was addressed by Rev. Holmes and Rev. Hawks, and at Webster City a similar meeting was addressed by Rev. Hestwood and Rev. Harvey.

#### A TRAGEDY AMONG THE SOLDIERS

On the 19th day of April, 1865, a difficulty arose between two of the soldiers stationed here resulting in a fight with revolvers in which three men lost their lives. The Freeman of the 22nd, gives the following account of it:

FATAL AFFRAY.—On Wednesday, last, a fatal affray took place between two soldiers that were stationed here. It appears that they had been drinking pretty freely, and this is supposed to be the cause of the fight. Q. M. Sergeant, J. W. Anderson, Company A, Sixth Iowa Cavalry and Sergeant Wm. Ostrander, Company E, Sixth Iowa Cavalry, had been having some words during that afternoon, but had been reconciled and locked arms and went to their quarters. Shortly after the report of fire arms was heard in that direction and then word came that three men had been shot. After reaching their quarters it would seem that words had again been commenced between them, resulting in the shooting of the two above named and Private E. M. Jones, Company G, Sixth Cavalry. The first shot fired hit Mr. Jones in the left side, passing through him. After this, shots were exchanged rapidly with their navy revolvers, all taking effect in one or the

other; three balls through one and two through the other, all in their bodies. They then clinched and fell to the floor. Sergeant Ostrander died shortly after sundown with three ball holes through his body. He leaves a family in Fremont county. Sergeant Anderson lingered until nine o'clock, when he also expired. From letters found, it appears he was a married man though he claimed to have been single since joining the regiment. He enlisted in Marshall county, but was not a resident of the state. Mr. Jones lived until about nine o'clock next morning, when he expired. He was from Delaware county and leaves a family. He was trying to prevent the men from shooting each other when he was shot. The sergeants were the best of friends since they have been here and were almost inseparable. Liquor was the cause of this triple death. Where the liquor came from will be seen in another place.

The funeral services were conducted by Rev. O. A. Holmes, his address being heard with marked attention. He dwelt at some length upon the use of alcoholic liquors and used some plain words that it will be well to heed. The bodies were interred in the new cemetery grounds.

#### THE SORGHUM AGE

During the war, while the price of produce had gone up slightly, the price of groceries had advanced to an enormous degree. This county being as yet so far from railroads, supplies had to be brought from Iowa City, Des Moines or Farly by team, while the products of the farm must also be carted to these distant points over almost impassable roads, crossing swollen and unbridged rivers. It is not strange therefore, that the settlers sought to utilize their own production and buy as little as possible. Among the most interesting stories of early times are those related of trips to these distant towns with produce to sell. Two or three stories illustrative of these trips will appear in these columns when the proper time arrives, at present we will only mention some of the means used to dispense with "store supplies" by substituting farm production. Molasses and sugar, with which the settlers sweetened their wild berries and "crab-apple-sass," became so costly that even the crab apple must be abandoned unless cheaper sweetening than store molasses or sugar could be found, and so the settler began to raise cane and make sorghum molasses. The earlier settlers, those who had always been pioneers, somewhere, were from the earliest date raising small patches of cane, but it was not 'till war prices came, that the settlers generally were driven to that necessity. The effort was crowned with such success, however, that very soon every farmer had his cane patch; every neighborhood one or two cane mills, and when the season for making molasses came, there were weeks that the cane mill and the boiling vat would be in operation day and night, and they made, generally, a very good quality of sorghum. We must admit, however, that a great deal of the molasses produced was very dark, strong and unpalatable, but this was caused by the fact that many tried to boil the sap in kettles of all dimensions, shapes and sizes and it was impossible to get rid of much of the "seum" and impurities, and this made the molasses black and strong and liable to ferment. But the broad boiling pans, with their compartments that enabled the sap to evaporate rapidly, gave ample means for thorough skimming and soon brought forth a clear, thick product of

great excellence, and it became a matter of competition among the farmers, as to who should produce the finest sorghum. With this "sweetening," not so very cheap, but plentifully produced, wholly by their own labor, the women folks vied with each other in making many different kinds of jams and butters. Currants, gooseberries, wild plums and crab apples were the staple articles with which to experiment and the number of different kinds of dishes they could and did concoct from these fruits was a wonder as well as a great credit to their ingenuity. Crab apples came and stayed longer than anything else, and with this as a base, it is really wonderful how many kinds of "sass" could be made, all tolerable food, but "crabby" and ready to give away the secret of sweetening at first taste; and when this, put away for winter, got tired of inactivity and "worked," it was quickly taken in hand, dumped into kettles and "done up" again with more sorghum added.

When the writer came to Iowa in 1871, this industry was perhaps at its very greatest height, and we were riding on a load of cane before we had left the train two hours. It seemed to us that the one industry of the county was making sorghum, and if there was anything except meats, they didn't put sorghum into, we used to wonder what it was. This industry began to be general during the war, and grew until every farmer made plenty for his own use and some manufactured it for sale. This industry flourished until refined sugar and fine syrups became cheap, when it gradually died out, the mills rusted down and now, only here and there is sorghum produced at all.

The period from 1864 to 1880 will ever be known as the "sorghum age" of the county. It will not be just to pass this subject without mention of this industry, and as illustrating we note that in 1864 W. W. Boak, from a little over one acre of cane, manufactured two hundred and eighty gallons of sorghum, which was worth at current prices, \$400. This was perhaps more than an ordinary yield, but it indicates what was done, and can be done again in the way of raising cane.



## CHAPTER VIII

### JUST AFTER THE WAR—EVENTS BETWEEN THE CLOSE OF THE WAR AND THE ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST RAILROAD

HOMER REVIVES—B. F. DERR COMMENCES BUSINESS—HOOK'S POINT—THE NEW YORK COLONY—ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD REACHES ACKLEY—MOB LAW—THE POTTER HOUSE—THE DECLINE OF THE SHEEP INDUSTRY—GRACELAND CEMETERY—COUNTY ELECTION IN '65—A COURTHOUSE AT LAST—A BUSINESS DIRECTORY IN 1866—J. D. HUNTER TAKES CHARGE OF THE FREEMAN—A SEVERE WINTER—A WET SPRING—A MARKET REPORT IN 1867—COUNTY ELECTION IN 1867—TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSBURG CREATED—BASEBALL IN THE SIXTIES—THE FIRST BANK IS ESTABLISHED—A GRASSHOPPER SCARE—A PIONEER CAMP MEETING—JUDGE CHASE FOR CONGRESS—A COUNTY FAIR GROUND ESTABLISHED.

*By F. Q. Lee*

#### HOMER REVIVES

In May, 1865, the Chicago & North-Western Railway was finished and running to Boone, making that town the nearest of importance, with railroad facilities. It was very natural that new settlers coming to the county should try to settle as near the railroad as possible, and so the settlements about Homer, Hook's Point and south towards Boone, began to receive an increase in population. This part of the county had been the first to be settled, and in point of numbers and influence, had led all others. But with the removal of the county seat to Fort Dodge, the town of Homer gradually died out and settlements thereabout became less frequent, leaving that country almost at a standstill for years. But now, with its advantage as being the nearest to railroad communication, it again sprang into activity and new settlements began to be made on every hand and new settlers began to improve the land on the prairies away from the timber skirting the Boone river.

#### B. F. DERR COMMENCES BUSINESS

In August, B. F. Derr came to Homer, formed a partnership with Mr. Dickey and opened up the largest stock of dry goods, groceries, etc., to be found in the county. So dead a town was Homer at the time of Mr. Derr's arrival, that he took rooms he found vacant and lived in them some months before he was able to find out to whom they belonged. Mr. Dickey and Dr. Corbin had each been running small general stores, but no means had been taken to boom things,

and everything was allowed to drift along in its own way. With the coming of Mr. Derr, however, a new impetus was given to business. At his suggestion the residents of Homer began to work together to build up the town. The firm of Dickey & Derr, believing then, as Mr. Derr always had believed, in the efficacy of printer's ink, had large hand bills and circulars printed and scattered broadcast throughout the settlements and sent to eastern friends of settlers. These circulars extolled the country, its products and everything connected with the community tributary to Homer and especially urged the advisability of buying goods of Dickey & Derr. Their example was followed to some extent by Dr. Corbin and others. Everywhere you went, these bills and circulars were found, and settlers writing to their friends in the east would enclose them in their letters, and these seeds of enterprise soon began to bear an immense harvest of settlement and trade, so much so, that at the end of the first year it was found that the firm of Dickey & Derr had sold \$30,000 worth of goods and their trade was constantly increasing. Dr. Corbin had also shared in the general prosperity, and at the end of that year Homer had become a lively town so far as business was concerned and was growing in population and importance. When Mr. Derr arrived in Homer, lots were at slow sale at \$10 to \$15 apiece; by the end of the year these same lots were selling rapidly at \$50 to \$75 apiece. Soon the fame of Homer spread, and new lines of business were established. Dr. Warner established a drug store, Mr. Price opened a cabinet shop, Ezra Woodward opened a harness shop, Mr. Bartells and Mr. Trotter opened shoe shops, and it was not long 'till all the trades were represented; all were made welcome and all worked together to build up the town. Tucker & Olmstead had a steam saw-mill one mile west of town and their business grew to such dimensions that, to board their hired help and their families, their store bill amounted to over \$5,000 with the one firm of Dickey & Derr, and they may have purchased considerable of the other stores. A great many settlers came in and in many cases their means were exhausted by the time they had settled, and, as many of them came thus, in the summer and fall, they raised no crops and were compelled to purchase all their supplies "on tick," to be paid out of the next year's crop. To all such, goods were sold without stint and credit given. The great public spirit of the merchants can be realized when it is understood that to do this required large outlays of cash with no positive assurance of ever getting pay. The grain supply of the county had not been sufficient to provide provisions for all, and so corn meal was hauled from Sweed's Point, where it could be procured and where \$1.50 per hundred had to be paid for it. Flour was shipped from Chicago and sold at \$7 a hundred and meat was also shipped from Chicago and had to be sold at \$18 per hundred for side pork, with larger prices for shoulders and hams. Each year renewed, but in decreasing ratio, the conditions above mentioned and each was met in the same manner. Homer had daily mails brought by the stage running through to Fort Dodge and her prosperity continued until 1870, when the railroad was completed to Webster City and Fort Dodge. After this, the decline of the town was as rapid as the growth had been, but the country round about it continued to progress, checked and hindered only by the unfortunate river land difficulties in which many of the settlers were involved, and of which we shall write at length in a future chapter.

## HOOK'S POINT

Hook's Point shared in the general prosperity of that part of the county and soon grew into a smart little village. It had a large steam sawmill, general stores and almost all kinds of business, but unlike Homer, when the railroad crossed the northern part of the county, its prosperity, though checked for a time, was not destroyed, and after a time began to grow again, slowly, and held its own until the North-Western Railroad crossed the south part of the county and Stratford was established. Then most of the people moved to Stratford, and Hook's Point as a town and trading point was wiped out entirely.

In common with the country about Homer and Hook's Point, the whole county began to show activity in the way of new settlements, but not in so marked a degree as near these two towns.

## THE "NEW YORK COLONY"

The return, and settlement in this county, of what was known as the "New York Colony," that had gone to Dakota early in 1864, furnished perhaps the largest body of persons coming in a body to the county, and made up the largest share of the settlers arriving in 1864. In 1865, the settlers came in larger numbers than ever before and new homes were established in all parts of the county. This manner of settlement continued and increased with the years. There was no unusual or spasmodic growth, but a gradual and substantial addition to numbers each year, making the material prosperity permanent and lasting.

## ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD REACHES ACKLEY

By the month of October, 1865, the Dubuque and Iowa Falls Railroad had reached Ackley and railroad facilities, compared with what they had been, were regarded as very good, and the prospects for an extension of the road westward through this county at an early day tended largely to induce emigrants to stop here where lands were cheap, and where, with the arrival of the railroad, they would probably largely advance in price. Indeed, the people hereabout, were exceedingly proud of the fact that the road had reached a point so near as Ackley and boasted of the convenience, for with daily stages from Ackley and a railroad beyond, an order for small articles of goods could be sent to Chicago and be returned within three days if no delays or accidents occurred.

## MOB LAW

During the summer of 1865, considerable excitement was caused in the county by what was termed a case of "mob law." On the night of July 1, a number of masked and otherwise disguised men, went to the cabin of a settler named Joseph Dunbar, in Cass township. They took him out of bed, dragged him to the timber near by, where they stripped and soundly flogged him. Mrs. Dunbar and a daughter, a bright young woman, interfered to protect the husband and father, and they also received some rather rough treatment.

The cause of the trouble seems to have been that a large number of Dunbar's

cattle and horses were frequently found in the grain fields of his neighbors where they had gone during the night. The neighbors urged him to take care of his stock during the night time as they all did, but he seems to have paid no attention to these requests and it was even charged that he threw down fences and turned the cattle into the grain fields himself. The neighbors, therefore, used pretty rough measures in expelling his stock from their fields when they found them trespassing, and hard feelings were engendered.

Then followed a series of outrages to stock of the neighborhood such as hamstringing horses, maiming and wounding cows with a knife or other sharp weapon. These depredations were charged to Dunbar. He was frequently seen prowling about at all hours of the night by one and another of the neighbors. But he was never caught doing this mischief and no evidence could be produced against him to sustain a criminal prosecution. Still the damage to stock continued and as these depredations were confined to parties having trouble with Dunbar, the neighborhood generally believed he was the guilty party and a few of them, just who they were was never certainly known, determined to take the law into their own hands and put a stop to it if possible, and it is a notable fact that no more outrages to stock were committed in the neighborhood after the "mob" had done its work. Dunbar was a man of great irritability of temper and when angered was utterly unreasonable, vindictive and revengeful. When difficulties were once started he made himself so obnoxious that he was thoroughly hated by some of his neighbors and shunned by nearly all.

The Dunbar family claimed to recognize a number of the mob and a half dozen arrests were made. The men arrested were regarded then, and such of them as live in the county now, as among the most peaceable, respectable and well disposed men in the county. One of them has since served in a most important county office for four years and was elected by the party vastly in the minority, which emphasizes the high opinion in which he was held. Whether he was in the mob or not, it is certain the people either did not believe he was, or did not care. Viewing the character of the men arrested and their conduct towards others then and since then, if they really were of the mob, the aggravation must have been enormous to lead them to take such means to rid themselves of the annoyance. No one was ever convicted of participation in the offense, though suits and countersuits dragged along in the courts for some years. It is said upon good authority that when the grand jury found a bill of indictment against one of the alleged mob and he was notified of it, he brought down a number of watermelons and rolled them into the jury room and told the jury to go for them. The same grand jury indicted Dunbar and he also brought watermelons and treated the jury. One of the jury after regaling himself to satiety on the melons, facetiously remarked: "If there's anybody else who has good watermelons and wants an opportunity to treat this jury, let him send in his name and we'll accommodate him with an indictment."

Mr. Dunbar was at one time fairly well to do, but his difficulties with his neighbors and his propensity for law nearly broke him up. His children are still residents of the county and are among the most respectable and well disposed of our citizens.

It is curious to note with what complacency the people of every town and

country regard themselves and their achievements. This was true of Hamilton county in general and Webster City in particular. This was illustrated in many ways, and especially in the case of the schools of that town, which the people were wont to consider "the best in the state" and for size were regarded as simply immense.

There was a "high school" and two lower rooms and there was talk of building an additional house for the accommodation of those pupils living across the river in the east part of town. The enumeration made in 1865 showed children of school age to the number of two hundred.

#### "THE POTTER HOUSE"

In September, 1865, A. M. Potter came to Webster City and opened a hotel in what was then known as "The Church House," at the northeast corner of Bank and Union streets and changed the name to "The Potter House." He afterwards moved the building to Second street between Seneca and Willson avenue and added a brick front and it continued to be the Potter House until after his death.

#### THE DECLINE OF THE SHEEP INDUSTRY

In a former chapter mention was made of the sheep industry. This industry grew until there were many thousand sheep in the county. Nearly every farmer had a flock of from fifty to one hundred, and though they were worth from \$4 to \$10 a head, nearly every one who could get the money or credit had "went into sheep." But before the industry was two years old the sheep began to die. This was in the fall of 1865. All manner of stories were afloat as to the cause of the loss. But speculation upon the cause and all the doctoring they could do did not stop the death rate, and in less than four years there were almost as few sheep in the county as when the craze began. The industry, like the Roman Empire, had "rose and fell." It was thought after it was all over that the inclement winters, the length of time between green grass in fall and spring (for there was not tame hay here then), and insufficiency of shelter, combined to break down the constitution of the animals, while the wet prairie upon which they grazed in summer gave them foot rot. The industry was therefore practically abandoned as an unprofitable, if not an impossible, business to keep up. Of course such a disastrous ending to the business made future ventures in that direction almost out of the question, but in later years the cultivation and drainage of the lands, the introduction everywhere of tame grasses, the planting of groves to break the bleakness of the prairies, has changed conditions and the business has in later years been resumed in a limited degree, and now gives promise of becoming an important element in the future of the county.

#### GRACELAND CEMETERY

In a former chapter mention was made of a new cemetery, situated on the bluff just north of the north bridge.

To this location there were serious objections, the principal one being the

difficulty of reaching it in case of high water, for a grade had not yet been built across the long stretch of low ground on the south side leading to the bridge. The road across this low ground was not good even at its best, and in high water it overflowed. The great expense of putting it in shape for use at all times could not be incurred at that time. Indeed, many declared that the grade never could be made and maintained. So when an attempt was made to improve the cemetery and to meet the expense of it, a public sale of lots was advertised, there were no bidders and it was decided to abandon that location. A few burials had been made there and among them, the three soldiers killed in Webster City as related herein. Prior to its establishment, burials had been made on the river bluff northwest of town and a large number had been buried there. With the abandonment of the enterprise of establishing a cemetery on the north hill, it was determined to seek a new location and the location of the present Graceland cemetery was agreed upon and laid out in lots.

Sumler Willson was president, and Isaiah Doane secretary and treasurer of the association that selected these grounds. To the new location, which was established November, 1865, removals were made from the other grounds.

Since the establishment of the new cemetery and within the past few years, the ladies of Webster City have organized a cemetery association and taken entire charge and control of it. The grounds have been greatly enlarged and improved. The new part has been artistically laid out according to plans drawn and furnished by N. P. Hyatt, Esq., a young attorney of this city, and every year new and attractive improvements are being made. Closs Brandrup is employed as sexton and spends all his time in caring for the grounds. A large number of very fine monuments have been erected and now the cemetery established in 1865 is among the finest in the state.

#### COUNTY ELECTION OF 1865

The October election in 1865 passed by with little excitement so far as local affairs were concerned and resulted in the election of County Judge, Isaiah Doane; Treasurer, Hiram H. Bennett; Sheriff, H. C. Hillock; Superintendent of Schools, Rev. O. A. Holmes; Drainage Commissioner, D. Carroll; Surveyor, James Faught; Coroner, Richard Sackett.

The board of supervisors were as follows: Cass, J. W. Lee; Rose Grove, S. L. Rose; Marion, W. Neese; Fremont, George C. Cole; Ellsworth, J. M. Foster; Boone, Sumler Willson; Hamilton, W. M. Neely; Scott, Lars Henderson; Webster, D. Carroll; Lyon, E. Lakin. When this new board organized in January, 1866, S. L. Rose was elected chairman. This board seems to have had a large amount of business before it, judging from the printed "proceedings," and it was a board that when it determined to do anything, it went right about it, and it was done. It determined to build a courthouse, and advertised for bids.

#### A COURTHOUSE AT LAST

In May, it accepted the bid of Turner, Dalby and Baxter and entered into a contract with them for the erection of a house 28x50 ft., two stories. Two



HAMILTON COUNTY'S FIRST COURTHOUSE

Now used as a residence by J. K. Kearns



county offices were arranged for on the first floor and the second floor was furnished up for a court room. The contract price was \$1,934.00 and the building was completed and ready for occupancy October 1 of that year. It was located on the old public square at the southeast corner of Seneca and Bank streets. The court room was entered by an outside stairway and in it court was held for a number of years. It was in this room that the famous Ross murder trial took place. This building is now located on East Bank street and is the residence of J. V. Kearns.

The board did a great deal of business during the year, but nothing of special note except the building of the courthouse, which it must be remembered was only intended as a temporary structure, to last until the county was able to build a costly and permanent one. The people of the county were so well pleased with this board that all its members were returned for the next year except the member from Webster, who was succeeded by Dr. H. Corbin.

#### A BUSINESS DIRECTORY IN 1866

Perhaps nothing could give a better idea of the extent of growth of the county than to give a business directory of Webster City, the principal town of the county, of date February 24, 1866, and to state that the census report made in 1865 showed 2,023 inhabitants in the county, and this is all the more important for consideration as the time is about the beginning of a more active, if not more permanent growth of the county in population and importance.

To further show the rate of growth, the reports of statistics to January 1, 1867, showed a population in the county of 3,151. The number of dwelling houses, 546, an increase of nearly two hundred during the year of 1866.

#### BUSINESS DIRECTORY OF WEBSTER CITY

MERCHANTS—John Rhodes, drugs, dry-goods, groceries, boots and shoes; G. W. Crosley, dry-goods, groceries, boots and shoes; L. L. Estes, drugs, groceries and postoffice; K. Young, dry-goods and groceries, boots and shoes; L. L. Treat, dry-goods, groceries, boots and shoes; Fairchild & Hoffman, general hardware; W. W. Wells, gent's furnishing goods and tailoring; J. S. Bell, groceries; G. W. Bailey, groceries.

FURNITURE—Cox and Sketchley, J. S. Kenyon.

HARNESS SHOP—W. H. Mayhew, W. Young.

BLACKSMITHS—Howell & Cleckner, W. C. Howard, J. Fisher.

WAGON SHOP—E. Sackett.

SHOE SHOP—A. Beauchaine, David Smith, D. Hartman, J. W. Holiday.

LIVERY STABLE—Chas. Arthur.

LAWYERS—D. D. Chase, district judge; W. J. Covil, Miracle & Sutton, J. Skinner.

BILLIARD, SALOON—Browning & Worthington.

PHYSICIANS—H. E. Hendryx, J. R. Burgess, H. N. Crapper, I. Soule.

MILLINERY—Miss D. Swanger, Miss M. E. Bell.

AUCTIONEER—W. L. Church.

MILLS—Saw, Chas. Stoddard; grist, S. Aldrich.

COOPER SHOP—James Gayer.

PHOTOGRAPHER—S. Moore.

AGRICULTURAL WAREHOUSE—O. E. Stevens.

MEAT MARKET—H. C. Hillock.

This directory is taken from the Freeman of February 24, 1866. As a further basis of comparison, a market report is desirable, but none was printed, and the memory of man is too treacherous to rely upon.

#### THE FIRST CHURCH BUILDING

Up to the spring of 1866, while there were several church societies in the county, as yet no church building had been erected. In the country services were held in the cabins of the settlers or in the school houses, and in town in buildings hired for the purpose. In Webster City the Baptists held services in the town hall, and the Methodists and Congregationalists used a building located just east of the present Baptist church until the completion of the new courthouse, when they used the court hall. A move was put on foot in 1865 to build a new Methodist church in Webster City, and in March, 1866, the contract to build a brick church was let to Turner, Dalby and Baxter for \$2,500. The walls were built and roof put on, and in this unfinished condition, without seats, a grand Christmas service was held in it December 25, 1866. The next spring the building was completed and regular services were held there, but owing to the inability of the society to pledge the means to clear the building of debt, it was not formally dedicated until about two years later.

The building was located on the northeast corner of what is now the public school grounds, and was removed in 1886, the material being used in the construction of a new Methodist Episcopal church on the corner opposite the present court house. It was the first church built in the county and though the contract was let for \$2,500, the building cost about \$4,000 when completed.

#### J. D. HUNTER TAKES CHARGE OF THE FREEMAN

On the 7th of December, 1866, John D. Hunter published his first issue of the Freeman. Up to this time, since his return from the army in 1864, Mr. V. A. Ballou had published the paper and had given the county a very able and newsy journal, but desiring to return to college and complete his education, he retired from journalism and returned to school.

Mr. Hunter in his "word at the start" declared his intention to make the paper "radically republican," and that he has done so will scarcely be denied. He had had considerable journalistic experience and had good ability as a writer and especially as a localizer, and the Freeman continued to take rank as a first class county paper. Not only that, but it grew better as its editor became better acquainted with Hamilton county and its men and affairs. He continued to be a resident of the county, and with the exception of one year, was editor of the Freeman to within a few years of the time of his death. His services in behalf of the county can never be fully told. From the time of his arrival until his death he exerted through the Freeman a powerful influence for good.

A SEVERE WINTER

The winter of 1866-7 was one of unusual length and severity, snow falling early and remaining until late in the spring, so that there were one hundred and four days of sleighing without a break. It appears that the hardest part of the winter was in March, when a snow storm of unprecedented severity swept over the whole northwest from which a number of people lost their lives by being frozen, though happily no Hamilton county citizens were among them. A Mr. Hand, a stage driver well known here, was lost on the prairie for four days, but escaped with the loss of his toes. One of the horses froze to death where he unhitched and abandoned it. A Wright county man perished while on his way home from a neighbor's house, but a couple of miles distant and was not found for four days; John W. Lee, attempting to go to Hickory Grove in Hancock county from his home five miles north of Webster City, was caught in the storm and remained out on the prairie all night, and his escape from freezing was almost miraculous.

The snow did not go off until April, when as a result of warm weather and rains, the whole face of the country resembled a huge lake.

A WET SPRING

The streams and rivers were swollen to a higher stage than had ever been known before, and much damage was done while travel was almost completely stopped. Railroad bridges were washed out and travel over ordinary wagon roads were scarcely thought of for some days. None of the wagon bridges in this county were taken out, but the water overflowed the approach-ways so that for days they could not be reached. An incident of the "flood" is related of Jay Sternberg. He attempted to take a man across the river in a boat; the boat struck a snag and capsized. The man was a swimmer and safely reached the shore, but Jay had not learned that fishy art and had to seek other means of safety. He managed to reach a tree and like Zaccheus of old, climbed into it, where he had to stay until help took him off. He was very fortunate in not being drowned and had an opportunity to find out just how it looks "to a man up a tree."

During this winter, in January, a deer was killed between Harris' mill and White Fox. It had been started near the source of the Boone and followed south until when near the mill its pursuers came near enough to get a shot at it and wounded it badly. It eluded pursuit for a time, but next day was run down and captured. It was next to the last deer captured in the county, though not the last seen, as the writer saw two of them as late as the spring of 1877, north of Webster City.

A MARKET REPORT IN 1867

Early in 1867 the Freeman began to print a Webster City market report and we choose the date of May 1st as a fair average of prices for the year, and give it in full:

WEBSTER CITY MARKET

Wheat No. 1 per bu.....	\$2.25
Wheat No. 2 per bu.....	2.00

Oats per bu.....		.75
Corn per bu.....	\$1.00 to	1.25
Potatoes per bu.....	1.25 to	2.00
Flour per cwt.....		7.00
Pork per cwt.....	7.00 to	8.00
Hay per ton.....	5.00 to	6.00

The reason for these high prices is found in two facts: Prices were generally high, and a constantly increasing population depended entirely upon purchasing supplies, until such times as they could raise crops. More was required than was produced, and the shortage had to be shipped from the east. This enabled the farmer to sell at high figures. These prices held good all over the county.

In May, 1866, came A. Ramharter, and in May, 1867, his brewery was in full running order and it continued to run and had grown to considerable proportions when the prohibitory law of 1884 closed it up and Mr. Ramharter left the state.

In June, 1867, "Uncle" John Bonner purchased or leased the "Willson House" and changed the name to the "American House." The name was afterward changed to the "Hamilton House," and still later was known as "Park Hotel."

#### A DISASTROUS FIRE

On July 9, 1867, the Ten Eyke steam saw and grist mill at Hook's Point burned to the ground. This mill had been doing quite a business as a saw mill and had a lath mill and planing machine attached as well as burrs for grinding grists. It had also a machine used in making cheese boxes. All, including about thirty thousand feet of lumber, was destroyed. The loss footed up several thousand dollars. Immediate steps were taken to rebuild and by the following April, 1868, it was again in running order. Its career of usefulness did not last many years, however, and now scarcely a trace of it is to be seen.

#### COUNTY ELECTION IN '67

At the election in the fall of 1867 the following officers were elected: Judge, I. Doane; Treasurer, John Eckstein; Sheriff, John McMiller; Superintendent of Schools, W. J. Covil; Surveyor, W. T. Wright; Drainage Commissioner, Huitt Ross; Coroner, Dr. J. R. Burgess. There was no contest over any of the offices except sheriff. For that office Fred A. Harris had secured the regular republican nomination and Mr. McMiller, who was also a candidate before the convention thinking he had not been fairly beaten, ran independently and was elected by a small majority. John D. Hunter was elected to the legislature and on going to Des Moines on the first day of January to take his seat, he left the Freeman in charge of Judge S. L. Rose as editor and Will F. Smith was made foreman and business manager.

#### TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSBURG CREATED

At the September session of the board of supervisors, the township of Blairsburg was created and the record of its creation shows it to have been made up of certain sections and half sections cut off from Cass, Boone and Rose Grove town-

ships, and to have been made up mostly of territory lying east of the present townships of Blairsburg and Liberty. Only two half sections of the present township of Blairsburg were then in the township so named. The present town of Williams is very near the geographical center of Blairsburg township as first organized. A. P. Allen was its first member of the board while the other members of the board, all of whom were new members except three, were as follows: Boone, J. R. Burgess; Ellsworth, J. A. Cooper; Lyon, William Tatham; Fremont, A. McLaughlin; Marion, Joseph Bone; Cass, J. W. Lee; Rose Grove, S. L. Rose; Scott, Lars Henryson; Webster, B. E. Boynton. Judge Rose, as usual, was made chairman of this board.

#### BASE BALL IN THE SIXTIES

It was about this time that Hamilton county, like the whole country, was struck by what might be termed the "base ball craze." It was then a new game, and clubs were formed in different parts of the county. Crowds went out to witness the game, and old and middle-aged men seeing it, were reminded of how they used to play "town ball," and took a hand. A report of what was denominated "a hotly contested game of base ball" is given in one of the local papers of the day, in which the score is put down at 105 to 62. But then with the rules of that day and a "five" ball, the surprising number of runs may well be excused. The "craze" has never died out, and probably never will.

#### THE FIRST BANK ESTABLISHED

In December, 1867, B. F. Miller arrived in Webster City and immediately opened the "Bank of Webster City" and he is entitled to be listed as the first banker and his, the first bank in the county. During the year he was joined in business by Jay Sternberg and the business enlarged, a building put up, and a new fire and burglar proof safe was procured.

#### A GRASSHOPPER SCARE

The last of September, 1867, witnessed quite a scare throughout the county. Stories had been circulated about the ravages of grasshoppers in Dakota, and other western localities, and so when suddenly the very sun was obscured by clouds of these festive "hoppers," that alighted and swept everything green before them, and then proceeded to bore the earth full of holes and plant therein their eggs, the people became truly frightened. True, the grasshoppers did little damage, for the corn was generally too well matured to be injured by them, and little was left for them but turnips and cabbages. But these afforded the "hoppers" an opportunity to show up "a sample" of how they could clean up a crop of green, and the farmer trembled when he thought of what might happen in the spring when that mat of "hopper eggs" should hatch, and be turned loose upon the spring crops. His fears were not wholly unfounded, for when spring came, the "hoppers" hatched out and went to work on the young crops. They appeared to be re-enforced by others from the southwest, and for a while it seemed certain that the whole crop must go. But suddenly they arose and left in the early part of July,

having damaged the crops on an average of about one-half. Some fields were scarcely touched, while others were totally destroyed. The greatest amount of damage was done to the oats crop—many fields being not worth the harvesting. This was quite a calamity to the new settler, who generally had little to fall back upon, and some left the county, while no doubt emigration was slightly checked by the reports of the disaster.

#### A PIONEER CAMP MEETING

In July, 1868, was held the first camp-meeting. It was held at Royster's grove, three and a half miles southeast of Homer. Four thousand persons were reported to have been present on Sunday. Between thirty and forty conversions were reported, and thirty-four additions to the church. Everything passed off successfully and quietly.

#### JUDGE CHASE FOR CONGRESS

Up to the summer of 1868 Hon. A. W. Hubbard of Sioux City had represented the sixth district in congress, but by reason of failing health, he was not a candidate for reelection. As a consequence, G. W. Couch, C. F. Clarkson, Charles Pomeroy, D. D. Chase and John Scott entered the race for the nomination. Judge Chase of Hamilton county had achieved considerable distinction and popularity while district attorney and district judge and went into the convention with more strength than any two candidates. Unfortunately for his chances for success, however, political differences had risen between him and Col. Chas. A. Clark, and Colonel Clark opposed his nomination. He was able, fearless and untiring in his opposition and went to the convention to defeat Judge Chase if possible, though not a delegate. Chase, as the strongest and leading candidate, was unable to make any combinations, while the weaker candidates could and did combine and after two days in convention and seventy-seven ballots, one Charles Pomeroy received the nomination. Pomeroy was a weak man who had nothing to recommend him except his ability to make a speech, and his record as a congressman showed the weakness of a political choice that is determined by political dickering. Judge Chase would have made an able representative in congress, but the animosities engendered in the contest for the nomination were kept alive and though he was often mentioned in connection with that position, the political avenger was always alert, and following Pomeroy, came Jackson Orr and Addison Olliver, and the continuation of such weak men in office provoked Ben Butler to remark, "It was a pity the big northwest district of Iowa could not be represented in congress."

#### A COUNTY "FAIR GROUND" ESTABLISHED

In the fall of 1867 the people of the county began to agitate the question of organizing a county agricultural society, and the project meeting general approval. a meeting was called to take steps toward effecting an organization. The meeting convened at the courthouse and elected temporary officers, appointed committees to draft by-laws and rules, etc. T. A. Conklin was chairman of that organiza-

tion. Several meetings were held during the winter, and early in the spring, everything was in readiness for a permanent organization. This was effected by the election of Judge S. L. Rose, president, and R. E. Fairchild, secretary. The committee appointed for the purpose selected the grounds south of Rosencrans' park; they were purchased at \$60 per acre, and the society borrowed \$500 of the county with which to make the cash payment therefor. The grounds were cleared up, fenced and a race track one-third of a mile in length made, and the first fair held on the grounds began September 30, 1868, and was to last two days. On account of rain the first day, the time was extended to three days. The fair was regarded as a success and annual fairs were held there for about twelve years. But the society was never able to pay the county the money borrowed and at last the grounds were turned over to the county. The old society is now extinct. The grounds they improved now form one of the finest parks in the state and when public meetings are held there, it is interesting to hear the pioneers of the county recall the many happy incidents of early life connected with, and brought to memory, by a visit to these grounds. But the rumbling of the iron horse is heard in the distance and we must turn to an investigation of the history of its coming and attending incidents.



## CHAPTER IX

### THE FIRST RAILROAD—THE ARRIVAL OF THE "IRON HORSE" AND ATTENDING EVENTS

THE RAILROAD IS COMING—THE LOCATION OF A DEPOT—THE RAILROAD ARRIVES—A TOUGH CROWD—A DRUNKEN RIOT—A JAIL NEEDED—THE FIRST BRICK RESIDENCE—THE FIRST BRICK BUSINESS HOUSE—THE COMMERCIAL BLOCK—SOME NEW MILLS—JUDGE ROSE—WILLSON TOWN—A FREE RIDE TO FORT DODGE—THE MURDER OF JOHN ROSS—OTHER TRAGEDIES—THE SWAMP FUND—MORE NEW BRIDGES—ELECTION OF 1869—COUNTY STATISTICS—THE THIRD CHURCH—A PIONEER PARSON—THE SECOND BANK ORGANIZED—THE FIRST GRAIN ELEVATOR—NEW BUILDINGS—THE NEW SUPERVISOR SYSTEM—A CONTEST FOR REPRESENTATIVE—A CONTEST FOR SHERIFF—STARTING THE "INDEX"—THE LIQUOR INTERESTS WIN—A SAD STORY—PROSPECTS OF ANOTHER RAILROAD.

*By F. Q. Lee*

#### THE RAILROAD IS COMING

As stated in a former chapter, the Dubuque and Sioux City Railroad reached Ackley in the fall of 1865, and continued to move westward until in the spring of 1866 it reached Iowa Falls where work was suspended and the prospect for an early extension of the road to the west, while it was earnestly hoped for, seemed far in the future. It was not until the fall of 1867 that the people began to again have assurances of an early extension of the road. Their prospects were based upon the report that the Illinois Central Company had leased the line and would undertake the building of it, westward. The report so enthused the people along the line that public meetings were called and everything promised that was likely to encourage the building of the road. It was soon found that the Illinois Central had leased the road as far as built but did not intend to build it farther, and as the old Dubuque and Sioux City Railroad did not show signs of activity, and had not built forward fast enough to entitle it to the land granted to it by the state, a new company named Iowa Falls and Sioux City Company was organized for the purpose of building the line westward and securing the land. John I. Blair was the leader of this organization. The organization of this company and its immediate attempts to procure sufficient influence in the next legislature to secure the land grant caused the old Dubuque and Sioux City Company to begin work on the line in the late fall and winter of 1867 and to attempt to secure a renewal of the grant to it. What was termed a final survey was therefore made in the fall and winter of 1867-8, the depot grounds were laid out and some grading was

done. The legislature granted the land to the company that built within a certain time, but reserved to the state the right to fix the passenger and freight rates, to be charged by the company accepting the grant. When the legislature adjourned work upon the line substantially stopped. Efforts were at once put forth to have an extra session of the legislature called to repeal the obnoxious rate clause in the law. During the summer the Iowa Falls and Sioux City Company succeeded in buying out the Dubuque and Sioux City Company and, though urging an extra session of the legislature, believed that the obnoxious clause would be repealed by the next legislature, if no extra session was called. They began to push the work with considerable zeal and asked the people along the line to vote a five per cent tax to assist them in the construction of the road. A good many meetings were held in Webster City and railroad talk was the principal theme on all sides. In January, 1868, W. C. Willson returned from Chicago and became one of the most zealous and untiring workers for the extension of the road. He went to Chicago in 1862, when the prospects for a road seemed dead, intending to return when a road was secured. The road had been surveyed through the town prior to his going away and considerable controversy had been had over the site for the depot. Willson wanted it located on "the Brewer farm," a short distance west of its present location, while others desired it at the head of Seneca street. The whole matter had died out, however, and now upon his return there was little controversy at first about the location, and it seemed settled that it would be at the head of Seneca street. So there was a pretty general agreement among the people in their work for a road. In August, 1868, a vote was had upon the question of a five per cent tax to aid the road and it carried by a vote of 148 for, and 29 against. The 20 must have made considerable noise, however, for a great deal of rejoicing resulted from the outcome. Bonfires were burned and "The Rattlers" under the leadership of W. L. Church, with a martial band, serenaded some of the principal citizens and generally "painted the town red."

#### THE LOCATION OF A DEPOT

The work of building was now going on all along the line from Iowa Falls, and it was confidently believed that the road would be completed by January, and the cars running into town. Again the question of the location of the depot became all absorbing. The town was then substantially all on Seneca and Bank streets and the general preference of the citizens was for the depot to be situated on the north end of Seneca street. But the company found objections to that location on the ground of its nearness to the river and preferred a location farther west, which also suited the Willsons and Funk, for they had a large number of town lots that would be increased in value by the location westward.

The depot was located adjoining Des Moines street.

Whether the Willsons or Funk were responsible for the location of the depot or not, they were charged with the responsibility by the residents of Seneca street and considerable bad blood was stirred up, and matters grew worse and worse until in the early spring of 1869, the Willsons left Seneca street and began the erection of a hotel on the site of the present "Willson House," and started to build up what was then familiarly known as "Willson Town."

## THE RAILROAD ARRIVES

These contentions, however, did not retard the progress of the road, and, though it came with less rapidity than was expected, it came at last, and on the 6th of April, 1869, the "Iron Horse" crossed the "classic Boone" and came snorting into Webster City. The depot had already been built and so at last Hamilton county had a railroad and Webster City was its terminus for the time being.

## A TOUGH CROWD

The building in of the railroad brought with it a large influx of home seekers and a large number of transients. A good many of the latter class were workers upon the railroad and hard characters in the extreme. One of the hands who worked on the road here went over to Fort Dodge, and got permission of a farmer to ride out into the country with him in his wagon. After riding with the old gentleman until some miles out of town, killed him and took his money. He was captured, however, and in course of time sent to the penitentiary for life.

## A DRUNKEN RIOT

In the latter part of May, 1868, a lot of men employed on the road east of town were paid off and their wages reduced from \$2.00 per day to \$1.50. Most of them quit work and came into town, where they proceeded to get on a "big drunk." There were two gangs of them and as they filled up with whiskey, they became quarrelsome. A prize fight was arranged between the two gangs and each brought out its best man. The ground chosen for the fight was immediately in the rear of the old town hall, between two ricks of cord wood, leaving a space of perhaps over twenty feet. The spectators ranged themselves at the openings at each end, and upon the wood. Seconds and spongers were chosen and the men stripped off their shirts and entered the ring, shook hands to show how friendly they were, as all prize fighters do, and began to pummel each other. In their partially naked condition they several times came in contact with the sharp ends of the cord wood and were punished in that way even more than they punished each other. Quite a number of rounds were fought, when one of the men was declared the winner and the fight was over. But this proved to be only a starter. The sight of the battle had served to stimulate in many of the half drunken men the belief that they were fighters too, and it was but a short time until a general fight began on the streets. Nobody seemed particularly mad at anybody, but just wanted to whip some one, and so the fellow who happened to be nearest got hit, and usually hit back. Several citizens were struck and quickly getting out of the crowd, it was noised over town that a riot was on. The citizens rallied as quickly as possible and led by Sheriff McMiller, charged the rioters and began to arrest. As there was no jail, they put them in a room in the courthouse. Those who were not too drunk, climbed out of the back window and escaped, but some were too drunk to get out and were kept until the arrival of the "boss" from the camp, who bailed them out. The men went back to camp where the carouse was kept up, and during the

night they piled up the picks, shovels and some other tools with which they worked and made a bonfire of them.

#### A JAIL NEEDED

The conduct on the part of the railroad hands caused the town to take immediate steps to prevent the future occurrence of such disgraceful scenes and a meeting was called at which it was determined to build a jail. Bids were advertised for, and by the last of June a jail was built of native lumber. Two by four planks were spiked together after the manner of building an elevator. The jail was located on the southeast corner of the old courthouse square, where it served the purpose of a county jail until the erection of the new courthouse in 1876. It was afterwards located in the rear of the council rooms in Webster City and was used as the city "lock up."

#### THE FIRST BRICK RESIDENCE

The first brick house built in the county was erected on Dubuque street, south of the Universalist church, and is now owned and occupied by Dr. A. A. Kellogg.

#### THE FIRST BRICK BUSINESS HOUSE

The first brick business house was built in 1867, on Seneca street, and was built by John Rhodes and is still known as the Rhodes building.

#### THE COMMERCIAL BLOCK

In 1868 Commercial block was built on the corner of Seneca and Bank streets. There brick buildings made the town assume more of a substantial appearance. The corner building was first finished and occupied by L. L. Estes, as a drug store and postoffice, while the second floor was divided into three offices which are occupied by Hyatt & Pray and D. D. Miracle, attorneys, and Dr. Curtis. The people were justly proud of this new commercial block and the Freeman, in making an editorial mention of it, December 23, 1868, says:

"Taken altogether, this is undoubtedly one of the finest business houses of its size in the whole state and is not only a credit to the enterprise and good taste of its worthy proprietor, but is a substantial ornament to our wide awake town."

It was about this date that R. N. Woodworth came to this county. He associated himself in business with D. D. Miracle, Esq., in the Land Agency business and the firm had the first complete set of Abstracts of Lands in the county. Mr. Woodworth had been engaged in the land business at Montana, Iowa, prior to locating here.

January 1, 1869, Judge Doane was succeeded as recorder by Samuel Baxter and became auditor, the office of county judge having been abolished. A. A. Wicks became clerk of courts in place of Michael Sweeney.

## SOME NEW MILLS

The brick steam flouring mill in the west end of town was built in 1867, by Moore & Selders, and for many years was an important factor in the development of the county. It was burned down some years ago and was never rebuilt.

Prior to 1868 a Mr. King had built a sawmill on the flats east of the market square in Webster City and near the river. In 1869, Mr. B. W. Farmer, of Woodstock, Illinois, purchased the mill and in company with Mr. Richards, put in a planing mill. The mill was run for a year or two there, when it was purchased by Thomas Richards and removed to Batch Grove and after a year or two there, in 1872 was brought back and located at the present site of the Webster City Felt Shoe Company building on West Second street. Richards sold it to E. Mabbitt, who converted it into a grist mill and afterwards sold out to Closz & Biernatzki. The Biernatzki Bros. purchased Closz's interest, and having put in entire new machinery, it became one of the most prosperous mills in the county. It was burned down in June, 1892, and was never rebuilt.

## JUDGE ROSE

In a former chapter, mention was made of the election of Judge Rose to the circuit bench, a new branch of the courts of Iowa created by the legislature. In 1868, Judge Rose had been a member of the board of supervisors for several years, and from the first had been chairman. Notwithstanding his election as judge, he was also elected as supervisor from Rose Grove township and in the organization of the board in 1869, was again elected chairman. It had been reported that, owing to the new duties imposed upon him, the judge was about to resign his seat upon the board, and to prevent this, a resolution passed that body requesting him to retain his membership, which he consented to do. Perhaps few men played a more important part in the official management of the county than Judge Rose. Certainly no one was more influential and no man ever so completely dominated the affairs of a township than Judge Rose did those of Rose Grove township. It is reported that dissatisfaction with his methods and management among the settlers in the north part of the county, such as seemed likely in a short time to result in a change of management, caused the organization of Blairsburg township setting over into the new township the men who were questioning the propriety of the management under Judge Rose. Certain it was, when a petition was prepared by the judge and sent out to be signed by the men of the north part of the township, asking the organization of the new township, no signatures could be obtained and the settlers were therefore not a little surprised when at the next session of the board the new township was created without any of the residents within the limits of it asking for it and while they were all opposed to it. In the light of subsequent developments was attested the charge made by the men of the new township, that things were crooked in Rose Grove, and they had been set off to prevent a discovery of the real situation.

Judge Rose was a man of commanding appearance, well informed, a lawyer of good ability, a ready reasoner who, with the very greatest appearance of wisdom and candor, could present a project which he desired to be adopted

with so much force and plausibility as to carry conviction. No man had half the influence that he had with the board of supervisors, and desiring the adoption of any measure by that body it was only necessary to secure the judge's influence and no further notice was needed. It was sure of adoption. He was not a profound lawyer, but he made a good judge, for while he was not "posted" upon the law, he had a good legal mind and when the lawyers had got through with their "law and precedents," the judge had generally arrived at a correct legal conclusion. There was one off-set, however, to his judgments—he was a strong partisan and had a great, indeed, an almost overmastering desire to assist his friends, and this frequently led him to seek for reasons justifying decisions in accord with his desires. This propensity often led him astray. It was his intentions, no doubt, to be honest, at the outset, but in the end he often sought to advance his own, and the interests of his friends, with the means at his hands, whether he had the right to appropriate them or not. In the management of his farm, he often found need for money. Holding money not then needed for public use, he appropriated it, intending no doubt to return it again by the time it was needed. But his farming operations were on a large and expensive scale and never paid expenses and so he was unable to replace the money. Having purchased lumber to be used in bridging sloughs, he used it, temporarily to make cattle and hog lots and never found it convenient to discontinue that use. As a farmer, he was an enthusiast, and always expected to receive large financial returns, while benefitting the community at the same time by introducing new crops or new methods. Everybody who resided in the county at that time remembers his attempt to revolutionize farming and hog-raising by the introduction of his Jerusalem artichoke. Nearly everybody caught the fever, and the judge actually made some money out of the beginning of the experiment, but the whole scheme flattened out and left him a great loser. Yet, urged on by his temporary success, he invested more largely and lost all he invested in it.

As a man, Judge Rose made friends with all classes and conditions of men. He was unusually polite and accommodating with everybody. He was a conversationalist of rare ability and always affable and friendly with anybody he chanced to meet. There was a charm in his manner that impressed those he met with his honesty and superior ability. He was the most popular man in the county. Had he been possessed with abundant means he would have been all that he pretended, and all that his most ardent admirers thought him to be. But his farming operations failed to be remunerative and the settling up of his township and the abolishment of the township supervisor system, brought his financial distresses to light, both as to private and public affairs. The Rose Grove farm, a magnificent property for the time, was sold at sheriff's sale and the judge returned East, broken in health and ruined in property and credit. The financial complications in which he had involved the township brought on a long train of litigation. Yet with all, we doubt if the judge really had an enemy. While condemning his course, everybody sympathized with him, and when he returned the last time to the county, a few years ago, and but a short time before his death, he was as warmly received, and as sincerely sympathized with by his many old time friends as though he had always been what he no doubt intended to be, and what they at one time thought him to be. With all his faults and

misfortunes he was still loved by even those he had injured. He was a man of wonderful natural and acquired ability and he was respected for these despite all else.

## WILLSON TOWN

As intimated in a former chapter, a good deal of contention had been indulged in about the location of the railroad depot and W. C. Willson was the center upon which most of the blame for its location west of Seneca street rested. The contention caused business and personal animosities which finally culminated in Willson's determination to pull out from the old town and build up again nearer the depot. Accordingly in the early spring of 1869, he, in company with his brother Sumler, laid out and began the erection of a new hotel "over in the swamp," on the present site of "The Willson" and announced a determination to build business blocks and carry on business near the hotel. The project was looked upon generally as wild and visionary, for the grounds about the new hotel site were low and wet and a regular "black swamp" lay between the hotel and the depot. The grounds between Second street and the railroad, and running from Seneca street west to Broadway, was a veritable swamp in which many citizens had been in the habit of shooting ducks. The new move was therefore the subject of considerable mirth on the part of the "old town" folks, and it was generally predicted that the whole scheme would fail and when "Walt" got over his "pet" he would come back to dry ground again "a poorer but a wiser man." But they reckoned without their host. Walt had money and was full of pluck and vim, and when he started out, went through things like a whirlwind and never thought of such a thing as turning back. The hotel was finished and formally opened on July 4, 1869, and so generally were the people of the town opposed to his move that the guests at the opening of the house came mostly from the country and from Fort Dodge. J. M. Funk joined the Willsons in the new move.

New buildings were erected, and to secure business men to occupy them, they were, in the beginning, let free of rent for the first year, while in all cases for a term of years the rental charged was very low. Lots were given to men who would place business houses upon them, and to secure residents, a lot would be given to any person who would buy a lot, which was an inducement to build in the new part of the town, for the regular price of lots was a little lower than in the older part of town, and a lot thrown in brought down the price one-half. This mode of procedure brought business upon Second street and residents to "Willson Town." The business men who came were wide awake and fell into the enthusiasm of building up their end of town. The papers were filled up with large advertisements, and so much stir was made that the business gradually dropped away from the old town and took up permanent quarters in the new, until Second street came up with, and surpassed Seneca street in business importance. It was the contention between these two streets for business supremacy that was designated as the "up town and down town fight." This fight was partially allayed when the postoffice was located on the corner of the two streets and a postoffice building erected, but for many years the old fight continued to break out like an old sore and after a spasmodic eruption lasting a few weeks, again quiet down only to reappear, but always after longer

periods. During the very height of the "fight," with all the advantage in favor of the "down town" faction, the weapon used to best advantage by the "up town" folks and with most effect was printer's ink. They even went so far as to establish a paper to boom their interests. The old town folks advertised in a quiet and ordinary way, but the flaming advertisements of their opponents caught the eye of the people whose trade was wanted and they got the trade. Looking over the whole field of strife, from this secure position, it seems perfectly plain that the "old town" lost the advantage with which they started because they felt too secure in it, and they did not make free enough use of printer's ink. Had they outdone their competitors in that one particular, it is doubtful whether the up town people with all their push and donations could have succeeded.

While the new hotel was being put up in town under personal supervision of Sumner Willson, Walter C., as contractor, was rapidly pushing work on the railroad between Webster City and Fort Dodge. Never was twenty miles of railroad graded, and tied and ironed in better time and better condition than the road between these two towns. So that in less than one month from the time after the road arrived at Webster City, the cars were running into Fort Dodge.

#### A FREE RIDE TO FORT DODGE

Not that it had all been built in a month's time, but that in that time the connecting link between the towns had been welded and about the 20th of May a free excursion train was run from here to the fort under the management of Mr. Willson who, as the train was about to pull out, went to the conductor and told him to "make the trip in an hour or burst his boiler." The trip was made in the time, but as the train went whirling along, rocking from side to side and bumping over the uneven and unsettled rails of the new road, it fairly made the hair of the excursionists stand on end. That ride will never be forgotten by any who took part in it.

#### THE MURDER OF JOHN ROSS

We now come to the relation of a tragedy that probably caused more excitement than anything that has ever happened in the county—the murder of John Ross. As the Freeman of June 23, 1869, contained a lengthy and very full account of the murder, written at the time, we extract the following therefrom:

#### THE TRAGEDY AT ROSS' MILL

"About half past 11 o'clock a. m., on Wednesday, last, the 16th inst., one of the most cold blooded and atrocious murders we ever heard of was committed at Ross' (formerly Sternberg's) mill, on the Boone river, six miles south of this place. The facts as far as we have been able to ascertain them are substantially as follows:

"About 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the 15th inst., some men who were at work in the mill yard, having occasion to see Mr. Ross, went to the mill for that purpose, but not finding him there supposed he was engaged outside and made no further search. Some two hours later, a brother of the murdered man,

who had been at work in a field several miles from the mill, came in and Mr. Ross, not yet having made his appearance, the brother, fearing some accident had befallen him, began, in company with some of the neighbors and hands about the premises, a vigorous search through every part of the mill and machinery. In looking around, it was discovered that the flood gate was about half open, and that but for some obstruction, the mill should be running. Further investigation revealed the fact that the burrs were so tightly screwed down that a full head of water would hardly have been able to start the machinery. This was the first thing to excite suspicion that foul play had been used, and the search was continued but a few moments longer before the lifeless body of Mr. Ross was found, by his brother James, in the wheel house almost covered with water. With the assistance of the other men, the body was taken out and laid upon the mill floor when it was discovered that the unfortunate man had been shot through the right side of the back just below the shoulder and afterwards thrown into the wheel house by the murderer.

"A messenger was immediately dispatched to town to notify the sheriff and coroner of what had transpired and to summon their attendance upon the scene of the murder. The sheriff, in company with several other citizens of town, started for the mill about 11 o'clock at night. Arriving there, a coroner's jury was summoned and an inquest held over the remains. The jurymen were Sumner Willson, Addison Arthur and Chas. B. Willson, and in the absence of Dr. Burgess, the coroner, the examination was had before Justice J. F. McConnell. After a careful and thorough examination of the facts as they developed, the jury rendered a verdict that the deceased came to his death at the hands of John Ross; whereupon young Ross, a nephew of the murdered man, was arrested by the sheriff. The next day a preliminary examination was commenced before Justice McConnell, but upon filing an affidavit by the prisoner . . . the further prosecution of the trial was postponed until the 28th inst. Chas. A. Clark appears for the state, and N. B. Hyatt for the defence. . . .

#### "THE PRISONER

is a young man of rather prepossessing appearance; is about five feet eight or nine inches in height, has a mild expression of countenance and a clear, but restless blue eye; gives unmistakable evidence of some culture and claims to be but eighteen years of age. He is a son of the murdered man's brother, and bears his name—John Ross. His parents reside in Janesville, Wisconsin, but young Ross claims to have lived in Chicago most of the time for the past year. . . . The young man also claims to be a miller by trade. He came here about five weeks ago, since which time he has been visiting with the families of John, Samuel and James Ross and John Meeks, who are his uncles.

#### "WHY HE IS SUSPECTED

"The circumstances tending to fasten suspicion upon young Ross are so far as we have been able to ascertain, about as follows: He was known to be without money and seemed very anxious to return home or to Chicago; knew his

uncle, John Ross, had considerable money about him; had frequently asked his uncle for money to take him home, but had been refused—his uncle telling him that he had to make a payment upon his mill and needed all of the money that he had for that purpose. That he had been seen at the mill in the forenoon and at about 12 o'clock on the day of the murder; and he at first denied being at the mill at all on that day, but finally admitted that he had been there early in the morning and had afterwards come up to Webster City, but had returned from the latter place to his uncle, John Meeks' (some three miles from Ross' mill), where he arrived about 1 o'clock p. m. The statement that he reached Meeks' about 1 o'clock is corroborated by testimony of Mr. Meeks and others. Young Ross strenuously denies that he was at or near the mill after 8 or 9 o'clock in the morning and asserts that he got the twenty dollars found in his possession after arrested, from a man whom he met in Webster City on the arrival of the train from the east at 11 o'clock a. m. This latter statement seems to be very generally discredited and it is asserted that positive evidence can be produced that he was seen at the mill near the hour of 12 on the day of the murder.

"The mill is located on the river bank at the foot of a hill, and is overlooked from Mr. Ross' house, which is situated on the side of the hill, not over twenty-five rods from the mill. It seems that on the day of the murder, Mr. Ross went to the house about 10 o'clock in the forenoon, took a lunch and told the women that they need not get dinner that day as he would not come up until supper-time. That at about 11 o'clock they heard the report of a gun at the mill, but as the men were in the habit of shooting fish and rats about the premises, no unusual notice was taken of the matter at the time. The men employed in the yard but a few yards from the mill, and who generally went into the mill from three to six times during the day, did not happen to go in on this day until about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, at which time (as before stated) they wished to see Mr. Ross in relation to certain work they were doing in the yard. That Mrs. Ross—wife of the murdered man—went to the mill sometime between noon and 4 o'clock p. m., and after looking about the premises for some minutes, returned to the house without any suspicions of the terrible tragedy that had been enacted there but a few hours before.

"We visited the scene of the murder on Friday and saw the spot where it is supposed the murdered man had stood when he received the fatal shot. It was near the east door of the first floor of the mill, in that department known as the bran-room, and from the construction of the room, the nature of the wounds on the body and the general surroundings, the murderer could not have been more than twelve or fifteen feet from his victim at the time he shot him. He was then dragged some eighteen or twenty feet and thrown into the wheel house where he was afterwards found, as hereinbefore stated.

"The excitement in the neighborhood at the discovery of the murder was intense, and all sorts of rumors in relation to the terrible affair were soon flying in every direction over the country. The crime was so fearful and cold blooded in conception, and so unnatural and horrible in execution, that everybody stood dumbfounded at a recital of its detail.

## "THE MURDERED MAN"—HIS CHARACTER, ETC.

"With the murdered man, John S. Ross, we were not intimately acquainted, but know that in business matters he was prompt and reliable. Those who knew him best, speak of him as an industrious and honorable man, and one who was very generally respected in the community where he lived. He was a man of very few words, and was said to have been rather odd and somewhat eccentric in his character and habits. He generally carried considerable money about him, and never took any trouble to conceal it from those by whom he was surrounded. One of his brothers, we understand, says Mr. Ross had about \$490 in his pocket on the morning of the day on which he was murdered, and that the same was in a large leather pocket-book that he usually carried. This, of course, the murderer secured, as it was not found on the body of the murdered man.

"Mr. Ross leaves a young wife and one child, and several brothers and sisters to mourn his untimely and dreadful taking off.

"The post mortem examination made by Drs. Hendryx, Crapper and Ament revealed the fact that the gunshot wound was sufficient to cause the death. At least a half dozen persons testified to hearing the shot, and all ascribed the same cause, and did not take alarm. Thus was John S. Ross murdered in broad daylight within calling distance of a number of persons and the act was not discovered for about seven or eight hours, and as will be seen, the perpetrator of the deed not yet and perhaps never will be certainly known."

At the October term of the district court, young Ross was indicted for the murder of his uncle, and a special term to begin on the 3d Monday in December was ordered for the trial of the case, and in the meantime the defendant was returned to jail. Judge Chase presided at the trial; J. H. Bradley, states attorney, prosecuted, and N. B. Hyatt and J. F. Duncombe were attorneys for the defense. The trial lasted three days and developed much conflicting evidence. While several witnesses testified to seeing young Ross at the mill and to hearing the gun fired, they did not agree as to circumstances, nor as to the time of the shooting. The young man was arrested at the home of his uncle, John Meeks. He was fast asleep when the officers arrived and did not act guilty. He had been there all afternoon of the day of the murder, and no one noticed anything unusual in his appearance or actions. The circumstances as brought out at the trial pointed strongly to him as the murderer, and yet there was sufficient cause for a reasonable doubt of his guilt. If he was guilty he was a most consummate actor, or a most heartless villain. It seems incredible that anyone, much less a young and inexperienced boy, could have committed such a cold blooded and horrible murder, and so successfully concealed all traces of remorse or feeling in reference to it. The prosecution was managed with excellent ability by Judge Bradley, while the defense was conducted with consummate ability by N. B. Hyatt and John F. Duncombe. With such able counsel representing both sides, it is certain the case was tried for all there was in it. Judge Chase, in an able and very clear and concise charge to the jury, sent that body of men to their room, from which they returned in about one hour with the verdict of not guilty. While the verdict satisfied a majority of the people who heard the evidence, a great many continued to believe the de-

fendant guilty. Certain it is, no further light was ever thrown on the mystery of the murder. Young Ross immediately on his acquittal left the country and we believe has never returned. Even those who continued to believe him guilty, do not believe he finally secured the money, but suppose he hid it and that it was carried away in the high waters occurring after the murder and before the trial. All this is mere conjecture, however. It is probable that no further light will ever be shed upon the dark mystery of the murder.

#### OTHER TRAGEDIES

Following close upon this murder came two more sudden and horrible deaths. In October, a boy named Fisher, living in the south part of the county was accidentally killed. He was pulling a loaded gun, muzzle foremost from under a load of hay, when the hammer caught on the wagon and the gun was discharged, the contents entering the breast of young Fisher, killing him instantly.

On October 3d, a young man named Cook, driver of the Willson House "buss," while at the depot, was thrown from the top of the buss by the horses becoming frightened and starting to run. He fell upon the platform, but immediately got up and gave chase. He caught the team, but in trying to stop them, was knocked down, run over, two wheels of the buss passing over his neck, killing him instantly. He was a stranger in the place.

#### THE SWAMP LAND FUND

We turn from these tragedies to the more peaceful and pleasant happenings, and note that at the June session of the board of supervisors, the question of the swamp lands came up again. A resolution was passed to submit to a vote of the people three questions.

1st. Shall seventy per cent of the swamp land fund be used to build a courthouse jail.

2d. Shall twenty per cent of that fund be appropriated to build bridges.

3d. Shall ten per cent of that fund be appropriated to drain the swamp land of the county.

A vote upon these propositions at the next general election was taken, and the first proposition was beaten, and the last two carried.

#### MORE NEW BRIDGES

At the next session after the election, a number of petitions were before the board asking bridges. Resolutions to build at McLaughlin's ford, at Harris' mill and at the site of the East bridge, Webster City (recently washed out), were passed. A new bridge was just being completed at Millard's ford, but the new bridge at Bone's mill (now Bell's mill), built the year before, as mentioned in a former chapter, had gone down. It seems to have been built of lumber that would swell like dried apples and in the long spell of wet weather following its completion, it swelled and hoisted up its back so far as to pull one end off the pier, dropped into the river and floated off, and the board finally concluded to build another one there.

## ELECTION OF 1869

At the election that fall, '69, I. Doane, A. A. Wicks, John Eckstein and John McMiller were elected their own successors; J. D. Hunter was elected for a second term in the legislature from Hamilton, Wright and Franklin counties, and Dr. Curtis was elected school superintendent. In the fall of this year the second church was built in the county, it being the Congregational church in Webster City. It was located on the southeast corner of Willson avenue and Bank street and, for the times, was a very commodious and elegant church. It has since been replaced by the very fine new building which now graces the site of the old church.

It was during the year 1869 that the old Willson House barn was built east of the hotel, and used afterwards as an agricultural depot. J. M. Funk built his double wood block across the north of the Willson; W. N. Browning built Browning's block on Seneca street.; Rosencrans built his block just opposite it, but earlier in the year. This year R. I. Burleson came and opened a clothing store. Lewis Cray came and went into the hardware and wagon-making business.

## COUNTY STATISTICS

From the assessors' returns in 1869, the following census abstract was completed by Mr. A. A. Wicks, county clerk, and compared with statistics heretofore given, will show the rapidity of the growth of the county. Postoffices—Webster City, Blairsburg, Lakin's Grove, Randall, Homer and Hook's Point.

Number of dwelling houses in county, 766.

Number of families, 800.

Number of white males, 2,233.

Number of white females, 2,033.

Total population, 4,266.

Number of voters, 916.

Number militia, 677.

Acres of land enclosed, 22,912.

Acres of land cultivated, 16,643.

Acres of spring wheat, 5,655.

Acres of oats, 2,442.

Acres of buckwheat, barley and rye, 231.

Acres of potatoes, 306.

Acres of sorghum, 258.

Acres of hops, 8.

Number of horses, 206.

Number of cattle, 4,898.

Number of hogs, 2,531.

Number of sheep, 3,533.

Number of milch cows, 1,612.

Number of dogs, 550.

Number of bushels of spring wheat, 52,945.

Number of bushels of oats, 29,715.

Number of bushels of corn, 242,111.

Number of bushels of potatoes, 32,757.

Number of gallons of sorghum, 23,672.

Number of pounds of butter, 115,491.

Number of pounds of cheese, 11,895.

Number of pounds of wool, 12,007.

Number of pounds of hops, 940.

Number of tons of coal taken out, 2,540.

The above table does not include crops of Cass township, nor does it include a large amount in the aggregate of buckwheat, rye, barley, honey, hay, grapes, grass seed, etc. The report was made as of January 1, 1869, and is for the season of '68.

#### THE THIRD CHURCH

The third church erected in the county was at Homer, it being the Campbellite church and was completed during the winter of 1869-70. It had been commenced and was in progress of erection at the same time the Congregational church in Webster City was being built, but the latter was first finished. The former was finished by the Webster township school board in January, 1870, in which to complete a term of school, the schoolhouse in that village having burned.

#### A PIONEER PARSON

Speaking of churches, the old settlers will remember a Methodist minister traveling the Homer circuit in 1869-70, by the name of Mershon, who was a great disputant, and kept the community in a continual ferment over disputations upon biblical questions, and especially on the subject of baptism. He arranged debates in which his opponents soon became disgusted and withdrew, leaving Mershon in possession of the field, and apparently in the belief that he had driven them off by his eloquence. Such debates usually preceded a series of contentious articles in the paper until the editor, Mr. Hunter, shut them out. From all we have been able to gather upon the subject, Mershon made a great deal of noise, stirred up a great deal of ill-will among the members of the different churches at Homer, and succeeded in getting himself thoroughly disliked by a majority of his own church people as well as by everybody else, and left the county at the close of a sensational lawsuit to the relief of all his friends and joy of his enemies.

#### THE SECOND BANK ORGANIZED

The second bank in the county was organized in 1870 and began business on the first of May. It was entitled Young, Estes & Company's Bank, and the members of the firm were Kendall Young, president; L. L. Estes, W. W. Boak, E. S. Wheeler and O. K. Eastman, cashiers. It began business in Estes' building, taking the place of the postoffice recently removed to other quarters.

## THE FIRST GRAIN ELEVATOR

In the spring of 1870 was commenced the erection of the first grain elevator in the county by B. F. Miller and Jay Sternberg which was completed and in use, receiving grain the following fall. It was located on land leased of the Illinois Central Railroad Company on the south side of the road and across the street west from the depot. It was an important factor in the business enterprises of the county, as it provided a convenient means for handling the grain raised hereabout, and its importance will be the more apparent when it is remembered that grain was then brought from all portions of the south and southeast parts of the county as well as from a distance of at least thirty miles north. The elevator was used by Miller & Sternberg for a couple of years, when Sternberg sold out to J. W. Mattice and the business was carried on under the firm name of Miller & Mattice. They subsequently sold the building to J. W. Allington who made many improvements in it and it continued to be one of the leading elevators of the county until it burned down during the latter part of January, 1890.

## NEW BUILDINGS

In 1870 the Willsons built a brick block and opera house, and about the first of September, Captain Cray moved his hardware store into it and in it carried on business alone or in company with Mr. J. W. Evans to the day of his death. The corner room was taken possession of by the Hamilton County Bank (Miller & Sternberg) and was used as a bank by them until 1896. The same room is now occupied by the Webster City Savings Bank.

Work was also commenced on a new brick block on second street opposite the opera house block.

The second church parsonage in the county was erected this year also. The Methodist Episcopal parsonage was located on Bank street north of the public school buildings. Its first occupant was Rev. J. R. Berry.

The fourth church erected in the county was at Homer, the Methodist Episcopal church, which was built during the season of 1870 and was formally dedicated on Sunday, the 18th of December, Rev. J. W. Todd, assisted by Rev. J. R. Berry of Webster City, officiating.

Union block on Bank street was finished this year and the hall was used by the Baptist society for church services and the circuit and district court was held therein until the building of the new courthouse. A large number of other buildings of less importance and estimated with those already mentioned to cost \$100,000 went up in Webster City, while a glance over the surrounding country shows that improvements there were equally rapid.

## THE NEW SUPERVISOR SYSTEM

Under a law passed at the January, 1870, session of the legislature, the old system of township supervisors was repealed and instead of it there was a new law for county supervisors enacted. Under its provisions three supervisors were elected at the general election in 1870 and there were two tickets in the field. The

republicans nominated Julius M. Jones, of Boone; James A. Snodgrass, of Webster; and John A. Cooper, of Ellsworth. The democrats nominated L. Bickford, of Cass; Joseph Dale, of Webster; and Henry Staley, of Scott. The republican ticket was elected by a majority of 340 votes and J. M. Jones, J. A. Snodgrass and J. A. Cooper have the honor of being the first board of county supervisors under the present law. J. M. Jones was the first chairman.

A law had also passed the legislature on the temperance question. A local option law providing that counties might vote whether ale, beer and native wine could be sold within the county outside of corporated towns. This question was submitted to the voters of Hamilton county at the general election in 1870 and polled but a light vote. For prohibition there were 365 votes and against, 335. From the vote, it is conclusive that not more than two-thirds of the voters voted upon this question. It was carried by 30 majority.

Ye historian arrived in Webster City for the first time on the morning of the 12th of September, 1871, and from the first hour of arrival until after election that fall, the universal theme of conversation was the question of who should be elected representative of the district composed of Hamilton, Wright and Humbolt counties. Two republican candidates were then in the field, viz: L. L. Estes, of Hamilton, and S. B. Huett, of Wright. A matter exciting such universal and continued conversation and commotion cannot fail to be of interest to our readers and marks an interesting chapter in the county's history and we therefore give it.

#### A CONTEST FOR REPRESENTATIVE

The contest began in a primary election in Webster City held prior to a convention, on the 17th of June, 1871, to elect delegates to said convention. L. L. Estes and I. Doane were the candidates voted for and Estes was successful. The Freeman in giving the "result of last Friday" said:

"The primary election in this township last Friday afternoon for the election of delegates to the county convention was, as usual, carried on with much interest and considerable excitement and resulted in a decisive victory for the 'Down Town' (or Estes) ticket. In a total vote of 357 the 'Down Town' ticket received 244 and the 'Up Town' (or Doane) ticket, 113 votes—giving the Estes delegates a majority of 128."

By this vote fourteen Estes delegates were elected to the county convention.

The result of the primary election and the above notice of it brought Judge Doane out—an article in the Freeman claiming that it "put him in a false position before the people and did him injustice." The letter is too long to copy here. It is only mentioned as the beginning of the controversy that ran all through the canvass. It was replied to by the editor in which among other things is said:

"Again the judge declares that 'temperance' and 'free whiskey' entered into the contest and thinks 'old redevye' got the advantage of him. Well, we can only say of this phase of the question, that stubborn facts must prove or disprove his assertion. The fact that he is known to be an active (and we believe) consistent temperance man, may have lost the judge a few votes; but we are informed by prominent members of the temperance lodge here that a large majority of the

temperance men voted for the Estes ticket—not that they loved Judge Doane less, but the 'Down Town' ticket more."

The Freeman undoubtedly mirrored the state of public sentiment as it understood it, making it quite certain that whether the "up" or "down" town contention had been declared a part of the contest at the time, it unquestionably entered into it and became more apparent as the discussion went on, and the "Up Town" men entered actively into the contest to defeat Mr. Estes. When the district convention met at Liberty (now Goldfield), Wright county, there were four delegates each from Humbolt and Wright and eight from Hamilton. These were the days when Hon. N. B. Hyatt was a leader in the republican party, and though he was not elected a delegate to this convention, it was seen that to secure Estes' nomination, some able work would have to be done, and as he was a shrewd politician, a proxy was secured for him. He was a member of the Hamilton delegation, and was made chairman of the convention. When the balloting began Estes had eight votes and Huett had eight, and it was soon found that Humbolt and Wright had entered into an agreement to stand by Hyatt to the end. The Hamilton delegates voted at times for almost every prominent republican in Wright county, and any Wright county delegate could have had the nomination at any time by simply voting for himself and breaking the deadlock, but they stood firm and 191 ballots were taken, always a tie, when chairman Hyatt on the 191st ballot ruled that as chairman, he had the right to a casting vote, there being a tie. This claim was vehemently protested against by the Huett delegates, and as the chairman persisted in his ruling and had half of the delegates in the convention at his back, it was useless to appeal from the decision. So the delegates from Wright and Humbolt withdrew from the convention; met and nominated Huett. The Hamilton county delegates nominated Estes, and the contest was opened. The democrats put one Van Meter, of Humbolt, in nomination, but in the general clamor and contention between the other two, he was in a measure lost sight of and failed to carry more than two-thirds of the democratic vote. He received only 50 votes in Wright county. Estes had only 3 votes in Humbolt county and Huett received 260 in Hamilton. Estes had 307 majority over Huett in Hamilton, while Huett had 140 majority in Wright and 346 in Humbolt. There was a great deal of bitterness developed in the contest and charges of personal dishonesty, intrigue and trickery were freely made against both candidates. Outcroppings of that bitterness may even yet be found both in this county and in Wright. It is quite certain that the "up" and "down town" fight lost this county a representative.

#### A CONTEST FOR SHERIFF

A good deal of interest was also awakened in Hamilton county over the election of a sheriff. Fred A. Harris was the regular republican nominee and as there were several candidates before the convention, the defeated ones claimed Fred was not fairly nominated and pooled their grievances and H. C. Hillock came out as an independent candidate. J. G. Bonner was the democratic candidate and these three made a thorough canvas. Harris was elected but we shall see as we go on that the contest was to be renewed against him in two years and encompass his defeat. At this election, Eckstein was reelected treasurer; Chas. A. Wickware, auditor; Rev. J. A. Potter, superintendent of schools; M. Sweeney, supervisor.

## STARTING THE INDEX

Following upon the spirited election of 1871 which left the "up" and "down" town controversy in an aggravated condition was the starting of a newspaper called the Index as a representative of the "up" town interests. It was started by the Raber Brothers, three in number, who came from New York for the purpose, arriving in Webster City on the 8th day of December, 1871. Between the 5th and 10th of January, 1872, they issued a small sheet announcing their intention of starting a paper and on the 13th of January the first regular issue of the Index appeared. This was the second newspaper established in Hamilton county. The criticisms of the Index upon the county management brought back the fire of the Freeman and created a most lively controversy which grew personal in its nature, during the time Mr. J. C. Irvin was the editor. Mr. Todisman became the editor of the Index in the fall of 1872 and early in the spring of 1873, Lew W. Raber placed his name at the head of the paper as editor, though he was only editor in name, Judge Doane being engaged to do the writing for it from that time until in the spring of 1874, when the publication was suspended and the plant was taken to Tipton, Iowa, where the Cedar County Farmer was started, Judge Doane accompanying and becoming the editor of that paper for one year. It was during the stay of the Index in this county that the grange movement was started and that paper became the organ of the antimonopoly party, though it was started as a republican paper.

In the fall of 1871 the fourth church built in the county was erected. It was the Catholic church, on the river bluff east of the east bridge. It was not completed, however, and ready for use until the spring of 1872.

In September, 1871, the First National Bank was organized in Webster City with Kendall Young as president and O. K. Eastman as cashier, and the brick building in which the bank took up its quarters was built. It continued to occupy the same building until 1892, when it removed to its present quarters at the northwest corner of Seneca and Second streets. Kendall Young was continuously its president until the time of his death.

## THE LIQUOR INTERESTS WIN

It will be remembered by the readers that Hamilton county had, by a vote, adopted the prohibitory law, and the same was in force during the year of 1871. It was at the general election in that year resubmitted to a vote of the people. At the previous submission, a very light vote had been cast upon that question, but now everybody voted and there were 927 votes cast of which 201 were for prohibition and 726 against it. From that time until 1884 the license law prevailed in the county.

## A SAD STORY

Early in June, a young German girl named Anna Lahman came from Fort Dodge to Webster City with a young child that she was trying to dispose of. After remaining in town two or three days and being unable to find a place for the child, she left the Potter House, where she had been stopping and apparently

went into the country. When she returned to town, a couple of hours later, she went to Mr. Samuel Cooper's but without the child. This caused suspicion and Sheriff Harris went to her and inquired what she had done with it. She said she had left it in the country. Mr. Harris got a buggy and insisted that she should accompany him to the place where she left it, as she did not seem to know the name of the person with whom it was left. She got into the buggy and they started over the east bridge. Before going far she broke down and pointing the way, directed him to a little ravine that puts into Lyon's creek some rods north of the road that led up into the White Fox neighborhood. Here in a little hole gullied out by the water, perhaps three feet long and eighteen inches deep and a foot wide, he found the child where the mother had sunk it in the water. It was dead, of course, and the sheriff left it and returning to town secured the services of Coroner F. J. McConnell who held an inquest over the remains and the jury rendered a verdict that it came to its death by the hands of its mother, Anna Lahman. She was arrested but waived examination and was committed for trial at the next term of the district court. She had been living for a year or more in respectable families in Fort Dodge and was a good servant girl and had borne a good reputation. She could not keep her place and the baby, and she was trying to dispose of the baby and return to the Fort before her place there would be taken by another. Her money had become exhausted, and being among strangers in her desperate situation, she deliberately took the child to the place above described and sank it in the water, no doubt holding it down until it ceased to move and then left it. She was ignorant and simple minded, and her greatest anxiety on her arrest was that the proceedings would not be very long so that she could get back to her place in Fort Dodge. She was indicted at the November term of the district court for infanticide and on a trial was convicted of manslaughter. Her youth and feeble-minded innocence created a general sympathy for her, by all who heard the trial and when Judge Chase sent her to the reform school instead of the penitentiary a general feeling of relief and approbation was expressed.

#### PROSPECTS OF ANOTHER RAILROAD

The people of Hamilton county were not satisfied with one railroad—the Illinois Central—and there was a general clamor for a north and south line. It was strongly urged that a north and south line was now needed to develop our resources and set the county on the highway to permanent prosperity.

Of course, Webster City was conceded to be the one point in the county where such a road must strike, but to the south, each township and community wanted to secure the road. It was wanted on the west side of the river with a depot at Homer. It was wanted on the east side of the river with a depot at Saratoga. It was wanted on the east side of the county with a depot at or near Lakin's grove. But while every locality wanted the road, and nearly every man wanted a depot on his farm, all agreed upon the necessity of a road running north and south, let it go where it would.

Nobody thought of a railroad being built in those days, without local aid. It was usual to vote taxes, but that kind of aid struck pocketbooks all alike, while the road benefitted the few, very much more than the many. That no one would be

personally taxed to aid in securing a road, it was proposed to vote the swamp land interest of the county in aid of a road. Our readers will see that this swamp land was a wonderful fund to have on hand, and served as an escape valve for a number of public projects needing private aid, as it had already been voted away a number of times, but like the "bad bill," try however hard they might, the people could not get rid of it. Here was a chance to get rid of the swamp lands, and as nobody ever heard of a railroad company refusing anything, it seemed sure to go this time, if enough was offered with it to secure the building of a road. These were times, too, when a great many people thought themselves able to build a railroad. It was easily done. All you had to do was to form a construction company, incorporate so that your private property could not be taken for debt, make a contract, go along the proposed line and get taxes and other subsidies enough to build the road, find a company that would take it off your hands, and all you could get for it would be so much ready profit cleared. There were plenty of proposed lines through Iowa then. Each proposed line had a construction railroad (construction) company in it, while presidents of railroads were to be encountered every day. It is not strange, then, that when everybody wanted a railroad built and nearly everybody was ready to build one, that the prospects were good for at least two in the county. Two made application for aid. They were the Iowa, Minnesota & North Pacific and the Des Moines, Boone & Northern. The latter was to start at Des Moines, come through Boone, Webster City, and go northeast to Mason City. The former seems to have started out somewhere near Burlington and was to pass through this county from the southeast to the northwest making Webster City a principal point. What wild dreams floated in the air! What a mighty rise in real estate was to follow the incoming of these two roads! And they were sure to come for local men of note, whose names were familiar in the towns they lived in, were presidents and vice presidents of them, and they knew how to take care of their *own* and our interests. They were both applicants for local aid. Artemus Ward was willing to put down the rebellion if he had to sacrifice all his wife's relations. So the people of the county were willing to get the road if they had to sacrifice the swamp land, and in the fall of 1871 the question of donating the lands to the building of these two roads was put to a vote. Of course, it carried, only 62 votes being cast against it. So much was secured, but that was not enough. Taxes were asked and generally voted. Some of the townships wouldn't vote taxes. Fremont was one. My, how Fremont was abused for it. Her citizens had no public spirit, whatever. Now, the road was sure to come, at least the Des Moines Boone road. The timber lands along the Des Moines river were lined with busy choppers getting out railroad ties. Why "the contract had been let!" The spirit of the times was railroad prospects. It was the talk of the street, the public gathering and the fireside. No one knew for certain where the roads were to run. Many a farmer could plainly see that it would run through his place and many an air castle was built with a railroad depot and a thriving little town on the right spot, a settler's own farm. Can any of the old settlers recall the fact? Alas, for the high expectations! The whole project fell through. The air castles fell down. The railroad ties so bravely cut either rotted down or were converted into stove wood, all to give place to other proposed roads and other air castles that never materialized, even though at last a north and south road was built.

## CHAPTER X

### THE NEW COURTHOUSE—PRINCIPAL EVENTS OCCURRING DURING THE "SEVENTIES"

THE GRANGE—THE ANTI-MONOPOLY CAMPAIGN—A STARTLING ACCIDENT—THE UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY ORGANIZED—THE FREEMAN CHANGES HANDS—THE ARGUS ESTABLISHED—THE CAMPAIGN OF '74—ELECTING A SHERIFF—RAISING FUNDS FOR A NEW COURTHOUSE—THE NEW COURTHOUSE—SEEKING BIDS FOR THE NEW COURTHOUSE—SELLING THE SWAMP LAND—THE CONTRACT AWARDED—THE WORK COMMENCED—LAYING THE CORNER STONE—COMPLETING THE BUILDING—THE CEREMONY OF DEDICATION—THE WILLIAMS STANDARD STARTED—GRASSHOPPERS AGAIN—MORE RAILROAD PROSPECTS—THE TOWN OF CALLANAN—THE CALLANAN HERALD—TWO MURDERS—ANOTHER VOTE ON THE RAILROAD TAX—THE ADVERTISER STARTED—HOG CHOLERA—NEW BRIDGES—THE COUNTY POOR FARM—THE CHEESE FACTORY—THE FIRST MEMORIAL SERVICE—A SOLDIERS' RE-UNION—THE WELBERG TRAGEDY—THE TOLEDO & NORTHWESTERN RAILWAY.

*By F. Q. Lee*

#### THE GRANGE

The hard times beginning to be felt early in 1872, the farmers' organization called "The Grange," attributed them to the exorbitant charges of railroads for freight transportation; to the large amount of additional cost added to supplies used by farmers by reason of so many "middle men;" high taxes consequent upon extravagant public management and numerous other less important reasons.

To remedy the evils, they proposed to pass a law fixing a maximum freight tariff; to procure supplies of farm machinery at less additional cost on account of middle men; to reduce taxation by reducing salaries of public officials, and to administer the public affairs on more economic principles. The first Grange established in the county was at Hook's Point, in May, 1872. This was followed in June by the organization of the second Grange in Webster City. By this time opposition to the Grange and its proposed measures on the one hand, and its own commendatory articles and speeches on the other, brought the subject to general notice. It became the theme of universal conversation, and the farmers generally took to it like ducks to water. Consequently, subordinate granges were rapidly organized all over the county.

Mr. W. W. Boak, a prominent and influential farmer of Fremont township, procured an organizer's commission and was almost constantly employed in

organizing new granges, so that by July, originating from, if not by authority of this organization, the following proclamation was issued:

PRODUCERS VS. NON-PRODUCERS

Rally for your rights! Equal and exact justice for all men!—Who would be free, themselves must strike the blow!

COUNTY CONVENTION OF THE PRODUCERS OF HAMILTON COUNTY

Farmers, Mechanics, Hand Workers:

All voters of Hamilton county who cherish the principles of liberty, who hate tyranny and oppression, who seek political reform, honesty of government, the overthrow of aristocratic legislation, and who aim to place the power of the government where it justly belongs, in the hands of the people, are invited to meet in mass convention on the 15th day of July, 1873, at 10 o'clock a. m., in the schoolhouse at Saratoga, eight miles south of Webster City or in the grove near by, for the purpose of organizing Hamilton county by adopting measures to elect producers to office, against the power and plots of non-producers who, through the tricks and machinery of their various political combinations, have driven the producing classes to the wall and compelled them to "make bricks without straw." Who establish and maintain among them swarms of officers to harass them and eat out their substance, and are fast riveting the chains of slavery upon the laboring and producing classes and converting our republic into a despotism.

All who attend and participate in the deliberations of this convention will be considered as having publicly pledged their honor to aid and promote its object. All who yet adhere to old parties and intend to support either the republican, democratic or liberal party nominations for office at the coming election are notified to abstain from interference with the proceedings of this convention.

To this petition was printed the names of one hundred representative farmers from all parts of the county, with a note, that the names printed were only a part of those signed to the call. The call was published in the Freeman and Index.

It was the largest political mass convention ever held in the county. Col. Chas. Whitaker was president and G. C. Cole, secretary. Speeches were made by Colonel Whitaker, J. A. Snodgrass, G. D. Sutton, Judge Maxwell, Chas. Biernatzki, N. H. Hellen, J. T. Haight, Alex. Thompson, and others. In calling the convention it was feared that the opponents of the movement would turn out in large numbers and capture the nominations, and hence the peculiar caution was adopted of asking in the call that such not interfere. The convention was so large that it was believed by the leaders of the movement that their enemies were present in such numbers as to prevent nominations being made, or to create such disturbance and ill feeling as to seriously cripple the movement in its start. So the original design of nominating a ticket was abandoned, and it was determined to hold a delegate convention at Webster City, September 1st. The Freeman took sides against the movement and spoke of the convention as

a flat failure. The Index championed the movement and gave a glowing description of its numbers, enthusiasm, and bitterly denounced the ring of politicians who opposed the move and were present to create a disturbance or capture the nominations if any were made. The Freeman was called "the ring organ." The Index was called the "Sutton-Doane Ring Managers" and politics became absolutely torrid. Abuse and vituperation seemed to be the principal stock in trade of the campaign, so far, at least, as it was reported in the newspapers. The members of the new party called "Anti-Monops," "Modox," "Hayseeds" and so on, while epithets equally opprobrious were hurled at the opposition. It would be very racy reading to copy some of the articles printed at that time, pro and con, but to do so would exceed the limit of our space, and while amusing, would not be very instructive. Therefore, we shall speak of them only in a general way.

#### THE ANTI-MONOPOLY CAMPAIGN

The new movement convention met at Webster City, called themselves anti-monopolists, and nominated the following ticket: For treasurer, W. M. Taylor; auditor, R. O. Cutler; sheriff, L. Bickford; superintendent of schools, H. M. Lucas; supervisor, Joseph Bone; drainage commissioner, Henry Henryson; coroner, T. J. Ament; surveyor, Bradley.

The republicans held a primary election and presented the following ticket: For treasurer, John Eckstein; sheriff, Fred A. Harris; auditor, Charles Wickware; superintendent of schools, C. A. Howd; drainage commissioner, John Hunt; supervisor, H. Corbin; surveyor, M. L. Tracy; coroner, F. J. McConnell.

For representative: Anti-monopoly, C. N. Overbaugh. Republican, J. W. Parmalee.

For senator: Anti-monopoly, J. A. Snodgrass. Republican, Elias Jessup.

Until this election, at least since 1860, the republicans had carried everything by an almost unanimous vote, and by majorities of from five to eight hundred, but the result of this election showed that the new movement, though only three months old, almost carried with it a majority of the people. Leander Bickford was elected sheriff, Taylor was beaten by Eckstein by only 70 votes, while Snodgrass came within 71 votes of being elected senator in the Hamilton-Hardin district. The general majorities for the republicans on the balance of the ticket averaged near 100. It was at this election that the anti-monopolists elected one-half of the legislature of the state. Had they been organized a month earlier in this county, they would most probably have elected a senator and representative both. It was the closest election, all around, ever held in the county since the war.

#### A STARTLING ACCIDENT

On the 26th day of June, 1873, little Eddie Snow, a child about twenty months of age, strayed away from his parents' dooryard which was near the Illinois Central Railroad, about three and a half miles west of Webster City, and got upon the railroad track just as the afternoon passenger train was going west. The train was late and running at a higher rate of speed than usual, and the train men did not see the little fellow in time to stop the train before it reached and ran over

him. He was, of course, too young to know that there was any danger and made no move to leave the track. The engine and three or four cars passed over the little chap before the train was stopped and he was taken out from under it fearfully mutilated. His mother who had just missed the child stepped out to look for him, saw him on the track at the time the train struck him. The conductor took the child and his mother upon the train and returned to Webster City, where both arms of the injured child were amputated, the right arm just below the elbow, the left near the shoulder. Notwithstanding his terrible injuries and the amputation of both his arms, the little fellow survived and is now a strong and hearty young man. A suit was brought against the railroad company for damages, but the first jury on the trial disagreed and before a second trial the case was settled by the railroad company paying to the child's guardian, for his use and benefit, \$1,500 and paying the costs already made.

When young Mr. Snow grew to manhood, he became a school teacher. In this he was very successful and in 1910 he was elected county superintendent of Hamilton county. His success in life is a glowing example of what grit and pluck will accomplish in spite of overwhelming disadvantages.

#### THE UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY ORGANIZED

In January, 1874, Rev. B. F. Snook, a Universalist minister, arrived at Webster City and delivered a series of lectures. They were so well received that a society was organized and he continued to return and hold services at intervals until the following year. In 1875, the society selected grounds and proceeded to erect a new church edifice. The first grounds selected were at the present site of the Methodist church and some materials were placed there and the work of excavating for the foundation commenced, but some difficulty in securing the grounds occurred and a change was made to the northwest corner of Bank street and Willson avenue, where the building was erected. The dedicatory services were held on the 14th of November, 1875. Rev. J. W. Hanson, an eminent and eloquent divine from Chicago, preached the sermon and had charge of the services. Elder Snook was employed as the pastor and remained five or six years.

#### THE FREEMAN CHANGES HANDS

In June, 1874, J. D. Hunter sold the Freeman printing office to T. E. McCracken, of Marshalltown, who took possession and began its publication the first week in July. He held editorial charge of that paper for one year when Mr. Hunter purchased it again and has since continued its publication.

#### THE ARGUS ESTABLISHED

About the 10th of July, 1874, the Webster City Argus issued its first number, it being the third paper to start in the county. The Argus was started by C. D. Auyer and E. T. Edwards, both practical printers, and run politically in the interest of the anti-monopoly party at first, and afterward while in the control of Mr. Edwards, was democratic in politics.

## THE CAMPAIGN OF '74

We have heretofore spoken of the great anti-monopoly political revolution of 1873. Though this movement evened up the contesting parties, it made no change in county officers that year except in the election of sheriff. The contest was again opened in 1874 and after a spirited contest, resulted in the loss of one more officer to the republicans. For the office of recorder, H. C. Johnson, the regular nominee of the republican party being defeated by J. V. Kearns, the nominee of the anti-monopoly party, while the vote on supervisor between J. W. Lee, republican, and J. D. Maxwell, anti-monopoly, was quite close but in favor of Lee. This was followed the next fall (1875) by a contest for the office of sheriff that was decidedly warm and amusing and is well remembered by all.

## ELECTING A SHERIFF

F. A. Harris was made the republican nominee. The democrats nominated J. A. Snodgrass. The anti-monopoly party seems to have died and in place of its nominee Nels Olmstead and J. VanBramer each ran independent. All of these candidates were reputable citizens and good men, but if the stories that were put into circulation during the campaign were to be half believed, the people had stumbled upon the four boss villains of the county and were running them for sheriff. If we remember rightly each candidate was sure of his election and the friends of each were willing to bet odds on the success of their man. The vote was something of a surprise to everybody as it resulted as follows: Harris, 432; VanBramer, 294; Olmstead, 281. Snodgrass, 185.

## RAISING FUNDS FOR A NEW COURTHOUSE

By the middle of the year 1874 it became clear that two railroad projects mentioned in our last chapter were dead past all hope of resurrection and the county still had the swamp land upon its hands. For some years now there had been more or less agitation of the question of building a courthouse. The old courthouse was now too small to accommodate the public. The county had no safe jail and was compelled to send its prisoners to Waterloo so there were no two opinions about the needs of the county so far as a new court house and jail were concerned. But there was a great deal of disagreement about how costly a house should be built, and where the money was to come from to pay for it. Times were then very hard, and growing worse, and the idea of adding to the burden, a tax large enough to build such a house as was desired, was not a pleasant one. So the swamp lands that had been voted away so often and still remained, were again made the subject of a conflict of ballots. The board of supervisors submitted to the people a proposition to appropriate of the swamp land fund \$50,000 with which to build a court house and jail and the proposition was carried by about two hundred majority. The election took place in the fall of 1874. During all of the year of 1875 efforts were made to secure a contractor who would take the lands and build such a house as was demanded. Plans and specifications were on file, but no bidders could be found unless some cash could be secured. The lands were on the market

and some of them were sold when it was finally agreed to reduce the price from five dollars per acre to four dollars and citizens were asked to come in and take one or more forties to help raise cash enough to secure a bidder. The project of putting up a \$50,000 house was given up and the plans modified so as to reduce the cost to \$35,000. After this, enough lands were disposed of to secure the letting of the contract.

#### THE NEW COURTHOUSE

On the high ground near the center of Webster City stands one of the substantial county court houses in the state. Its proportions are ample and imposing. Its tower rising high above the city is visible for miles around and from its top is presented one of the most beautiful scenes the eye ever dwells upon. To the north and south the woodland stretches, while looking down upon it the waters of the Boone can be seen all along, winding their way through farm and field and forest, a thread of sparkling silver in the sunshine. To the east and west, the broad prairie spreads away, covered now with well tilled fields and dotted thickly with white farm houses and big red barns presenting a perfect panorama of beauty, that on a clear bright day can be plainly seen with the naked eye from the timber of the Skunk river on the east to the wild and rugged Des Moines on the west. What citizen of Hamilton county who has taken the trouble to mount to this eminence but has been delighted with the picture spread before him, and what citizen of the county is not justly proud of the magnificent building in which the business of the county and the courts is transacted and within which is safely stored the records of his title to the acres that he tills. Few can ever fully realize how much they owe to the clear heads, sound judgment and business tact of the men who managed the affairs of the county at the time of the erection of this building. Guarding the public interests with unexampled fidelity, and amid objections and obstacles thought to be almost insurmountable, they erected this splendid building without a tax, and without even the suspicion of a "job" anywhere, from beginning to end. As stated, formerly the swamp lands and swamp land funds had been voted by the people to the purpose of building a courthouse and jail. The lands as then listed comprised about 7,000 acres within the county and about \$11,000 in money and notes taken on sale of lands, or for the funds loaned. It was objected on all hands that these resources were insufficient to build such a house as the needs of the county demanded and many counseled the levy of a tax in addition to this fund. But it was doubtful if the people, then in the midst of financial embarrassment resulting from the panic of 1873, would vote a tax, while it was the opinion of the board of supervisors that the fund, if properly and judiciously managed would build an ample building and they determined to build the house with that fund or not build at all. Architects, anxious to sell designs for buildings, filed several plans with the board with statements of the probable cost of each, and the board in 1875 entered in earnest into the work of securing a plan, and preparing to go forward with the project. The board then consisted of H. Corbin, John A. Cooper, and J. W. Lee. Corbin was made chairman of the board. The first business done in relation to the matter was to appoint a committee consisting of John Hill, John Eckstein and N. B. Everts to examine the designs, plans and specifications and determine definitely the cost of building



COURTHOUSE PARK



each with recommendations as to best design to be adopted and to report at the adjourned session of the board to be held January 18, 1875. This committee recommended the adoption of the design of one Baker, of Chicago, and reported that it could be built at a cost within the \$35,000 limit.

#### SEEKING BIDS ON THE COURTHOUSE

The report was adopted, the swamp lands and funds were by proper resolution appropriated to the purpose of building court house and jail and a proclamation issued asking sealed bids upon the plans and specifications adopted and on file in auditor's office and the board adjourned until March 8, when they were to meet and open bids. March 8th came and the board met, but no bids had been received. It must be remembered that the conditions upon which the bids were to be made, were that the contractor should receive his pay in swamp land funds (money and notes) and lands at a price of \$5.00 per acre sufficient to make up amount of the bid. It was on account of these conditions that no bids were received. The board therefore authorized the auditor to republish the notice for bids one week in county papers and in the Chicago Daily Times asking bids to be filed on or before April 6, 1875, but reducing the amount of the bond to be given by contractor from \$50,000 to \$20,000. This was done, but when the board met April 4th, no bids had been received within the \$35,000 limit. It was then decided to authorize the auditor to receive bids on the plans adopted either with or without the tower, until the regular meeting in June. Still no bids were received, and the order was continued to the September meeting. The September meeting came and still there were no bids, and, apparently, no more prospect for letting the contract than at first. The trouble was, that there was too much land and too little money in the terms on which the contract was to be let. The citizens were getting impatient and the board was constantly importuned to submit to a vote, a proposition to bond the county for enough to insure a bid and put the work through. Instead the board passed a resolution directing the auditor to put the lands up at public "out cry" selling to the highest bidder, but at not less than \$3.50 per acre. Mr. Lee opposed this resolution on the ground that the best lands would be sold cheaply at auction, and the poor lands be left on the county's hands unsalable. However, the resolution was not carried into execution for a new plan to raise money on a sale of the land was suggested.

#### SELLING THE SWAMP LAND

A proposition was presented to the board at its October session whereby thirty-two citizens of Webster City agreed to purchase about four thousand acres of land at \$3.40 per acre, each person agreeing to take the number of forty-acre tracts set opposite his name. There was to be no picking over the lands, but the whole swamp land of the county was to be divided into forty acre tracts and the description of each separate tract written upon separate slips of paper and all put into a box. Then the names of the purchasers were to be written upon slips of paper and placed in another box. These tickets were to be well shaken up and the name of a purchaser drawn out. Against it were to be drawn as many descriptions as the person named had agreed to take. In this way the

drawing was to be made and each person was to give approved notes for the land so allotted to him, one-half payable on the first day of September, 1876, and one-half on or before July 1, 1877. This proposition was accepted and adopted by the board. Of the thirty-two citizens agreeing to take lands, five "backed out." Those who stood by the contract and opened up the way for an early letting of the contract were as follows: Geo. H. Soule, 2; C. A. Wickware, 2; B. S. Mason, 2; R. I. Burleson, 1; John Eckstein, 3; W. C. and S. Willson, 9; J. M. Funk, 6; J. D. Hunter, 1; N. Cox, 3; Geo. Hathway, 2; David Beach, 1; J. M. Crist, 1; Crandall & Howard, 2; John Frank, 1; N. R. Beach, 1; Lewis Crary, 2; J. V. Kearns, 1; B. F. Derr, 2; Ira Hilliard, 5; J. M. Wilson and Brother, 1; E. N. Lee and Brother, 1; B. S. Baker, 1; F. Q. Lee, 1; McMurray & Eastman, 2; Fritz Jansen, 2; W. A. Crosley, 1; Anna Bronson, 1.

It was also found to be necessary to reduce the cost of the proposed building and a committee consisting of John Hill, John Eckstein and N. B. Everts was appointed to "examine plans and specifications of court house and to ascertain correctly what it would cost to build in accordance with the plan and what could be left out without material injury to the usefulness of the building and report at October session.

Upon the report of this committee the plans were modified and the plan of raising money on the swamp land having been adopted, a new proclamation asking for bids on modified plans was published until October 25, 1875.

#### THE CONTRACT AWARDED

On the 25th of October, 1875, the board met and after modifying the specifications of courthouse and jail, issued a proclamation and caused the same to be published in the Hamilton Freeman, inviting proposals to build said courthouse and jail. The committee then adjourned until December 1, 1875, at which meeting, on the 2d day thereof, the contract for building said courthouse and jail was awarded to John M. Rice of Chicago, his bid being the lowest received to-wit: \$30,000 in swamp land funds and securities and 1,360 acres of swamp land. Said Rice giving \$5,000 bonds conditioned that he would execute the contract according to the terms of his bid.

At the January session, 1876, E. Crabtree, the newly elected member of the board took his place, John A. Cooper retiring. J. W. Lee was elected chairman and the report of the board meeting as a committee of the whole at various times since the regular October session was adopted. John Eckstein was appointed superintendent of the new court house.

#### THE WORK COMMENCED

The contractor, John M. Rice, came on with his force and began the work as soon as the weather permitted in the spring. The work of laying the foundation and building the walls (the mason work), was let to and under the supervision of L. D. Stearns. The foundation walls were underlaid with a deep and broad base of cement wall and the work was rapidly put forward.

At the June session arrangements were made for laying the cornerstone with

proper ceremonies on the 4th of July, and in furtherance of their designs the following resolution was passed:

Resolved, That the Masonic fraternity of Webster City be requested to take charge of the ceremonies of laying the cornerstone of the Hamilton county court house and that they be empowered to make the necessary arrangements therefor, that said ceremony take place July 4, 1876. Provided that said Masonic fraternity shall have no power to incur any expense on the part of the county.

It being the intention of Chas. Wickware to attend the centennial celebration at Philadelphia, Pa., and therefore be absent for some time, he appointed Judge Doane deputy auditor and the appointment was confirmed by the board. Mr. Doane prepared a brief history of all the transactions relative to the building of the court house to be deposited beneath the cornerstone.

#### LAYING THE CORNERSTONE

It was centennial year and extensive preparations were already in progress for a grand Fourth of July celebration in Webster City and it was determined that the laying of the cornerstone should take place in connection with and as part of the program of that celebration. A very large crowd attended. The ceremonies were conducted by the Masons, assisted by the Odd Fellows. The following account of the ceremony was published in the Freeman the following day:

The ceremonies of laying the cornerstone of the new court house July 4, 1876, conducted by the Masons and Odd Fellows, town and county officers, were interesting and imposing and were witnessed by many hundreds of Hamilton county citizens. The Webster City cornet band were present to enliven the exercises with appropriate music.

The following articles were deposited under the cornerstone:

A transcript of the official record of the building of Hamilton county court house from the first day of June A. D. 1874 to the first day of July A. D. 1876; a copy of the Webster City Argus of July 4, 1876; a copy of the Hamilton Freeman of June 21, 1876, containing the republican national platform of 1876; a copy of the Philadelphia Press of May 11, 1876, containing the opening ceremonies of the Centennial Exposition; a copy of the democratic platform of 1876; a copy of the bar docket of the circuit court; a copy of bar docket of district court. Constitution and by-laws of Webster City lodge No. 342, Independent Order of Odd Fellows; a copy of charter and list of officers, members, constitution and by-laws of Acacia Lodge No. 176, A. F. & A. M.; coins of the United States; 1 silver dollar, 1 silver twenty cent piece, 1 silver 10 cent piece, silver souvenir bearing busts of Washington and Lincoln, deposited by J. D. H.; a copy of oration delivered at Webster City, July 4, 1876, by N. B. Hyatt; a history of the organization of Hamilton county (written by Judge Doane—Ed.). These articles are put in a glass jar which is enclosed in a zinc case and carefully deposited under the stone. At some day in the dim future when all those whose names are in any way connected with this work will have passed from earth, these simple mementos will be visible evidence of one of Hamilton county's most creditable enterprises.

The cornerstone is at the northeast corner of the building and is about eight feet above the ground. Its north face bears the inscription:

*Street & Baker,*  
*Architects.*  
*J. M. Rice, Builder.*  
*John Eckstein,*  
*Superintendent.*

On its east face is the following inscription:

*1776, July 4, 1876.*  
*Supervisors,*  
*J. W. Lee,*  
*H. Corbin,*  
*E. Crabtree.*

#### COMPLETING THE BUILDING

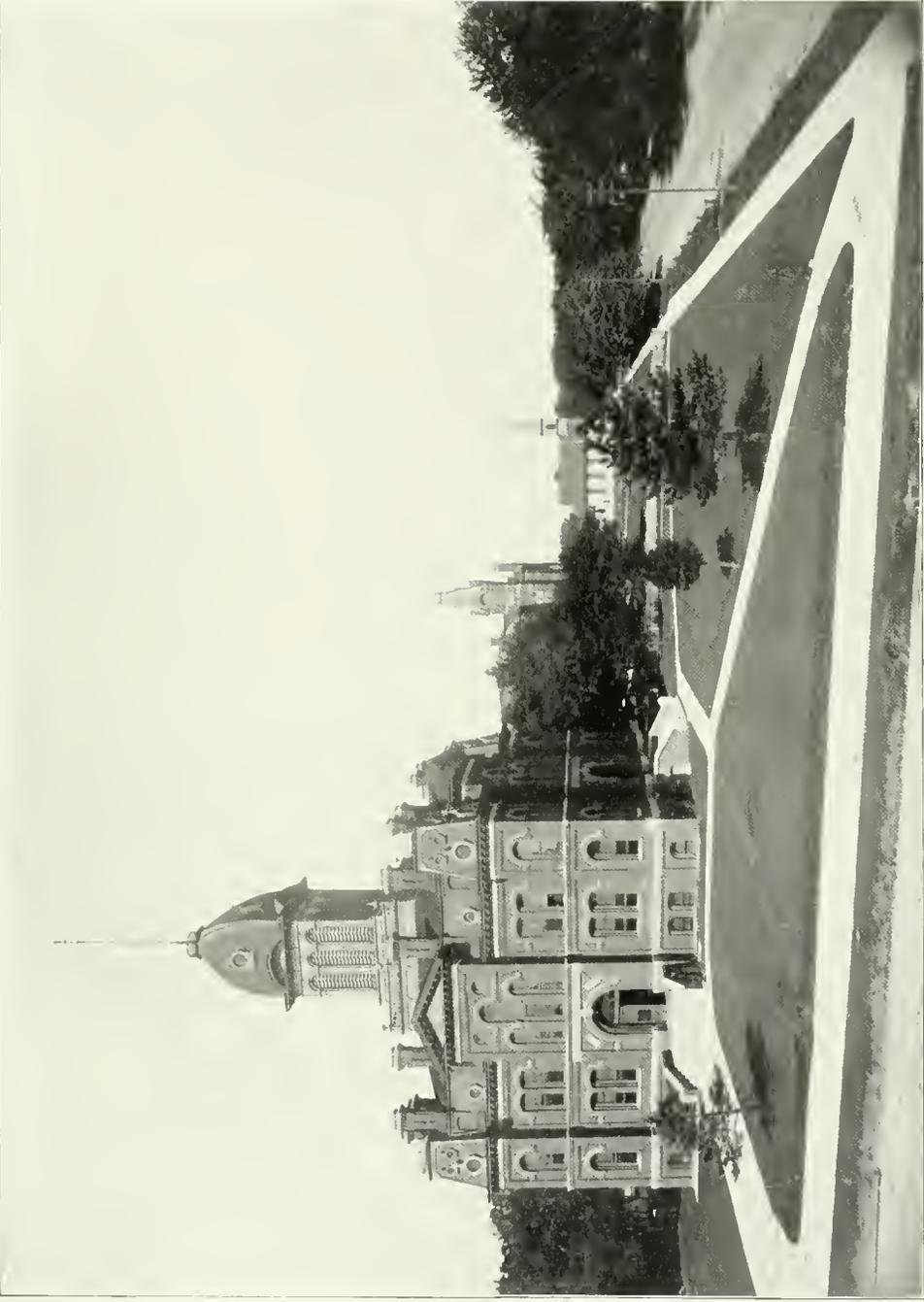
The work of completing the court house was now pushed as rapidly as possible. Mr. S. McCormack with a competent force of carpenters kept the wood-work moving as the walls of the building grew, and before January 1, 1877, the building was enclosed and under roof. It was completed and the officers moved into it the last week of June, and on the last day of June the house accepted as finished by the board of supervisors and the board entered on the minutes a vote of thanks to Mr. Rice and the men in his employ for the diligence and fidelity with which they had performed the contract. They had completed and turned it over to the use of county three months earlier than required by the agreement.

At the January session, 1887, J. W. Lee, C. A. Wickware and John Eckstein were appointed a committee "to determine the kind and style of furniture and fixtures for the several offices and court room and to have the same fitted up for use in such a manner as in their judgment shall be most convenient and serviceable for county purposes." The committee performed its work with promptness and the offices were all fitted and furnished and ready for occupancy before the main building was fully completed.

#### THE CEREMONY OF DEDICATION

On July 4, '77, just one year after the ceremony of laying the cornerstone, the building was dedicated to the use of the county by appropriate services. At 3 o'clock P. M. on that day a large concourse of Hamilton county people assembled at the court house. Mr. Ira H. Tremain as president of the day introduced the Hon. D. D. Chase to the assemblage, who addressed them from the east steps of the building in appropriate language. Among other things he said:

"The design of this building is in the best of modern architecture. It is 65 by 75 feet on the ground and consists of basement, first, second and third (or entresol), stories. It is built of brick, with stone foundation, and cut stone ornamentation, and rests upon a solid concrete foundation 18 inches thick. It



HAMILTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE, WEBSTER CITY



has a French roof with pavilions in the corners, gables on the sides and dome in the center 18 feet square, surmounted by a flag staff 28 feet high on the top of which is perched the American Eagle. The basement is designed for sheriff's residence and jail. It is spacious and airy and is fitted up with all the modern improvements. The jail has ten cells, with corridors, and two large day rooms. The first story contains the various county offices, all of them fitted up with the most approved style of furniture and the auditor's, recorder's, treasurer's and clerk's offices are provided with fireproof vaults secured by Hall's patent fireproof vault doors and combination locks. The main entrances of the building are from the north and east into the halls on the first story, from which a circular stairway leads to the second or court room story. The court room is 40x60 feet and 21 feet high, elegantly finished and furnished with large and convenient rooms adjoining for lawyers' consultation rooms. On this floor also are rooms for grand and petit juries and witnesses. The entrance to the entresol stairs is from the hall of the court room story. In this story there is a large hall and two large rooms, now unfinished. From this hall the stairway leads to the top of the dome which is 124 feet from the floor of the basement. This building is an honor to the county and in convenience of arrangement and beauty of design it is undoubtedly the finest public building of its size in the state.

"The entire cost of the building as it now stands is \$37,837.17 and is worth every cent it cost. We are now absolutely out of debt with our public buildings paid for and no bonded indebtedness of any kind hanging over us. I am authorized by the board of supervisors to present this magnificent edifice to the people of Hamilton county and to dedicate it to them as their temple of justice. And as we stand upon the threshold of a new year in our country's history we can celebrate the completion of this building with manly and honorable pride and congratulate ourselves upon the successful management of our affairs as a county."

At the conclusion of Judge Chase's speech the band played an inspiring air and the citizens dispersed themselves through the building, many of them mounting to the top of the dome. The Freeman speaking of the matter the same week said:

"We don't believe there is another county in Iowa that can boast of such a building at such a cost, and certainly few public works of such proportions were ever prosecuted with so little jobbery or favoritism. We don't believe there was a five dollar steal in the whole job. The tax payers can truly say to the county officials: 'Well done, good and faithful servants.'"

Too much credit can not be given to the members of the board of supervisors who successfully guarded the interest of the county and managed its affairs during the erection of its county buildings. The members of the board have passed away, but they have left an enduring monument to their capacity and honesty in the splendid official record they made. (This building has now given the county thirty-five years of service and today (1912), its walls and foundations stand without a crack to mar or weaken them. When the subject of building a new court house is discussed the universal verdict is "This is too good a building to tear down.")

## THE WILLIAMS STANDARD STARTED

About the first of January, 1877, H. H. Johnson came to Williams and started the fourth newspaper in the county, the Williams Standard. It was a seven column folio and began with a good deal of vigor, but the field was too small for success and it was continued only about two years, when the plant was moved to Callanan, a new town in the southwest part of the county.

## GRASSHOPPERS AGAIN

In the fall of 1876 great clouds of grasshoppers passed over the county and millions of the pests dropped down and deposited their eggs. In many localities the ground was literally honeycombed with the little holes in which the eggs were deposited. No ground was too hard to resist them. They even punctured the travel beaten streets of the towns and deposited their eggs beneath the wheels of almost constantly passing vehicles. They were all over the county, thicker of course in places, but their presence was general. The next spring the little hoppers hatched out and went for the crops and the farmers went for them. Every device known to be destructive was used, but the most effective was a long tin trough containing kerosene and placed on wheels with a high board behind it. It was drawn across wheat and oat fields. The hoppers would fly up on its approach, strike against the backboard and fall into the trough, and were killed by the kerosene. If ever a hopper touched kerosene he was dead, and in this way bushels of them were killed. The question of inducing the board of supervisors to offer a bounty for dead grasshoppers was seriously talked. This was the second visitation the county had had from these pests and the last was worse than the first. A great deal of grain was destroyed by them but not so much as was at first feared. In July they arose and left the county, for the county's good, and have never returned to do much damage.

## MORE RAILROAD PROSPECTS

In all new communities it is the earnest desire of the citizens to open up communication with the larger communities and better markets by means of railroads. As has been seen the question of more railroad facilities was constantly being agitated, and any number of projected roads were under consideration. All except the I. C. Ry. had failed to materialize. In the fall of 1876 the question of extending the narrow gauge road from Des Moines, north through Webster City was being agitated. This road was then just finished to Ames. The matter was discussed all winter and in the spring of 1877, elections to vote tax aid were held. The four southwest townships of the county, viz.: Scott, Ellsworth, Lyon and Lincoln voted a 5 per cent tax on condition that the road be completed and a station be established and maintained within one mile of the central corner of these four townships. Boone township, which then included Independence and Freedom townships as well as Webster City, also voted on the questions but defeated the proposition by fourteen votes. This election was held in April, and being so close, the question of another election was at once raised.

At this time however the Crooked Creek company desiring to build to Webster

City was offering to do so if 5 per cent. tax was given them. As the former proposition had failed to carry because five per cent. was regarded generally as too much for a narrow gauge road, it was proposed to divide the aid and give to each project a two and one-half per cent. tax, and thus secure both. The election was set for June 7, 1877, and resulted in favor of the two propositions. One J. J. Smart, the chief mouthpiece of the D. M. & M. now promised that the road would be built at once and everybody along the proposed line of the road was happy. The work of building the road from Ames, north went on but was not completed into the county that year.

#### THE TOWN OF CALLANAN

In the spring of 1878 the work on the narrow gauge progressed northward to a terminus near the common corner of the four townships that had voted aid. The terminus of the road was at first named Lakin, but a post office was established at that point very soon and it was named Callanan, after the president of the road. It being desirable that the town and postoffice should bear the same name, and no plats having yet been recorded, the name Lakin was changed to Callanan.

Callanan was situated on the east bank of the Skunk river and the road, coming north over a mile to the west made a sharp turn to the east and crossed to the town. The east bank of the river or rather the bluff upon which the town was located, was much higher than the west side of the road from the bridge, to the top of the hill on a grade of about five hundred feet to the mile. It was the steepest railroad ever seen by the writer. To get up the grade, the train would take a long run and sometimes failed to reach the top and slid back, and would have to try over again. In going out, all brakes had to be set. This arrangement looked rather unsubstantial, but it was explained that it was temporary and that the ground would be raised, and a new and higher bridge put in but these things were never done.

The town of Callanan was laid out April 19, 1878, and grew with surprising rapidity. It was situated on the northwest quarter of section 1-86-24, but most of the buildings were built on a tract of land north of the depot on section 36-87-24, and in November of that year the south half of the southwest quarter of said section 36 was laid out in town lots and called North Callanan. The town was in the midst of a splendid agricultural country and large amounts of grain and stock were bought and shipped from that point, and considerable business was transacted. It was essentially a boom town, and along with the legitimate business there were also perhaps more of the characteristics of the far western mining towns. Several saloons were in active operation and more clear money was made in them than in any other business. The legal authority of the town also fell into rather unreliable hands and a great many stories are told of strangers who with a little money and an appetite for drink, found themselves in a row before they knew it. Without any very good cause, they were arrested, their money taken, and they were given the privilege of leaving the town or going to jail. This, of course, occurred only to transients, who, with little money and perhaps less brains, were looking for a snap and were not disappointed except that instead of getting the snap they got snapped themselves. It is reported that strangers were arrested and fined, but allowed to escape on the way to Webster City to

jail, when the little money or valuables invariably taken from them when arrested, was confiscated and no record made of the transaction.

#### THE CALLANAN HERALD

In the fall of 1878, the Williams Standard suspended and a Mr. Sherpy bought the material and started a paper at Callanan called the Herald and January 1, 1879, the Callanan Herald was awarded second place as the official paper of the county. But the paper was not a paying investment and as the year progressed, its issues became only occasional instead of weekly and it finally suspended. In December 1879, however, the paper was again revived and the name changed to the Register and in January, 1880, the board made the Callanan Register second official paper on condition that it be issued regularly. The paper struggled along for a few weeks and succumbed.

#### TWO MURDERS

As will be seen further on, the town of Callanan only grew for a little over two years, and then began to fall to pieces, but during its short life it claimed the distinction of having two murders committed within its precincts. One was by a drunken bystander on the 4th of July, who fired a revolver into the crowd on the platform of the depot striking one Jacob Hing, from the effects of which he died. The other case was that in which Hilga Espe killed Joe Isley. Hilga was a strong muscular fellow and Isley a little old man. Both were drunk. Hilga wanted to fight Isley, but Isley refused, and started to go away. Hilga followed up and picking the smaller man up by main strength, threw him from the side walk upon the frozen ground with great force and left him there. Some one at a distance saw the act and went to the old man, but finding him unconscious called the crowd from the saloon and he was taken in and laid upon a table or bench and remained unconscious until next day when he died.

A year passed by and the narrow gauge remained at Callanan, and refused to come north through Webster City unless they got the full five per cent. tax and threatened to go north by way of Williams or Blairsburg unless the five per cent tax was conceded.

#### ANOTHER VOTE ON THE R. R. TAX

To secure, if possible, the early building of the Narrow Gauge through the county northward, the Crooked Creek Co. released their two and one-half per cent tax and an election was called to be held in July, 1878, to vote an additional two and one-half per cent to the narrow gauge road. The vote was taken and carried by a slender majority of five. A year rolled round and still no moves were made to extend the building of the road northward.

During the winter of '78-9 the project was again brought up. The company claiming that the tax already voted was illegal and asked that a new vote be taken on the proposition of a full five per cent. tax and also asked the town of Webster City or rather Boone township to donate right of way and depot grounds. There was much opposition to the five per cent. tax. Those urging it charged that its chief opposers were working in the interest of, if not in the pay of, Fort Dodge, declaring that Fort Dodge was working to prevent the coming of the

road so as to keep Webster City out of the field as a competing business point. There was absolutely nothing in this charge, but it was a good electioneering story and it was used for all it was worth. The election came off the 21st of June, and carried by a decided majority. It had been confidently promised that if the tax carried, the road would be completed to Webster City by September 1, and everybody could go to the State fair over it. Still nothing was done, and a short time afterwards the mortgage on the road already built was foreclosed and all hope of its extension to Webster City died out.

#### THE ADVERTISER IS STARTED

In the spring of 1877, J. R. Riblet came to Webster City. Being a printer and out of a job he conceived the idea of starting a monthly paper especially designed as an advertising medium and for general literature. He had no printing press, but secured advertising and putting his type in form had the press work done by the Freeman office. The paper was named The Advertiser but it only appeared two or three times in its original form which was four columns to the page, and as many pages as the amount of advertising warranted. In the fall of that year, J. D. Sutton and J. R. Riblet formed a co-partnership and in November began to issue the Advertiser as a weekly 8 column quarto. Machinery and type were procured for doing business on a large scale and the presses were run by steam. It was the first steam printing outfit in the county, but it was soon found that its proprietors had started in to mow a wider swath than they were able to complete. They could not meet the payments on their power press and other material, and the manufacturer came and took out the press, steam fixtures and some of the materials. The form of the paper was then changed to a 5 column quarto. In politics it was the organ of the greenback party and was very radical. Mr. Riblet soon retired from the firm and Med Skinner took his place. Politically, the Freeman and Advertiser were soon engaged in a regular Kilkenny cat fight, which soon took on a most violent personal aspect. Politics in the county boiled clear out of the pot and the people in 1878 were so nearly divided that ex-Governor C. C. Carpenter, the republican candidate for Congress, had only seven majority over Col. L. Q. Hoggett, of Ames, the greenback candidate. Mr. Skinner soon withdrew from the Advertiser and Sutton ran it alone. The personal conflict between the papers increased in fury and folly. In the conflict the Argus was so lost sight of, that in July, 1878, it was compelled to suspend and the two papers had the field all to themselves and they improved it to the best of their ability. Politics soon seemed to be but a secondary matter, so persistent and violent were the personal criminations and re-criminations of the papers. If there was any crime in the catalogue of the criminal jurisprudence that each did not charge upon the other and prove too, to the satisfaction of the partisans, pro and con, it would have been hard to discover what it was. In the domain of reckless denunciation and billingsgate, Mr. Hunter was no match for Mr. Sutton, but Mr. Hunter was infinitely Sutton's superior in craft and diplomacy. Sutton went into the charge with the same reckless daring, and about the same judgment, as the bull that tried to buck a railroad engine off the track. He attacked anything or anybody that came in his path without discretion and without compunction. He was tricky in

his business transactions and personally unpopular. The ill-timed and violent assaults upon his enemies caused many of his party friends to withdraw their support and friendship while he lost other partisans by uncalled for assault upon them, and they left him. It was little wonder then that his patronage fell away until he was compelled to give up the fight in less than three years. C. D. Auyer leased the paper and ran it during the year 1881 until December, when it suspended for one month. In the meantime, F. Q. Lee purchased the outfit and in January 1882 began its publication, and its patronage steadily increased until October, 1883, when the paper was sold to Mr. Shaeffer who converted it into a democratic paper.

#### HOG CHOLERA

During the year 1878, the terrible scourge of hog cholera broke out in its very worst form all over the county. The raising of hogs had become one of the principal and most profitable industries of the county and nearly every farmer had been improving his breed and enlarging his stock. The cholera had made a frightful destruction among them. In many instances, men lost every one of their porkers and if any were left where the disease took off part of a drove, they were scarcely worth keeping. A better idea can be had by giving the report of the losses as rendered to the assessors, which was as follows, by townships: Cass 2,787; Ellsworth, 1,286; Hamilton, 3,221; Lyon, 1,877; Scott, 1,499; Webster City, 683; Clear Lake, 1,408; Fremont, 2,401; Lincoln, 781; Rose Grove, 477; Webster, 2,258; making a total report of 19,170. But in the report, Boone township, which then included what is now Independence and Freedom, Blairsburg and Marian townships made no report. It was estimated that had the report covered the whole county it would have shown the loss by cholera of at least 25,000 head of hogs. The magnitude of this loss will be better understood when it is remembered that the population of the whole county did not at that time exceed 9,000 people.

#### NEW BRIDGES

During the year 1878 a new iron bridge was built across Boone river at Bone's Mill. The work was accepted by the board of supervisors early in January, 1879.

The wooden bridge at Millard's farm had now in January, 1879, become dangerous and was condemned and the board at the January session, ordered it taken down and arranged to build a new iron bridge at that point. It was in this year also that the mail route from Williams to Rose Grove was extended south to Callanan.

#### THE COUNTY POOR FARM

The county had purchased a poor farm a year or two prior to this. It was located about one and a half miles northeast of Webster City, but there were no buildings upon it. It was urged by many that it would be cheaper to buy a farm with buildings already erected and add to them as occasion required. Others urged the abandonment of the new farm with a view of buying another located nearer the center of the county, but the board after investigating the matter resolved to build on the farm originally purchased and in April, 1879, the contract

was let to D. N. Stearns to build a house and barn at a cost of \$2,000. Mr. Stearns entered at once upon the work and it was finished and accepted by the board in November 1879 and has been occupied by the county ever since. There have been several additions to the house and out buildings, and more land has since been added, and this is now one of the finest farms in the county. The county authorities conceived the idea that it would be a convenience to the farmers of the county as well as a paying investment to make the raising of fine blooded stock, especially cattle and hogs, a specialty, and the attempt was kept up for several years and is yet to some extent, but the project did not pay and in later years a more practical kind of farming has been adopted.

#### THE CHEESE FACTORY

In the spring of 1879, Frank Fenton put up a cheese factory near the grounds where the old steam mill stood. It was put into successful operation and bid fair to become a profitable industry but for some cause it shut down about September 1, and in November it burned down. It was never rebuilt.

#### THE FIRST MEMORIAL SERVICE

The first memorial services ever held in the county took place May 30, 1879. The principal promoters were George Paton and wife, Charles A. Wickware and Col. Crosley. These with a few friends assembled on the green near where the public schoolbuildings now stand and having a martial band proceeded to have martial music and sing a few songs. The martial music, the singing and the little crowd gathered, attracted attention and other citizens came out to see what was going on, until the little crowd numbered about 200, when they marched to the cemetery and decorated the graves of the soldiers buried there. There were only about five in number at that time. After this, they again assembled, prayer was offered by Rev. L. N. Call, an address delivered by George Paton, a poem read by Charles Wickware and an address made by Col. Crosley. These efforts interspersed with appropriate songs by the choir, and martial band made up the program. Since then, the day has been regularly observed, and thousands annually participate in the observance.

#### A SOLDIERS' REUNION

Early in the year 1879 the old soldiers began to arrange for a soldiers' reunion. The day was set, being the 3rd of June, and elaborate preparations were made. Col. Charles A. Clark was chosen to make the principal address while there were many scheduled for responses to toasts. All over the county the people became interested. When the day arrived, the weather was fine and fully 5,000 people attended. It was the largest crowd ever assembled in Webster City up to that time. There were 335 old soldiers in line, and everything passed off quietly and most agreeably. Several reunions have since been held, but this one will always be looked back to, by those who participated in it, as the most pleasant and successful one ever held in the county.

## THE WILBERG TRAGEDY

In the latter part of August, 1879, a tragedy was enacted that caused considerable excitement. It was the murder of his wife by John Wilberg and his subsequent suicide. The facts are about as follows:

John Wilberg, a Norwegian, lived with his family a few miles southeast of Webster City. He was a man of irritable temper and very violent and abusive when angry. He had occasion to chastise one of his children and was so brutal and savage about it that his wife interfered to save the child. He turned in his rage upon his wife and kicked her in the abdomen. She fell to the ground, but managed to get into the house and to bed where she grew worse very rapidly. This occurred on Tuesday August 26th, and she died on Friday following. The story now came out and arrangements were made to arrest him. He attended the funeral with his children in Webster City and was allowed to go home after it was over. Arriving at home he jumped out of the wagon, told the children to hold the horses, and went into the house. A moment or two later the report of a gun was heard in the house and the children ran in to find him lying on the floor with the gun across him and the ramrod in his hand. He was dead. It seems he cocked the gun, took the ramrod to push the trigger with, placed the muzzle in his mouth and fired. The shot killed him instantly. He was brought to Webster City and buried the next day.

## THE TOLEDO &amp; NORTHWESTERN RAILWAY

About the time the hope had died out on the question of securing the narrow gauge railroad, a new project was set on foot which promised well for a new railroad of the broad gauge. The Toledo and Northwestern proposed to run a line of road from Tama City to the northwest part of Iowa and into Minnesota. Several routes were proposed, one of which was across Hamilton county, and immediately the citizens of Boone township began to work to induce the company to run the road through Webster City. The talk of getting this road began in 1879, but the project took no definite shape until the spring of 1880 when the company submitted a proposition to the effect that if Boone township would vote a five per cent. tax to aid in the construction of the road and Webster City would donate right of way and depot grounds, the road would build through. Up to within a month of the time a vote was taken it was hoped that the road would be secured without a tax, as up to that time no aid of that kind had been asked. A sudden change came over the management and a tax was asked. J. J. Smart who had been the principal worker for the narrow gauge road, now became interested in the Toledo and Northwestern and proposed to secure the release of the tax to the narrow gauge if the township would vote the tax to the T. & N. W. The proposition was agreed to, and an election called for May 22d, 1880. As usual there was strong opposition to the tax but the prospects were so good for a new broad gauge road and a fear that it would be lost if the tax was not voted induced many who at first opposed the tax to favor it, and it carried by a vote of 294 for to 45 against.

Depot grounds had already been secured for the narrow gauge road and they were now offered to the T. & N. W. and were accepted. The line from Tama City

was laid through this county where it now runs and work was pushed upon it with such rapidity that it was completed into Webster City and a regular passenger train put on which made its first run December 6, 1880. A transfer stage was put in between Ellsworth and Callanan a distance of a little over a mile and now the people had railroad facilities both to Des Moines, south and east to Chicago. And now, after all the heated contests over voting railroad taxes the Chicago & Northwestern was found to be back of the T. & N. W. and to own the road and it refused to take the tax and the same was cancelled without being paid. The reason it refused the tax was that under the law, each tax payer was entitled to a certificate of stock for the amount of the tax paid, and as C. & N. W. stock was worth its face in cash, it was more convenient for that road to issue its stock direct than to be bothered with so much stock in such small certificates. A certain amount of money was collected however in another way. Certain citizens gave notes for the amount of their tax, released the company from its obligation to issue stock on account of tax, and the company released the tax of record. Later the notes were returned to the makers and the donation of the depot grounds was the only aid received by the road from the citizens.



## CHAPTER XI

### REMINISCENCES OF PIONEER LIFE

PIONEER LIFE BY PETER LYON—CHRISTMAS IN 1857—A PIONEER CANDY PULL—A PIONEER LAW SUIT, BY E. G. WHALEY—EARLY LIFE IN WEBSTER—PIONEER COURTSHIP—THE FIRST SCHOOLHOUSE—THE FIRST CHARIVARI, BY A. HASWELL—HOW JOHN KEARNS HAULED FLOUR FROM VINTON TO WEBSTER CITY, BY J. V. KEARNS—FISH TRAP FORD—THE LAST ELK, BY ISAIAH DOANE—WEBSTER CITY'S FIRST QUARTER CENTURY, BY S. B. ROSENCRANS—A ROMANTIC WEDDING TRIP, BY MRS. H. H. KITTS.

#### PIONEER LIFE.

I came to Hamilton county in the summer of 1852. A yoke of stout cattle furnished the motive power to transport my family, our clothing, and a few necessary utensils over the then unbridged creeks and sloughs that lay in our route. I bought the quarter section now known as the Paine farm, just east of Webster City at the mouth of the creek which bears my name. For this land I paid \$120, turning over as part pay a yoke of cattle, a few pounds of rools (wool), a fifteen gallon iron kettle and the balance cash. The improvements at this time were a small log cabin, a log stable and five acres of clearing. This being the 2d day of June I immediately set to work to see what could be done towards raising something to supply the needs of my family. As the land was largely covered with timber and an undergrowth of hazel, wild plums and crabapple trees, there was not much time for visiting, hunting and fishing during the growing season. But in the winter time I had many a lively day with the game that abounded along the streams, as well as on the prairie. The first deer I killed was during the winter of 1852-3. I had followed him for several hours and at last got a pop at him while he was crossing what is now the old fair ground near Rosencrans' park. This deer furnished our first venison, a very, very toothsome meat and highly esteemed by the settlers; in fact many of the settlers had but little meat except that which was furnished by the various kinds of wild game which was very plentiful in those days. To avoid the drudgery of "backing" the game home after it was killed, and to save time harnessing teams, we would tie a rope to the deer or elk and the other end to the tail of a horse and in this way "snake" or drag it quickly home. This may seem a little fishy to the young men of today, but I am still here and can vouch for the truth of it. For our convenience and to accommodate travelers, we kept a small ferry boat and when the water was up we would ferry them over the river, crossing near where the Illinois Central railroad bridge now stands. The boat would only carry about four persons and so

we had to unload wagons and take them over in sections, next the load, and when all was over put them together again. The team could always swim over.

PETER LYON.

CHRISTMAS IN 1857

Emanuel Renner and Dave Hook used to catch wild turkeys by digging a pit about ten feet long and gradually deepening to about a foot and a half depth in the center, then over the deepest part of this ditch they would build a square rail pen and securely cover it. Corn would then be scattered along in this ditch and the unsuspecting fowl would walk along head down, eating the corn until it got into the pen, then its head went up and it became frightened and the more frightened it got, the higher it held its head, consequently, it could not get out.

Emanuel Renner lived where Tunnel mill now stands in a little log house. He used to say that his latch string always hung on the outside of his door and any man, woman or child was at liberty to pull it and welcome of some sort was always found on the inside.

In 1857, the young folks from Saratoga spent Christmas eve at what is now known as Rose Grove, but was then known as Skunk Grove. The party consisted of Louisa Doolan, Louisa Levanch, Adelaid Woodard, Ralph Osborn, Elisha Hill and myself. We went with a four horse team and left Saratoga about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. There was no laid out road across the wild prairie and we did not see a house, bush or briar from the time we left home until we arrived at our destination. But we did see something else. When we were about three miles east of where Kamrar now stands, the prairie wolves and coyotes commenced to howl and in less than half an hour, I believe as many as a hundred fell in behind us, and not as far behind as we could have wished either, for some came within five or ten feet of us and snarled and snapped at each other, and we hadn't even a club or a sled stake. It seemed for a while that they were about to take possession of us, and I got out my revolver but there were wiser heads in the party, and I was not permitted to use it, for if the wolves had once tasted of blood, it would have been good-bye to us. Our horses did noble work by landing us safely at the grove without a loss and in half an hour wolves and wild prairie were forgotten and we were on the floor dancing. At twelve o'clock our landlord called us to supper. The meal consisted of deer, elk and buffalo meat, corn bread baked on an iron griddle, fried cakes and pumpkin pie. After doing it ample justice, we danced on till morning. Elisha Hill lost his heart and one of old man Lakin's daughters got it, but she said even exchange was no robbery for he had her's too, and she gave him her hand. The wind did blow and the snow drifted and filled our tracks, and it was bitter cold the next day when we ate our breakfast and started for home. Our bill for the fun we had, was one dollar per couple.

When we "fitched up," at Uncle Jimmie Adams you'd better believe there never was a more thankful crowd. And the nice dinner they had! I believe it was about as nice a Christmas dinner as I ever ate in all my life. Then Uncle Jimmie got some dry wood and built a big fire, and fed our teams and made us all wonderfully comfortable. After dinner we once more started for Saratoga. We arrived there in due time and after peddling our load, I learned there was a



"SHILOH'S CABIN" ON BOONE RIVER, WEBSTER CITY



dance at Mother Hill's, so Hy Battles and I started, but we got lost in the woods and had to dance all night to keep warm. So ended my first Christmas in Hamilton county.

E. G. WHALEY.

A PIONEER CANDY PULL

In September, 1857, I landed in Webster City and started to go south down the river about nine miles. There I found Port and Han. Tucker. Han was grinding corn in a coffee mill and singing Home, Sweet Home, while Port was lying on the bed shaking with the ague. He said he forgot to shake when he saw me. That evening Charlie Tucker went to fetch a boat load of young ladies across Boone river, and he knew as much about rowing as the boat knew about him. When they were about midway of the river, which was at that time rather high, the boat capsized and spilled them all out into the water. The names will be remembered though some of them have long since gone home. They were Nan Kemper, Louisa Doolan, Belle Russell and Mary Maxwell. As good luck would have it, no lives were lost. The same evening John Whaley and wife arrived.

The first writing school was taught in Hamilton township by Columbus Woodward in an old log school house which stood on the northeast corner of what is now known as Saratoga cemetery. The same fall old Uncle Joe Adams made a cane mill by going into the woods and cutting two maple logs, two feet through, with which to make rollers. After he had got the mill finished and commenced making syrup, he thought to treat the young people by giving them a candy pull, and I don't think there was a young person within fifteen miles, myself included who was not there. There was no "hightoned" feeling in those days, and we were all "hail fellows well met." After we had become weary of playing games, they revived our drooping spirits by giving us a number one supper, consisting of corn bread baked in a dutch oven, corn coffee, boiled pork and turnips. All ate as though hungry, and went home well satisfied that they had had a jolly good time.

Port Tucker and Nels Olmstead ran a saw mill that winter, and about the slickest thing I ever saw done was the way John Whaley got ahead of a couple of men who stole about 25 cottonwood logs from a piece of land he had purchased of Nels Olmstead. John never said boo until the logs were hauled onto the logway of the saw mill and then he stepped up and very politely thanked the would-be thieves for hauling his timber for him. It is needless to say, said men went away looking rather blue.

We had more real enjoyment and fun that winter than ever since. A lyceum was started, and the first night the question "Resolved, that the negro has suffered more at the hands of the whites than the Indian," was debated. John Maxwell was for the negro, and I, for the Indian, but I came out behind as I always do; but then I might have known that.

E. G. WHALEY.

A PIONEER LAW SUIT

Seeing that you desire reminiscences of the old settlers regarding the History of Hamilton county, here is one item of interest that happened in 1857:

In February, "Yank" and "Dow" were arrested for stealing one of Silvers'

steers. Old Uncle Jim Faught was justice of the peace for Webster and Hamilton townships and J. N. Maxwell and B. McPheeters acting as sheriff of the county, armed themselves with the documents for arrest and started out for fun. Old Uncle Billie Daniels and J. Skinner were attorneys and nearly every man in the country was either on the jury or acted as witness for one side or the other. As the trial progressed, it was learned that "Yank" had shot the steer but "Dow" had eaten his share of the meat. "Dow" turned state's evidence and "Yank" was fined \$50 which he either had to pay or go to jail. He concluded to go to jail and J. N. and Mac had to take him to Webster City for safe keeping. Webster City did not boast of a jail among her many conveniences of those days and Maxwell proposed putting him in the garret of the Hamilton House. After this was done, the boys repaired to the bar room for a drink and some dinner. Just about the time they were raising the glasses to their lips, a cry was raised, "Prisoners loose! Prisoners loose!" J. N. dropped his glass and Mac fell over a dog which caused a fight and a general tumult ensued. By the time all Webster City was aroused, the prisoner was found quietly sitting by the stove composedly smoking his pipe. So ended the first lawsuit in Webster and Hamilton townships.

E. G. WHALEY.

#### EARLY LIFE IN WEBSTER CITY

"Trading one of my five horses at Chicago for a second-hand buggy and harness, I proceeded northwest to Beloit, Wis., thence via Shulesberg and Mineral Point to Dubuque, Iowa. After a few days there I started for Fort Dodge, overtaking a company of emigrants from Massachusetts and Nathaniel Browning from Maine. The company consisted of Brad Mason and wife, Frank Mason, Lish Sackett and wife, P. C. Babcock, and several others, about twelve in all. Their teams were loaded with boxes and trunks and the women sitting on top of them. Brad Mason asked me to take his wife into my buggy, which I did, and she rode with me to Webster City, then Newcastle. After parting with them I never again met Mrs. Mason to know her until at the old settlers' reunion at Rosencrans' Park after her son Bridge was married, when I was introduced to her again by Frank Mason.

"The winter set in with a terrible blizzard about the 3d day of December and I could not travel on account of the deep snow. I put up at the best hotel in the city which was no more than a double hewn log house. My board was \$7.00 per week and as the nearest mill was sixty miles away and the roads snow-blocked, no flour to be had for love or money, the landlord got some corn cracked at the Willson's cast iron mill and fed us for three days on mush and milk. During the winter I hired out to Mr. Camp and helped him get out timber for a saw mill which was erected where the old mill, known as Atherton mill, now stands. I was at Fort Dodge when Levi Day, brother of Simon Day, perished in a terrible blizzard, helped search for him and was one of those who put his lifeless body in the wagon when found.

"I returned to Ohio the next spring, got married, and came out again the next fall."

## PIONEER COURTSHIP—WANTED TO GET UNMARRIED

The first settlers lived in small houses hastily constructed out of round logs, covered with shakes or clapboards about three feet in length, six inches in breadth and nearly one-half inch in thickness. These were held on by heavy poles. The doors were usually made of two puncheons which were about two inches in thickness by eighteen to twenty inches in width, and about six feet long, dressed smooth with an adz. These were pinned to crossbars with one-half inch wooden pins, wooden blocks pinned to the logs with three-fourths holes through each, also through crossbars so that a wooden rod reaching from top to bottom block held the door to its place and answered the purpose of hinges. A wooden latch which was lifted from the outside by means of a string that was fastened to the latch inside and passing up three or four inches passed out through a gimlet hole. The floors were made of puncheons, the same as the door. In many instances not a nail or spike was used in the construction of the whole house. Those who had means enough got lumber for a door and one or two windows, six light, 8x10. A large chimney was built outside at one end of the cabin with well tempered clay and split sticks. Those who had no chairs made stools and in some instances tables were also made with puncheons dressed down smooth with the adz. The first cabins were usually 16x18 feet in size, sometimes 16x20, all in one room. Holes were bored in one corner of the cabin near the fireplace and wooden pins driven in, while puncheons or boards, placed on these pins, held a few dishes. And this was the pantry and cupboard, called by some the "dresser." The cooking kettles stood in the corner. Bedsteads were constructed after the same manner as the cupboard; only two beds in each cabin and when company came, some had to lie on the floor. I am writing this for the young and should any think that my picture of the pioneer home is too much colored, I refer them to Uncle Peter Lyon, who is still here, to Uncle Jimmie Adams, Walter C. Willson and wife, or any old settler who lived here during the period of 1857.

And now I come to the most interesting part of my story, to the young ladies and gentlemen of today, who will wonder how the "boys and gals" sparked them days. That is just what I am about to tell you. There is one thing certain, that no young man came sneaking around as if he wanted to steal something, and hang on the front gate and chew gum and watch for fear the "old man" would come out, as they do now days; none of that then! The pioneer boy and girl had the same courage and pluck that their parents possessed. The young man of that day had to face the old man if he wished to talk to the girls, walk up to the door and boldly enter. If he was welcome he soon knew it by the way they shook hands and invited him to be seated. If he had good sense he neither talked too much or too little. No putting on airs before the old folks to get into their good graces. If he was agreeable, that was enough, and at the usual time for the family to retire, at a wink or knowing look from the girl's mother, they all skedaddled off to bed and the young couple had the fireplace all to themselves and there in the mellow twilight of the glowing coals, they talked their love talk as young people always have and always will, 'till courting and matchmaking are ended. Methinks when some of the girls read this, I can see them chewing gum and look up with an astonished exclamation: "Did you ever! The idea of hav-

ing a young gentleman come and talk and entertain you right there in the same room, within ten feet of the whole family. No, I never!" I do not believe that happier couples ever married and set up housekeeping than these young people of the early days. They were strong, healthy and full of faith and hope, and above all, contented with such things as they had. If they wanted more, they knew they could work and get it. When a family got ahead so they could have a hewn log house with good door, windows, floor and shingle roof, a loft, or upstairs, iron latch and hinges, a new cook stove and bought bedsteads, tables and chairs, they were considered as getting up in the world. Indeed they seemed to realize it to be a fact themselves and began to put on airs accordingly.

Grandma Frakes, Mrs. O. U. Story, and Mrs. McFerren were the first, as far as our knowledge goes, to bring in the loom and the spinning wheel. Mr. Errickson, a local Methodist preacher, put up the first flouring mill on Boone river where Jas. Bell's mill now stands and Mr. Atherton, who was then a single man, was his miller. Jacob Payne burned the first lime kiln. Wm. Frakes burned the first brick kiln in Cass township near where Mr. Y. W. Short now lives. I think it was L. B. Hill who brought the first reaping machine in 1857. Benjamin Millard started the first nursery.

In the spring of 1857 was the great Indian scare. The writer and John Boring were the last to leave old Cass. As we passed the residence of the Rev. D. P. Day we went in to see if they had gone, and there in the middle of the table lay Grandma Day's silver spoons carefully wrapped up, but in their haste forgotten, but we took care of them. After their return, she found her best "go-to-meeting bonnet" in the pork barrel under the floor, where in the excitement and hasty retreat it had been placed for safe keeping. Had Indians come and fired the cabin, Grandma Day's best bonnet would have gone up in smoke.

In the winter of 1855-6, a young couple came from Illinois and settled near where Mrs. J. W. Lee now lives, in Cass township. A dispute arose between them as to the best way to make mush. She didn't make mush to suit him and as she was the queen of the home, she had ideas of her own and was bound to live by them. He, on the other hand, gave her to understand that he was the man of the house and if she could not cook to suit him she must leave. So they agreed to get "unmarried" and he yoked up the oxen and came down to Squire Camp, who was building a sawmill where the Atherton mill now stands. They came in and wanted to know of the squire "what he would ax 'em to unmarry them." He informed them that he could not do such a thing. The woman asked him if he could marry a couple. "Certainly," he replied. "Well," said she, "that is curious. I always thought that anybody who knew how to tie a knot, knew how to untie it." They asked him what they must do to get unmarried and Squire Camp told them how to proceed in legal course to procure a divorce. "That's too much trouble and costs too much, and I ain't going to wait any longer," the woman said, and turning to her husband, she said: "You take me with the oxen to the Mississippi river and put me across and I'll get back to mother the rest of the way myself." He agreed to that, and back home they went. In a day or two they started. He was gone nearly three weeks when he returned without her, feeling he was a free man again and single once more.

June 25, 1880

A. HASWELL.

## FIRST SCHOOLHOUSE—PIONEER CHARIVARI, ETC.

The building of the first schoolhouse in Webster City was let to Nathaniel Browning, who came from the state of Maine in 1855. The job was let and the schoolhouse built in 1856 for \$800. It was a one-story building, about the size of one of our country schoolhouses and was erected on a lot near where Addison Arthur's residence now stands. The material of course was all native. "Nate" (as he was familiarly dubbed), was an enterprising young man and determined to do all he undertook in a systematic way, regardless of what others might think or say; in other words, he had a mind of his own and must be convinced before yielding to others' opinions; for all this he was not arbitrary. "Nate" rented the Willson sawmill then on the river, where the D. D. Chase flouring mill now stands, for the purpose of sawing the lumber to build the schoolhouse. He hired men to go into the timber north of town to cut saw logs, and with oxen draw them to the river bank near the old Skinner Ford, intending to float them down the river to save hauling so far. At that time there were some pretty large trees standing, many large red oaks. The largest were hauled first and put nearest the river bank. Some were three feet or more in diameter. "Nate" was told that green red oak would not float, but he could not be made to believe that timber grew that would not swim. When the time came to launch the logs "Nate" ordered one of the largest red oaks to be rolled down the bank. As the huge log struck the water the waves rolled up ahead of it until it stopped; then the wave came back, completely hiding it from sight, where, for aught I know, it lies to this day. "Nate" stood gazing into the water for two minutes, looking as though he'd lost something; then, turning to the men, he said: "That beats h—! If I were to write back to Maine and tell them that there was timber in Iowa that would not float, more than a rock, they'd think I was lying."

In 1857 Michael Foster and John Eckstein, brothers-in-law, came with their wives from Rome, N. Y. Mr. Foster still lives on his old farm two miles north of Webster City. John and Albert Hoffman followed the trade of stone mason. John Eckstein afterwards went into the army and was made captain of a colored regiment. After the war he was elected treasurer of Hamilton county and held that office for ten years. Dr. Burgess and many others came in this year, the exact dates we cannot give of all, but the incidents are what are the most interesting at present. The first wedding and charivari that took place in Webster was that of Wesley Camp and Miss Moore. They were married and put up at the hotel, a double hewn log house. Mr. Springer, who still lives in Webster City, was the landlord and proprietor at this time. Late in the evening, a company of men, both single and married (mostly single), organized, armed with tin pans, bells, horns and everything that would rattle and bang, started for the hotel to give the new married couple a "shaking up" (names we omit as several are still living in Hamilton and Wright counties). Arriving at the hotel the captain gave his orders to his company in low tones and then the noise commenced, with yelling that would have frightened a band of Sioux, had they been near. The landlord came to the door and ordered them to stop, but he might as well have ordered the Boone river to dry up. After several rounds failed to bring out the groom, in they all went to where the bride and groom were in bed. After several words passed between the parties, and several threats were made, one

of the young men lifted a pail which he supposed contained a little water from the spring, but which actually contained greasy slops from the kitchen, telling another comrade to lift the covering, which was no sooner said than done, he dashed the greasy contents of that pail into the bed, on the occupants, and the band suddenly disappeared. And so ended the closing scene of the first charivari in Webster City. The boys all paid for their bit of fun and swore off. The captain, who lives in Eagle Grove, told me not long ago that that night was his last, that he often wished he could forget it forever.

As in all new organized countries, Methodist ministers came with the people. Father Daniel Abbott, a local preacher in Hardin county, was appointed to fill a vacancy on Boone river circuit until the next annual conference sent the Rev. David P. Day, father of Simon Day, who still lives in Cass township. Boone river circuit covered both Hamilton and Wright counties and the first appointments on the circuit were Homer, Border Plains (Uncle Jimmy Adams) White Fox and Goldfield. Reverend Day organized the first class in Webster City in 1857. He died the following year, but his widow is still "waiting and watching," expecting soon to hear the grim messenger say "come." Mr. Day's salary was only a little over \$200. The first presiding elder of the district was Elder Rankin, who now lives at Jewell, and one of his daughters is teaching school in this county. He is still strong for a man of his age, but partially losing control of his voice and being partially deaf he was compelled on account of these infirmities to retire, after preaching some forty years.

The Perry brothers, Lyman and Gilbert, came in 1857 from Illinois and made their home in Cass township with William Frakes. They took a claim on Eagle creek in Wright county at Head Grove. "Gill" went back soon after and married "the girl he left behind." As no railroad was in this part of the state, "Gill" took an ox team and went to Dubuque, a distance of about one hundred and eighty miles, to get his cook stove, furniture, groceries, etc., necessary to go to housekeeping. As the weather was cold and roads bad, this trip took him about three weeks. He rented a log cabin on the now Burgess farm, near White Fox schoolhouse. This cabin was one story, 16x18 feet, all in one room; parlor, bedroom, kitchen and pantry consolidated; this was the common style of that day and as the writer was one of his earliest neighbors, he knows that a happier couple never started out on the voyage of life, on the ocean of time, in their log cabin than did "Gill" Perry and his wife. They are still living at Tunnel on the Boone river and their heads have "silver threads among the gold." They are parents of a family that they have reason to be proud of.

In those early days everything was brought into the county by teams; mostly from Iowa City then the capital of Iowa. Everything was high, and we had to pay or do without. Corn usually sold \$1.00 to \$1.25 per bushel. Potatoes brought several times as much—\$2.00 per bushel in the spring of 1857. Seed corn was scarce at \$3.00 per bushel, and emigrants moving were glad to get hay for their horses at \$1.00 per cwt.; flour was \$9.00 per cwt. for awhile, and salt was \$7.00 per barrel, till the little steamer spoken of in a previous chapter, brought a load up the Des Moines river to Fort Dodge, which knocked salt down to \$4.00 per barrel. We had to be very saving of salt and stock got but a small ration on Sunday.

In the spring of 1857-8, the mill dam washed out and for weeks we could

get no grain ground; some families lived weeks on wheat or buckwheat ground in their coffee mills, and corn made into hominy. When potatoes were so high, the eyes were cut out to plant while the potato was saved to be eaten. Cass township was six miles wide north and south, and extended from Webster and Hardin county. Boone was about the same as now. Some of our schools were taught on the subscription plan. Those who had children paid in proportion to the number of pupils sent, the teacher boarding among the scholars. As most people had but one room to live and sleep in, the ladies "slipped off to bed" while the men's backs were turned, without fainting.

A. HASWELL.

#### HOW JOHN KEARNS HAULED FLOUR FROM VINTON TO WEBSTER CITY

In 1858 I resided with my father's family near Vinton, Benton county, Iowa. It was a comparatively old settlement and farmers were well supplied with all kinds of grain and produce, but there was absolutely no market anywhere near and as it was the wet season and the roads so bad, it was thought impossible to get to better but more distant markets. My father had thousands of bushels penned up at different places on his farm, but he could not sell it at even ten cents a bushel, and money was so scarce and hard to get that, notwithstanding the abundance of grain and other products of a large and productive farm, he was utterly unable to get money to pay his taxes. Of course every other farmer was in the same fix and it looked as though the farmers would all lose their farms through their inability to pay their taxes, though surrounded with plenty to sell if only a market could be found.

Very naturally my father worried not a little over his inability to pay his tax and I, very naturally, became greatly interested in the matter too.

Being in Vinton one day I picked up a paper and read that flour was worth ten dollars a hundred in gold at Fort Dodge, Iowa, and the market was not supplied even at that price. I mention "in gold" for that was a very important proviso in all matters where "dollars" were spoken of.

The discovery of a place where flour was sold at such a fabulous price seemed to me to be almost an interposition of Divine Providence; for by taking advantage of it, the taxes could be paid and perhaps a little ready money be left to boot.

I had often heard of Fort Dodge, and had a great desire to go there, and here was an opportunity. Filled with the project of taking a load of flour out there, I hurried home as fast as I could and told my father the news, and wanted to make the trip. He discouraged the project and said it would be impossible to get through, the roads being so bad and even if I did get through, the market would in all probability be supplied and I could find no sale after all my labor. But I was so bent on going and urged the matter with such persistence, keeping the matter of taxes always to the front that finally my father told me I could take an ox team and have all the wheat I wanted, and I might make a trial; that if I had any money when I got back he would borrow enough to pay the taxes, but that I might have all I could make out of all the flour I could get to Fort Dodge, remarking that I would probably earn every dollar I got twice over before I got it.

Having got my father's consent to the trip, I hurried off to see the miller about grinding the wheat. This he refused to do for toll, for he had his mill full of

worthless wheat then and as I did not have a cent of money it looked as though the scheme was about to fail, but the miller becoming interested in my project finally agreed to grind the wheat and trust me, until I got back, for the pay. The miller's brother, West Young, was present and he proposed to take his team and go with me and charge me a cent a hundred per mile. I immediately closed a bargain with him, and went to the store to secure material to make sacks to put the flour in. I told the storekeeper my project and he became so interested that he offered to let me have all the muslin I wanted to make sacks of and take his pay when I got back. My uncle and one John Davis were present while I talked to the storekeeper and both of them agreed to go with me and take a load each on the same terms I had made with Young. I took a couple of bolts of muslin home with me, and when I reported all that had been done and said about the proposed trip, one Sam Titus, a young school teacher boarding at father's concluded he would like to go too. Father said he would furnish a team, and Mr. Titus agreeing to drive it out and back, I engaged him too. I now secured five teams, and at once began to get to mill, anxious to get started as soon as possible, for fear the market might drop before we could get there. It required but a few days to get everything ready, and having loaded each wagon with a ton of flour, we started off.

All men had horses except me, and I had two yoke of excellent oxen. The others objected very strongly to my taking oxen as they wanted all horse teams so as to push right along, and they declared they would not wait for me but would go on and I could come along at an ox pace if I wanted to. Accordingly at noon we all started off in good spirits, having come to think the trip would be a jolly holiday. The horse teams struck out and soon left me out of sight, and after going about ten miles camped for the night. I came up to them about dark and turned my oxen out to grass. The next morning, not having to stop to feed, I got start of the others and only had gone a short distance when I crossed a slough about ten rods wide. It was one of those sloughs that shake all around and the wagon went in to the "ex" but I crossed all right and went ahead. Having gone a couple of miles I heard some one calling and looking back saw one of the men on horse back coming as fast as he could ride. When he came up he said they were all stuck in that shaky slough and the horses were all down and one team couldn't get out and that I must go back and help them through. I went back and helped draw all the loads across and we struck pretty fair roads that day and soon the men all left me in the rear. We covered about 15 miles that day. The third day the horse teams again left me, but about two o'clock in the afternoon I overtook them all stuck in a slough. I was mad because they wouldn't help me and drove right through the slough and was going on when they asked me if I wasn't going to help them out, but I couldn't afford to stop and pull every team through the sloughs. They promised if I would help them out, they would stay by me and I helped them out. They didn't try to run away from me again. We made our way at the rate of about fifteen miles a day without getting stuck more than once or twice a day until we got to Eldora and without incident worth recounting except that one morning a woman came driving up my oxen in a terrible state of mind, saying the oxen had eaten up all her cabbage. I was greatly surprised, for we had not seen a house all the day before and there was not a sign of a settlement in sight. Soon her husband came, and as I hadn't a cent of money, I finally settled with them by

giving them a sack (100 lbs.) of flour. After leaving Eldora, our misery began in earnest. We seemed to be stuck in sloughs all the time and such sloughs! Often we hitched to a wagon box and loaded three or four hundred lbs. into it, drew it across a long stretch of slough and finally brought the wagons over in sections. It was all the horses could do to get through without being incumbered in any way. Every night the men threatened to pile out their loads on the prairie and go back and leave me. I forgot to mention that, early in the trip I had been compelled to take two hundred pounds off of each of the other wagons. We finally reached Skunk Grove (Rose Grove) where we put up with Uncle John Bonner, living there. Here the men declared they would go no further but Mr. Bonner assisted me in persuading them to go on to Webster City. Mr. Bonner said it was only about fifteen miles over and that there was only one slough to cross and they finally consented to go ahead. But that "one slough" seemed to be all the way and we were three days coming across. In the afternoon of the second day from Skunk Grove, my uncle John's horses got away from him. It was a very foggy day and he followed them some distance northwest and did not capture them until night. Then he was lost and couldn't find his way back to camp. He hallooed but was too far away for us to hear him; he was finally answered by a man who came from the north, swimming Buck Creek, and who came with him to camp. This man proved to be Robert Willis. He stayed all night with us and we gave him a sack of flour. He said he hadn't had any flour in the house for three months. We were only about three miles from Webster City, and, though we took an early start and worked hard all day, it was almost dark when we crossed the East bridge and stopped to talk with Walter Willson who was running a saw mill near there. The news of our coming with the flour had preceded us and in a few minutes our teams were surrounded with men and pans, pillow cases, etc., to get some flour. We could not accommodate them for we had no means of weighing out the flour but Walter Willson solved the difficulty by emptying out a sack of flour and dividing it up among those who were waiting and handed me a ten dollar gold piece for the 100 pounds he had so distributed.

Making inquiry about the road to Fort Dodge we were told that we couldn't make the trip, that the first bad slough we would strike was called "Little Hell." We might get through that and we might drown a horse or two in it, but if we got through it we would come to another, called "Big Hell," and we'd all drown in that. My men all declared they would go no further and I struck a bargain with W. C. Willson for \$8.75 a hundred in gold, except I was to take two yoke of cattle. One pair of these cattle were Texan steers and were in pasture some miles down the river.

Mr. Titus agreed to stay and help me take back the oxen, and the other men taking all the horses and leaving us two wagons, started on the return trip. When those Texan steers were brought in they were a sight to behold! They had horns a yard long, were wild as deers and could outrun a race horse. We voked them up with some difficulty but could not drive them. We tied the two wagons together, and strung out the four yoke of cattle, but the Texan steers were no go that way, so we finally tied them behind the wagon and one of us walked behind them and kept them going. In this way we got on pretty well 'till we came to a creek within five or six miles of Eldora. Here we camped for the night and the next morning one of the Texans broke his "bow key" and got away. I ran after

him for an hour or two and then finding a man with a team, I hired him to help me catch him. That steer could outrun the horses and we chased him until he finally got into Skunk Grove where the stage coming in with a half dozen men in it, the men got out and helped me to get him into a pen. I paid Uncle Bonner \$1.50 for a well rope and we lassoed the steer, and I hired a man to help me lead him back. It was night when I got back to camp, and there I found Titus sitting on the wagon crying and declaring that if he ever got back to Boston you'd never catch him in this wild country again. We had hitched up that morning before the steer got away and that fellow had sat there on the wagon all day and never unhitched the cattle.

We went into camp near the creek that night and tied the Texan steers behind the covered wagon. In the night a storm came up blowing a gale right in at the front end of the wagon. It loosened the cover and blew it over onto the steers scaring them almost to death. They ran away with us, and running near the bank of the creek, the wagon tipped over into the creek where we found ourselves in water up to our necks, and the hind "ex" coming loose, the steers ran away with it. We got out of the water and when daylight came, found the wagon box a few rods down the creek lodged in the willows; the oxen and hind wheels of the wagon we found further down the creek. We had lost all our provisions and without breakfast, we got our traps together and started on. It was noon before we reached Eldora, where I laid in a new supply of "grub."

Leaving Eldora we next came to the Iowa river. It was up too high to ford safely but not high enough to ferry. Mr. Bunker who lived there thought we could ford it by putting the oxen all in a string while one of us would ride the lead ox, the others could sit in the wagon and whip up the others; but Titus declared he would not go over that way, and tried to hire Bunker to take him over in a skiff declaring he wouldn't stay with those oxen any longer. But Bunker refused to take him over at any price and he was finally persuaded to ride in the wagon and do the whipping. I mounted the lead ox but as the entrance to the river was rather steep, the lead oxen were slow to enter the water, and Titus began whipping the other oxen and all were forced into the river and began doubling up. Still Titus kept whipping away and knocked my hat off and I lost it forever, and the teams doubled up so tight as to upset the wagon, the box floating down the stream with Titus in it, scared almost to death. I succeeded in straightening out the teams and getting across. Bunker, with his canoe, caught the floating box and towed it over, and we rigged up again. We went the rest of the way home without special incident, I making the trip bare-headed. The ox we had run so lay on the barn floor all winter and died the next spring.

After paying all expenses, I had left about \$300, and a yoke and a half of oxen. I have only to remark by way of closing that few people who have not had personal experience of traveling in this country *that year* can form any just idea of the difficulties attending and most of the present generation will feel inclined to doubt what we tell about it, though the telling does but half justice to the reality.

J. V. KEARNS.

#### FISH TRAP FORD

I apprehend that there are special days in every life that stand as foreground scenes on the leaves of memory so indelibly imprinted as to preserve all the minor



ISALAH DOANE



incidents that go to make up and complete their delicate blendings of light and shade without which the picture would be incomplete. Such to the writer was the 29th day of March, 1856. That was the day on which he, with his family, crossed Boone river on entering what is now the territory of Hamilton county. The crossing was at Fish trap ford, three miles south of Homer, on the Boonsborough and Fort Dodge stage route. It was the last of a journey of eleven days made with ox teams between Richland in Keokuk county and Homer in this county. At the first named town we had engaged Benjamin Biettorf and William Ward with their teams to move our effects to the latter city. The Boone was considered too high to be forded with teams. A council of war was held, and after due deliberation, it was decided to unload the wagons and allow the teamsters to return while we would cross by canoe and hire a team on the other side to take us to our destination. The crossing was a somewhat hazardous undertaking, owing to the swiftness of the current and the fact that our goods were packed in boxes and could only be crossed by balancing on the canoe. Upon the writer devolved the interesting and responsible duty of accompanying the boat on each trip to balance the boxes. That good old man, the late "Uncle Ike Crouse," personated the grim Charon, and the fact that he was sufficiently stimulated to make him indifferent to danger was not in itself a reassuring circumstance. But it was not until called upon some six years later to assist in recovering the bodies of the Sherman family who were drowned at the same place while attempting to cross with their trunks in exactly the same manner, that I realized the actual peril to which we had been subjected.

When all were safely landed on the hither side, there occurred one of those ludicrous incidents that seldom fail to thrust themselves into juxtaposition with our most thrilling experiences. Surveyor Gilchrist who will be remembered by many readers of this sketch, drove up to the opposite side of the river with about half a dozen young men who had evidently been assisting him on some surveying expedition. Their vehicle was a light "democrat" wagon with spring seats. On testing the stage of water they decided to attempt the crossing. This conclusion was perhaps largely due to the fact that the courage of the majority was strengthened by the same spirit that inspired our ferryman. Accordingly adjusting themselves in their seats and placing their feet as high as possible to avoid wetting, they plunged in and made the crossing without mishap until the team struck bottom and began to ascend the shore, when one of the more hilarious of the crew threw up his arms with a shout of exultation, and losing his balance rolled off, and was completely submerged in the ice cold water. On rising to the surface he was seized and dragged to the shore. Mr. Gilchrist who seemed to be the only sober man in the crowd, took off his overcoat and wrapped the recent recipient of accidental baptism as snugly as possible, ordered the driver to pull out for Homer and to "stand not on the order of his going." A moment later the team went scrambling up the long and steep ascent to the prairie and were soon lost to sight.

May 25, 1889. ISAIAH DOANE.

#### THE LAST ELK—A REMINISCENCE

The stories of hunters have become so inextricably mixed up with the marvellous, the chimerical and the improbable, that were the writer a Nimrod in any

sense of the term or in any degree of fact, he would at all times religiously refrain from subjecting his reputation for truth and veracity to the strain of such a narration. But he is one of those unaggressive characters who never hunt except accidentally, or involuntarily when on those trying occasions when the tiger hunts him or something of that sort so he adventures to challenge the credulity of his readers by telling of the capture of the lask elk ever taken in Hamilton county as he shall confidently claim until contestants for a later capture shall materialize.

The incident I am about to relate happened about the last of December, 1856, or the first of January, 1857. During the winter I went across the lines into the territory of what is now Webster county to accept a position as teacher in the new frame schoolhouse just completed on the northeast corner of northwest quarter of section 24, township 87, range 27, then the farm of Theodorus Eslick. I was living in a small cabin on the same section owned by the late Judge William Pierce, and one of the inducements to move over and take the school was that I was to have the privilege of fallen timber for fuel. This was in good supply within a short distance of the cabin, until the first of December when the memorable storms of that year left all fallen timber hopelessly buried for the winter. With his characteristic generosity, Judge Pierce voluntarily modified my contract so as to include dead standing trees, and when these were exhausted for some distance around the house, the permit was again enlarged to permit green trees. I utilized the spare hours of the morning and evening felling trees and preparing wood, which with the aid of my stepson, John Kimberlain, was carried to the house. This brings me back to my story. On one clear and cold Saturday morning he and I went over to E. H. West's about a mile distant to grind an ax. When on the prairie on section 19, township 87, range 26, or near the county line, we saw an animal lying on the snow, which proved to be an elk with large antlers. As the snow was deep and crusted, his legs became so sore that he was loathe to move, and when forced to do so would go a little way and stop in such provoking proximity as to induce us to follow. After repeating this operation for a few times, the chase became so fascinating that we kept it up for several hours. As the animal made off to the timber, we were compelled to cross some very deep ravines. To accomplish this we would start the ax ahead and let it slide to the bottom on the snow, then adjusting our old overcoats about our persons like "one who draws the drapery of his couch" we would assume a recumbent attitude and glide gracefully after the ax, so that the descent was made with the most gratifying celerity, but then would come the tug of war. The ascent must be made. In order to do this we must break the snow to secure a foothold which made our progress slow and laborious in the extreme. After keeping up the chase in this manner till late in the afternoon we called to our aid Harrison Bruce and young Thomas West with their dogs and guns. When these reinforcements reached us, the elk was at bay in a ravine, from the bluff of which Bruce leveled his rifle and shot the animal. After breaking a road through the crusted snow, the carcass was drawn up by a pair of oxen furnished by Sheriff West near whose place the capture was made. The elk was dressed and the meat parceled out between West, Bruce and the writer. After warming and taking supper at West's, Tommy took his oxen and sled and conveyed Kimberlain and me with our share of the elk to our home, where we arrived toward the "wee sma" hours of the night to find Mrs. Doane in an agony of suspense over the

unaccountable delay of our return from an errand which was not expected to require over two hours.

I. DOANE.

WEBSTER CITY'S FIRST QUARTER OF A CENTURY

Written for the Freeman, by S. B. Rosencrans—March, 1881

Twenty-five years ago today (March 29, 1881,) C. T. Fenton, my wife and I landed in what is now Webster City. We came with teams by way of Dubuque, being eight days on the road. There were then but one or two small bridges between that city and this place. We were the last parties that crossed the Mississippi on the ice at Dubuque that spring with a team. From the Iowa river to Webster City we passed but one house. We crossed the Iowa at Hardin City, at that time about the most important town in Hardin county. We forded the Boone below the water mill. The spring was about as advanced as this year—the winter having been a hard one. S. Willson and J. M. Funk acted as pilots for us on our way out—we being on our way to Fort Dodge (the Mecca of those days for this part of the world). Webster City at that time consisted of five or six frame and as many log houses. We stopped at the "Moon House" kept by W. C. Willson and to us benighted travelers Mrs. Willson proved a model hostess. There was a log hotel kept on the east bank of Lake Daugherty, and Cyrus Smith kept a store in a log building on the southeast shore of said classic lake. (Lake Daugherty is just east of the Ja's Key and N. H. Hellen residences, and is now dry ground except in times of high water.) The Laughlin Brothers had a 12x16 store just west of where the old Potter House used to stand, on Bank street. B. S. Mason had a "house on the hill," a great way off as it seemed at that time—where Mr. Goit now lives.

Among those who were here when I came I might mention the Willson Brothers, the Funks, the Masons, the Laughlins, Tolman Wiltsey, Ja's Key, Morgan Everts, Cyrus Smith, M. Sweeney, A. Thompson, P. C. Babcock, W. W. Wells, the Sacketts, N. W. Browning, W. I. Worthington, H. B. Martin, A. C. Lockwood, H. C. Hillock, and some few others. The Beeches, W. Brewer, John Funk and Peter Lyon lived just out of town. Mr. Moon came the same day we did, and J. M. Jones a few days later. Within a few weeks W. S. Pray, Chas. Stoddard and John Rhodes came. Judge Maxwell moved into town that fall. J. J. Wadsworth, Dr. Baum and a few others came in that fall, while later Geo. Shipp, Dr. Burgess, Wm. Howell, Chas. Aldrich, David Eyer, Judge Chase, Wm. Johnson, the Leonards, L. L. Estes, K. Young, L. L. Treat and others dropped in.

The old frame schoolhouse, standing where Geo. Shipp now lives, was built that summer, and was used for church, school, lyceum, town meetings and all kindred purposes. The old Willson House (now Hamilton House) was opened on the 4th of July, with a grand dance, speeches, etc. The dinner was served in a bower in front of the hotel, where roast pig, etc. was served to everybody. John Hancock taught the school, Father Day, Methodist, Elder Skinner, Congregationalist, and a little later Elder Dodder, Presbyterian, did the preaching. H. B. Martin was postmaster.

Today Webster City is about to take rank as an important railroad town, having two of the great roads of the West—the Illinois Central and the Northwestern—and expecting to have the Milwaukee. With the best of a splendid courthouse (one of the best in the state), with hotels, banks, elevators and lumber yards of the first class, and one hundred business establishments of different kinds, with extensive coal deposits within easy access, with lime, stone and timber near at hand, with many handsome and pleasant homes, with an energetic and active population, there is no reason why Webster City should not progress in the future with an increased rapidity that shall exceed the most sanguine expectations of its friends.

S. B. ROSECRANS.

There are those of the early settlers who came somewhat later that I should like to speak of, but it does not come within the scope of this article.

R.

#### A ROMANTIC WEDDING TRIP

*By Mrs. H. H. Kitts*

(The following account of a romantic wedding trip describes the experience of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Arthur. The article was written by Mrs. H. H. Kitts, a sister of Mrs. Arthur, and was published some years ago in the Lake Park News and later appeared in A. R. Smith's History of Dickinson County. The events described took place in northern Iowa in the early sixties, but the fact that Mr. and Mrs. Arthur were life long residents of Webster City gives local interest to the story.—Ed.)

"A single horse and cutter took them well on their way the first day. They stopped that night at the home of an acquaintance, starting out bright and early the next morning, anxious to reach the river at La Crosse before it broke up, if possible. Early in the forenoon, the sun clouded over and soon the snow began to fall again very thickly, and the track, which was not plain, owing to the frequent storms and little travel, was entirely obliterated, and they could only judge by the direction which way to go. The snow continued falling through the day, but towards sunset cleared away, and at dusk they found they were not on their road, but near a small grove, with no sight of any habitation. They knew of no other way of doing but to get into the shelter of the grove and pass the night there, which they did, as they had plenty of robes and blankets and a bountiful lunch provided for them by their kind hostess of the previous night. The weather grew quite warm during the night and when the morning dawned bright and clear, they could see a large grove which should have been their stopping place for the night, had they not lost their way.

"The sun very soon commenced to soften the crust on the snow and their horse could not be prevailed upon to go but a few steps, as its legs were cut by the sharp crust, and being without its noonday, night and morning feed, made it stubborn, it either could not or would not go. After consulting together for a time, the only thing to be done was for Mr. Arthur to go on foot to the grove, where he knew there were some settlers and procure help. Imagine, if

you can, the young wife watching her husband as far as she could see him, toiling along, breaking through crust and sinking in the snow over his boot tops at every step, and knowing that the best he could do, it must be several hours she would be left alone, no human being in sight, no living thing but the horse near her.

"The hours dragged wearily on, and at last the sun went down and no one in sight. The timid girl remembers yet the terrors of that day and night. Eye and ear were strained alike to catch some sight or sound of human aid until her senses were gone. When the hungry horse would look at her and give a pitiful neigh, then she would get out of the sleigh, go to its head and putting her arms around its neck, let her feelings find vent in tears, until getting too weak and chilled to stand, she would climb back into the sleigh, wrap herself in the robes and through exhaustion, lose herself in a few moments of unconscious sleep. At last, as the moon rose higher, making objects as visible as in the daylight, she thought she heard voices, and looked away off and saw outlined against the sky, the forms of three persons who seemed to her terrified sight to be clothed in blankets, and supposed them to be Indians who had perhaps murdered her husband and that she would soon share the same fate.

"She watched them as they drew near, and could distinguish voices, but they talked in an unknown tongue, which verified her fearful suspicions, and with a thought of the loved ones at home who would mourn her tragic death, she covered herself completely in the robes and waited for the final moment. Soon a hand was laid on her shoulder and a gruff but kindly voice said in broken speech, 'Hello! You asleep?' She threw aside the robes and looked into the faces of three white men, who could none of them, except one, speak a word of English. She was too weak and frightened to speak, but reached out her hand, which they took in kindly clasp, and the one who could speak so as to be understood, told her of her husband's arrival at his house late in the afternoon, nearly exhausted. He told them where and how he had left his wife and begged them to go back with him for her. They promised speedy assistance, but the first man was obliged to go to his nearest neighbor, about a mile away, for snowshoes, as that was their only way of getting over the deep snow. They persuaded him to remove his boots, which were full of snow, and take a cup of coffee while they were getting things ready, which he did, begging them to be as speedy as possible, as he feared his wife would die of fright.

"After taking off his boots his limbs began to swell at a rapid rate, and when at last the men returned with the neighbor who had proffered his assistance, Mr. Arthur found himself unable to move his limbs without great pain, and to put his boots on was simply an impossibility. The Norwegians assured him they could find his wife and bring her to the house much quicker than if he were with them. He bade them make haste, promising them a liberal reward when they had brought his wife safely to him. When they had found her and convinced her of her husband's safety, they drew the cutter farther into the shelter of the grove, built a huge fire and spread the robes on the snow around it, seated themselves near and ate a lunch, proffering her a share, which she was obliged to decline, as she was too weak and chilled to feel any desire for food. The reaction from the terrible strain proved too much for the slender frame and weak nerves, and a half hour of unconsciousness followed. When at last

her senses returned, she found herself lying on the robes close to the fire, with the kind and anxious faces of the three perplexed men around her, one clasping her hands, and another bathing her temples with water, and still another holding a cup of steaming coffee to her lips, which she was soon able to swallow.

"It revived her greatly and after a few moments she was able to sit up and thank them for their kindness. They waited for a time that she might get thoroughly warmed and rested, and then prepared to start for their home, knowing well the anxiety of the waiting ones there. Many efforts were made to induce the horse to lead, but he would not stir, and they found they must leave him. They placed Mrs. Arthur back in the sleigh, wrapping her warmly in the robes, and started back, two of them drawing the cutter by hand. At times, when it would break through the drifts, they would lift her carefully out and onto where the crust was harder, and then pull the sleigh through to solid crust again, then replace her and make another start.

"At 4 o'clock in the morning they struck their own traveled road and hurried along home. . . . After two or three hours' sleep, they breakfasted and prepared to resume their journey, which they found they must do with a sled drawn by oxen, as that was the only mode of conveyance available. The horse was left on the prairie for ten days, the Norwegians taking out hay and grain each day until the snow had thawed enough so that he was willing to follow them home, where they kept him until called for.

"The remainder of the trip was made first in the ox sled, next in a sleigh drawn by a mule a peddler had been driving, which would persist in stopping at every house on the road for a short time. Then a team of horses was procured, which took them to the river just as it was on the point of breaking up, making it unsafe for travel. Mrs. Arthur was drawn over on a handsled and at that point, La Crosse, they took the train and were soon at the end of their journey; and, I venture to say, there are but few young couples living who have tried as many different modes of locomotion as they did on that never-to-be-forgotten bridal trip."

## CHAPTER XII

### POLITICAL HISTORY

POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN 1880—CAMPAIGN OF 1881—KAMRAR AND ALDRICH—D. C. CHASE TAKES A SHOT AT ALDRICH—"RECK YOUR OWN READ"—"THE FUSILLADE"—PROHIBITION—THE ARGUS IN POLITICS—PRAY FOR CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT—CAMPAIGN OF 1883—GEO. W. BELL STARTS THE GRAPHIC—THE PROHIBITORY LAW—CAMPAIGN OF 1884—DEMOCRATS DIVIDE THE SPOILS—CAMPAIGN OF 1885—WESLEY MARTIN HONORED—THE OFFENSIVE PARTISAN DOCTRINE REACTS—ALDRICH BOLTS—THE CAMPAIGN OF 1887—THE CAMPAIGN OF 1888—D. C. CHASE IN THE LEGISLATURE—THE CAMPAIGNS OF 1890, 1891 AND 1893—CHASE FOR STATE SENATOR—PARTY REGULARITY—M. H. BRINTON AS A LEGISLATOR—CAMPAIGN OF 1894—TWO DAILY PAPERS—THE JOURNAL FOUNDED—KAMRAR FOR GOVERNOR—THE CAMPAIGN OF 1895—POLITICS IN '96—POLITICS IN 1897—EVENTS IN 1898—THE FREEMAN AND TRIBUNE CONSOLIDATE—TWO IMPORTANT REFORMS.

#### POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN 1880

In continuing the political history of Hamilton county, it might be well to review the political conditions that existed in Hamilton county in 1880. The republican party was not only strongly entrenched in power, but it had a firm hold on the confidence as well as the prejudice of the people. The voters belonged to their political party in the same sense that they belonged to their church. Whatever their party did was believed to be right, and measures advanced by the opposing party were considered either wrong or advanced through ulterior motives.

The caucus system was in vogue with all its weaknesses and abuses and all its advantages to the politician; and through this system the "ring" usually controlled the nomination and policies of the party.

The "ring" was a name given to the coterie of men in control and usually consisted of five or six at the county seat and a judicious sprinkling of lieutenants scattered throughout the county. Membership in the "ring" was neither elective or appointive. Men who took an active interest in politics and developed ability in directing and controlling the sentiment of the community in which they lived, naturally drifted into membership, because they were needed, while the member of the "ring" who failed to control (or appear to control) and direct the sentiment of his community naturally drifted out. The chief of the "ring" was the "boss." He usually controlled, or pretended to control and direct the "ring." He was usually a long-headed individual who had a faculty of discerning the real sentiment of the community a little in advance of his neighbors. He was usually

close mouthed and discreet and appropriated the credit, when credit was due, and shifted the blame to the shoulders of his political enemies.

The paramount doctrine to be at all times urged was "party loyalty." The country had but a decade before emerged from a bitter war and the spirit of loyalty then so strongly developed in the hearts of the good people was easily appropriated for political purposes. Republicans loved to boast that they had voted for Lincoln, and had never scratched a ticket since; while democrats vied with each other in showing family adherence to democracy since the days of Jefferson and Jackson.

Opposed to the republicans in Hamilton county were the democrats and greenbackers. The greenback party had just been organized, with General Weaver as the leading spirit in Iowa, and its adherents, having all the zeal of recent converts, had grown in numbers equal to the democrats, though the republicans polled about twice as many votes as both democrats and greenbackers.

In the late seventies, the dissatisfied republicans, democrats and greenbackers had united in an independent county movement and had succeeded in electing Leander Bickford, sheriff, and J. H. Shipp, treasurer, but the violent campaigns of personal abuse urged by G. D. Sutton, then editor of the Advertiser, so disgusted the people that in 1880 the republicans had again gained complete control of all official positions in the county and in the fall of 1880 William M. Taylor was elected clerk of the courts, John V. Kearns, recorder, and George Miesner, supervisor, by majorities running as high as six hundred.

The accredited "boss" of the republican party was J. D. Hunter. Personally he was a quiet, unassuming man, and the term "boss" seems a harsh one to attach to his name. But it does not necessarily follow that a boss must be a brute or a scoundrel or a crook. On the contrary, Hunter held the position because, of all the republican leaders, he was perhaps the most judicious, discreet, conciliatory and far-seeing.

As editor of the Freeman, he sounded the key-note of each campaign; and it was usually "Vote the ticket *straight*." He attempted as far as possible to keep out of the factional strifes that existed from time to time within the party, and by this course of conduct he made himself the one in whom all factions could confide.

No personal enemy was too bitter to merit his support if sanctified by a republican nomination, and no friend was so near and dear that Hunter would support him against a regular nominee. He invariably spoke of the opposition candidates as men of honor and integrity, as in fact they usually were, and his treatment of political opponents was so fair and courteous that while they hated him on account of his power and influence, they respected him for his fine personal qualities. It is little wonder that the republican party, led by such a character, should have retained, almost uninterrupted, the confidence of the people of Hamilton county for a half a century.

Another factor that gave the republicans a great advantage in Hamilton county was the Scandinavian vote. These honest, thrifty, peaceable people were so largely in the majority in the south half of the county that they held the balance of power, and as they almost invariably voted the republican ticket, it was very important that they be kept well in line. This was attended to with unceasing fidelity and for years these people, so fast as they became voters,

cast their lot with the republicans. Indeed, it has been jokingly asserted that so impressive was the republican judge when he asked the prospective voter if he "believed in a *republican* form of government," that once the oath was administered, the impression was indelibly fixed on the new citizen's mind, that he had become a sworn member of the republican party.

#### CAMPAIGN OF 1881

Early in 1881, it began to be urged that the legislature should submit to the voters of the state the question of adopting an amendment to the constitution of the state, providing for the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors. There had been considerable temperance agitation and the republicans in state convention had declared, not in favor of prohibition, but in favor of submitting the amendment to a vote of the people.

Charles Aldrich, G. M. Blair, G. B. Pray, L. L. Estes and Lewis Crary were, as early as June, avowed candidates for the republican nomination for representative. In response to a public communication from a temperance organization, each candidate except Aldrich declared in favor of submitting the amendment, because the republican party was in favor of the submission, each apparently carefully avoiding the expression of any personal opinion as to whether the amendment should carry or be defeated, upon final vote of the people. Charles Aldrich, however, took advanced ground. He favored the submission of the amendment as a matter of personal conviction and declared strongly in favor of its adoption.

So many candidates from Webster City, all having strong claims upon the "ring" for support, presented a problem in political manipulation of no mean proportions. At that time, Webster City was still classed as a town and was a part of Boone township. As Boone township had three candidates, viz., Pray, Estes and Crary, it was finally determined that a primary election of the voters of the townships should decide which of the three should have the ten votes of the township in the county convention. The primary was held August 20, 1881. Aldrich and Blair, both entered the contest and the result was as follows: G. B. Pray, 151; Charles Aldrich, 90; Lewis Crary, 61; L. L. Estes, 60; G. M. Blair, 13.

As Pray had received a strong plurality, it was decided that the vote of Boone township should be cast for him and Estes and Crary both withdrew from the contest.

#### CHARLES ALDRICH FOR REPRESENTATIVE

At the county convention held at Webster City, August 25, August Anderson, of Marion township, was also proposed as a candidate and the first ballot resulted as follows: G. B. Pray, 15; Charles Aldrich, 20; G. M. Blair, 4.

Aldrich having received a majority of the votes was declared the nominee of the convention. In the meantime, at the republican senatorial convention, which convened at Ackley, August 4th, Hamilton county presented the name of John L. Kamrar for state senator, and after 195 ballots he received the nomination.

#### KAMRAR AND ALDRICH

Hamilton county had every reason to be proud of her candidates for both senator and representative, for in the following session of the general assembly

they both took first rank as legislators. John L. Kamrar, came to the county in 1869 and commenced business as a wagon-maker. He continued in this business only a short time, when he entered the office of Judge D. D. Miracle, studied law and later was admitted to the bar. It was soon discovered that the young wagon-maker had a wonderful aptitude for trial work, and soon he was in great demand where a hard fought jury case was to be tried. Figuratively speaking, in his trial work he was still driving spokes, with the same vigor and precision that he had exercised at the wagon-maker's bench. He went into politics, still driving spokes, always in the thick of the fray, whether it was a factional fight within the party or in the general election campaign. Besides making scores of warm friends, he made many bitter enemies, but he was never accused of dishonesty or of quibbling about where he stood on public questions. The Thirty-seventh senatorial district had chosen as its candidate, a man of commanding appearance, full of courage, honesty and vigor.

In personal appearance Charles Aldrich was an entirely different type of man. He was rather small in stature, but he was full of nervous energy. He had founded the Freeman, held a number of important government commissions, for he was known throughout the state, and was acknowledged to be one of the best informed men in Iowa. For some years he had lived on his farm in Fremont township, but he was more of a student than a farmer. In spite of his superb qualifications, he was not personally popular with the masses, and the campaign against him was most distressingly personal and vindictive. He was elected, however, by a safe majority. On becoming a member of the legislature, Charles Aldrich lost no time in showing that he was thoroughly independent and progressive in his tendencies.

#### THE ALDRICH FREE PASS BILL.

One of the political evils of the day was the *free pass* which the railroad corporations insinuated in the pockets of all public officials, including judges and jurymen and some claim Aldrich himself was not exempt. While this was eminently inappropriate, little was thought of it, for passes were almost universally offered as compliments to officials and were generally accepted. Aldrich, over twenty years ahead of his time, introduced a bill to prohibit the giving of passes to public officials and urged it consistently, but to no avail, for the committee to which the bill was referred, reported "that it do not pass."

#### D. C. CHASE "TAKES A SHOT" AT ALDRICH

The Argus, recently purchased by Pray and Chase, in the spring of 1882 came under the sole editorial management of D. C. Chase and became an "anti ring" republican paper, which meant the organization of a new ring to take the place of the old ring in case that institution could be knocked out. There now followed a series of newspaper controversies between the Argus and Freeman. This was started by a criticism of Aldrich's free pass bill, which appeared in the Argus. While in the main, it was admitted that some features of the bill were commendable, and worthy of serious consideration, other features were made light of. This criticism was regarded as "lese majesty" by the ring and



CHARLES ALDRICH



J. D. HUNTER



brought a vigorous "call down" from the Freeman. Chase, then a young man of about twenty-one, was not restrained by either fear, awe or discretion, and his attacks bristled with the keenest ridicule and irony. The style and vigor of the articles were so unusual that we give the following sample:

## RECK YOUR OWN READ

"Do not, as some ungracious pastors do, 7 1-2  
 Show me the rough and stony way to Heaven;  
 Whilst, like a puffed and reckless libertine,  
 Himself the primrose path of dalliance treads,  
 And recks not his own read."—Hamlet.

When any man undertakes to teach his brethren morals, it implies in him the existence of superior moral qualities and superior moral conduct. In pointing out the motes in his brother's eye, it is essential that he should have no beam in his own. Man, as a general rule, has little cause to complain as Cassius did:

"All my faults observed, set in a note book,  
 Learned and conned by rote,  
 To cast into my teeth."

Yet when he makes an assumption of superiority—places himself on a pinnacle of righteousness, and from that exalted height looks down in compassion on humanity, if there is any considerable variance between his conduct and profession, it is very likely to be noticed and receive vigorous comment. Thus reformers, when they are inconsistent, attract sarcasm, irony and even ridicule. To the working of this principle must be attributed the rough handling our Mr. Aldrich is receiving at the hands of the press. If it is "devilish malice," it has a perfectly natural origin.

It is extremely unfortunate for Mr. Aldrich that his panting eagerness to bless humanity should have found its outlet in a bill for the abolition of "free passes." If his virtuous intentions had only taken shape and form in some law for the culture of blue grass, or the domestication of jaybirds, how much brighter his chances for success and glory might have been, for in either of these cases he would have been perfectly at home and could point with a finger of pride to a life of consistency with his professions and aims. But as it is, he is confronted by the same obstacles that would impede a temperance lecturer after twenty years continual drunk, with the evidence of an undiminished appetite visible upon his person. It is inevitable that some skeptic should cry out "why his talk is all humbug, see that bottle in his pocket now." Now this places the reformer in an awkward and uncomfortable position. It obstructs the good work, weakens the good talk and is demoralizing in every way. This advantage is being taken of Mr. Aldrich by some of those crank newspapers like the Journal, Republican and Register and others, who carp at virtue and ridicule piety and are jealous of anybody the people love.

The vast and frequent acceptance of cushion seat "courtesies" by Mr. Aldrich is now being unkindly mentioned by them. The fact that Mr. Aldrich's complaisance extends over so much time and territory, gives them an opportunity

to discuss the purity of his motives. They insist on informing the people of the contents of Mr. Aldrich's private pockets and suggest the presence there of those noxious and corrupting influences which he is so unselfishly and heroically striving to get away from. They descend to the level of offensive epithets like "Reformer Stiggins" and a few of the most shameless indulge in the low bred and insolent familiarity of "Canada Thistle Charlie." They have even stooped so low as to remind him of the time he availed himself of the "courtesy" of the American Express Company to transfer from the sandy soil of New Jersey to the fertile loam of Iowa, a little thoroughbred Jersey bull. They forget the kind heart and benevolent impulse which invited that little bull to the glorious region of free and plentiful fodder; they forget the priceless benefit in the generation of little bulls of transcontinental pedigree. They unfairly ignore these things, and mention only the fact that this use of the company's "courtesy" was ridiculous from the monstrousness of the cheek which inspired it. In this way these journals show Mr. Aldrich's talk to be inconsistent with his experience, and this, of course, hurts his measure. The thing has a melancholy hue. It is too late now for Mr. Aldrich to back out and try something else; besides not foreseeing this difficulty, he made "a solemn promise to his constituents." It is difficult to suggest anything at such a juncture. The best thing, we think, for Mr. Aldrich, notwithstanding the resulting inconvenience, is to promptly surrender his passes. The logic of his bill is that officials are corrupted by passes. As long as he retains his passes he occupies a peculiar position—that of an apparent, willingness to be corrupted himself. He would thus emphasize his views, impress the public with confidence in his sincerity, and hand his name to an admiring posterity.

Both Hunter and Aldrich were now straining themselves to the utmost to get ahead of "Cady" and other friends of the "ring" offered contributions and a communication by "H. J.," criticising some "errors" that appeared in the make-up of the Argus, call forth the following:

#### THE FUSILLADE

The last issue of the Freeman contains a criticism of the local columns of the Argus and the education of its editor. It is labelled "Too High toned," and is evidently the joint product of the Freeman and some bright Aleck, who hides his towering genius behind a couple of unpretentious initials, and carefully and mercifully screens "the wonders of that brow's ineffable light," lest we should not be able to bear the blazing halo of divine intelligence that encircles it. "Great Unknowns" are often met with by publishers of newspapers. They gush forth, like, in "spring poetry." They are ever on the lookout to detect some error of a newspaper man, and are everlastingly itching for a chance to display in print the talent and erudition, which has always remained a profound secret to their intimate acquaintances. H. J. is one of these great and censorious characters in disguise. His alert perception has discovered two typographical errors and some medical terms in the Argus, and he feels as big and as proud and swollen as if he had discovered his own greatness. Errors such as he points out are not confined to our columns. Even "the oldest, largest and best" sometimes slip. We have noticed several but we never deemed it particularly sinful or calling

for any criticism on our part. We notice several in the last issue, indeed we notice some in H. J.'s sermon. For instance, there is nothing in the *Argus* so high toned and deeply mysterious as "preriginate," "catilegenious" and "receptical," which occur in H. J.'s criticism in the *Freeman*. We feel the "college education" is nowhere; we cave; rake in the persimmons, you darling genius. "Preriginate" is a verbal gem; "receptical" is fearfully "high toned," and "catilegenious" is so "mysterious" that neither Worcester nor Webster in all their dictionary making, ever got hold of it; but perhaps H. J. was then in the germ of seed, and so did not throw the shining light of his matured powers on the ignorant Worcester and Webster. We pretend to no exemption from liability to mistake. We lay no claim to being the "oldest, largest and the best."

We do the best we can. We are not "too high toned" to kneel at H. J.'s shrine and receive the fruits of his evident intelligence. Like Portia: "We commit our gentle spirit to yours to be directed." Therefore unveil yourself; take off the rag that we may have the benefit of your teachings and genius. To see such a Leviathan would no doubt cause our knees to knock together "in agonies of terror"; but show up, we'll take the chances, and probably after the first shock we will be able to contemplate your stalwart proportions with composure. When the "Veiled Prophet" in "Lalla Rookh" took off the silver veil, instead of the heavenly light which he taught his followers to believe was there, there was disclosed the ill shapen features of a grinning idiot. We hope no similar surprise awaits us, and that behind H. J. no bilious little doctor, envious of his brethren makes his wail.

It is needless to say that the *Argus* now became much sought after, and greatly enjoyed by all except the victims of its displeasure.

#### PROHIBITION

The legislature having voted in favor of submitting the prohibition amendment, in May, 1882, the governor issued a proclamation calling for a special election to be held June 27, 1882, at which the following proposed amendment to the constitution of the state was submitted to the electors of the state:

"Article 1, section 26. No person shall manufacture for sale or sell or keep for sale, as a beverage, any intoxicating liquors whatever, including ale, wine and beer.

"The general assembly shall by law prescribe regulations for the enforcement of the prohibition herein contained, and shall thereby provide suitable penalties for the violation of the provisions thereof."

The contest over the amendment in Hamilton county was quite heated. The *Freeman* and *Advertiser* favored the amendment. The *Argus* opposed it. A strong speaking campaign was inaugurated. The amendment carried in Hamilton county by a vote of 1,344, for, and 652, against. The majority in the state for the amendment was about 30,000.

But the liquor forces had "another card up their sleeve" and the following January the supreme court declared the amendment invalid. The case decided was entitled *Koehler and Lang vs Hill*, and is found in the Iowa reports.

It seems that when the 18th general assembly submitted the amendment the senate resolution read as follows "No person shall manufacture for sale, or

sell, or keep for sale, as a beverage (*or to be used*) any intoxicating liquor whatever including ale, wine and beer." When the house passed its resolution concurring with the senate, the four words "or to be used" were omitted. The 19th general assembly attempted to cure the defect by passing through the house a corrected resolution, but the supreme court held that the leaving out of the four words was a fatal variation and that the nineteenth general assembly had no power to correct the mistakes of the eighteenth general assembly. On account of this technicality, the submission was declared illegal.

The attempt to have prohibition incorporated in the constitution having failed, the next step was to secure it by legislative enactment, and the republicans of Hamilton county in convention in August, 1883, declared in favor of that policy.

#### THE ARGUS IN POLITICS

While the Argus had lost some prestige through taking the unpopular side of the prohibition controversy, it still had gained considerable influence on account of its campaign against official extravagance. County officers persisted in giving all the public patronage possible to the Freeman. The Argus after numerous attempts to "break into" the commissary department, published with great ostentation its bid to print the delinquent tax list, at *one* cent per description. The usual rate was twenty cents, and the Freeman usually had the work, which was fairly profitable at that price.

The extremely low bid of one cent per description was attracting so much attention that Treasurer Fowler was considerably disturbed, and to relieve him, it was decided, after due deliberation, that he should accept the Argus bid. The printing of the list meant that considerable extra equipment must be added to the Argus plant, so to embarrass that institution as much as possible, the acceptance of the bid was delayed until the latest possible date, with hopes that the Argus being unequipped would be compelled to "back out," and the Freeman, being the only office prepared to do quick work, would get the job at the usual price.

The Argus was game, however, and telegraphing to Chicago for the necessary material, did the work at a large expense and for the very small compensation of about \$10.00.

#### PRAY FOR CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT

At the republican county convention held July 21, 1882, G. B. Pray as candidate for clerk of the supreme court was accorded the privilege of selecting his own delegation. He chose D. D. Chase, D. D. Miracle, Ira H. Tremain, G. W. Crosley, J. M. O'Brien and J. V. Kearns.

Mr. Pray's name was presented to the state convention by J. P. Dolliver in his usual witty and attractive manner, and he was duly nominated and elected. He held the office with credit for many years.

At the fall election in 1882, Wm. Taylor was elected clerk of the district court; Christian Thoreson, recorder; Levi Cottington, supervisor; and O. B. Vincent, surveyor.

## CAMPAIGN OF 1883

The republicans in 1883 nominated the following ticket:

For representative, Julius M. Jones; for auditor, William Anderson; for treasurer, August F. Hoffman; for sheriff, Chas. F. Weston; for superintendent of schools, George F. Richardson; for supervisor, James McMurchy; for coroner, Geo. W. Black; for surveyor, O. B. Vincent.

The contest for the republican nomination for treasurer was between August F. Hoffmann, supported by the Argus, and "Gill" Perry, supported by the Freeman. Hoffmann won and of course the patronage of the office was due to the Argus, including the printing of the delinquent tax list. In the meantime the business management of that paper passed into the hands of Hellen Brothers. They accepted the tax list at twenty cents per description and no complaint was made that the price was excessive.

The contest for the nomination for sheriff was between C. F. Weston and G. A. Walrath and for superintendent, between Richardson and L. N. Gerber. The last contest was exceedingly close. In the convention, the first informal ballot gave Gerber 20 votes and Richardson 18, but the first formal ballot gave Richardson 19 and Gerber only 18.

The independent county ticket was made up as follows:

For representative, William Tatham; for auditor, J. C. Klotzbach; for treasurer, H. N. McClure; for sheriff, J. K. Clark; for superintendent of schools, H. M. Lucas; for supervisor, F. A. Edwards; for coroner, D. L. Hurd.

This was a year of schoolhouse speeches. Among the republicans who enlightened the voters were Wesley Martin, J. L. Kamrar, J. D. Wells, D. D. Chase, Rev. H. C. Harmon, L. N. Gerber, Geo. F. Richardson, J. M. Jones, Geo. F. Tucker, Geo. H. Daniels, L. J. Pierson, J. M. O'Brien and Col. G. W. Crosley. While for the independents N. B. Hyatt, F. Q. Lee, H. M. Lucas, Wm. Tatham and F. A. Edwards did service.

Outside of strictly county issues, the main issue was prohibition. The republicans carried the election by majorities ranging from 140 to 285.

## THE SHERMAN-KINNE DEBATE

It was this year, that occurred the great "Field Day" in Hamilton county politics. On Tuesday, September 11, occurred the joint debate between the candidates for governor, Gov. B. R. Sherman, republican, and Hon. L. G. Kinne, democrat. The debate took place at the old fair grounds and was a general picnic occasion. The crowd was largely republican and strongly in sympathy with Sherman. As to the merit of the speakers, the laurels were easily due to Kinne, who was the superior in tact and ability if he did not have the right of the question. General Weaver, the greenback candidate for governor, was not permitted to take part in the debate, but he was present and addressed a large audience at the opera house in the evening, and as a counter attraction, Col. "Pete" Hepburn addressed a large audience of republicans at the same time at the courthouse.

The election following this campaign resulted in a complete republican vic-

tory and when the legislature convened in January, 1884, Hon. Julius M. Jones was representative, and J. L. Kamrar, senator.

At the session of the legislature in 1884, prohibition was the chief issue. Both Major Jones and Senator Kamrar supported prohibition and their action was in entire accord with the sentiment of the people at home.

They were also successful in securing the appointment of Col. Geo. W. Crosley as warden of the penitentiary at Fort Madison. Crosley had made a good record as sheriff, and being interested in the study of criminology, the appointment gave him an opportunity to inaugurate many important reforms in that institution. He held the position for six years.

#### GEO. W. BELL STARTS THE GRAPHIC

In March, 1884, Geo. W. Bell purchased the Advertiser, and changed the name of that paper to the Graphic. Bell was a traveler, writer and speaker of fine ability, and the Graphic, though a democratic paper, took high rank among the weekly newspapers of the state. In its first issue Mr. Bell outlined the policy of the paper in the following language:

"We are not paupers, and ask no favors that we can not reciprocate on business principles. We protest that journalism should not wear the devious garb of mild beggary.

"We solicit the patronage of business men and the reading public, but mean to render a just equivalent for all favors. We mean to be frank, generous and good natured, strewing the roses plentifully, but carefully avoiding the infliction of pain. . . . Politically, we stand firmly and uncompromisingly with the democratic party, and support democratic candidates, if worthy.

"In all political controversies, we shall discuss principles only, believing that personal abuse or vituperation is more than a coward's weapon; being a recognition of the superiority of an adversary on the form of reason. Besides, we hate a man who will enter the arena, then strike below the belt. Our private opinions shall not enter into our 'local' news, or our business."

#### THE PROHIBITORY LAW

The Prohibitory law, which had been passed by the legislature in the early spring, was duly signed by the governor and went into effect at 12 o'clock, a. m., July 4th. At this time, all of the legalized saloons in Hamilton county closed their doors never to be reopened. There was much anxiety on the part of some of our curbstone statesmen as to how a city could endure without the revenue derived from the saloon licenses, but the towns of the county have grown and prospered without it, and after twenty-eight years experience with prohibition, few right minded people can be found in this community who would be willing to see the saloon again established in Hamilton county. The community is cleaner, and better both socially and morally without it.

True, prohibition did not entirely stop the sale or use of intoxicating liquors. The drug store, the "hole in the wall" and the private club have always furnished the means of securing it, but its sale has been restricted and the senti-

ment against the use of liquor has steadily grown, until today, it is generally regarded as little short of disgraceful to use it as a beverage even in moderation

#### CAMPAIGN OF 1884

1884 was presidential year. The republicans had nominated Blaine and Logan, while the democratic standard bearers were Cleveland and Hendricks. Both parties organized marching clubs, the members of which were personally decorated with oil cloth caps and capes, and carried smoky kerosene torches. Nearly every town had its brass band and every important political meeting was enlivened by band music and enthused by a torch-light parade. The republicans of Webster City organized a "Blaine and Logan" club, of which Charles Wickware was captain, and Park Bank, first lieutenant. The campaign was a warm one and culminated in a tremendous "rally and barbeque" at Webster City, October 16th. This rally was remarkable because it was a democratic rally and the local crop of democrats was not what might be called bountiful. But like the bullfrog in the prairie pond, each one made noise enough for a hundred. Democrats came from all the surrounding towns, bringing their brass bands with them. An ox was roasted and a free lunch served, and to cap the climax, John G. Carlisle, speaker of the national house, delivered the principal address. His speech was dignified and convincing and was one of the best from a democratic standpoint ever delivered in the county. At night occurred the largest torch-light procession ever held in Webster City. The demonstration was a complete success and filled the local democrats with much courage and enthusiasm.

At the election, however, the republicans carried the county by five hundred majority.

#### DEMOCRATS DIVIDE "THE SPOILS"

The election of Grover Cleveland as president was a cause for great rejoicing among the democrats, and especially among those who had hopes of securing remunerative government positions, and there was an immediate "stir up" in the postoffice department. At Webster City, the republican editor, J. D. Hunter, who had just been re-appointed, was adjudged to be an offensive partisan and his removal was ordered. The democratic editor, Geo. W. Bell, was appointed in his stead and the office was turned over to him August 16. At Stratford, "Witt" Biggs was superceded by I. W. Hyatt; at Jewell, Geo. W. Foval became postmaster; at Ellsworth, John Digermen was appointed; at Blairsburg, W. F. Powers; and at Williams, Horace N. Hurd was placed in custody of the mails.

#### CAMPAIGN OF 1885

In 1885 the republicans nominated the following ticket: For representative, August Anderson; auditor, William Anderson; treasurer, Aug. F. Hoffman; sheriff, C. F. Weston; superintendent, Geo. F. Richardson; supervisor, Andrew S. Anderson; coroner, Dr. J. F. Will; surveyor, N. B. Everts.

The "independents" nominated: For representative, William Tatham; treasurer, Homer Miller; auditor, Horace Hurd; sheriff, Frank Fenton; county superintendent, J. M. Blake; coroner, Dr. E. A. Rogers; supervisor, Charles Felleeson.

The chief contest was between Richardson and Blake for superintendent. This was Richardson's third term. While the rest of the ticket received about 400 majority, Richardson's margin was only 121. His election was saved by the votes of that peculiar class of democrats who are so accustomed to defeat, that a prospect of victory frightens them into voting the republican ticket.

At the democratic state convention Capt. G. W. Bell was a principal speaker and in the course of his remarks exclaimed that, "The democrats asleep in Heaven have their eyes upon this convention!" This slip of the tongue made in the enthusiasm of oratory, subjected the captain to a great deal of ridicule throughout the state, and he became known as "Sleeping Angel Bell."

#### WESLEY MARTIN HONORED

In 1885 the senatorial convention was held at Eagle Grove. That year the district included the counties of Hamilton, Wright and Webster. Each county had a candidate and each voted solid for its own man. The first ballot stood, J. L. Kamrar, of Hamilton, 9 votes; S. T. Messervey, of Webster, 11 votes; N. F. Weber, of Wright, 8 votes.

No candidate having a majority, the convention proceeded to try it again and so continued until 1,140 ballots had been taken. On the 1,141st ballot the deadlock was broken by Webster county casting its entire vote for Wesley Martin, of Hamilton county. The result of this ballot was as follows: Martin, 18; Kamrar, 4; Weber, 8.

A motion to make the nomination of Wesley Martin unanimous was immediately carried and a committee selected to formally notify him of his selection. The formal letter of notification was as follows:

EAGLE GROVE, IOWA, Sept. 4, 1885.

*Hon. W. Martin, Webster City.*

DEAR SIR: We have the honor to inform you that you have been unanimously nominated by the Eagle Grove republican convention for senator of the Thirty-seventh district of Iowa. We are confident that while the nomination was made without your knowledge or effort on your part, that you will accept it and become our standard-bearer in this district.

Very truly yours,

C. A. SCHAFFTER,  
J. P. DOLLIVER,  
O. K. EASTMAN,  
*Committee.*

Mr. Martin replied as follows:

WEBSTER CITY, IOWA, Sept. 7, 1885.

*Messrs. C. A. Schaffter, J. P. Dolliver and O. K. Eastman, Committee:*

GENTLEMEN: I have your esteemed favor of the 5th inst., apprising me of my nomination as the republican candidate for senator of the Thirty-seventh senatorial district of Iowa, by the convention recently assembled at Eagle Grove.

While the nomination comes unsought, unexpected and undesired, I cannot but feel deeply gratified to learn, as I do from your letter, that by the unanimous verdict of the convention, I am deemed worthy of this high honor.

And through you, gentlemen, I desire to express my profound gratitude to the many friends at home and abroad, for the kind congratulations and expressions of confidence and trust. Let my future be what it may, I shall ever look back upon this event with feelings of the deepest pleasure.

But situated as I find myself, I must of necessity decline the nomination so generously tendered. In doing this, I am well aware that I run counter to the wishes of many earnest and devoted personal friends.

While this to me is a source of deep regret, I deem the assurance unnecessary that upon no lack of appreciation of the high honor conferred—upon no lack of devotion to the principles and policy of the republican party—upon no doubt of the success of the party at the polls in November, is this declination based.

I decline because I am not in position to accept. My private business is in that condition that it needs my undivided attention. To do otherwise than decline would result in the betrayal of private trusts. These reasons I deem sufficient.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I have found it very hard to say "no" to your kind solicitation, but under all circumstances, the stern negative must be sent forth upon its mission with the kind but firm assurance that my decision in this matter is irrevocable, and cannot be reconsidered.

I am, gentlemen, yours very truly,

WESLEY MARTIN.

The refusal of Wesley Martin to accept the nomination for state senator necessitated the holding of another session of the senatorial convention, and when the convention reassembled the three original candidates, Kamrar, Messervey and Weber were still in the field, each apparently as full of fight as ever. After some balloting, it was decided that a committee of two from each county should select from the three candidates the nominee of the convention.

The committee made its choice by lot, and N. F. Weber of Wright county, was the lucky man. The other candidates accepted the result with good grace and Weber's nomination was made unanimous by the convention.

The Webster county republicans consoled themselves by nominating Messervey for representative at its county convention held about a week later.

The democrats nominated Jacob M. Funk of Webster City, for state senator. Weber was elected.

#### THE OFFENSIVE PARTISAN DOCTRINE REACTS

In April, 1886, it was announced that the appointment of Capt. Geo. W. Bell, as postmaster at Webster City had been rejected by the senate, on the ground that he was an "offensive partisan." Inasmuch as the appointment of J. D. Hunter had been revoked for the same reason, it was considered as simply carrying out Cleveland's policy of civil service reform to reject Bell. F. A.

Edwards was then appointed postmaster at Webster City and his appointment was confirmed by the senate.

In party politics, 1886 was a quiet, uneventful year, the usual republican victory resulting in the election of G. H. Daniels, clerk; J. V. Kearns, recorder; G. F. Tucker, county attorney; and C. F. Fenton, supervisor.

#### ALDRICH BOLTS

1887, however, was not so uneventful. August Anderson was renominated for representative. This caused some dissatisfaction, inasmuch as Aldrich and Jones had both been retired at the end of their first term. Shortly after the convention, Charles Aldrich announced himself as an independent candidate for representative in the following manner:

#### INDEPENDENT NOMINATION

*To the People of Hamilton County:*

Having been solicited by a large number of republicans to become an independent republican candidate for the office of representative in the state legislature, I hereby announce myself as such. If I am elected I pledge myself to labor earnestly—

1. To secure the reduction of passenger fares upon the railroads to two cents per mile;
2. For the vastly more important matter of the reduction of railroad freights;
3. For the choosing of railroad commissioners at the general elections;
4. The reduction of the salaries of public officers to a standard approximating to the diminished resources of the people; and
5. I will oppose all monopolies and special privileges.

Cass, Aug. 31, 1887.

CHARLES ALDRICH.

It was the plan of some of the political leaders, friendly to Aldrich, that the democrats should make no nomination for representative and thus give Aldrich and Anderson the field. But the republican managers were too shrewd to allow this plan to mature. Levi Cottington, in a public letter demanded Mr. Aldrich state how he stood in regard to prohibition and who he would vote for, for United States senator, if elected. He was compelled to reply that he favored prohibition and that if elected he would vote for James F. Willson for senator. These statements did not set well with the democrats and when the democratic convention met to make its nominations, instead of leaving the office of representative unfilled, it nominated J. N. Maxwell.

As soon as Aldrich heard this, he withdrew his candidacy, leaving the field to Anderson and Maxwell. Then Maxwell refused to accept the democratic nomination and the democratic county central committee in conjunction with the Farmers' club, nominated Col. Chas. Whittaker of Stratford.

One of the noticeable results of Aldrich's attempt to run for representative as an independent candidate was the rupture of the close political friendship that had so long existed between him and J. D. Hunter. For years Aldrich had been an almost daily visitor at the Freeman office and numerous contributions

from his pen appeared in every issue. While he was traveling abroad, he wrote numerous letters to the Freeman describing his trip. Indeed, no man in Hamilton county was so close to the editorial throne, both in personal regard and political influence. But when Aldrich "bolted" and proposed that he, himself, should be the rebel candidate and solicited the support of the Freeman in this somewhat unusual enterprise, Hunter was scandalized. He not only refused to encourage Aldrich, but opposed him. The long friendship was broken and the Aldrich contributions to the Freeman ceased to appear. But the Freeman had been true to the party, and it gained in party prestige more than it lost. Personally, the stand against Aldrich was very painful to Hunter, but according to his political ideals, no other action was honorable, and his ideals were maintained.

The Tribune had been started about a year before by the Hellen Bros. and Charles Aldrich now transferred his contributions, advice and friendship to the new and rapidly growing paper.

#### THE CAMPAIGN OF 1887

In the fall of 1887 the republicans nominated: Will F. Smith, for auditor; S. Seamour, treasurer; Chas. H. Neely, sheriff; William Anderson, superintendent; N. B. Everts, surveyor; Chas. N. Eaton, supervisor.

The "independents" nominated: J. H. Shipp, for treasurer; J. N. Bell, sheriff; Jennie Groves, school superintendent; Palmer Tatham, supervisor.

At the November election, J. H. Shipp, the independent candidate for treasurer, was elected by from 20 to 30 majority. The rest of the republican ticket was elected by about 500 majority.

#### THE CAMPAIGN OF 1888

1888 was presidential year. Harrison and Morton were the republican standard bearers and Cleveland and Thurman headed the democratic ticket. J. P. Dolliver was the republican nominee for congress.

The republican county ticket was as follows: Clerk of courts, John Robinson; recorder, John V. Kearns; county attorney, Geo. F. Tucker; supervisor second district, Fred N. Taylor.

The democrats nominated for: Clerk of courts, F. S. Currie; recorder, H. M. Sparboe; county attorney, F. Q. Lee; supervisor, second district, Hiram Carey.

Among the notable incidents of the campaign of 1888 was a series of joint debates between J. P. Dolliver and Captain Yeoman of Fort Dodge. Both were strong speakers and brilliant debaters. Another incident of the campaign was the "bolting" of the Tribune. This paper, though republican, refused to support John Robinson for clerk and gave its aid to F. S. Currie, the democratic candidate. A sharp newspaper controversy now arose between the Freeman and Tribune, but at the election the entire republican ticket was elected, Robinson having a majority of 182.

#### THE ELLSWORTH M'MURRAY CONTEST

In the fall of 1888 occurred the memorable McMurray-Ellsworth contest for the republican nomination for state senator. At this time the senatorial district was composed of Hamilton, Hardin and Wright counties. Hamilton

had 10 votes in the convention, Hardin 14, and Wright 9. The convention was held in Webster City on September 5th. Both the candidates were well known and the campaign preceding the nomination grew to be bitter and personal in its nature. L. A. McMurray was Hamilton county's candidate, and E. S. Ellsworth was Hardin county's candidate. Each candidate had the solid vote of his own county and when the convention convened there appeared two contesting sets of delegates from Wright county. The fight had grown so bitter that Hardin county was afraid to take the advantage it had by reason of its 14 votes and seat the Ellsworth delegation from Wright county, and the convention adjourned to meet October 1st in the hope that some peaceable compromise could be effected. When the convention reconvened, conditions were, if anything, worse than they had been a month before, and over the contest between the Wright county contesting delegations the convention split. Hamilton county took one delegation and Hardin took the other, and each proceeded to organize a convention and nominate a "regular republican nominee" for state senator.

McMurray withdrew from the contest and the Hamilton county wing nominated W. C. Smith of Eagle Grove, a Wright county man. The Hardin county wing nominated E. S. Ellsworth. The democrats nominated Hugh Donley, thus precipitating a three cornered fight, the fiercest being between the "regular republican candidates." During the campaign, Ellsworth offered to arbitrate, thoughtfully naming his own arbitrators. Smith replied that he too was willing to arbitrate provided arbitrators named by him were selected. Each contestant evidently expected a favorable decision from the jury selected by himself, and was suspicious of the jury named by the other side, and no agreement could be reached. At the election W. C. Smith received 2,810 votes, Ellsworth 2,689, H. Donley 2,652 and Smith was declared elected.

The same year the democrats elected Horace Boies governor of Iowa.

In the fall of 1889, the republicans nominated for representative, D. C. Chase; for auditor, W. F. Smith; for treasurer, J. O. Lenning; for sheriff, C. H. Neely; for coroner, J. B. Tedrow; for county superintendent, William Anderson; and for surveyor, N. B. Everts. The entire ticket was elected.

#### D. C. CHASE IN THE LEGISLATURE

At the January, 1890, session of the legislature, Hamilton county's representative, D. C. Chase, immediately took a position of prominence and was soon recognized as one of the strongest men in the house. At this session he introduced a bill to compel railroad companies to install automatic car couplers. The bill passed both house and senate and received the approval of the governor. It was an important measure, not only on account of the protection it gave to the life of railroad employees, but because it was one of the first victories gained by the people in their fight to overthrow railroad domination in the state of Iowa, for the railroads had used their entire power and influence to defeat the bill.

In speaking of Chase's record as a legislator, the Freeman makes the following comments:

An examination of the work of the general assembly, just closed, will show the part taken in it by the different members. The record will show that Hon.

D. C. Chase was the peer of any member of the house, and contributed his full share to the work done by it. In speaking of him in a late number of the *Muscatine Journal*, Hon. John Mahin says:

Mr. Chase is a young man of much promise. Early in the session he earned the title of the "young man eloquent," by his able and brilliant reply to a democratic speaker on matters pertaining to the organization and he has maintained his reputation ever since. Mr. Chase, though a lawyer, took his stand with the granger element, and has been a leading supporter of all anti-monopoly legislation, especially such as relates to cheapening the price of school books. If there are no indications of a tendency in that direction, Iowa has better things in store for him than a membership in the lower house of the legislature.

Cady Chase is well equipped for effective work. He has strength of mind, thorough culture and great pertinacity. When he champions a cause, he makes himself familiar with all its details, and he never falters or gives up until the end is reached. When he made announcement of his candidacy he informed the people that he was in favor of Governor Larrabee's policy on the transportation questions, and would oppose all efforts to abolish prohibition and reinstate the saloon, and he has kept his promises then made with the utmost fidelity. In the recent debate on the license bill in the house, he was one of the leading speakers, and his speech was very favorably noticed by the press. It was a manly effort—clear, forcible and convincing. On our first page will be found a quotation from the *Burlington Hawkeye* in reference to Cady's speech on the democratic license bill, which shows that his course on prohibition, as upon all other questions, has been consistent and straightforward.

The "Aldrich Pass Bill," had evidently made a strong impression on Chase's mind, for while he was a member of the legislature, he steadfastly refused to accept franks or passes from any transportation company, notwithstanding the fact that the "free pass" was still considered one of the legitimate perquisites of public office.

#### THE CAMPAIGNS OF 1890, 1891 AND 1893

In 1890 the republicans renominated John Robinson for clerk. J. R. C. Hunter was the party's choice for recorder and A. M. Boeye for county attorney.

The democrats nominated H. M. Sparboe for clerk, Lee Griener for recorder and John N. Maxwell for county attorney.

In 1888 the board of supervisors had divided the county into three supervisor districts and the third district, composed of the townships of Scott, Lincoln, Lyon, Rose Grove, Blairsburg, Williams and Liberty, held their election for supervisor in 1890. The republicans nominated E. N. Eaton, of Williams township, and the democrats nominated R. H. Rodearmel, of Lyon township.

At the fall election the democrats were surprised to find that Robinson had only 73 majority over Sparboe for clerk. The entire republican ticket was elected with the exception of supervisor. Rodearmel, the democratic candidate in the Third district, received a majority of the votes in his district.

In 1891 the republican convention convened on September 11th. D. C. Chase was re-nominated for representative by acclamation. J. O. Lenning was nominated for treasurer, H. L. Corbin for sheriff, J. H. Richard for superintendent of

schools, F. N. Taylor for supervisor in the Second district and C. J. Eberle for coroner.

The only contest of importance in the convention was over the office of sheriff. The first ballot showed the strength of the different candidates as follows: Del Lake, 17 votes; A. S. Anderson, 12 votes; H. L. Corbin, 11 votes; John M. Cooper, 9 votes; James Miracle, 6 votes.

The balloting continued without election until on the 18th ballot all candidates had dropped out except Del Lake who had 25 votes, and H. L. Corbin who had 28 votes, which secured him the nomination.

The democrats nominated for representative, N. E. Fardel; for treasurer, H. L. Griener; for sheriff, Henry Biernatzki; for superintendent of schools, N. P. Hyatt; for coroner, D. L. Hurd; for supervisor second district, P. Nelson. The entire republican ticket was elected.

At the 1892 session of the legislature, D. C. Chase was a prominent candidate for speaker of the house. He developed a strong following but finally withdrew in favor of Mr. Mitchell, who was elected. In recognition of Chase's ability as a legislator and lawyer he was given the chairmanship of the Judiciary committee, the most important of all the committee assignments.

At this session of the legislature Chase introduced a bill providing that railway companies should keep on sale at all ticket selling stations mileage books which should be transferable, and good until used. This bill failed to pass.

He also introduced a bill providing for the abolition of the contracting of convict labor, another providing for changing the burden of proof in negligence cases, involving railway accidents, another to indemnify settlers who held title for Riverland, from the state of Iowa, and lost by reason of failure of that title.

He also introduced a resolution providing for a resubmission of the prohibitory amendment.

In 1892 the republicans nominated Jonas Fallein for auditor, C. E. Buell for clerk, J. R. C. Hunter for recorder, A. N. Boeye for county attorney, and M. L. McCollough for supervisor from the 1st district. As supervisor Rodearmel from the third district had resigned and moved to Chicago, the republicans nominated J. R. King to represent that district on the board.

The democrats nominated: For auditor, L. M. Northcraft; for clerk, George Johnson; for recorder, M. L. Root; for county attorney, J. W. McKinney; for supervisor first district, J. W. Allington; for supervisor third district, Ben Peterson.

The entire republican ticket was elected.

In 1891, W. A. Hutton started a paper in Webster City called the Webster City Herald. In October of that year W. S. Weston purchased the outfit and commenced the publication of the first daily ever published in Hamilton county, The Daily Herald. It was published as a morning paper and continued for about one year, when a stock company purchased the Herald and the Graphic, published by F. Q. Lee and son, and consolidated the two and established the Graphic-Herald which was continued as a daily and weekly paper and was democratic in politics. February 11, 1893, the Daily was discontinued.

In 1893 the republicans nominated M. H. Brinton for representative, W. H.

Dygart for treasurer, H. L. Corbin for sheriff, J. H. Richard for superintendent of schools, and J. R. King for supervisor from the third district.

There were contests for two offices in this convention. For representative, M. H. Brinton was opposed by R. G. Clark and on the first ballot the vote stood Brinton 34, and Clark 30.

For treasurer, Dygart was opposed by Geo. P. Christenson and Harris S. Kamrar. The first ballot gave Dygart 28, Christenson 26, and Kamrar 10. The second ballot gave Dygart 33, Christenson 26, and Kamrar 5, resulting in the nomination of Dygart.

As a result of these contests, the Tribune claimed the victory. It had supported both Brinton and Dygart against the candidates of the "Ring," which were supported by the Freeman. It now claimed to be the "Anti-Ring" paper and was striving with all its might to create another ring, which would gain control of the republican party in Hamilton county.

The democrats nominated for representative, John A. Johnson; for treasurer, Rube McFerren; for sheriff, John Carey; for superintendent, W. G. Bonner; for supervisor, third district, John Hays; and for coroner, Dr. Lewis. John Carey declined to accept the nomination for sheriff.

The entire republican ticket was elected.

#### CHASE FOR STATE SENATOR

During the summer of 1893 D. C. Chase, who had made an exceptionally good record as representative, was announced as a candidate for state senator and had the unanimous support of Hamilton county. At the senatorial convention which met at Webster City August 22nd, each of the three counties in the district presented candidates.

The first ballot stood: D. C. Chase, of Hamilton, 11 votes; J. K. Milner, of Hardin, 14 votes; J. E. Rowen, of Wright, 11 votes.

The balloting continued without change until 226 ballots had been cast. On the 227th ballot, Wright county divided her vote, giving Chase 7 and Milner 4, and the vote stood Chase 18, and Milner 18. This sent Chase's stock sky high. But Charley Albrook who controlled the Hardin county delegation, to prevent the nomination of Chase, cast the entire vote of Hardin county for Rowen on the 228th ballot, and Rowen was nominated. Politicians claimed that this action was taken as a revenge on Hamilton county for the part it had taken in the defeat of Ellsworth four years before. Certain it is that it resulted in a close combination between Wright and Hardin counties, which lasted over twenty years and until the adoption of the primary method of voting, made it possible again for a Hamilton county man to become senator.

The result of the senatorial convention was not very well received in Hamilton county and a short time after the convention adjourned, Chauncy A. Weaver who had for some time been editor of the Tribune, announced himself as an independent candidate for state senator. He was a young man of good ability and studious habits and would have made a splendid legislator had he been elected. But the love of party regularity was still strong in the county, and Weaver's personal friends prevailed upon him to withdraw from the race.

The democrats nominated A. R. Ladd of Clarion, for senator, but at the fall election Rowen was elected.

## PARTY REGULARITY

As illustrating the hold which the "party regularity" held over the people, it will be recalled that for several years the republicans had been almost violent in the protestations in favor of prohibition. But when it became evident that prohibition would lose the state to the republicans, that party abandoned the policy and adopted a local option plan similar to that advocated by the democrats. Some local temperance people were dissatisfied with this change in policy on the part of the party and a call was issued for a mass convention to select delegates to a state prohibition convention. This mass convention met September 2nd, and among those who attended were a number of republicans who evidently intended if possible to prevent the selection of delegates. Among these were J. L. Kamrar who gained the floor and made a stirring speech defending the record of the republican party on the temperance question. He admonished those present that "The Brewers, the Democracy, and the Devil would rejoice over such action as was contemplated."

The official report of the convention records the following:

On reading the call it was a surprise on the part of the convention to find that an organized attempt, led by J. L. Kamrar, was to be made to break up the meeting. This was more surprising as the call left no doubt as to the objects and purposes of the convention, as only those were to participate who were opposed to the open saloon and the anti-prohibition plank of the republican platform. Mr. Kamrar occupied nearly all the time until called down by the chair. The conduct of Mr. Kamrar even went so far as that a motion was made and seconded that the convention adjourn, and it was insisted that the motion be put. Whereupon the chair ruled that those who wished such a move as to adjourn without further business could now find the door and had liberty to go.

The convention then proceeded to business by unanimously electing the following named gentlemen as delegates to properly represent Hamilton county at the state convention held on the 5th inst.: Dr. H. K. Hastings, F. I. Cash, J. N. McLaury, S. E. Veach, Rev. J. T. Blanchard, Rev. Bruce Brown, Dr. O. A. Hall, I. M. Greenwood, J. R. Sterling, and G. D. Boller.

On motion the meeting then adjourned.

J. R. STERLING, *Secretary*.

O. A. HALL, *Chairman*.

The Freeman, in defending Mr. Kamrar's action, pays him the following compliment:

"Mr. Kamrar's speech was an extemporary effort, but he went straight to the center of the subject and made one of the most vigorous speeches that was ever delivered in Hamilton county. The republicans of this county are indeed fortunate that they have such an able and fearless champion who is always ready, under all circumstances, to defend the grand achievements and uphold the principles of the republican party. Others may falter or sulk in their tents, but John L. Kamrar is always in the harness dealing sledge hammer blows to the opposition and carrying the banner of republicanism into the heart of the enemy's country. The Freeman admires such republicans and is always glad of an opportunity to speak a good word in their behalf."

However inconsistent appeared the action of certain republicans in opposing the plans of the "real prohibitionists" and in so strenuously defending the "democratic" liquor plank in the republican platform, it was certainly matched if not exceeded by that of some of our democratic politicians. Those astute persons were suddenly filled with alarm for the cause of true temperance. The republican liquor plank which was essentially "democratic" in pattern and which had been advocated by them as a panacea for the rum evil, suddenly became a "Free Whiskey" plank surrounded by all the dangers and horrors that the word "Free Whiskey" implied. They became suddenly solicitous in behalf of the "Honest Minister" and "true prohibitionists" who refused to be led astray by the "Free Whiskey" republicans. And so it happened that the scowl of disgust and hatred that only recently had been directed toward all democrats by our good ministers of the gospel, was now transformed into a smile of sympathetic understanding. And without doubt, could the democratic party have retained its power in the state by adopting the policy of prohibition, some of the democratic politicians of Hamilton county at least would have embraced that policy just as readily as the republicans abandoned it.

#### M. H. BRINTON AS A LEGISLATOR

The records of the twenty-fifth general assembly show that Hamilton county was again fortunate in its selection of a legislator, for M. H. Brinton's record was eminently satisfactory to his constituents. He introduced at this session a drainage bill something after the plan of our present law which was intended to facilitate the drainage of the state, and while it failed to pass, it started agitation and investigation which finally ripened into a law which has proved the redemption of Hamilton county.

#### CAMPAIGN OF 1894

In the summer of 1894 J. H. Richard resigned as superintendent of schools to take effect in September.

The republican county convention this year convened September 6. It was full of contests. The first was for county attorney. The candidates and strength of each were shown on the first ballot to be Geo. C. Olmstead, with 39 votes; A. N. Boeye, with 29 votes; O. O. Hall, with 14 votes; J. M. Blake, with 20 votes.

There was little change in the vote until on the eighth ballot, D. C. Chase received 36 votes. He immediately announced that he was not a candidate and could not accept even if nominated. Notwithstanding this, on the next ballot he received 50 votes. He again emphatically protested against being nominated and on the next ballot Olmstead received 56 votes and was declared the nominee.

For recorder the contestants were B. C. Hanson, Thos. Coulson, J. R. C. Hunter, S. D. Derr, J. C. Sterling and W. H. Van Ness. Derr was nominated on the twelfth ballot.

For county superintendent, the contestants were A. A. Weaver and Jacob Closz. Weaver was nominated on the first ballot, the vote being 53½ to 46½ for Closz.

Jonas Fallein was renominated for auditor and C. E. Buell for clerk by acclamation.

The democrats nominated N. P. Hyatt for county attorney; Ollie Bige for county auditor; G. E. McPhillips for clerk; Lee Griener for recorder; Ada Houck for superintendent.

On September 20th the board of supervisors appointed A. A. Weaver superintendent to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of J. H. Richard. The entire republican ticket was elected.

On November 7, just a few days after the election, County Auditor Jonas Fallein died after an illness of less than two weeks. He was a most genial and lovable man and his death was a severe shock to the people of the county.

To fill the vacancy caused by the death of Jonas Fallein, the board of supervisors appointed J. H. Sweeney of Jewell to be county auditor.

In December, 1894, the Freeman presented the name of J. L. Kamrar to the people of the state as a candidate for governor of Iowa.

#### TWO DAILY PAPERS

The contest between the Freeman and Tribune was not alone political in its nature, for when on November 8 the Freeman appeared as a daily sheet almost immediately the Tribune appeared as a daily too, avowing emphatically that it was the first to "see the nut," notwithstanding the fact that the Freeman was the first to "pick it up."

#### THE JOURNAL FOUNDED

The Webster City Journal was established by Will F. Smith and Furman Tuttle May 1, 1894. This paper while being republican in politics was conservative in its manner of engaging in the party quarrels that were constantly going on between the Freeman and Tribune.

#### KAMRAR FOR GOVERNOR

During the spring of 1895 the efforts of local politicians were turned largely toward securing the nomination for governor for J. L. Kamrar. The people of Hamilton county, who had known Mr. Kamrar in his daily life for nearly thirty years, were for him almost to a man and when the county convention met in June, 1895, it unanimously passed the following resolution:

Whereas, our distinguished fellow citizen, Hon. John L. Kamrar, has announced himself as a candidate for governor of Iowa, and

Whereas, knowing him to be qualified for the high office to which he aspires, and recognizing his long and splendid service as a steadfast and all-the-year-round republican, the republicans of Hamilton county, in convention assembled, do unanimously

Resolve: We endorse the candidacy of Hon. John L. Kamrar with enthusiasm, and his friends and neighbors recommend him to the republicans of the state at large as a true man, upright in character, pure and clean in his private life,

strong and unfailing in common sense, and able and broad in his sentiments on all public questions. Be it also

Resolved, that it is the wish of every member of this convention that the delegates chosen to the state convention should exert every fair and honorable means to secure his nomination.

In seconding the adoption of these resolutions the Hon. D. C. Chase made a stirring address which was applauded time and again. He urged every man in Hamilton county to buckle on the armor, accompany the delegation to Des Moines and do what they could for our candidate. He declared the prospects for Mr. Kamrar's nomination were daily growing brighter and it would be no surprise to him if the Hamilton County contingent would return from the state convention with victory perched upon its banner.

Following is a list of delegates and alternates to the state convention as recommended by Hon. J. L. Kamrar:

Delegates—M. H. Brinton, D. C. Chase, George W. Crosley, J. D. Hunter, G. B. Pray, C. D. Hellen, August Anderson, R. G. Clark, William Anderson, A. N. Boeye, Walter S. Brown, John O. Lenning.

Alternates—Wesley Martin, George H. Daniels, C. E. Buell, W. F. Smith, E. I. Johnson, J. R. Hamil, J. R. White, Wm. N. Maakstad, W. McNee, J. R. King, B. E. Boynton, Simon Sogard.

At the state convention while Mr. Kamrar received very flattering support from the north part of the state where he was best known, it was not sufficient to secure his nomination and the prize went to Francis M. Drake, who was afterward elected.

#### THE CAMPAIGN OF 1895

When it came to nominating county officers in 1895, there was an unusual crop of candidates for sheriff. Nine men entered the race for this office. They were J. A. Goudie, Frank Hollis, John M. Cooper, N. H. Bawden, W. W. Sinclair, J. E. Clark, C. L. Zublin, J. L. Lenhart and O. N. Sexie. The county convention convened at Webster City, September 14 and W. W. Sinclair received the nomination.

This convention also nominated for : Representative, H. M. Brinton; for auditor, John M. Sweeney; for treasurer, W. H. Dygert; for superintendent of schools Will F. Cole; for coroner, C. J. Eberle; for supervisor from the 1st district, John N. Garth.

The democrats and populists each nominated a ticket; the democratic nominees being: for representative, William Tatham; for treasurer, P. J. Brandrup; for auditor, D. W. Evans; for sheriff, R. L. Doolittle; for superintendent, ——— Stanley; for coroner, T. F. Desmond, and for supervisor 1st district, C. A. Sprat.

The entire republican ticket was elected by about 1,200 majority.

#### POLITICS IN 1896

Eighteen hundred and ninety-six was a year of unusual activity in politics not only in Hamilton county, but throughout the entire nation. On June 24, W. J. Bryan, then comparatively unknown, spoke at the Willson Opera house in sup-

port of free silver, and no speech was ever delivered in Webster City which created such a profound impression. The next day, up and down the streets were little groups of men, all arguing the silver question and from that day until after the election in the fall, it continued to be argued through all the waking "hours." In the stores, on the streets, on the highways, in the fields, wherever men met, the one theme was "free silver." Never before was such a stirring up in the ranks of both parties. After Bryan's nomination, the furor increased. Republicans supported silver and were known as Silver Republicans. Democrats opposed Free Silver and were known as "Gold Democrats." Though a majority of the Democrats received the news of Bryan's nomination with enthusiasm, a few were surly and dissatisfied. They bolted, called a convention, passed resolutions, and elected delegates to a gold convention. Among the prominent democrats who headed this movement were F. A. Edwards, W. G. Bonner, J. W. Allington, W. C. Willson, J. P. Bandrup. The gold democrat movement proved to be an easy stepping stone into the republican party for in the fall at the election most of the gold democrats voted the republican ticket and only forty-two in the entire county voted for Palmer and Buckner.

Perhaps one of the most amusing events of the free silver campaign was a joint debate at the courthouse in Webster City between Rev. F. E. Brooke, a young United Brethren minister and B. F. Barge, who had formerly lived in the county, and had returned on a visit. Brooke represented free silver, while Barge stood for the republicans. By the rules of the debate, Brooke was to open with a forty-five minute speech, Barge was to follow with one hour's time and Brooke was to have 15 minutes in which to close.

Brooke opened the debate with a speech advancing the usual stock arguments of the silverites in quite an able manner. Barge's reply was a surprise not only to the silver men but to the republicans who turned out to hear the silver arguments demolished. He was an old fashioned political speaker who heralded his ideas with a loud voice and vigorous gesticulation. Unable to cope with the arguments of his opponent, he ignored them, devoted his time to a violent denunciation of the democratic party and its adherents, finally lost his temper, and proceeded to administer a personal roasting to the meek little preacher whose only offence was that he had presented his cause well. The preacher was an Irishman and was true to his country both in native wit and sharpness of tongue. The fifteen minutes that followed afforded about the liveliest exhibition of sarcasm and eloquence ever listened to in Webster City, at which the audience, without regard to political opinion, widely applauded.

The national campaign was so full of excitement this year that county politics was almost lost sight of. The republicans however nominated J. H. Sweeney for auditor; W. H. Weir, for clerk; Sol D. Derr, for recorder; George C. Ohustead, for county attorney, and "Fighting Bob Russell" of Fremont township, for surveyor.

The democrats nominated W. H. Wharton for auditor, Jesse Gouge for clerk, J. L. Groves for recorder, J. D. Thompson for county attorney and J. E. Quackebush for surveyor. The entire republican ticket was elected by nearly 1,800 majority.

## POLITICS IN 1897

In 1897 the republican county convention convened June 30th. Prior to the convention there had been a spirited contest between R. G. Clark and J. O. Lenning, candidates for representative, but on Clark's securing a majority of the delegates, Lenning withdrew from the contest and Clark was nominated by acclamation.

At this convention there were eight candidates for treasurer. They were E. I. Johnson, O. Ostrem, O. U. Miracle, G. S. Neel, J. A. Stover, George Streever, O. A. Cragwick, J. E. Sogard.

From the first ballot, Miracle led all his competitors but could not secure a majority, so finally withdrew, throwing his entire strength to J. A. Stover, who received the nomination. This nomination was received with great dissatisfaction, not so much on account of the personality of Stover as on account of the manner of his securing the nomination. Charges were openly made that Miracle had "sold out" and that Stover's nomination was the result of a deal, and the belief that these charges were true, contributed largely to Stover's defeat at the following election.

W. H. Sinclair was renominated for sheriff. W. F. Cole was renominated for superintendent and Fighting "Bob" Russell was again nominated for surveyor. O. J. Larson received the nomination for supervisor from the 2d district.

\* There was also a spirited contest for delegates to the senatorial convention. J. H. Richard and M. H. Brinton were candidates and Richard won out and secured the delegation.

The senatorial convention convened at Webster City, July 28, and each county presented a candidate. On the first ballot, J. H. Richard of Hamilton received sixteen votes, Joseph Wallace of Hardin received nineteen votes, J. E. Rowen of Wright received sixteen votes.

The balloting continued without change until 3,468 ballots had been cast, when Richard withdrew and Wallace received the vote of Hamilton county and was nominated.

This year the democrats nominated: for representative, J. N. Maxwell; for treasurer, Peter Mathre; for sheriff, Lee Greiner; for superintendent of schools, H. M. Lucas; for coroner, Dr. Byron Lewis; for supervisor of 2d district, John Carey.

The election furnished a general surprise to the people. Peter Mathre, the democratic candidate for treasurer, was elected by 300 majority. The rest of the republican ticket was elected.

This year the "Wasp" was established at Williams by W. H. Hellen and Jesse Gouge became associate editor of the Graphic Herald at Webster City.

## EVENTS OF 1898

In January, 1898, the Tribune, Wasp and Graphic-Herald made sharp attacks on the board of supervisors charging irregularities in the management of the county finances. The board was defended by the Freeman. In the controversy, the republican politicians were divided into factions. That opposing the board was

known as the "Bolter's Ring" and that defending it was known as the "Hog Combine." While a great deal of noise was made and much smoke and dust stirred up, the only substantial irregularity disclosed was that members of the board, while doing committee work, had charged the regular mileage allowed by law and in addition thereto had paid from the county funds, the bills for livery used in making the trips for which the mileage was charged.

The matter was taken to court and an order was made directing the members of the board to return to the county the sum collected for livery in cases where mileage was charged. During this controversy, Jesse Gouge was editor of the Graphic and distinguished himself as an unusually witty and forcible writer. In connection with this controversy his reference to the "whole board" as the "hole bored" will long be remembered with a smile by those who read the newspapers of the county at that time.

The controversy over the board was followed by the indictment returned by the Grand Jury against W. H. Hellen charging him with criminal libel. The cause of the indictment was a vicious personal attack upon Fred Barkhurst, editor of the Stanhope Mail. Hellen was a sympathizer with the "Bolter's Ring" while Barkhurst received his political inspiration from the "Hog Combine," so the indictment of Hellen was immediately branded as a case of political persecution.

The trial of the case was held in March, 1898, and the jury returned a verdict of "not guilty."

The breaking out of the Spanish-American war, attracted the attention of the people away from politics for a short time, but it was for only a short time, for during the latter part of the month of May, the Tribune sprang the Barber-Olmstead sensation and the flames of local politics were again fanned to a white heat.

#### THE BARBER-OLMSTEAD SENSATION

George C. Olmstead was county attorney, and George Barber had been his client, in a suit in which Barber's wife had secured a divorce.

Barber had about \$4,000 and during the trial of the divorce case had turned this money over to Olmstead and then swore on the witness stand that he had lost it in Chicago. Olmstead had paid Barber money at different times but finally by the use of his knowledge of Barber's perjury secured a settlement for about \$250 while he still owed him about \$3,000. Barber, when he recovered from the first effects of his "scare" employed J. L. Kamrar to bring suit against Olmstead to recover his money.

The story was featured in a most sensational manner, by the Tribune which had been antagonistic to Olmstead's political friends, and this caused the Freeman to rush to his defense. Charges were freely made that the Barber suit was a political conspiracy to ruin Olmstead because he as county attorney had urged the indictment of W. H. Hellen for libel, and was working against C. D. Hellen, who was a candidate for the postoffice at Webster City. Indeed the fight between the Freeman and the Tribune had grown so bitter that the Freeman was, on impulse, ready to oppose any cause the Tribune championed or defended any transaction that the Tribune assailed.

The Barber-Olmstead case was tried at the February, 1899, term of the district court.

Judge Weaver delivered an elaborate written opinion covering every phase of the case in a most complete and comprehensive manner. His judgment was that Olmstead owed Barber \$2,744. At the close of the trial Judge Weaver appointed N. B. Hyatt, A. N. Boeye and Wesley Martin as attorneys to commence proceedings to disbar both Olmstead and J. F. Howard and at a later term, Olmstead was disbarred and Howard suspended.

The republicans in 1898 nominated W. H. Weir for clerk, A. A. Cook for recorder, John A. Berggren for auditor, A. N. Boeye for county attorney, O. A. Hall for coroner and C. D. Doolittle for supervisor from 1st district.

The democrats nominated J. W. Lee for clerk, Charles Gerber for recorder, Nels Fardal for auditor, George Wamback for county attorney, T. F. Desmond for coroner and R. B. Wyckoff for supervisor, 1st district.

The entire republican ticket was elected.

During the year an examination of the book of ex-Treasurer W. H. Dygert showed a shortage of about \$800. Dygert, though abundantly able to do so, refused to make the amount good on the ground that he had never taken the money, and that to pay it would be to admit that he had wrongfully taken it. The matter was taken to court and finally adjusted, the shortage being practically all accounted for by errors in bookkeeping. Those who investigated the matter were satisfied that Dygert had never taken a cent that did not belong to him and that he was entitled to a complete vindication so far as any moral wrong was concerned.

In February, 1899, T. LeRoy Evans sold the Graphic Herald to W. J. Pilkington, who at once assumed editorial charge.

In 1899 the republican convention convened at Webster City July 1st. An important step then taken was to adopt a resolution favoring the primary system of nominating candidates for office.

R. G. Clark was unanimously renominated for representative. There were eight candidates for sheriff and the first informal ballot stood as follows: C. L. Zublin, 20 votes; J. H. Shaffer, 25; N. H. Bawden, 9½; Will Cavana, 13; George W. Black, 17; John K. Wyatt, 12½; H. I. Thompson, 15; W. L. Sinclair, 2.

On the fifty-eighth ballot, J. H. Shaffer received fifty-eight votes and was nominated.

John E. Fardal was nominated for treasurer, L. N. Gerber for superintendent, O. A. Hall for coroner and E. E. Fox for surveyor.

In October, 1899, the bitter fight between the Freeman and Tribune came to a sudden end. A stock company composed of leading men of both factions of the republicans, purchased both papers and consolidated them. On November 1st, the Daily Freeman-Tribune made its appearance. J. D. Hunter was editor and president, C. D. Hellen was business manager and vice president. W. F. Hunter was associate editor and D. L. Hunter was secretary and treasurer.

#### TWO IMPORTANT REFORMS

Two most important reforms have practically revolutionized the politics of Hamilton county. The first was the adoption of the Australian system of voting. Under the old plan in vogue for so many years, each political party had

tickets printed containing the names of its candidates. The enterprising political worker caught the voter before he reached the polls, thrust a prepared ballot upon him, then followed him to the polls and watched to see that it was safely deposited. The timid voter was thus intimidated. Many schemes were devised to beat the politicians. A favorite one was designed to secure the voter a secret ballot. The voter would prepare his ballot before he reached the polls and safely deposit it in his vest pocket. During the excitement attending the voting he expected to surreptitiously extract his prepared ballot and deposit it without being seen. But this plan sometimes miscarried. Often times he extracted the wrong paper and many strange documents thus found their way into the ballot box. The passage of the Australian ballot law, however, insured to the voter, the private expression of his opinion at the polls and transformed the polls from a place of excitement, contention and sometimes riot, to a place of quiet and dignity, for no electioneering was allowed within 100 feet of the voting place.

The other important reform is the adoption of the primary election plan which displaces the caucus and convention and secures the nomination of officers by the secret ballot of the members of each political party. This plan has made the packing of caucuses and the manipulation of convention matters past history.

We have not attempted to carry the details of our political history beyond the beginning of the twentieth century, preferring to leave the work of recording the events now fresh in the minds of all to some future historian.

## CHAPTER XIII

### CITY POLITICS

WEBSTER CITY INCORPORATED—NO PARTY POLITICS ALLOWED—A CITY OF THE SECOND CLASS—THE WATERWORKS—SOLDIERS HOME PROSPECTS—J. D. RISTE ELECTED COUNCILMAN—MOVING THE POSTOFFICE—THE MARKET SQUARE—ELECTRIC LIGHTS—CITY POLITICS—A BLOW AT THE CITY SCALES—ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT COMPLETED—THE FIRST NATIONAL MOVES—THE POSTOFFICE MOVED AT LAST—THE CLARK-YOUNG CONTEST CONTRACTION NOT ALLOWED—THE 5000 MARK REACHED—THE CITY SCALES FIGHT—THE FIFTH WARD.

#### WEBSTER CITY INCORPORATED

The first town in the county to become incorporated was Webster City. The question of incorporation had been more or less agitated for over ten years, and one or two votes had been taken upon the question but a majority had always opposed it. It was not until the fall of 1874 that the question carried. On the 22nd day of October, 1874, the election of city officers resulted in the selection of the following officers: Mayor, L. L. Estes; recorder, B. F. Miller; trustees, Captain G. H. Soule, George Hathway, George Shipp, R. E. Fairchild, and W. S. Worthington. The council appointed W. J. Covil as city attorney and W. W. Collins as city marshal. No street commissioner was appointed then, but the road supervisor of the district in Boone township was supposed to have the right to work the roads within the corporation. The error was discovered however, when the city council raised the age limit under which able bodied citizens were liable to work poll tax, from 45 to 50. The attempt to enforce this order was made by the road supervisor, when it was discovered that he had no authority whatever to work roads inside the corporation and a good many persons escaped road poll tax altogether that year, as it was too late to appoint an officer and serve notices before the expiration of the time in which notice should have been served.

#### NO PARTY POLITICS ALLOWED

In politics, Webster City has been for fifty years non-partisan in its city politics, and all attempts to subject the city to party control have been rejected.

In the spring of 1880, the republicans attempted to take control of the city government and nominated a straight republican ticket. The "Fusionists," composed of greenbackers, democrats and all others who were opposed to injecting party politics into the city government, nominated an opposition ticket.

After a warm campaign the election resulted as follows: Mayor—Fusion, Isaiah Doane, 227; republican, Capt. L. Crary, 132.

Recorder—Fusion, Albert Hoffman, 180; republican, E. N. Lee, 176.

Assessor—Fusion, L. Lager, 125; republican, C. A. Williams, 174.

Trustees—Fusion, J. H. Shipp, 212; D. A. Tyler, 194; republican, W. J. Covil, 163; L. Clark, 145.

When the new board of trustees was organized, Wesley Martin was selected city treasurer.

In the spring of 1881 "party politics" was abandoned and a "Citizens Caucus" placed in nomination the following ticket: For mayor, B. F. Miller; for recorder, J. R. Sterling; for assessor, H. R. Dodge; and for trustees, W. S. Worthington and Charles Wickware. B. F. Miller declined to accept the nomination for mayor and his place on the ticket was filled by Percival Knowles. An independent ticket was placed in the field composed of Isaiah Doane, for mayor; H. N. McClure, for recorder; W. I. Worthington, for assessor; and B. Detlor and B. F. Miller for trustees. W. S. Worthington withdrew as the caucus candidate for trustee and J. M. Jones was placed on the regular ticket in his stead. The contest was close and spirited. The heavy engagement was between Knowles and Doane for mayor, and resulted in 204 votes for Knowles and 203 votes for Doane, with two votes scattering. Doane contested Knowles' election on the ground that there were in the ballot box two ballots in excess of the number of names of votes shown by the tally list. The contest was held before the board of trustees and was attended by a large and interested audience. Judge Chase appeared for Doane, G. B. Pray and N. B. Hyatt appeared for Knowles and the case was argued much to the amusement if not the edification of the spectators. The trustees decided the contest in favor of Knowles whereupon Judge Doane in a happy, well timed speech acquiesced in the decision of the board, congratulated everybody, and succeeded in showing himself to be such a good loser that his effort was met with deafening applause. The result of the election as announced by the trustees was as follows: Mayor—Percival Knowles, 204; Isaiah Doane, 203.

Recorder—J. R. Sterling, 145; H. M. McClure, 263.

Assessor—H. R. Dodge, 200; W. I. Worthington, 214.

Trustees—Chas. Wickware, 85; B. Detlor, 335; J. M. Jones, 118; B. F. Miller, 218.

The mayor was an up-town man and the two trustees were down-town men and this compromise seemed generally satisfactory to the citizens if not to the ardent partisans.

#### A CITY OF THE SECOND CLASS

In January, 1882, recorder H. N. McClure made an enumeration of Webster City, which showed a population of 2,342, an increase of about 500 since the taking of the federal census of 1880. The following February the secretary of state issued a proclamation announcing that Webster City, having shown by an enumeration legally taken, that it had a population of 2,342, was entitled to be classed as a city of the second class. Pursuant to this proclamation the council passed an ordinance dividing the territory within the city into four wards and fixing the boundaries of each ward as follows:

First Ward, to embrace the territory lying east of Willson avenue, and north of Division street.

Second Ward, to embrace the territory lying east of Willson avenue, and south of Division street.

Third Ward, to embrace the territory west of Willson and south of Division street.

Fourth Ward, to embrace the territory west of Willson avenue and north of Division street.

The mayor then issued a proclamation calling for the election of one mayor, one city treasurer, one city assessor, one city solicitor, and two councilmen from each ward.

Within a week after the passing of the ordinance dividing the city into wards, the fourth ward became known as the "Bloody Fourth," which title it has ever held.

At the city election, Wesley Martin was elected mayor, Samuel Baxter treasurer, H. N. McClure assessor, and G. B. Pray solicitor. The newly elected councilmen were as follows:

First Ward, Will C. Allen and Will F. Smith.

Second Ward, B. Detlor and Geo. Hathway.

Third Ward, P. C. Babcock and F. Q. Lee.

Fourth Ward, Geo. Wambach and Frank Fenton.

#### THE WATER WORKS

Early in 1882 the need of a better system of fire protection was emphasized by a fire that destroyed three business buildings on second street. The only protection the city had was the chemical fire extinguisher, called the "Comical," which had to be filled from wells in the neighborhood of the fire. It was urged that the city should have a system of water works and a tract of springy ground just east of the courthouse was named as the location which would furnish not only an abundance of water, but by reason of its elevation, also an abundance of natural force.

Shortly after the fire above mentioned, occurred a disastrous fire in Williams, which wiped out practically the entire town. This awakened the agitation and in August, at a special election, the question of whether the city of Webster City should issue bonds in the sum of \$10,000 for the erection of water works was submitted. The bonds for the water works carried by vote of 177 for, to a 109 against.

As will be seen by the vote on the water works bonds, there was opposition to the enterprise. This opposition was directed mainly at the location. The county objected to having a tank and windmill erected just opposite its fine new courthouse and some of the residents in that vicinity united their objections with those of the county. An injunction suit was started which stopped for a time the building of the plant. In the meantime, September 18, another fire, the most disastrous that ever visited Webster City occurred on Second street, destroying Young's Lumber Yards and the Potter House barn and damaging a number of business buildings. This intensified the agitation in favor of water works and this was

followed by a fire December 1st, destroying the Packard and Mattice Elevator, doing damage to the extent of \$14,000.

The injunction was finally dissolved by Judge Miracle and in April 1883, the water works bonds were sold and the July following, the water works were completed.

In speaking of the new water works system the Freeman said:

#### THE WATER WORKS

have been erected and completed at a total cost of about \$14,000. The tests of their capacity and efficiency, made on Monday and Tuesday, have demonstrated the ability of the Batavia Water Works Co. to carry out any contracts they may make in the way of supplying water privileges and fire protection. Although the well has not met the general expectation, the machinery and appliances of the company have, under a fair test, come up to the contract. The partial failure of Monday's trial was owing to the large amount of gravel and dirt that was introduced into the pipes and mains while the work of putting them in was going on. The second day's test of the mains and hydrants, was more satisfactory and came quite fully up to the terms of the contract. Two streams were thrown simultaneously to a height of seventy feet and one stream, under a pressure of eighty-five pounds of steam was thrown into the air fully eighty-five feet. The volume of water was heavy enough to have quenched a brisk fire in the tallest buildings on either of the business streets, although the prevalence of a high wind interfered somewhat with a perfect test as to the exact height the streams could be made to go in a perpendicular direction. With all the appliances of the fire department in perfect working order, we feel confident that our new water works will meet the just expectations of the public, and will insure a degree of safety to the property of the city heretofore unknown. With two streams running constantly for about four hours, deluging the streets almost equal to a heavy rain storm, the water in the huge tank was lowered but four feet, demonstrating that it has a capacity of twelve or fifteen hours' of steady draw, enough to afford protection under any but the most unusual and extraordinary circumstances.

At the same election at which the question of issuing water works bonds was voted upon, the question of extending the city limits was also submitted and carried by a vote of 194 for, to 85 against.

The new limits gave the city an area of about fourteen square miles. What a city of 2,500 needed with so much territory is even yet a mystery. Years afterwards, efforts were made to have the limits reduced again but they were unsuccessful.

In the spring of 1883, Capt. Lewis Crary was elected mayor.

The councilmen selected were G. H. Shaw from the 1st ward, Charles Wickware from the 2d ward, F. D. Young from the 3d ward and G. S. Hall from the 4th ward.

The following spring, Lewis Crary was reelected mayor. John Crest was elected assessor, J. H. Shipp, treasurer, and N. B. Hyatt, solicitor. The councilmen elected were, in the 1st ward, M. W. Rice; in the 2d ward, F. S. Currie; in the 3d ward, J. V. Kearns and in the 4th ward, F. I. Cash.



THE "PIVOTAL CORNER," WEBSTER CITY

For many years the compromise location of the Post Office



In 1885, C. T. Fenton was elected mayor, B. C. Mason, treasurer, and A. H. Austin, assessor. The councilmen elected this year were A. H. Putnum in the 1st, George Hathway in the 2d, G. C. Cole in the 3d and L. Clark in the 4th.

Shortly after the election, John Kearns resigned as one of the councilmen from the 3rd ward and M. R. Dalbey was elected to fill the vacancy.

In the spring of 1886, Charles Wickware was elected mayor, B. C. Mason was re-elected treasurer, A. H. Austin was re-elected assessor and O. O. Hall was chosen as city solicitor. The councilmen selected this year were: for first ward, C. L. Zublin; second ward, F. R. Mason; third ward, C. L. Williams and A. F. Hoffman; fourth ward, B. Fenton.

The legislature in the spring of 1886 decided to erect a soldiers home in Iowa and Webster City at once threw her hat in the ring as a candidate for the location. Public meetings were held, the town fight was forgotten and all factions boosted for the cause. The Freeman of March 3d gives the following account.

The Soldiers' Home.—At the convening of the present legislature The Freeman, in discussing the various subjects that would likely claim the attention of our law makers, spoke of the establishment of a Soldiers' Home as one of the things to which the republican party of Iowa was committed, and put a claim for Webster City as an eligible and central location for an institution of this kind. Later on The Freeman took occasion to renew its claim in behalf of Webster City, and to set forth the fact that no town in all Iowa could present a more just or reasonable claim for the Home than our own little "Queen City of the Boone."

The people of Webster City are thoroughly alive to the importance of this project, and in a public meeting held at the city council room Saturday night, organized for united and effective work in securing the object desired, Charles Wickware was made chairman of the meeting and Wesley Martin secretary.

The meeting was large and enthusiastic—every man present being heartily in favor of the movement, ready and willing to contribute time and money to insure its success. Short speeches were made setting forth the claims and advantages of Webster City, the healthfulness and beauty of the site offered for the location of the Home, and the "ways and means" necessary to place our town in the list of those competing for the prize—by L. A. McMurray, W. C. Willson, D. D. Chase, G. W. Bell, Judge Miracle, B. F. Barge, J. M. Jones, J. L. Kamrar, J. M. Funk, S. B. Rosenkrans, Wesley Martin, F. D. Young and others. On motion, the following committee of six were appointed to go to Des Moines to present the claims of Webster City to the general assembly, and to make every effort possible to secure the location of the Home: W. C. Willson, D. D. Chase, S. B. Rosenkrans, J. L. Kamrar, J. M. Jones and J. D. Hunter. On motion, Charles Wickware and G. W. Bell were added to the committee. On motion, the following gentlemen were constituted a finance committee, to raise funds to purchase the grounds needed and to defray necessary expenses in "working up" the project: L. A. McMurray, J. M. Funk, W. S. Worthington, Lewis Crary and F. D. Young. J. M. Funk brought down the house by offering to pay one thousand dollars towards raising the necessary funds to buy the grounds to be offered the state on which to locate the Home. W. C. Willson was also heartily applauded when he declared his purpose to give a similar amount. Judge Chase pledged himself to a liberal donation, and spoke earnestly as to the importance to Webster City and Hamilton

county of securing the location of this institution in our midst. The meeting adjourned to meet at the courthouse Saturday evening of this week, to hear what progress had been made by the legislative and finance committees, and to take such further steps as may then seem best for the success of the enterprise. As was so well said by some of the speakers at Saturday night's meeting, our people have good reason to believe that no point in the state can offer a better location—all things considered—than Webster City, and if the location be selected with due regard to healthfulness, beauty of natural scenery, eligible site, and most picturesque surroundings, our chances are certainly worthy of the most careful consideration at the hands of the legislature or the commission that may be appointed to locate the Soldiers' Home. The many and manifest advantages to the town and county that shall secure this prize are duly appreciated by our people, and we do not recall, in the history of the town for the past eighteen years, a matter that has awakened so general, united and hearty support among all classes as this effort to secure the location of the Iowa Soldiers' Home in Webster City, and we sincerely hope the efforts being put forth may in the end, result favorably.

The competitors for the Soldiers' Home were Marshalltown, Colfax, Burlington, Mason City and Webster City. The efforts of Webster City were unavailing for Marshalltown landed the prize.

In 1887, L. A. McMurray was elected mayor, and the councilmen selected were as follows: First ward, Samuel Baxter; second ward, George Hathway; third ward, M. R. Dalbey; fourth ward, James Henneberry. Del Lake was appointed marshal by the mayor.

#### J. D. RISTE ELECTED COUNCILMAN

In the spring of 1888, J. D. Riste was elected councilman from the first ward. He held the office continually until the time of his death twenty-four years later and with time became the best informed man in city affairs that ever held the office of councilman. In after years he became known as the "Father of the Council." This year the second ward elected W. B. Howard, the third ward, J. B. Trumbauer, and the fourth ward, M. L. McCollough.

#### MOVING THE POSTOFFICE

In February, 1889, the old town fight that had been smouldering for several years broke out with renewed ferocity. It became known that a movement had been quietly started to move the postoffice to an "up-town" location. So quietly in fact had the matter been worked, that an inspector arrived from Washington to investigate before it was generally known that any attempt of the kind was being made.

The postoffice then stood on the corner of Second and Seneca streets and the proposed new location was the J. R. Kamrar building near the corner of Second street and Willson avenue, then owned by L. Clark.

In discussing the proposed removal, the Freeman gives the following bit of history concerning previous contests over the postoffice:

Fourteen years ago a compact was entered into between the representative men of "up town," "down town" and those who interested themselves at the

"pivotal corner," to permanently locate the postoffice where it now stands and the court house on its present site. In pursuance of this compromise the two buildings were located and erected—since which time the business of Second and Seneca streets had been gradually growing towards the postoffice corner. The incorporators of the Central or Postoffice block, were Jacob M. Funk, Kendall Young, J. D. Hunter, L. L. Estes, S. B. Rosenkrans, W. J. Covil, David Eyer, R. E. Fairchild. The original stockholders were Jacob M. Funk, W. C. Willson, K. Young, S. Willson, L. L. Estes, S. B. Rosenkrans, B. F. Miller, W. J. Covil, D. Eyer, J. D. Hunter, W. S. Worthington, R. E. Fairchild, A. A. Wells, representing "up town," "down town" and the pivotal corner. Some of the original stockholders have sold out and new men have become members of the association—representing the identical interests of the originators of the enterprise, and almost doubling the original amount of the stock subscribed. The articles of incorporation declare that "for the purpose of organizing a company under the general incorporation laws of Iowa, for the purpose of building a brick block on the southwest corner of Seneca and Second streets, in Webster City, Iowa, to be occupied as a postoffice, \* \* \* we, the undersigned subscribers \* \* \* do hereby adopt and certify the following articles of incorporation," etc. The express object of building this block as set forth in the articles of incorporation was, that under the terms of an agreement entered into by the men represented in the association, it should be used and occupied as a postoffice. Had not the compact entered into for the location of both the courthouse and postoffice been ratified at the polls by the people of the county, the courthouse (if built at all) would never have occupied its present location. And it is doubtful whether the appropriation would have been carried, for without this compromise the vote of Webster City would have been divided, in which case the courthouse appropriation would have been defeated. Not only this, but the men who had put their money in the postoffice block under the mutual plan agreed upon in good faith carried out their part of the contract.

While protests from down-town were being made with great vigor, the up-town men were straining every nerve to bring about the removal and while the controversy was at its height, Postmaster Edwards received authority from Washington to make the change. Then a flood of telegrams to Washington resulted in another order directing him not to move. W. C. Willson was accused of being the instigator of the attempt to have the postoffice moved. He stood well with the democratic administration and had influential friends to help him, and the down-town men were consequently very bitter in their accusations of selfishness and bad faith on his part. Willson was not a man to be intimidated by opposition. It only made him work harder, and on March 1st, the order came to move the office, and the location was accordingly changed to the Clark building. The down-town people declared the move was only temporary. They sent a delegation to Washington and secured promises of an investigation. After the democratic administration stepped out and the republicans were again in control of the postoffice department, the order came to move the office back to the "pivotal corner." In conjunction with the attempt to move the postoffice was an attempt to change the name of "Willson avenue" to "Central avenue." The proposition was inspired by over-zealous down-town partisans to vent their spite

on W. C. Willson. The wiser heads, however, did not approve of the change and it was not made.

#### THE MARKET SQUARE

The attempt to move the postoffice convinced the "down-town" people that their only safety lay in aggressive action. So in June the council purchased a block of ground just east of the "pivotal corner" and established the Market square and city scales. The up town men opposed the movement most bitterly and they were aided by B. F. Miller, who owned a fine residence property just north of the square and was very much opposed to having a "hog yard" in front of his fine home. Opposition had little effect, however, for the program was carried out to the letter. The ordinance establishing the city scales provided that all farm produce, such as grain, hay, and live stock, sold by weight, whether within the city limits, should be weighed over the city scales.

At first a fee of ten cents was charged for each load weighed. In a short time the fee was reduced to five cents, and provision adopted to require coal dealers also to weigh over the city scales. The Crooked Creek Railroad & Coal Company, and J. W. Allington, each procured temporary injunctions against the enforcement of the ordinance. John Falham, of Fremont township, was the first city weighmaster.

In the spring of 1889, Samuel Baxter was elected mayor; D. C. Chase, city solicitor; B. B. Fenton, assessor; B. C. Mason, treasurer; and the new councilmen were: First ward, William Biernatzki; second ward, William McDonald; third ward, August Witte; fourth ward, R. G. Clark.

#### ELECTRIC LIGHTS

In January, 1890, the question of establishing an electric lighting system was much discussed. Councilman Clark was delegated to investigate the question. At the March city election, the question of whether or not the city should establish a municipal lighting plant, was submitted to a vote and the proposition carried by 318 majority.

#### CITY POLITICS

While the people were practically united on the municipal lighting question, they were very much divided over the city scales question. The down-town politicians had no trouble in selecting men of their own choice in the first and second wards and they were suspected of bringing out candidates in the other wards favorable to their plans. This year H. R. Dodge was the regular nominee of the caucus for councilman from the fourth ward, and the "up-town" men suspecting that he was favorable to "down-town" interests put Dr. J. N. Medbury in the field as an independent candidate. The fight was close, and on the day before the election there was circulated on the streets, a handbill, which read as follows:

"A BIG SCHEME UNEARTHED!

"By voting for Henry Dodge our water works plant will be moved, and located as near as can be learned, at the old water-mill owned by D. D. Chase.



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF WEBSTER CITY



This means a sale of the mill property to Webster City for at least \$12,000 to \$15,000. Stand by your colors or our water works will go the way our up-town scales have gone."

The bill stirred up enough excitement and prejudice to defeat Mr. Dodge by 3 votes. It is but justice to that gentleman to say that he had never heard of the "scheme" until he read the handbill. Some zealous up-town partisan, no doubt, dreamed it out. He only needed to suggest it to Walt Willson, who was willing to believe anything of his political enemies, to ensure vigorous action.

#### A BLOW AT THE CITY SCALES

The down-town faction still held control of the council and as there was no chance of having the scales ordinance repealed, the attempt was made to rob it of its vitality of legislative enactment. A bill was introduced by Senator Smith, which provided that the statute authorizing the establishment of city scales be amended by adding the following section: "Nothing herein shall be construed so as to authorize the punishment of anyone not weighing on any city scales provided by any city or town, nor to forbid the use by parties who so desire, of any private scales nor the selling of grain, stock or coal by parties where the seller and purchaser do not elect to use city scales."

Prompt action on the part of the pro-scales men prevented the passage of the amendment.

#### ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT COMPLETED

In November, 1890, the electric light plant was completed and the lights turned on. The Freeman, of November 26, gives a description of the plant. As it will be interesting in future days to know what our first electric light plant was like, we give below, the Freeman's description:

#### ELECTRIC LIGHT

One of the most attractive and substantial edifices in the city is the new building generally known as "electric light headquarters." It is a frame structure, brick veneered. On the east side stands the massive chimney, 60 feet in height and containing about 40,000 brick. It is estimated that the cost of the building alone will approximate \$2,500. The writer was assured by one of the committee that on their tour of inspection through the state they found no electric light building so convenient in all appointments as the one erected in our city. The interior of the building is a most interesting place. Two mammoth engines—60 horsepower each—with cylinders  $10\frac{1}{2}$  by 12 inches are used to operate the plant. These engines are provided with Hughes' duplex steam feed pumps, automatic cut-offs, patent side-feed oil-cups, and all the modern appliances which are of pronounced utility. In the boiler room are two gigantic boilers, each 16 feet long and 5 feet in diameter. Their capacity is 80 horsepower each. Both are equipped with full rocker grates and can be used separately or in unison. 100 pounds of steam can do the work. About two tons of coal will be consumed per night and a gallon and a half of oil will be used. By the use of a patent oil-filter the same oil may be applied for the fifth time—an apparatus, the value of which will be seen at once. The engines and boilers are all made by the Phoenix Iron Works, of Meadville, Pa., and are pronounced by experienced engineers

equal to any now made. The next thing we noticed were the two dynamos. These marvels of mechanical genius are manufactured by the Mathre Electric Company, of Manchester, Conn. They are capable of running 550 lights each, and their average rate of speed is 296 revolutions per minute. Electricity is produced by what is known as Fahriday's method of induction. It is impossible for us to give a technical explanation of this system at this time, but the foregoing statement is made for the information of those who suppose that the electric current is produced by friction. The switch board, by which the currents upon the different circuits are regulated, is another interesting piece of mechanism, which must be seen to be appreciated.

The construction of the outside lines required the setting of over 300 poles, upon which has been strung over 50,000 feet or about 14 tons of wire. There are three circuits which will be used as soon as the work is perfected: The commercial, the street and the domestic. As soon as our bright, moonlight evenings are over, the street circuit will be turned on, when the lights will be much more appreciated than now. In regard to some imperfect lamps which have been placed in various business houses, we have been informed that owing to an error in the shipment, a number of poor lamps were received, and are assured by Mr. Baker that this mistake will be rectified as soon as possible and to everybody's satisfaction.

The electric light plant was accepted by the council, January 19, 1891. It was claimed by the company installing the plant that its actual cost was \$18,950. The price paid by the city was \$14,400. Thus the company lost on its contract over \$4,000.

At the March city election, R. G. Clark, whose services as councilman had been so satisfactory was elected mayor.

George Wambach was elected city solicitor; A. C. Swain, assessor; and B. C. Mason, treasurer. The new councilmen elected were: First ward, A. J. Wright; second ward, George Hathway; third ward, Will F. Smith; fourth ward, C. W. Soule.

A spirited contest took place between A. J. Wright and Dr. N. W. Green for councilman from the first ward. Wright won by only four majority.

#### THE FIRST NATIONAL MOVES

In the spring of 1891, the First National Bank moved from its old location on South Seneca street to the corner of Second and Seneca and the bank, together with J. D. Hunter, erected a fine double brick building, one side to be used for the bank, and the other for the Freeman office. This was another fortification built to protect the "pivotal corner." To offset this stroke of down town enterprise, J. W. Allington and J. M. Funk each erected brick store buildings on the "up town" end of Second street. At the city election, 1892, J. D. Riste was re-elected councilman from the first ward; J. E. Quackenbush from the second; J. L. Lenhart from the third and J. N. Medbury from the fourth. E. P. Hyde was elected assessor.

The city scales fight was renewed by an attempt to pass through the legislature an act to make it unlawful for "any city or town to prohibit by ordinance the selling, buying or weighing over private scales." Prompt action on the part of the pro-scales men defeated the bill.

In 1893, city politics were enlivened by a contest in the third ward. I. M. Greenwood was the regular caucus nominee for councilman. Some of the young men of the ward anxious to have something to say about ward politics induced Dr. O. A. Hall to stand as an independent candidate. A systematic canvas of the ward was made for him, and he was elected by five majority.

In the fourth ward, A. J. Wright, the caucus nominee was opposed by R. A. Kelly, an independent candidate and Kelly was elected by thirteen majority. George W. Crosley was elected in the second ward and L. S. Bunker and L. F. Houck were elected in the fourth.

James McMurchy was elected mayor; George Wambach, solicitor; C. P. Hyde, assessor; and B. C. Mason, treasurer.

In 1894, J. D. Riste, J. E. Quackenbush and J. L. Lenhart were each renominated and elected by the voters of the first, second and third wards respectively. In the "bloody fourth" there was a contest. The caucus was called to meet at 7:30. It is claimed that it met promptly, nominated J. W. Allington for councilman and adjourned at 7:33. Those dissatisfied with this exceedingly prompt quick work, placed John M. Cooper in the field as an independent candidate, but Allington won by a hundred majority.

#### THE POSTOFFICE MOVED AT LAST

Early in August, 1894, it was announced that Charles E. Howard had been appointed postmaster at Webster City. The contest over the appointment had been long and bitter. Charles F. Miller was his opponent and was supported by the Graphic Herald. Howard had the support of F. A. Edwards, the former democratic postmaster, and his connections with the inner circle of power and authority proved effective. The postoffice was moved from the pivotal corner, about one and one-half blocks west on Second street. The order for the removal of the postoffice was distinctly an up town victory and was secured principally through the efforts of W. C. Willson.

#### THE CLARK-YOUNG CONTEST

A few days after the city election in 1894 Mayor McMurchy resigned and the council elected R. G. Clark to fill the vacancy pending the call for a special election which was to be held April 9th. On March 28th, a caucus was held to nominate a candidate for mayor. Both R. G. Clark and J. W. Young were mentioned as candidates and both refused to allow their names to be used. About an hour before the convening of the caucus, both changed their minds suddenly, and both were candidates, and on the first ballot the vote stood 124 for Clark and 124 for Young. The contest was continued and both were candidates at the election, at which Young won, the vote being 402 for Clark, and 515 for Young.

In 1895 J. W. Young was re-elected mayor without opposition. C. A. Weaver was chosen as city solicitor, C. P. Hyde, assessor and B. C. Mason, treasurer. Councilmen elected were: Peter Mathre of the first ward, Col. George W. Crosley of the second, John N. Garth of the third and W. N. Merrill of the fourth.

R. A. Kelly was the regular caucus nominee of the first ward and Mathre was an independent candidate. The vote stood eighty-six for Mathre and fifty-three for Kelly.

CONTRACTION NOT ALLOWED

In August, 1895, certain owners of farm lands within the city limits filed their petition in the district court asking that the city limits be reduced in size so as to exclude their lands. The petition averred.

"Your petitioners respectfully aver that the severance of such territory will be for the best interests of your petitioners and without detriment to the rights or interest of any person or persons whomsoever.

"That each and every part of the territory or land sought to be severed from said city is agricultural farming land; is so used and occupied and the same has never been used for any municipal purpose whatever and has received no benefits or advantages by being within the corporate limits, and is not likely to be used for municipal purposes; that said lands have been by said city burdened with a higher rate of taxation for road purposes and have been assessed at a much greater valuation than other agricultural lands adjacent thereto of equal value, without even the corresponding benefits, and their retention within the city limits has been and will continue to be a burden upon the owners thereof, by reason of the inequality of the assessments and the higher rate of taxation within the city.

"That no part of it has ever been laid out in town lots, nor is any of the land adjoining thereto laid off into town lots, but after the severance of said territory there will still be left within the corporate limits of said city more territory unplotted than is surveyed and plotted into lots, and more than will be needed for that purpose, or than will be used for other than agricultural purposes for generations to come," etc.

Following is a list of the petitioners: A. A. Weaver, C. R. Bamber, Kate L. Howard, J. M. and W. M. Funk, B. F. Funk, J. D. McGuire, T. A. Conklin, Anna Frank, F. W. Enriken, G. W. Lee, Kendall Young, B. Monroe, Talmon Wiltsey, V. D. Bishop, J. S. Donald, J. N. Lyon, A. Cummings, Miller & Buell, J. D. Sketchley, J. H. Lee, D. Eyer, Wm. Greenwood, F. A. Edwards, John L. Richardson, C. A. Brennecke, J. O. Lenning, M. E. Richardson, Josephine Howard, G. W. Blackwell, Charlie Gerber, Ellen Briggs, C. and E. Briggs, John Landers estate, Peter Yoost, W. S. Weston, A. B. Millard, J. M. Crist and C. C. Dakin.

Efforts were made to effect a compromise, but without avail and when the case was finally tried, the prayer of the petition was denied. On appeal, the decision of the lower court was sustained.

THE 5,000 MARK REACHED

In 1895, the census returns showed Webster City to be a city of 5,102 population. Later she lost in numbers and it was nearly fifteen years before she again officially reached the 5,000 mark.

## THE CITY SCALES FIGHT

On December 10, 1895, J. W. Ewing, a grain buyer who had recently come to Webster City from Illinois and whose cribs were located in the west part of the town was arrested on the charge of violating the city scales ordinance, and now was commenced a stubborn fight to test the legality of that ordinance.

An account of the arrest and the reasons for it are given in the Freeman as follows:

## THE CITY SCALES CONTEST

Thursday a. m. Mr. Ewing, a gentleman who is here buying corn to crib, was arrested on the charge of violating the city ordinance providing for the weighing of grain sold in the city. Mr. Ewing requested the council to give him permission to weigh grain bought by him on other than the city scales, which request was refused. No doubt Mr. E. violated the ordinance in order to test its validity and The Freeman is glad such a test is to be made. It is currently reported that quite a sum of money has been subscribed by men who are opposed to the present system of weighing in Webster City, and that the case will be fought for all there is in it.

## THE PRELIMINARY SKIRMISH

The first round in the re-opened contest over the city scales ordinance took place at the law office of Olmstead & Weaver Thursday night. As above stated, J. W. Ewing was arrested for violating the city ordinance which requires corn and other produce in quantities of over 600 pounds bought or sold within the city limits to be weighed over the city scales, located at the market square. Mayor Young presided. City Attorney Weaver appeared for the city, and George Wambach represented the defendant.

The defendant, Ewing, entered a plea of not guilty.

City Marshal Hathway was sworn and examined. He testified to the effect that the defendant was buying corn and causing the same to be weighed over the scales located at the Crooked Creek R. R. depot. At the conclusion of Mr. Hathway's testimony the city rested its case. The defendant filed a motion to dismiss the case, assigning several reasons therefor, one of which was that the information did not state the amount of corn weighed, and another was that the ordinance was against reason and therefore void. The court overruled the defendant's motion. The defendant declining to offer any testimony the court declared the defendant guilty and assessed a fine of \$5.00. An appeal was taken to the district court, F. E. Willson signing the appeal bond.

Jesse Donald, a farmer, was also arrested Friday for violating the ordinance in question. He was fined five dollars, which he paid. Mr. Ewing was also arrested again Friday, and had another hearing before the mayor that night.

## THE CITY ENJOINED

Sheriff Corbin served a temporary injunction on Mayor Young Saturday, restraining the city from enforcing the ordinance requiring grain bought within

the city to be weighed on the city scales. The injunction was granted by Judge Birdsall and "a good and sufficient bond"—\$1,000 signed by Walter C. Willson and Cyrus Smith—filed to pay such damages to the city as may result because of such injunction. There are no new points involved in the present proceeding. It is a well established and fundamental principle of law that a judicial officer cannot be enjoined from discharging his duties, and the statutes of Iowa make it absolutely impossible to enjoin the enforcement of a criminal law. However desirable it may be to have the case again settled definitely, the present action cannot serve that purpose and the ordinance will probably have to be attacked in some other proceeding. In this case George Wambach and J. L. Kamrar appear as attorneys for the plaintiff, and the hearing upon which the temporary injunction was issued by Judge Birdsall at Fort Dodge Friday was entirely *ex parte*. A hearing on the motion to dissolve the injunction was had before the judge at Fort Dodge last evening. His decision had not yet been made public. In the meantime the city officers will keep tab on those who violate the weighing ordinance, to the end that justice may be done when the final adjudication of the case is reached.

Ewing was tried before the mayor for his second offense, found guilty and fined \$20.00 and costs.

In the spring of 1896, a proposition was submitted to the people of Webster City to vote a tax for the support of the Public Library, but the tax failed to carry.

The councilmen elected at this time were J. D. Riste of the first ward, H. L. Litchfield of the second, G. H. Daniels of the third, and J. W. Allington of the fourth ward.

#### THE FIFTH WARD

The arrest of Ewing for buying grain of a farmer without having it weighed over the city scales, renewed the agitation against city scales and it became so strong that after the election of this spring it was evident that the council would be evenly divided for and against that proposition. The "down town" men plainly saw that if some radical steps were not taken, there was possibility that the up town men would secure control of the council and abolish the city scales. To make this impossible, the city council on March 3, 1896, passed an ordinance changing the boundaries of each of the city wards and establishing a new ward known as the fifth ward on the east side of Boone river. The ordinance gave the first ward all of the territory north of Division street and east of Des Moines street; to the second ward, all of the territory south of Division street and east of Des Moines street; to the third ward, all of the territory south of Division and west of Des Moines street; and to the fourth ward, all of the territory north of Division street and west of Des Moines street, except that all of the territory east of Boone river was included in the new fifth ward. As each ward was entitled under the law to two councilmen, after the establishment of the fifth ward, the down town people found it an easy matter to control six members of the council while the up town people had to be content with four. The action of the council in changing the boundaries of the wards and creating a new one, called forth the most bitter denunciation from the up town partisans. Indignation meetings

were held and speeches of the most scathing nature were made. To offset these meetings the down town people held meetings in which the acts of the council were warmly applauded. The establishment of the fifth ward settled for all time the city scales controversy, so far as its being a settled city policy. But an attack was now made upon the legality of the act of the council in establishing the new ward and suits were brought to test the legality of that action. The city council called a special election to elect councilmen from the fifth ward but it was necessary to postpone the election pending the decision in the legal proceedings. In these cases, nearly all the lawyers in town were engaged either for or against the city.

In the meantime the action of the city against Ewing was appealed to the district court and the action of mayor was sustained. It was afterwards appealed to the supreme court and there the action of the lower court was affirmed. The actions to test the legality of the establishment of the fifth ward were decided by Judge Hindman at the December term of court and came as a Christmas present to Webster City. Below we give the decision:

#### FINDINGS AND JUDGMENT OF THE COURT

1. This cause being of unusual importance, and several of the questions involved not having been directly passed upon by our courts, I have chosen to take sufficient time to make a full examination of the authorities bearing upon the questions involved as I have been able to find.

2. The exercise of purely discretionary power by ministerial and judicial officers is not subject to review.

3. The city council are elected to their offices on account of their supposed fitness for the positions; and while their acts may be contrary to the wishes and interests of the electors, still, having entrusted the council with the discretionary powers, the citizens are bound by their acts unless there be such an abuse of the powers as to result in a wrong that cannot be fully righted and remedied by the electors at a subsequent election.

4. In a strict legal sense a question of discretion is not a law question. Our statute empowers a city council to increase or reduce the number of wards of a city, and the citizens have full knowledge of this power when they elect their councilmen.

5. The determining whether or not a new ward is needed or shall be established in the city is exclusively a question within the jurisdiction of the city council, and is a matter for the exercise of their discretion.

6. Upon mature consideration of the law and the evidence of this case, I find that the plaintiff's petition and the relief therein prayed for, must be refused, and all staying and restraining orders entered in this case are hereby vacated and set aside; the costs of this case are adjudged against the plaintiff and under the stipulation between the parties entered of record in this case, the plaintiff is given forty-five days to prepare and file its bill of exceptions.

To all of which plaintiff excepts.

D. R. HINDMAN,

Judge of the Eleventh Judicial District of Iowa.

Dated, Boone, December 23, 1896.

The election of McKinley made it evident that a new postmaster at Webster City would be appointed. The down town people presented the name of Capt. F. E. Landers as a candidate. He was opposed by C. D. Hellen, editor of the Tribune.

The voters of the fifth ward at a special election held in January elected F. R. Mason and C. C. Dakin, councilmen.

A city convention held in February, nominated for mayor, W. C. Burleson; for city solicitor, J. H. Richard; for treasurer, R. E. Jones; and for assessor, C. P. Hide. The ticket was elected without opposition. The councilmen elected were: From the first ward, P. Mathre; from the second ward, G. W. Crosley; from the third ward, J. W. Lee; from the fourth ward, W. N. Merrill; and from the fifth ward, F. R. Mason. The proposition to vote a library tax was again submitted at this election and was again defeated.

In August, 1897, an effort was made to move the postoffice to the Chase building, about a block east, but it failed, for the inspector sent to investigate the matter recommended the location remain unchanged.

In February, 1898, the city council established a fire alarm system in Webster City consisting of ten boxes. The electrical companies were anxious to secure the contract and proposed to charge \$1,400 for the system, but the fire committee of the council, in conjunction with Superintendent Fred Mullen, devised a system that has always worked satisfactorily and installed it at a cost of about \$400.

At the March election in 1898, the old members of the council whose terms expired were all reelected without opposition except in the fourth ward. In that ward, S. C. Guthrie was chosen to succeed J. W. Allington.

In 1899, H. A. Crandall was elected mayor; J. H. Richard, city attorney; H. E. Shultz, assessor; and R. E. Jones, treasurer. The councilmen elected were: From the first ward, C. E. Howard, from the second ward, C. A. Williams; from the third ward, M. R. Dalbey; from the fourth ward, C. F. Miller, and from the fifth ward, F. R. Mason. Mr. Crandall declined to accept the office and in April, a city convention nominated A. H. Austin to fill the vacancy. A mass meeting was called at which J. W. Lee was nominated as an independent candidate. At the election held May first, Austin was elected.

## CHAPTER XIV

### RIVER LAND TROUBLES

THE DES MOINES RIVER LAND GRANT—THE RIVER LAND COMPANY—THE RESOLUTION OF 1861—AN INDIGNATION MEETING—UNITED STATES VS. THE NAVIGATION CO.—THE INDEMNITY BILL.

#### RIVER LAND TROUBLES

From the first settlement of the county down until 1895, there runs through the history of Hamilton county, a series of contests known as the river land troubles. These troubles became so acute and prejudices were so strong that at times it was not safe for a man representing the River Land company to venture alone and unarmed in the neighborhood of Hook's Point and Homer. The Des Moines Navigation and Railroad Company, a foreign corporation, and certain settlers known as river land settlers were claiming the same lands and since the claimants on both sides of the controversy could trace their title direct to the United States government, it may be well to enquire into the laws and official acts that are responsible for this unpleasant situation.

#### THE DES MOINES RIVER LAND GRANT

By act of congress, dated August 8, 1846, there was granted to the territory of Iowa, "for the purpose of aiding said territory to improve the navigation of the Des Moines river from its mouth to the Raccoon Forks in said territory, one equal moiety in alternate sections of the public land remaining unsold and not otherwise disposed of or encumbered or appropriated, in a strip five miles in width on each side of said river to be selected within said territory by an agent or agents to be appointed by the governor thereof."

In the meantime the territory was admitted as a state and the grant was accepted by the state government. Agents were appointed and they reported that they had "selected the odd sections." The title to the land having thus been vested in the state, a board of public works was created by the legislature, whose duty it was to dispose of the land and apply the proceeds, as required by the grant.

A question now arose as to the extent of the grant. Some claimed that it only extended from the mouth of Des Moines river to the Raccoon Forks (the present location of the city of Des Moines), while others insisted that the grant extended from the mouth to the source of the river.

In February, 1848, the commissioner for the general land office announced that it was the opinion of his office, that the state of Iowa was entitled to "alter-

nate sections within five miles of the river *throughout the whole extent of the river within the limits of Iowa.*"

In the meantime the president in a proclamation offering public lands for sale, offered some of the lands north of the Raccoon Forks claimed by the state as parts of the River land grant, to which the board of public works protested, alleging that in view of the opinion of the general land office, the state had let additional contracts for river improvements and that she would be embarrassed by "any impediment to her prospects in this regard."

In December, 1848, the legislature addressed a memorial to congress, claiming that the grant extended, not only to the state line, but many miles farther north to the old territorial line and in response to this claim the secretary and the treasurer gave it as his opinion that it extended "on both sides of the river from its source to its mouth, except as to land on the Missouri side of the river in the state of Missouri." Pursuant to this opinion lists were made of the lands claimed, but when, in March, 1850, they were submitted, the secretary of the interior gave it as his opinion that the grant did not extend north of the Raccoon Forks and returned the lists without his approval. The president was appealed to and he referred the matter to the attorney general who announced that the grant ran "the entire length of the river within the then territory of Iowa." But the controversy was not yet settled for after the death of President Taylor, and the formation of a new cabinet, the new attorney general, Mr. Crittenden, gave it as his opinion that the grant "did not extend north of Raccoon Forks."

According to one view, the grant included about 300,000 acres of land, while according to the other view it contained about 1,300,000 acres. As the amount in controversy was large, the state again carried the whole matter to the president and his cabinet where it was decided that the controversy would have to be settled by judicial tribunal. The secretary of the interior then announced that he was "willing to recognize the claim of the state and approve the selections without prejudice to the rights, if any there be, of other parties," and accordingly lists aggregating 225,616 acres were in this manner approved.

In the meantime some work had been done in the way of river improvement and in regard to this Governor Hempstead in his message to the General Assembly on December 7, 1852, reported as follows:

Referring to a commissioner's report he proceeds, "By this report it will be found that all work, or nearly so, when these officers entered on the discharge of their duties, was suspended. There were no funds on hand and no part of the work was completed. Of the lands below the Raccoon Forks 188,466 acres had been sold, realizing the sum of \$235,708.81, all of which had been expended, and there remained only 133,401 acres, worth at \$1.25 per acre, \$166,752.36. Over and above the money already expended, there was an outstanding debt due the contractors of not less than \$65,000 and unliquidated claims for damages of over \$80,000 on suspended contracts. The estimated cost of completing the works between St. Francisville and Keosauqua, excluding the canal, was \$201,000. Thus showing an absolute deficiency in means to be hoped for from lands lying below the Raccoon Forks, to meet the actual indebtedness and the estimated cost of \$108,250, aside from claims for unliquidated damages."

The legislature immediately passed an act intended to secure a more vigorous prosecution of the river improvement. A commission was empowered and

authorized to sell and dispose of any lands "which have been, or hereafter may be, granted by congress for the improvement of the Des Moines river in such manner as they may deem most expedient for the early completion of said improvement." It was provided that land should not be sold for less than \$1.25 per acre and that the proceeds should be used for the payment of debts and the completion of the work as far as practicable. The commission was empowered, if they deemed it necessary or for the best interest of the improvement, to convey in fee simple to any individual or company any portion of the land to procure a fund to carry on the improvement, provided however, that no agreement should be made which did not stipulate for at least \$1,300,000 to be faithfully expended in the payment of debts and the completion of the improvement to the greatest extent practicable, and that in no event should the state be liable on any contract thus made, but that the contracting party should look alone to the funds belonging to the improvement.

#### THE "RIVER LAND" COMPANY

On June 9, 1854, the Des Moines Navigation & Railroad Company (known by the settlers as the River Land company), a corporation organized under the laws of Iowa, and composed of eastern capitalists, entered into a contract with the state, the material provisions of which were as follows:

The company agreed for considerations named to make and finish the improvement from the Mississippi river to the Raccoon Forks, the work to be completed on or before July 1, 1858, one-fourth part of it each year, commencing July 1, 1854; to pay all debts outstanding against the improvement December 23, 1853, provided the amount did not exceed \$60,000, to meet which liabilities it paid over to the commissioner the sum of \$55,000; and on the other hand should be entitled to receive all moneys due to the improvement from the general government and all claims and demands against the general government, together with various other sums specified and was required to pay from time to time the salaries of the commissioner, register, engineer and other officers and employes of the improvement. The state and the commissioners were to sell and convey to the company in the manner and upon the terms therein provided, all of the lands donated to the state for the improvement by the act of congress, remaining unsold by the state, December 23, 1853, for which the company agreed to pay \$1,300,000 in the manner also therein provided. Whenever the company should do work to the amount of \$30,000 according to estimates made by the acting engineer, the proper agent of the state was to convey to the company lands belonging to the improvement to the amount of \$30,000 at the rate of \$1.25 per acre, deducting 15 per cent to be adjusted on final settlement, and so, as to each successive estimate of \$30,000, until work should be done to the amount of \$1,300,000, if so much land should remain unsold from and after December 23, 1853, and until the work should be completed. Upon the expenditure of the \$1,300,000 and the completion of the work, all of the lands remaining unconveyed, if any, were to be conveyed to the company. All money paid by the company to the register or commissioner of the improvement in the payment of liabilities on account of the former prosecution of the work by the state, was to be deemed expended on the improvement by the company for which the register should convey lands to it at \$1.25 per acre, equal to the amount so paid, which amount

should be included as part of the \$1,300,000. For all moneys advanced by the company for salaries and pay of officers, and agents or servants, for rights of way, damages to mill owners, and other matters not covered by actual work done on the improvement, lands were also to be conveyed to it at the stipulated price of \$1.25 per acre. The prices for the different kinds of work, according to which the engineer was to make his estimates, and by which the parties were to be governed in the conveyance of lands were specified as far as practicable, and when not specified were to be fixed by the engineer, who was to be appointed by the joint assent of both parties. The work was to be done under the joint supervision of the board of public works and engineers, except as otherwise provided in the contract. The company was to look alone to the funds belonging to and arising from the improvement for compensation, the state in no event to be liable therefor.

In May 1856, the old question as to the extent of the grant again arose and Attorney General Cushing suggested a compromise whereby the state *and its assigns* were to receive the lands to the state's north line but were to release any claim to land north of that point. As the contract between the state and the navigation company contemplated a conveyance to the company of *all* the land included in the grant, the company as parties in interest would not agree to the compromise, and it was not made.

About this time, congress granted to the state for the construction of four railroads, alternate odd numbered sections for six miles on each side of each road. One of these roads was the Dubuque & Pacific railroad, and its proposed line ran east and west across the state from Dubuque to Sioux City and crossed the Des Moines river at Fort Dodge. While the railroad grants excepted lands, already disposed of, the Dubuque and Pacific railroad company was not willing to accept an interpretation of the River land grant that would deprive it of several thousand acres of land where the two grants intersected, and it therefore insisted that the River land grant only extended as far north as the Raccoon Forks.

Suit was instituted to test the matter and in December, 1859, the supreme court of the United States in the case of Dubuque & Pacific Railroad Co. vs. Litchfield. Reported in 23, Howard 65, held that the grant *did not extend north* of the Raccoon Forks.

The extent of the grant having thus been judicially determined, the disputed lands north of Raccoon Forks were in November 1860 thrown open to settlement under the preemption laws.

In the meantime, the state and the River land company had been having trouble over the River improvement contract. In view of the unsettled state of the River land grant and the existing probability of their receiving only the lands adjoining the river within the state of Iowa, the navigation company was not using any undue exertion to complete its contract. Expenses and salaries were piling up and being presented and yet comparatively, very little in the way of river improvement was being done. Complaints were made which moved Governor Grimes to suggest the necessity of an investigation in his message to the general assembly in 1856.

A joint committee from the house and senate was appointed and the following are extracts from its report.

"Your committee are of the opinion that no legal contract was every entered into by the state of Iowa with the Des Moines Navigation & Railroad company.

"By the terms of what is claimed to be the original contract, the whole improvement was to be completed by the first of July, 1858, and one-quarter of the work done annually. Now, according to the evidence before the committee, it appears that there were extended by the company up to the first of December, 1856, a period of nearly two and a half years in actual construction, \$185,957.44, and in engineering and incidental expenses, \$104,180.74. Your committee can find no reasonable excuse for the extraordinary sluggishness with which the work has been prosecuted, compatible with an honest purpose of prosecuting the work to completion for the sole consideration of receiving in payment therefor the lands granted by congress, and the use and rents of the improvement and water. Now, if the D. M. N. & R. R. Co. had a 'bona fide' capital actually on hand of nearly \$1,000,000, paid in for the prosecution of the work, as they ought to have according to the amount of stock issued, and had hitherto prosecuted the work with that vigor and energy which its importance demands, and which the people of the state had a right to expect, the condition of things would be very different; but as the work has been done, in the opinion of your committee, under contract without any validity in law, and if said contract had been valid, in no matter according to the spirit and meaning thereof, your committee are of the opinion that said company are justly and equitably entitled unless the state so elect, to payment in lands at \$1.25 per acre, which are worth six or seven dollars per acre."

The report of the joint committee called from Governor Grimes the following expression in his message to the general assembly in January, 1858:

"From the report of the joint committee of the two houses of the last session of the general assembly, it would seem that the terms of this contract had never been complied with by the company, but that it has been disregarded in its most essential particulars, whereby the purposes for which it was entered into have not been and will not be attained. If this be true, you may feel it to be your duty to rescind that contract, for the reasons stated in the report and make other arrangements in relation to that munificent grant, now in danger of being frittered away without any useful result. The report above referred to also indicated that the Des Moines Navigation & Railroad company have not only forfeited their charter by a failure to comply with the requirements of the statute, but they have engaged in practices calculated to deceive and defraud, upon a large scale, innocent and unsuspecting persons, both at home and abroad. If this be true, it may be thought a matter of sufficient public importance to justify you in directing the attorney general to institute proceedings to vacate the charter of the company, and thus prevent it from perpetrating any further wrongs under the authority of the laws of this state."

In March, 1858, the general assembly passed a joint resolution containing a proposition of settlement with the navigation companies which looked to the cancelation of the River improvement contract, and in April the proposition was accepted by the navigation company.

This had all happened before the decision in the Litchfield case by which the limits of the Des Moines river grant were defined by the United States supreme court. With the announcement of that decision, it appeared the navigation com-

pany stood in a fair way to lose much of the land just conveyed to it by the state by way of settlement.

It was quite generally believed that the river land difficulties were now fully settled and settlers began to enter the lands that had formerly been the subject of dispute.

#### THE RESOLUTION OF 1861

But the navigation did not propose to surrender so easily. In March, 1861, a very innocently appearing joint resolution was passed by congress. It read as follows:

*Resolved*, That all the title which the United States still retains in the tracts of land along the Des Moines river, above the mouth of the Raccoon Forks thereof, which have been certified to said state improperly by the department of the interior as a part of the grant by act of congress approved August 8, 1846, and which are now held by 'bona fide' purchasers under the state of Iowa, be, and the same is hereby relinquished to the state of Iowa."

The navigation company now renewed its claim to all the lands conveyed to it by the state, claiming to be "*bona fide*" purchasers from the state.

On the other hand, it was claimed that the resolution did not contemplate reinstating the navigation company, but was intended simply to furnish relief in cases where actual settlers had purchased of the state. The land department of the government did not recognize the claim of the navigation company and where proof of entry or pre-emption was properly made, patents were issued to actual settlers. And thus began a legal battle which raged in the courts of Iowa for thirty years.

In many cases the navigation company commenced suit to eject settlers who were attempting to occupy lands claimed by it and when decrees were rendered authorizing eviction, attempts were made by the officers, to carry out the orders of the court. The settlers, to protect themselves from what they had come to believe, was an unjust attempt to rob them of their homes, organized themselves into a society known as the Settlers' union and many different methods were attempted to prevent the officers from carrying out their orders.

Isaiah Doane, in writing of River land troubles, gives the following incident which illustrates the methods resorted to:

#### AN INDIGNATION MEETING

In the spring of 1858 it became noised about that two or three "river land agents" were domiciled at the hotel kept by Jacob S. Smith in Homer—that being their reputed headquarters. This was the signal for a show of resistance. Accordingly an "indignation meeting" was called and notice given to grape vine telegraph all interested. About 10 o'clock on a bright spring morning a cavalcade was seen coming down the road to the northwest, and moving rapidly upon the village, clad in all kinds of grotesque costumes, mounted on horses and yelling vociferously. The gorgeously bedecked leader, Silas G. Goss, especially, bearing a very striking resemblance to the ideal "Lo," a "poor Indian," who won an unenviable reputation by frequent predatory incursions into frontier settlements during the earlier periods of our history. Indeed so striking was the resemblance

that many women and children were badly frightened, until assured by those who were "onto" the meeting that no harm should come to "noncombatants." The leader aforesaid was armed with something which looked to be an ordinary tin pie pan, made fast to a stick about four feet long, and as the procession marched and counter-marched in front of the Smith hotel, he kept clamoring for contributions to aid them to buy their "river lands," meantime extending his pan as a contribution basket. After these menacing maneuvers were kept up in front of the hotel until it was supposed they had produced the desired "moral influence" the crowd repaired to the schoolhouse where the meeting was held. As the writer hereof was teacher and custodian of the key, a runner soon waited upon him with the announcement that he had been sent to him by the directors for the key. After going over and opening the house he went in as a spectator of the strange proceeding. A motion was made and carried uproariously, that Mr. Goss be made chairman of the meeting. And after he had stated the object of the meeting, another motion was made and carried without opportunity for debate, that the teacher who had shown his courtesy and good will by opening the house for them be requested to act as secretary. As he had sometimes expressed sympathy with the settlers, and here was an opportunity to show "his faith by his works," and as whatever was done must be done quickly, he meekly acquiesced in the complimentary action of the meeting. A number of speeches were made, all more or less inflammatory and denunciatory of the "river company." The writer distinctly remembers, after a lapse of thirty-five years, that one of the raciest incidents of the meeting was a speech by one Columbus Pemberton, eldest son of Harvey G. Pemberton, heretofore spoken of. Columbus, who was a bright and talented young man, possessed a quick wit and a keen sense of the ludicrous, was particularly severe in his arraignment of the company for their unreasonableness and ingratitude to the settlers, who, as he claimed, had with almost unprecedented generosity cleared off whole quarter sections of heavily timbered lands claimed by them, and made the clearings nearly ready for the plow, and had never even so much as hinted at a claim for remuneration for their valuable services.

After passing a long string of resolutions expressive of their sense of grievance, and their want of esteem for the paid emissaries of the company, and ominously hinting at the thorny road which some of them might be called upon to travel, the meeting adjourned sine die. It was claimed that while the meeting was in progress at the schoolhouse, Smith and his guests were armed and barricaded in the cellar of the hotel. Of the correctness of this report the narrator is not advised. Thus ended one of the earlier of a long series of meetings of a similar nature that have been held more or less frequently for the last thirty-five years, and still the matter is dawdling along in congress, where the original iniquity was conceived in 1846 and brought forth in 1862.

I. D.

P. S. The report of the aforesaid meeting is made from memory and not from the official minutes.

This demonstration was really mild compared with some of a more savage nature that occurred later. On several occasions, officers were fired at from ambush, when they refused to be frightened away, though no one was killed.

In June, 1879, the following notice appeared in the Advertiser in Webster City:

Hook's Point, May 13, 1879.

*Messrs. Welles, Garmoe, Hawley, Lammey, Grayson and Chase & Covil.*

GENTLEMEN:—You are hereby notified that you shall not harass or distress any river land settlers, in any way whatever, from and after this notice to you, either in the courts or otherwise, until our cause has been decided by congress and the courts. If you don't stop it may not be as well for you in the end. This thing has become an aggravation and we as settlers are determined not to be humbugged any longer by a band of river land thieves.

Now we ask you hereby to take "fool's advice," as you perhaps would call us, and you will have no further trouble.

BY ORDER SETTLERS' UNION.

At one time, a man named Thomas Paxton, from Boone, agent for the Ten Eyke lands near Stratford, was captured by a mob and taken to Hook's Point. Here he was ordered to sign a contract not to cut any more timber from section one, or "take the consequences." While the "consequences" were not specified, they were broadly hinted at by remarks referring to a certain "burying ground" a short distance away. However, Paxton stood his ground and finally succeeded in escaping without either signing the contract or "taking the consequences."

While attempts to frighten the officers were sometimes successful, for a while, relief of this kind was only temporary, and the law finally took its course.

#### UNITED STATES VS. THE NAVIGATION COMPANY

A number of law suits between the Navigation company and the settlers were appealed to the supreme court of the United States and in these appeals the navigation company was, on account of the peculiar circumstances of each case, successful. Attempts were made to get congress to authorize a suit in behalf of the government, against the River Land company and to promote this enterprise, B. E. Boynton was sent to Washington by the Settlers' union. At one time an act authorizing a suit was passed but President Cleveland vetoed it. In 1891, authority for a government suit was finally granted, and D. C. Chase of Webster City was appointed special assistant to the district attorney, for the prosecution of the case. The case contemplated a contest of the rights of Des Moines Navigation & Railroad company to the lands claimed by the settlers. It was first tried in the United States circuit court and the Navigation company being successful, it was appealed to the supreme court of the United States. A brief filed by Mr. Chase in the circuit court, attracted the attention of the attorney general and he wrote to Mr. Chase asking for copies of the brief and stating that he desired to make the brief a part of his argument. In the supreme court, the Navigation company was again successful in maintaining its right to the lands in controversy and nothing was now left for the settlers to do but to buy of the River Land company or move off. Many settled with the River Land company but some gave up in despair.

As soon as it had been settled beyond question that the Navigation company had title to the "river lands," a movement in favor of government indemnity for the settlers was started and in 1894 an indemnity bill was passed by congress.

The Freeman of January 23, 1895, gives the following description of the bill and of the steps taken by the interior department to distribute the indemnity:

#### THE INDEMNITY BILL

Briefly, the bill appropriates \$404,228.00 to be used by the secretary of the interior to secure the relinquishment of titles to the lands in question, which may be held by the Des Moines Navigation and Railroad company or persons claiming title under it adversely to persons holding said lands under either preemption or homestead entries.

That the secretary shall require the persons whose names are embraced in the report of the commissioners, heretofore appointed to ascertain the value of said lands or the persons found by examination to be entitled to the benefits of this act to furnish proof of the character of the claim to each of said parcels of land, and when such proof shows to the satisfaction of the secretary that the party making the claim has complied so far as possible, with the laws and regulations for the acquisition of public lands under which parties would, in the absence of any conflicting claim, be entitled to receive absolute title thereto, he shall cause to be paid a sum not to exceed in amount the appraised value of such land, to the owners, in cases where a relinquishment to the United States of their titles can be procured for that amount; but otherwise the same amount shall be paid to the persons entitling themselves to the same by making the proofs as aforesaid, taking the receipts of said parties for the same. The bill provides that a patent duly issued shall be conclusive evidence of a compliance with the provisions of this section relating to proof, and that in making payments of indemnity under this act, in all cases where the government price has not been paid by the purchasers at the time of, or under this act, in all cases where the government price has not been paid by the purchasers at the time of, or subsequent to the entry of the lands, that amount shall be deducted from the amount at which such land is appraised and payment in such cases shall be only of the amount of such difference.

Mr. Robert L. Berner was appointed a special agent of the interior department by Secretary Smith. He made an exhaustive and thorough examination of the records touching these contested claims in person, took evidences of interested and disinterested parties for the purpose of ascertaining who were entitled to relief under the provisions of this act and submits his findings to the secretary in a voluminous report.

#### THOSE WHO CLAIM INDEMNITY

We do not understand, from the data at hand, whether or not those who failed to make application for indemnity last summer are barred from applying now, but D. C. Chase, who furnishes us a list of those residents of Hamilton county who have claimed indemnity, as shown by Mr. Berner's report, is of the opinion that claims can be filed at any time. A commissioner will be in this city soon to take evidence upon which payments will be made. The following is a list of those in Hamilton county who claim indemnity, together with the remarks by the special agent:

B. E. Boynton, claimant, land appraised at \$1,600; claimant knew of the company's title; warrant on file; deed from grantee of Page to Boynton, December

26, 1893, to southwest quarter, southeast quarter and southeast quarter southwest quarter. No evidence but affidavit and deed.

Same description. James Shelton, claimant. Appraised value \$1,000. Admits bought with notice of company's title (northwest southeast quarter and northeast southwest quarter).

J. H. Johnson or C. A. Near, claimants, appraised value \$2,800. Timothy Hagen bought from company, but it does not appear that he ever bought from entryman.

This amount goes either to J. H. Johnson or C. A. Near, if indemnity is awarded.

Thomas E. Ross, claimant, appraised value \$3,000. Entryman in possession about eight months. Receivers receipt shows land "being unoffered." Entryman in possession about one year. No record of title in entryman.

Hewitt Ross, claimant. Appraised value \$8,000. Town of Stratford located on this section. Entryman in possession about two years. Lived on it a short time. Built shanty to fulfill preemption laws. Company paid him for his crops both years. No record of title in entryman.

J. S. Evans, claimant. Appraised value \$3,200. Entryman never settled on land. No record of title in him or any one under him.

D. B. Hakes, claimant, appraised value \$3,200. Entryman never settled on land. No evidence of title in entryman.

Mrs. Mary Boyington, claimant, appraised value \$1,500. Warrant cancelled April 17, 1868. Relocated July 6, 1868.

Mrs. Margaret Bryan, claimant, appraised value \$800. Deed from Walcott, October 10, 1893. Deed from entryman September 7, 1893.

Mrs. Emily Prestage, claimant, appraised value \$10,000. No remarks.

Heirs of William Royster and Asbury Johnson, claimants, appraised value, \$1,600.

Hezekiah Fisher and heirs of Charles Fisher and Robert Watson, claimants. Appraised value \$3,000. No remarks.

Annabell J. Boyd, Milton Fisher, A. G. Snyder, John C. Russell, claimants. Appraised value \$3,100.

L. A. Royster and H. E. Dally, claimants. Appraised value, \$1,210.

William Bilyard, claimant. Appraised value, \$490.

James E. Blake, claimant. Appraised value, \$2,400.

Peter Blake, claimant. Appraised value, \$1,750. No evidence of title in entryman. Blake bought from third party with notice of litigation on title.

Estate of George Neese, claimant. Appraised value, \$2,000. The contested portion of this land bought by widow of George Neese, and her title is good against the company. Bought at tax sale.

M. V. Neese and Leach Neese, and estate of Washington Neese, claimants. Appraised value, \$2,000.

Estate of W. W. McKinney, claimant. Appraised value, \$3,600.

John D. Ballard, claimant. Appraised value, \$1,819; warrant returned July 9, 1881, and relocated October 25th, 1881.

William M. Hook, claimant. Appraised value, \$1,516.

Settlers who were able to prove a good faith title from the United States or state of Iowa to any of the lands in controversy were finally paid such sum as the commission deemed just, and at last the old river land troubles are nearly forgotten.



## CHAPTER XV

### A CHAPTER OF TRAGEDY

SUICIDES AND ACCIDENTAL DEATHS—THE MURDER OF JAMES RICHARDSON—THE BASKET TRIAL—THE SUSPECTED MURDER OF MRS. DULIN—ATTEMPTED BANK ROBBERY.

A chapter of tragedies is not pleasant reading, but it is a part of the history of the county. The tragedies of twenty years, between 1880 and 1900, have been here collected. They consist of thirteen suicides, twenty-one accidental deaths, two murders, one suspected murder, though a trial resulted in acquittal, and one attempted bank robbery.

The suicides were mostly caused by either domestic or financial troubles, while the cause of the two murders can be traced almost directly to the use of intoxicating liquors.

Of the accidental deaths, four were caused by live stock, five by railway trains; the other cases are nearly all assigned to different causes.

#### SUICIDES AND ACCIDENTAL DEATHS

On January 27, 1880, S. M. McVicker, a prominent citizen and farmer living on the Hawley town plat, about a mile and a half east of Blairsburg, went into his cattle yard and was attacked by a bull and so badly gored and bruised that he died January 30th.

About February 10, 1880, a young man named Johnson was chopping wood in the timber near Hook's Point, and about two miles from his home. A limb of a tree fell upon him, striking him upon the head, and cracking his skull from the back of his head near the ear, clear over the top of his head and down to his eye. As badly hurt as he was, he managed to walk home, but died the next day from his injury.

In July, 1880, John Eller, a farmer residing south of Williams, was riding a horse and carrying a gun. A small thunder shower overtook him and he was struck by lightning. The lightning struck the gun and was communicated by it to Mr. Eller's person. It tore off his clothes, melted a silver watch in his pocket, also melted the metal tacks in his shoes and a door key in his pocket. It marked him in stripes down the body and killed the horse he rode. The horse fell upon his leg and in this condition he was found some time afterwards. He was insensible and supposed to be dead, but he revived and though it was thought that he was so badly injured that he could not survive, he recovered and was still living in 1892.

In August of that year, George Collins, residing about four miles north of Webster City, went into an old well to clean it out and was stricken with what is commonly known as poison damps. He called for help and his father went down to help him and succeeded in getting him part way up when he found himself being so overcome with the damps that he could not bring him further and was obliged to let him fall back and only succeeded in getting out again himself with great difficulty. Other help was called at once, but George was dead when taken out.

Luther Sherman, aged seventy-three, committed suicide at Webster City, February 17, 1883. He was living with a son. He had had much domestic trouble which was assigned as the cause of his being mentally unbalanced. He went to the barn as was his custom and was found later hanging from a rope attached to the rafters.

On May 7, 1883, occurred the tragic death of Isaac H. Brown, of Williams, who committed suicide by shooting himself with a double barreled shotgun. Financial troubles led to the rash act. Brown had been speculating on the board of trade and to cover losses had used money that came into his hands as postmaster and school treasurer. Fear of discovery and disgrace drove him to desperation and unbalanced his mind. He was a very highly respected man in the community where he lived, and had the unbounded confidence of everyone. He no doubt fully intended to replace all the money appropriated, but continued losses made discovery only a question of a short time and he had not the courage to face disgrace.

Van E. Perry, the little four-year-old son of L. G. Perry, was drowned at Bell's mill on the 4th of June, 1883. It is supposed that the little fellow tried to cross one of the timbers thrown across the head of the mill race, and fell in. When discovered, the little body had been drawn under the water wheel and was badly mutilated.

Another suicide in 1883 was that of Frederick Limping, a farmer living south of Williams. He loaded a gun and leaving the ramrod in the barrel, discharged it into the pit of his stomach. He was about thirty-five years of age and financial difficulties caused the deed.

Early in April, 1884, Richard Stevens, a hotel keeper at Jewell, was struck by an early morning train and killed. No one knew how the accident occurred. He left the house in the morning, saying he was going to the 3 o'clock train. When he did not come back at once, his wife thought he had gone to the depot to wait for the express. The conductor of the morning train found the body with the head severed.

Milo Tuttle, a prominent farmer of Liberty township died the 14th of April, 1884. He went to the barn about 4 o'clock in the morning to look after some horses that were fighting. In attempting to separate them, he was kicked in the abdomen and his death came about two days later. He was about fifty-five years of age, was well to do and prominent.

October 3, 1886, occurred a sad accident in Clear Lake township, resulting in the almost instant death of Mrs. Lewis Carey. The hired man had taken the gun out to shoot a hawk, but hearing a noise at the barn, set the gun down by the wood pile, while he went to see what caused the noise. Just at this time Mrs. Carey and her little son came out to get some wood and in some inaccount-

able manner, the little fellow tipped the gun over. As it fell it discharged, striking Mrs. Carey in the side and breast. She lived but a very short time after the accident.

In December, 1886, a tragedy occurred in Lyon township. Frank Cockran and some neighbors were butchering hogs and Frank was handling the sticking knife. He had caught a hog and was about to use the knife when his feet slipped and he fell, the knife penetrating his abdomen. The wound killed him almost instantly.

A family feud between Hoovers and Dutchers, farmers near Homer, resulted in a shooting scrape in June, 1887. Hoover went over to Dutchers to complain about the latter's chickens and did so in such an abusive manner that Dutcher became furious and seizing his revolver, shot Hoover in the side. He was arrested and held under bond of \$1,000 which was promptly signed by his neighbors.

In the latter part of January, 1888, Rev. W. W. Nutting, a Universalist minister, at Webster City, attempted to commit suicide by taking poison. Mr. Nutting had been at Storm Lake to preach the previous Sunday and on his return found that his wife had taken her child and left home, leaving word that she did not care to live with him any longer. He also found the town was alive with stories of cruelty. This alarming condition drove Nutting to desperation and resulted in the rash act. Prompt medical assistance saved his life. He was a strong preacher and had been particularly effective in his sermons on domestic problems. Nutting retained his position as minister, and about a month later, after a few days absence, he returned bringing Mrs. Nutting with him.

In May, 1888, Robert Glasgow was suddenly killed by a falling derrick at East Bridge in Webster City. He was a workman on the bridge at the time of the accident.

#### THE MURDER OF JAMES RICHARDSON

June 23, 1888. Ringling Brothers, then conducting a one-ring wagon show, visited Webster City and this visit was the occasion of a terrible tragedy. Thomas Basket, a local character, who was partly intoxicated, shot and killed James W. Richardson, an attache of the circus. The following account of the murder appeared in the Graphic:

Murder—A shooting affray occurred at the show ground last Saturday evening at about nine o'clock, resulting in the death of James Richardson, a man of about twenty-five years of age and a resident of Providence, Rhode Island.

From the many conflicting stories afloat, we gather the following facts:

In the evening Roll Brewer who was partially drunk threw a handful of peanut shells into Tom Basket's window and made an insulting remark to Tom. Tom followed him to the show grounds, knocked him down, kicked him in the face in a most brutal manner. Mr. Brewer's daughter was present and she to protect her father took a hand in the fight. Tom knocked her down and was giving her rather rough usage, when some of the showmen interfered. Tom went down town again. He either had his revolver with him, or went after it

and in a short time returned to the grounds, threatening to "do up" the show generally.

When he returned to the grounds, one of the showmen told him to leave, as they had lost enough by his disturbance already. Tom refused to go and a fight occurred, the showman knocking him down. Several others took a hand and Tom was being roughly handled. Just then Marshal Hathway and Deputy Sheriff Atkinson arrested Basket, and Mr. Richardson coming up from the tent, threw himself between the officers and the showmen, to stop the row, remarking to the officers: "You take care of him, and I'll take care of these fellows." The officers had removed Tom until they were separated from the crowd twelve or fifteen feet, when Tom, who was resisting, whipped out his gun and fired—Atkinson says twice, but most of the others say once—shooting Mr. Richardson in the abdomen. He died at about 7 o'clock Sunday evening. Tom was placed in jail.

As soon as Mr. Richardson was dead, Coroner McCannon was summoned and arrived in the city yesterday morning.

A jury consisting of C. T. Fenton, J. M. Funk and S. S. Doak was impaneled and an inquest held, and a verdict as above indicated was rendered.

The whole affair is a most disgraceful and unfortunate one. The showmen are, so far as we can see, blameless in the matter. Indeed, we have never seen a more peaceable and gentlemanly set of men together than they appeared to be, and their interference to protect the woman and to keep order upon their ground, was nothing more than they were bound, in duty to the public who attended their entertainment, to do.

The murdered man was the magician, fire eater, and man who lifted the heavy weights in the circus. He was a man of splendid physical development.

As we go to press, the funeral services are being held from the Willson House, conducted by Rev. Norris.

The preliminary examination of Mr. Basket is set for July 5th. D. C. Chase will appear for him. N. B. Hyatt will assist County Attorney Tucker in the prosecution.

Tom Basket had a fight in his saloon Saturday, in which he threw one Mr. House through the glass door, and for which he ought to have been arrested. He fought Roll Brewer and his daughter late in the day. If the officers, whose duty it is to keep the peace and arrest law breakers, had done their duty, Basket would have been in jail and the blood of an innocent man would not now be upon his hands.

#### THE BASKET TRIAL

The trial of Tom Basket for the murder of Richardson was held at the February term, 1889. The jury finally selected consisted of Peter Leksell, of Marion township; Lars L. Hendrickson, of Hamilton; P. A. Swanson, of Lyon; J. H. Sweeney, of Lyon; O. N. Silvernail, of Williams; Geo. W. Kroskup, of Marion; David Hook, of Marion; H. E. Dally, of Webster; Alex Thompson, of Lyon; E. B. Miller, of Independence; Fred Lente, of Liberty; Joe Evans, of Marion.

A graphic description of the trial appeared in the Freeman of March 6th and we reproduce it here:

## MURDER IN THE SECOND DEGREE

Such is the verdict in the Basket trial. The case was given to the jury at 5 o'clock p. m. last Thursday, and at 11 o'clock the same evening they returned with the verdict: "We, the jury, find the defendant guilty of murder in the second degree."

Last week we published a summary of the greater part of the evidence. Nothing substantially favorable to the accused was evinced from any subsequent testimony.

The judgment of the court will be pronounced upon the verdict on Friday of this week, after which Thomas Basket will become one of the wards, so to speak, of the state of Iowa. This case has been on trial for eight consecutive days, and every inch of the ground was stubbornly contested. The state was represented by County Attorney Tucker, assisted by Hon. J. L. Kamrar, of this city, and Hon. M. D. McConnell, of Fort Dodge; the defense by D. C. Chase. At the outset it became manifest that on the part of counsel for the defense it was a daring, skillful, tactician leading a forlorn hope. Technically and legally, the trial was a battle of giants in which the accused struggled against the inevitable.

The facts in this case are still fresh in the minds of the Freeman readers. It will be remembered that Tom Basket was on trial for shooting James Richardson on the 23d day of June last—the crime being committed under such circumstances of atrocity that he was promptly indicted for murder in the first degree. It will also be recalled that the coroner's jury impaneled to sit upon the case the day following the commission of the crime—composed of C. T. Fenton, J. M. Funk and S. S. Doak—declared that "the deceased came to his death by a pistol shot in the hands of Thomas Basket, and that the shooting was wilful, malicious and premeditated."

The sole reliance of the defendant upon the trial was in the plea of self-defense; and never was such plea urged with more persistence, ingenuity and legal ability, than upon this occasion by D. C. Chase. The summing up of the case, which occupied nearly a day and a half, was a forensic treat—barring its criminal association—and the court room was filled as it never was filled before. Hundreds were unable to get within hearing, after the court room and its avenues had been crammed to suffocation. During this ordeal the defendant, to all appearances, was an indifferent spectator to the drama in which he played so conspicuous a part, except for a few moments his eyes moistened as his counsel drew a vivid picture of Basket and his three young children—making a most touching appeal to the jury "that justice might be tempered with mercy." It may be added, to the credit of human sympathy, that there were but few dry eyes in all that vast audience under this stirring and eloquent appeal. The picture as a whole was one seldom seen in a life time. There sat the father accused of murder, literally buried under the evidence—surrounded by his three children, the youngest of whom is a motherless baby, too young to lisp "Father"; the next but a year older, and the oldest, a bright girl, too young to comprehend the enormity of her father's crime. Seldom has depravity been so closely blended with helpless innocence. This picture was really the only defense, and the defendant's counsel handled it with signal ability. D. C. Chase's argument, which occupied the entire forenoon Thursday, was followed by M.

D. McConnell, who closed the argument for the state. This distinguished advocate lost no time in bringing the jury and the audience down from the height in which Mr. Chase had left them. He did it, as was expected, with the eloquence of a Wirt—the logic of a Berkeley. He regretted that human institutions and necessities made it unsafe to try the crime of murder from the side of sympathy. Society had discerned that to stay the uplifted hand of the assassin, his crime must be followed by an adequate penalty. After laying this foundation, Mr. McConnell occupied three hours in a summary of the evidence in which he closed every avenue of escape, and seemed to leave the defendant in sight of the gallows.

The verdict gives general satisfaction, not only as a protection to society, but as being in the best interests of Basket's motherless children.

Thus ends one of the most awful crimes that ever stirred the hearts of this community.

November 2, 1889, Edwin L. Kimball, a baggage and freight man at the Illinois Central depot in Webster City, while loading a crate of crockery, slipped and fell, the crate striking him on the head, killing him instantly. He was thirty-six years of age, well known and highly respected.

The tragic drowning of Charlie Fisher, oldest son of C. E. Fisher, occurred June 28, 1890, while he was bathing in Boone river about eighty rods below the Chase mill near Webster City. He got beyond his depth and, as he could not swim, was overcome before help could arrive. The body sank and, though every effort was made to recover it, they were unsuccessful. The alarm was given and a large crowd of men searched the river until nightfall. When dark came on, efforts were suspended until morning. Sunday morning several hundred men resumed the search, using every device that could be thought of. About 12:30 p. m. the remains were discovered nearly two miles down the river, and they were recovered. Charlie Fisher was about eighteen years of age and was a general favorite. His death was the cause of general sadness throughout the community.

Robert Bain, a brakeman, fell between the cars and was killed near Kamrar October 21, 1890. He was the son of R. Bain, of Webster City, and was twenty-six years of age.

November 21, 1890, Anthony Kearn, a man from Hayworth, McLean county, Illinois, committed suicide in Webster City and was found unconscious on the sidewalk about 5:30 p. m. He had taken whiskey containing carbolic acid. He had been having trouble with a man by the name of Kerr in Illinois, and a few days before he came here, he and his enemy had met and several pistol shots were exchanged. Supposing that he had mortally wounded his antagonist, he took the train for Iowa, and to avoid arrest, which seemed sure to follow, he took his own life. He was about thirty years of age and a farm renter by occupation.

March 14th occurred the suicide of Marion Latta. He was living alone in a small house on a farm in Fremont township. He took his life by hanging himself. He was regarded as a good-hearted, inoffensive man, but had become addicted to the excessive use of intoxicating liquors. He left a wife and two sons who were not living with him at the time of the tragedy.

A man by the name of LeRoy Tucker was struck by a northwestern train and instantly killed July 15, 1892. It is supposed that he sat down on the track to rest and went to sleep and the train came upon him in that condition. The tragedy occurred in Cass township.

Gilbert J. Kringlin committed suicide in February, 1892, by taking strychnine. The deed was done at the Biggs hotel in Webster City and domestic trouble was assigned as the cause. He was a Norwegian, fairly well to do and about sixty years of age.

On July 6th occurred a tragedy that shocked the entire state. A terrible cyclone visited Pomeroy, about fifty miles west of Webster City, and destroyed the town and killed and wounded nearly two hundred people. Among these were the O'Briens, who only a short time before had moved from Williams, Iowa. The following account from the Fort Dodge Post tells of the story:

#### TRAGIC DEATH OF THE O'BRIENS

One of the saddest of these events probably was the fateful and tragic experience of the O'Brien family. There were two brothers and their families, J. E. O'Brien, a postal clerk on the Illinois Central, D. L. O'Brien, an attorney, and their father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. O'Brien. They removed to Pomeroy, from Williams only about three weeks ago, and were just settled in their new homes. Both houses were completely destroyed. J. M. O'Brien and Mrs. D. L. O'Brien and infant were killed. J. E. O'Brien was on his way home from Dubuque when the cyclone occurred. He arrived at that desolate town about three in the morning, while lanterns were flitting like ghosts and searchers were dragging dead bodies from beneath the debris. He hurried to the Moody house, where he found his father in a chair. The old man rose tremblingly as he entered, stretched forth his hand, clasped that of his son and falteringly said: "Good-by, Jim, I've waited for you but I can not wait for your mother." Then he fell back dead.

Mrs. J. M. O'Brien had left the day before on a visit to Williams, and yesterday afternoon the dead body of her husband followed her back to the old home in a pine box.

J. E. O'Brien lost everything he possessed in the world. His wife and child escaped in their flight to a neighbor's, where they took refuge in the cellar and were saved but their home was as utterly destroyed as if it had been dropped in the ocean. D. L. O'Brien and wife and child started across the street to take refuge in Ezra Davey's residence. Mr. O'Brien returned to close the windows of his house when the storm struck them, and his wife and child were instantly killed while he was uninjured. Strangely enough he found both bodies himself, although they were many hundred feet apart. The body of his little child he picked up in Main street and carried it into a house before it was recognized as his own. He found his wife dead and mangled in a pasture several hundred feet in a different direction. The bodies were all taken back to their old home for interment. But this is only one of many cases of desolation and despair.

April 28 occurred a tragedy that resulted in the death of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. H. Hanson at Ellsworth. A correspondent of the Freeman tells of the accident:

An accident occurred three miles east of Ellsworth on Sunday evening about 4 o'clock, during the severe wind and rain storm at that time, resulting in the death of Geo. H. Hanson and wife. It appears from the evidence taken before the coroner's jury yesterday, that the parties above named were driving north on the Cragwick road three miles east of Ellsworth during the severe rain storm, and in the act of crossing the railroad track at the Cragwick schoolhouse their buggy was struck by the engine of a westbound special freight train. The horse was not injured, while the buggy, with its occupants, was caught upon the pilot of the engine. Evidently both were killed instantly. Mr. Hanson was carried about nine rods and dropped on the north side of the track. Mrs. Hanson was carried on the pilot of the engine until it was stopped three-quarters of a mile farther west. The body of Mrs. Hanson was brought to the depot here and an engine and way-car sent back to bring in the body of Mr. Hanson. The remains are lying now in their residence here; funeral services will be held Wednesday at 1 o'clock. Nothing has ever occurred in this vicinity to cast so great gloom and sadness over the entire community.

Friday morning, June 8, 1894, occurred the tragic death of W. E. Foval. Foval was a harness dealer in Webster City, and a good business man, but he was addicted to the excessive use of liquor. About midnight of the 7th, he was found drunk on the streets and was locked up in the city jail, a frame building then located on the market square. During the night he set fire to his bed clothes and the fire burned down the jail. When the fire was discovered, the alarm was given, but not before the jail door could be opened. Foval had been burned to death. He was about thirty-five years of age.

Mrs. Chas. Williams committed suicide March 2d by taking strychnine. The tragedy took place at Kamrar.

On June 7, 1896, E. W. Durey was murdered on the platform of a baggage car while the train was between Duncombe and Webster City. The platform was crowded with men who were beating their way. Some of them were drunk and quarrelsome. Two of the men with the gang were arrested and examined, but all they could tell was that it was dark and a shot was fired just before the train pulled into Webster City. Durey was killed instantly. His murderer was never discovered.

#### THE SUSPECTED MURDER OF MRS. DULIN

July 27, 1896, Maria Dulin, familiarly known as Grandma Dulin, died suddenly at her home near Homer. Her last illness showed symptoms of poisoning and her grandson, Jim Paul, was charged with the murder of the old lady. Paul's wife had died about three weeks previous and but a few weeks after his wife's death, he married again. His haste to remarry together with other circumstances aroused the indignation of the neighborhood and resulted in his being suspected of the murder of both his wife and her grandmother. His arrest was made about the middle of August.

The body of Mrs. Dulin was exhumed and the stomach sent to Des Moines for examination. The chemist who examined it, Prof. O. R. Macy, reported strong symptoms of strychnine poisoning and at the preliminary examination Paul was held to appear before the grand jury. County Attorney Olmstead

prosecuted the case and Wambach and Richard defended. Paul was indicted by the grand jury.

Geo. Paul, father of Jim, was also indicted with his son for the murder of Mrs. Dulin. The trial of Jim Paul was set for the November term. D. C. Chase was employed to assist County Attorney Olmstead in the prosecution.

The Paul trial commenced on November 24th. The jury empaneled and accepted was constituted as follows: Frank Patterson, James Carroon, Thos. Gilbert, Ed Miller, E. Ackley, H. W. Peterson, M. B. Gordon, M. F. Ferguson, H. E. Shultz, J. C. Snell, J. W. Henry, James Caruth.

The evidence of the state showed that Mrs. Dulin lived in Homer and Dr. Geo. Paul lived on the same street a few hundred feet away. Jim Paul had married a granddaughter of Mrs. Dulin and was with her a great deal of the time. Jim Paul's wife died suddenly about two weeks before Mrs. Dulin's death and about one week after Mrs. Dulin's death, Paul married again.

When Mrs. Dulin was sick, Dr. Paul was sent for and treated her and during her last illness Jim Paul took care of her and gave her her medicine. After her death the medicine could not be found. Mrs. Dulin had a small amount of money and owned a house and lot in Homer. Jim Paul told one R. E. Pierce, that Mrs. Dulin had made a deed of this property to his (Paul's) wife, and after Mrs. Dulin's death the deed could not be found and Paul accused his wife's father of stealing it. After Mrs. Dulin's death, the money was missing. During Mrs. Dulin's last illness she had had convulsions. Dr. Paul's treatment seemed to relieve her at first. After her death the stomach was examined by an expert and traces of strychnine were found. A bottle which had contained strychnine was found about fifty feet from Mrs. Dulin's home.

The testimony of Dr. George Paul was very important because it tended strongly to explain the cause of the death of Mrs. Dulin and had strong influence in bringing about the acquittal of his son.

Jas. Paul was placed on the stand and denied that he had administered strychnine to Mrs. Dulin or that he had ever had any strychnine. Medical experts were introduced by the defense to show that presence of strychnine in the brain and stomach did not necessarily show that death had resulted from strychnine poisoning.

The arguments were long and exhaustive, the instructions of the court were complete and comprehensive. The jury after deliberating for fourteen hours returned the verdict of not guilty. The case against Geo. Paul was then dismissed and the Pauls immediately left the country.

Isaac Rooker committed suicide October 15, 1896, by shooting himself in the head with a shot gun. There seemed to be no reason for the act and some thought his death was accidental, but the coroner's jury after investigating the case, pronounced it a case of suicide. The tragedy occurred near Kamrar.

January 29, 1897, John H. Warburton was killed by the Chicago and North-Western train near Ellsworth. The Freeman gives the following account of the accident:

John H. Warburton was one of the leading and influential citizens and business men of Jewell, a member of Warburton Brothers, dealers in farm implements and live stock, and no man in the county stood higher in the esteem of the people

than he. He was a splendid business man, and came to Jewell when the town was first started and has wielded a wide influence in the affairs of his community. He was born and raised in Independence, Iowa, and married his wife there.

He was just leaving Ellsworth and had passed two or three teams going in the same direction, south, before reaching the track where the accident occurred—the first crossing west of the depot. It is almost impossible to see a train coming from the east, until nearly to the track. Mr. Warburton was in the top buggy, but the top was not up, as first reported. He wore a fur coat, however, with the big collar turned up so that his view would be limited to the road straight in front of him. When about twenty or thirty feet from the track he noticed the swiftly approaching train, and struck his team with the whip, in an effort to cross the track ahead of the engine. The team got safely across, and another fraction of a second of time would have saved Mr. Warburton's life, but the engine struck his buggy squarely between the wheels, tearing it to pieces. The unfortunate man was of course thrown violently downward, being caught on the pilot of the engine, and carried there nearly to the bridge east of Ellsworth, about half a mile from the crossing where the accident occurred. The engineer got the tram stopped there and backed up to the depot in Ellsworth. The post mortem examination made by Coroner Eberle showed that Mr. Warburton's neck was broken, the skull crushed and both arms broken, probably by the force with which the pilot struck him, but the body was not mangled or otherwise badly disfigured. The train which caused the accident was the second section of No. 25, a westbound freight train in charge of Conductor Edward Nichols, of Lake City, and Engineer Harry Harrison, Fireman Calvin Mann and Brakeman Harry Shultz and Henry Herrick.

Thos. Cotterall, a young man of about twenty-three, was thrown from his wheel on Second street in Webster City and almost instantly killed. The accident was caused by the colliding with another wheel. It took place in September, 1897.

Samuel McComb, who lived two miles north of Kamrar, was killed in a runaway accident September 17, 1897. He had started to Webster City when a runaway team came up behind and ran into the rear of his buggy, throwing him off the seat over the dashboard. He received bruises that resulted in his death in about twenty minutes. J. M. Beardsley and a son of McComb were in the buggy with him but they escaped with injuries. McComb was born in Ireland in 1840, and came to Hamilton county in 1867.

#### ATTEMPTED BANK ROBBERY

An attempt to rob the Exchange Bank of Blairsburg was made October 24, 1896. O. W. Hick, a special correspondent to the Freeman, gave the following account:

An attempt was made by three masked men to rob the Exchange Bank of Blairsburg Sunday morning at 3 o'clock. One of the robbers is lying at the Blairsburg hotel with two bullet wounds in his body, one in his chest and one in the abdomen. The two other men escaped. For two days the robbers were in this city, and Saturday night they took a hand car and made the trip to Blairsburg. The two men gained entrance to the bank through the front door of the build-

ing. While two were at work in the bank the third was stationed outside. A hole was drilled through the top of the outside safe, and to make their work sure they inserted dynamite enough to blow open a dozen safes. The great iron doors were hurled twenty feet, the safe was wrecked and the entire building was damaged. The noise of the explosion brought half the people of Blairsburg from their beds. James Coners, an employe at the Blairsburg creamery, was the first citizen to arrive. When he saw the havoc that had been wrought he uttered a yell and retreated to the hotel across the street. It was this cry that frightened the burglars. They had prepared another charge of dynamite for the time locks on the interior of the big safe. This they did not explode. They hastily left the bank through the rear window, and as they were passing the northwest corner of the building the third man, who gives his name as Edward Gillicon, rushed around the corner. Twice the fleeing burglars shot at him, each shot taking effect. A volley was fired by the bandits at the crowd which had rapidly gathered, but owing to the darkness the others shots did no harm. Gillicon was carried to the hotel, where physicians probed his wounds. He is a young man about twenty-six years of age, fair complexion, and his hands give no evidence of toil. Efforts were made to induce him to tell the names of his associates, but he declared he did not know them.

Theories are advanced as to why the robbers shot Gillicon. One is that they mistook him for a citizen and the other is that, as it was impossible for him to escape, they thought to kill him to prevent any testimony he might offer against them. Gillicon says he never met the men until two days before in Webster City, when they were drinking together and they gradually approached the subject of robbing the Blairsburg bank. He fell in with them and showed a willingness to assist. They explained that they had looked over the field and every detail of the building and it would be an easy job.

To frighten Gillicon into a full confession threats were made of lynching, but they proved of no avail. He stoutly maintained he did not know even the robbers' names. Sheriff Sinclair drove to Blairsburg before daylight Sunday morning. When he searched Gillicon's clothes he found a number of skeleton keys and other tools used by robbers. He had a number of gold watches, chains, etc., in his outside coat pockets.

At the November term of the district court Gillicon pled guilty to the charge of burglary, and was sentenced to five years' service at the penitentiary at Anamosa.

James R. Walters, employed on the B. C. Mason farm in Independence township, was killed by an angry bull November 6, 1897. He had gone into the feed lot and in passing the bull pricked him in the side with a shovel to make him get out of the way. The bull turned suddenly and struck Walters in the breast with his head with such force that he died within twenty minutes.

Andrew Leksell committed suicide at his home near Bone's mill May 6, 1898. He got up from his bed during the night and went out to the barn, where he hung himself. Nothing of his intentions was known by the family until he was discovered, dead, the next morning. The coroner's jury found that he came to his death by his own hand while temporarily insane.

Ira Fitts, a traveling man from Des Moines, committed suicide at Williams December 7th. The means used to accomplish the act are unknown. From

letters found it was learned that domestic troubles and gambling were causes that led to the act.

A man by the name of Snelson committed suicide near Homer April 9, 1899. He was a man of about forty and had become enamored of a young girl of about sixteen. She apparently did not care for him and was keeping company with another young man in the neighborhood. He became extremely jealous. On the day of his death he had followed the young lady and her friend and on overtaking them, threatened to kill the girl. By whipping their team into a run, the young people managed to escape and reached home. Snelson followed and renewed his attempts to shoot the girl and failing in this, placed the muzzle of the pistol to his temple and fired. He had evidently premeditated suicide.

William Wilder, a young man of twenty-five living near Webster City, committed suicide November 10, 1899, by shooting himself. He had been in poor health for a year and this was the only cause that can be given for his strange act. He wrote farewell letters to each member of the family.

A. L. Deo of Stratford was accidentally killed November 17, 1899. He was digging a well and went down into it to remove a rock. He was overcome by damps and before he could be drawn out had expired. He was about forty years old and had lived at Stratford for many years.

## CHAPTER XVI

### MILITARY HISTORY

HOW THE SOLDIERS WERE ASSIGNED—MILITARY RECORDS OF HAMILTON COUNTY SOLDIERS—THOSE WHO DIED IN SERVICE—THOSE WHO HELD OFFICE—CIVIL WAR VETERANS WHO RESIDE IN HAMILTON COUNTY—CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS BURIED IN HAMILTON COUNTY.

During the Civil war 163 soldiers enlisted from Hamilton county and they were assigned to the following regiments: First cavalry, 11; second cavalry, 58; seventh cavalry, 7; ninth cavalry, 9; first infantry, 1; second infantry, 2; sixth infantry, 1; twelfth infantry, 1; fifteenth infantry, 1; sixteenth infantry, 26; thirty-second infantry, 41; forty-fifth infantry, 1; forty-eighth infantry, 4; first United States infantry, 1; paymaster United States, 1.

Of this number, 34 died while in service. Their loss was credited as follows: First cavalry, 4; second cavalry, 10; seventh cavalry, 2; third infantry, 1; sixteenth infantry, 10; thirty-second infantry, 7.

Of all who enlisted from this county the following is a list of those who still resided here January 1, 1912: J. M. Jones, Thos. Fisher, L. M. Harris, Lars Henderson, Joseph Adams, James Brock, J. N. Maxwell, John McFarland, N. J. Olmstead and Eri Dodge.

In the office of the adjutant general of the state of Iowa is a record of the military service of each Iowa soldier. From that record, as published by the state, we reproduce so much as refers to the soldiers who enlisted from Hamilton county:

#### COMPANY G, FIRST IOWA CAVALRY

John D. Corbin. Age 17. Residence, Hamilton county, nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Nov. 24, 1864. Mustered Nov. 24, 1864. Mustered out Nov. 26, 1865, Austin, Texas, expiration of term of service.

John P. Corbin. Age 16. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Nov. 24, 1864. Mustered Nov. 24, 1864. Mustered out Nov. 26, 1865, Austin, Texas, expiration of term of service.

Oscar J. Daniels. Age 19. Residence, Homer; nativity, Pennsylvania. Enlisted Aug. 13, 1862. Mustered Aug. 13, 1862. Promoted fourth corporal Nov. 1, 1864. Mustered out May 2, 1865, Memphis, Tenn.

Suell Dodge. Age 19. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Maine. Enlisted June 13, 1861. Mustered Aug. 1, 1861. Killed in action July 11, 1862, Big Creek Bluffs, Mo.

Levi S. Drinkwater. Age 30. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Pennsylvania. Enlisted Aug. 14, 1862. Mustered Aug. 14, 1862. Discharged May 31, 1865, Memphis, Tenn.

Harris Hoover. Age 28. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Pennsylvania. Enlisted June 13, 1861, as fourth sergeant. Mustered Aug. 1, 1861. Promoted second sergeant Sept. 19, 1861; first sergeant June 18, 1862. Mustered out Sept. 9, 1864, Davenport, Iowa, expiration of term of service.

Daniel R. Hopper. Age 23. Residence, Webster City; nativity, New York. Enlisted June 13, 1861. Mustered Aug. 1, 1861. Promoted seventh corporal Sept. 19, 1861; sixth corporal Oct. 1, 1861. Died of disease March 17, 1863, Mountain Grove, Mo.

Charles H. Porter. Age 22. Residence, Eldora; nativity, Michigan. Enlisted Aug. 13, 1862. Mustered Aug. 13, 1862. Died of disease Oct. 14, 1863, Little Rock, Ark. Buried in National Cemetery, Little Rock, Ark. Section 1, grave 82.

Henry C. Skinner. Age 25. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Pennsylvania. Enlisted Sept. 12, 1862. Mustered Sept. 12, 1862. Died of disease March 9, 1863, Mountain Grove, Mo.

Isaac Soule. Age 37. Residence, Webster City; nativity, New York. Enlisted June 13, 1861, as fifth sergeant. Mustered Aug. 1, 1861. Promoted third sergeant Sept. 19, 1861; second sergeant June 18, 1862. Discharged for promotion as hospital steward of eighth Missouri cavalry May 11, 1863.

John H. Williams. Age 20. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Aug. 12, 1862. Mustered Aug. 12, 1862. Promoted sixth corporal Sept. 9, 1864; sixth sergeant Nov. 1, 1864; fifth sergeant March 1, 1865. Mustered out June 13, 1865, Memphis, Tenn.

#### COMPANY F, SECOND IOWA CAVALRY

Ammond, George R. Age 21. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Pennsylvania. Appointed second lieutenant Aug. 9, 1861. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Promoted first lieutenant Nov. 23, 1861 and appointed quartermaster for third battalion. Mustered out Sept. 26, 1862, Hamburg, Tenn.

Vivaldo A. Ballou. Age 20. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, New York. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861, as third sergeant. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Discharged for disability Sept. 17, 1862, Corinth, Miss.

Hiram N. Battles (veteran). Age 22. Residence, Homer; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Promoted eighth corporal March 19, 1862; seventh corporal April 4, 1862; quartermaster sergeant Nov. 1, 1862. Reenlisted and remustered March 1, 1864. Promoted first sergeant June 13, 1864. Mustered out Sept. 19, 1865, Selma, Ala.

Berkley, Granville. Age 39. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Virginia. Appointed captain Aug. 1, 1861. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Mustered out Oct. 29, 1862.

Berkley, John J. Age 18. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Virginia. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Promoted second corporal Oct. 1, 1861. First sergeant Nov. 27, 1861. Mustered out Oct. 3, 1864, Davenport, Iowa, expiration of term of service.

Biggs, Clinton E. Age 22. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861, as eighth corporal. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Promoted seventh corporal Nov. 27, 1861; sixth corporal Dec. 16, 1861; fifth corporal Jan. 17, 1862; fourth corporal Jan. 27, 1862; third corporal March 9, 1862. Died, date and place unknown.

Brock, Bailey. Age 42. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Indiana. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Mustered out Oct. 3, 1864, Davenport, Iowa, expiration of term of service.

Brock, John (veteran). Age 19. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Illinois. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Wounded severely July 1, 1861, Booneville, Miss. Promoted saddler. Reenlisted and remustered March 1, 1864. Died of disease March 15, 1865, Jeffersonville, Ind. Buried National Cemetery, New Albany, Ind. Section B, grave 403.

Brock, Sherwood. Age 21. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Illinois. Enlisted Jan. 11, 1865. Mustered Jan. 11, 1865. Mustered out Sept. 19, 1865, Selma, Ala.

Burd, Alexander N. Age 30. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Pennsylvania. Enlisted Jan. 2, 1864. Mustered Jan. 2, 1864. Mustered out Sept. 19, 1865, Selma, Ala.

Burgess, Jesse R. Age 44. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Pennsylvania. Appointed additional assistant surgeon April 21, 1862. Promoted assistant surgeon Jan. 7, 1863. Mustered out Sept. 19, 1865, Selma, Ala.

Craig, Samuel. Age 44. Residence, West Liberty; nativity, New York. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Discharged for disability March 24, 1863, La Grange, Tenn.

Cheney, William H. Age 21. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, New York. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861, as third corporal. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Promoted second corporal Nov. 27, 1861. Discharged for promotion in second Alabama cavalry Sept. 5, 1862.

Church, William L. Age 34. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Ohio. Appointed first lieutenant, Aug. 1, 1861. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Resigned Nov. 23, 1861.

Clemens, John. Age 20. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Iowa. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Died of disease Oct. 1, 1862, Mound City, Ill. Buried in National Cemetery, Mound City, Ill. Section B, grave 901.

Collins, Fletcher. Age 20. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Illinois. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Wounded Feb. 21, 1864, West Point, Miss. Mustered out Oct. 3, 1864, Davenport, Iowa, expiration of term of service.

Collins, William W. Age 19. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Illinois. Enlisted Dec. 28, 1863. Mustered Dec. 30, 1863. Mustered out Sept. 19, 1865, Selma, Ala.

Cooper, William. Age 43. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Pennsylvania. Enlisted Jan. 2, 1864. Mustered Jan. 2, 1864. Mustered out Sept. 19, 1865, Selma, Ala.

Dally, Charles F. Age 19. Residence, Homer; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Promoted fifth corporal Jan. 12, 1864.

Wounded and taken prisoner Feb. 21, 1864, West Point, Miss. Died at Starkville, Miss. Buried in National Cemetery, Vicksburg, Miss. Section C, grave 350.

Dorland, George S. Age 27. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Dec. 9, 1863. Mustered Dec. 9, 1863. Wounded and taken prisoner Feb. 21, 1864, West Point, Miss.

Faught, James. Age 43. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Virginia. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861, as quartermaster sergeant. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Reduced to third sergeant Oct. 1, 1861. Promoted second sergeant Dec. 1, 1861. Wounded severely May 9, 1862, Farmington, Miss. Discharged for disability Oct. 17, 1862, Keokuk, Iowa.

Fisher, Thomas (veteran). Age 18. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Illinois. Enlisted April 9, 1861. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Taken prisoner July 1, 1862, Booneville, Miss. Reenlisted and remustered March 1, 1864. Promoted seventh corporal Jan. 1, 1865; sixth corporal March 11, 1865; fifth corporal Aug. 25, 1865. Mustered out Sept. 19, 1865, Selma, Ala.

Grant, Harry N. Age 20. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Illinois. Enlisted Jan. 2, 1864. Mustered Jan. 12, 1864. Mustered out Sept. 19, 1865, Selma, Ala.

Gilpen, Samuel. Age 25. Residence, Amsterdam; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861, as sixth corporal. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Promoted fifth corporal Nov. 27, 1861; fourth corporal Dec. 16, 1861; third corporal Jan. 17, 1862; second corporal Jan. 27, 1862. Reduced to ranks at his own request June 1, 1862. Wounded severely July 1, 1862, Booneville, Miss. Mustered out Oct. 3, 1864, Davenport, Iowa, expiration of term of service.

Hardin, James E. Age 20. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Jan. 2, 1864. Mustered Jan. 12, 1864. Mustered out Sept. 19, 1865, Selma, Ala.

Harris, Frederick A. Age 40. Residence, Webster City; nativity, New York. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861, as fourth sergeant. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Promoted third sergeant Dec. 1, 1861; third battalion commissary sergeant March 24, 1862. Regimental farrier Oct. 1, 1862. Mustered out Oct. 3, 1864, Davenport, Iowa, expiration of term of service.

Harris, Levi M. (veteran). Age 21. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Illinois. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Reenlisted and remustered March 1, 1864. Promoted sixth corporal June 13, 1864; fourth corporal Nov. 1, 1864; third corporal Jan. 1, 1865; second corporal March 11, 1865; first corporal Aug. 25, 1865. Mustered out Sept. 19, 1865, Selma, Ala.

Hassey, Thomas J. Age 32. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Iowa. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Promoted fifth sergeant Oct. 15, 1862. Discharged for disability Oct. 18, 1863, Memphis, Tenn.

Hayden, Benjamin. Age 43. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Illinois. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Discharged for disability Oct. 15, 1862, St. Louis, Mo.

Hayden, Nathaniel (veteran). Age 18. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Illinois. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Reenlisted and remustered March 1, 1864. Promoted seventh corporal June 13, 1864; third

corporal Nov. 1, 1864; second corporal Jan. 1, 1865; first corporal March 11, 1865; fifth sergeant Aug. 25, 1865. Mustered out Sept. 19, 1865, Selma, Ala.

Howard, William C. Age 43. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Delaware. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861, as farrier. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Discharged for disability Feb. 16, 1862, St. Louis, Mo.

Kimberlin, John W. (veteran). Age 20. Residence, Hardin county; nativity, Indiana. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Reenlisted and remustered March 1, 1864. Promoted sixth corporal Jan. 1, 1865; fifth corporal March 11, 1865; third corporal Aug. 25, 1865. Mustered out Sept. 19, 1865, Selma, Ala.

Kimble, Noah W. Age 25. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Jan. 2, 1864. Mustered Jan. 12, 1864. Mustered out Sept. 19, 1865, Selma, Ala.

Lake, Delmer (veteran). Age 19. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Pennsylvania. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Promoted seventh corporal Oct. 1, 1861; sixth corporal Nov. 27, 1861; fifth corporal Dec. 16, 1861; fourth corporal Jan. 17, 1862; third corporal Jan. 27, 1862. Mustered out Sept. 19, 1865, Selma, Ala.

Lakin, Charles. Age 18. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Illinois. Enlisted Jan. 4, 1864. Mustered Jan. 12, 1864. Mustered out Aug. 25, 1865, Louisville, Ky.

Lanier, Robert A. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Kentucky. Enlisted Jan. 4, 1864. Mustered Jan. 12, 1864. Died of disease April 20, 1864, Memphis, Tenn. Buried in Mississippi River National Cemetery, Memphis, Tenn. Section 1, grave 40.

Logan, Lyman B. Age 19. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Indiana. Enlisted Dec. 15, 1863. Mustered Jan. 14, 1864. Mustered out May 29, 1865, Memphis, Tenn.

Listenberger, Albert. Age 20. Residence, St. Joe county, Ind.; nativity, Indiana. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Promoted eighth corporal Jan. 17, 1862; seventh corporal Jan. 27, 1862; sixth corporal March 19, 1862; fifth corporal April 4, 1862; second corporal Oct. 15, 1862; fourth sergeant Jan. 12, 1864. Mustered out Oct. 3, 1864, Davenport, Iowa, expiration of term of service.

Lyon, Richard T. (veteran). Age 22. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Illinois. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Reenlisted and remustered March 1, 1864. Promoted sixth corporal Nov. 1, 1864; fourth corporal Jan. 1, 1865; third corporal March 11, 1865; second corporal Aug. 25, 1865. Mustered out Sept. 19, Selma, Ala.

Mann, William. Rejected Aug. 9, 1861, by mustering officer.

Munson, Amasa T. Age 22. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Pennsylvania. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Died of disease Jan. 17, 1862, hospital, St. Louis, Mo. Buried in National Cemetery, Jefferson Barracks (St. Louis), Mo. Section 38, grave 32.

Neary, James V. Age 24. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Promoted fifth sergeant Oct. 1,

1861; fourth sergeant Dec. 1, 1861. Died of disease, Jan. 20, 1862, City Hospital, St. Louis, Mo.

Norwood, John A. Age 21. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Scotland. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861, as fifth sergeant. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Reduced to ranks, Oct. 1, 1861. Deserted Jan. 8, 1862. Benton Barracks (St. Louis), Mo.

Okeson, Daniel (veteran). Age 36. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Pennsylvania. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Promoted company quartermaster sergeant Oct. 1, 1861. Taken prisoner May 9, 1862, Farmington, Miss. Exchanged and rejoined company Oct. 11, 1862. Promoted first sergeant Nov. 1, 1862. Reenlisted and remustered March 1, 1864. Died Aug. 20, 1864, Memphis, Tenn.

Pfeffer, John B. (veteran). Age 29. Residence, St. Louis, Mo.; nativity, Germany. Enlisted Nov. 11, 1862. Mustered Nov. 11, 1862. Promoted wagoner; fourth corporal Jan. 12, 1864. Reenlisted and remustered March 1, 1864. Promoted sixth sergeant June 13, 1864; fourth sergeant Nov. 1, 1864; third sergeant Jan. 1, 1865; second sergeant Aug. 25, 1865. Mustered out Sept. 19, 1865, Selma, Ala.

Parks, Laban J. Age 31. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Wounded severely May 9, 1862, Farmington, Miss. Died of wounds June 18, 1862, Hamburg, Miss. Buried in National Cemetery, Jefferson Barracks (St. Louis), Mo. Section 38, grave 76.

Reily, Peter. Age 23. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, New York. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861, as first sergeant. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Promoted second lieutenant Nov. 23, 1861; first lieutenant Dec. 1, 1861. Resigned Aug. 23, 1862.

Sharp, Joseph W. Age 20. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Kentucky. Enlisted Dec. 28, 1863. Mustered Dec. 30, 1864. Mustered out Sept. 19, 1865, Selma, Ala.

Seeber, Robert. Age 22. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Missouri. Enlisted Dec. 28, 1864. Mustered Dec. 30, 1864. Mustered out Sept. 19, 1865, Selma, Ala.

Silbert, Robert A. Age 18. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Dec. 9, 1863. Mustered Dec. 9, 1863. Mustered out Sept. 19, 1865, Selma, Ala.

Snow, Charles F. Age 18. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Michigan. Enlisted Sept. 3, 1864. Mustered Sept. 3, 1864. Mustered out June 25, 1865, Eastport, Miss.

Snow, Joseph A. Age 44. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Vermont. Enlisted Sept. 3, 1864. Mustered Sept. 3, 1864. Mustered out June 25, 1865, Eastport, Miss.

Striker, John D. Age 20. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Dec. 28, 1863. Mustered Dec. 30, 1863. Died of disease June 19, 1864, Memphis, Tenn.

Walters, James. Age 22. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Indiana. Enlisted Jan. 4, 1864. Mustered Jan. 12, 1864. Mustered out Sept. 19, 1865, Selma, Ala.

Walters, Lewis. Age 21. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Indiana. Enlisted Jan. 4, 1864. Mustered Jan. 12, 1864. Mustered out Sept. 19, 1865, Selma, Ala. (See Company H, eighteenth infantry.)

Weaver, David (veteran). Age 24. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Promoted farrier. Reenlisted and remustered March 1, 1864. Mustered out Sept. 19, 1865, Selma, Ala.

Wheelock, Thomas (veteran). Age 25. Residence, Hancock county; nativity, Maryland. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Promoted farrier. Reenlisted and remustered March 1, 1864. Promoted seventh corporal Nov. 1, 1864; fifth corporal Jan. 1, 1865; fourth corporal March 11, 1865. Mustered out Sept. 19, 1865, Selma, Ala.

Wood, William H. (veteran). Age 32. Residence, Iowa Falls; nativity, Pennsylvania. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1861. Mustered Sept. 9, 1861. Reenlisted and remustered March 1, 1864. Transferred to veteran reserve corps April 21, 1865. Mustered out Sept. 25, 1865, Springfield, Ill.

## UNASSIGNED RECRUITS

Van Lusen, Norris H. Age 27. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, New York. Enlisted Sept. 1, 1864. Mustered Sept. 1, 1864. No further record found.

Walker, Harvey. Age eighteen. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Indiana. Enlisted Sept. 1, 1864. Mustered Sept. 1, 1864. No further record found.

## COMPANY G, SEVENTH CAVALRY

Joseph Bone. Age 33. Residence, Homer; nativity, Ohio. Appointed first lieutenant April 27, 1863. Mustered June 16, 1863. Resigned September 28, 1864.

Silas M. Coburn. Age 37. Residence, Homer; nativity, Vermont. Enlisted April 1, 1863. Mustered April 25, 1863. Transferred to Company G, Seventh Cavalry, reorganized.

George W. Courrier. Died May 26, 1863, before mustered in. Buried in National Cemetery, Rock Island, Ill.

James P. Fought. Age 18. Residence, Homer; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted April 10, 1863. Mustered April 30, 1863. Transferred to Company G, Seventh Cavalry, reorganized.

Ophir C. Fought. Age 23. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted April 10, 1863. Mustered April 25, 1863. Died of disease Oct. 25, 1863, Cottonwood Springs, Neb. Buried in National Cemetery, Fort McPherson, Neb.

Parker J. Harder. Age 24. Residence, Webster City; nativity, New York. Enlisted April 1, 1863, as sixth sergeant. Mustered April 25, 1863. Promoted fifth sergeant. July 27, 1863. Transferred to Company G, Seventh Cavalry, reorganized.

Benj. F. Lockhart. Age 21. Residence Homer; nativity, Missouri. Enlisted April 1, 1863. Mustered April 25, 1863. Transferred to Company G, Seventh Cavalry, reorganized.

## COMPANY G, NINTH CAVALRY

James M. Bacon. Age 18. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Aug. 13, 1863. Mustered Aug. 13, 1863. Deserted July 17, 1865, Codron Ferry, Ark.

Martin Cunardo. Age 18. Residence, Webster City; nativity, New York. Enlisted Aug. 13, 1863. Mustered Aug. 13, 1863. Mustered out Feb. 3, 1866, Little Rock, Ark.

Cunningham, Benjamin G. Age 19. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Indiana. Enlisted July 20, 1863, as second sergeant. Mustered July 20, 1863. Promoted company quartermaster sergeant, April 24, 1864. Mustered out Feb. 3, 1866, Little Rock, Ark.

Henry E. Dart. Age 18. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Pennsylvania. Enlisted Aug. 13, 1863. Mustered Aug. 13, 1863. Mustered out Feb. 3, 1866, Little Rock, Ark.

Dick Martin Davis. Age 21. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Missouri. Enlisted Aug. 3, 1863. Mustered Aug. 3, 1863. Promoted teamster. Deserted July 17, 1865, Codron Ferry, Ark.

Charles P. Robedee. Age 18. Residence, Webster City; nativity, New York. Enlisted Aug. 13, 1863. Mustered Aug. 13, 1863. Mustered out Feb. 3, 1866, Little Rock, Ark.

John C. Schaller. Age 31. Residence, Webster City; nativity, France. Enlisted Aug. 13, 1863, as second corporal. Mustered Aug. 13, 1863. Promoted first corporal, May 5, 1864. Mustered out Feb. 3, 1866, Little Rock, Ark.

## COMPANY B, NINTH CAVALRY

Elijah F. Cross. Age 39. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Nov. 15, 1863. Mustered Nov. 15, 1863. Died of disease, May 11, 1864, St. Louis, Mo. Buried at Arsenal Island, St. Louis, Mo.

## COMPANY L, NINTH CAVALRY

Gardner Dodge. Age 18. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Maine. Enlisted July 29, 1863. Mustered July 29, 1863. Dishonorably discharged.

Alexander C. Maxwell. Age 18. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Illinois. Enlisted July 27, 1863. Mustered July 27, 1863. Promoted eighth corporal, Feb. 21, 1864. Died of disease, March 14, 1864, St. Louis, Mo. Buried at Arsenal Island, St. Louis, Mo.

## COMPANY E, THIRD INFANTRY

Daniel Hill. Age 19. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Illinois. Enlisted May 21, 1861. Mustered June 8, 1861. Severely wounded Sept. 17, 1861, Blue Hills, Mo. Died of typhoid fever, March 21, 1862, Gothic hospital, Paducah, Ky.

Gustavus S. Kendall (veteran). Age 18. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Illinois. Enlisted May 21, 1861, as wagoner. Mustered June 8, 1861.

Reenlisted and remustered Jan. 4, 1864. (See Co. A, Third Inf. Consolidated Battery.) Mustered out July 12, 1865, Louisville, Ky.

## COMPANY C, SIXTH IOWA INFANTRY

Robert W. Guthrie. Age 22. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted July 4, 1861. Mustered July 17, 1861. Discharged Jan. 2, 1862, LaMine Bridge, Mo., for disability.

## COMPANY K, FIRST INFANTRY

George Rifenstahl. Age 28. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Germany. Enlisted April 24, 1861. Mustered May 14, 1861. Mustered out Aug. 21, 1861.

## COMPANY K, TWELFTH INFANTRY

John Abbott. Age 23. Residence, Cass township; nativity, New York. Enlisted Dec. 7, 1864. Mustered Dec. 7, 1864. Mustered out Dec. 7, 1865, Mobile, Alabama.

## COMPANY H, FIFTEENTH INFANTRY

Addison A. Woodard. Age 21. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Wisconsin. Enlisted Sept. 28, 1864. Mustered Sept. 28, 1864. Mustered out June 2, 1865, Washington, D. C.

## COMPANY C, SIXTEENTH INFANTRY

Thomas E. Ross. Age 19. Residence, Hamilton county. Enlisted Feb. 25, 1864. Mustered Feb. 25, 1864. Mustered out July 19, 1865, Louisville, Ky.

## COMPANY E, SIXTEENTH INFANTRY

David A. Adams. Age 33. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Nov. 18, 1864. Mustered Nov. 18, 1864. Died, date and place unknown.

## COMPANY F, SIXTEENTH INFANTRY

John A. Cooper. Age 33. Residence, Second Congressional District; nativity, England. Enlisted Nov. 18, 1864. Mustered Nov. 18, 1864. Mustered out July 19, 1865, Louisville, Ky.

Gilbert B. Pray. Age 18. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Indiana. Enlisted Nov. 23, 1864. Mustered Nov. 23, 1864. Mustered out July 19, 1865, Louisville, Ky.

## COMPANY I, SIXTEENTH INFANTRY

Lars Henderson. Age 41. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Norway. Enlisted Nov. 18, 1864. Mustered Nov. 18, 1864. Mustered out July 19, 1865, Louisville, Ky.

## COMPANY D, SIXTEENTH INFANTRY

Robert Alcorn. Age 24. Residence, Homer; nativity, Indiana. Appointed first lieutenant, Jan. 28, 1862. Mustered Jan. 28, 1862. Wounded severely Sept. 19, 1862, Iuka, Miss. Missing in action and taken prisoner July 22, 1864, Atlanta, Ga. Mustered out Dec. 22, 1864, expiration of term of service.

John Braman. Age 41. Residence, Fort Dodge; nativity, Denmark. Enlisted Dec. 9, 1863. Mustered Dec. 9, 1863. Missing in action July 22, 1864, Atlanta, Ga. Died of fever, April 6, 1865, Baltimore, Md. Buried in London Park National Cemetery, Baltimore, Md.

George C. Browning. Age 18. Residence, Homer; nativity, Indiana. Enlisted Nov. 9, 1861. Mustered Dec. 11, 1861. Died of chronic diarrhoea, Feb. 28, 1864, St. Louis, Mo. Buried in Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Mo. Section 6, grave 223.

Amos Butterworth. Age 21. Residence, Homer; nativity, Massachusetts. Enlisted Jan. 27, 1862. Mustered Jan. 28, 1862. Discharged for disability May 7, 1862, St. Louis, Mo.

David Carroll. Age 39. Residence, Homer; nativity, Kentucky. Enlisted Oct. 16, 1861. Mustered Dec. 14, 1861. Promoted sixth corporal, April 17, 1862; first corporal, Sept. 1, 1862. Wounded Sept. 19, 1862, Iuka, Miss. Discharged for disability Nov. 26, 1862.

John W. Comley. Age 19. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Oct. 16, 1861. Mustered Dec. 11, 1861. Discharged for disability May 26, 1862, Louisville, Ky.

Edward F. Cutting. Age 27. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Maine. Enlisted Oct. 19, 1861, as fifth corporal. Mustered Oct. 14, 1861. Promoted fourth corporal, March 7, 1862. Killed in action April 6, 1862, Shiloh, Tenn.

Elijah Dillon. Age 18. Residence Fort Dodge; nativity, Indiana. Enlisted Dec. 9, 1863. Mustered Dec. 9, 1863. Wounded in shoulder severely, July 21, 1864, Nick-a-jack Creek, Ga. Died of wounds Aug. 9, 1864, Marietta, Ga. Buried in National Cemetery, Marietta, Ga. Section G, grave 622.

Beden Eslick. Age 35. Residence Homer; nativity, Indiana. Enlisted Jan. 21, 1862. Mustered Jan. 28, 1862. Promoted eighth corporal, April 17, 1862; sixth corporal, July 4, 1862; fourth corporal, Sept. 1, 1862; third corporal.—Discharged for disability Dec. 27, 1862.

Lyman Fairfield. Age 31. Residence, Fort Dodge; nativity, New Hampshire. Enlisted Dec. 9, 1863. Mustered Dec. 9, 1863. Promoted eighth corporal. Wounded severely July 21, 1864, Nick-a-jack Creek, Ga. Died of wounds Feb. 17, 1865, Columbia, S. C.

Lewis Holcomb (veteran). Age 25. Residence, Webster county; nativity, New York. Enlisted Sept. 27, 1861. Mustered Dec. 11, 1861. Reenlisted and remustered Jan. 5, 1864. Promoted fourth corporal, Jan. 11, 1865. Mustered out July 19, 1865, Louisville, Ky.

John W. Hook. Age 22. Residence, Fort Dodge; nativity, Indiana. Enlisted Dec. 9, 1863. Mustered Dec. 9, 1863. Wounded in thigh July 9, 1864, Kenesaw Mountain, Ga. Mustered out July 19, 1865, Louisville, Ky.

James M. Lane. Age 21. Residence, Fort Dodge; nativity, Illinois. En-

listed Dec. 9, 1862. Mustered Dec. 9, 1862. Missing in action and taken prisoner July 22, 1864. Atlanta, Ga. Mustered out July 19, 1865, Louisville, Ky.

Gabriel Miller. Age 32. Residence, Homer; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Jan. 27, 1862. Mustered Jan. 28, 1862. Deserted April 10, 1862, Pittsburg Landing, Tenn.

Jesse McGuire. Age 35. Residence, Homer; nativity, Missouri. Enlisted Oct. 23, 1861. Mustered Dec. 11, 1861. Died Nov. 30, 1863, Keokuk, Iowa.

Solomon H. Orcutt. Age 32. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Pennsylvania. Enlisted Oct. 19, 1861. Mustered Dec. 11, 1861. Died Sept. 3, 1862, Jackson, Tenn.

George W. Russell. Age 17. Residence, Homer; nativity, New York. Enlisted Oct. 16, 1861. Mustered Dec. 11, 1861. Promoted musician. Died April 28, 1862, Shiloh, Tenn.

Marzavan J. Secord (veteran). Age 31. Residence, Webster City; nativity, New York. Enlisted Oct. 19, 1861. Mustered Dec. 11, 1861. Reenlisted and remustered Feb. 5, 1864. Promoted third corporal Jan. 11, 1865. Mustered out July 19, 1865, Louisville, Ky.

Harmon Seely. Age 18. Residence, Homer; nativity, Wisconsin. Enlisted Oct. 23, 1861. Mustered Dec. 14, 1861. Taken prisoner Sept. 19, 1862, Iuka, Miss. Promoted fifth corporal April 12, 1863; fourth corporal, April 12, 1863. Mustered out Jan. 28, 1865, expiration of term of service.

William Spring. Age 30. Residence, Homer; nativity, Pennsylvania. Enlisted Oct. 16, 1861, as first sergeant. Mustered Dec. 11, 1861. Mustered out Jan. 28, 1864, Davenport, Iowa, expiration of term of service.

Charles M. Stark. Age 25. Residence, Homer; nativity, Indiana. Enlisted April 27, 1864. Mustered May 2, 1864. Killed in action June 14, 1864, Big Shanty, Ga. Buried in National Cemetery, Marietta, Ga. Section A, grave 908.

Joseph O. Tuffs (veteran). Age 19. Residence, Homer; nativity, Illinois. Enlisted Nov. 2, 1861. Mustered Dec. 11, 1861. Wounded slightly April 6, 1862, Shiloh, Tenn. Reenlisted and remustered Jan. 26, 1864. Mustered out July 19, 1865, Louisville, Ky.

#### COMPANY A, THIRTY-SECOND INFANTRY

Charles Aldrich. Age 34. Residence, Webster City.; nativity, New York. Appointed adjutant Sept. 19, 1862. Mustered Oct. 6, 1862. Promoted captain of Company A, July 3, 1863; not mustered. Resigned for disability Jan. 13, 1864.

Benjamin G. Scott. Age 26. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Ohio. Promoted fife major from Company A, Oct. 6, 1862. Reduced to ranks and returned to Company Jan. 15, 1865.

Joseph Adams. Age 31. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Kentucky. Enlisted Aug. 13, 1862. Mustered Sept. 6, 1862. Discharged for disability Nov. 26, 1863, Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Thomas C. Allen. Age 33. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Indiana. Enlisted Aug. 11, 1862. Mustered Sept. 6, 1862. Died of disease, Nov. 27, 1862, St. Louis, Mo.

Archibald Bellvill. Age 40. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Aug. 11, 1862. Mustered Sept. 6, 1862. Died of disease Sept. 15, 1863. Little Rock, Ark. Buried in National Cemetery, Little Rock, Ark. Section 1, grave 5.

James Brock. Age 24. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Illinois. Enlisted Aug. 11, 1862. Mustered Sept. 6, 1862. Discharged for disability March 7, 1863, Cape Girardeau, Mo. See Company F, Second Iowa Cavalry.

Augustine Brown. Age 18. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Germany. Enlisted Sept. 7, 1864. Mustered Sept. 7, 1864. Mustered out July 14, 1865. Montgomery, Ma.

Hiram N. Chancey. Age 28. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Virginia. Enlisted Aug. 13, 1862. Mustered Sept. 8, 1862. Promoted fifth corporal, Nov. 30, 1863; fourth corporal, May 30, 1864; third corporal, Feb. 1, 1865; second corporal, June 6, 1865; third sergeant, July 13, 1865. Mustered out Aug. 24, 1865, Clinton, Iowa.

William Courier. Age 19. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Illinois. Enlisted Aug. 11, 1862, as Wagoner. Mustered Sept. 8, 1862. Mustered out Aug. 24, 1865, Clinton, Iowa.

James S. Cross. Age 32. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Illinois. Enlisted Aug. 13, 1862. Mustered Sept. 6, 1862. Discharged for disability Aug. 11, 1864, Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Mo.

James Duckett. Age 22. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Illinois. Enlisted Aug. 11, 1862. Mustered Sept. 6, 1862. Mustered out Aug. 24, 1865, Clinton, Iowa.

Roderick D. Faught. Age 18. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Aug. 15, 1862. Mustered Sept. 6, 1862. Taken prisoner April 9, 1864, Pleasant Hill, La. Mustered out July 8, 1865, Davenport, Iowa.

James I. Gamble. Age 18. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Illinois. Enlisted Aug. 13, 1862. Mustered Sept. 6, 1862. Mustered out Aug. 24, 1865, Clinton, Iowa.

William Hamlin. Age 36. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted July 9, 1862. Mustered Sept. 6, 1862. Granted furlough March 5, 1863, for thirty days; never returned.

John I. Hartman. Age 30. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Virginia. Enlisted Aug. 13, 1862. Mustered Sept. 6, 1862. Died of disease, Nov. 12, 1862, Dubuque, Iowa.

Leonard Henkle. Age 28. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Aug. 12, 1862, as fifer. Mustered Sept. 6, 1862. Discharged for disability June 29, 1865, Mound City, Ill.

William K. Laughlin. Age 30. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Illinois. Enlisted Aug. 11, 1862, as fourth corporal. Mustered Sept. 6, 1862. Promoted third corporal Oct. 28, 1862; second corporal, Feb. 10, 1863; first corporal, March 13, 1863; fifth sergeant, Sept. 26, 1863; fourth sergeant, May 30, 1864. Discharged Feb. 17, 1865, Louisville, Ky.

David W. Layton. Age 22. Residence, Homer; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Aug. 13, 1862. Mustered Sept. 6, 1862. Deserted July 11, 1863, Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Joshua McFarland. Age 20. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Aug. 13, 1862. Mustered Sept. 8, 1862. Wounded slightly April 9, 1864, Pleasant Hill, La. Mustered out Aug. 24, 1864, Clinton, Iowa.

John McFarland. Age 33. Nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Sept. 28, 1864. Mustered Sept. 28, 1864. Mustered out June 8, 1865, Montgomery, Ala.

Samuel McFarland. Age 18. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted March 22, 1864. Mustered March 23, 1864. Transferred to Company E, Eighth Infantry, July 28, 1865.

John McMiller. Age 26. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Aug. 13, 1862. Mustered Sept. 8, 1862. Wounded and taken prisoner April 9, 1864, Pleasant Hill, La. Discharged for disability Feb. 14, 1865, St. Louis, Mo.

John N. Maxwell. Age 27. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Illinois. Enlisted Aug. 13, 1862, as first sergeant. Mustered Sept. 8, 1862. Discharged for disability March 19, 1863, Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Levi Omstead. Age 30. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Pennsylvania. Enlisted Aug. 13, 1862. Mustered Sept. 6, 1862. Discharged for disability Feb. 23, 1863, Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Nelson G. Omstead. Age 21. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Pennsylvania. Enlisted Aug. 13, 1862. Mustered Sept. 8, 1862. Mustered out June 6, 1865, Little Rock, Ark.

Joseph T. Payne. Age 25. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Tennessee. Enlisted Aug. 11, 1862. Mustered Sept. 6, 1862. Taken prisoner April 9, 1864, Pleasant Hill, La. Mustered out July 8, 1865, Davenport, Iowa.

Thomas J. Persons. Age 26. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Illinois. Enlisted Aug. 13, 1862. Mustered Sept. 8, 1862. Promoted eighth corporal March 13, 1863; sixth corporal, Sept. 26, 1863; fifth corporal Oct. 10, 1863; fourth corporal Nov. 30, 1863; third corporal May 30, 1864; second corporal Feb. 1, 1865; fifth sergeant June 6, 1865; first sergeant July 13, 1865. Mustered out Aug. 24, 1865, Clinton, Iowa.

Theodore Philips. Age 43. Residence, Webster City; nativity, New York. Enlisted Aug. 13, 1862. Mustered Sept. 6, 1862. Mustered out Aug. 24, 1865, Clinton, Iowa.

George Raines. Age 40. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, New York. Enlisted Sept. 3, 1864. Mustered Sept. 3, 1864. Mustered out June 8, 1865, Montgomery, Ala.

William H. Renner. Age 22. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Pennsylvania. Enlisted Aug. 13, 1862. Mustered Sept. 6, 1862. Died of disease, Oct. 21, 1863, Little Rock, Ark. Buried in National Cemetery, Little Rock, Ark.

Benjamin G. Scott. Age 26. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Aug. 13, 1862. Mustered Sept. 8, 1862. Promoted fife major, Oct. 6, 1862. Returned to Company Jan. 15, 1865. Mustered out June 7, 1865, Little Rock, Ark.

James D. Stryker. Age 27. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Aug. 13, 1862. Mustered Sept. 6, 1862. Died of disease Feb. 18, 1863, Cape Girardeau, Mo. Buried in National Cemetery, Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Mo. Section 37½, grave 34.

Michael Watters. Age 44. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Aug. 13, 1862. Mustered Sept. 8, 1862. Died of disease, Nov. 8, 1863,

Cape Girardeau, Mo. Buried in National Cemetery, Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Mo. Section 37½, grave 32.

James L. Wilcox. Age 32. Residence, Homer; nativity, New York. Enlisted Aug. 15, 1862. Mustered Sept. 8, 1862. Died of disease, Dec. 5, 1862, St. Louis, Mo. Buried in National Cemetery, Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Mo. Section 38, grave 50.

Andrew Williams. Age 19. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Ohio. Enlisted Aug. 7, 1862. Mustered Sept. 8, 1862. Taken prisoner April 9, 1864, Pleasant Hill, La. Died of disease, May 2, 1864, Tyler, Texas.

#### THIRTY-SECOND INFANTRY, COMPANY B

John Eckstein. Age 24. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Germany. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1862. Mustered Sept. 6, 1862. Discharged for promotion as second lieutenant in Company I, Sixty-eighth United States Colored Infantry, May 12, St. Louis, Mo.

George H. Welsh. Age 20. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Canada. Enlisted Aug. 9, 1862, as wagoner. Mustered Sept. 6, 1862. Promoted seventh corporal June 14, 1864; fifth corporal July 1, 1864; fourth corporal July 22, 1864; third corporal Oct. 4, 1864; first corporal July 5, 1865. Mustered out Aug. 24, 1865, Clinton, Iowa.

#### THIRTY-SECOND INFANTRY, COMPANY K

George Boyd. Age 33. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Norway. Enlisted Feb. 29, 1864. Mustered April 20, 1864. Discharged for disability July 15, 1865, Montgomery, Ala.

Alexander Church. Age 27. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, New York. Enlisted Aug. 14, 1862. Mustered Sept. 3, 1862. Discharged for disability May 29, 1863, Fort Pillow, Tenn.

Harvey Church. Age 21. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Illinois. Enlisted Aug. 14, 1862. Mustered Sept. 3, 1862. Discharged for disability March 18, 1863, Fort Pillow, Tenn.

Chilson C. Sanford. Age 24. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Michigan. Enlisted Aug. 20, 1862. Mustered Sept. 3, 1862. Promoted fourth corporal Jan. 23, 1863; third corporal April 9, 1864; second corporal May 1, 1864. Died of disease Sept. 11, 1864, Lakins Grove, Iowa.

Lewis A. Schamp. Age 20. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Pennsylvania. Enlisted Aug. 12, 1862. Mustered Sept. 3, 1862. Wounded slightly Dec. 16, 1864, Nashville, Tenn. Mustered out Aug. 24, 1865, Clinton, Iowa.

#### COMPANY C, FORTY-FIFTH INFANTRY

James D. Springer. Age 21. Residence, Webster City; nativity, Pennsylvania. Enlisted May 13, 1864. Mustered May 25, 1864. Discharged for promotion in Fifty-fifth United States Colored Infantry Sept. 1, 1864, Memphis, Tenn.

## COMPANY C, FORTY-EIGHTH INFANTRY

Peter Aikley. Age 18. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Pennsylvania. Enlisted May 17, 1864. Mustered July 13, 1864. Mustered out Oct. 21, 1864, Rock Island, Ill., expiration of term of service.

## COMPANY A, FORTY-EIGHTH INFANTRY

Joseph Dillow. Age 33. Residence, Hamilton county; nativity, Indiana. Enlisted May 17, 1864. Mustered July 13, 1864. Mustered out Oct. 21, 1864, Rock Island, Ill., expiration of term of service.

Eri Dodge. Age 21. Residence Hamilton county; nativity, Maine. Enlisted May 17, 1864. Mustered July 13, 1864. Mustered out Oct. 21, 1864, Rock Island, Ill., expiration of term of service.

John P. Frakes. Age 18. Residence Hamilton county; nativity, Illinois. Enlisted May 17, 1864. Mustered July 13, 1864. Mustered out Oct. 21, 1864, Rock Island, Ill., expiration of term of service.

The following Hamilton county soldiers were killed in battle:

Suell Dodge, killed at Big Bluffs, Mo., July 11, 1862.

Edward F. Cutting, killed at Shiloh in April, 1862.

George W. Russell, killed at Shiloh in April, 1862.

Charles M. Stark, killed in action June 14, 1864, Big Shanty, Ga.

Those who died in prison were:

George S. Dorland, wounded, taken prisoner, and died in 1863.

John Bramann, taken prisoner and died at Baltimore, Md., April 16, 1865.

The following died of disease and wounds:

Charles F. Dalley, wounded, and taken prisoner Feb. 21, 1864, died at Starksville, Miss.

Daniel R. Hopper, died of lung fever March 17, 1863, at Spring Valley, Mo.

Charles Porter, died at Little Rock, October, 1863.

Henry C. Skinner, died of disease at Mountain Grove, Mo., March 9, 1863.

Clinton E. Biggs, died of camp sickness at his home in Hamilton county.

John Brock, died of chronic dysentery, March, 1865, at Jeffersonville, Ind.

John C. Clemens, died Oct. 1, 1862, at Mound City, Ill.

A. T. Munson, died January, 1862.

James V. Neary, died at St. Louis, January, 1862.

L. J. Parks, died of wounds at Hamberg, Miss., in 1862.

Robt. A. Lanier, died at Memphis, in 1864, of smallpox.

John D. Stryker, died of typhoid fever, at Memphis, June, 1894.

Daniel Okeson, died at Memphis, Aug. 20, 1864.

O. C. Faught, died at Cottonwood Springs, October, 1863.

George W. Courrier, died of brain fever, May 29, 1863, at Davenport, Iowa.

Alexander Maxwell, died at St. Louis, Mo.

Daniel Hill, died at Paducah, Ky., of fever, in 1862.

George C. Browning, died at St. Louis in 1864.

Jesse McGuire, died November 30, 1863.

Solomon Orcutt, died at Jackson, Tenn., Sept. 3, 1862.

Elijah Dillon, wounded and died at Marietta, Ga., Aug. 9, 1864.

Lyman Fairfield, died at Columbus, S. C., Dec. 9, 1863.

John J. Hartman, died of chills, at Dubuque, Iowa, Nov. 12, 1862.

A. Belville, died at Little Rock, September, 1863.

David A. Adams, died, date and place unknown.

James D. Stryker, died of pneumonia, February, 1863.

Michael Walters, died of chronic diarrhœa, at Cape Girardeau, Nov. 8, 1863.

James Wilcox, died Dec. 5, 1862, at St. Louis, of fever.

Andrew Williams, died May 22, 1864, at Tyler, Texas.

C. C. Sanford, died Sept. 11, 1864, at Lakin's Grove, Iowa, of disease contracted in the army.

William H. Renner, died of disease, Oct. 21, 1863, Little Rock, Ark.

Sherwood Brock died at home.

Thomas C. Allen, died of disease Nov. 27, 1862, at St. Louis, Mo.

It will be seen by the above that out of the 163 soldiers who entered the service from this county, 38 were sacrificed. Out of this number, four were killed in battle, two died a worse death in prison, the remaining thirty-one died of disease, or from wounds received in battle.

#### THOSE WHO HELD OFFICE

The following is as near a complete list of army officers, who served from this county, as can be determined from data at our command:

Major—Julius M. Jones (paymaster).

Captains—Charles Aldrich, Granville Berkley.

First lieutenants—William L. Church, Peter Riley, George R. Ammond, Joseph Bone, John Eckstein.

Second lieutenants—James Faught.

Sergeants—William Spring, John N. Maxwell, V. A. Ballou, James V. Neary, Harris Hoover, Isaac Soule, John H. Williams, Hiram Battles, John J. Berkley, Fred A. Harris, James J. Hassey, Nathaniel Haydn, Albert Listenberger, John A. Norwood, Daniel Okeson, John B. Pfeiffer, Parker C. Harder, Benjamin C. Cunningham, H. N. Chancey, William K. Laughlin, Thomas J. Persons.

Corporals—Samuel Gilpin, William Cheeney, David Carroll, Daniel R. Hopper, J. C. Schaller, Clinton E. Biggs, Charles F. Dalley, Thomas Fisher, Levi M. Harris, John W. Kimberlin, Delmer Lake, Richard T. Lyons, Thomas Wheelock, Beden Eslick, Lyman Fairfield, Lewis Holcomb, Marion Seeley, George H. Welch, Chilson C. Sanford.

Surgeon—Jesse R. Burgess.

Musicians—Robert W. Guthrie, George W. Russell, Leonard Hinkle, A. W. Maffit, James Brock.

Regimental farrier—Fred A. Harris.

The following named men who are now, or have been until recently, residents of Hamilton county, served in the Union army and belonged to the organizations below indicated:

#### UNITED STATES REGULARS AND VOLUNTEERS

H. S. Lee, D, 1st S.S.; J. V. Kearns, H, 13th Inf.; John Wehrheim, C, 13th Inf.; James Kephart, C, 13th Inf.; C. S. Humphrey, G, 10th Inf.; Thomas Mc-

Clure, sergeant, G, 18th Reg.; Robert F. Knox, H, 18th Reg.; Daniel McLoud, C, 19th and 28th Reg.

## IOWA

William J. Haney, B, 1st Cav.; D. P. Jennings, K, 1st Cav.; R. M. Johnson, M, 1st Cav.; H. A. Cauffman, F, 3d Cav.; J. H. Craine, F, 3d Cav.; A. Stinson, A, 4th Cav.; J. R. Lambert, C, 4th Cav.; N. Pettinger, E, 5th Cav.; J. E. Marsh, A, 6th Cav.; G. W. Burden, C, 6th Cav.; John Ward, M, 6th Cav.; Henry C. Nutting, corporal, G, 7th Cav.; Samuel A. Jameson, G, 7th Cav.; William D. Koch, C, 9th Cav.; Jeremiah House, D, 2d Inf.; E. C. Blakeley, G, 5th Inf.; R. W. Gutherie, C, 6th Inf.; W. H. Hopkins, A, 9th Inf.; D. I. Martin, G, 9th Inf.; O. E. Symons, H, 9th Inf.; David Groves, H, 9th Inf.; Reuben Bond, B, 11th Inf.; J. R. C. Hunter, captain, A, 12th Inf.; M. W. Rice, corporal, E, 13th Inf.; B. R. Brewer, I, 16th Inf.; H. H. Himebaugh, C, 44th Inf.; J. N. Iliff, E, 9th Inf.; J. C. Robinson, F, 8th Cav.; H. B. Trotter, F, 11th Inf.; D. A. Robertson, 1st lieutenant, K, 13th Inf.; Thomas McCartney, A, 17th and 13th Inf.; A. A. Cook, sergeant, C, 14th Inf.; Edward J. Bentley, K, 14th Inf.; G. A. Walrath, G, 14th Inf.; Lafayette Selders, A, 15th Inf.; A. A. Woodard, H, 15th Inf.; James M. Lane, D, 16th Inf.; Hezekiah Fisher, H, 18th Inf.; William Ennis, E, 25th Inf.; Peter Welm, E, 26th Inf.; George W. Fisher, A, 27th Inf.; James Swift, A, 27th Inf.; A. B. Clark, H, 27th Inf.; A. Blank, A, 27th Inf.; S. G. Clark, F, 28th Inf.; Henry T. Miller, F, 28th Inf.; B. F. Davis, F, 28th Inf.; Arthur Haswell, H, 28th Inf.; Ichabod E. Gifford, A, 30th Inf.; Elmer Moore, F, 31st Inf.; Lyman Clark, K, 32d Inf.; William Miller, F, 33d Inf.; Jonathan Dayton, G, 34th Inf.; A. E. Erickson, I, 39th Inf.; Lewis M. Sims, I, 39th Inf.; John A. Johnson, I, 39th Inf.; Calvin Lantis, G, 44th Inf.; J. R. Compton, B, 45th Inf.; Luther Allen, B, 45th Inf.

## ILLINOIS

Jacob Charleson, L. A.; Romeo B. Martin, G, 2d L. A.; J. G. Wheat, sergeant, C, 4th Cav.; William A. Hall, L, 4th Cav.; Harvey Bosworth, C, 7th Cav.; Benjamin Hilliard, C, 7th Cav.; James Price, lieutenant, L, 7th Cav.; Edmund Way, 8th Cav.; Isaac Morrow, B, 9th Cav.; H. C. Eaton, G, 12th Cav.; J. W. Wedding, O, 12th Cav.; John Faloon, L, 17th Cav.; Orris O. Patterson, C, 11th Inf.; John Berogan, F, 13th Inf.; R. H. Rodearmel, A, 14th Inf.; Clemuel Robbins, H, 14th Inf.; Ephraim Robbins, H, 14th Inf.; E. R. Shinkle, corporal G, 15th Inf.; Henry Cormany, D, 26th Inf.; Samuel W. Porter, I, 27th Inf.; Louis Westburg, I, 28th Inf.; Albert A. Grancy, C, 40th Inf.; T. Loudeveck, F, 33d Inf.; Arnold Claffin, G, 33d Inf.; George S. Jacks, sergeant, H, 33d Inf.; Charles N. Eaton, D, 34th Inf.; J. H. Sweeney, K, 34th Inf.; George Merrill, E, 36th Inf.; Christian Logan, F, 36th Inf.; Canute Phillops, F, 36th Inf.; George W. Kroskup, sergeant, A, 39th Inf.; Jerry Richardson, C, 39th Inf.; Joe S. Evans, ord. sergt., E, 39th Inf.; William M. Barger, F, 41st Inf.; Eli Nelson, B, 44th Inf.; Nathan F. Willson, G, 44th Inf.; Henry E. Pyle, E, 45th Inf.; David Billington, I, 102d Inf.; James W. Chalfant, F, 134th Inf.; A. D. England, K, 115th Inf.; J. A. Golden, F, 142d Inf.; W. S. Keyser, K, 148th Inf.; Frederick Miller, F, 15th Inf.; E. A. Madison, K, 148th Inf.; J. M. West, G, 94th Inf.; J. R. White, K, 39th Inf.; A. Wren, I, 39th Inf.; A. B. McNab, G, 69th Inf.; Jacob Ostrander, E, 105th Inf.;

J. W. Pierce, D, 21st Inf.; C. M. Tilghman, B, 94th Inf.; G. W. Brown, I, 27th Inf.; J. P. Brown, C, 41st Inf.; Taylor Crose, A, 65th Inf.; George W. Elliott, C, 55th Inf.; Z. M. Horseley, D, al Inf.; Ole Highland, H, 156th Inf.; Lyman H. Cook, H, 46th Inf.; J. F. Knickerbocker, drummer, G, 53d Inf.; J. W. Riley, C, 55th Inf.; A. P. Johnson, D, 57th Inf.; Peter L. Peterson, D, 57th Inf.; P. H. Peterson, H, 57th Inf.; M. H. Smith, G, 58th Inf.; George W. Bell, captain, B, 64th Inf.; H. C. Igou, I, 64th Inf.; David Courter, E, 65th Inf.; C. J. Lawson, C, 66th Inf.; C. H. Neely, C, 66th Inf.; E. Prentice, K, 75th Inf.; Louis Hanan, C, 76th Inf.; J. K. Clark, corporal, H, 79th Inf.; Knute Richardson, K, 89th Inf.; Charles Glaaman, C, 92d Inf.; W. T. Scoville, C, 93d Inf.; Edwin Gilbert, ord. sergeant, I, 95th Inf.; William Diver, C, 96th Inf.; J. R. Letts, E, 100th Inf.; L. L. Cady, C, 104th Inf.; E. P. Lyon, E, 104th Inf.; C. C. Nelson, G, 104th Inf.; P. M. Banks, sergeant, G, 105th Inf.; George Enberg, H, 110th Inf.; Jerome Kepler, A, 112th Inf.; H. N. McClure, A, 132d Inf.; George Masson, G, 135th Inf.; John H. Olson, G, 140th Inf.; Solomon Day, C, 142d Inf.; S. G. Johnson, K, 143d Inf.; William S. Oder, E, 145th Inf.; James Shea, B, 146th Inf.; R. B. Foster, E, 146th Inf.; Fred N. Taylor, corporal, B, 147th Inf.; John J. Johnson, I, 148th Inf.; Paul Wolf, F, 151st Inf.; J. N. Medberry, E, 153d Inf.; Andrew Anderson, 153d Inf.

## WISCONSIN

Charles Younkee, 4th Battery; P. H. Morris, G, 2d Cav.; L. Cottington, F, 3d Cav.; Olof Harrison, A, 4th Cav.; Samuel Tucker, 2d Inf.; John Swepe, K, 2d Inf.; G. H. Meissner, sergeant, F, 3d Inf.; B. F. Robie, G, 3d Inf.; A. H. Gurney, sergeant, F, 5th Inf.; J. J. Vollenweider, C, 7th Inf.; E. N. Lee, A, 10th Inf.; F. C. Hazelton, A, 10th Inf.; J. W. Mallo, F, 11th Inf.; H. F. Strong, I, 12th Inf.; Joseph Barnes, B, 13th Inf.; C. P. Prosser, veterinary surgeon, 14th Inf.; Alex. Spence, corporal, B, 16th Inf.; William Allinson, I, 16th Inf.; H. F. Willie, I, 16th Inf.; Daniel O. Scott, B, 19th Inf.; Charles F. Weston, lieutenant, E, 21st Inf.; Marvin J. Boughton, K, 22d Inf.; Peter Bolenbaugh, B, 25th Inf.; J. E. Craig, C, 25th Inf.; Charles Whitaker, lieutenant-colonel, 28th Inf.; George W. Wicks, E, 29th Inf.; A. A. Wicks, H, 29th Inf.; Fred Bauer, H, 11th Inf.; R. H. Bratnober, F, 22d Inf.; S. W. Wade, F, 31st Inf.; James Mullen, G, 31st Inf.; Engel Olson, E, 32d Inf.; Ed. Crabtree, H, 43d Inf.; Jerry Robbins, B, 47th Inf.; Daniel Gaffy, corporal, F, 49th Inf.; C. B. Pace, F, 51st Inf.

## MICHIGAN

John Robinson, I, 2d Cav.; Knudt Severtson, B, 1st S.S.; John L. French, F, 24th Inf.

## NEW YORK

Wesley Martin, C, 2d Heavy Art.; Robert S. Sweet, D, 4th Heavy Art.; Frank Fenton, M, 10th Heavy Art.; Nathan Remington, K, 14th Heavy Art.; Frank E. Landers, —, 16th Ind. Battery; Henry D. Perkins, Ind. —, Oneida Cav.; Arnold Spicer, C, 2d Cav.; H. G. Hicks, L, 10th Cav.; J. M. Greenwood, E, 22d Inf.; E. D. Goit, first lieutenant, H, 24th Inf.; James Caffrey, K,

34th Inf.; C. I. Merrill, corporal, B, 64th Inf.; John Mulharm, D, 71st Inf.; A. P. Allen, sergeant, D, 97th Inf.; Frank Beattle, I, 97th Inf.; J. N. McLaury, E, 109th Inf.; William M. Cheever, E, 110th Inf.; Erastus S. Carpenter, K, 114th Inf.; Bartlett Stone, II, 118th Inf.; I. Jaycox, K, 124th Inf.; W. H. H. Miller, G, 125 Inf.; C. C. Austin, II, 141 Inf.; Malcolm McKeig, E, 154 Inf.; Henry Lassenberg, K, 189th Inf.; F. E. Brown, E, 194th Inf..

## MAINE

Percival Knowles, first lieutenant, K, 6th Inf.; F. D. Young, sergeant, E, 26th Inf.; J. G. Bunker, C, 26th Inf.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

W. G. Gillman, C, 13th Inf.

## VERMONT

Charles Wickware, corporal, I, 6th Inf.; James A. Wiggins, E, 9th Inf.

## RHODE ISLAND

E. T. Holt, saddler, —, 1st Cav.

## CONNECTICUT

George W. Riggs, B, 20th Inf.

## PENNSYLVANIA

John G. Rick, first lieutenant, K, 6th Inf.; S. A. Near, E, 5th Heavy Art.; W. H. Stonecypher, L, 13th Cav.; Alex Thompson, B, 61st Inf.; Samuel Africa, musician, A, 110th Inf.; George W. Quiggle, E, 111th Inf.; J. R. Shaffer, E, 142d Inf.; William A. Caroway, C, 6th Cav.; Sol Shaffer, D, 143d Inf.; John Goodman, C, 105th Inf.; W. M. Price, A, 155th Inf.; John A. Holman, D, 151st, and C, 21st Inf.; Albert Donovan, corporal, D, 157th Inf.

## OHIO

J. W. Messenger, —, 19th Ind. Battery; Conrad Baker, M, 1st Cav.; Lewis Yaus, C, 1st Cav.; Thomas Crawford, B, 2d Inf.; William Baldwin, H, 13th Inf.; William Gamber, E, 16th Inf.; S. F. Terril, B, 47th Inf.; John Ferrell, F, 19th Inf.; O. F. Ferrell, B, 47th Inf.; R. G. Lewis, E, 98th Inf.; J. P. Metcalf, D, 132d Inf.; John W. Pugh, F, 23d Inf.; F. Ellis Smith, G, 191st Inf.; Ed. Houck, D, 16th Inf.; Jesse P. Martin, F, 109th Inf.; William Meyers, H, 50th Inf.; John Loder, D, 51st Inf.; M. H. Smith, A, 55th Inf.; E. M. Bell, C, 55th Inf.; George S. Neal, A, 70th Inf.; S. S. Morrison, B, 70th Inf.; William T. Wright, E, 70th Inf.; William D. Bonner, sergeant, G, 97th Inf.; W. H. VanNess, G, 101st Inf.; Thos. J. Murphy, G, 122d Inf.; S. C. Lester, C, 123d Inf.; J. D. Matthews, second lieutenant, I, 135th Inf.

## INDIANA

John B. Evans, A, 2d Inf.; A. E. Servis, I, 5th Cav.; E. M. Slaughter, A, 8th Cav.; William J. Evans, H, 10th Inf.; A. Palmer, 34th Inf.; Ben Burton, H, 36th Inf.; Solomon Snow, E, 44th Inf.; John S. Ferguson, B, 57th Inf.; Y. W. Short,

C, 70th Inf.; George B. Ballard, H, 78th Inf.; George W. Eppard, K, 101st Inf.; Daniel C. Robinson, F, 26th Inf.; W. H. Sowers, C, 154th Inf.; W. G. Smock, C, 82d Cav.

## MISSOURI

M. L. Root, B, 10th Cav.; John Dutcher, B, 43d Inf.; John Parker, C, 49th Inf.; S. G. Layne, C, 1st engineers; Alfred Craig, F, 1st engineers; R. P. Layne, corporal, C, 1st engineers; Zachariah Bowen, A, 11th Inf.

## MINNESOTA

A. J. Barr, C, 15th Inf.; Caleb Hartshorn, A, 1st Cav.

## KENTUCKY

Charles H. Harris, K, 11th Cav.

## COLORADO

Simon P. Hartman, H, 1st Cav.

## KANSAS

H. E. Dalley, A, 3d Inf.

## CALIFORNIA

A. V. Davison, sergeant, K, 1st Cav.; C. C. Dakin, M, 2d Cav.

## TEXAS

W. A. Rathburn, E. & A, 1st U. S. Texas Cav.

## WEST VIRGINIA

J. W. McKinney, F, 6th Cav.; Ben McCoy, K, 11th Cav.

## LOUISIANA

Sam Thompson, A, Battalion Cav.

## MEXICAN WAR

W. L. Church, John B. Evans, Sam Thompson.

## AROOSTOOK WAR

K. Young.

Civil War soldiers buried in Hamilton county:

## WILLIAMS CEMETERY

Lemuel L. Cady, C, 104th Ill. Inf.; William Allinson, C, 16th Wis. Inf.; J. H. Brown, —, — — —. Inf.; Edmund Crabtree, H, 43d Wis. Inf.; David A. Robertson, K, 13th Iowa Inf.

## BLAIRSBURG CEMETERY

Elijah Jones, H, 32d Ill. Inf.; James Hoag, B, 28th Wis. Inf.; Frank W. Scoville, C, 93d Ill. Inf.; Nicholas Pettinger, E, 5th Iowa Cav.; Frederick Miller, F, 15th Ill. Inf.; Charles N. Eaton, D, 34th Ill. Inf.

## CASS TOWNSHIP CEMETERY

Arthur Haswell, H, 28th Iowa Inf.; David Courter, E, 65th Ill. Inf.; Aquilla France, C, 10th Wis. Inf.; S. J. Barber, A, 8th N. Y. Heavy Art.

## LIBERTY TOWNSHIP GERMAN CHURCH CEMETERY

Hemme Wepel, C, 26th Ill. Inf.; Bertus Wepel, E, 142d Ill. Inf.

## ELLSWORTH CEMETERY, LINCOLN TOWNSHIP

Chilson C. Sanford, K, 32d Iowa Inf.; William M. Edwards, K, 32d Iowa Inf.; Freeman Crocker, D. McDonald, Elipha L. Clark, 60th N. Y. Inf.

## JEWELL CEMETERY

John A. Cooper, F, 16th Iowa Inf.; David Richie, 92d Ill. Inf.; Swain Thompson, A, 1st U. S. Inf.; Gilbert Barkhuff, G, 34th Wis. Inf.; William G. Gillman, C, 13th N. H. Inf.; Benjamin Helland, C, 7th Ill. Inf.; Austin Alexander, A, 9th Iowa Inf.; Charles Glamann, C, 92th Ill. Inf.

## SARATOGA CEMETERY

James Dackett, A, 32d Iowa Inf.; Samuel G. Layne, C, 1st Mo. Engineers; Robert W. Guthrie, C, 6th Iowa Inf.; John K. Clark, H, 79th Ill. Inf.

## HOMER CEMETERY

Samuel Tucker, surgeon, 2d Wis. Inf.; Solomon Merrill, H, 32d Wis. Inf.; Horcun Martin; Henry D. Herrick, C, 14th Wis. Inf.; William F. Baldwin, B, 2d Ill. Cav.; Simon Stephenson, B, 10th Oregon Inf.; Hezekiah Fisher, H, 18th Iowa Inf.; Henry E. Dally, A, 3d Kans. Inf.; F. Hollis, G, 8th Wis. Inf.; L. A. Near, E, 5th Pa. Heavy Art.

## NEESE CEMETERY, WEBSTER TOWNSHIP

Elijah Scott, F, 2d Iowa Cav.; Henry Scott, E, 48th Ill. Inf.

## STRATFORD CEMETERY

Mathias Whiteman, L, 62d Ill. Inf.; John Deck, E, 2d Iowa Inf.; Charles Whitaker, lieutenant colonel, 28th Wis. Inf.; Nathan T. Wilson, G, 44th Iowa Inf.; George W. Krouskop, A, 39th Iowa Inf.; John Wes Hook, D, 16th Iowa Inf.

## SWEDISH M. E. CHURCH CEMETERY, MARION TOWNSHIP

Peter Weim, E, 26th Iowa Inf.

## CLEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP CEMETERY

Nathan J. Brewer, A, 13th Iowa Inf.; William J. Haney, B, 1st Iowa Cav.

## CHURCH CEMETERY, SECTION FOUR, SCOTT TOWNSHIP

Andrew Anderson, I, 53d Ill. Inf.

## CHARLSON CEMETERY, SECTION TWENTY, SCOTT TOWNSHIP

Knute Severson, B, 1st Mich. Sharpshooters; Andrew Nelson, F, 141st Ill. Inf.

## WEBSTER CITY CEMETERY

George W. Maffit, H, 12th Iowa Inf.; Apollas W. Maffit, G, 32d Iowa Inf.; Charles F. Weston, E, 21st Wis. Inf.; N. S. Howard, K, 32d Iowa Inf.; Eben M. Jones, C, 6th Iowa Cav.; Wm. A. Ostrander, E, 6th Iowa Cav.; John W. Anderson, A, 6th Iowa Cav.; Stephen Curvo, A, 14th Mich Inf.; Isaac Morrow, B, 19th Ill. Cav.; John Lettich, A, 6th Iowa Cav.; Orange Royal, B, 180th Ill. Inf.; Amos Butterworth, D, 16th Iowa Inf.; Garret A. Willson, B, 9th Ill. Cav.; Edwin C. Wilder, A, 7th Ill. Cav.; William M. Cheever, E, 110th N. Y. Inf.; Benjamin Hayden, F, 2d Iowa Cav.; N. B. Hyatt, Mo. Engineers; Sherwood Brock, F, 2d Iowa Cav.; Bailey Brock, F, 2d Iowa Cav.; Francis Beattie, I, 97th N. Y. Inf.; F. R. Wright, 14th N. Y. Cav.; John Olmstead, C, 12th Wis Cav.; Smith Moore, I, 47th Ill. Inf.; Thomas McCartney, K, 13th Iowa Inf.; Samuel Mills, F, 1st Mich. Cav.; John Eckstein, B, 32d Iowa Inf.; Hugh H. Johnson, A, 25th Iowa Inf.; Jesse R. Burgess, Sergeant, 2d Iowa Cav.; Clinton C. Briggs, F, 2d Iowa Cav.; Charles Wickware, I, 6th Vt. Inf.; Joseph N. Medberry, G, 153d Ill. Inf.; Will C. Allen, I, 1st Ohio Cav.; Joseph Van Skike, I, 34th Ind. Cav.; Vincent Wood, U. S. Navy; George W. Eppard, K, 101st Ind. Inf.; Gilbert B. Pray, F, 16th Iowa Inf.; John L. Johnson, I, 48th Ill. Inf.; Albert H. Gurney, F, 5th Wis. Inf.; Bartlett Stone, H, 118th N. Y. Inf.; Amos Julian, H, 112th Ill. Inf.; Amos Woodin, B, 49th Wis. Inf.; John W. McKinney, F, 6th W. Va. Cav.; Jesse Burgin, H, 105th Ill. Inf.; C. S. Barber, E, 48th Ohio Inf.; C. S. LaBarr, C, 15th Ill. Inf.; William D. Moore, A, 32d Iowa Inf.; Richard P. Layne, C, 1st Mo. Engineers; David S. Jewett, D, 32d Iowa Inf.; Elijah Wilkinson, C, 8th Ky. Cav.; William C. Howard, F, 2d Iowa Cav.; Louis Yaus, C, 1st Ohio Cav.; Joseph Presley, G, 17 Iowa Inf.; Malcolm McKeig, E, 150th N. Y. Inf.; Francis H. Long, B, 197 Ohio Inf.; Frank Fenton, M, 10th N. Y. Heavy Art.; Edson D. Goit, H, 24th N. Y. Inf.; Phil H. Morris, G, 2d Wis. Cav.; Henry Pyle, E, 45th Ill. Inf.; Elmer Moore, F, 31st Iowa Inf.; A. E. Servis, I, 5th Ind. Cav.; Lyman Clark, K, 32d Iowa Inf.; Charles B. Pace, F, 5th Wis. Inf.; Hudson D. Cook, C, 14th Iowa Inf.; Lewis F. Houck, B, 164th Ohio Inf.; Solomon A. Snow, E, 44th Ind. Inf.; I. N. Remington, K, 1st N. Y. Heavy Art.; Jeremiah House, D, 2d Iowa Inf.; James Van Winkle, C, 19th Iowa Inf.; J. R. Letts, E, 100th Ill. Inf.; William Popham, F, 107th Ill. Inf.; John N. McLaury, E, 109th N. Y. Inf.; Charles Aldrich, adjutant, 32d Iowa Inf.; Elias F. Holt, saddler, 1st R. I. Cav.; J. D. Stitzer, D, 28th Pa. Inf.; Washington Mulholland, G, 189th Ohio Inf.; Charles C. Dakin, M, 2d Col. Cav.; George Ely, F, 112th Ill. Inf.; L. S. Bunker, I, 3d Wis. Cav.; L. B. Grout, B, U. S. Eng. Battalion; Samuel A. Jamison, G, 7th Iowa Cav.; John Bauman, E, 38th Ohio Inf.; David H. Miller, D, 19th Wis. Inf.; Willard Perkins, G, 15th N. Y. Inf.; Samuel Webb, K, 96th Ohio Inf.; John Dutcher, B, 43d Mo. Inf.; Ichabod B. Gifford, A, 30th Iowa Inf.; Henry Carmaney, D, 26th Ill. Inf.; Jacob W. Mallon, F, 11th Wis. Inf.; B. F. Wilson, A, 4th Minn. Inf.; Lyman H. Cook, H, 46th Ill. Inf.; George F. Hammell, D, 40th Ill. Inf.; Delimar Lake, F, 2d Iowa Cav.; George W. Wicks, E, 21st Wis. Inf.; John W. Holloway, F, 9th Ohio Cav.



SERGEANT JAMES KEPHART



## CATHOLIC CEMETERY AT WEBSTER CITY

Dennis Quenn, G, 10th Ill. Cav.; John Gaffy, F, 49th Wis.; Daniel Shea, B, 146th Ill.

## WAR OF 1812

Enoch Church, Saratoga; John P. Johnson, Webster City; Smith Dulin, Webster City; Beriah Battles, Webster City.

## MEXICAN WAR

William F. Baldwin, 4th Ill. Inf., Homer; Huitt Ross, Neese Cem.; Samuel B. Thompson, Webster City.

## AROOSTOOK WAR

Kendall Young, Webster City.

## SPANISH WAR

Guy A. Barkhuff, C, 52d Iowa, Ellsworth Cem.; Burton R. Dalton, C, 52d Iowa Inf., Jewell Cem.; Edward Howard, C, 52d Iowa Inf., Webster City.

## PHILIPPINE WAR

Fred Kennedy Ross, M, 28th U. S. Inf., Webster City.

## SPIRIT LAKE EXPEDITION

Henry E. Dally, Co. C, Homer; John Gales, Co. C, Webster City; Frank R. Mason, Co. C, Webster City; Humphrey C. Hillock, Co. C, Webster City; Michael Sweeney, Co. C, Webster City.

Hamilton county enjoys the distinction of having a citizen, who as a soldier of the Civil war, performed services of such gallantry as to entitle him to a medal of honor. On May 13, 1899, James Kephart received from the war department the following communication:

124013 A. G. O.

WAR DEPARTMENT  
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MAY 13, 1899.

*Mr. James Kephart, Webster City, Iowa.*

SIR:—I have the honor to inform you that, by direction of the president and in accordance with the act of congress approved March 3, 1893, providing for the presentation of medals of honor to such officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates as have most distinguished themselves in action, the secretary of war has awarded to you a medal of honor for most distinguished gallantry in action at Vicksburg, Miss., May 19, 1863.

In making the award the secretary used the following language:

"At the assault on the confederate works at Vicksburg, Miss., May 19, 1863, Mr. Kephart, then a private of Company C, 1st Battalion, 13th U. S. Infantry, voluntarily, and at the risk of his life, when the battalion was about to retreat, returned, and under a severe fire from the enemy, aided and assisted to the rear

an officer who had been severely wounded and left on the field, thereby saving him from capture."

The medal has been this day forwarded to your address by registered mail. A knot to be worn in lieu of the medal accompanies the same, and a copy of Circular No. 14, of July 7, 1897, from this office, publishing instructions regarding the issue of the medal of honor, ribbon and bow-knot, is enclosed herewith.

Please acknowledge the receipt of the same.

Very respectfully,

WM. H. CARTER,  
*Assistant Adjutant General.*

James Kephart was born in Pennsylvania in 1842. In 1848, his family moved to Dubuque, Iowa, and this was Kephart's home until the commencement of the Civil war. On Sept. 15, 1861, he enlisted in Company C, 13th U. S. Infantry and served until September 5, 1864, when he was honorably discharged at Nashville, Tenn., by reason of the expiration of his term of service. After the war he returned to Dubuque. In 1884, he moved to Webster City and for twenty-eight years has sustained as a citizen, the high position in the regard of his fellow men, he earned as a soldier.

## CHAPTER XVII

### SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

COMPANY C ORGANIZED—COMPANY C PREPARES FOR WAR—COMPANY C CALLED OUT—THE RESERVE COMPANY—COMPANY C MUSTERED INTO U. S. SERVICE—RECRUITING SERVICE—SICKNESS IN CAMP—THE COMPANY MUSTERED OUT—COMPANY C REORGANIZED.

#### COMPANY C ORGANIZED

In December, 1884, Company C of the Sixth Regiment of Iowa National Guards was organized. Frank E. Landers was elected captain, Ilo Boak, first lieutenant, and Will F. Smith, second lieutenant. The following is a roster of the company at the time of its organization:

Captain, F. E. Landers; first lieutenant, I. I. Boak; second lieutenant, William F. Smith; orderly sergeant, Wesley Martin; sergeants, P. M. Banks, A. H. Putnam, F. D. Young, B. H. Pray; corporals, J. B. Fisher, H. C. Austin, A. M. Potter and Aug. Hoffmann; Privates, J. R. Sterling, Charles Wickware, E. J. Curtis, J. W. Young, R. H. Mabbott, Howard Baxter, Charles Cooper, Will S. Weston, H. C. Wieneke, I. W. Pickard, E. L. Williams, S. M. Ash, H. C. Dailey, Louis Fox, A. P. Fleming, F. E. Evens, C. I. Eberle, W. C. Burleson, C. T. Babbitt, C. D. Carpenter, M. W. VanWormer, E. E. Ford, James Kimball, John McConnell, William Anderson, J. E. Marsh, C. Thoreson, J. H. Servis, Charles Babcock, L. H. Stidley, H. A. Miller, J. E. Smith, George Baker, W. H. Hellen, C. W. S. King, C. B. Stoddard, W. F. Hunter, R. M. Smallpage, J. J. Worthy, F. E. Babbitt, E. L. Kimball, J. B. McCollough, J. H. Davis, G. H. Shaw, B. Detlor.

In 1888, Captain Landers resigned and F. D. Young was elected captain. In 1892 Captain Young resigned and August F. Hoffmann was elected captain. At about this time the organization was changed and Company C was assigned to the Fourth Regiment. In 1895, Captain Hoffman resigned and J. W. Lee was elected captain and commanded the company during the Spanish-American war.

#### COMPANY C PREPARES FOR WAR

In April, 1898, Spain declared war against the United States and on April 22d, Captain J. W. Lee, then in command of Company C, Fourth Regiment of Iowa National Guards, located at Webster City, received the following orders:

#### STATE OF IOWA

Adjt.-Gen'l's office, Des Moines, April 21, '98.

General orders, Number 15:

I. Company commanders are hereby directed to at once require a physical examination of all officers and men of their companies, following carefully the

instructions in general orders Nos. 13 and 14, c. s. from this office. Doctor G. L. Pray has been requested to make the examinations and report the result to this office.

II. All members of companies who have family ties that would be detrimental to their volunteering in the United States service in case Iowa should be called upon for troops, at the request of said soldier, shall be at once discharged.

III. Men under the age of twenty-one years who cannot procure the written consent of parents or legally appointed guardian to volunteer in the United States service in case of a call upon the state for troops, and men who do not pass the required examination should be discharged without delay.

IV. In enlistments for companies none but ex-members of the Guard and those who have received military training shall be accepted.

V. Company commanders should keep the active strength of their commands up to not less than forty-five men, who, if they should be ordered into the field, will go. None others should be enlisted.

VI. Company commanders should take the names of all applicants who in their judgment will meet the requirements of general orders number 14, and send them to the surgeon to be examined, and if they pass the examination, take them in as reserve members, without enlistment, to be used in case of call to service to fill up the company to the required number. These men should drill and be disciplined ready to enter into active service.

BY COMMAND OF GOVERNOR SHAW:

MELVIN H. BYERS,

*Adjutant-General.*

Active preparation for war was at once commenced. Drills were held at the Armory every evening and during the daytime, recruits were given instruction in the most essential elements of military duty. Arrangements were made to ensure the assembling of the company at any time, on short notice.

Orders to move the company to Des Moines being hourly expected, it was arranged that, in case orders came, the fire whistle should be blown as a signal for assembly.

#### COMPANY C CALLED OUT

On the morning of April 26th, the expected orders came, the company was assembled and proceeded at once to Des Moines. The excitement of the community is well described by the Freeman in the following report:

They Have Gone!  
 Company C Left for the Front Yesterday!  
 Go to Des Moines to Reenlist and Be Reequipped.  
 The Whole City Turns Out to Bid Them Good-Bye!  
 An Affecting Parting—Business Suspended.  
 List of Those Who Went.

Company "C," Fourth Regiment, I. N. G., buckled on its modern armor, which consists mainly of a brave and willing heart, and left for the front yesterday



NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF COMPANY C

Standing—Corporal L. A. Lehnhard, Corporal Ed. Carr, Corporal E. A. Glasgow, Corporal Frank Bonbright, Corporal Wycleoff,  
Corporal R. E. Towle  
Seated—Sergeant E. O. Young, Sergeant J. C. Wyatt, Sergeant Earl Bowden, First Sergeant E. W. Howard, Sergeant John A.  
Dygert, Sergeant James A. White



afternoon at their country's call to assist her in her hour of need. They took with them the blessings of the entire population of Webster City and their best wishes for guidance and protection from the vicissitudes of a soldier's life. They were given the greatest ovation that ever a crowd received from this town; and no one of all that crowd could help feeling proud of their soldier representatives—certain that they would be an honor to their friends and relatives, and themselves and to their country. During the last few days they have passed through an experience that none but a strong and loyal man could stand. They have shown that they are made of the same stuff as their fathers and uncles, who, in '61, dropped the regular lines of life, severed home ties, and marched away to uphold the nation's honor. The old veterans felt proud of their young successors who are but proving again the old boastful assertion that no country on the face of the earth but free America can make such a showing of young, brave hearts and willing hands in the hour of danger. Marching into battle will not be harder for these young men than was the parting yesterday. They had been in suspense since Saturday morning when Captain Lee received orders to keep his company within bugle call and in readiness to respond to telegraphic orders to move to Des Moines. The message did not come until yesterday a. m. and was heralded by all the whistles in the city. Business was practically suspended and the whole town turned out at noon to bid their young soldiers good-bye. The band tried to lend a little gayety to the occasion but did not succeed very well. The company were provided with a special coach for themselves and a box car for their camp outfit. After the boys had been marched into their car their friends and relatives passed through, bidding each one good-bye, and pinning a red, white and blue ribbon to the coat of each soldier. The high school cadets and the whole public school were present, the cadets firing a salute. The special train with the Algona and Emmetsburg companies aboard arrived at 1:30 and Company C's car was quickly attached. As the train pulled out the soldiers cheered but the home crowd was not very responsive. They did not feel exactly like cheering. The band played "Annie Laurie" and the train went out of sight around the bend. We hope that the war will be short, that the boys will all come back and the home circles be re-united. The Freeman will endeavor to keep the community informed of the whereabouts, conditions, and circumstances connected with Company C during their absence from home. They will go to Des Moines and camp at the state fair grounds while receiving new and complete outfits, including late model rifles. From Des Moines they will probably go to some southern point to be drilled.

Following is a corrected list of those who went yesterday: J. W. Lee, captain; G. E. Bass, first lieutenant; F. E. Pringle, second lieutenant; J. G. B. Pinney; E. W. Howard, sergeant; G. A. Lawson; William Gleason; John Dygert, sergeant; George M. Teed, corporal; James L. White, corporal; Will Fraizier; S. C. Wyatt, corporal; George Yaus, musician; Bert Dutton; Frank Bonebright; R. E. Towle; Ed. Glasgow; E. M. Kinney; Elwood Kidder; Earnest Kinlock; Archie Kearns; L. A. Lehnhard; George Langford; C. Johnson; W. S. Norton; H. G. Pinney; A. C. Rhode; M. C. Stebbins; John Ridgeway; Ed. Wiltsey; Earl Bawden; C. B. Rutledge; C. K. Brandrup; Herbert Boughton; Isaac Bean; Ed. Carr; Gordon B. Caraway; J. E. Songer; W. D. Crosley; Phil Lahner; Fay Stickney; H. A. Shafer; George Wyckoff; B. T. McCue; John Wilke; Harry Warrington; J. S.

Hunt; W. A. Carns; G. L. Gregory; Jay Spalding; W. F. Smith, inspector small arms practice; N. P. Hyatt, battalion adjutant.

On their arrival at Des Moines, they were quartered on the state fair grounds, Company C occupying a cattle shed. The camp at Des Moines was named Camp McKinley, and it at once became a great school of instruction under able direction of Colonel James Rush Lincoln, for many years military instructor at the Iowa State College at Ames.

#### THE RESERVE COMPANY

A company of reserves had been formed at home and Captain Aug. F. Hoffmann who had formerly commanded Company C, took charge of them and conducted their drills while Dr. G. L. Pray acted as medical examiner. The following is a list of the members of the reserve company: Elvin A. Young, John A. Bell, P. N. Nelson, Leonard Klatt, William B. Wallace, Carl C. Merner, B. P. Hamm, B. N. Berkeley, M. B. Gordon, Leroy Zimmerman, Cyrus Johnson, Theodore Oltsvig, George A. Hanna, Aug. Rindernicht, William H. McClure, William S. Rodman, Joseph E. Kelley, Joseph E. Webb, Oscar W. Richard, Nathan C. Eckstein, Arthur C. Chase, Edward G. Reed, Charles W. Richardson, Tom W. Hopkins, Tom Smith, Otis L. Long, Sam J. Purnell, Elza L. Kisell, P. C. Parks, Roy Skelton, Paul R. Wille, John E. Johnson, Clark J. Miller, Joseph W. Nelson, James Bently, J. A. Nickerson.

The object of the reserve company was to supply such recruits as Company C might need to keep her quota full. When recruits were needed, Captain Hoffman was notified and it was his duty to select the number called for. On May 5th, a call was made for 15 recruits and Captain Hoffman selected the following members of the reserve company to join at Des Moines: Peter N. Nelson, Webster city; Leonard Klatt, Webster City; Thos. Brekley, Webster City; S. J. Purnell, Webster City; Wm. S. Rodman, Webster City; John E. Johnson, Webster City; Jos. W. Nelson, Webster City; Otis Long, Williams; Aug. Rindernecht, Williams; P. C. Parks, Williams; J. H. McCue, Williams; R. S. Noyes, Williams; O. W. Richard, Williams; Geo. A. Hanna, Williams; A. C. Chase, Lehigh.

These recruits were enrolled as members of Company C. On the 16th of May the government surgeons examined all members of the company and the result of this examination was the rejection of the following men: Earnest Kinlock, C. K. Brandrup, D. L. O'Brien, Isaac Beem, H. A. Shaffer, A. C. Rhode, Carl Graffunder, Geo. M. Teed, Manley Kinney, Leonard Klatt, W. A. Carns, Geo. Langford, John Wilke, Fred Howard, J. H. Schell, Chauncey A. Weaver.

To replace the list of rejected, the following men were enrolled: Lesley O. Worley, Mt. Vernon; Eugene R. Allen, Sac City; Samuel B. Culp, Sac City; Carl Crumpholtz, Des Moines, Iowa; Geo. Ficken, Rockwell City; Ernest P. Hann, Goldfield; Edgar P. Nunnally, Hartford; Chas. O. Ray, Des Moines; William J. Scott, Dennison; Thomas Smith, Webster City; Edwin Van Ness, Williams; Burton W. Wallace, Webster City; Everett A. Cross, Hubbard.

#### COMPANY C MUSTERED INTO UNITED STATES SERVICE

On the night of May 24th (near midnight), the company commanders of the Fourth regiment was called to the colonel's headquarters. Information was given that on the following day a regiment would be mustered and probably sent to the

Philippine islands, and it was reasoned that if the fourth regiment had its full quota of men, it would probably be mustered in and secure this coveted assignment. If not, then the third regiment would capture the prize. Some of the companies lacked a few men, and Company C was two men short. Emissaries were sent into the city that night, and before daylight recruits enough had been found to fill the regiment, and on May 25th it was mustered into the service of the United States and was named the Fifty-second Regiment of Iowa Infantry Volunteers.

But when the colonel received his orders it was found that instead of directing him to go to the Philippines, he was sent to Camp Thomas, Chickamauga Park, Georgia. And so his well intended diligence, was ill timed, and miscarried of its real aim. The Fifty-first regiment, mustered a day or two later, got the Philippine Island assignment.

The muster roll of the company at the time of muster in, was as follows: J. W. Lee, captain; G. E. Bass, first lieutenant; Frank G. Pringle, second lieutenant; E. W. Howard, first sergeant; Earl Bawden, quartermaster sergeant; John Dygert, sergeant; James White, sergeant; S. C. Wyatt, sergeant; E. A. Young, sergeant; F. A. Bonebright, corporal; E. A. Glasgow, corporal; L. A. Lehenhard, corporal; R. E. Towle, corporal; George Wycoff, corporal; Ed. Carr, corporal; G. A. Yaus, musician; Joe W. Nelson, musician; W. S. Norton, artificer; Myrtle C. Stebbins, wagoner; E. R. Allen, Herbert Boughton, T. H. Berkley, G. Caraway, W. D. Crosley, W. Cowley, E. A. Cross, S. B. Culp, A. C. Chase, C. Crumpholz, Bert Dutton, Will Fraizier, G. H. Ficken, Gilbert Gregory, Will Gleason, James Hunt, George Hanna, E. P. Hann, C. K. Johnson, John E. Johnson, E. J. Kidder, A. R. Kearns, W. M. Kahl, Phillip Lahner, Otis Long, Bart McCue, John H. McCue, Nels Nelson, Peter N. Nelson, E. P. Nunnally, R. I. Noyes, H. J. Phinney, J. G. B. Phinney, S. J. Purnell, P. C. Parks, C. O. Ray, R. B. Rutledge, John J. Ridgeway, Aug. J. Rinderknecht, Wm. S. Rodman, O. W. Richard, Jesse Souger, J. C. Spalding, Thomas Smith, W. G. Scott, E. J. Van Ness, Harry Warrington, Edward Wiltsey, Burton Wallace, L. C. Worley.

The regiment arrived at Camp Thomas in Chickamauga Park, May 28th and was one of the best equipped and drilled regiments in the park. But the companies were composed of only sixty-six men each, and orders were now received to recruit the companies to 106 men each.

#### RECRUITING SERVICE

Accordingly, recruiting officers were sent back to Iowa to secure recruits to fill up the regiment. Captain J. W. Lee was sent to Webster City. He opened his recruiting office at that place June 9th and closed it July 8th. During that time, 207 men applied for enlistment and 161 were accepted. Captain Lee was directed to secure forty men for each of the following companies: B, C, G, and I of the Fifty-second regiment. The recruiting party consisted of Captain J. W. Lee, of Company C; Sergeant C. A. Snook, of Company G; Privates B. R. Dutton of Company C, and T. J. Mahony (afterwards major in his regiment) of Company I, and N. W. Hanson, of Company B. Dr. G. L. Pray was selected as medical examiner.

As a result of this recruiting expedition, the following men were enlisted and assigned to Company C: W. R. Bailey, Iowa Falls, Ia.; A. G. Bain, Adair, Iowa; W. H. Banta, Farmer City, Ill.; William H. Boring, Eagle Grove, Iowa; Thomas H. Bennett, Zumbro Falls, Minn.; G. S. Barkhoff, Ellsworth, Ia.; William P. Bryant, Clarion, Ia.; William A. Carns, Williams, Ia.; George V. Cleveland, Holmes, Ia.; F. E. Cole, Eagle Grove, Ia.; R. W. Comstock, Eagle Grove, Ia.; B. F. Craig, Tremaine, Ia.; N. C. Eckstein, Webster City, Ia.; L. Emerick, Eagle Grove, Ia.; N. B. Everson, Rolfe, Ia.; James G. Fladebo, Eagle Grove, Ia.; G. M. Fenley, Eagle Grove, Ia.; G. S. Gearheart, Ellsworth, Ia.; S. H. Gibson, Eagle Grove, Ia.; Kunt Graustad, Kamrar, Ia.; Peter House, Webster City, Ia.; James Hughes, Manly, Ia.; Jens Johnson, Loda, Ill.; I. M. Johnson, Webster City, Ia.; L. C. Jacobson, Jewell Junction, Ia.; M. W. Knudson, Ellsworth, Iowa; E. P. Keller, ———; Francis G. Love, Manson, Ia.; A. J. McArthur, Eagle Grove, Ia.; William F. McDonald, Eagle Grove, Ia.; Noll Martin, Eagle Grove, Ia.; P. H. Phelps, Eagle Grove, Ia.; A. D. L. Rogers, Clarion, Ia.; James E. Stevens, Jefferson, Ia.; H. Schoonover, Eagle Grove, Ia.; Henry Sauer, Eagle Grove, Ia.; E. Stephenson, Eagle Grove, Ia.; T. C. Smith, Alden, Ia.; Jno. W. Sweeney, Stratford, Ia.; James Thompson, Eagle Grove, Ga.; Paul R. Wille, Williams, Ia.; H. H. Warren, Eagle Grove, Ia.; C. H. Warren, Eagle Grove, Ia.

The following Hamilton county men were assigned to other companies in the 52d regiment: Moses Furgeson, Webster City, Ia.; James Gleason, Jr., Blairsburg, Ia.; Henning H. Hemmingson; David G. McCaskie, Webster City, Ia.; Cyrus A. Cook, Webster City, Ia.

On July 1, 1898, the following promotions were made in the ranks of Company C: Burton R. Dutton, from private to corporal; Gillbert L. Gregory, from private to corporal; Archibald R. Kearns, from private to corporal; Lesley O. Worley, from private to corporal; William S. Rodman, from private to corporal; Robert B. Rutledge, from private to corporal.

On July 16, 1898, the following members of Company C were transferred to the hospital corps of the second division of the third army corps: Thomas W. Berkley, John E. Johnson, Everett A. Cross.

On September 1, 1898, Second Lieutenant Frank G. Pringle was promoted first lieutenant and assigned to Company E. Sergeant Jerome B. Frisbee of Company E was promoted to second lieutenant and assigned to Company C. At the time of his appointment, Frisbee was at home on sick furlough. He was not mustered in as second lieutenant until October 28th and the only time he appeared with the company was on the day of its muster out.

Although the Iowa National Guard was well drilled and well equipped when war was declared, none of the regiments except the Fifty-First saw actual service. When the Fifty-Second arrived at Camp Thomas, it was without doubt one of the best drilled and equipped volunteer regiments in the camp and the officers and men were anxious for active duty. The cause of the delay in the preparation for active service is given by the adjutant general of Iowa in the following language:

When the first call for troops was made, for three regiments of infantry and two light batteries, this department attempted to promptly obey the orders by enlisting the light batteries and absorbing one regiment with the three called for.



THE HOME OF COMPANY C, AT CAMP THOMAS, CHICK-  
AMAUGA PARK, GEORGIA



ARMORY OF COMPANY C, FIFTY-SIXTH REGIMENT,  
IOWA NATIONAL GUARD



Friends of the regiment it was proposed to absorb checked this. Then it was proposed to send one regiment home and recruit up the other three. Friends again interfered. The war department was appealed to and agreed to permit Iowa to have four skeleton regiments of infantry without any batteries. All this caused two weeks' delay in beginning to prepare the Iowa troops for muster in. Our regiments were finally sent to the front in good shape, well drilled and well equipped. But as soon as the second call was made our regiments could not be utilized until their ranks were filled to the maximum, for the war department then ordered that these regiments be filled to the regular army standard of 1,336 men each. Our regiments could not be sent to the front until the recruits arrived and it took time to get them. When the recruits did arrive, the result was 500 green men placed in regiments of 800 drilled men, and the recruits, in addition to being green, were entirely unequipped. The efforts of this department to equip the Iowa regiments completely and get them to the front quickly were frustrated by the interference of their own friends.

#### SICKNESS IN CAMP

After the return of the recruiting party to their regiment, considerable time was spent in drill and in securing equipment for the recruits. Orders came to prepare for a move to Porto Rico. Surplus baggage was burned and all preparation made for light travel, but suddenly the order was countermanded. Then immediately followed the great typhoid fever epidemic that created such sad havoc at Chickamauga Park. The men had held up under the excitement for a prospective journey and when the journey was abandoned and the news came that the war was practically over, a reaction set in and a wave of sickness submerged the camp. There was hardly a company in the fifty-second regiment that did not have forty men sick at one time, and there were hardly well men enough to take care of the sick. This sickness consisted mostly of typhoid and malarial fever. Company C was saddened by three deaths from this cause. The first was Guy Barkhuff, of Ellsworth, who died August 22d, then James Stevens, of Jefferson, Iowa, who died August 28th, and Burton R. Dutton, of Jewell, who died September 7th.

Guy Barkhuff was a lad of little more than eighteen years of age, but he had taken his enlistment much more seriously than many of his older comrades. He was anxious to do his full duty and considered it a disgrace to be heard complaining of any duty or hardship that fell to his lot. He was a young man of unusual promise. Sickness overtook him in less than one month after his arrival at camp.

James Stevens was indeed a martyr to the cause of charity. When the typhoid fever broke out in the camp, Stevens was one of those who volunteered to take care of the sick. Physically, he was almost perfect and he had strength and endurance far beyond the average. But in caring for the sick, he became infected with the deadly germs of typhoid, against which strength and endurance were powerless. His sickness and death followed. No hero of any battle deserves greater credit than Stevens. He lost his life in the performance of a voluntarily accepted duty that he knew was filled with danger.

Burton R. Dutton was a stenographer, and was therefore employed a great deal about headquarters. Just prior to his sickness, he had been detailed to assist at the headquarters of General Brooke and had gained distinction on account of his careful and accurate work. In going to and from the general's headquarters, he passed a spring of water so cool and enticing that he stopped to drink. The water was laden with the germs of typhoid fever and Dutton had thus taken into his system the poison that caused his death. On July 1st, Dutton had been appointed corporal; after his death the vacancy was filled by the appointment of Will Frazier.

During this period of sickness, the good people at home were burning with anxiety to do something to help the men in camp. Public meetings were held and the situation discussed. Telegrams were sent to those in charge, offering any relief that should be asked. Money was subscribed and forwarded to the company to aid in securing such extra accommodations as the sick needed; and everything that loving, anxious hearts could prompt was done for the relief of the suffering.

#### THE COMPANY MUSTERED OUT

On August 28th, the Fifty-second regiment was ordered back to Camp McKinley at Des Moines, and on the 12th of September, was sent home on thirty days' furlough. On October 11th, the regiment re-assembled at Camp McKinley and on October 30th was mustered out of the service.

After the muster out of the Fifty-second regiment, the National guard was reorganized and Company "C," of the Fifty-sixth regiment, was assigned to Webster City. In February, 1899, this company was reorganized and J. W. Lee chosen captain; N. P. Hyatt, first lieutenant and F. G. Pringle, second lieutenant. In June, 1899, J. W. Lee was elected major and N. P. Hyatt succeeded to the captaincy. In 1908, Captain Hyatt was elected major and Frank J. Lund was made captain. In October, 1912, Captain Lund was advanced to the rank of major and Lieutenant A. M. Martin was made captain.

Aside from service during the Spanish-American war the company had been twice called out for military duty. In 1894, during the great railroad strike, Company C was called out and under command of Captain Hoffman, did guard duty at Sioux City for about one week and immediately after the Pomeroy cyclone, the company was sent to Pomeroy and for several days did guard and police duty.

In 1904 a stock company composed chiefly of members of the company, erected a fine armory and opera house as a home for the company.

Company C has now held its place in the National guard for twenty-eight years. Its service has always been honorable and the record of its officers and men is a credit to Hamilton county.

At the present time, October, 1912, a Webster City man, N. P. Hyatt, is colonel of the Fifty-sixth regiment. He enlisted as a private in 1888 and rose from the ranks by successive promotions. A Webster City man, Frank J. Lund, is major. He enlisted as a private and has worked his way to his present rank. Webster City has two staff officers, Lieutenant Geo. M. Teed and Lieutenant Harold Smith. Webster City has the regimental band.

The military honors that have come to Webster City are due largely to the stability and efficiency of Company C.

## CHAPTER XVIII

### THE TOWNSHIPS—HOW AND WHEN ORGANIZED

FREMONT TOWNSHIP—CASS TOWNSHIP—BLAIRSBURG TOWNSHIP—WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP—ROSE GROVE TOWNSHIP—LIBERTY TOWNSHIP—INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP—FREEDOM TOWNSHIP—BOONE TOWNSHIP—WEBSTER TOWNSHIP—HAMILTON TOWNSHIP—LYON TOWNSHIP—JEWELL JUNCTION—LINCOLN TOWNSHIP—ELLSWORTH—SCOTT TOWNSHIP—ELLSWORTH TOWNSHIP—CLEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP—MARION TOWNSHIP—STRATFORD.

#### THE TOWNSHIPS—HOW AND WHEN ORGANIZED

As has already been seen, when the first election was held in 1852, all of the territory included in both Risley and Yell counties was called Cass township. There seems to have been no legal authority for the use of this name, but for that matter there was no legal authority for the election and the name Cass township was used, probably, because it pleased those in charge of the election.

In April, 1853, after the organization of Webster county, all of the territory within that county was legally named Washington township. The following August, the entire southern tier of congressional townships (known as township 86) was detached from Washington township and given the name of Hardin township, and at the same time the next tier north, being township 87, was also detached from Washington and named Webster. So at the beginning of the year 1854, Webster county was composed of three townships, viz., Washington, composed of the north half of the county; Webster, composed of all congressional townships numbered 87; and Hardin, composed of all congressional townships numbered 86.

In 1854, all of that part of Washington township within the present limits of Hamilton county was detached and named Boone, and it included all congressional townships numbered 88 and 89, in ranges 23-24-25 and 26. About the same time, congressional township 86 and 87, in range 23 and probably also range 24, were detached from Webster and Hardin townships and named Clear Lake. At the time of the organization of Hamilton county, therefore, its territory was divided into four townships, viz., Boone, Webster, Hardin and Clear Lake.

In March, 1858, the congressional township 89, range 23, 24, 25 and 26, was detached from Boone township and named Cass, and thus some six years after the name was first used, it became legally the name of an organized township.

In 1861, the south line of Cass township was moved one-half mile north,

and in connection with this action of the board of supervisors, Isaiah Doane tells the following amusing incident:

"June 17, 1861, there was a proposition presented to the board for removing the south line of Cass township to a little more respectful distance from Webster City, as it was then on the correction line and ran through the city. There seemed to be a sort of tacit understanding that the measure would carry, and to the end that no legal laches might ever be found to create litigation, it was suggested that a resolution covering the case should be drawn by an attorney 'learned in the law.' Accordingly, one George R. Ammond, then with Jacob Skinner, was called in and 'retained' for the job. After due deliberation and a look of great sapiency, he dashed off the following resolution, the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Boak:

"Resolved, That all that part of Hamilton county, Iowa, lying half a mile north of the correction line in said county shall be known as, and shall constitute, the township of Cass."

"When the question was open for discussion, the writer, with his characteristic want of reverence for superior talents or position, raised the point that the resolution, strictly construed, would not give Cass township any territory; that if, as intended, it cut off all territory within less than a half mile of the correction line, it would as effectually cut off all territory lying more than a half mile from the correction line, and that thus the township would be reduced to an imaginary line half a mile from, and running parallel with, the correction line. This construction was opposed and ridiculed with much spirit by the young attorney; but a part of the members agreed with the objector and a part thought the resolution sufficiently explicit; hence the discussion became animated, and quite a number of the professional men and literati of the city were asked to construe the meaning of the resolution; and like the board, they differed as widely and warmly as the original contestants. Finally the motion was put to vote and the resolution voted down by five to three."

The board finally passed a resolution giving to Cass township, all of the territory in Hamilton county *lying north* of a line running east and west one-half mile north of the correction line and parallel with said correction line.

In 1858, the townships of Hamilton, Marion and Norway were also organized. Hamilton received from Webster township all of congressional township 87, range 25, and all of that part of the east third of township 87, range 20, lying south of Boone river. From Boone township, it received all of the south tier of township in township 88, range 25, lying east of Boone river, and it also received from Clear Lake township (or from Webster, as there seems to be some uncertainty as to which township the territory transferred belonged), sections 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31, 32, and the south half of sections 7 and 8 in township 87, range 24. The following July, Hamilton also received from Boone the southeast quarter of section 30-88-25.

To repay Webster township for the territory transferred to Hamilton, she was given from Boone township the south half of township 88, range 20, and all that part of sections 19, 30 and 31 in township 88, range 25, lying west of Boone river.

MARION TOWNSHIP received from Hardin township, all of congressional

township 86, range 25 and 26, and all that part of Webster township lying south of Boone river, not previously assigned to Hamilton township.

Hardin township was now extinct, having been entirely consumed in the appropriations of territory made to Clear Lake and Marion townships.

NORWAY TOWNSHIP took from Clear Lake all of congressional township 86, range 23 and 24.

After the readjustment of 1858, Hamilton county was composed of seven townships, to-wit: Cass, Boone, Webster, Hamilton, Clear Lake, Marion and Norway.

WALL LAKE TOWNSHIP was created Oct. 20, 1860. It took from Norway township all of township 86, range 24, except the east half of sections 1, 12, 13 and 24.

GROVE TOWNSHIP was created Sept. 3, 1861. It was cut off from Cass township and contained all of township 89, range 26, except the south half of the south tier of townships and sections 6, 7, 18, 19, 30 and the north half of 31 in township 89, range 25. Grove township did not exist, however, but a few hours at most, for on the same day it was organized, its name was changed to FREMONT. At the same meeting of the board, the name of Wall Lake township, which had been organized about a year before, was changed to ELLSWORTH and Clear Lake was changed to LYON and Norway was changed to SCOTT.

The townships of Grove, Clear Lake, Wall Lake and Norway had now been wiped off the map and the county was composed of nine townships, to-wit: Fremont, Cass, Boone, Webster, Hamilton, Lyon, Marion, Ellsworth and Scott.

June 5, 1862, that part of township 86, range 24 which at the time of the organization of Wall Lake township, except the east one-eighth of section 24, was transferred from Scott to Ellsworth, and the east one-eighth of sections 25 and 36 were transferred from Ellsworth to Scott.

ROSE GROVE TOWNSHIP was organized March 27, 1865. It was taken from Boone township and originally comprised township 88 and the south one-twelfth of township 89 in range 23, and the east two-thirds of township 88, and the south one-half of sections 35 and 36 in the township 89, range 24.

BLAIRSBURG TOWNSHIP was organized Sept. 3, 1867. It received from Rose Grove, sections 1 to 12 inclusive of township 88, range 23, and sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11 and 12 in township 88, range 24, and the south one-half of sections 31 to 36 in township 89-23, and the south one-half of sections 35 and 36 in township 89, range 24. It received from Cass township the north one-half of sections 31 to 36, sections 25 to 30 and the south one-half of sections 19 to 24 in township 89, range 23.

November 10, 1868, the remainder of township 89, range 23 was transferred from Cass to Blairsburg as was also the north eleven-twelfths of the east one-third of township 89, range 24.

The name CLEAR LAKE was revived June 3, 1868, when that township was organized, taking from Marion all of township 86, range 25.

LINCOLN TOWNSHIP was organized June 7, 1875. It was taken from Lyon and received all of township 87, range 23. On the same day all that part of Hamilton township located in township 87, range 24, was transferred to Lyon.

WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP was organized Sept. 6, 1876. It received from Blairsburg township all of township 89, range 23, that was not then a part of Rose

Grove township. On the same day Blairsburg township received from Boone township the south one-half of sections 33 and 34, township 89, range 24, and sections 5, 6, 7 and 8, township 88, range 24; and from Cass, the remainder of the middle third of township 89, range 24.

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP was organized Sept. 6, 1882, and at the same time the township lines of several townships were readjusted to conform to congressional lines, and to do this, the board of supervisors passed the following resolution:

"Whereas, several petitions have been presented to this board asking that the boundary lines of the civil township boundaries in the north and east part of the county be changed so as to conform more nearly to congressional township lines, and in order to carry out the wishes of the petitioners as nearly as possible, and make the townships uniform in size and shape, be and it is ordered by this board that sections one (1), two (2), three (3), four (4), five (5), six (6), seven (7), eight (8), nine (9), ten (10), eleven (11) and twelve (12), being from one (1) to twelve (12) inclusive, in township eighty-eight (88), north of range twenty-three (23), west of the fifth principal meridian, Iowa, be severed from the civil township of Williams, and attached to the township of Rose Grove.

"It is further ordered that sections six (6), seven (7), eighteen (18), nineteen (19), thirty (30) and thirty-one (31), in township eighty-nine (89), north of range twenty-three (23), west of the fifth principal meridian, Iowa, be severed from the civil township of Blairsburg and attached to the township of Williams.

"It is further ordered that sections five (5), six (6), seven (7), eight (8), seventeen (17), eighteen (18), nineteen (19), twenty (20), twenty-nine (29) and thirty (30), and the north one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of sections thirty-one (31) and thirty-two (32), in township eighty-nine (89), north of range twenty-four (24), west of the fifth principal meridian, Iowa, be severed from the civil township of Cass, and attached to the township of Blairsburg.

"It is further ordered that sections: north one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of sections thirty-one (31) and thirty-two (32), in township eighty-nine (89), north of range twenty-four (24), west of the fifth principal meridian, Iowa, be severed from the civil township of Boone and attached to the township of Blairsburg.

"It is further ordered that sections one (1), two (2), three (3), four (4), five (5), six (6), seven (7), eight (8), nine (9), ten (10), eleven (11) and twelve (12), in township eighty-eight (88), north of range twenty-four (24), west of the fifth principal meridian, Iowa, be severed from the civil township of Blairsburg, and sections thirteen (13), fourteen (14), fifteen (15), sixteen (16), twenty-one (21), twenty-two (22), twenty-three (23), twenty-four (24), twenty-five (25), twenty-six (26), twenty-seven (27), twenty-eight (28), thirty-three (33), thirty-four (34), thirty-five (35), thirty-six (36), township eighty-eight (88), north of range twenty-four (24), west of the fifth principal meridian, Iowa, from the civil township of Rose Grove, and sections seventeen (17), eighteen (18), nineteen (19), twenty (20), twenty-nine (29), thirty (30), thirty-one (31) and thirty-two (32), in township eighty-eight (88), north of range twenty-four (24), west of the fifth principal meridian, Iowa, from the civil township of Boone, which together constitute the congressional township eighty-eight (88), north of range twenty-four (24), west of the fifth principal

meridian, Iowa, is hereby created a new civil township of Hamilton county, Iowa, to be known by the name of LIBERTY.

"It is further ordered that the southeast quarter of section thirty (30), all of section thirty-one (31), except the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter and all of sections thirty-two (32), thirty-three (33), thirty-four (34), thirty-five (35) and thirty-six (36), in township eighty-eight (88), north of range twenty-five (25), west of the fifth principal meridian, Iowa, be severed from the township of Hamilton and attached to the civil township of Boone.

"It is further ordered that the southwest quarter of section thirty-one (31) and the south half of sections thirty-four (34), thirty-five (35) and thirty-six (36), in township eighty-nine (89), north of range twenty-five (25), west of the fifth principal meridian, Iowa, be severed from the civil township of Boone and attached to the township of Cass.

"It is further ordered that sections six (6), seven (7), eighteen (18), nineteen (19) and thirty (30), and the north half of thirty-one (31), be severed from the civil township of Fremont and attached to the township of Cass.

"It is further ordered that the south one-half of sections thirty-three (33), thirty-four (34), thirty-five (35) and thirty-six (36), be severed from the civil township of Boone and attached to the township of Fremont.

"It being the intention that the civil township of Rose Grove shall constitute the congressional township eighty-eight (88), range twenty-three (23), that the civil township of Williams shall constitute the congressional township eighty-nine (89), range twenty-three (23); that the civil township of Blairsburg shall constitute the congressional township eighty-nine (89), range twenty-four (24), that the civil township of Liberty shall constitute the congressional township eighty-eight (88), range twenty-four (24); that the civil township of Cass shall constitute the congressional township eighty-nine (89), range twenty-five (25), excepting so much as is within the incorporation of Webster City; that the civil township of Fremont shall constitute township eighty-nine (89), range twenty-six (26), west of the fifth principal meridian, Iowa, and that the boundary line of Boone and Hamilton townships shall conform to the congressional township line of eighty-seven (87) and eighty-eight (88).

"It is further ordered that the new civil township of Liberty shall hold its first election at the schoolhouse situated on the southeast quarter of section sixteen (16) in said township, said election to be held on the seventh day of November, A. D., 1882, being the Tuesday next after the first Monday of said month, at which election there shall be elected as officers of said township of Liberty, three trustees, one clerk, one assessor, two justices of the peace and two constables, and the following named persons shall act as officers of said election: James L. Dunn, George Castner and Jacob Brinkema shall act as judges; and D. M. Kelly and M. L. Root shall act as clerks."

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP was organized Jan. 4, 1883, and was taken from Boone, Webster and Hamilton townships. It contained all of the congressional township of 88, range 25, except section 6 and the north one-half of section 7, which remained a part of Boone township.

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP was organized Jan. 11, 1884. The resolution of the Board of supervisors organizing this township and readjusting the lines of Boone, Webster and Hamilton townships is as follows:

"Whereas, A petition has been filed in the office of the county auditor purporting to be signed by a majority of the legal voters residing in the congressional township eighty-eight (88), north of range twenty-six (26), west of the fifth principal meridian, Iowa, exclusive of the corporation of Webster City, Iowa, asking that a new civil township be organized in Hamilton county, Iowa, to consist of the above described territory; and whereas said petition has been sworn to by A. A. Wicks, Morris Smith and Wm. A. Powell, to the effect that all the signers thereto were bona fide residents of the territory above described at the time said signatures were attached; and

"Whereas, Notice has been given by publication in the Hamilton Freeman for two consecutive weeks previous to a date ten days prior to the day set for final hearing before the board of supervisors; and whereas, it is the opinion of this board of supervisors that all the legal requirements in the premises have been fulfilled. It is hereby ordered that said petitions be granted, and that sections three (3), four (4), five (5), six (6), seven (7), eight (8), nine (9), ten (10), the south half of fourteen (14), all of fifteen (15), sixteen (16), seventeen (17) and eighteen (18), in township eighty-eight (88), north of range twenty-six (26) west, be severed from the civil township of Boone, and sections nineteen (19) to thirty-six (36) inclusive, in township eighty-eight (88), north of range twenty-six (26), west of the fifth principal meridian, Iowa, be severed from the civil township of Webster and together organized into a new civil township of Hamilton county, to be known by the name of Freedom.

"It is further ordered that said township shall hold its first election at the residence of Morris Smith, situated on the southeast quarter of section sixteen (16), in said township, said election to be held on the 4th day of November, A. D., 1884, being the Tuesday next succeeding the first Monday of said month; at which election there shall be elected as officers of said township, three trustees, one clerk, one assessor, two justices of the peace, and two constables. The following named persons shall act as officers of said election: William Beerman, Clement Robbins and Emery Gordon shall act as judges; and Geo. H. Daniels and W. A. Powell shall act as clerks.

"It is further ordered that sections five (5), south half of seven (7), all of eight (8), the north half of seventeen (17), and the north half of north half of southwest quarter of section eighteen (18), in township eighty-eight (88), north of range twenty-five (25) west, be severed from the civil township of Independence, and the southwest quarter of section thirty-one (31), and the south half of thirty-four (34), in township eighty-nine (89), north of range twenty-five (25), from the civil township of Cass, and the east half of the southeast quarter of section thirty-six (36), in township eighty-nine (89), north of range twenty-six (26), west of the fifth principal meridian, from the civil township of Fremont, and together attached to the civil township of Boone.

"It is further ordered that the southeast quarter of section 1, the southeast quarter of section 11, all of sections 12, 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, 26, 35, 36, in township 87, north of range 26 west, be severed from the civil township of Hamilton; and that the south half of the northeast quarter, the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter and the southeast quarter of section 15, the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 16, the south half of the southeast of sec-

tion 17, the east half of section 20, the west half of the northeast quarter, the west half of the northwest quarter, the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter and the south one-half of section 21, the northeast quarter, the east half of the northwest quarter and the south half of section 22, all of sections 27, 28 and 29, the south half of the northeast quarter, the southwest quarter and the east half of the southeast quarter of section 30, and all of sections 31, 32, 33 and 34, in township 87, north of range 26, be severed from the civil township of Marion, and together attached to the civil township of Webster, thereby making the said township of Webster comprise the congressional township 87, range 26, west of the fifth principal meridian."

Thus in the end, Hamilton county has seventeen townships, viz.: Boone, which is coextensive with the city of Webster City in area; Fremont, Cass, Blairsburg, Williams, Rose Grove, Liberty, Independence, Freedom, Webster, Hamilton, Lyon, Lincoln, Scott, Ellsworth, Clear Lake and Marion, each, with the exception of the township surrounding Webster City, corresponding in extent with the congressional township lines.

#### FREMONT TOWNSHIP

FREMONT TOWNSHIP now includes congressional township 89, range 26, with an area of 36 square miles. The surface of the earth is uniformly level, and the soil is a rich black loam. Formerly it contained much swamp land, but in recent years the great Brietenkamp—Gannon Drain, with its laterals—has furnished an outlet for drainage and the swamp land has been nearly all reclaimed.

The earliest settlements in this township were in its eastern and northern portions. The first settler in Fremont township was undoubtedly Jacob W. Paine, who opened up and improved the farm now occupied by C. A. Howd on Boone river in 1854. He was followed closely by W. W. Boak. Later in 1856 came the McLaughlins, and in 1857 N. H. Hellen opened a large farm in the northern part of the township. No doubt N. H. Hellen was one of the most picturesque and dashing of pioneer characters. He dressed the part of the pioneer according to the most approved literary ideals. He is described as riding horseback into Webster City, dressed in black trousers, riding boots that reached his knees, red shirt, with pistol and bowieknife strapped at his belt and wearing a broad brimmed white hat that covered a head of thick, long, coal-black hair.

In 1863 Fremont township had a population of 74 people. This steadily increased until 1880, when she supported 685 souls, and in 1910 the population had increased to much higher figures.

The only postoffice in Fremont township is Highview. This little village consists of a depot, an elevator and a store.

#### CASS TOWNSHIP

CASS TOWNSHIP included congressional township 89, range 25 and is the home of the oldest settlers in the northern part of the county. The first settlers were Peter Lyon, the Stanly family and Patrick Frakes and family. Soon after

the Frakes came, Horace and Benjamin Segar, L. B. Hill, Zera Hayden, A. Haswell, John W. Lee, Reuben Bennett and W. D. McFerren and many others and in several cases the descendants of these pioneers own and manage the farms their fathers or grandfathers settled upon.

The surface of Cass township is broken by Boone river through the western tier of sections, and by White Fox creek through its center, so the land is more rolling and was naturally better drained than the townships on either side of it. The river and the creek were both skirted with timber and this feature, too, encouraged the early settler to stop in this locality where he could have a natural grove to protect his buildings and still have rich prairie land upon which to raise his crops.

In 1856 the population of Cass township is given at 254, but it must be remembered that at that time Cass township had not been legally organized and it is almost impossible to tell what territory was included by the census taker. The population in 1880 after the township had been reduced almost to its present size was 592. There are no towns in Cass township, its nearest trading points are Woolstock, in Wright county, and Webster City. The population of the township in 1905 was 707, composed almost entirely of thrifty and prosperous farmers.

#### BLAIRSBURG TOWNSHIP

BLAIRSBURG TOWNSHIP, after hovering around in a rather unstable manner over the eastern part of the county, finally settled in congressional township 89, range 24. Its surface was from level to gently rolling and quite liberally supplied with small ponds or sloughs. As there were no streams of consequence through the township, it was comparatively slow in its development and did not make any great progress until after the building of the Great Farley Drainage ditch, which is its main outlet for drainage. In later years, Blairsburg township has been entirely covered with a network of drainage systems and now no township in the county can show a greater percentage of tillable land.

Blairsburg township was the home of the great Lemert Percheron horse farm that was established in 1883 and was conducted with success for several years. Business interests finally called Col. Lemert back to Ohio and the horse business was abandoned.

The principal postoffice in Blairsburg township is in Blairsburg. It was platted by John I. Blair, Nov. 11, 1869. For years the town made little progress, it being simply a trading point for the surrounding farming country. In 1892 R. J. McVicker and H. C. Tuttle platted the McVicker and Tuttle addition and a year later laid out a second addition and in 1907 the Varick C. Crosley addition was added.

For many years the business of the town was conducted largely by Sol. Morrison, J. C. McNee, — Brown, W. F. Powers, G. A. Walrath and Wilse McNee.

The population of the town of Blairsburg in 1880 was 44, and in 1910 241. Blairsburg was incorporated December 21, 1900. C. M. Powers was the first mayor, and since his term expired the following citizens have served: C. P. McVicker, G. E. Conoway, P. E. Saxie, O. A. Kellogg, A. B. McNabb, and G. W. Cooper, who is mayor at the present time.

## WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP

WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP occupies township 89, range 23. The first settler in the township was Henry Draper, who took up a homestead on section 18, in the spring of 1868, and during that year there settled in the township Isaiah Jaycox, Tom Duffy, Mike McDonald, Geo. Mann, Pete Laford, Calvin Wheeler, Wm. Pabboldt, E. S. Searls, James Francis, James Conley and a Mr. Wilcox. The Illinois Central Railroad was built through the township in 1868. Early in the spring other settlers began to arrive, among them being E. Crabtree, H. S. Orris, I. H. Brown, Samuel H. Robbins, J. E. Frost, Mrs. C. A. Wyatt and her sons, S. D. and J. K. Wyatt, P. Doyle, Steve Clayton and Michael Cunningham. During the winter of 1869 the building of the present railroad depot was commenced, and nearly completed by Taylor Brothers of Alden, but it was not finally completed and opened for business until in August or September, 1869. I. H. Brown became the station agent and soon afterwards a postoffice was established and Mr. Brown became the first postmaster.

Among the first settlers that took up a residence within the township were S. M. Shaeffer, family and mother, E. Wetsler, Henry Frank, B. Haijsman, Frank Leigh and father and Geo. Frost, Albert Spena, Jas. Drizhal, Zimmoms, Robeck, Sooboby and J. M. Houghtaling.

In the years thereafter settlers came into the township and opened up farms or started business in the village until now all of the lands in the township are taken up and improved.

The town of Williams was laid out in 1869 by John I. Blair, and Pete Laford has the distinction of being the first resident within the limits of the town. His was the only house in the town at the time of the building of the depot. In the spring of 1870 Geo. Frost settled in the town and opened the first store. It was a general store, carrying in its line not a large, but a varied stock, including almost everything that was called for by the settlers. He also opened a lumber yard and bought grain, and sold coal and wood. He held the field alone for about two years. In the fall of 1871 or the winter of 1872 the Grangers built a warehouse and were making arrangements to buy grain. Prior to that time the grain purchased had been stored in the ware rooms of the depot. In 1872 O. J. Dutton settled in Williams and opened a general store and purchased the Grange warehouse and began to deal in grain. In 1874 L. L. Cady came and opened the first blacksmith and repair shop.

In 1875 the firm of Smelser & Martin bought out the Dutton stock and building and moved the building to Main street. This was the first building located on Main street, where almost all the business is now transacted.

During the winter of 1874-5 C. M. Mattice built the large elevator on the railroad grounds at the north end of Main street, east side, and also opened a larger lumber yard and began an extensive business in grain and lumber in the summer of 1875.

During the spring and shortly after Smelser & Martin had moved to Main street, T. D. Willson, and W. A. Carns came and built the second business building on Main street and opened a general store. These buildings were on the west side of the street. A little later J. W. Thompson came and built upon the east side of Main street, the first building on that side, and opened a hardware store.

Fenton & Stone put up the next building on the west side of the street and opened a drug store and following him closely came J. G. Vollenweider, building a house and opening in it a furniture store. During this year (1875) O. N. Silvernail built the first hotel, a very much needed and welcome improvement, and J. E. Frost built a store building on the east side of Main street. Elias Clay built a restaurant building on the west side and it was opened and run by James Lampson. John Bennetto also built a wagon shop on the west side. This is practically all the business buildings erected during the year, and they presented quite a village, where in the beginning only three or four houses were to be seen. In the meantime several residences had been put up and the citizens looked forward to a lively business the next year.

The first building for 1876 was put up by Henry Franks, who left his farm and opened a carpenter shop, which at a later period he converted into an agricultural warehouse and embarked in that business.

From this time forward the work of building up the town went on more slowly than formerly, but none the less steady, and all of a more permanent and substantial kind. The boom in building business houses had subsided, but residences were being put up. In January, 1877, H. H. Johnson attracted by the location and bright prospects in view, located in the town and began the publication of a newspaper, the Williams Standard. It was a live paper, and in the beginning received fair support, but the future growth of the town had been overestimated, and there was not patronage enough to support a paper and the project had to be abandoned after about two years' trial. All classes of business were represented in the town; the country round about was settling up with a thrifty and industrious class of farmers, and business settled down to a permanent, but growing basis, and the affairs of town and township went along in an ordinary way until February, 1882, when a disastrous fire occurred, sweeping out of existence at once more than half of the business part of the town, taking all of the business buildings on the west side of Main street except two. The fire started in Pat Maloy's saloon. In about an hour's time the town was in ruins. The principal losers were the Martin estate, S. S. Morrison, Pat Maloy, Mrs. Ann Carus, Fred Vollenweider, J. M. George, A. Rawhorter, J. M. Houghtaling, Chas. Draper, Frost & Co., Willis Orres and J. W. Thompson.

After the fire a public meeting was held protesting against the reopening of any saloon or place where intoxicating liquors should be sold and the protest bore the names of over one hundred persons. Williams was incorporated October 22, 1883. October 22, 1883, Williams held its first town election and elected for mayor, B. F. Corbin; recorder, L. N. Gerber; and trustees, J. E. Frost, Fred Biesner, E. Crabtree, H. N. Johnson and Wm. Wilke.

There being some doubt as to the legality of the incorporation in the spring of 1884, the legislature passed an "Act to legalize the incorporation of the town of Williams in Hamilton county, Iowa."

Mayor Corbin was reelected in 1884 and in 1885, William Allenson became mayor. He was succeeded in 1886 by J. M. George. E. Crabtree presided over the officers of the city in 1887 and 1888, J. M. Watson in 1889, H. N. Johnson in 1890, John Bennetto in 1891 and Ira Sann in 1892. In 1893 B. F. Corbin was again elected mayor and held the office for the three terms, 1893, 1894 and 1895. Then A. J. Simpson was elected for the years 1896 and 1897. Walter H. Hellen



VIEW OF THE BUSINESS DISTRICT OF WILLIAMS



CITY PARK, WILLIAMS



was mayor in 1898 and was reelected in 1899. E. I. Johnson presided in 1900 and A. J. Ripley in 1902. H. F. Willie was then mayor until 1910, when Wm. Whistler was elected. He resigned before the expiration of his term and H. F. Willie was again elected. The mayor at the present time is William Gerber.

In August, 1887, W. A. Hutton started the Williams Herald, but in December following it suspended.

In 1891 Wm. R. Pooley commenced the publication of the Williams Reporter and continued its publication for several years. In 1897 the Wasp was started and some years later the Hornet.

#### ROSE GROVE TOWNSHIP

ROSE GROVE TOWNSHIP comprises the congressional township of 88, range 23. In early days it was the home of the famous Rose Grove farm and of its owner and manager Judge Rose. While in pioneer days there was quite a settlement in the vicinity of "Rose Grove," it was the last township in the county to become fully settled and in this township the last entry of public land was made. The population of the township in 1869 was 65. In 1880 it had increased to 207 and in 1905 it supported 620 people. One of the first great drainage projects, that of the drainage of Iowa lake, was consummated in Rose Grove township. There are no postoffices or railroad stations in the township. Its principal trading point is Williams.

#### LIBERTY TOWNSHIP

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP occupies township 88, range 24. It has a "backbone" of "Morainic Hills" running through its center and on either side of these hills was originally considerable marshy land. Liberty township was settled largely by people of German descent and thus, as a natural consequence, the land has been brought to a high state of cultivation. There are no postoffices in Liberty township, its principal trading points being Blairsburg and Kamrar. Liberty had a population of 468 in 1885 and in 1905, 620.

#### INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP is the home of some of the earliest settlers in the county. It was in this township that Willson Brewer and the Isaac Lyon's first settled. Later James Adams moved in and J. F. McConnell and Hiram Carpenter came up from the southern part of the county and made their permanent homes. The sons of these men now live on the farms their fathers founded. Independence was also the home of two mills, the Sternberg Mill and Bone's Mill, and in early days it furnished its share of coal for local consumption. Its principal trading point is Kamrar. This town was platted by the Western Town Lot Company November 28, 1881. It is located in the north half of section 35. During the eighties W. H. Howard was the principal business man of the place. For years he and his sons operated a store, elevator and lumber yard. It is claimed by old settlers that the Howard boys went into business as soon as they were old enough to talk plain and the precision and tact in a business way shown by these little fellows was one of the marvels of the time. The population of Independence township, in 1885 was 639. In 1901 Pierce's addition to Kamrar was platted

and in 1903 Carmoney's addition was added. The population of Kamrar in 1910 was 262. Independence township occupies congressional township 88, range 25 except a small portion within the limits of Webster City.

#### FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP was the home of the Williams, Silvers, Barrs, and on account of its being close to the river on its east and to the town of Homer was the scene of our earliest history.

The surface of Freedom township is very level, so level in fact that perfect drainage was for a long time thought to be almost impossible for some portions of the township. Of late years the Fardal drainage system has worked wonders in the way of converting wet, marshy lands into rich well tiled farms.

This township occupies congressional township 88, range 26 except a small portion in the northeast corner included in the city of Webster City.

In 1885 Freedom township had a population of 507. In 1905, 540.

#### BOONE TOWNSHIP

BOONE TOWNSHIP is coextensive with Webster City in extent and is a political organization for the sole purpose of electing justices of the peace and constables. The history of Webster City is therefore the history of Boone township as it now exists. But perhaps this is the proper place to call attention to a record of public service in connection with this township that is as unique and unusual as it is meritorious. In 1874 Percival Knowles was elected justice of the peace for Boone township; at the end of his term he was reelected. Then he was reelected again and again and now after almost forty years he still holds the office and has held it continuously since his first election. During the last thirty years his elections have come to him regularly without opposition and this too in the face of the fact that Webster City has been almost continuously in the throes of a town fight that stirred up opposition to almost every candidate or measure proposed. Squire Knowles' administration of the office has given complete satisfaction. His decisions are usually just and are seldom appealed from. The present indications are that this judicial office, though elective, will be held by the present incumbent until his official tenure is terminated by death or resignation.

This record in itself is a high compliment to the ability and integrity of "Squire" Percival Knowles, and entitles him to high rank among the historical characters of Hamilton county.

#### WEBSTER TOWNSHIP

WEBSTER TOWNSHIP was the home of the first settler, Preston C. Bell, and within its borders was located the historic town of Homer. The history of the early settlement of the county is practically a history of Webster township. It is rich in natural advantages. It has land, timber, coal, stone, clay, but no railroad. For years Webster township has wanted a railroad, and its people have always been liberal in offers of public aid, but without success. When a railroad comes, this township will be rich beyond the dreams of the pioneer and Homer will grow again. Homer, at one time the largest city in northern Iowa, has two stores, a



STREET SCENE IN JEWELL



schoolhouse, two churches and a blacksmith shop. Its buildings are those erected from fifty to sixty years ago. A new house in Homer would be a decided sensation. The farms adjoining Homer are adorned by costly buildings, but within the fatal limits of Homer, the buildings are all black with age and are of the style of a half century ago.

Webster township occupies congressional township 87, range 26.

#### HAMILTON TOWNSHIP

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP occupies township 87, range 25. Among its earliest pioneers were Jackson Groves, Chas. Albright, Robt. Riley and the Cary's. In its beginning this township was filled with ponds and sloughs which actually made the trapping of muskrats more profitable than farming. But corn and grain was a necessity of life and so the high knolls were broken up and planted, and for thirty years the knolls were farmed while fully half the land was consigned to swamp, sloughs and wet, sour places that would raise nothing but coarse slough grass and furnish a breeding place for mosquitoes and muskrats. With the twentieth century came the great drainage era. Hamilton township alone expended \$160,000.00 for a public drainage system and as much more for private tiling, and today almost every acre in the township is susceptible of cultivation in such crops as corn, oats and potatoes.

One who had never seen the old condition would not believe such waste could exist for so many years, and one who had never seen the new condition would be loath to believe that Hamilton township of today covered precisely the same territory that it did twenty years ago, so radical has been the change. And just fully as radical has been the change in price of land, for land that was a "drug on the market" twenty years ago at \$25 per acre, can now be readily sold at \$150 per acre, and the cause of it all is drainage.

#### LYON TOWNSHIP

LYON TOWNSHIP occupies congressional township 87, range 24. It owed its distinction in pioneer time to the fact that Skunk river, with its fringe of beautiful woodland coursed through its eastern border. Lyon township was the home of the Lakins, who first settled within its borders in 1855. But the "Timber Land" was very limited and the prairie country did not settle up very rapidly. However, in 1863, its population was 81; in 1870, 188; in 1875, 275; and in 1880, when the railroad arrived, 673. In 1905, outside of Jewell and Ellsworth, 629, while Jewell had a population of 958.

Lyon township had its first boom of consequence as a result of the prospective arrival of the Chicago and North Western Railway in 1880. Jewell Junction was laid out by David T. Jewell and residence lots were offered at \$25 each and business lots at \$100 each. Jewell grew rapidly from the start and about one year after lots were offered for sale. A correspondent to the Freeman gives the following description of the town which is full of interesting matter:

#### JEWELL JUNCTION

A little more than a year ago this thriving town consisted principally of "railroad shanties," but a few enterprising men soon came here to commence a town. Mr. Hoppus moved his meat market over from Callanan, Mr. Lauritson

was already on the ground; George Stuart, R. H. Rhodarmel, L. E. Lanning and Warburton Bros. put up buildings; Mr. Atkinson rented Ed. Sporedear's house, Mr. Mead and family occupied the depot, and "business" commenced. Mr. Stuart was painter, and kept a small stock of groceries; Mr. Lanning was grocer and Mr. Warburton had hardware.

In January of the present year, Mr. Strong and William Stevens each built a lumber office, and Mr. Cooper, postoffice and residence, both in one building. After that, houses were moved over from Callanan, one by one, occasionally, as the storms would permit, each moving invariably followed by a storm and intense cold.

In February, Rev. Mr. Van Emans, of Williams, came and preached the first sermon in Mr. Rhodarmel's drug store; formed a small society of such Christians as were here, and organized a Union Sunday school. There was an occasional meeting for singing and sociability. The death of Dr. McDonald in March, brought the people together in a nearer acquaintance and sympathy than anything else had done.

The long blockade of the railroad left the place without mail, and one might as well have been in Sahara or rather Greenland, so far as knowing anything that was going on in the world was concerned. It also reduced supplies till fuel was quite exhausted, and meat and bread were about all the provisions to be had, thanks to Mr. Hoppus for the meat he always managed to have on hand. At one time there was not a pound of sugar in the groceries, and everybody was out. But the long winter finally wore away, the blockade was raised and business commenced. People came and began to build new houses, and more houses were brought from Callanan. Mr. Gillman built his hotel, Mr. King, Mr. New, Mr. Miller and others, put up two-story buildings, the lower story for stores, and the upper for dwellings. Mr. New soon had his grocery started, followed by Mr. Waite's dry-goods store. There are now four dry-goods stores. Crosby and Virtue occupy a large, handsome room in Rev. Mr. Rankin's building, filled with a good stock; J. G. Klotzbach, in his own building on the opposite side of the street; Waite & King near the depot, with such a variety that it looks as though you might find anything you were pleased to call for; S. G. Layne, in a smaller room, but packed full of things "too numerous to mention," are all doing a thriving business.

S. M. New and John Clark deal in groceries, crockery, etc., and it would be hard to tell which is most popular.

Two firms deal in hardware and tinware. Burge & Atherton give exclusive attention to the above, while Warburton Bros. add groceries and agricultural implements. Both are straightforward, square dealing companies.

J. M. Strong and William Stevens are the popular lumber dealers, both keeping as large stocks as the means of supply and the great demand will allow.

The disciples of Esculapius are Dr. J. G. Wheat and Dr. F. J. Will; Dr. Wheat giving the most of his attention to his drug store, dividing popular favor in that branch with Mr. Rhodarmel.

G. W. Blank keeps the meat market, with Mr. Hoppus for assistant. Mr. Gillman is proprietor of the Gillman House, A. Anderson of the Skandinaven, and G. R. Everitt has just taken possession of the City Hotel. All these houses are well kept, and both landlords and ladies know how to please the public.



STREET SCENE IN ELLSWORTH



VIEW ALONG SKUNK RIVER NEAR ELLSWORTH



Mr. Tallman is jeweler, having his office in Waite & King's store. During the summer months when the people were more intent on houses to live and work in than on jewelry and trinkets, he turned an honest penny and served his country by swinging the paint brush. Since cold weather he has retired to his shop, where he will be happy to meet all who need his services in clock or watch repairing, or any other work in his line.

Atkinson & Company run the elevator. W. J. Chamberlin, Cary Brothers and S. H. Hagan, buy cattle and hogs.

Fail & Blank and A. B. Barnes & Son, keep liveries.

Mrs. C. A. Strong and Mrs. S. E. Haight deal in sewing machines.

Mrs. Haight and Mrs. D. A. Kinsey supply the ladies of town and country with millinery.

George Kinsey, R. Bond and R. M. Johnson do mason work of all kinds.

The carpenters are Messrs. Richey, Bond, Sandage, Breniyer, Beckman, Stuland, and others. Indeed, so great has been the demand for carpenter work, that anyone not otherwise engaged, who could use a saw, plane and hammer was, presto, a carpenter.

G. M. Barkhuff is wagon maker, Mr. Finch blacksmith and wagon repairer. Charles Glamman is another son of Vulcan.

O. A. Borway keeps the boots and shoes in repair, and makes new ones to order.

Don Terry runs a dray. Messrs. Lauritson, Hamaker and H. C. Larson do teaming.

Lest someone looking for a good location for a saloon should think us unprovided, I will say we have three, which abundantly supply the place.

P. J. Johnson is cabinet-maker, Johnson Mead and J. R. King deal in coal, and S. L. Sage teaches the village school. "Tip" Haight, W. T. Fraizier, and S. L. Sage are the expounders of Coke and Blackstone, and their erudition and eloquence are often highly displayed in the justice courts of the place, to the satisfaction of their clients. Haight and Fraizier are also notaries public.

J. T. Haight and J. C. Klotzbach maintain the dignity of the law as justices of the peace.

Rev. J. M. Rankin, Methodist, preaches here once in two weeks, alternating with Rev. Mr. Van Emmons, Presbyterian, from Williams.

In 1884, the Jewell Record was founded by Savage & Savage, and was first issued as a six column folio. In 1885 Jewell had a population of 384 and Lyon township, exclusive of Jewell had a population of 673.

Jewell has prospered from the start, new additions have been added to the town, new brick buildings have taken the place of the old wooden ones, new churches have been erected, a college has been established and some of the finest residences in the county shelter the families of its business men.

In the meantime, the drainage of Mud lake has added a great deal of rich farm land to Lyon township.

#### LINCOLN TOWNSHIP

LINCOLN TOWNSHIP occupies congressional township 87, range 23. The character of the surface was generally level, filled with the usual liberal allowance of sloughs, which, when drained, are readily converted into the richest

of farm lands. The principal town in Lincoln is Ellsworth. This town was platted in 1880 and at once began to grow. The population of Lincoln township in 1880 was 395 and in 1889, 579, and in 1905, 888. Ellsworth has grown steadily. Its population in 1905, was 418.

A correspondent to the *Freeman* in 1881, describes Ellsworth as follows:

#### ELLSWORTH

Ellsworth is a reality at last and has been duly recognized as having an existence by the postoffice department, and John Ringstad is postmaster, with his office in Thoreson & Company's store.

S. G. Johnson & Company (with A. R. Caudle as the company), have taken time by the forelock and with a commendable degree of energy have established themselves in their own building, which was removed by William and Jerry Keyzer from Callanan.

Mr. Jondahl is building a substantial dwelling and store combined, in which he proposes to place a stock of furniture at an early day.

Thoreson & Company, after many trials and tribulations, have succeeded in planting the bisected Callanan store upon their lot in Ellsworth, and in order to accommodate their increasing trade, sandwiched an extension of twenty feet between the separated ends of their former building, and they now have a large, roomy and convenient place of business.

Hoy's "Eagle Hotel," after much hard tugging and vexatious delays, has at last found a resting place on an eligible site and will soon be enlarged and made ready for the accommodation of the traveling public.

Peter Ryberg has removed from the "Grove" and is in full blast, associated with Peter Stein, who runs a wagon shop of Ryberg.

A gentleman from Boone has opened a butcher shop and is actively at work erecting a story and a half front, which will give him ample facilities for the transaction of his business. He comes well prepared with all the appliances of his trade and will undoubtedly do well.

William Richards, Simon Fritzon and Cragewick & Lyders are brain buyers, and their work is well attested by huge cribs of corn already filled to overflowing and yet large quantities of corn to be delivered during the early summer months.

Harry Byers and Cragewick & Lyders are our lumber dealers, and good stocks are found in both yards at fair rates.

Charley Lakin has removed from Callanan, and is prepared to furnish a good harness or anything in that line, as well as to act the "artist tonsorial," which he can do in first class manner.

Two saloons stand on opposite sides of the street, scowling grim defiance to each other in the early morning, growing "mellower" as the day wears on and potations begin to do their "work," and at night the quivering shadows between meet in maudlin embrace beneath the pale moon, while Bacchus seems let loose as the welkin resounds with revelry—fit progeny of drink.

#### SCOTT TOWNSHIP

SCOTT TOWNSHIP is located in the southeast corner of the county comprising congressional township 86, range 23. The sight of the rolling prairies of this township must have been a cause of joy to the settler who had been dragging



SCENE ON MAIN STREET, ELLSWORTH



his westward course through swamps and sloughs in search of the promised land. The first settlers in this township were Lars Sheldahl, who came in '55 and Alexander Starry, who entered land in section 30; Anders Christenson, Peter Larson and Lars Henderson, who came early in 1857, and they were followed very closely by Lars Henryson, who came with his family the next year and settled in section 30, buying the farm of Alexander Starry, where he lived until his death, which occurred in 1896. Among other early settlers might be mentioned the Eglands, Oaks, Charlsons, Anfinsons, Tuckers and Chadwicks. These men were Norwegians by birth and were instrumental in founding the great Norwegian community which has played so important a part in the history of Hamilton county. In 1863, Scott township had a population of 103, and it continued to increase in population with each succeeding census until, in 1905, it had increased to 949. Scott township has no towns within its borders and is given up entirely to farming.

#### ELLSWORTH TOWNSHIP

ELLSWORTH TOWNSHIP includes township 86, range 24. The first settlers in this township were Henry and George Staley, who came in 1855. Christ Peterson and Linsey Sowers came in 1857 and John A. Cooper in 1859. In 1863, Ellsworth township had a population of 53 and this steadily increased until 1880 it had a population of 803. Callanan was located in this township. When the Chicago & North-Western Railway arrived, the Callanan population was largely transferred to Jewell and Ellsworth. But Randall was platted in 1882 and notwithstanding the loss of population caused by the moving from Callanan, in 1895, there were 956 people living in Ellsworth township. The people who settled Ellsworth were largely emigrants from Norway. In 1905 Ellsworth township had a population of 1,007, it being one of the most populous rural townships in the county.

The principal trading points are Jewell and Randall. The pioneer business man of Randall is Geo. P. Christenson, who, in company with his father, C. P. Christenson, H. L. Henderson and S. Seymour, organized the Randall Company, which did all the business of Randall for about five years. Then the company divided, the Christenson's taking the grain, coal and banking business, while the general merchandise was conducted by Seymour & Henderson, a firm composed of H. L. Henderson, S. Seymour, O. L. Henderson and M. L. Henderson. This firm continued in business for about six years; W. H. Weir then ran a general store for awhile, and he was succeeded by Peterson and the Christensons. Randall has never been incorporated and is governed by the Ellsworth township officers.

#### CLEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP

CLEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP occupies township 86, range 25. So far as topography is concerned, the south half of Clear Lake township presents the finest stretch of country to be found in Hamilton county. Its surface is gently rolling and a great deal of the land is naturally well drained. The first settler in Clear Lake township was probably W. H. Frazier, who came to Hamilton county in 1856.

Stanhope was laid out by the Western Town Lot Company in October, 1883. It was incorporated in December, 1897. The first mayor was H. E. Fardall. The first town council consisted of A. F. Swanson, J. S. Williams, Iver Johnson, G. E. Hamaker, William Taylor and L. J. Stark. At the first election, thirty votes were cast and the above officers were unanimously elected.

#### MARION TOWNSHIP

MARION TOWNSHIP occupies township 86, range 26. By reason of its location near Des Moines river, perhaps accounts for its being settled earlier than many other townships. Among its prominent pioneers are Geo. W. Hook, who came in 1853, W. W. McKinney, who came in 1857, and A. G. Barquest, who came in 1858. The people of Marion are largely of Swedish descent. Stratford is its principal town. It was founded in October, 1880. In order that a proper idea may be given of the pioneer merchants, the attention of the reader is invited to a descriptive article written for the Freeman in 1881:

#### STRATFORD

A correct idea of the growth of this place may be obtained from the fact that on last Christmas day not a square foot of lumber could be found on the town site; now no less than ten business houses are open and doing a steady, lively business. In addition to these there are two first-class hotels, one open and in good running order—the other almost completed. The "Stratford House" is first-class, having all the accompaniments for the comfort and convenience of the traveling public. Mr. Dawson, the proprietor, and his amiable lady are peculiarly fitted by nature and education for their vocation.

Anson Deo, the old true and tried, has at last landed his hotel building in its final resting place, and will soon spread his viands on sumptuous tables, for many old and new patrons. If industry and perseverance are signs of success, Mr. Deo will attain to a large measure of it.

J. W. Near, the lively old Hook's Pointer, has opened a mammoth stock of drugs in his large building on Shakespeare avenue, where he will be found freshly powdered and perfumed ready to do any work in his line.

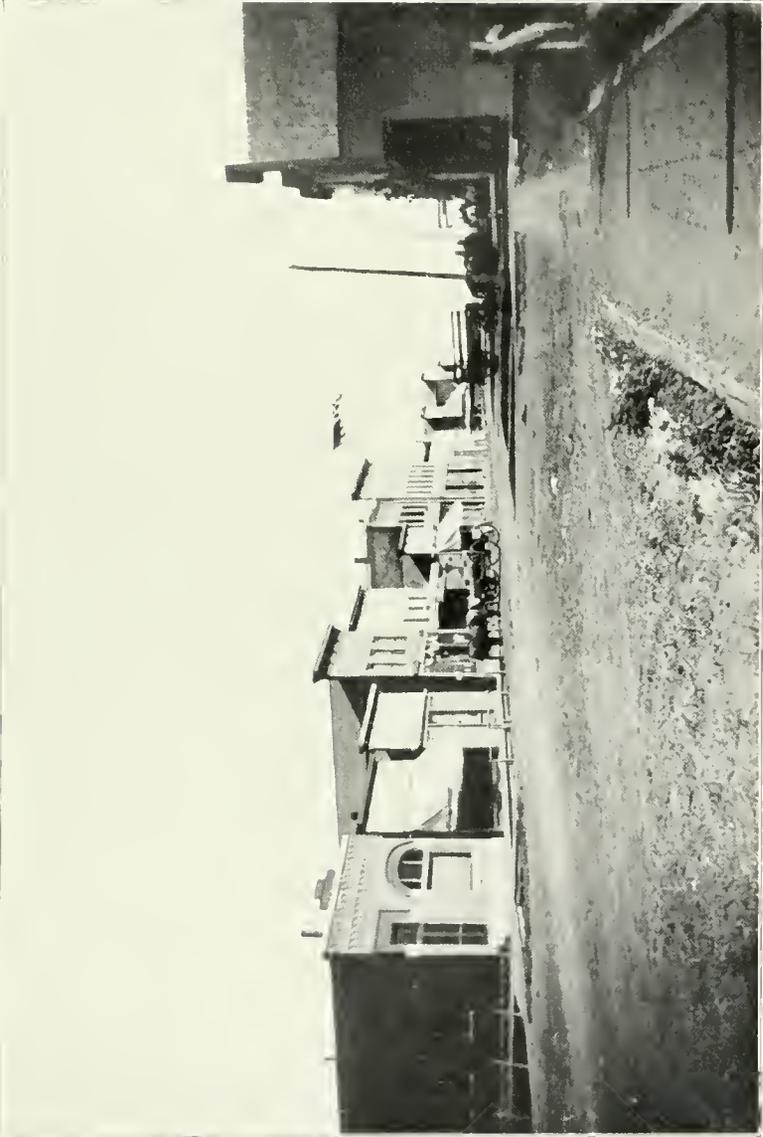
Stratford has a corps of physicians second to none in the state. Dr. Chamberlain has resided here several years—acquired a good practice and is too well known to need further notice from me.

Dr. Morrison is a young man of scholarly attainments and during the short time that he has been here, has won an enviable reputation in the treatment of disease.

Dr. W. N. Green is also a young man of splendid ability and rare culture; he has succeeded in winning for himself a large practice and is in every sense of the word worthy of the high reputation he has earned.

Dr. J. J. Lewis, the well known physician of Ridgeport, will soon occupy his new building at this place.

The good people of the Methodist Episcopal church here are taking steps for the erection of a large church building to cost upward of \$1,500; they are well under way with the enterprise.



VIEW ON MAIN STREET, STRATFORD



The Swedish-Lutheran church, a fine building, stands on the town site.

E. J. Bently, the enterprising lumberman, has sold his large stock of lumber to Charley Wise, who will do a flourishing business in this line. Besides being a young man of wide-awake business tact, Charley has a genial disposition and culture that is attracting scores of friends to him.

There are four grocery houses, three general stores and two hardware stores.

We are situated in the center of the great coal-field of Iowa, in the midst of the largest bodies of timber, and command such an area of trade that our town must inevitably become an important place.

In future notes, I shall take you through our business houses—examine the buildings, and acquaint you with our men, etc., etc. If you wish a pleasant surprise, come down to Stratford and don't fail to call on your old friend.

PLUTO.

And the following descriptive write-up of Stratford appeared in the Freeman, January 14, 1885:

#### THE BUSINESS OF STRATFORD

at the present time is well represented and established. The hotels of the town are the Stratford House and the Central House. The former was built by W. A. Dawson, in 1881. It is a well built, good sized and amply furnished hotel, now operated by its owner, Mr. Dawson, who is a natural landlord. It has recently been refitted and refurnished throughout, and is equal to and far superior to most hotels in western Iowa. It is strictly a commercial house, and no traveling man need shun Stratford because of its hotel accommodations, as they will find an obliging host and hostess, whose every endeavor is to please their guests. Under the new management of this house it has gained a large patronage. It has come to be a retreat for the weary traveler, who feels quite at home at "The Stratford House."

The Central House was removed from Hook's Point, in 1881, and is now operated by William Hook; and while it is not so large a house as the Stratford House, yet it has the share of patronage which it deserves. It is a cheaper class house and serves well its purpose.

The dry-goods business is in the hands of D. M. Blaine, T. H. Shaffer and A. C. Aaronson. These dealers all carry a well selected variety of goods belonging to the line including staple and fancy articles.

The grocery trade is at the present represented by George Hook, John Linchrist, Isaac Hyatt and Neese Bros. These firms do a general grocery business and buy all kinds of country produce, including poultry, butter and eggs.

The drug dealers are Peterson & Company and Robert Norton, both of whom carry full lines of drugs, patent medicines, paints, oils, etc., such as is demanded by the town and surrounding country.

Those engaged in the hardware business are John Peterson and Crary & Rodine. These firms both carry large stocks of both shelf and heavy hardware; they also deal in farm machinery. One firm sold twenty self-binders last season. These stocks are fully up to any in the county as to quality, price and variety. The long, tedious trips to distant towns for farm supplies and hardware have become a thing of the past to the community surrounding Stratford.

The meat market is kept by Robert Neese, in a very satisfactory manner to patrons, who find in this market all that they need in the meat line, including game and fish in their season.

The livery business of the town is carried on by William Hook and John Lundell. Each barn furnishes good turn-outs at reasonable prices.

The grain business of Stratford has come to be one of much importance. It is now operated by Carr & Anderson, who have a large elevator near the depot.

Lumber and coal are handled by Gardner, Bachelor & Company.

The dealers in live stock are B. McCabe and Carr & Anderson, who pay the highest market price for produce, and are doing a thriving business.

The harness business of the place is conducted by George Gelder, who is an experienced workman, and has already worked into a good harness trade.

Blacksmithing, an essential factor in any community, is carried on at Stratford by J. Barton and Olof. Rosengreen, both of whom are thorough masters of their trades.

The wagon and carriage business is conducted by Mr. Berggen, who runs a good repair shop, doing excellent work.

The largest plow shop in Hamilton county is at this point, and is operated by a master workman—Olof. Rosengreen—who has all the modern appliances for doing plow work. He is doing an immense business.

Another important enterprise is the cooperage business, carried on by Brackett Bros., of Minneapolis, who employ twenty men and pay out \$50 per day in getting out hoop poles and manufacturing cooper stock, ready for shipment. Large amounts of cordwood are also being shipped from Stratford.

#### THE POSTOFFICE

at this point was removed from Hook's Point in the summer of 1881. The first postmaster was H. G. Hicks, who was succeeded in 1882 by R. W. Biggs, the present postmaster. It became a money-order office in 1882. The first order issued was August 7th to John Triter for \$15. The first paid was to Levi O. Lane, August 2d, for \$10. There have been 1,740 orders issued from this office up to January 6, 1885.

#### THE OPERA HOUSE

was built by Johnson & Lindreth, in 1881. It is over two business rooms, and is 44x50 feet, provided with good stage scenery and furniture. This hall has been of much value to the people in and about Stratford, as a place for holding all public entertainments, meetings, etc.

#### THE CHURCHES

of the town are the Methodist and Lutheran. The former was first organized at Hook's Point, but soon after the railroad was built was changed to Stratford. The society is within the northwest Iowa conference and have the finest church edifice in the county, save at Webster City, which is well furnished and cared for by a membership of over forty. Rev. A. D. Hocker is the present pastor in

charge. The Lutheran church membership is made up of Scandinavians. This church was formed five years prior to the railroad era, and had a commodious church erected on a five-acre plat secured of Mr. Ten Eyck, through his agent, Huitt Ross. This church has quite a large membership. Services are conducted in the Scandinavian tongue.

#### THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

of Stratford are indeed an honor to the town. A large, well arranged frame building was built in 1882, at a cost of \$2,200. There are two departments in this school where the best methods of teaching are employed. No better index can appear in any community, as to the thrift, intelligence and morality of a people, than to see a due observance to religious and educational matters. This is quite manifest about Stratford.

#### THE GRAND ARMY POST

"Daniel Hill Post, No. 373," was mustered in Nov. 14, 1884, with the following charter membership: Thos. E. Ross, commander; L. M. Linn, senior vice commander; J. S. Evans, Jr., vice commander; E. J. Bently, officer of day; James Wedding, adjutant; Geo. W. Krouskup, quartermaster; N. T. Wilson, chaplain; E. A. Erickson, sergeant of guard; C. C. Austin, quartermaster-sergeant; James Wiggins, sergeant-major; Henry Snees and P. L. Peterson, privates. This post was named in honor of the first soldier who enlisted from this county, as he was also the first to die. The post now numbers about eighteen, and is in fine condition. They meet the first and third Saturday evenings of each month.

The I. L. of H. Lodge, No. 151, was organized Nov. 13, 1883, by fourteen charter members. They now number twenty-one, and are in a flourishing condition. Their times of meeting are the second and fourth Saturday evenings of each month.

#### THE INCORPORATION

of Stratford dates from September, 1883. The present officers are J. H. Johnson, mayor; Geo. F. Tucker, recorder; L. Emerson, I. Hyatt, Charles Rodine, M. H. Greene, George Gelder and Robert Norton, councilmen; R. W. Biggs, marshal. The incorporation is provided with a "lock-up," but since the prohibitory law went into effect, the citizens of the place say it is of no use to them.

The professional men of the town are G. F. Tucker, J. M. Blake and "Judge" McKinney, attorneys; Drs. Rodgers and Chamberlain, physicians and surgeons. These men are skilled in their chosen professions, and are doing a good business.

#### "ROSS TOWN"

is that portion of Stratford which was platted by Huitt Ross, and is situated on the south side of the railroad track. This place is for the most part made up of dwelling houses, and has been much improved in the last year or two. Nestled in among a fine clump of trees may be seen the pioneer house of all

that location—that built by Mr. Ross—many years ago. The first frame house erected in that part of the county was his, which was built in 1853, or over thirty years ago. It is now used as a granary. His present fine residence is well finished and neatly furnished throughout. After so many long years of toil and hardship it seems indeed befitting that one so deserving as Mr. Ross should be so pleasantly situated. He has a well improved farm, containing the finest orchard in this county. There are evidences on every hand that Mr. Ross is a genius in many respects—a man of great experience, self-educated, yet thoroughly posted on almost any practical subject.

## CHAPTER XIX

### HAMILTON COUNTY ATTEMPTS TO GET MORE RAILROADS

Now that the county had two railroads leading to the great markets, the people were not satisfied. They were convinced that railroads built up the country and thereby increased the value of their property, so to create excitement, one needed only to suggest the coming of another railroad.

In the spring of 1881 it was reported that the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad had decided to build a line from Plymouth, a point near Mason City, to Council Bluffs, and that it would cross the Illinois Central Railroad within twenty miles of Webster City. Committees were appointed and attempts were made to attract this road to Hamilton county, but the attempt was unavailing. In the fall of 1881, however, the Crooked Creek Railroad proposed to extend its line to Webster City if the people would secure the right of way, grade the same, and secure depot grounds. The railway company's part of the enterprise was to iron the track and operate the road. It was estimated that the voting of a five per cent tax by the townships crossed by the road would raise the funds necessary. The question of voting a tax, however, could not be submitted while the tax levy voted for the benefit of the Toledo & Northwestern Railway stood. Since the Northwestern Railway did not intend to accept the tax on account of the provision of the law requiring the issue of railroad stock by the building company to the contributing taxpayers, that company was prevailed upon to release the levy in the spring of 1882.

The following May, notice of a special election of the voters of Boone township for the purpose of voting a five per cent tax to aid in the construction of the Webster City & Southwestern Railway was published. The Webster City & Southwestern Railway Company was to build the Crooked Creek extension. W. C. Willson was president of this company. The fact that he was urging the tax was enough to guarantee the opposition of the "down town" faction and the contention was immediately made that the people were asked to pay too much for a "stub" coal road. Boone township at that time included considerable farm territory east of Webster City and the farmers in this territory generally opposed the tax. The election resulted in a defeat of the tax by a vote of 401 to 260.

About a year later—in October, 1883—the tax proposition was again submitted in Boone township, this time a three per cent tax being asked for, and it carried by a vote of 326 for, to 310 against. As a three per cent tax from Boone township alone was not considered sufficient by the company, nothing was done.

In February, 1886, the proposition was again submitted to the voters of Boone township. This time a five per cent tax was asked for. The tax again carried by a vote of 308 for and 228 against.

The frequent votes taken upon the Crooked Creek Railroad proposition attracted some outside attention and the Fort Dodge Messenger, in March, made the following caustic comments:

"The annual five per cent tax has been voted by Webster City for the construction of the Crooked Creek Railroad to that place. The Argus says when that line is built the death knell will be sounded over the Mason City & Fort Dodge project. Most existing roads will doubtless have died of old age before that time arrives, however, so there is no use worrying over the prophesy. The forms, petitions and other preliminary documents for voting aid to the Crooked Creek road are said to be kept standing from year to year over in the village east of us, and when there is a positive stagnation of business a vote is ordered to keep people from dying of inaction. People over there are so used to this program that they count upon it just the same as they do on frost in the fall and a two-for-a-cent circus every summer. Rural communities are easily diverted and satisfied."

A few months after voting aid to the Crooked Creek, an engineering corps of the St. Louis, Des Moines and Northern Railroad made a preliminary survey through Hamilton county. The proposed line entered the county near Stratford, bore a little east of north, crossed the Boone river near Bell's Mill, passed through the west part of Webster City and left the county near the northeast corner of Cass township. The railroad company offered to bring the road to Webster City and establish a division for \$40,000.00, \$25,000 to be subscribed for stock of the company and \$15,000 to be given as a cash bonus. As a 5 per cent tax had just been voted to the Chicago Central Railroad, no tax could be voted to the St. Louis, Des Moines and Northern Railroad and a public meeting at Webster City was called to devise means to meet the proposition of the railroad company. The meeting was well attended by representatives of both up town and down town factions, and for an hour or two perfect harmony seemed to prevail in Webster City. It was decided to secure a relinquishment of two per cent of the tax voted to the Chicago Central Railroad which would raise about \$15,000 and to raise \$10,000 by taxation. A private subscription was started and Willson, Funk and Estes each subscribed \$1,000 and about \$6,000 was subscribed at the meeting. And during the brief period of good feeling "Walt" Willson became so generous that he publicly advocated locating the depot in the east part of town. In the meantime the question of voting aid was taken up in other parts of the county. A special election was to be held in Marion township June 17 and in Webster township July 5th.

In Marion township the tax was defeated by 3 majority. A correspondent from Stratford described the election as follows:

The railroad tax was defeated by only 3 votes. Marion was never so agitated. Every voter was out and every voter argued from "morn til dewie eve." It was a literary feast. Think of it! 237 orators and no listeners! It must not be supposed that because Marion declined to vote the tax that the people lack public spirit or are unfriendly to this line of proposed road. The result was due to various causes—Hard times, condition of crops, dread of further debt, all contributed to the cause. It may truthfully be summed up by saying the time was inopportune.

Before time for the Webster township election arrived the railroad company withdrew its election proposition and proposed another route through Hamilton county.

Continued assurances were given to Webster City, however, that if the stock subscriptions and bonus asked for were raised, the road would come. So at an informal meeting held January 26, 1887, it was decided to ask the city council to submit to a vote the question of the city appropriating \$15,000 to buy right of way and depot grounds. A petition was circulated and a majority of the free holders signed it and pursuant thereto an election was ordered for March 7th. Already about \$11,500 had been subscribed and with the \$15,000 proposed to be given by the city, there was only about \$3,500 to raise, and the coming of the railroad now seemed assured.

In the meantime suits had been started enjoining the collection of the tax voted to the Webster City and Southwestern Railway Company.

At a railroad meeting held in February these suits were discussed and the following resolutions were passed:

Whereas, the St. Louis, Des Moines and Northern Railroad Company have made a proposition to build their road into Webster City and establish a division with machine and repair shops, upon condition that sufficient grounds can be secured at a reasonable price, and the sum of \$30,000 be donated for the purchase of such grounds and for the establishment of such division and shops in Webster City; and as the town of Webster City has voted a tax to the Webster City and Southwestern Railroad, the collection of which is now pending, also, a suit to determine the legality of such tax; and believing by a compromise a portion of such tax can and ought to be diverted to aid in securing the St. Louis, Des Moines and Northern Railroad;

Therefore, we citizens and tax payers, are in favor of a compromise by a withdrawal and settlement of said suit, on condition that said Webster City and Southwestern Railroad Company will turn over the sum of \$8,000 from the tax now voted them to the St. Louis, Des Moines & Northern Railroad; and as united action is necessary, we are in favor of circulating a paper for the signatures of our citizens who are in favor of such settlement, and are willing to relinquish their right to stock of said Webster City & Southwestern Railroad.

The persons in charge of the suits would not dismiss and at once the cry was raised that the "up and down town fight" was at the bottom of it all, and that the tax contests were ruining our prospects to secure the new road. A long newspaper controversy between W. C. Willson and D. D. Chase on one side and W. J. Covil on the other followed.

Before the date of the city election to vote aid to the railroad company the company withdrew its proposition and in April, word was received that all work on the road had stopped on account of failure to procure funds. And so another railroad prospect died, not because of the "up and down town fight," but because of its own weak constitution.

The tax voted to the Webster City and Southwestern Railroad Company was sustained by Judge Weaver in the district court and on appeal was also sustained by the supreme court.

The line from Lehigh to Webster City was completed in 1887.

Surveyors for the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Southwestern Railway arrived

in January, 1889. They were following the line of the "Gibson survey" made in 1886 for the St. Louis, Des Moines and Northern Railroad. The proposed line was to extend from St. Paul to Kansas City and pass through Clarion, Webster City and Boone and there were new dreams of railroad importance, but they were only dreams for the road never materialized.

In November, 1892, there was talk of an extension of the Des Moines Northern and Western Railroad from Boone to Webster City and a meeting was held at which committees were appointed to encourage the enterprise, but nothing developed.

In the spring of 1893 it was reported that the Wenona and Southwestern Railway contemplated a line from Osage to Webster City and again public spirited citizens held a meeting and appointed committees. Later a call was issued asking that the counties of Floyd, Mitchell, Hamilton and Franklin select delegates to meet at Hampton to consider means to forward the enterprise. The delegates accordingly met in March and received a communication from the railroad company asking "large and liberal aid." A proposition was made to Webster City, which proposed that if a tax of five per cent was voted to aid the road, the line would be built to that city and both passenger and freight divisions established there.

Accordingly an election was called for June 29th. As the voting of a five per cent tax meant an investment of about \$50,000 by the people of Webster City, it did not meet with the enthusiastic reception the promoters of the enterprise expected, and at the election the tax was defeated by a vote of 298 for to 358 against.

Talk of a new railroad was not renewed again until in March, 1897. Mr. D. B. Hurd, a real estate dealer from Des Moines, at that time proposed to secure an extension of the Great Western Railway from Hampton to Webster City. Public meetings were held and B. C. Mason and W. N. Merrill were appointed as a committee to look after the interests of Webster City. They went to Minneapolis and interviewed President Stickney of the Great Western road, and on their return reported that the coming of the road was assured. To aid the road it was proposed that the people of the city vote a 1½ per cent special tax and at an election called for the purpose the tax carried by a vote of 749 for and 124 against. The financial depression of 1897, however, involved the Great Western in such a manner that the extension was not made.

## CHAPTER XX

### THE ROSENCRANS PARK

A HEALTH RESORT—THE FIRST PARK OPENING—THE SECOND PARK OPEN DAY—  
JUDGE DOANE'S ADDRESS—THE END OF THE PARK.

In 1884 the discovery of a number of strong flowing wells along Boone river at Webster City developed visions of another enterprise that should make Webster City famous and its people wealthy. The water from these wells was charged with mineral qualities, and a chemical analysis showed these to be of such proportions as to give the water a medicinal value. It was now evident to our enthusiasts that Webster City was destined to be a great health resort, and the following announcement appeared in the Freeman of July 9, 1884:

#### *To Health Seekers—Webster City's Mineral Spring!*

And overflowing wells present opportunities for health-seekers unsurpassed by few localities in the west. The "Big Mineral Spring" is situated within three minutes' walk of the postoffice, and its waters are perfectly pure and pleasant to the taste. Flowing up through a four-inch pipe at the rate of a barrel a minute, ample opportunity is afforded all who may come to "drink freely" of these waters that are commending themselves to the invalid and health-seeker. The analysis as made by Prof. Pope, of the Iowa State Agricultural College, shows in combination, iron, soda, magnesia, potash, and sulphur, with other medical properties in less degree; and are being tested by hundreds daily with decided benefit in case of rheumatism, kidney, bowel and stomach diseases, etc. The spring is fitted up for the convenience of visitors equal to any of the springs of the country, and is in close proximity to the flowing wells which are believed also to possess nearly or quite the same properties.

The facilities for reaching Webster City are scarcely excelled in the state—the town having direct railroad connection with Chicago, Sioux City, Des Moines, Council Bluffs, St. Paul and all the northwestern country. The hotel accommodations are first class with good board at from \$4 to \$6 per week; and at boarding houses entertainment can be furnished at from \$3 to \$4 per week. Webster City is pleasantly situated, with natural scenery, drives, churches, schools and other attractions to the visitor.

The proprietors of the spring are desirous of fitting up a sanitarium, and special inducements will be given to any competent and reliable physician who will take an interest in the enterprise.

For particulars address P. O. box 42, Webster City, Iowa.

While no reliable physician appeared with money enough to spare to push the health resort project, many people in Webster City drank the flowing waters, believed in them and were consequently benefited.

#### THE FIRST PARK OPENING

The flowing wells were located on a strip of river bottom on the east side of Boone river just south of Dubuque street, belonging to S. B. Rosencrans. Rosencrans was one of the earliest settlers and had always been prominent in business and politics. He was an enthusiast and dreamer. He had dreamed out the health resort project, but as it failed to materialize, his imagination now turned to another project. It was the creating of a beautiful public park about the now famous flowing wells. During all of the spring of 1885 he worked at this project with feverish activity, doing most of the work with his own hands. He built walks, edged with whitewashed stones, planted flowers, built sparkling fountains, put numerous seats in shady nooks, and by the last of May the park was a bower of beauty. It was then announced that on June 4, 1885, would occur the first grand park opening, when the park was to be thrown open to the public. The event was liberally advertised and people came from all parts of the county and the park was thronged with people all intent on a good time. Of all the happy faces that thronged the park none so beamed with joy and pleasure as that of Rosencrans, the host and philanthropist. He shook hands with everybody, ran hither and thither with feverish energy, pointing out and explaining what he had done and relating his pet schemes for the future. Every one paid homage to Rosencrans. In the evening the band serenaded him at his residence and he was called on for a speech and when he arose to speak, the cheers that greeted him brought tears of joy to his eyes.

He spoke in substance as follows:

"I can hardly find words to express myself to you on this occasion. I have lived in Webster City for nearly thirty years; have been at different times honored by your suffrages to places of public trust, but the manifestation of the present occasion comes home to my heart. I have often wondered, of late, why so few men of means do so little toward public benefit. At New Orleans last winter, in one of my strolls, I came to a park having a magnificent monument of a woman with her arm encircling a little boy. I wondered who and what it represented and upon inquiry of a little girl she responded, 'Why, don't you know who that is? It is Margaret's monument; don't you know, she built the Orphans' Asylum, which you see there?' This set me thinking; I came home and have since directed my efforts towards building up an institution that shall be a pleasure and a blessing to our city. I am laying a foundation for further improvements and the addition of more capital. When it comes my time to give up all that is dear in this life I want you to bury me by the large boulder in the park on the point overlooking Webster City. I shall prosecute this work with all that is within me, but if I should die tonight the work would go on, the wells would not cease to flow their health-giving water, not alone to our own people, but to the 'stranger within our gates.' I would rather have the good will and respect of my neighbors and friends than to leave wealth when I am through with this life. I thank you for this demon-

stration, and hope we may all meet in the city where we will walk the golden streets and drink the crystal waters. Again, I thank you. Good night!"

Nothing could give a clearer insight into the motives and aspirations of the man than that brief speech. He wanted to do something for his city and its people.

The Rosencrans park was now thrown open to the public. No public park was ever more liberally used or more intensely enjoyed. Old people reclined in the grateful shade and drank of the "health-giving waters" while the young people, in couples, strolled along the shady paths. The "Daniel Boone," a brave little craft, launched by Capt. Ed. Mabbott, carried its loads of happy excursionists up and down the mill pond.

The first park opening had been such an enjoyable occasion and the park was so thoroughly appreciated by the people that the park's opening day in 1886 was looked forward to with more pleasure than any other public occasion during the year. June 4th was a great day and great preparations had been made.

#### THE SECOND PARK OPENING DAY

The second grand park opening is described by the Freeman as follows:

#### *The Park Opening—A Grand Success—Over Three Thousand People on the Grounds*

The second annual opening of Rosencrans park occurred last Friday. The day was a beautiful type of June weather in this latitude; the roads were never better, and everything seemed to "work together for good" in making a pleasant gala-day for Webster City. About 10 A. M. the two brass bands met excursion trains on both the Illinois Central and Chicago and North-Western roads, from the north, east and west, bringing to this city, together with those who came on the early morning trains, upwards of three hundred excursionists. It was estimated, and we think about correctly, too, that at one time during the day, there were over three thousand people at the park, enjoying the shade, drinking the water, and having a good time generally at that popular resort. The order of the exercises was somewhat belated and disarranged on account of the enforced absence of Hon. G. B. Pray, who had been appointed chairman of the day, and Judge D. D. Chase, who was to have made the address. But under the management of Capt. Lewis Crary, who had charge, and Col. Geo. W. Crosley, who chanced to be in the city and who was made chairman, order soon came out of chaos. The band of little girls selected to represent the thirty years of Mr. Rosencrans' residence in this city, together with our two brass bands, provided music for the occasion to the satisfaction and delight of all present. At about 11 o'clock the throng was called to order and the following exercises ensued: Prayer, by Rev. L. N. Call, after which Hon. Wesley Martin was called upon to respond to the toast: "Now and Then," which had been previously designed as a counterpart to one which was to have been given by Hon. W. C. Willson, who was also unavoidably absent. But always being equal to the emergency, Mr. Martin stepped forward and responded in words that provoked loud laughter. He narrated his first arrival in this city—then a small village—his early hardships; his being admitted to the bar by Judge Bradley; of his being recommended by Judge D. D. Miracle in an odd and facetious manner. He then passed on over a period of one hundred years, and with his vivid imagination, pictured Webster City as a great metropolis of

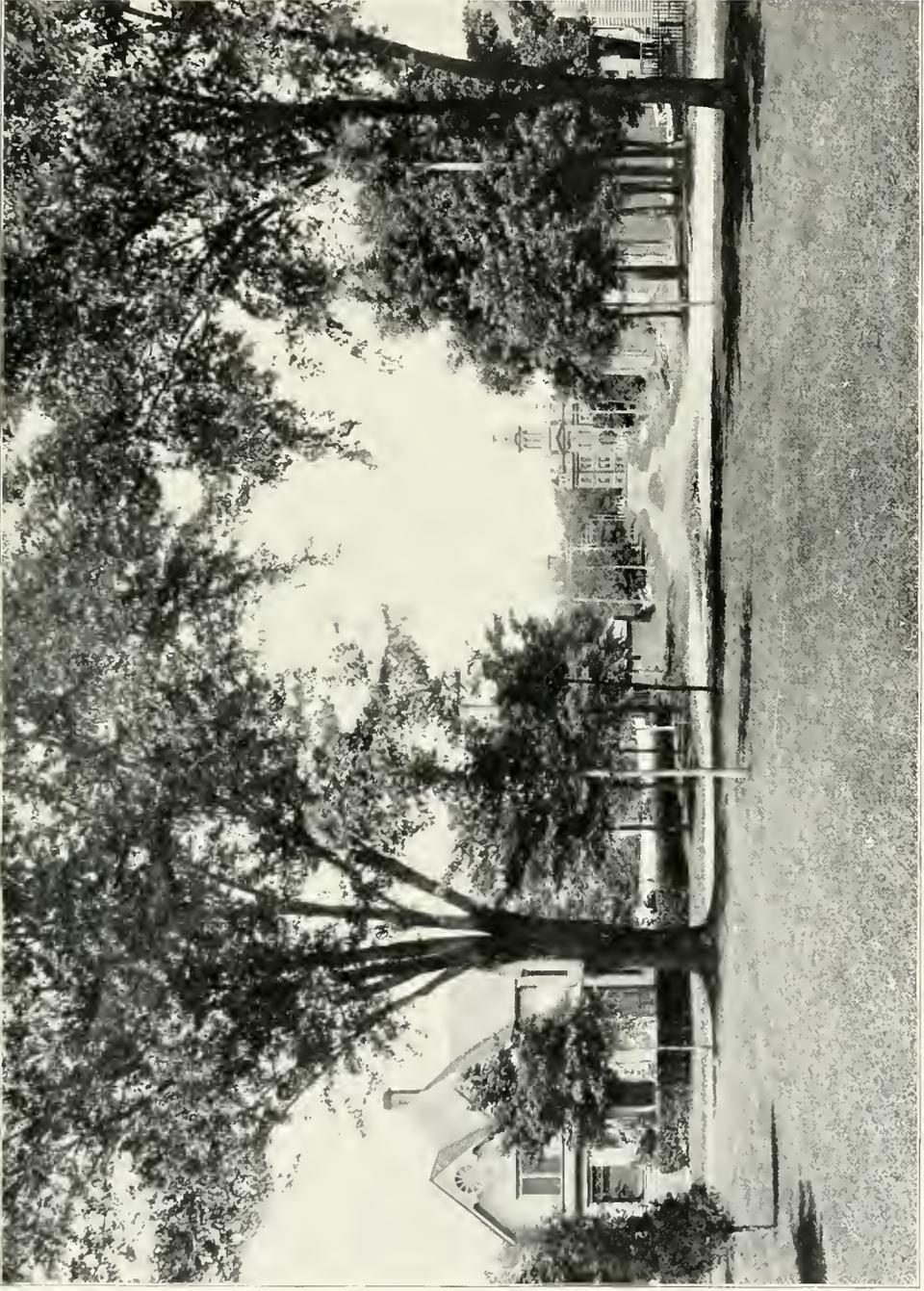
many thousand people; of this great resort, and of a centennial reunion and grand opening of the park—the vast multitude being addressed by the president of the United States, etc. While all this was pure imagination, there was an ingenuity displayed of great interest to all. But space forbids further mention. This was followed by Mayor Wickware, who responded to the toast "Mineral water to the front and whiskey to the rear." In his own interesting, original style, he said many pithy things in the five minutes allotted him. He referred to the pure spring which bubbled up from the surface of the earth near the "dead line" at Andersonville prison, at a time when the soldiers were all about to perish for water, and his apt comparison of the proprietor of Rosencrans park to the prophet at Horeb, who miraculously brought forth water for his fainting followers, was a taking hit. His little speech was happily put and heartily received. Hon. J. L. Kamrar responded to the toast, "The Mineral Springs—Webster City's Pride." He paid a fine tribute—as did all the speakers—to Mr. Rosencrans, through whose energy the park and flowing wells have been obtained, and spoke of the great pride and satisfaction manifested by our people over the possession of this beautiful park with its health-giving waters. During the few remarks he made he referred to the mineral wells as "a beautiful quartette of flowing waters." Another toast, "Nature Developed Man," was responded to by Capt. Geo. W. Bell, of the Graphic, who spoke in an eloquent and befitting manner. His description of the park and its beautiful surroundings was true to life, and highly appreciated by all who heard him. His effort was too great to have been condensed into a five minute talk, but all took in the situation and declared his speech excellent and among the best. After music by the two bands, Frank G. Yeoman, of the State Leader, spoke about ten minutes in a very interesting and animated manner. His idea of the value and beauty of the park and its surroundings was perhaps more exalted than that of any other speaker, and the compliment paid Mr. Rosencrans was highly appreciative and met with a hearty response in the minds of all present. Mr. Yeoman is a ready talker, and was thoroughly inspired with the spirit of the occasion.

The day is one long to be remembered. Many new acquaintances were formed, and those from our neighboring towns and cities expressed themselves as highly pleased with our city and her park. Over a hundred came from Eagle Grove and vicinity, and about the same from the directions of Iowa Falls, Lehigh and Fort Dodge. The afternoon was spent in strolling about the park and visiting different points of interest in the city—"the whole concluding" with the firemen's parade and dance in the evening.

The second annual park opening was followed by a third in 1887 equally successful and enthusiastic, then by a fourth in 1888 at which J. P. Dolliver and Capt. Yeoman of Fort Dodge were the principal speakers and by a fifth in 1889 at which Judge Isaiah Doane was a principal speaker. The Judge's closing remarks, so characteristic in showing his style of oratory and in describing the beauties of the park, we give below:

#### JUDGE DOANE'S ADDRESS

And now a few words as to this fourth of June anniversary, and I have done.



CITY PARK, WEBSTER CITY



This charming park, with its sylvan groves; its miniature mountains and valleys; its sparkling fountains; its rippling river; its bubbling springs; its shady nooks; its menagerie of animals; with its promenades and pavilions; its seats, swings and other conveniences and adornments, was first formally opened to the public as a pleasure resort, on the 4th day of June, 1884, by the proprietor, Hon. S. B. Rosencrans, whose honored name it bears. The citizens of the town and surrounding country were invited to come and make it a festive occasion by partaking of a picnic dinner, and carrying out a short and simple program of literary exercises, and social amusements. So marked was the success of the experiment that each succeeding 4th of June has been celebrated in like manner, with increasing interest, until the day has come to be the holiday of the season; as is evidenced by the throngs of happy participants in the exercises and pleasures of this day.

Right vividly does your humble speaker remember when all this beautiful scenery was a primeval forest with an almost impenetrable mesh of matted underbrush and decaying trees, overlooking the then unpretentious little village of "New Castle," along the bank of Boone river.

Now, the fine suburban town of "Hoboken," with its pleasant surroundings, including this Eden-like park, stands over against an imposing city with its magnificent courthouse; its many massive business blocks; its palatial residences; its pleasant homes; its commodious schoolhouse; its steepled churches; its miles of excellent streets and sidewalks; and its three railroads and depot; all embowered in Arcadian groves of surpassing loveliness. I have already spoken of this park as Eden-like. What are the points of resemblance?

First. God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and this park is eastward in Webster City.

Second. Out of the ground grows every tree that is pleasant to the sight; as in Eden.

Third. A river went out from Eden to water the garden, and from thence it was parted and became into four heads. In like manner, a river goes out from this park to water the garden of Hamilton county to the southward; and from hence it is divided into four heads.

The name of the first is Brewer's creek, which goeth out into all the land of Freedom and Fremont to the northward.

The name of the second is Lyon's creek, which compasseth the land round about the Poor Farm, and stretcheth out its arms even unto the Percheron place.

The name of the third is White Fox, which goeth toward the east of the land of Cass.

The name of the fourth is Boone river, which like the great Euphrates issueth out of the north country, and comes sweeping down through the garden; and gathering the waters of its triple tributaries upon its bosom, bears them onward to the sea.

And finally, it is not good that man should be alone, hence in the cool of the day many bring their prospective helpmeets with them, and they twain do meditate in unison.

I have already spoken of the success and rapidly increasing popularity of this June holiday. And while too much credit cannot well be given to Mr. Rosencrans and the appreciative friends and public spirited citizens who have from time to time extended him financial aid in his efforts to make this park "a thing of

beauty, and a joy forever," yet there are several conditions entering as factors in the magic result.

Some of these are—

First. The natural beauty of the place and its surroundings.

Second. The extremely fortunate selection of the time, coming as it does, when young summer dons her gayest attire, and walks forth in her most ethereal loveliness.

Third. It is preeminently a farmer's festival. Falling in just between the arduous labors of the planting and cultivating seasons, it "fills a long-felt want." It is, in fact, the prelude and counterpart of his time-honored festival of Harvest Home. This is shown by the farmers' teams and carriages that have blocked our bridges and thronged our thoroughfares, from an early hour of this beautiful morning.

These annual gatherings form a bond of sympathy and good feeling between the closer relations. A broader acquaintance is formed; we come to know and appreciate each other better. We meet when all are in their happiest mood. The corrugated brow of care is relaxed, and radiant with joy, and we instinctively and instantaneously come to esteem and love each other better.

In this view alone our local anniversary is an element of incalculable value in the cultivation of the social amenities, and stamps our friend Rosencrans as a public benefactor. And thousands of these young lads and lasses who come up to these yearly gatherings, to enjoy a day of relaxation from the routine of farm duties, will, in after years, rise up and call him blessed. Man is a social being, and he or she who does anything to develop, strengthen, elevate and refine that element in his character, lifts him God-ward by just so much.

I believe it is the Swedenborgians who maintain that on entering the spirit world we resume and pursue the avocations which our tastes and habits have fitted us for in this life. If this plausible theory be true, who shall say that when the American people are gathered to celebrate their second centennial, that you and I may not be enjoying a glorious gala day in the heavenly Jerusalem, near the headwaters of the River of Life, in some ambrosial arbor of the tree whose leaves are for the healing of the nations, adorned, kept and cared for by the noble pair whose honored guests we are today—Selim B. Rosencrans, and his good wife, Charlotte.

#### THE END OF THE PARK

1890 witnessed another park opening anniversary and 1891, still another, but the people were tiring of the park and looking for new playthings. Hon. S. B. Rosencrans, the hero of former days, was now known as "Old Rosy." The people still visited his park, stepped on his flower beds, tramped across his lawns, drank the "health giving waters" and went away ridiculing "Old Rosy." In 1892, another park opening anniversary was held. Lafe Young, of Des Moines, was scheduled as speaker, but on account of sickness, was unable to be present. This caused considerable disappointment. The "Knockers" now got in their work. In their opinion, "June 4th was worn out"—"It was an imposition on the business men"—"It was a useless demonstration and 'Rosy' ought to be called off." At last Rosencrans, broken down physically and financially, and almost heart-broken at the apparent ingratitude of the people

he had tried so hard to befriend, gave up the park project and sold the ground. It immediately fell into decay, the wells of "Health giving" water clogged up and ceased to flow, the beautiful walks on the hillside were washed out by the rains and rank weeds and grass took possession of what was once a bower of beauty.

And thus Rosencrans park, at one time the most popular pleasure resort in the county, passed into history.



## CHAPTER XXI

### INVENTIONS, MANUFACTURING, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE

INVENTIONS—MANUFACTURING—THE TILE FACTORY—LITCHFIELD MANUFACTURING COMPANY—WHOLESALE GROCERY—THE SHOE FACTORY—THE CANNING FACTORY—WEBSTER CITY HOT WATER HEATING COMPANY—MARTIN TELEPHONE COMPANY—SIEVE FACTORY—RETARDER FACTORY—BOTTLING WORKS—GENERAL CONTRACTORS—MOCA SINE FACTORY—AMERICAN STOCK FOOD COMPANY—NEFF HANDLEBAR COMPANY—BROWN SPRING ICE SKATE COMPANY—QUEEN MANUFACTURING COMPANY—CEMENT PIPE AND TILE COMPANY—RETAIL TRADE—BUSINESS DIRECTORY IN 1869—DIRECTORY IN 1881—DIRECTORY IN 1896—DIRECTORY IN 1904.

#### INVENTIONS

One of the greatest inventions of modern times had its inception in Hamilton county. This invention has since been improved and perfected until today, nearly every business house in the world has its typewriter. Yet, few people, even in Hamilton county, know that for over forty years the original typewriter, the first one ever built, lay in the wood-house of Samuel Baxter in Webster City, Iowa, forgotten by even the man who invented it. About the year 1867 or 1868, Abner Peeler, a jeweler, who was known by many as "Charley Wright," perfected an invention for writing with type, which attracted the attention of his employer, Mr. William Crosley. The machine worked so well that Crosley took Peeler and a model of the invention, to Washington and a patent was secured. It is questionable if even the inventor realized that he had discovered a great principle in mechanical construction. His machine was so constructed that the carriage holding the paper could be by means of an ingenious and rather complicated lever, readily shifted to a position over the letter which the operator desired to print. While the machine was crude, it was a typewriter and could be operated successfully. The attorney who prepared the papers necessary to secure the patent, did not, in his documents, make the description cover the great principle discovered and in this respect, the patent was defective. The defect was discovered by others and later, patents were procured by strangers claiming the discovery which, in reality, belonged to Abner Peeler. Peeler, like many other men of genius, had but little business ability and he soon lost interest in his typewriter and became engaged in studying out some other invention. He later invented an engraving machine, then a knitting machine and still later, perfected an improvement for the Singer sewing machine.

But in spite of his great ingenuity and skill as an inventor, his discoveries were usually appropriated by others and he himself reaped little pecuniary benefit from them. After leaving Webster City, he lived many years at Lehigh and several members of his family still reside in Webster county. He was the father of Mrs. William Whiteman of Webster City.

The original typewriter is still in the possession of Samuel Baxter in Webster City.

#### MANUFACTURING

It has already been noted that in the pioneer days of the county many of the articles in common use were manufactured at home. There were no large factories, but numerous small shops were established and most of the work was done by hand. Every community has its blacksmith and wagon shops, and in these small establishments nearly everything in daily use from furniture to farm machinery was made.

About the time of the close of the war, William Howell, a pioneer blacksmith invented a plow that worked so well in the black, rich soil of Hamilton county that there was a demand for its manufacture, and the plowworks of Howell & Tiffany were established in 1868. Howell was a workman and not a business man and Tiffany was neither workman nor business man, so the institution did not prosper. After a short time differences between the partners led to a series of law suits which wiped out the establishment entirely.

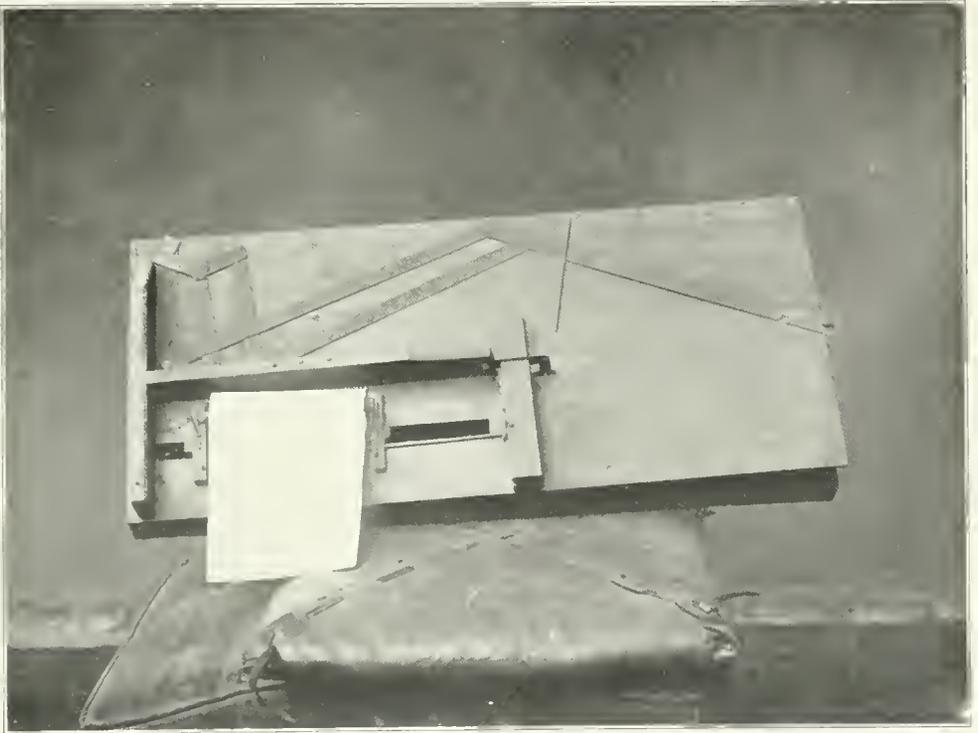
In the early sixties J. D. Sketchley manufactured furniture. Ira Hilliard conducted a brick yard. Allen & Burnett operated a pottery.

In 187— F. E. Brown established a carriage factory which prospered for a number of years. During this time Mr. Brown invented and manufactured a speed cart which was very popular with horse trainers and drivers.

In 1883, Soule, Funk & Hagens commenced the operation of a tile factory at Webster City. Prior to this time Ira Hilliard had made a few small tile at his brick yard, but his output was very limited. The new tile factory was a most important institution and was described by the Freeman of July 8, 1883, in the following language:

#### THE WEBSTER CITY TILE FACTORY,

Soule, Funk & Hagens, proprietors, put their machinery in motion and commenced the manufacture of drain tile Tuesday afternoon. This is the beginning of what promises an important addition to the business industries of Webster City, and is in the hands of men who have the capital and energy to make a success of it. The only part of the business that is yet an experiment is the utility of the material out of which the tile are made. The clay now being used is secured on the river bottom in the vicinity of Ira Hilliard's old brickyard and at other points near the city. The capacity of the factory, as at present equipped, is 10,000 3-in. tile per day, employing in the various branches of the work, twelve to fifteen men. The process of making tile, with the improved machinery now in use, is very simple, although the appliances are strong and powerful. The clay is first thrown into a mill and thoroughly ground; then transferred to the moulding machine, from which it comes in one continuous "pipe" and is accu-



FIRST TYPEWRITER EVER BUILT

Invented and Constructed by Abner Peeler in Webster City in 1868



rately and neatly cut into required lengths by wire "nippers." From the moulds the tile are taken and set up in the long drying shed, from which they are removed after six or eight days to the kiln and burned to the proper consistency. The machinery, which is propelled by a twenty-five horse power engine, is massive and solid in every part, and does its work in the most complete manner. Ed. Mabbott is the engineer, and Mr. Brewster of Des Moines, foreman of the works at the new tile factory—both experienced and competent in the work assigned them. Charlie Soule is the general superintendent, and puts in his time looking after "details," drawing checks and doing other heavy work. A large kiln is now being built in the rear of the drying house, which will be ready for use in a few days. Other necessary improvements are going on about the premises, which, when completed, will add to the general capacity of the works, and enable the proprietors to do as good work as can be done at any similar manufactory in the state. Our citizens and the people generally throughout this region of country, will rejoice over the establishment of this important industry in our midst, and will hope that it may prove a source of profit to its proprietors—as it is sure to prove of lasting benefit to the country.

The tile factory has been in successful operation for nearly thirty years. With the expansion of its business, new and improved equipment has been added until, today, it is one of the most substantial institutions in northern Iowa. Let it be recorded that up to this time (1912), in all the history of our county manufacturing, no enterprise has contributed more than this one to the material advancement and prosperity of our people. Its smoking kilns have burned the tile that have transformed hundreds of swampy, worthless tracts of land into the richest of agricultural fields.

#### LITCHFIELD MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Back in the seventies, L. Litchfield came to Webster City and opened a blacksmith shop. Later he added a foundry, and in the early nineties, when his boys had grown to men, they joined forces with their father. The concern was soon doing a general manufacturing business. Among the articles built were hot air furnaces, feed grinders and end gates for wagons. Their leading articles were extensively advertised and soon they were receiving orders from all parts of the world. After the death of L. Litchfield, his sons organized the Litchfield Manufacturing Company, which was duly incorporated under the laws of Iowa in April, 1903.

While most of the products of their factory were used near home, some were sent abroad and this is perhaps the first concern in Hamilton county to manufacture articles for foreign export. In 19—, the Litchfield Manufacturing Company moved to Waterloo and its departure was largely responsible for a considerable falling off in the population of Webster City. The families of working men followed this enterprise to its new home to secure employment with the concern, and friends of these families found employment with other industries, so it developed that the moving of the Litchfields was a serious loss to Webster City.

Prior to 1890, most of the public movements to aid in building up the county were directed toward the securing of new railroads. While public subscriptions

and taxes were always ready for the new railroad proposition, it apparently had not occurred to the people that this same aid and encouragement offered to manufacturing enterprises might be even more conducive to the growth of the community than the building of more railroads. In 1893, however, a new policy began to be urged. We needed foreign enterprise and capital and to secure this, it was asserted that we must be ready and willing to give liberal and substantial encouragement to the new enterprise that would bring its business to our county.

#### THE WHOLESALE GROCERY

Accordingly, when it became known that a large wholesale grocery concern from Des Moines was looking for a new location, the people were enthusiastic in their efforts to induce it to locate at Webster City. They were successful in these efforts and the Webster City Grocery Company, owned chiefly by Howell, Wall & Little of Des Moines, was organized with a capital stock of \$50,000, with its principal place of business at Webster City. To secure this enterprise, a two-story brick building was erected on West Second street by W. C. Willson and J. M. Funk, 50x120 feet in size and a subscription of about \$2,000 was raised to pay the rent on this building for a term of two years. The city, with rather doubtful authority, voted free lights and water for a term of two years and municipal taxes were remitted for a term of five years. In consideration of these concessions, the new wholesale grocery company agreed to continue in business in Webster City for a term of five years. The business was placed in charge of R. M. Warfield. The grocery company fulfilled its contract and stayed five years, but as soon as its "time" was up, it beat a hasty retreat to a larger trade center.

#### THE SHOE FACTORY

Now that this policy of giving aid to new enterprises had been inaugurated, it was not hard to find people who were willing to accept the aid. In April, 1893, an imposing looking gentleman by the name of Shoemith, appeared in Webster City looking for a location for a large shoe factory, then located in Illinois. His scheme was to buy a tract of ground adjacent to Webster City, plat it into town lots, sell the lots to the people and use so much of the proceeds as the promoter could spare to encourage the enterprise. The scheme was well received and a tract of ground was purchased just east of Boone river and adjoining the Illinois Central Railroad track. Two hundred and fifty lots were placed on the market at \$150 each. These were to be sold and then at a public "drawing" the location of each lot was to be assigned to the purchaser by lot. Thus the sum of \$37,500 was raised. A large brick factory building was erected close to the Illinois Central Railroad track and on the tract that had been platted. The factory building was two stories high and 40x125 feet in dimensions. The cornerstone of the new factory was laid with imposing ceremonies, August 16, 1893, and in December the building was completed and Strohmeier Bros. took charge of the factory and conducted it for several years. They did not succeed and finally went into bankruptcy. At the bankrupt sale, in 1902, the factory building was purchased by J. M. Funk and a new company composed of local stockholders was organized.



SHOE FACTORY, WEBSTER CITY



This company was well capitalized and was known as The Northwestern Felt Shoe Company, its principal business being to manufacture felt shoes. A manager by the name of McKowan was secured from an eastern factory and the business started up again with bright prospects. It continued about a year when some irregularities in the management of the business were discovered by the directors and suspicion was directed toward McKowan. Almost immediately after the discovery of these irregularities, the factory was burned to the ground. A few days after the fire, McKowan left for parts unknown. It was charged that McKowan had been playing "fast and loose" with the business of the company and had covered up his shortages by turning in bogus invoices for goods that had never been received, and to prevent a checking up of the stock of supplies on hand, had set fire to the factory. His flight so soon after the fire led to the belief that the charges were true and the grand jury indicted him for embezzlement and for arson.

For several years nothing was heard of McKowan, but finally he was located in California and was brought back to Webster City for trial. The McKowan trials were the sensations of the day. He was first tried for arson. John D. Porter, county attorney, and A. N. Boeye, prosecuted while D. C. Chase and Wesley Martin defended. The jury returned a verdict of guilty but Judge Lee, on motion, granted a new trial. In the meantime the trial for embezzlement came and a change of venue was taken to Webster county on the ground that popular prejudice was so strong against McKowan at Webster City that he could not secure a fair trial there. At Fort Dodge, the trial for embezzlement resulted in a verdict of not guilty. The second trial for arson was held in Wright county and here too, after a stubborn fight, the jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

After the burning of the shoe factory, a new company known as "Northwestern Felt Shoe Co." was organized and a manufacturing plant was installed in the building formerly occupied by the wholesale grocery store, and this company is now doing a prosperous business.

#### THE CANNING FACTORY

The shoe factory was hardly under way before B. R. Stare representing the Mansfield Canning company came to Webster City with a proposition for starting a canning factory. This institution wanted a bonus of \$20,000 in money and land, but it is doubtful if this amount was raised. However, in the summer of 1894, the canning factory was built and contracts for the delivery of sweet corn were made with nearby farmers. This factory did a good business for several years but finally discontinued and the buildings were torn down and removed.

#### WEBSTER CITY HOT WATER HEATING COMPANY

In 1892, Bunker and Hazzard came to Webster City and after receiving substantial encouragement from the people in form of a bonus to aid in securing grounds and erecting shops, opened a foundry and machine shop. Soon L. T. Bunker invented a steel radiator and commenced the manufacture of hot water heating plants and became known as the Webster City Hot Water Heating Company. Later James Kephart became interested in the enterprise.

The factory was located at the corner of Prospect and Third streets in Webster City. At first this company did a thriving business and installed quite a number of heating plants in and about Webster City but later the business ceased to thrive and the concern was succeeded by the Webster City Steel Radiator Company which confined its operation mainly to the manufacture of steel radiators for hot water and steam plants. This enterprise was making good progress when in 1908 the buildings took fire and were entirely destroyed.

#### MARTIN TELEPHONE COMPANY

commenced the erection of its telephone exchange in Webster City in the spring of 1894. Its founder, E. H. Martin was a young man of limited means and the first exchange was a crude affair. Some fifteen years before the Bell Company had installed a telephone system in Webster City but after a short time it was taken out and the service discontinued. Martin's project was well received and the exchange was soon on a paying basis. As the business increased, new and improved apparatus was installed and lines were extended throughout the county and today (1912) the company is prosperous and its service is universally satisfactory.

#### SIEVE FACTORY

The student of Hamilton county will not fail to notice that those enterprises that came to the county because of some bonus or financial inducement, were not very long lived or substantial and it is to be expected that most of them operated almost entirely by means of the donations received. The shoe factory, the canning factory, the Hot Water Heating Company, the Wholesale Grocery Company, all of them aided liberally by our citizens, did not prove to be permanent enterprises. But in the year, 1892, there was opened in Webster City an enterprise that did not ask a bonus. Charles Cloz had invented a separator seive and the Cloz and Howard Manufacturing Company commenced their manufacture. This institution has grown steadily since its establishment and today (1912) furnishes employment for about thirty men.

#### RETARDER FACTORY

In 1895, a plasterer by the name of F. A. Conklin, discovered a process for retarding the "setting" or hardening of stucco plaster. Prior to the discovery, the plaster had to be mixed with water containing a solution of glue and often much waste occurred by plaster hardening before it could be placed upon the wall. But by the use of this process a dry compound was made which could be mixed with the plaster at the factory and the hardening of the plaster was thus retarded sufficiently to give the workmen plenty of time to properly spread and trowel his work. A company was organized in 1895 and a factory built in the western part of Webster City. This factory has always been a paying institution. In 1905 the factory was burned. Its owners Parkhurst and King rebuilt the factory upon ground about one-half mile east of the Boone river on the I. C. R. R. and this is today one of our most substantial institutions.

## BOTTLING WORKS

The Webster City Bottling works, established by J. W. Allington in the early nineties, continued in operation for a number of years and in 1896 the Iowa Churn company had a small factory on Seneca street.

## GENERAL CONTRACTORS

In 1896 there came to Webster City two men who have ever since been important factors in its business circles. These were W. J. Zitterell and C. E. Atkinson. At that time they were members of the firm of Zitterell & Atkinson, general contractors. Since then the firm has dissolved partnership and each is conducting a business of his own. They are among the leading contractors of the state and have erected some of the best buildings in Iowa, among which might be mentioned the Kendall Young Library by W. J. Zitterell and the Webster City postoffice by E. F. Atkinson.

## MOCA SINE FACTORY

In 1897, a factory was started by W. G. Bale and others for the manufacture of "Moca Sine," a substitute for coffee, and operated for some time, but failed to be sufficiently profitable to warrant its continuance.

## AMERICAN STOCK FOOD COMPANY

In 1898 the American Stock Food Company erected a building on Union street in Webster City and for some time operated a factory for the manufacture of stock food. Things went well for a while but finally it was forced to discontinue. The building was purchased by William Wilke and was later destroyed by fire.

While the people were liberal in giving aid to proposed new industries they were reluctant to give anything to keep at home industries already established. The Litchfield Manufacturing Company was a substantial, well established institution. It was employing from thirty to fifty men. This company desired to increase its facilities and made an attempt to get some assistance from its home town. They were unsuccessful in this, and when the business men of Waterloo offered the Litchfields much more than they had dared to ask of their home people, the people of Webster City had cause to regret, that they had not been more liberal with them. The loss of the Litchfield Manufacturing Company was the beginning of a set back in the advancement of Webster City that lasted for several years. They took with them to Waterloo, not only the people employed by them, but many others who looked for brighter prospects in the larger city to our east. But time is a great healer of diseases and soon the buildings left vacant by the Litchfields and their friends were filled by others and the town continued its steady progress as of yore.

## NEFF HANDLEBAR COMPANY

In 1901, the "Neff Handlebar Company," conducted by the Smizer Brothers was instituted for the manufacture of handle bars for bicycles, and this concern while operating in Webster City, built an automobile, which attracted a great deal of attention locally, at the time.

## BROWN SPRING ICE SKATE COMPANY

In 1903, the Brown Spring Ice Skate Company was incorporated and opened its factory. F. E. Brown had years before, conducted a carriage factory in Webster City and had invented a number of useful articles. He now invented a spring ice skate and a company of local capitalists was formed to manufacture it. From the start this company has paid a substantial dividend to its stockholders and its business has been continually growing. The institution now employs about twenty men.

## THE QUEEN MANUFACTURING COMPANY

The Queen Manufacturing Company headed by A. S. Burness was organized in 1906 for the purpose of making steel door mats. Later the concern had been largely engaged in manufacturing attachments and equipment for automobiles and has been generally successful.

## THE CEMENT PIPE AND TILE COMPANY

The Cement Pipe & Tile Company was established in 1907. It opened its factory on the Northwestern railroad grounds on Des Moines street, producing cement tile and cement building blocks and is still in operation.

## RETAIL TRADE

People who come to a new country are usually seeking their fortune and so they at once engage in some business or employment and to attempt to write separately of each business man would require a large volume. But in order to preserve the names of those who were in business, we give hereafter a number of business directories of Webster City, covering different periods and a study of these directories will be interesting to the student as well as to the old settlers, to whom the mere mention of a name often brings a flood of pleasant recollections.

In 1869, there came to Webster City a peculiar character. He was a sort of "Jack of All Trades" and worked at anything that furnished the means of filling his larder and replenishing his flask. He was engaged by J. D. Hunter to write a historical sketch of Webster City and this sketch appeared in the Freeman in the winter of 1869. This man's name was J. H. Stephenson and he describes himself at the close of his historical sketch in the following manner:

"I trust it will not be considered exaggeration to mention as the most important event that took place during '69 was the arrival of J. H. Stephenson, lather, poet, historian, novelist, elocutionist, tragedian, stump speaker, runner, rambler, rake, sport and author of the Historical Sketch of Webster City."

As a part of this sketch, which, by the way, contained many important historical facts, was a business directory of Webster City in 1869:

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY IN 1869

Judicial—District judge, D. D. Chase.

Professional—Attorneys-at-law—J. Skinner, Seneca street, established in '57. N. B. Hyatt, Bank street, established January, 1816. C. A. Clark, Seneca street, established May, '66. D. D. Miracle, Seneca, established May, '64. W. J. Covil,

Seneca, established February, '66. Todisman & Pray, Seneca, established June, '69.

Medical—J. Burgess, M. D., Division street, established April, '57. H. N. Crapper, M. D., Seneca street, established in '62. H. E. Hendricks, M. D., Seneca street, established in '95. H. N. Curtis, M. D., Bank street, established Sept. '68.

Dentistry—M. Sibley, Bank street, established May '69.

Clerical—Rev. J. W. Harvey, pastor Congregational church, Bank street, Oct. '55. Rev. J. M. Bly, Methodist, Bank street, May, '58.

Editorial—Hon. J. D. Hunter, editor and proprietor Hamilton Freeman, Seneca street, 1856.

Dry Goods—Jones & Young, Seneca street, established Oct. '59. L. L. Treat, Seneca, established April '63. G. W. Crosley, Seneca, established Sept. '65. John Patterson & Co., Bank street, established May '68. Requa & Croft, Second street, established Oct. '69. Tate & Co., Seneca street, established Nov. '69.

Druggists—L. L. Estes, Seneca street, established June '56. Allen & Crosley, Seneca, established Aug. '68.

Groceries and Provisions—Church & McKee, Bank street, established April '65. A. E. Atwell, Bank, established October '67. J. Vanskike, Seneca street, established Nov. '69.

Clothing—R. I. Burlison, Bank street, established October '69.

Merchant Tailors—W. W. Wells, Bank street, established June, '57. A. Smith, Seneca street, established April '69.

Boots and Shoes—D. M. Hartman, Seneca street, established November '68. D. Smith, Bank street, established 1869.

Jewelers—P. Williams, Seneca street, established September '68. E. R. Lee, Seneca, established May '69.

Dealers in Agricultural Implements—Cox & Worthington, Des Moines street, established November '67. Tolerton & Smith, Seneca street, established November '67. Tolerton & Smith, Seneca street, established May '69.

Grain and Produce Dealers—R. E. Fairchild, Seneca street, established July '69. J. H. Jeffries, established September '69. J. Oliver established August '69.

Livery—Arthur & Collins, Water street, established August '65. S. Willson, Second street, established September '68.

Carpenters and Joiners—Leonard & Johnson, Bank street, established November '64. J. W. Flemming, First street, established January '69. A. Smith, Second street, established November '64. I. Worthington, Division street, established October '55.

Blacksmithing—R. Howard, Division street, established July '63. S. Cleckner, Division street, established July '66. J. Frakes, Division street, established October '69. Fisher & Remington, Willson avenue, established September '68. Howell & Tiffany, Superior street, established '68.

Bankers—Miller & Sternberg, Seneca street, established December '67.

Lumber Dealers—Cox & Worthington, Des Moines street, established Nov. '67. C. T. Fenton, First street, established April '69. J. Ewen & Son, Des Moines street, established September '69.

Hardware—Jay Sternberg, Seneca street, established January, '68. L. Crary, Seneca street, established August '69. E. Brophy, Seneca street, established May '69.

Furniture—J. D. Sketchley, Seneca street, established May '63.

Harness Makers—E. T. Holt, Seneca street, established August '67. W. T. Medary & Co., Seneca street, established September '69.

Wagon Maker—J. L. Kamrar, Seneca street, established July '69.

Painter—M. R. Dalby, Seneca street, established Feb. '66.

Cooperage—J. Gager, Seneca street, established July '66.

Brick Makers—Ira Hilliard, Bank street, established 1856. J. Allen, Bank street, established May '67.

Pottery—Allen & Burnett, Bank street, established June '67.

Milliners—Miss D. Swanger, Bank street, established October '64. Mrs. A. M. Bailey, Bank street, established November '69. Mrs. A. Burrhus, Bank street, established October '69.

Hotels—Willson House, Des Moines and Second streets, established July '69. American House, Bank and Seneca streets, established November '56. Potter House, Bank street, established July '62.

Restaurants—S. Baxter, Seneca street, established June '69. Bamborough & Wilder, Seneca street, established October '69.

Billiard Halls—W. N. Browning, Seneca street, established December '65. Manning & Miracle, Second street, established July '69.

Saloons—J. Bossett, Second street, established August '66. F. Burrhus, Bank street, established November '69.

Saloon and Oyster Depot—W. J. Young, Bank street, established October '69.

Barber—W. F. Murphy, Seneca street, established February '68.

Meat Markets—R. A. Sargent, Bank street, established April '68. J. Roskopf, Seneca street, established November '68.

News Dealer—K. T. Waters, Seneca street, established September '69.

Auctioneer—W. L. Church, Bank street, established November '55.

Government Officers—Postmaster, L. L. Estes.

Assistant Assessor—M. Evarts.

Assistant Collector—C. Wickware.

United States Commissioner—D. D. Miracle.

Twelve years later, in 1881, was prepared another directory of Webster City and it will be noticed that only a few of those who were in business twelve years before are on this list. New names take their places:

#### WEBSTER CITY IN 1881

General Stocks—Jones & Smith, F. E. Edwards & Co., J. H. Smith & Son, B. F. Derr & Co., Wheeler & Young, L. L. Treat, Altmeyer & Co., R. K. Eastman, M. H. & G. W. Smith.

Groceries—Scriven & Wickware, Hubbard & Eames, Crandall & Eyer, Pickard & Hoyt, J. D. Sketchley, Eastman & Zublin, Fritz Jensen, Geo. Wambach, M. Cherrie & Son, John Derrickson.

Hardware—Crary & Evans, J. P. Clagg, Lager & McMurchy, P. Wolf.

Druggists—Teed & Detlor, Second street, Miller & Packard, Kimball & Black, Teed & Detlor, Seneca street.

Clothing—Frank Bros., W. L. Gary, L. Sime.

Boots and Shoes—Geo. Shipp & Son, Gilbert & Trumbauer, O. C. Donaldson.

- Furniture—J. W. Allington, Stotz & Beach, J. H. Lee & Co.  
 Millinery Goods—Mrs. A. J. Boyington, Mrs. K. H. Shane, Mrs. A. Thompson.  
 Implement Dealers—S. J. Root, W. B. Howard, J. P. Clagg, N. Cox.  
 Lumber—F. D. Young, Nelson & Co., E. N. Lee, Z. Gilman.  
 Real Estate—R. N. Woodworth, John L. Kamrar, W. C. Allen, M. Everts, W. J. Covil, I. Doane.  
 Coal Dealers—E. D. Goit, Nelson & Co., J. W. Maffit  
 Merchant Tailors—F. I. Cash, W. W. Wells, M. Deady.  
 Restaurants—Phil Renillard, G. W. Burden, S. Hamler, Mrs. Bates, Ed. Shultz, W. A. Hutton, Frank Ward, C. W. Hathway.  
 Flour and Feed—W. H. Riley, E. S. Kimball, W. W. Stow, Wm. Woodruff.  
 Jewelry, Books and Stationery—Teed & Detlor, Seneca street; Lee Bros., Teed & Detlor, Second street.  
 Ladies' Furnishing Goods—Misses Howard and Reeves, Mrs. Rice.  
 Elevators and Stock Dealers—J. W. Mattice, F. D. Young, B. F. Miller & Son, M. L. McCullough, Ira W. Packard.  
 Meat Markets—Zublin & De La Mater, Babbitt Bros., J. Schaller, French & Proctor, Ulrich & Lenhart.  
 Harness—H. N. McClure, A. J. Allen, W. H. Floyd.  
 Banks—First National, McMurray & Eastman, B. F. Miller & Son.  
 Hotels—Willson House, Grand Central, Potter House, Gardner House, Hamilton House.  
 Mills—Eagle Mill, steam; Moore & Fenton, Model Mills, steam; Mabbott & Son, D. D. Chase, water mills.  
 Photograph Galleries—John Cook, J. W. Oberholtzer.  
 Churches—Congregational, Rev. J. E. Wheeler; Methodist, Rev. E. N. Earhart; Baptist, Rev. L. N. Call; German Lutheran, Rev. H. W. Rabe; Catholic, Rev. Father Brennan; Universalist, not supplied.  
 Lawyers—Chase & Chase, Martin & Hall, J. L. Kamrar, F. Q. Lee, N. B. Hyatt, W. J. Covil, G. B. Pray, E. D. Burgess, L. J. Pierson.  
 Physicians and Surgeons—J. N. Medbery, J. R. Compton, J. P. Williams, C. I. Eberle, T. K. Ross, S. Robbins.  
 Veterinary Surgeons—A. Prosser, W. H. Ely.  
 Barber Shops—Pace & Ashcraft, John Poncin, L. B. Ash.  
 Newspapers—The Hamilton Freeman, Hunter & Smith; Webster City Argus, Pray & Chase; Webster City Advertiser, C. D. Auyer; Weekly Review, W. A. Hutton.  
 Livery Stables—B. H. Hellen, W. H. Ely, Lasher Bros., A. H. Guerney.  
 Creameries—Eastman & Zublin, P. C. Storey.  
 Blacksmiths—S. Cleckner, Wm. Howell & Son, Joseph Fisher, F. E. Brown, L. C. Gensman, M. Holverson, Hensel & Fink, A. McCausland, Jos. Kinney, L. P. Christenson, L. Litchfield.  
 Painters—M. R. Dalbey, J. J. Worthy, W. J. Brown.  
 Boot and Shoe Shops—Geo. Shipp & Son, Wm. Hahme, D. B. Smith, Fred Obergfall, Gilbert & Trumbauer.  
 Wagon Makers—Babcock & Schaller, Frank E. Brown, A. E. Servis, Wm. Moore.

Coopers—Wm. Woodruff, — Brewer.

Saloons—T. Murphy, Schomer Bros., D. W. Reynolds, Schaller & Taylor, Wells & Tuttle, Nic. Schomer.

Miscellaneous—Two dealers in hides, pelts and furs; two bakeries; one marble works, one gunsmith, one foundry and machine shop, two poultry dealers, one cigar manufacturer.

Fifteen years later, in 1896, we give still another directory of Webster City:

BUSINESS DIRECTORY OF WEBSTER CITY IN 1896

Agricultural implements—J. P. Clagg, J. W. Evans, S. J. Root.

Bakeries—William Blankenbuehler, F. P. Reuillard, Vienna Baker.

Banks—Farmers' National Bank, First National Bank, Hamilton County State Bank.

Billiard Halls—William Genschow, H. J. Finck, Peter Schomer.

Boots and Shoes—The Economy, by George H. Daniels; Hammer & Altmeyer, William Hahne, Hanrahan & O'Connor, My Store by Keooer & Stake, Fred Obergfall, H. B. Pray & Co., The Racket, by S. O. Osborn, J. B. Trumbauer, N. B. Trumbauer.

Clothing—Chicago Clothing House, Louis Frank, L. F. Houck, Joe Oppenheimer.

Coal and Wood—C. C. Coal Company, J. Hoyt, E. N. Lee, R. H. Mabbott, Smith & Younkee.

Flour and Feed—J. Hoyt, Quinn & Co.

Furniture—George J. Mauch, O'Brien Bros.

Druggists—Arthur & Richardson, W. G. Bale, Dick Bros, J. N. Medbery, George W. Teed, Wolgamot A. Shadley.

Dry Goods—Burleson Dry Goods Co., B. F. Derr, Altmeyer & Hammer, J. P. Metcalf & Co., My Store, The Racket, E. S. Wheeler.

Grain Elevators—W. H. Howard & Co., J. B. Kelley & Co., Webster City Elevator Company.

Grocers—J. A. Arthur, Burleson & Hoyt, H. A. Crandall & Co., H. A. Eames, The Empire, F. B. Jansen, William T. McComb, My Store, J. D. Sketchley, The Unique, A. Witte.

Hardware—J. P. Clagg, J. W. Evans & Co., Huff and Mueller, F. M. Merchant.

Hotels—Grand Central, Johnson House, Kenney House, Willson House.

Ice—R. G. Clark.

Laundries—Beaumont Laundry, Chinese Laundry.

Live Stock Dealers—B. Fenton, J. B. Kelley, M. L. McCulloch, Webster City Elevator Company.

Livery, Feed and Sale Stables—Columbian, Lasher Bros., C. A. Near, Palace Livery, Star Livery, Webster City Feed Sheds, Wilkie Bros.

Lumber—E. N. Lee, Smith & Younkee, J. W. Young.

Meat Markets—Central Market, J. E. McCaffery & Co., Smith A. Babbitt, E. E. Valentine.

Millinery and Fancy Goods—The Argyle, A. Baldwin & Co., Mrs. William Barger, The Leader, Mrs. E. R. Lee, Misses Smith.

Marble Works—Dodge & Baker.

Publishers and Job Printers—Webster City Freeman, The Graphic Herald, Hamilton County Journal, The Tribune.

Restaurants and Lunch Rooms—The Bon Ton, The Farmers, Henry Le-Valley, Wolley & McCaskie, The Model, Star Lunch Room, Star Restaurant, Ora Stillwell, The Vienna by W. Blankenbuhler.

Wholesale Dealers and Jobbers—Closz & Howard Manufacturing company, Cream Roller Mills, Iowa Churn Company, Litchfield Manufacturing Company, Strohmeyer Bros., Webster City Brick and Tile Company, Webster City Canning Company, Webster City Bottling Works, Webster City Grocer Company, Webster City Hot Water Heating Company, Webster City Water and Steam Mills.

Music Teachers—Prof. Alex Emslie, George F. Johnson, Miss Nellie Herrick, Miss Dora Morse, Prof. A. C. Olker, Miss Mildred G. Smith, Miss Lillian N. Smith, Miss Anna Willis.

Photographers—Ed. Brown, G. F. Johnson.

Physicians and Surgeons—Miss Belle Conrad, Dr. T. J. Desmond, Dr. F. J. Drake, C. I. Eberle, O. A. Hall, A. H. Hull, D. L. Hurd, A. M. Pond, F. E. Whitley, E. Willson.

Veterinary Surgeons—Williams Bros.

Wagon and Carriage Makers—F. E. Brown, Patterson & Son, George Shaw, C. D. Stickney.

And again in 1904, was published another directory which is given below :

#### BUSINESS DIRECTORY OF WEBSTER CITY IN 1904

Abstracts of Title—Varick C. Crosley, Kamrar & Pyle, George W. Lee, F. Millard, F. Ellas Smith.

Architects—J. R. White, C. T. Atkinson.

Bakeries—William Blankenbuehler, John McLain, P. Reuillard.

Banks—Commercial Bank, Farmers National Bank, First National Bank, Hamilton County State Bank, Webster City Savings Bank.

Barber Shops—John Carter, F. T. Eckstein, Major Harris, Horsley, Maxon & Co., Maag & Clifton, McCollough & Gregory, N. T. Olmstead.

Bicycle Repairs—F. R. Dalby.

Billiards and Pool—W. B. Kearns, Green & Wilkenson, Mullen Bros.

Blacksmiths and Horseshoers—L. C. Gensman, A. S. Holt, N. H. Williams, Ira Smith, William Montgomery, William Whiteman, Charles Wiese.

Bookbindery—Journal Printing Company.

Boots and Shoes—Burlson & White, G. H. Hahne, Hanrahan & O'Connor, Jacob Brothers, Kashsavingstore, Charles T. Smith, J. B. Trumbauer, N. B. Trumbauer.

Bottling Works—Webster City Bottling Works.

Brick and Tile—Webster City Brick and Tile Company.

Broom Factory—L. C. Heineman.

Butter, Eggs and Poultry—R. G. Clark, Ellingson, Mathre & Co.

Carriage Repositories—J. P. Clagg & Son, H. E. Pringle & Co. N. L. Rood & Sons, Will F. Smith & Co.

Carriage and Wagon Builders—A. S. Holt, W. Moore, Charles Wiese.

Cigar Manufacturers—W. F. Haegar, A. G. Koeppe.

Civil Engineers—N. B. Evarts, Edward E. Fox, J. N. Hiff, J. E. Quackenbush.

Clothing Stores—Louis Frank, Jacob Bros., Joe Oppenheimer, Charles T. Smith.

Contractors and Builders—C. E. Atkinson, W. O. Butler, John Beightol, O. I. Kleaveland, D. S. Pettibone, W. J. Zitterell.

Coal and Wood—A. J. Brewer, C. C. R. R. & C. Co., James Hoyt, P. Schomer Coal Wholesale—C. C. R. R. & C. Co.

Creamery—R. G. Clark, Ellingson, Mathre & Co.

Dentists—N. C. A. Berg, F. A. Boysen, L. H. Giffin, A. Kellogg, D. G. Mahood.

Druggists—H. G. Arthur, J. F. Carey & Co., Higgins & Bryant, Keltz & Little, Ruegnitz Drug Co., W. C. Snyder, Geo. W. Teed, W. O. Wolgamot.

Dry Goods—Burlison Dry Goods Co., Derr & Hook, Jacob Bros., Kashsavingsstore, Metcalf & Lewis, Sackett & Cornell.

Feed Store—A. J. Brewer, Jas. Hoyt, Cream Roller Mills, American Stock Food Co.

Founders and Machinists—Litchfield Mfg. Co., W. C. Steel Radiator Co.

Furniture—J. W. Allington, L. J. Davis & Co.

General Repair—F. R. Dalby.

Grain Sieve Manufacturers—Closz & Howard Mfg. Co.

Granite and Marble Works—Dodge & Baker.

Groceries—Arthur & Mulholland, Wm. Arnold, H. A. Crandall & Co., H. A. Eames, E. Edwards, Stanton R. Hoyt, Hughes & Bunker, Jacob Bros., F. B. Jansen, Scriven Grocer Co., J. D. Sketchley, Unique Grocery Co.

Hardware—J. P. Clagg & Son, E. Edwards, Paul McConnel, Aug. Mueller, F. R. Mason & Son.

Harness and Saddles—F. E. Grepel, A. P. Hansen, D. F. Shea, Chas. Shrigley.

Hotels—El Monte Hotel, Grand Central Hotel, Johnson House, Wilson Hotel.

Justices of the Peace—W. G. Bonner, Percival Knowles.

Laundries—Beaumont Laundry Co., San Lung, Chinese.

Lawyers—Chas. A. Biernatzki, J. M. Blake, Boeye & Henderson, D. C. Chase, W. J. Covil, O. O. Hall & Son, N. P. Hyatt, Kamrar & Pyle, Percival Knowles, J. W. Lee, F. J. Lund, Reuben McFerren, Wesley Martin, John D. Porter, Richard & Thompson, Geo. F. Tucker, Wambach & Mattice, W. A. Williams.

Livery Stables—A. C. Filloon, J. T. Gray, J. F. Mills, W. H. Perry, John C. Smith.

Lumber—Citizens Lumber Co., J. W. Young, Chas. E. Younkee Lumber Co.

Meat Markets—F. C. Brennecke, Helmick Bros. & Meekins, R. H. Kamrar, E. H. Welty.

Tailors—E. A. Beck & Co., F. I. Cash & Son, John Horn, P. Steandars, J. R. Taylor.

Millinery—Burlison Dry Goods Co., Derr & Hook, Amanda Johnson, Mrs. H. B. Merrill, Maggie Smith, Mrs. J. H. Servis, Mae White.

Newspapers—Freeman (weekly), Freeman-Tribune (daily), Graphic-Herald (weekly), Journal (daily and weekly), Tribune (weekly).

Opticians—C. I. Eberle, Heron & Smith, R. W. Homan, J. L. Haddox.

Osteopathic Physicians—Dysart & Dysart.

Photographers—Ed. Brown, Geo. Johnson.

Physicians—Syrena Andrews, Belle Conrad, T. F. Desmond, F. J. Drake (Homeopathic), C. I. Eberle, O. A. Hall, R. W. Homan, J. N. Medbery, A. M. Pond, C. W. Rummel, E. E. Richardson, F. E. Whitley.

Pianos and Organs—W. H. Cook, L. C. Chase.

Plumbing—Clement & Miller, Aug. Mueller.

Restaurants—C. M. Arthur, Brunswick Chop House, Chicago Cafe, Farmer's Restaurant, Hathaway & Son.

Rug Manufacturers—Economy Rug Co.

Second-Hand Goods—Daniels Bros., J. H. Servis, Star Second-Hand Store.

Veterinary Surgeons—J. E. Williams, C. A. Zublin.

A study of the foregoing directories will show that of among the names given in the directory of 1869, only three are in active business today. The man who is entitled to the credit of being actively engaged in business in Hamilton county for the longest term is J. M. Jones, who commenced in the fifties, and who has been actively engaged either as a merchant or banker ever since, except during the time he served as paymaster during the war.

Next is J. W. Covil who opened his law office in 1866, then J. L. Kamrar, who commenced his law practice in 1871. Among the retail merchants H. A. Crandall, Geo. W. Teed, N. B. and J. B. Trumbauer, Louis Frank, Wm. Hahne, J. H. Lee and H. R. Dodge were in business prior to 1880 and their names are still on the list as active business men. Geo. W. Teed has conducted a drug and jewelry store continuously since 1874, and still gives personal attention to the wants of his customers. For continuous personal application to business he perhaps "holds the record" though H. A. Crandall is not far behind.

Failures in business have not been many. The most notable are the Grab-scheid, Anderson and Keller cases.



## CHAPTER XXII

### THE BENCH AND BAR

JUDGE M'FARLAND—OTHER EARLY JUDGES AND LAWYERS—A FAMOUS CASE—PIONEER JUSTICE PRACTICE—REPORT OF THE FIRST GRAND JURY—OUR LAWYERS IN 1867—HAMILTON COUNTY JUDGES—DANIEL DARROW CHASE—DAVID D. MIRACLE—NORMAN B. HYATT—MODERN TRIALS AND LAWYERS—THE DEPARTED—WM. R. DANIELS, JACOB SKINNER, F. Q. LEE, G. B. PRAY, H. G. CULP.

The territory of Hamilton county first came under judicial supervision, when in 1852, Risley county was attached to the fifth judicial district. The first judge who had jurisdiction in this county was William McKay of Polk county. In 1854 Phineas M. Casady of Polk county was elected judge of the fifth district, but so far as the record shows, neither McKay nor Casady ever held court within the limits of Hamilton county.

#### JUDGE M'FARLAND

The first term of court held in the county was presided over by Judge McFarland, and as he was a prominent figure in early days, both as judge and politician, we will try to give some idea of the kind of man he appeared to be to the pioneers of this county.

We have no record of his early life. The first mention of his name we have seen was in connection with the judgeship in 1851. Upon the resignation of Judge William McKay, of the fifth judicial district McFarland was appointed by the governor to fill the vacancy.

He was a man of magnificent personal appearance, attracting attention wherever he went. He wore a luxuriant beard, which he allowed to grow at full length, and of which he was somewhat vain. He was generous hearted and accommodating to the extreme, yet was somewhat high tempered, and prone to sudden anger at some real, or imaginary insult and would use whatever power at hand to avenge it. However, when his passion cooled, he was as ready for reconciliation as anyone could wish. He was a man of fine ability, and his decisions as a judge, though they sometimes took a short cut for justice, were usually right, and were generally sustained by the supreme court, upon appeal. He loved a jolly company and a good story, and was in the habit of partaking rather freely of what the settlers called "tangle foot," oftentimes to excess. The habit grew on him as he advanced in years. It will easily be seen that such a man, acting as he did, largely upon impulse, could not be regarded as eccentric. He was a

delegate to the Cincinnati National Convention which nominated James Buchanan for president, and was chairman of the Iowa delegation. He took an active and conspicuous part in the proceedings and it is said that a St. Louis paper in its account of the convention, referred to him as "a man with a flourishing crop of whiskers, whose extravagant luxuriance doubtless exhausted such a large proportion of nutriment as to greatly impoverish the nerve centers of the brain." When McFarland saw the paper he became furious and vowed vengeance upon the reporter, but was unable to find him. It is safe to say that had he found him, somebody would have received a chastisement, for the Judge was well endowed with courage, as well as physical strength.

In those days it was the custom of certain attorneys to "ride the circuit" with the judge for the purpose of attending to such business as might come up and among the "circuit riding lawyers" who visited this country were Dan Finch, "Timber" Wood, John A. Hull, and Henry L. Huff.

At one of the courts held in this county, E. H. West, who was sheriff was to officiate for the first time, and not being familiar with the formal language used in opening court, asked Judge McFarland to write out the words he should use so that no mistake would occur. The Judge wrote on a strip of paper the words: "Hear ye, Hear ye, this honorable court is now open, etc." Sheriff West placed the paper in his hat and the hat upon the table to have it handy when needed. Dan Finch took the paper out, and when he saw what was upon it, wrote upon a similar paper: "Hear ye, Hear ye, this mill is about to grind, all ye who have grists to grind bring them in now," and placed it in the hat instead of the other.

The judge took his seat and said: "Sheriff, convene court."

The sheriff took the paper in his hand and went to the door and in pompous and stentorian tones read off the paper Finch had prepared, which created no small amount of merriment.

The judge, giving the sheriff proper instructions, had court opened in due form and singling out Finch as the perpetrator of the joke, read him a severe lecture, and threatened to fine him for contempt of court if he was ever again guilty of such levity at the expense of the dignity of the halls of justice.

The first time McFarland was elected judge some irregularities were discovered and his seat was contested. John A. Hull was employed as attorney against McFarland. A short time before the election Hull had bought a barrel of lime of the judge but had not paid for it. McFarland was so angry because of the bringing of the contest, that acting upon the impulse of the moment, he sued Hull for the lime. Hull immediately paid the claim to the justice, while McFarland, in the meantime got over his wrath and refused to take the money. Hull would not take it back, so the justice kept it.

At one time, the judge had been imbibing freely, and the weather being hot, he fell asleep upon the bench. Dan Finch and another attorney were trying a case and became involved in a hot personal quarrel which seemed likely to end in a fight. The judge woke up, and taking in the situation informed the quarreling lawyers that "if they didn't quiet down immediately he would come down and whip h—l out of both of them." They quieted.

The writer was once in a company in which Ex-Governor Stone was the central figure. The eccentricities of Judge McFarland were the subject of conversation and the governor is responsible for the following incident.



CITY HALL, WEISTER CITY



The judge was holding court in one of the southern counties of his district—if we remember rightly, in Marshall county—and a young but very bright lawyer was making an exhaustive argument on the law of the cause. The comprehensive character of the argument exhausted the judge and he was looking for an opportunity to put an end to it when a jackass, hitched to a fence outside set up a mighty braying. Quick as lightning the judge held up his hand toward the attorney with the remark, "One at a time, gentlemen, one at a time." The laughter which followed was checked by the young lawyer, however, who quickly responded: "I have no doubt, your Honor understands the language of the gentleman outside much better than the perhaps less abstruse but more profound logic of the law from me. I gladly give way to your friend on the outside."

The rétorc provoked a roar of laughter in the court room, and the judge in the heat of passion adjourned court with the intent to administer personal chastisement upon the offending attorney, but friends interfered. The sting was so sharp, however, that the judge did not get over it for several days, but finally seeing that the reply was apt, and no more personal than his own remark that had called it out, he forgave the lawyer and afterward, when not in liquor, would laugh as heartily at the joke as anyone.

He was holding court once at Fort Dodge when the seats were taken from the court room to be used for some social occasion and not returned in time for the opening of court the next morning. He immediately adjourned court sine die, remarking that "he'd be d—d if he would hold court in a town where they couldn't keep seats in the court room," and immediately left town leaving the unfinished business for another term.

McFarland was often referred to as "Old Judge" McFarland yet it is significant, that he died at the age of thirty-nine.

#### OTHER EARLY JUDGES AND LAWYERS

In 1855, McFarland's seat was sought by William W. Williamson of Polk county and Williamson was declared elected but McFarland contested the election and the contest was decided against Williamson.

In 1857, when Hamilton county was organized, it became a part of the thirteenth judicial district and James D. Thompson of Hardin county was elected judge.

The first term of the district court held in the county after its separation from Webster, was held at Webster City, September 7, 1857, Hon. J. D. Thompson, judge, presiding.

There was no dearth of lawyers even at that early date, for we note that there attended this term of court, Attorneys, W. R. Daniels; prosecuting attorney, Messervey & Richard, of Fort Dodge; Dana & Frazier, of Nevada; Hall, of Boonsboro; Berkley, of Webster City, and Smith, of Homer, and there were twenty-six cases on the docket for trial.

In 1857, Jacob Skinner came to Webster City and a year later, D. D. Chase arrived. Skinner was about forty-eight years old. He had had considerable experience as a lawyer and was possessed of a fine library. Chase was about twenty-seven years of age and a man of fine accomplishments and these two at once took first rank at the bar.

In 1858, Hamilton county was made a part of the eleventh judicial district and John Porter of Hardin county was elected judge. Judge Porter evidently proved to be a good judge for he was re-elected in 1862 and continued to hold the office until he resigned in 1866.

As an illustration of the mode of practice in the fifties, we give here, an account of "A Famous Case" written by Isaiah Doane, many years ago:

"A FAMOUS CASE" IN WHICH SKINNER, BERKLEY AND HEPBURN FIGURED

I think it was in the spring of 1859 that I was called upon, for the first time, to do jury service in the district court of Hamilton county, Iowa. Possibly it may have been a year or so later. At any rate, Hon. John Porter, of Eldora, was presiding judge, and William P. Hepburn, then of Marshalltown, was district attorney.

During this term of court there was a trial for the violation of the liquor law, which was, in many of its provisions, very similar to the present prohibitory law. As frequently happens in such cases, the great state of Iowa was plaintiff, and the members of some kind of a mercantile firm were defendants. I think their names were Barton and Robbins, or Robinson. As in duty bound, the district attorney, Colonel Pete Hepburn, as he was afterwards familiarly called, appeared for the state, and Granville Burkley and Jacob Skinner for the defendants. The trial was a protracted one, for that time; for a limited county exchequer compelled economy in the luxury of litigation, and with Judge Porter on the bench, a suit involving a few hundred dollars could not "drag its slow length along" over four or five days simply to allow two or three stripling shysters to advertise themselves by posing before the public as advocates in the case.

As radical changes in human nature are of such exceedingly slow development as not to be appreciable in the life of one generation, it follows that it was substantially the same then as now. And the human nature of today is such that when a devotee of Bacchus is called into court to tell "his honor and the jury" when, where, how and from what saloon, drugstore or hole in the wall he obtained certain exhilarating beverages, he suddenly becomes reticent, oblivious and slow of apprehension, as well as a "very poor judge of whiskey." So in the trial of this case the "state" was surrounded by a cloud of intelligent looking witnesses; but it was soon made apparent that it was with great difficulty that they were made to comprehend the full import of the interrogations shied at them by the district attorney, and even when made to understand their recollection with regard to liquid purchases became very indefinite and indistinct. And when finally reminded by the citation of a number of circumstances, that they had once upon a time made certain purchases, and were asked to "tell the jury" what it was, they could not tell, but when pressed to tell what it was called they uniformly answered "Tom and Jerry"; but whether it was whiskey, or had any resemblance thereto in taste or smell, their ignorance of the qualities of that particular beverage, rendered them wholly incapable of judging or testifying. Hence it was only by the most persistent efforts that the attorney elicited anything like an intelligent and connected statement of the facts clearly in possession of the witness.

These circumstances, combined with public interest in the liquor question and the distinguished character of the attorneys, made the case one of absorbing interest.

Some of the episodes of the trial were intensely interesting or highly amusing, Colonel Hepburn was at that time quite a young man—in appearance a mere boy. Magnetic and prepossessing in an eminent degree, he entered the case with one strong point of advantage already established with the jury. Besides he was a young man of remarkable natural brilliancy. His chief characteristics were a nervous stirring eloquence, flashing wit and an inexhaustible supply of caustic sarcasm.

The attorneys for the defense were both past middle age, and each had something of a local reputation in his profession. Skinner was the elder of the two, and his style was great earnestness and volubility of language; words, words, words, came hurtling on the ears of the court almost like the patter of hail.

Burkley's mode of practice was technical quibbling and bull dozing harangues. Both were sensitive and irritable to a considerable degree. In entering upon the prosecution, Hepburn paid his respects to "the distinguished counsel for the defense," and warned the jury in all apparent solemnity to be on their guard against being misled by the superior eloquence of his opponents, whom he called "his friends Demosthenes and Cicero"—names which he used in all his subsequent allusions to them. This, as he evidently expected it would, angered his antagonists, and at any attempt to resent it, he turned upon them with such inimitable wit and drollery as to make them the subject of the laugh that was sure to follow. Burkley finally threatened to resort to the tactics of the Sullivanic era. This, however, was promptly interdicted by Judge Porter, and "order in the court" was temporarily restored, only to break out afresh as the young prosecutor went on with his dazzling display of oratorical pyrotechnics, meanwhile raining his blistering invectives upon the heads of the accused, their attorneys and ready witnesses. What penalty followed the verdict of the jury and the subsequent history of the case are out of the memory of the narrator.

It was at this same term of court that another incident, illustrative of the spirit of the time, occurred. One morning after "His Honor" had been duly and gravely seated on the "bench" and the sonorous and monotonous "hear ye! hear ye!" of the sheriff had returned in feeble echoes from the eastern bluffs of the classic Boone, and the clack of the legal mill was just about to start up, the grand jury, composed of twelve grave and revered seniors, with Hon. Selem B. Rosencrans at their head as foreman, entered, and when the sheriff had vacated the seats for them, sat down and awaited the salutation of the court. Be it remembered that among the jurors was the rotund and rubicund ex-sheriff E. H. West, famous for bibulous habits. "Gentlemen of the jury, have you finished your labors?" queried the court. "No, your honor," responded the foreman, "but Mr. West is disqualified for business by reason of intoxication." The grimaces and vigorous blinkings of Mr. West, and this announcement aroused him from his partial stupor, completely upset the gravity of the court and the jury were granted a respite until after dinner when it was hoped each individual juror would report for duty in such a complete state of sobriety as to be fully conscious of "where he was at."

The writings of Judge Doane are based upon such an accurate knowledge of facts, and so extremely interesting that we cannot refrain from giving another of his stories, relating to justice of the peace practice in the '50's.

## PIONEER JUSTICE PRACTICE

One of the most exciting lawsuits, or series of lawsuits that ever came to the notice of the writer, occurred at Homer in the winter of 1858-9 before James Faught, a justice of the peace. The plaintiff, John Bird, who resided on Brushy creek, about two miles northwest of Homer, owned quite a little herd of cattle and becoming involved in financial difficulties, determined to protect his said property by placing it under the sheltering wing of one John Atherton. To make the proceedings visible to the public a formal bill of sale was executed and delivered with the tacit or verbal understanding that Atherton would reconvey when asked so to do. But when the storms of winter and financial danger were about past and the surrender of the property in controversy requested the said Atherton took the high moral grounds that three or four months of peaceable possession under color of title looked very much like bona fide ownership; in short believed he could make it such, inasmuch as the theory had been corroborated by the admission of Bird made to sundry of his neighbors during the winter. Alleging substantially the above facts a writ of attachment was made out against Atherton, the property seized and the time set for the trial of the case. The proceedings were commenced before Justice H. G. Pemberton but taken on change of venue before Justice Faught. The trial was held in the bar-room of the hotel at the northwest corner of the public square, then kept by F. A. Harris, and lasted several days. The whole countryside was aroused and everybody was there. Granville Burkley and Jacob S. Smith were engaged as counsel on opposing sides. Judge Daniels was also retained, but on which side the writer does not recollect. Neither Burkley nor Smith were noted for their excessive modesty, hence some of their sallies of irate wit and sarcasm were enough figuratively speaking, to convulse a brass monkey with laughter. After judgment for possession had been awarded to Bird, a suit in replevin was commenced by Atherton which reopened the whole issue. To facilitate the commencement of the suit, one Ellis residing near Border Plains qualified as surety on Atherton's bond, and as his visible means were not commensurate with his statements of assets, an information was filed, charging him with perjury. He was arrested and held by the constable until after dark, when, watching for a favorable opportunity, he sprang aside into the darkness and ran home, leaving the constable, lantern in hand, hunting, Diogenes like, for his prisoner.

Another amusing and exciting episode connected with these litigations was substantially as follows: On a certain morning Atherton loaded a wagon with hay, destined for the Homer hay market and in order to reach the city he was compelled to pass the residence of Bird, when he had passed the house a few rods and beginning to congratulate himself on having safely run the blockade, imagine his consternation to see flames curling up the sides of his load. He had barely time to save his wagon by cramping it so as to turn it over and dragging the running gears from the burning hay. This was regarded at the time as one of the most remarkable cases of spontaneous combustion on record. Mr. Bird has been dead for over twenty-five years and Mr. Atherton drifted off into parts unknown. These vexatious litigations were productive of one good result at least, as they furnished entertainment to the whole community for what would otherwise have been a dull and monotonous writer.

## REPORT OF THE FIRST GRAND JURY

The first grand jury empaneled in Hamilton county made its report at the September term of the district court in 1857. As this report is a typical pioneer document, we give it verbatim:

We, the undersigned grand jurors of the county of Hamilton, state of Iowa, met at Webster City in September, 1857.

Criminals in jail there is non.

Publick prisons there is non.

Examined the county reccord and found them correct.

Moved and seconded that we adjourn till nine o'clock tomorrow morning.

Carried.

Met at the howr appointed. The rowl being called all present.

The court sending for Allen Brock.

It was moved and seconded that we adjourn. Carried.

Met again as soon as court was thru.

It was moved and seconded that we dispense with the roads, there being no superintendents in the county. Carried.

Gatten Fuller sworn, stated that bought brandy under Barten & Robertson store of man called Dutch, on 4th of July, 1857.

Nathaniel Lattemer sworn, stated that he bought intockication liquors of one called Dutch.

Benjamin R. Brewer also stated that he had seen Fisher sell liquors and drank under Barten's store by one man called Dutch or Robertson, about two weeks ago.

P. Sage sworn, stated that this man they call Dutch his name is Henry Robinson.

Moved and seckoneded that we adjourn till one o'clock. Carried.

Met at the hour appointed. The rowl being called, all present.

Henry B. Martin sworn, that he saw Henry Robinson sell intockicating licker several times since the latter part of June, 1857.

Thomas Striker sworn, stated that Henry Robinson sold him a drink of intockicating likers a week or ten days ago, allso bought of a certan stage driver at said Robinson's.

At this time uppon the finding of the bill fourteen jurors voted in favor.

Benjamin R. Brewer also stated that he had seen Fisher sell liquors and drank same.

Allso Thomas Striker stated that he bought liquor of Samuell Fisher.

At this time uppon the finding of the bill thirteen jurors voted in favor.

H. Ross, foreman; H. G. Pemberton, John A. Cooper, Allen Brock, F. I. Allen, Charles Royster, W. W. Boak, Israel Woodard, E. Russell, Theodore Butler, D. P. Lattimore, N. G. Olmstead, Josiah Downing.

## OUR LAWYERS IN 1867

About the first of January, 1866, Judge Porter resigned the office of district judge of the district to take effect on February 1st. Judge D. D. Chase, of Webster City, who was district attorney, also resigned at the same time to take effect with the resignation of Judge Porter, and he was, by the governor of the state,

appointed district judge to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Judge Porter, while Hon. John H. Bradley, of Marshalltown, was appointed district attorney. The first term of court with these new officers occurred in May, 1866. There were twenty-eight cases on docket for disposal with the following lawyers present to assist in them viz; N. B. Hyatt, W. J. Covil, G. D. Sutton, J. Skinner, D. D. Miracle, G. B. Pray, and W. R. Daniels, all of this county; while from abroad, were J. H. Bradley, John Porter, of Eldora; J. F. Duncombe and J. D. Springer, of Fort Dodge; J. A. Hull, of Boone; D. O. Finch and J. M. Elwood, of Des Moines, showing very conclusively that whatever this new country was deficient in it was not deficient in lawyers. Col. Chas. A. Clark came soon afterwards, making one more, and a year later the Freeman contained the following descriptive notice of the legal talent of the county which is graphic and amusing enough, to those who knew them at the time, to bear repeating:

Our Bar—The "legal brotherhood" of Webster City is composed almost exclusively of young men, ranging in age from twenty-three to thirty-five years. Jacob Skinner, Esq., is the only one of the bar on whose brow the "frosts of many winters have settled."

N. B. Hyatt, probably thirty-three, is next on the roll. He is a tall, fair-haired, gray-eyed man, supports a long gray coat "all buttoned down before" and a thimble-skein hat; is a good lawyer and a clever fellow.

Col. Chas. A. Clark is probably about two or three years the junior of Mr. Hyatt; is a man of medium height, rather spare form but is full of Yankee fire and vim when stirred up. The colonel supports rather an unmanageable goatee and mustache of a "light bay color," and is a very affable and courteous gentleman, and a first-rate lawyer.

G. D. Sutton, about thirty years of age, is a stout, thick-set "limb of the law" and works hard for his clients; he cuts his hair and whiskers (the latter of the sandy order) short, and exhibits great power of endurance and susceptibility to mental labor.

Next comes Mr. D. D. Miracle, whom we should take to be about twenty-eight years of age. He is of slender form, black hair and beard and a keen black eye, and before he was married was considered the handsomest young man in town. He is energetic and prompt and applies himself earnestly to his profession.

And now we come to the good-natured and industrious W. J. Covil. He with the "rosy cheek and bright yaller hair" and nary a whisker, but is a great favorite among the ladies. He is a close student and is ambitious to make of himself a thorough lawyer and that he will succeed there is no doubt.

The last on the list is "Gib" Pray, who has been in the practice but a short time. He is the youngest member of the bar and has the ability to make a good lawyer of himself. "Gib" ain't married yet but then there's no telling what may happen to a good-looking young man in this country where there are so many blooming "prairie flowers" when we recollect that every Mary-gold has her Johnny-jump-up.—*Freeman, May 15, 1867.*

Mr. Hyatt came in February, 1866, Mr. Sutton came a little before that time, Colonel Clark came in the fall of that year, while Covil, Skinner, Miracle and Pray had been here for some years.

Up to the time of his appointment as district judge D. D. Chase had been the county's attorney, but on his promotion to the bench, in February, 1866, the board of supervisors appointed D. D. Miracle as its legal advisor.

These were times when the internal revenue assessors and collectors were prevalent, and when deeds, notices, contracts, receipts and indeed nearly everything that a stamp would stick to, had to be stamped. D. D. Miracle was appointed deputy United States assessor. Col. Chas. A. Clark also was appointed deputy collector, but it was at a time when President Johnson and the republicans in congress were radically opposed to each other on reconstruction measures and Mr. Clark refused to serve, and as indicating the bitter hostility towards the administration, we quote from Colonel Clark's letter refusing the appointment as follows: "I desire to maintain a reputation as a loyal man and a respectable citizen. Serving under Andrew Johnson at this crisis, I could not claim to be either," and this bit of "snap and fire" was commended by the partisan press as highly patriotic.

#### HAMILTON COUNTY'S JUDGES

At the expiration of Judge Chase's first term he was reelected and continued to hold the office until 1874 and before him many important cases were tried, among which was the famous Ross murder case of which an account is given in another chapter. Judge Chase was succeeded by Isaiah J. Mitchell of Boone county who held the office for four years and he was succeeded by James W. McKenzie of Franklin county, who was elected October 8, 1878.

H. C. Henderson was elected October 11, 1881, and reelected November 7, 1882.

In the year 1868 the legislature established the circuit court and S. L. Rose was elected circuit judge. He held the office for four years. He was succeeded by John H. Bradley of Marshalltown, who held the office until January 1, 1882, and he was succeeded by David D. Miracle of Hamilton county.

In 1886 the circuit court was abolished and three judges for each district provided and at this time Judge D. D. Miracle was elected district judge. At the same time John L. Stevens of Boone and Silas M. Weaver of Iowa Falls were elected. John L. Stevens was reelected in 1890 and resigned in 1892. Weaver was reelected in 1890, again in 1894 and again in 1898 and in 1900 was promoted to the supreme bench of Iowa.

Judge Miracle died July 27, 1888, and in August following D. R. Hindman was appointed to fill the vacancy. He continued to fill the position until 1898 when he retired.

Upon the resignation of Judge Stevens, N. B. Hyatt of Hamilton county was appointed district judge by Governor Boies. Judge Hyatt was a democrat in politics and as the district was strongly republican, there was no hope for his reelection, so at the election of 1893 Benjamin Birdsall of Wright county was elected and reelected in 1894. In 1898 Hindman and Birdsall were not candidates. J. R. Whitaker of Boone and W. S. Kenyon of Fort Dodge were elected. In 1900 S. M. Weaver was elected a member of the supreme court and J. H. Richard of Hamilton county was elected to fill the vacancy thus caused. In 1902 J. H. Richard was reelected. Whitaker was reelected and as Kenyon was not a candidate, W. D. Evans of Franklin was elected in his place. In 1906 W.

D. Evans was reelected and C. G. Lee of Story county and R. M. Wright of Webster were elected. In 1908 Judge Evans was promoted to the supreme bench and Chas. Albrook of Hardin county was elected in his stead. In 1910 Judges Lee, Wright and Albrook were all reelected and are serving at the present time. Hamilton has furnished four district judges and two circuit judges during its history, Chase, Rose, Miracle, Hyatt and Richard, Miracle having served both as circuit and district judge. The first four have passed to their final rest, while the last, Judge Richard, moved to Minneapolis in 1906. Judge Chase died April 27, 1891, after having been a prominent and influential factor in the affairs of the county for thirty-three years.

The following sketch written by F. Q. Lee appeared in the Graphic at the time of his death:

DANIEL DARROW CHASE

Daniel Darrow Chase was born in Canajoharie, New York, July 4, 1830, and died in Webster City, Iowa, April 27, 1891.

He was a farmer's son, and like all others of those times, his early education was obtained by attending school in the winter time, where he fitted himself for teaching. He took a four years' course in the academy, teaching in the meantime to earn the means to pay expenses. After graduating, he became principal of the Cazenovia public schools and began reading law. He was admitted to the bar before the supreme court of New York in January, 1856, and began to practice in partnership with Judge Waite, a distinguished jurist and law writer. On August 10, 1858, he was married to Miss Hattie E. Bell, and in the latter part of the same month came to Webster City where he resided ever since. His ability as a lawyer and his worth as a man were at once recognized, and he immediately took a leading place as attorney and citizen.

In 1860 he was nominated and elected a member of the state board of education. His next office was district attorney for the eleventh judicial district and at the end of his term he was reelected. During his second term a vacancy occurred on the district bench and he was appointed by the governor of the state to the position in 1865. He was twice elected to the same position and refused a renomination in the fall of 1873. His term of office closed January 1, 1874. In 1864 was elected elector at large by the republicans, and cast his vote as such for Abraham Lincoln for a second term as president of the United States.

All his official acts were marked by great ability and integrity, and it is conceded that as a judge he took the very highest rank. He had the ability to dispatch business in a remarkable degree, and his dignified conduct on the bench, coupled with his courtesy and the clearness of his judicial opinions, caused his court to be held in high esteem, both by the bar and the people. It was one of the ambitions of his life to be a member of the supreme bench, and at one time it was generally conceded that he would be, for no judge in the state stood higher in the public favor than he. But just as his ambition was about to be realized the supreme court rendered its decision, declaring the law, levying taxes in aid of railroads unconstitutional. This decision met the approval of most of the ablest lawyers in the state, Judge Chase among the number; but it arrayed the railroad corporations against it. As the opinions had been given by a divided court and the term of one of the judges so deciding being about to expire, the



JUDGE DARROW D. CHASE



JUDGE DAVID D. MIRACLE



railroad corporations determined to elect to the place a judge who would declare the law constitutional. They therefore opposed Judge Chase and selected their man. But for this circumstance, D. D. Chase would have undoubtedly received the unanimous vote of his party for the position and would have reached the goal of his ambition.

It is usual to measure a man's greatness by the official positions he has held, but the truer and more worthy measure is to be found in his daily walk and conversation among men. The conduct of the official is marked out and laid down by law and precedent; but the conduct of a man in private life is the result of his own impulses and aspirations. In these we see him as he really is, and in these were exhibited Judge Chase's highest attributes of greatness. What higher encomiums could be pronounced of a man than were written in the Freeman last week, to every sentiment of which we give our most hearty consent. Its modest but eloquent portrayal of his character, by one who has known him long and observed him closely, is as bright a tribute as we have ever seen written and we make bold to appropriate it:

"It is hard to realize that one so prominent in the community, and so universally beloved and respected throughout the entire county, and whose reputation and good name were coextensive with the boundaries of the state, has gone out from among us forever. No more familiar figure was ever present on the streets of Webster City than Judge Chase, and no man in Hamilton county had a purer heart or a more genial nature. He greeted everybody with a generous smile and a hearty grasp of the hand, and in the exercise of charity, pure benevolence, and the acts that came from a kind heart, he was constant and consistent. Public spirited, and liberal to a fault, he was a faithful friend of Webster City and Hamilton county, and every public interest and every worthy cause had his cordial support. His social qualities were of the highest order; his sunny nature drew to him troops of friends from all classes, and his heart and purse were ever open to every worthy enterprise and every real charity. He never ground the face of the poor. He loved his town and county with a singular admiration, and in return was held in as high esteem as any man could be. He was a true man and valued citizen."

What words could be said of warrior or statesman that would equal in merit the virtues thus so modestly, eloquently and truthfully portrayed.

Judge Chase was a friend for whom we have always felt the highest regard. During an acquaintance of twenty years we always have found him the same kind and cordial friend and neighbor. For months we have seen him as he passed and repassed our office door, gradually failing, but during all this time he maintained to a marked degree, his cheerfulness and he never complained. He knew the end was approaching but he did not fear it. His friends knew it also but it came sooner than expected. Indeed there was an ardent hope entertained that a change for the better and a recovery might result; but it was not to be. Hail, friend and farewell.

#### JUDGE DAVID D. MIRACLE

Judge David D. Miracle died July 27, 1888. He was born in London, Ontario, January 23, 1840. His ancestors were of Holland descent and settled in America during the sixteenth century. During his boyhood his parents moved to

Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and he received his education at Lawrence University and at Ann Arbor, Michigan. He came to Webster City in 1864 and commenced the practice of law. In 1868 he was in partnership with R. N. Woodworth and in 1870, formed a partnership with J. L. Kamrar and the firm of Miracle and Kamrar built up an extensive law practice. In 1880 Miracle was elected judge of the circuit court and held the office until that court was abolished, when he became a member of the district bench which position he occupied at the time of his death. In 1866 he was married to Ella M. Bell, a daughter of Colonel Ralph Bell and a sister of Mrs. D. D. Chase. To them four children were born, Frank D., now practicing law in Montana; Ella Bell, now Mrs. Geotzman, of Marshalltown; Kate E., wife of Elston F. King, of Webster City; and Ralph O., a prominent business man in Minneapolis.

Judge Miracle was but forty-eight years of age at the time of his death

#### NORMAN B. HYATT

Norman B. Hyatt was born in Erie county, Pennsylvania, January 26, 1837. He was educated at Knox college, Galesburg, Ill., and at Albany law school, where he graduated in 1858. He went to California, Missouri, and opened a law office and continued in the practice until 1861 when he enlisted in the third Missouri infantry and served until the close of the war.

In 1866 he came to Webster City and entered the law practice and immediately took high rank as a lawyer and advocate. It is said that in pioneer days when men got into trouble, there was a horse race across the prairie to see which could first reach Webster City and secure Hyatt for his lawyer. In 1873 he formed a partnership with F. Q. Lee and the firm of Hyatt & Lee continued in business until 1876 when it dissolved. Judge Hyatt then continued alone in business until 1888, when his son, N. P. Hyatt, was admitted to the bar and became his partner.

N. B. Hyatt was married to Miss Mary Prouty in 1865 and to them one son, Norman P. Hyatt, was born. Mary Hyatt died in 1878. In 1880 N. B. Hyatt and Miss Emma Stone were married and to this marriage was born one son, Frank B. Hyatt.

For some years Mr. Hyatt was a republican, but in 1875 left the party and affiliated with the democrats until 1896, when he again joined the republicans. He was appointed judge by Governor Boies in 1892 and held the position about one year. On account of his political affiliations, he could not be reelected though he was nominated by the democrats and ran ahead of his ticket. It has always been a matter of regret that he could not be continued in a position that he was so well qualified by disposition and learning to fill. He had a keen, logical, well-educated mind, was deliberate in his speaking and clear and precise in his reasoning. His memory was remarkable for its accuracy. In bearing he was dignified and courteous. After he was appointed to the bench it became the darling ambition of his life to make an honorable and distinguished record as a jurist. In this he was successful in so far as he was permitted to go. Those who knew him best, who had known his temptations, his struggles and his victories, earnestly supported him. But he was a democrat and the republican nominee was a man of conspicuous attainments. As a natural result, Judge Hyatt's judicial



JUDGE NORMAN B. HYATT



career was terminated in its infancy. He died in 1901 after having been a member of the Hamilton county bar for thirty-five years.

#### MODERN TRIALS AND LAWYERS

The members of the bar of Hamilton county almost without exception have been men who prized their honor and good name above all earthly possessions and they have given their clients honorable and conscientious service. The only blot upon the otherwise clean record is the Barber-Olmstead episode, which resulted in the disbarment of Olmstead.

Of the judges who have served on our bench, two, Weaver and Evans, have been promoted to the supreme bench and one, Kenyon, is now in the United States senate.

Of the most sensational trials might be mentioned the Ross murder trial, the Basket murder trial, the Paul murder trial, the Barber-Olmstead trial and the McKowan trials.

While on the equity side of the docket, we might mention the matter of the estate of Priscilla Emerson and the Willsey will cases as chancery causes, worthy of being mentioned in the same breath with *Jarndice v. Jarndice*.

Since the organization of the county seventy-nine lawyers have become members of the Hamilton county bar. Their names are as follows: J. H. Cofer, W. R. Daniels, D. R. C. McGart, Granville Burkley, E. R. Green, D. D. Chase, W. J. Covil, Chas. A. Clark, A. H. Moulton, G. D. Sutton, George Ammond, D. D. Miracle, Jacob Skinner, N. B. Hyatt, — Todisman, G. B. Pray, F. Q. Lee, Wesley Martin, O. O. Hall, J. L. Kamrar, E. D. Burgess, — Goldsmith, P. Knowles, B. S. Baker, J. A. Snodgrass, J. T. Haight, F. W. Smith, D. C. Chase, L. J. Pierson, T. F. Tucker, — Lowry, W. T. Frazier, J. M. Blake, — Zelie, A. N. Boeye, S. A. Hall, George Wambach, J. D. McKinney, F. D. Thompson, N. P. Hyatt, W. G. Bonner, Rube McFerren, H. G. Culp, Osmund Ellingson, Geo. C. Olmstead, C. A. Weaver, T. W. Maxwell, J. W. Lee, J. H. Richard, Jesse Gouge, J. F. Howard, L. A. Gade, Wm. Asher Howard, C. C. Townsend, Charles Biernatzki, John D. Porter, G. D. Thompson, M. H. Kendall, W. I. Selby, A. S. Ainsworth, B. B. Fenton, Oscar Brewer, M. J. Mattice, J. Q. Lee, F. J. Lund, Frank Gilmore, — Williams, Richard Closson, William Whistler, O. J. Henderson, James Hall, — McMillen, I. J. Sayers, J. E. Overbaugh, George Barner, J. E. Burnsted, John Ott, E. P. Prince.

Aside from the local judges above referred to, the following members have passed to their reward: W. R. Daniels, Jacob Skinner, G. B. Pray, F. Q. Lee, H. G. Culp.

The remaining members of the bar at this date (August, 1912) are: Wesley Martin, J. L. Kamrar, W. D. Burgess, P. Knowles, D. C. Chase, G. F. Tucker, J. M. Blake, A. N. Boeye, George Barner, J. E. Burnstead, Edward P. Prince, N. P. Hyatt, Rube McFerren, Osmund Ellingson, J. W. Lee, Charles Biernatzki, John D. Porter, G. D. Thompson, M. J. Mattice, F. J. Lund, O. J. Henderson, I. J. Sayers.

The others have moved to other localities, some to abandon the profession and some to continue it with honor and distinction.

## THE DEPARTED

Of those who have laid down the cares of life and passed to their great reward, it is fitting that some special mention be given.

Among the writings of Isaiah Doane is found the following sketch of Wm. R. Daniels:

## WM. R. DANIELS

The second county judge, Wm. R. Daniels, was a native of Pennsylvania, who came to Homer about 1856. He was a lawyer by profession; he practiced contemporaneously with, and often successfully against, such attorneys as Burkley, Smith, Chase and Covil, of this county; Duncombe, Richards and Hawley, of Webster, and Hull, of Boone. In the fall of 1861, he was elected county judge, which position he held till the spring of 1863, when he resigned to make a few months' explorations in Colorado, then popularly believed to be the Eldorado of the west. In June of that year the board of supervisors appointed the writer of these sketches to fill the vacancy, to which he was afterwards elected for three consecutive terms, and down to January 1, 1870, when the office expired by legislative enactment.

Prior to the creation of the office of district attorney, we had county prosecuting attorneys, whose duties were about the same as those of present county attorneys. The last term of this office in and for Hamilton county was filled by Judge Daniels. This was prior to his selection as judge. Besides following his profession he was a successful farmer. Owning a farm or two near Homer, he cultivated these, in part, by his own labor, thereby giving employment and training in habits of industry to his sons.

## JACOB SKINNER

Jacob Skinner died June 24, 1882. He was born in Orange county, New York, January 31, 1809. He was married to Polly Winters in October, 1833, and for some years the family made its home at Great Bend, Pennsylvania. In 1846, Jacob Skinner was admitted to the bar in Pennsylvania and in 1847 settled at Palmira, Wisconsin, where he practiced law and became a member of the Wisconsin legislature from Jefferson county. He moved to Webster City in 1857 and commenced the practice of his profession. At the time of his arrival here, he had the best law library in this part of the state, and his fame as a lawyer soon spread, and his practice extended over the northern half of the state. He erected a fine residence on West Bank street, and for years the Skinner home was one of the finest in the city. About a year prior to his death, he was thrown from a carriage and the injuries then received resulted in hastening the time of his demise.

His wife, Polly Skinner, and several children survive him. His children were Med Skinner, Charles Skinner, Mrs. A. S. Bonner, Mrs. W. I. Worthington and Mrs. May Legg.

## F. Q. LEE

F. Q. Lee died at Hammond, Louisiana, April 15, 1894. The following tribute was written by his steadfast friend, Judge Isaiah Doane:



F. Q. LEE



"F. Q. Lee is dead!" was the startling announcement that followed the first greeting as neighbors met on the streets of this city last Monday morning. It will be generally remembered that Mr. Lee removed with his family to Hammond, Louisiana, last fall, with the hope of recuperating his declining health. It seems that his hopes in this regard were not realized. He had been worse for several weeks, but his friends hoped he would rally with the advent of spring.

Flavius Quincy Lee was born and reared in Ohio, where, after completing his school education, he engaged in teaching for awhile and studied law. Came to Hamilton county, Iowa, in 1873, and practiced law for a few years, but his tastes were for literary and journalistic work; accordingly, about 1880 he bought the Advertiser, a weekly paper published in this place. This he subsequently sold to Capt. G. W. Bell, and after some two years repurchased the paper then called the Graphic, which he owned and edited until about two years ago, when, on account of failing health he sold the plant and went south to winter, moving his family last fall as above stated. He was at the time of his death about forty-eight years old. His wife, five sons and two daughters survive him, all of whom were with him at Hammond except the oldest son, Jesse W. Lee, who resides here. Mr. Lee was an advanced thinker, and as a result, was among the pioneers in many of the moral and political reforms of the age. In fact, it was his ardent zeal for what he deemed to be right that formed his strongest incentive to embark in newspaper work, that he might make his influence felt in the work of educating public sentiment to his ideas of right. F. Q. Lee was in many respects a remarkable man. In nothing did he stand out in stronger contrast with most of those about him than in his unselfish devotion to the interests of those whom he recognized as his friends. He was for several years state secretary of the Iowa Knights of Labor and was thoroughly in sympathy with the principles and purposes of that order, which he practically demonstrated by being "ever watchful for an opportunity whereby a brother might be benefited." On going south Mr. Lee proceeded at once to found the Hammond Graphic, which he continued to edit with marked ability until his career was cut short by that dread disease, consumption. The light of his brilliant intellect went out and his great heart ceased to throb for humanity, on the night of Sunday, April 15, 1894, in the very meridian of life. Tupper is responsible for the declaration that

"The life of most men is such as makes their death a gain!"

If that declaration be true it is equally true that F. Q. Lee was one of the conspicuous exceptions that prove the rule. Like most men of strong convictions, and outspoken opinions on popular reforms, he went through life not fully understood or appreciated.

G. B. PRAY

G. B. Pray died at Iowa City, Iowa, February 28, 1909. He was born in Michigan City, Indiana, April 27, 1846, and came to Hamilton county in 1857 and his boyhood days were spent in Webster City. He enlisted in Company D, Sixteenth Iowa infantry, at Boone, Iowa, November 23, 1864, and served until the close of the war, when he was honorably discharged. After the war, he entered the law office of D. D. Chase and was admitted to the bar in 1868. He practiced law in Webster City until 1882, when he was elected clerk of the

supreme court of Iowa, which office he held for twelve successive years. He was twice selected chairman of the republican state central committee. In 1885, he assisted in the organization of the Royal Union Mutual Life Insurance Company of Des Moines, and was interested in the affairs of that company until the time of his death. He was appointed surveyor of Alaska in 1897, but declined to serve and was soon afterward made special agent of the Indian bureau, which position he held for several years. At the time of his death, he was treasurer of the insurance company he helped to found. For years after his business called him to Des Moines, he maintained his home in Webster City, and it was one of his keenest pleasures to return to that home and spend a day among the trees and shrubs he had planted and tended with his own hands, and it was his oft expressed desire to eventually return to Webster City to spend his declining years.

HARRISON G. CULP

H. G. Culp had only been a member of the bar about two years at the time of his death, which occurred in November, 1896, and therefore had done little to distinguish himself as a lawyer. He had a magnificent physique and a compelling, persuasive manner, that would have made him powerful as an advocate had he lived to fulfill the life he had planned for himself. His mind was logical in its operations and he was gifted with unusual powers of concentration, coupled with energy and endurance almost without limit. He was one of the most unselfish men that ever lived in Webster City.

## CHAPTER XXIII

### THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

THE FIRST DOCTOR—PIONEER PRACTICE—DOCTORS OF TODAY—DENTISTRY—MERCY HOSPITAL.

#### THE FIRST DOCTOR

The first doctor in the county was Hampton Corbin, who commenced practice in and about Homer in 1854. A few years later he became county judge. Judge Doane, who was well acquainted with him, describes him in the following language:

Dr. Corbin located at Homer, I think, in 1854, where he practiced medicine for several years with marked success, although he never held a diploma from any medical college. So great was his popularity among his neighbors that it was difficult for him to get away from the practice even after he had positively decided to do so. Dr. Corbin was in several respects a remarkable man. His leading characteristics were great firmness, candor, conscientiousness and unbending integrity. He was possessed of sound, and almost intuitive judgment. He was pre-eminently a positive man and had decided convictions upon all questions of the day, whether social, scientific, religious or political. His positiveness and firmness bordering almost on obstinacy, caused him to maintain his convictions with great persistency and force. His neighbors generally looked upon him as a counselor whose advice was always deemed safe. In politics, Judge Corbin was a republican, with decidedly independent and liberal views in his later years. He was an adherent of the Campbellite (or Christian) church, and one of the main stays of that denomination in this section of the state. After retiring from the judgeship he served one or two terms as a member of the board of supervisors, and was one of the three who built our present magnificent courthouse. It is sufficient to say of him, that in his sphere he was a good and true man.

The first doctor in Webster City was Dr. A. C. Baum, but soon after him came Dr. J. R. Burgess, Dr. Benedict, D. H. Jewell, Dr. I. Soule. Dr. Burgess came to Webster City in 1857, and practiced until April 21, 1862, when he was appointed additional assistant surgeon in the Second Iowa cavalry. January 7, 1863, he was promoted assistant surgeon. He served until 1865, when he was mustered out of the service. He returned from the war, broken in health and died in 1874. Dr. H. N. Crapper came to Hamilton county in 1862, and was in active practice here until late in the seventies, when his health failed and he moved west. He died early in the '80s.

Dr. H. E. Hendryx and Dr. H. N. Curtis were contemporaries of Crapper

in the sixties. J. R. Compton located in Webster City in 1869, and during the seventies, Doctors J. N. Medberry, O. A. Hall, J. Koehe, C. H. Whitney, H. A. and C. I. Eberle, J. P. Williams, T. K. Ross and S. Robbins located at Webster City, while Doctors A. W. Chamberlin and A. H. Stewart, practiced in the vicinity of Hook's Point and Lake Centre.

Dr. Medberry located in Webster City in 1875, and practiced about ten years, when he went into the drug business. He resided in Webster City until the time of his death a few years ago.

Dr. O. A. Hall commenced practice in 1876, and is the oldest active practitioner in the county. Dr. A. W. Chamberlin opened an office in 1877. He and Dr. Hall attended school together, but sickness kept Chamberlin out of practice for a year after he had graduated. He commenced practice at Hook's Point and for thirty-five years he has practiced medicine in the vicinity of Homer, Stratford and Stanhope.

About the year 1880, Dr. Hall went to Nebraska for a few years, but soon returned and is still in active practice in Webster City.

C. I. Eberle came to Webster City in 1879 and continued in active practice here for over thirty years. He moved to the state of Washington in 1910.

In pioneer days, practicing medicine was indeed a strenuous life. In those days doctors were expected not to prevent disease, but to cure it, and usually the doctor was not called until the case was desperate. When the patient first began to "complain," home remedies were first exhausted. If they failed and the case became serious, a member of the family was dispatched on horseback, across the prairie to the nearest town for a doctor. No matter how bad the roads, how severe the storm or how unseasonable the hour, when the doctor was called, he must go and go at once. Sometimes he took a team, but if the roads were too bad for a team, he went on horseback, and of all the pioneers, none can relate such a varied experience with mud, darkness, blizzard, snow, swamp and flood, as the pioneer doctor. He could not choose his time to travel and often could not even wait for daylight to guide him.

The medical ethics of pioneer days were not as refined as at present. It was not unusual for the doctors to be at war with each other. If a doctor failed to cure, in what was considered a reasonable time, another doctor was called. He was usually a rival. After inquiring into the treatment of his predecessor, it was not at all unusual for him to assume a worried expression and destroy in a dramatic manner all the medicines left by his competitor. Sometimes, he even went so far as to express himself quite strongly regarding the knowledge and qualification of his professional brother. Citizens of thirty years ago, will remember the "Doctor war" between Compton and Eberle and how intense the partisan feeling grew. But the telephone, the automobile and the medical associations have changed the conditions quite materially. Today, in case of serious illness, the telephone furnishes instant communication with a doctor, the automobile furnishes quick transportation, while the medical association is responsible for a more fraternal feeling between members of the profession. Today, doctors' wars are a thing of the past except perhaps in some of the smaller communities.

In the eighties, Dr. Knight, Dr. W. N. Greene, Dr. I. F. Ingersol, O. D.

La Grange, D. L. Hurd, Syrena Andrews Perry, F. E. Whitley and A. H. Hull located in Webster City, while Dr. F. J. Will, Dr. J. G. Wheat, Dr. Morrison, Dr. Lewis, Dr. Rogers, Dr. Paul, Dr. Robertson and Dr. Tedrow practiced in the smaller towns of the county.

Among the doctors who have practiced here during the last twenty years are E. Willson, A. M. Pond, Belle Conrad, T. F. Desmond, F. J. Drake, G. L. Pray, C. W. Rummel, F. A. Taylor, O. G. Tremain, George Wingart, E. E. Richardson, R. W. Homan, R. S. & L. A. Dysart, Mary Nelson Hotchkiss, G. T. McCauliff, W. W. Wyatt, E. F. Stephenson, Ray Hall, F. F. Hall, A. F. Fraker and Dr. W. Hamah.

Dr. W. N. Greene, one of the most scholarly and accomplished members of the profession, died in May, 1895. He was afflicted with appendicitis and never recovered from the effects of the operation.

J. R. Crompton died August 20, 1895, while J. N. Medberry and C. W. Rummel have passed away in recent years.

An important branch of the medical profession is the practice of dentistry. In pioneer days, the doctor pulled teeth with a villainous looking pair of "pinchers." It was a painful, crude operation and it is little wonder that the people endured bad teeth rather than face those "pinchers." Our first regular dentist was E. T. Holt, who practiced in the seventies and early eighties. His principal business was making false teeth and clearing out a place in the customer's mouth to receive them. Besides being a dentist, he was an enthusiastic lover of a fine horse and was the subject of the following little poem, which appeared in the Freeman in the late sixties:

"E. T. Holt has a colt  
Which suits him very well  
But which is Holt  
And which is Colt,  
The Devil couldn't tell."

Later, Dr. G. T. Ritenour did the principal business in dentistry. He came here from Hardin county, where he had assisted in capturing the famous Rainsberger outlaws. He had a long and honorable business career in Webster City.

Among the later practitioners in dentistry were Dr. A. Kellogg, Dr. Boysen, Dr. Giffen, Dr. Berg, Dr. Mahood, Dr. Shultz, Dr. Lundell, Dr. Pote.

There has been great advancement in the practice of dentistry. Today the methods are almost painless and the practice is directed almost entirely to keeping the teeth in repair. Today, the dentist is considered as much a public necessity as a physician.



## CHAPTER XXIV

### THE NEWSPAPERS

THE FREEMAN—THE INDEX—THE ARGUS—THE ADVERTISER—THE WILLIAMS STANDARD—THE CALLANAN HERALD—THE CALLANAN REGISTER—THE JEWELL REVIEW—THE STRATFORD REGISTER—THE WEEKLY REVIEW—THE JEWELL RECORD—THE GRAPHIC—THE WEBSTER CITY TRIBUNE—THE WILLIAMS HERALD—THE WILLIAMS REPORTER—THE WILLIAMS REVIEW—THE WEBSTER CITY HERALD—STRATFORD COURIER—THE GRAPHIC-HERALD—THE STANHOPE NEWS—THE JOURNAL—THE STANHOPE MAIL—THE JEWELL CLIPPER—THE WILLIAMS WASP—THE HORNET—THE ELLSWORTH CHRONICLE—ELLSWORTH NEWS.

#### NEWSPAPERS

As we have already seen, the first newspaper was established in Hamilton county by Charles Aldrich in 1857. The Hamilton Freeman at once took first rank among the newspapers of the state and has held its position through all the succeeding years with the exception of two years during the war, while its editor was away at the front.

The Freeman suspended in 1862, but was revived in 1864 by V. A. Ballow. In 1866, J. D. Hunter bought the Freeman and continued to operate it until 1874, when it was sold to T. E. McCracken. But a year later Mr. Hunter again became the owner and publisher, in which capacity he continued until the time of his death. In 1894, the Daily Freeman was launched. In 1899 the Freeman and Tribune were consolidated by the Freeman-Tribune Publishing Company, the controlling stockholders of which are D. L. and W. F. Hunter, sons of J. D. Hunter. Since then the paper has appeared under the name of the Freeman-Tribune.

#### THE INDEX

In 1871, the Index was started by Raber Bros. It was a democratic paper and an exponent of "up town" ideas. It continued to exist until 1874, when it suspended. During its brief career, J. C. Ervin, M. Y. Todesman and Isaiah Doane were its editors, though the paper was the property of Raber Bros.

#### THE ARGUS

In 1874, the Argus issued its first number. It was started by C. D. Auyer and E. T. Edwards, and was democratic in politics. After a few years it suspended. In the spring of 1880, it was revived by W. A. Hutton.

In August of that year, Will L. Clark and C. D. Hellen leased it, and ran it for one year, when it was purchased by G. B. Pray and D. C. Chase. In the fall of 1882 Mr. Pray was elected clerk of the supreme court and Mr. Chase purchased his interest and took the sole management. He was a writer of marked ability. In politics the paper was now republican, but the two republican papers did not agree upon the policy of county management then in vogue and a somewhat bitter contention arose between them. The Freeman sustained and defended the county officers in their proceedings, while the Argus protested most vigorously and demanded reform. The Argus was striving for the position of leading republican paper, the Freeman to hold that position. About this time the prohibitory question arose and the Argus opposed prohibition. This position settled the question of party supremacy in favor of the Freeman. About 1884, Mr. Chase sold a half interest in the Argus to G. M. Blair, and a year later Mr. Blair bought the remaining interest of Mr. Chase. Under the management of Mr. Blair, the paper rapidly declined in patronage and the paper, after a vain struggle for some months, suspended. Again Mr. Hutton appeared upon the scene, purchased the material, and again set the craft afloat. But now the Freeman, Tribune and Graphic were in the field and there was no mission for the Argus. It struggled along for a couple of years, until about June, 1888, when it suspended. The name and good will were purchased by the Freeman. The plant was moved to Minneapolis, where in a few months it was used in publishing the Herald, a local paper.

#### THE ADVERTISER

The Advertiser was established in the spring of 1877 by J. R. Riblet. It was at first a small monthly paper devoted to advertising. In the fall of 1877, J. D. Sutton became a partner in the enterprise. A fine steam printing outfit was ordered and the Advertiser appeared as an eight column quarto and was the exponent of the greenback party. In about a year, Riblet retired and Med Skinner became a partner, but he soon retired, and Sutton being unable to pay for his fine steam outfit, had to give it up. Sutton managed the paper alone until 1881, when C. D. Auyer leased it and managed it until January 1, 1882. Then F. Q. Lee bought the outfit and edited the paper until October, 1883, when he sold it to Geo. W. Shaffer. Early in 1884, Shaffer sold the outfit to Geo. W. Bell, who discontinued the Advertiser and started the Graphic.

#### THE WILLIAMS STANDARD

In January, 1877, the Williams Standard, a seven column folio, was started at Williams by H. H. Johnson, but in about two years the paper suspended and the plant was moved to Callanan.

#### THE CALLANAN HERALD

In January, 1879, the Callanan Herald was started, but only appeared "occasionally" and finally suspended.

## THE CALLANAN REGISTER

In December, 1879, the old Herald plant was taken charge of by H. H. Johnson and the Callanan Register started, but it only existed for a few weeks.

## THE JEWELL REVIEW

In May, 1881, W. A. Hutton, whose eye was ever keen for an opportunity to start a paper, commenced the publication of the Jewell Review, but it only lived a short time.

## THE STRATFORD REGISTER

In August, 1881, the Stratford Register was issued with S. W. Groves as editor and publisher. The paper was non-partisan in politics. After a few years, it too, suspended.

## THE WEEKLY REVIEW

In December, 1881, W. A. Hutton, who was now quite generally known in newspaper circles as "Doodle, the Starter," commenced the publication of the Weekly Review in Webster City, but lack of patronage made this enterprise a failure.

## THE JEWELL RECORD

The Jewell Record was established in October, 1884, by Savage & Savage. It first appeared as a six column folio. In 1886 it came under the management of Lon G. Hardin, and it became a factor of influence in the southern half of the county. In November, 1891, Hardin sold the Record to Clint E. Myers. In June, 1894, Clint Myers sold to W. E. Taylor and soon D. A. Hindman purchased an interest. During the summer of 1895, they sold the paper to Sage & Igo and in August, 1895, W. H. Hellen purchased the Record and became its editor. Hellen sold to W. S. Hoon and at present, the paper is under the efficient management of Claude Campbell.

## THE GRAPHIC

March 1, 1884, Geo. W. Bell started the Graphic. It was a democratic paper and continued under his management until August 10, 1886, when the plant was purchased by F. Q. Lee, and he became editor of the Graphic. In 1890, J. W. Lee became associated with his father in the business and the paper now appeared under the management of F. Q. Lee & Son. October 1, 1892, the Graphic was sold to a stock company that consolidated the Graphic and Herald, under the name of The Graphic-Herald.

## THE WEBSTER CITY TRIBUNE

The Webster City Tribune made its first appearance July 22, 1885. It was published by C. D. and W. H. Hellen, and by reason of its neat appearance and newsy local columns, it at once became popular and was a financial success. In November, 1894, The Tribune appeared as a daily and was so published until 1899, when the paper was sold to the Freeman-Tribune Publishing Company.

In April, 1886, W. H. Hellen sold his interest in the Tribune to C. D. Hellen, and the latter continued as publisher until the paper was sold as above stated.

#### THE WILLIAMS HERALD

In August, 1887, the irrepressible W. A. Hutton started the Williams Herald, but it suspended the following December.

#### THE WILLIAMS REPORTER

W. R. Pooley commenced the publication of the Williams Reporter in January, 1891. In 1896, it was leased by O. W. Hicks, but in 1897 it was discontinued.

#### THE WILLIAMS REVIEW

was established by T. LeRoy Evans, in 1894. In 1896, it was sold to A. E. Bradford and in 1897, it, too, was discontinued.

#### THE WEBSTER CITY HERALD

In the summer of 1891, W. A. Hutton returned from Minneapolis with the old Argus outfit and attempted to revive The Argus, but as the Freeman had purchased the name and good will of that institution, Hutton was compelled to change the name of his paper to The Herald. In October, 1891, W. S. Weston assumed control of the Herald and commenced the publication of the first daily in Hamilton county. The Daily Herald was a morning paper and the work of getting out the paper was performed during the night. In November, Lon G. Hardin purchased an interest in the Daily Herald. Later it was changed to an evening paper. In October, 1892, the Daily Herald was sold to the Graphic-Herald Publishing Company.

#### THE STRATFORD COURIER

In 1892, the Stratford Courier was founded by C. E. Jordon. After some time, Jordon sold the paper to Fred Olander and March 1, 1899, it was purchased by C. P. Peterson and was managed by him until the time of his death. The paper then became the property of L. M. and C. E. Peterson, sons of C. P., and they are still conducting the Courier as editors and managers.

#### THE GRAPHIC-HERALD

In October, 1892, the Graphic-Herald Company was formed and the purchase of the Graphic and Herald resulted in the establishment of the Daily Graphic-Herald. At the start, F. Q. Lee was the editorial writer and W. S. Weston, local reporter. In a short time, however, Mr. Lee retired from the paper. It continued to be published as a daily until February, 1893, when the daily was abandoned as unprofitable and the Graphic-Herald became a weekly journal. It was democratic in politics. During the winter of 1893-4, the Graphic-Herald was sold to O. W. Hicks. Hicks was a good writer and a hard worker, but he was without means and the heavy mortgage he had been compelled to give, caused him to lose the plant. The Evans Publishing Company assumed

control in 1895. In August, 1897, Jesse Gouge and T. LeRoy Evans leased the paper and conducted its business for about a year, when Gouge retired. The paper was sold to W. J. Pilkington in February, 1899. He sold to Platt in 1901 and Platt abandoned the paper. It was conducted by the old Graphic-Herald Company as mortgagees for a while and finally sold to W. F. Hunter. He sold to H. P. Robie, Robie after several years sold to Hoffman and Richards and in 1910 Richards sold to D. C. Chase and the name Graphic was dropped and the paper now goes under the name of the Webster City Herald.

#### THE STANHOPE NEWS

The Stanhope News was published during 1892 by Joe E. Fardal, but in April, 1893, it was suspended and its subscription list transferred to the Jewell Record.

#### THE JOURNAL

The Webster City Journal was established by Will F. Smith and Furman Tuttle in May, 1894. In April, 1896, Tuttle bought the interest of his partner and conducted the paper alone until 1902, when he sold out to C. D. Hellen, who commenced the publication of the Daily Journal. In 1906, the Journal was bought by Geo. C. Tucker and Carl Haeger and the daily discontinued.

#### THE STANHOPE MAIL

was established by Fred Barkhurst in 1896, and afterward came under the management of F. C. Runkle. It was discontinued in 1910.

#### THE JEWELL CLIPPER

was established by I. A. Lee and Frank Standers in February, 1898. In a few months they sold to Henry Russell and in about a year the paper suspended.

#### THE WILLIAMS WASP

was founded in July, 1897, by W. H. Hellen. After several years, he sold to Yost D. Wallace, who conducted the paper until 1909, when he sold to Lloyd Walterick, the present editor and owner.

#### THE HORNET

Several years after the sale of the Wasp, W. H. Hellen & Son started the Hornet. The Hornet was a very peppery sheet and enjoyed quite a patronage at first, but the plant finally burned and though the paper was published awhile after the fire, it was soon forced to suspend.

#### ELLSWORTH CHRONICLE

At Ellsworth, the Chronicle was published for some years by John A. Digneress and at present that town is represented by the

#### ELLSWORTH NEWS

The News is edited by S. C. Satter, a very original writer. As a humorist he has few superiors in the state.



## CHAPTER XXV

### BANKS AND BANKING

One of the greatest factors in the civilization and development of a new country is the bank. It increases the available ready money, stimulates business and establishes credit. Without the bank, business progress would be slow and cumbrous, but with a carefully managed bank in a community the circulating medium is not only largely increased, but is kept in active circulation.

Hamilton county has been fortunate in its acquisition of bankers. In all the history of the county there is recorded no bank failure. Every dollar deposited in a Hamilton county bank has been returned on demand to the depositor and every investor in bank stock has found his investment not only safe, but increasing premiums have added to the value of his stock. There have been times of business depression and financial panic but the banks almost without exception can point with pride to the fact that no matter how unsettled the financial condition their customers have been taken care of. The oldest bank in the county is the

#### HAMILTON COUNTY STATE BANK OF WEBSTER CITY

This bank was established in December, 1867, by B. F. Miller. It was conducted as a private bank and its place of business was in a frame building located at the northwest corner of Seneca and Division streets. In 1868 Jay Sternberg became a partner and the business was conducted under the name of Miller and Sternberg. After a while the bank and the building it occupied were moved from Seneca street to Second street and was located at No. 612, and the old bank building is now occupied by the Oleson jewelry store. In June, 1872, Miller took as partners W. C. and S. Willson, J. M. Funk and W. W. Funk and the bank was moved to the northeast corner of Second and Des Moines streets and was known as the Hamilton County Bank. On July 15, 1875, the bank was purchased by L. A. McMurray and Oliver K. Eastman. It was still a private concern and was still known as the Hamilton County Bank. For years the Hamilton county bank had a struggle for existence. There was not much money in the country and deposits were merely nominal. In those days, bankers were often politicians and the control of public funds was the chief source of profit. The Hamilton County Bank was unfortunate in its political connection and for years was unable to secure the deposit of any public funds. But in spite of this disadvantage the institution grew and on May 28, 1883 was organized as a national bank with a capital of \$50,000. About seven years later (July 17, 1870), the national charter was surrendered and a state bank was organized with a capital of \$100,000. In 1896

it erected for its home at a cost of \$40,000 what was at that time the finest bank building in northern Iowa. This building is located on the northwest corner of Second and Des Moines streets. The growth of the institution has been steady and enduring. In 1875 the deposits were merely normal while in 1912 they reached over \$918,000.

In 1875 L. A. McMurray became its president, has held the position continually for thirty-seven years and still gives active personal attention to the affairs of the bank. There have been but two vice presidents. Jacob M. Funk was elected May 28, 1883, and continued to occupy the position until the time of his death in 1905. After the death of Mr. Funk, John L. Kamrar was elected and the position is still occupied by him. There have been but six cashiers, O. K. Eastman, John W. Funk, Cyrus Smith, J. O. Lenning, F. H. Alexander and B. F. Paine.

To sum up, this is the oldest bank in the county. It carries the heaviest deposits. It has been under the same management for thirty-seven years. It has been first in all movements in progressive banking.

#### FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF WEBSTER CITY.

The First National Bank of Webster City was incorporated in A. D. 1871, by Kendall Young, L. L. Estes, E. S. Wheeler, C. T. Fenton, A. D. Arthur, O. K. Eastman, W. W. Boak, and D. D. Chase, with a capital of \$50,000. Its charter bears date September 8, 1871, and its number is 1874, indicating that it was among the earliest of the national banks organized. In 1891 its capital was increased to \$100,000. Kendall Young was its first president and continued as such until his death in 1896. L. L. Estes was vice president from its organization until the death of Mr. Young when he was elected president and continued to hold this office until his death in 1909, when W. J. Covil was elected to succeed him. The brick building on the east side of Seneca street now occupied by H. H. Himebaugh was the first home of the bank. In 1891 the bank was moved to the corner of Seneca and Second street, its present location. The first report to the comptroller of the currency December 16, 1871, shows deposits of \$37,161.16 and the last report September 4, 1912, shows deposits of \$762,390.48, with a surplus and undivided profits of \$77,868.14. The following are the directors and officers of the bank at this date, September, 1912: President, W. J. Covil; vice president, E. F. King; cashier, W. C. Pyle; assistant cashier, E. E. Mason; assistant cashier, H. O. Cutler. Directors—J. M. Richardson, W. J. Covil, W. C. Burleson, E. F. King, W. C. Pyle, Wesley Martin, E. E. Mason, M. L. McCollough, J. W. Young.

#### THE FARMERS' NATIONAL BANK

The Farmers' National Bank was organized as a national bank in 1885, succeeding the private bank of Miller & Mattice. The incorporators were J. M. Jones, B. F. Miller, George Shipp, Charles T. Fenton, J. W. Mattice and W. P. Miller, who composed its first board of directors. B. F. Miller who had started the first bank in Webster City became the first president of this institution, which office he held until 1890, when he resigned the presidency to engage in other business. J. M. Jones was at that time made president; George Shipp, vice president; and J. H. Shipp, cashier. They remained the managing officers until 1898, when on the



OLD FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING ON SENECA STREET,  
WEBSTER CITY



death of George Shipp, Robert E. Jones became vice president. In 1909 Robert E. Jones was elected president. Since that time the board of directors has consisted of J. H. Shipp, J. M. Jones, Robert E. Jones, L. L. Treat, O. A. Hall, H. A. Crandall and Varick C. Crosley.

The building owned and occupied by the bank was erected in 1894. Its front is made of stone hewn out of prairie boulders, making an appropriate and substantial home for this institution. Since 1890 the active management of the bank's affairs has remained in the competent hands of J. M. Jones and J. H. Shipp, assisted in later years by Robert E. Jones. Under their guidance the bank has grown in the esteem and confidence of the people of Webster City and Hamilton county until it now enjoys the reputation of being one of the strongest banks in the state, its deposits having increased from \$50,000 in 1890 to over half a million dollars in 1912. A compilation of the records in the comptroller's office at Washington, D. C., shows this bank first of all the national banks in Iowa in ratio of surplus and undivided profits to capital. In addition to a large patronage from the people of Webster City this bank has an extensive business with farmers and stock feeders living in the extremely rich agricultural district which surrounds Webster City. Efficient, prompt and courteous service unflinchingly rendered is the keynote of this bank's success.

#### WEBSTER CITY SAVINGS BANK

was organized in 1897. Principal stockholders at the time of organization were F. M. Fuller, F. A. Edwards, D. C. Chase, W. C. Burleson, Geo. Olmstead, S. R. Hoyt, Bert Arthur, J. E. Quackenbush, W. F. Hunter, John Richardson. Capital stock at time of organization \$10,000.00. Has been increased several times and is now \$35,000. Officers at present time—W. C. Burleson, president; F. M. Fuller, vice president; W. B. Rood, cashier; J. A. Boeye, assistant cashier; R. H. Ash, bookkeeper.

F. A. Edwards was the founder and first depositor, and for years, until the time of his death, November 23, 1910, had active charge of the affairs of the bank, and it was owing to his business sagacity and foresight and standing in the community that the bank now occupies the place it does in financial affairs in the city.

At the present time the bank holds deposits of \$185,000.00.

#### STATE BANK OF BLAIRSBURG

The Exchange Bank of Blairsburg was organized January 13, 1893, with a capital of \$10,000. The first officers were H. C. Tuttle, president; B. M. Merrill, vice president; R. J. McVicker, cashier. Stockholders at the time of organization were R. J. McVicker, W. H. Tuttle, McNee & Brown, H. C. Tuttle, L. A. McMurray, H. A. Eames, J. L. Kamrar, Geo. Castner, B. H. Merrill, W. F. Powers, E. I. Johnson, Geo. Herr Reinicker, L. F. Houck, Jacob M. Funk.

In May, 1895, capital was increased to \$14,500.00. On January 6, 1902, stockholders of the old Exchange Bank of Blairsburg voted to increase the capital stock to \$25,000.00, and to incorporate as the State Bank of Blairsburg. The State Bank of Blairsburg took over the business of the old Exchange Bank of Blairsburg on February 5, 1902.

Officers of Exchange and State Bank of Blairsburg since its organization: Presidents, H. C. Tuttle, January 13, 1893, to January 8, 1895; W. F. Powers, January 8, 1895, until his death in fall of 1903; J. C. McNee, January 6, 1904, to the present time.

Vice presidents, B. M. Merrill, January 13, 1893, to October 2, 1894; L. A. McMurray, October 2, 1894, to January 8, 1895; L. L. Estes, January 8, 1895, until time of his death in 1908; W. J. Covil, January 6, 1909, to the present time.

Cashiers, R. J. McVicker, January 13, 1893, to October 2, 1894; B. M. Merrill, October 2, 1894, to January 8, 1895; J. C. McNee, January 8, 1895 to January 6, 1904; Jas. W. McNee, January 6, 1904 to the present time.

Henry Klass made the first time deposit and certificate of deposit, number 1 being issued to him. There have been no runs or panics that affected the bank. Even during the currency panic of 1907 this bank paid cash at all times and did not resort to cashier's checks. On the night of October 23, 1897, three burglars attempted to rob the bank. They burst open the outside safe with a heavy charge of explosive and then attacked the inside steel chest but were frightened away before they succeeded in opening it. They secured only a few dollars in nickels which were in the outside safe. One of the robbers, Edward Gilcoin, was shot though not seriously injured. He was captured and sent to the penitentiary. A contract has been let for a fine new one-story bank building, 26x54, to be made of brick with stone trimming. It will be modern in every way and will cost about \$11,000.00 complete. The new building will be used exclusively by the bank.

A statement of the condition of the bank at the close of business April 3, 1912, shows the following condition:

## RESOURCES

Loans and discounts .....	\$103,682.39
Overdrafts .....	527.65
Banking House and Fixtures .....	2,800.00
Cash on hand and in banks .....	64,646.37
	<hr/>
	\$171,656.41

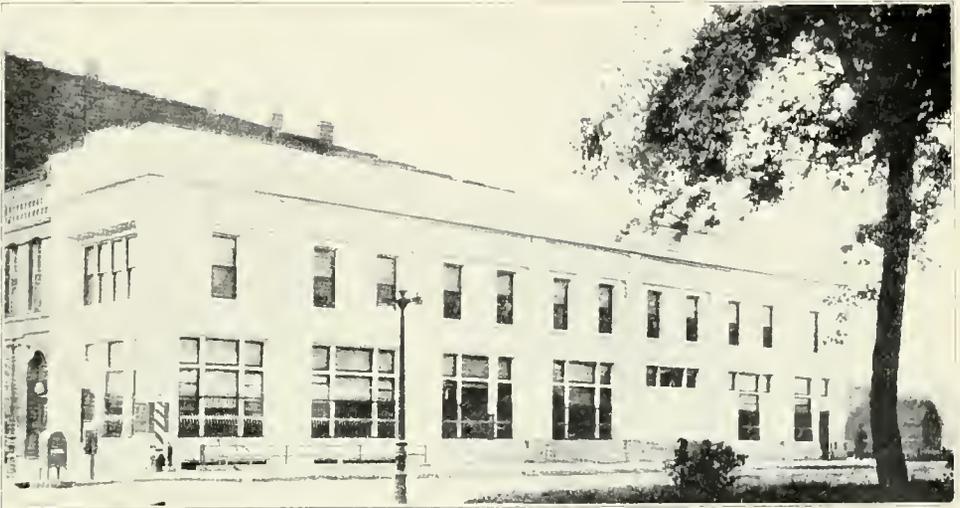
## LIABILITIES

Capital stock .....	\$ 25,000.00
Undivided profits .....	5,767.30
Deposits .....	140,889.11
	<hr/>
	\$171,656.41

## THE STATE BANK OF WILLIAMS

is the oldest *state bank* in the county, it having been organized as a state bank about three months in advance of the Hamilton County State Bank at Webster City.

The business of writing exchange was first commenced by Johnson Bros., dealers in hardware in Williams in March, 1887. The banking system at that time was rather crude. Deposits were often placed in an envelope and the original money kept in that way for the owner until he called for it. In Janu-



FIRST NATIONAL BANK, WEBSTER CITY



HAMILTON COUNTY STATE BANK, WEBSTER CITY



ary, 1888, drafts were printed with the heading, "Exchange Office of Johnson Bros." and in December, 1888, Johnson Bros. opened a regular exchange bank.

On March 21, 1890, the State Bank was incorporated and commenced business the following April with a capital stock of \$25,000. At that time, the deposits were about \$14,000; cash, \$26,000 and loans about \$13,000. In March, 1893, the capital was increased to \$35,000. The deposits at that time were about \$37,000 and loans \$51,000. On March 21, 1908 the capital surplus and profits amounted to \$47,000, the deposits, \$183,735; cash, \$42,800 and loans, \$158,100.

At the present time (1912), the capital, surplus and profit amount to about \$50,000, the deposits about \$300,000; cash, \$100,000 and loans about \$215,000. Thus has this institution steadily grown in strength since its organization twenty-five years ago.

The first officers of the State Bank were: G. G. Talcott, president; S. S. Morrison, vice president; E. I. Johnson, cashier; and H. N. Johnson, assistant cashier. In January, 1892, G. G. Talcott died and the following March, Edmund Crabtree was elected president; A. C. Fuller, vice president; E. I. Johnson retained the position as cashier; and J. W. Wilkinson was elected assistant cashier.

In March, 1893, John Tomlinson succeeded A. C. Fuller as vice president and F. W. Tomlinson was succeeded by Ray T. Johnson as cashier. The officers at the present time are: E. I. Johnson, president; John Tomlinson, vice president; and Ray T. Johnson, cashier.

The bank owns an up-to-date banking house valued at \$20,000 and is equipped with safety deposit boxes and all modern banking equipment.

The First National Bank of Williams, Iowa, was organized and opened for business October 12, 1900, with a capital stock of \$25,000 and the first man to make a deposit was William Gerber, the present mayor of Williams. At the time of organization, the officers were: R. J. Hurd, president; and John McCarley, cashier. Since that time, John McCarley has been promoted to the presidency and C. M. Trumbauer has been made cashier. At the time of the organization, a bank building valued at \$7,000 was erected. The business of the bank has steadily increased until the deposits are now nearly six times as large as the capital stock.

The principal stockholders are R. J. Hurd, L. W. Schroeder, Mrs. Jane Worthington, N. P. Hyatt, E. F. King, William Whistler, H. S. Robbins, W. H. Rick, J. J. Carr, A. O. Carr, A. E. Howes and John McCarley.

A statement of the condition of the First National Bank of Williams at the close of business, June 14, 1912, was as follows:

Loans and Discounts.....	\$120,607.82
U. S. Bonds.....	26,100.00
Real Estate, Furniture and Fixtures.....	8,139.00
Cash on hand and in Banks.....	49,566.53

Total .....\$204,413.35

Capital Stock .....	\$ 25,000.00
Surplus and Profits.....	10,351.32

National Bank Notes.....	25,000.00
Deposits .....	144,062.03
Total .....	<u>\$204,413.35</u>

## THE STATE BANK OF STRATFORD

commenced business as the Bank of Stratford, April, 1891, and was organized as a state bank, February 15, 1892. Articles of incorporation signed by G. S. Ringland, S. T. Meservey, Webb Vincent, of Fort Dodge, Iowa, and Augustus Anderson, Jonas Fallein, J. T. Drug, and C. O. Rodine of Stratford, Iowa, these being the main stockholders at that time. The capital stock was \$25,000 and Augustus Anderson was elected president; Jonas Fallein, vice president; and J. T. Drug, cashier. Among the first depositors were I. W. Hyatt and Rev. Carl Nelson. C. O. Rodine was elected vice president, January, 1895, to succeed Jonas Fallein, whose death occurred the previous November. In July, 1895, J. T. Drug resigned as cashier and was elected vice president and Edward Peterson elected cashier. In July, 1896, Mr. Drug severed his connection with the bank and C. O. Rodine was elected vice president to fill the vacancy. Mr. Rodine resigned as vice president in March, 1899, and G. S. Ringland took his place. Upon the death of Augustus Anderson, in 1904, P. A. Swanson was elected president, which position he still holds. In 1909, the interests of the outside stockholders living at Fort Dodge, Gowrie and Seattle, Washington, were purchased by Stratford capitalists and capital increased to \$35,000.00. The bank is now owned exclusively by ninety Stratford stockholders and is in fact "A Home Bank owned by Home People."

A comparative statement of deposits shows them to have been on July 1, 1906, \$98,000; on July 1, 1908, \$155,000; on July 1, 1910, \$210,000; on July 1, 1912, \$240,000.

The surplus and undivided profits at the present time are about \$15,200.

The bank did not suspend currency payments to its customers during the panic of 1907.

The present officers are: P. A. Swanson, president; F. E. Lundell, vice president; Edward Peterson, cashier. The directors are P. A. Swanson, C. G. Peterson, F. E. Lundell, John Hubner and Oscar Lund.

## THE STATE BANK OF ELLSWORTH

The State Bank of Ellsworth was incorporated and commenced business on June 1, 1891. The principal incorporators were L. L. Estes, Osmund O. Lanning, Peter Rushia, W. S. Worthington, J. M. Hoffman, O. A. Cragwick, K. Severson, James Caruth, M. H. Brinton, K. Young, L. L. Treat, Knud Swenson and John O. Ringstad. Its first officers were: M. H. Brinton, president; L. L. Estes, vice president; Simon Sogard, cashier. The capital stock at the time of organization was \$35,000. M. H. Brinton continued to be president of the bank until the time of his death, which occurred in 1912.

## FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF JEWELL

The Farmers' and Traders' State Bank of Jewell, was organized April 25, 1893, with a capital stock of \$30,000. A. Alexander was president and Att. Alexander, cashier. On June 17, 1896, the bank was discontinued and the corporation dissolved. The owners of the Farmers' and Traders' Bank then organized the First National Bank of Jewell Junction, with a capital stock of \$25,000. In September, 1912, this bank had a surplus and undivided profits of nearly \$10,000; deposits of over \$166,000 and loans of over \$125,000. The officers at the present time are H. C. Smith, president and Att. Alexander, cashier.

## STATE BANK OF JEWELL

The State Bank of Jewell was organized August 16, 1892, the incorporators being W. J. Chamberlin, William Anderson, J. W. Benson, John I. Wiley, Charles Knudson and D. C. Chase. The capital stock was \$25,000 and its first officers were: W. J. Chamberlin, president; William Anderson, vice president; John S. Wiley, cashier. The officers at the present time are: Gilbert Knudson, president; E. W. Knudson, vice president; Carl P. Miller, cashier.

## FARMERS' STATE BANK OF KAMRAR

The Farmers' State Bank of Kamrar, was organized with a capital stock of \$25,000, May 7, 1903. Business was conducted by H. B. Kray until 1910, when F. H. Alexander was elected cashier.

## STANHOPE STATE BANK

The Stanhope State Bank, with a capital of \$25,000, was incorporated July 20, 1892, by L. L. Estes and B. C. Mason. In 1896, H. E. Fardal was elected president and J. E. Sogard, cashier. The officers at the present time are: H. E. Fardal, president; Edwin Olson, vice president; E. G. Fardal, cashier. Since its organization the business of the bank has grown steadily. It has deposits of nearly \$267,000 and loans of over \$190,000.

## FARMERS' SAVINGS BANK

The Farmers' Savings Bank of Stratford, was organized July 19, 1909. Its first officers were: J. T. Drug, president; E. H. Hawbaker, vice president; E. A. Waller, cashier. The capital stock was \$15,000.



## CHAPTER XXVI

### THE CHURCHES

SOME CHURCH STATISTICS—THE METHODISTS—THE UNIVERSALISTS—THE GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH—THE UNITED BRETHREN—CHRISTIAN SCIENCE—CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH—THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH—ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC CHURCH—THE ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH—THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH—NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH.

#### CHURCH HISTORY

The people of Hamilton county as a whole have had great respect for religion and religion has had a great influence upon their growth and development. When the settler moves into a new country to build a home, his first inquiry is regarding churches and schools and these influences in Hamilton county have always been matters of just pride to her people.

Statistics compiled in 1895, show that over half the people of Hamilton county made some profession of religion. The different denominations were represented as follows: 3,420 Lutherans, 1,652 Methodists, 656 Catholics, 650 Christians, 570 Congregationalists, 439 Baptists, 297 Universalists, 270 United Brethren, 64 Episcopalians.

Nine hundred and thirty-one gave their religion as "Protestant." One hundred and eighty-five were divided among other denominations and 7,542 gave no religious belief. There was but one pronounced Agnostic in Hamilton county. There were, however, many who professed religious belief, who did not belong to the churches of the county, for from other statistical tables compiled the same year, we find that the Lutherans had eleven churches with a membership of 1,728. The Methodists had eight churches with a membership of 922. The Catholics had two churches with a membership of 230. The Christians had two churches with a membership of 369. The Congregationalists had three churches with a membership of 432. The Baptists had two churches with a membership of 280. The Universalists had one church with a membership of 120. The United Brethren had two churches with a membership of 172. The total value of the church property in 1895 was over \$107,000.

Ten years later, in 1905, the Christians had three churches with a membership of 565. The Congregationalists, five churches with a membership of 654. The United Brethren, four churches with a membership of 375. The Presbyterians, two churches with a membership of 262. But little change was reported in numbers of the other churches and their condition as to membership was practically the same as ten years before. The total value of church property in the county in 1905 is given at over \$176,000.

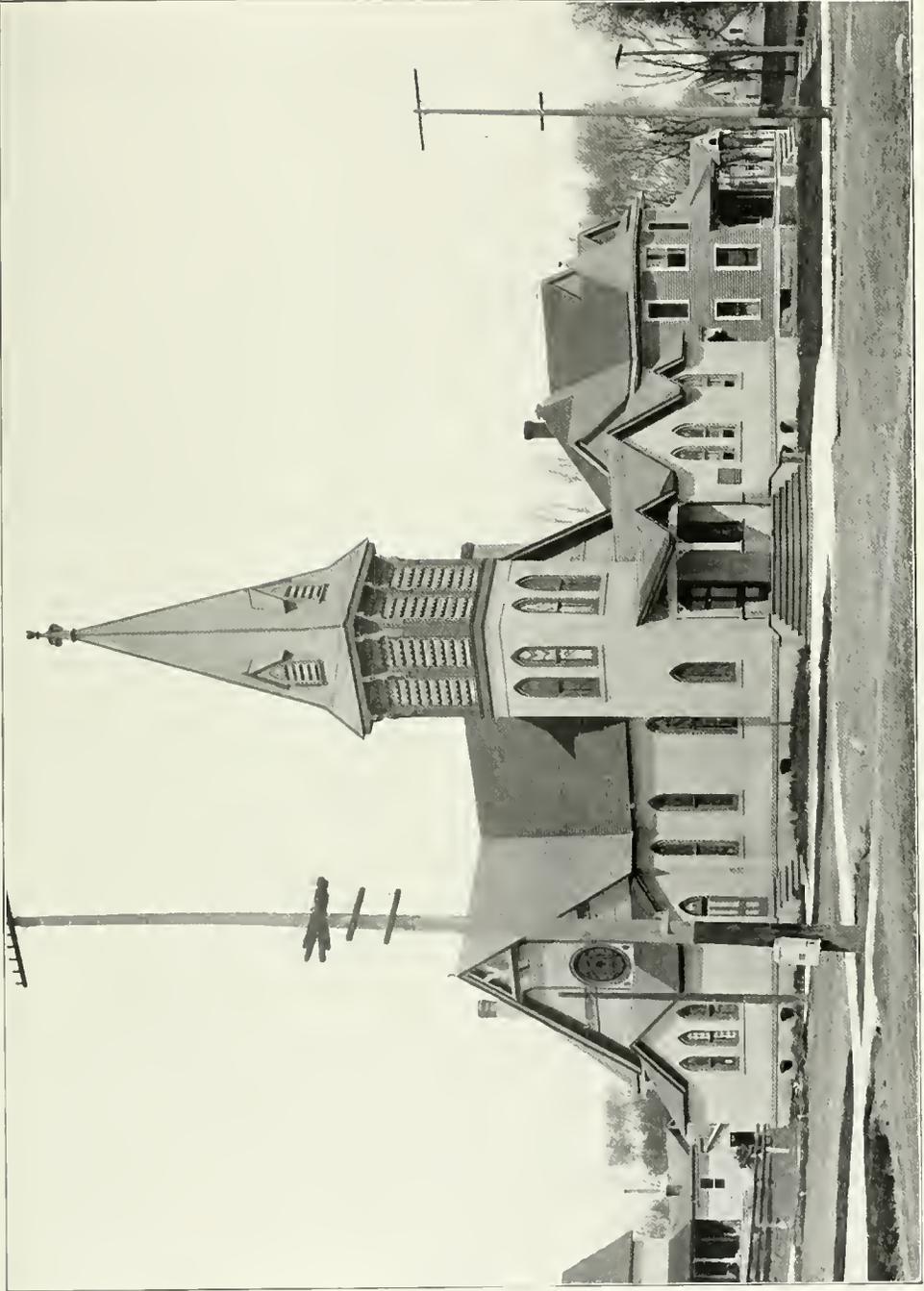
## FIRST CHURCH IN THE COUNTY

The Methodists were the first to organize a society, and as a good account of the first church is given in the Freeman of July 15, 1885, it is given here:

"The first religious society within this county, hence we have taken pains to inform ourselves in regard to the pioneer church which was formerly known as 'Swede Bend Church.' This was the Swedish branch of the Methodist Episcopal church and was first established as the 'Webster Mission,' in April, 1854, by G. Smith, and was to accommodate the pioneer Swedes who had settled along the Des Moines river at Swedes Bend, in what is now Hamilton and Webster counties. A few charter members are now residents of the county, among whom is Samuel Peterson of Marion township. In the fall of 1855, Andrew Erickson came from Jefferson county, as a supply to their charge and in 1857 became a resident preacher, holding church services at private houses. Throughout all these long years the gospel has had its heralds in the church either by supply or local preachers. In 1876, six acres of land was purchased of Andrew Johnson, located in the northeast quarter of section 32, Marion township—a mile from the Boone county line and two miles east of Webster county line, and on it was erected a beautiful church edifice, 36x50 feet. It is a frame structure, with a well proportioned steeple with belfry. The cost of the building was \$3,000. This, together with a neat parsonage built the following year (1877), which cost \$1,000, and a church cemetery, a mile and three-quarters distant, makes one of the finest pieces of church property in Hamilton county. This church was dedicated January 7, 1877, by presiding elder, A. J. Anderson, now of Brooklyn, N. Y. Among those who have preached on this charge are Revs. John Bergren, Jo's Wigren, and John Simpson, the present pastor. The church now has a membership of 95. A Sunday school is in operation, which numbers about 75 scholars. Augustus Anderson has been superintendent for about ten years, but at present is assistant with Mr. Simpson as superintendent. A young people's aid society has lately furnished the church with a \$115 organ. This church belongs to the Burlington district of the Northwest Swedish Methodist Episcopal church, which extends over eleven states, including Iowa."

The Methodists were also the first to organize in the northern part of the county; and they were the first to build a church in Webster City. WILL L. CLARK, a pioneer member of the church, gives the following account of the early history of Methodism in Hamilton:

"In the years 1857 and 1858, Rev. David P. Day had the honor of forming the first Methodist 'Class' in this vicinity, which became the cornerstone of Methodism in this city. After 'Father Day' had filled his useful mission and passed from earth to his reward in heaven, the class was kept together by a few pioneers who firmly believed in the principles of the Methodist Episcopal church. A few years after the death of Rev. Day the charge was served by Rev. Abbott, who lived in what is now Cass township. Next came Rev. Montgomery, then Rev. Wm. Black, who remained till 1864, and was succeeded by the two Hestwood brothers and Rev. Kendall. Up to 1862 the general meeting place for the class was at the 'White Fox' schoolhouse, two miles north of this city. This was the first schoolhouse built in Hamilton county, and to many of our early settlers that spot seems almost like hallowed ground.



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, WEBSTER CITY



"The board of stewards for the first organization in this city was as follows: David Beach, Benj. Beach, Simon Day, O. W. Story, with Jacob Skinner as recording steward.

"Reverend William Black, the second pastor in charge, received but \$239 the first year, and \$400 the second year. It may here be added, however, that times were not what they are now-a-days; and the donations amounted to much more. Wood, several dressed hogs, a half of a beef, a jar of butter, a sack of beans, any amount of crabapples and enough primitive sorghum to sweeten them, were among the annual thank-offerings to the pioneer Methodist preacher hereabouts!

"All through the long dark years of the Civil war, the Methodist, Congregational and Baptist societies held their services in the 'Old Town Hall,' and part of the time at 'Rhodes' Hall.' There were many seasons of revival within these old halls, one of which has long since crumbled to decay.

"After the war cloud had passed over and peace perched upon our banners, the Methodist society began to grow in strength and numbers and it was found necessary to provide a home of their own. Hence in 1865 a building committee was appointed, composed of the following gentlemen: David Beach, Simon Day and Albert Cook. They met with but little success in raising funds till 1866, at which date the foundation was laid for the building which we occupy—through the providence of God—tonight. The contract was awarded to Alex. Turner and Samuel Baxter, who engaged 'Uncle' Alsop Sage to take charge of the brick-work and masonry. The brick were made by our pioneer brick maker, Ira Hilliard, now of Spencer, Iowa. The lime was furnished by 'Uncle' Jacob Payne and U. Briggs, who also furnished a portion of the stone for the foundation. The lumber with which this building was finished was partly of native hardwood, sawed at Tucker's mill, and the pine lumber from which the seats, etc., were made, was hauled from Boone and Iowa Falls, then the nearest railroad points, and cost the builders \$80 per thousand. The painting and graining was executed by J. E. Dain, now a resident of Idaho territory. At the time this church was erected it was looked upon as a good-sized building. It stood 'out on the prairie,' as it were, with no building near it, except the old brick school-house."

Between the building of the first church and the building of the second in 1886, the following pastors served: Rev. J. A. Copeland, Rev. D. M. Mallory, Rev. J. Martin Bly, Rev. J. R. Berry, Rev. H. T. Curl, Rev. H. D. Brown, Rev. John Hogarth Lozier, Rev. R. C. Glass, Rev. H. E. Sexton, Rev. Jos. A. Potter, Rev. N. E. Earhart, Rev. Bebee, Rev. D. W. Phifer.

Of all the ministers above mentioned, the strongest preacher and the most remarkable character was John Hogarth Lozier, known as the "Fighting Parson." He was a man of strong prejudices and decided opinions, which he was not at all backward in expressing. As a consequence, he made many bitter enemies as well as hosts of warm friends.

In 1886, the society tore down the old church above described and erected a new church on the corner of Bank and Des Moines streets. At the time this church was erected, it was the largest and finest structure in the county.

In 1896, a parsonage was erected just north of the new church building.

After the building of the church in 1886, the following pastors were assigned to this charge: F. H. Sanderson, 1886-88; S. P. Marsh, '88-'89; Robert Bagnell, '89-'92; H. K. Hastings, '92-'95; J. W. Mahood, '95-'97; G. H. Kennedy, '97-'99; F. E. Day, '99-'00; H. G. Pettenger, 1900-February, 1901; E. S. Johnson, February, 1901-'03; G. W. Southwell, '03-'05; F. W. Ginn, '05-'08; C. H. Kamp-hoefner, 1908 —.

In 1912, the church of '86 was torn down and a new, imposing structure erected on the same ground. The board of trustees that constructed the new church consisted of the following members: J. B. Hughes, J. L. Peterson, J. N. Hiff, L. T. Oleson, R. P. Smock, S. K. Virtue, P. H. Ruppel, I. Mulholland, F. A. Huddlestun.

Some of the "old time" Methodists who attended services in the "Old Brick Church," who saw the church of '86 erected, worn out and torn down, and who are now anxiously watching the erection of the new, magnificent temple of 1912, are Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Gage, Mrs. N. B. Trumbauer, Mrs. G. T. Adams, Mrs. W. W. Boak and Mrs. and Mr. A. A. Cook.

#### ST. PAUL'S UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

In January, 1874, the Universalist church was organized in Webster City by Rev. B. F. Snook. A frame church was erected at the corner of Bank street and Willson avenue and it was dedicated November 14, 1875. Rev. Snook continued as pastor most of the time until 1882, when Rev. S. R. H. Biggs was called and occupied the pulpit about one year. In 1884, Rev. W. W. Nulling was engaged as pastor and continued to occupy the pulpit until 1888. Nulling was not a Universalist, but he was a strong preacher and his sermons were entirely satisfactory to the members of the church. Domestic troubles caused his resignation early in 1888. He was succeeded by Dr. Amos Crum, who took charge of the church in August, 1888. Dr. Crum occupied the pulpit for two years at the end of which period he resigned and Rev. B. F. Snook who had founded the church was recalled. Rev. Snook now occupied the pulpit from October 1, 1890 until October, 1892. He then relinquished the pulpit to Dr. Amos Crum, who was again called to the Webster City charge. Dr. Crum occupied the pulpit for about six years. He was succeeded in July, 1898, by Rev. Chas. Graves, who continued in charge until May, 1899. In the meantime, during 1898, the old church was rebuilt and enlarged and the new church was dedicated in October, 1898.

In June, 1899, Rev. F. H. York was chosen as the local minister and remained with the church until August 1, 1900. Rev. James Alvin Clark was pastor from November 1, 1900, until the fall of 1902. Rev. A. N. Alcott was elected April 1, 1905, and stayed about two years when he was succeeded by Rev. N. E. Spicer, who continued as pastor until August, 1912.

In 1910 a fine modern dwelling was erected on Boone street as a parsonage.

Of all the ministers who have occupied pulpits in Webster City none were more dearly beloved by the people in general than B. F. Snook and Amos Crum. Rev. Snook made Webster City his home long after he ceased to occupy the local pulpit. When his life's journey ended, he found a resting place among his friends in Webster City.



ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH, WEBSTER CITY



ST. PAUL'S UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, WEBSTER CITY



Dr. Crum, during his residence here was considered almost indispensable. He was broad-minded, patriotic, highly talented and was always ready and willing to perform any public service assigned to him. He died at Marshalltown and was buried in Graceland Cemetery at Webster City.

The name of the church was changed to St. Paul's Universalist church and under that name the organization was incorporated.

#### THE GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

The German Lutheran church was first established in Webster City in 1874, Wm. and John Horn and August Witte being among its first members. A small church and parsonage was then built in the 1000 block on Second street and Rev. H. W. Rabe was called as pastor. For years, Rev. Rabe conducted the church and a small parochial school, preaching and teaching in German. Rabe was succeeded by Rev. J. C. Cramer and he by Rev. F. J. Ochlert. In 1893, while Rev. E. R. Hanow was pastor, a new church and parsonage was erected at the corner of Bank and Prospect streets. E. R. Hanow was succeeded by Rev. A. Wilner. Rev. Wilner was succeeded by Rev. W. F. George, who was pastor until 1912, when he resigned to accept the presidency of a college at Mankato, Minnesota.

#### UNITED BRETHREN

This organization formed its first class in the White Fox neighborhood in 1887. In 1890 the United Brethren church at Mulbury Center was dedicated. At the close of the service it was found that the church was comfortably seated, carpeted and out of debt.

In 1892 the church at Webster City was built and about 1898 the Oak Glenn church which had been built by the Methodists was acquired by the United Brethren and a congregation established there.

It has been usual for the minister assigned to Webster City to fill the pulpit at Oak Glenn and Mulbury Center. The pastors who have served since the building of the church at Webster City are S. S. Eslick, N. F. Hicks, C. J. Stark, J. D. Snyder, L. W. Nine, B. J. Clark, A. B. Roberts, A. A. Pruitt, O. C. Buxton, J. W. Shoemaker, E. F. Clark, S. B. McVey and J. W. Peterson.

#### THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

Christian Science was discovered in 1866 by Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy. It was brought to Webster City in 1886. Meetings were held in private homes a short time. As the attendance increased, the Odd Fellows hall was rented and afterwards the G. A. R. hall. Then the Hamilton County State Building was completed, rooms were fitted up there, where the organization remained for four years until 1900, when the present church home on Bank street was finished. First Church of Christ (Scientist) was organized under the state laws of Iowa in December, 1895, the late Judge Hyatt obtaining the charter. The organization has a membership of about 50.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEBSTER CITY,  
IOWA. 1855—1912

*By Capt. Frank E. Landers.*

The Webster City Congregational church was organized by Rev. Thomas N. Skinner of Toledo, Iowa.

The first records contain this account:

"Met on the 12th of August, 1855, to organize a Congregational church in Webster City, consisting of five members:

George D. Wheeler and wife, Leslie Grant and wife, John G. Hancock.

Appointed Rev. W. L. Coleman, chairman.

Appointed G. D. Wheeler, secretary.

Opened by prayer and proceeded to organize.

Adopted as our articles of faith and covenant the following: "We believe," etc.

This meeting for the organization of a church was held less than a year after the plat of the town of New Castle was signed, only thirty days after the signing at New Castle of the plat of the town of Webster City, and twenty-eight days before the postoffice was established.

Hamilton county at that time formed the east part of Webster county, and Boone township, which comprised a strip six miles in width running across this county, had a trifle over two hundred inhabitants.

The building in which the meeting was held was owned by Leslie Grant, and located on the east side of Superior street and south of Fourth street.

There was very little preaching for the first year, or until August 15, 1856, when Rev. Thomas N. Skinner "commenced labors as a home missionary."

Many of the church services were held in the store of Mr. Wheeler, which was situated on the south side of First street and west of River street.

On November 15, 1856, H. M. Barstow and wife were admitted to membership, joining by letters from Lisbon, Ill., they being the first additions to the church.

At the close of one year's services, Rev. Skinner declined further labor on account of ill health.

During the year 1857 there was no regular preaching, and until January 15, 1858, when Mr. Skinner was invited "to preach as he thought duty called," on every other Sabbath.

At this time, Rev. Skinner and wife and John R. Clark and wife united with the church, and we are told that "it was communion season." This is the first communion service of record.

Contemporary accounts tell us that the five charter members had moved away previous to this time, leaving Mr. and Mrs. Barstow the only resident members, so that, wherever they were, whether at their daily labors, the table, the fireside, or their family altar, there was the Webster City Congregational church, and church services were held seven days in the week. But help came so that there were now six in the family, three men and their wives.

On April 1st Rev. Skinner was engaged to preach for one year.

During this year there were four additions to the church, two of whom were Joseph Fisher and wife.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, WEBSTER CITY



After the close of Rev. Skinner's services, there was no regular preaching until September 1st, 1862, when Rev. William H. Osborn was engaged for one year, but was retained for two years.

His is the first salary mentioned, being \$500, of which the Home Mission paid \$350.

February 7, 1863, George Shipp and wife and S. B. Rosenkrans united with the church. With these recent additions, renewed life and strength was given.

A new schoolhouse having been built, the church on April 11th voted to buy the old one and fit it up for a place of worship.

On the 27th of April, 1863, twenty new members were received, among whom were Sarah A. Arthur, John Frank and wife, Martha A. Frank, Francis Hillock, and John D. Howe and wife. On the 4th of May, David Eyer and wife became members.

May 30th the first election of officers was held. Those elected were: Deacons—John R. Clark and John D. Howe. Clerk—S. B. Rosenkrans. Treasurer—John Frank.

It is reported that George D. Wheeler was elected deacon at the time the church was organized.

On July 5th, John R. Clark was installed deacon by the pastor. This is the only installation of deacon given.

December 1, 1863, John Frank, Geo. Shipp, J. D. Maxwell and others not named associated themselves together for the purpose of organizing a corporation for church purposes, and for establishing a church society, and the erection of a house of worship in Webster City, and adopted articles of association. It assumed as its corporate name that of "The First Congregational church of Webster City." Its business was to be managed by three trustees, who should at all times be governed by the instructions of the association and was to be of perpetual existence.

The articles were signed by the three named incorporators, who were also the three trustees.

The acknowledgement was taken before Julius M. Jones, clerk of the district court.

There is no mention made in the church record of these articles of incorporation, and it can only be assumed that the church membership was the other incorporators not named and that the present board of trustees are the successors of the named incorporators.

In after years the corporate name of First church has been used. J. D. Maxwell, one of the incorporators, did not become a member of the church until 1874, eleven years after.

The new meeting house, as it was called, was ready for use and services held in it in January, 1864. It was situated on the lot where was afterward built the residence of Deacon George Shipp.

September 1, 1864, a call was extended to Rev. William F. Harvey, who began his services as pastor in October, and remained for six years. During his pastorate many changes were made in the rules for church government, among which were the adoption of new articles of faith and covenant.

February 2, 1867, the quarterly communion was established, to be held on the first Sabbath in January, April, July and October.

At a meeting held December 29, 1868, was elected the first board of trustees by the church, five years after the corporate trustees were named. At this meeting the first move was made toward building a new church. January 5, 1869, a building committee was appointed composed of the following persons: Henry McKee, Hiram Zelig, Jesse R. Burgess, Kendall Young and Jacob M. Funk.

The new church was ready for use by the next December, and the old school meeting house was sold and afterward moved to the east of Seneca street and made a part of the present dwelling of Charles Wiese.

Rev. Harvey discontinued his services September 1, 1870, and was succeeded by Rev. George R. Ransom, October 6th. Mr. Harvey, previous to the building of the new church, preached one Sabbath each month at Rose Grove. He was unmarried while pastor at Webster City. He died in Clarion, December 1, 1889.

Rev. Ransom was ordained January 1, 1871. January 22d, the new church which had been used for more than a year was dedicated, Rev. Dr. Guernsey of Dubuque, officiating. The total cost of the church and lot was \$5,110. November 13, 1872, Rev. Ransom was installed pastor. He resigned his pastorate in January, 1876.

In June, 1876, Rev. D. N. Bordwell accepted a call to the church, remaining until October 1, 1879.

December 31st, Rev. J. E. Wheeler became pastor and continued his services until January 1st, 1883. He spent his later years in Massachusetts, where he died March 18, 1893.

Rev. J. D. Wells accepted a call from the church May 1, 1883. During his pastorate the annual hand book was published. He discontinued his services March 5, 1888. He died July 27, 1899. Mr. Wells was succeeded by Rev. J. S. Norris, who preached but one year, resigning on account of ill health.

August 15, 1889, Rev. J. T. Blanchard was called by the church. He commenced services October 1st. During his ministry, the present church was built. March 24, 1900, a building committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Covil, Estes, McMurray, McMurchy and Eyer.

The new church was dedicated January 18, 1891, President Gates of Grinnell preaching the dedicatory sermon. The cost of the church was \$17,500. The old church was taken down and the material used in the new one.

Mr. Blanchard resigned August 15, 1895, and was succeeded by Rev. C. P. Boardman, who commenced services January 1, 1896, and remained for three years.

April 8, 1899, Rev. J. O. Thrush commenced services as pastor and continued until January 3, 1910.

April 5, 1910, a call was extended to the present pastor, Rev. Arthur Metcalf.

Since the organization of the church there has been added to membership making a total of 1,092. The membership at the end of ten years was 46; twenty years 136; thirty years 364; fifty years, 391, and January 1, 1912, 406.

The church maintains a Sunday school, Ladies' Aid society, and Women's Missionary society, and has had in past years maintained active young people's societies.

The Ladies' Aid society recently placed in the church a fine pipe organ.

During the existence of the church it has entertained many state and district associations.

The social work of the church and its societies is unwritten history.

The articles of faith were adopted at the time of the organization.

In 1865, through the influence of Rev. Harvey, new articles were adopted, and in 1893 the St. Louis Creed of 1883, took the place of the articles of faith.

To a student in theology, a study of these three independent statements of belief would be of interest; to the church as a whole, little thought is given to these changes.

The three might easily be classified as the Law, the Gospel, and the Epistles. January 1, 1912.

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, WEBSTER CITY, IOWA

*By R. W. Homan.*

(The following article is compiled largely from an address given by Rev. L. N. Call, in the church, Nov. 29, 1908, and from the church records. R. W. Homan, church clerk.)

The First Baptist church of Webster City, Iowa, was organized in the residence of J. Rhodes, Nov. 27, 1858, by Rev. O. A. Holmes, the original members being Rev. and Mrs. O. A. Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. J. Rhodes, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Fawkes, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Averill, A. T. Beardsley, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Short, Nathan Averill, Sarah Lyon and Mary E. Beardsley. None of these are now members of the church. Rev. Holmes was chosen as pastor, A. T. Beardsley as clerk and J. Rhodes as deacon.

Among the supporters of Rev. Holmes were: John Rhodes, D. D. Chase, Geo. Shipp, J. S. Letts, Josephus Hartman, Beach Brothers, Doctor Burgess, G. Burkley, Joseph Fisher, S. B. Rosencrans, D. Sketchley, Kendall Young, J. M. Jones and others. Thus it will be seen that some in other churches and some not members of any church, helped to maintain the services of the church in these first years. Later J. S. Letts was elected clerk and on January 1, 1860, J. N. Skinner was elected deacon. On January 26, 1861, the following trustees were elected: John Rhodes, W. S. Johnson, H. Averill, Geo. Shipp and J. M. Jones. A building committee was appointed but owing to a serious financial depression which then prevailed nothing was done in the way of a building.

On August 9, 1862, the following delegates were appointed to represent the church at the Baptist association to be held at North Union church in Boone county: Rev. O. A. Holmes, Deacon John Skinner, Nathan Averill and Horace Segar. On January 10, 1863, it was voted to pay the pastor for half-time for a year, \$100.00 in cash, goods and farm produce—"such donations are to be furnished at the lowest market prices." This shows that salaries were meager in those days and money hard to raise.

As the country became more thickly settled during these early years many active, earnest workers were added to the church by letter and by baptism. On August 14, 1863, the Upper Des Moines Baptist association met with the church, it being the first time that the church had entertained an association. During these early years the spirit of hospitality and good fellowship was strong and the older members of the church gratefully acknowledge the generous help received from members of other churches and from many who were not members of any church.

April 15, 1865, articles of incorporation were adopted and the following officers elected: Trustees—W. S. Johnson, D. D. Chase, and R. Bell. Clerk—I. N. Averill. Treasurer—E. O. Stevens.

On January 5, 1867, Rev. O. A. Holmes resigned as pastor, having served the church in that capacity for over nine years. He seems to have been a general favorite with his people and to have done a splendid work among them. During his work here he went out and organized several Baptist churches, among them the churches of Iowa Falls, Boone and Fort Dodge.

From this time until Sept. 3, 1870, no records to speak of, were kept and the church was unable to get a pastor. But during this time valuable new members came and the church again showed activity. The church was reorganized Sept. 3, 1870, and on October 30, 1870, steps were taken to secure a pastor and a call was extended to Rev. H. D. Weaver, then of Alton, Ill. This call was accepted and on November 5, 1870, Mr. Weaver took charge of the work and remained one year. At this time Frederick Kelley was chosen deacon, and A. A. Wicks, clerk, and on December 23, A. A. Wicks was elected deacon, which office he still holds.

January 1, 1871, the Sunday school of the church was first organized. Rev. H. D. Weaver, the pastor, being chosen superintendent; W. R. Patrick, assistant superintendent; John Church, secretary and librarian and A. A. Wicks, treasurer.

On June 3, 1871, "the trustees were authorized to purchase the lot of Mr. Sage, provided it could be had for \$300.00." But evidently the deal was not carried through as there is no record of any purchase. On Sept. 6, 1871, the church, through its trustees, A. A. Wicks, O. C. Burton and Chas Stoddard, purchased of Mrs. Cooper the north fifty feet of the lot on which the church now stands and in 1874 their first building was erected on this lot. The purchase price for this fifty feet was \$200.00. On April 26, 1875, the church bought the south eighty-two feet, or the remainder of the lot. The consideration in this case was \$320.00. The Ladies' Aid society raised the money to make the purchase in both instances.

Up to this time, since the first organization of the church, the meetings had been held in various places, the court room, Union hall, Rhodes' hall and the homes of various members, the organization having no building of its own. However, on January 5, 1874, a meeting was held in the home of Wm. R. Patrick to see what could be done about building a church building on the ground owned by the church, which was the north fifty feet of the lot where the church now stands. A building committee was appointed consisting of H. S. Lee, A. A. Wicks and Wm. R. Patrick. The work was pushed through with such energy that the building was completed, furnished and the first meeting held in it February 25, 1874, this meeting being the weekly prayer service. On the following Sunday services were held and eleven people presented themselves for membership. Wm. R. Patrick was elected deacon, to fill a vacancy, and on March 14, 1874, G. W. Lee was elected church clerk. For some time there had been no permanent pastor, the pulpit being supplied by different ministers, but on September 16, 1874, a call was extended to Rev. A. V. Bloodgood which was accepted. On January 5, 1875, the following officers were elected: Trustees—D. D. Miracle, Reuben Lee, and A. A. Wicks. Clerk—G. W. Lee. Treasurer—A. A. Wicks. In the fall of 1875 the church building was enlarged.



BAPTIST CHURCH, WEBSTER CITY

Randolph who was very active in the work among the young men and boys. He was a generous, warmhearted christian gentleman. He passed to his reward March 28, 1908. During this pastorate several revivals were held with gratifying results.

On January 1, 1909, Rev. L. R. Bobbitt, of Mishawaka, Indiana, accepted the call of the church and served as pastor until March 1, 1911. During his pastorate Mr. Bobbitt was very active in mingling with his people and calling upon them in their homes. In November and December of 1909 the church united with four other churches in holding a union revival in a temporary tabernacle building which was situated at the corner of Des Moines and Division streets. This revival was under the leadership of Rev. M. H. Lyon.

In April, 1911, Rev. A. F. Colver accepted the call of the church and took up the work as pastor, which position he still holds. For some weeks previous to the beginning of this pastorate a great many of the members had the feeling that the church ought to have a parsonage and on April 7, 1911, the church voted to either purchase a residence property or buy a lot and build a house. Later it was decided to buy a lot and build, as no suitable residence properties seemed available. May 4, 1911, it was decided to buy the lot, the third property west of the church, for \$1200.00, and build a parsonage. A building committee of five was appointed, viz.: C. H. Clifton, S. S. Parkhurst, Mrs. W. J. Zitterell, Mrs. C. H. Clifton, and Mrs. J. H. Hoag. During the summer a good modern house of eight rooms was built, costing, with the lot, a little over \$5,000.00, and in October Mr. and Mrs. Colver moved in. The funds for the parsonage property were raised by subscription on the share plan, all shares to be paid in three years in installments.

Since the early days of the church the Ladies' Aid society has been the financial bulwark of the institution. By their energy and devotion its members have helped the church through many a financial crisis that otherwise would have overwhelmed it. The Sunday school and Women's Mission Circle have also been efficient aids in the church work. The present membership of the church is three hundred and forty-nine. The present officers are as follows:

Pastor—Rev. A. F. Colver.

Deacons—A. A. Wicks, E. P. Scriven, Wesley Martin, N. McAninch, H. R. Dodge, John T. Teal.

Deaconesses—Mrs. E. N. Lee, Mrs. W. J. Zitterell, Mrs. J. H. Hoag.

Trustees—N. McAninch, Wesley Martin, Dr. F. E. Whitley, H. R. Dodge, C. H. Clifton.

Sunday School Superintendent—Wesley Martin.

Church Clerk—R. W. Homan.

Treasurer—C. O. Barr.

Financial Secretary—S. S. Parkhurst.

Missionary Treasurer—Mrs. J. G. Billings.

#### ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

*By Charles Biernatzki.*

A review of the past, tracing the pathway over which in days gone by, a people have come and the events which go to make up the record of their progress



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CHURCH, WEBSTER CITY



in their journey toward the future, is always interesting to the present. It is to be regretted that too often a more substantial record is not made of these events at the time when they occur.

Trivial and unimportant as they may appear at the time, they are the connecting links of things done which united, form history. As it is, in after years the only source from which information can be obtained is the hazy recollection of a few who happen to remain of those who participated in these events long years before.

In preparing this sketch of the history of the Catholic church in Webster City, the writer finds himself confronted with the difficulties attendant upon a work of this character where no recorded data of events is available, especially is this true of the early period, and he is obliged to gather such information from such sources as are within reach, using his best efforts to furnish as accurate and reliable an account as is possible under such circumstances.

The heroic endurance of hardships, self-denial, and danger undergone by the early pioneers in the settlement of the interior of Iowa, cannot be described so as to be fully comprehended and understood by those who have not had similar experiences. What they must have endured during the long weary years of their trials, deprived of the consolation of the ministrations of the church may be imagined—possibly.

The first Catholic families to locate permanently at or near Webster, prior to 1860, were Michael Foster and Charles Biernatzki. Phillip Fleckenstein, who was unmarried, came into the country with Michael Foster and remained here until his death many years later, and this was the extent of the Catholic population for several years thereafter within a radius of twenty miles of Webster City. Then came Anton Singer, Thomas Prendergast, Bernard Kelly, Nicholas Schomer, Nicholas Wagner, Bernard Wagner, Hiram Campbell, James Shea, and Florence Smith, none of whom are now living, except Anton Singer. This brings us to the time of the advent of the Illinois Central Railway into Webster City, when a number of families were added. During this period the nearest Catholic church was at Fort Dodge.

The first services of the Catholic church were held at the home of Bernard Kelly, in the month of May, 1869, Father Butler of Fort Dodge, officiating. This was the first time that the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was offered up in Hamilton county. As previously stated about the time of the completion of the Illinois Central railroad into Webster City, in 1869, several more families were added to the Catholic population, and from that time forward services were held occasionally, in halls or at the homes of some of the members, until a parish was finally established. In 1870 Father O'Dowd, who was in charge of a parish at Ackley, was sent by Bishop Hennessey to Webster City to organize a parish. This event marks the beginning of the history of the Catholic church at Webster City.

Father O'Dowd visited Webster City in the early summer of 1870 for the purpose of organizing the new parish, and his coming was hailed with joy by those who had been patiently waiting for such an event for so many years. Sometime during the year, or early the following year, a meeting was held, at which the matter of building a church was discussed, and the location decided upon was in the outskirts of Webster City, on the east side of the river and three lots were

secured for that purpose. However appropriate this location may have been, or appeared to be at the time it was selected, the choice made was unquestionably a serious mistake. The church, a brick structure, was built in the fall of 1871. The interior was not plastered nor pews put in until a couple of years later. Meanwhile services were held with considerable irregularity, word being sent by Father O'Dowd to some of the members, with instructions to notify others when he would hold services at Webster City, and this state of things continued for some time after the church was built.

About the same time that he organized the parish of Webster City, Father O'Dowd, as ordered by Bishop Hennessey, organized a parish at Williams, sixteen miles east of Webster City, and another at Belmond, thirty-six miles north-east. These parishes were for several years thereafter, attached to Webster City. Father O'Dowd said Mass at Webster City and the two places named whenever he could, and it must have been at great inconvenience to himself for he had his own parish to look after. He was succeeded by Rev. Father O'Keeffe, in 1875.

Father O'Dowd, who after many years of hard labor in the service of the Master, a few months ago was called to his eternal reward, was a man of rare character. During the time he had charge of the parish at Webster City, he so endeared himself to the people in his charge, by his devoted and earnest labor among them that his memory will be cherished, and his name remembered with grateful recollection by the few remaining members of the parish which he established more than forty years ago.

Father O'Keeffe took charge of the parish in 1875 and was its first resident priest. During his administration he was also in charge of the parishes of Williams and Belmond, and services were held at Webster City, on two Sundays in each month. This was a decided improvement. Father O'Keeffe purchased a tract of land southwest of the city, for a cemetery, which bears the name of Calvary.

Father O'Keeffe was succeeded by Rev. Father Brennan in August, 1881. Shortly after his arrival, a parish was organized at Eagle Grove, and placed in his charge in connection with Webster City. This arrangement continued for some time, when Eagle Grove parish was given a resident priest. A few years later Williams was given a resident priest (Belmond having been cut off from Webster City some years before), and the parish of Webster City had services every Sunday, for the first time after its establishment.

During the early part of Father Brennan's administration a house was purchased near the church, for a pastoral residence. The year 1883 was signalized by the first apostolic visit to Webster City, by Bishop Hennessey, when a class of about one hundred received the sacrament of Confirmation.

Father Daly, who succeeded Father Brennan, took charge of the parish in November, 1895, and at once went to work at the difficult task which lay before him with an energy and devotion seldom equalled. He found the people disunited, and the parish in debt. The parish was incorporated under the laws of Iowa, in 1897, with the corporate name of "The Catholic Society of Webster City." Father Daly at once realized that a mistake had been made years before in the location of the church, and he soon decided that a new location upon which a new church should be erected, must be secured in the most suitable location to be had in the city. In the early part of the year, 1898, a tract of ground 200x234 front-



THE OLD CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEBSTER CITY



ing on Des Moines street, and across from the courthouse was purchased for the sum of \$2700. At this time there was no immediate prospect of building a new church upon the new location. The society was now in debt occasioned by the purchase of the new property. The old property would have to be disposed of and money raised before such an undertaking could be considered. Father Daly had been a busy man from the time of his coming to the parish, and his health failing he was given a parish in the northern part of the state where his labors would not be so severe, as they must necessarily be at Webster City, and in July, 1898, he gave up the parish.

Father Daly was a man of the purest and noblest type. His deep and earnest piety, and his sincere conscientious scruples in his dealings with others, his unsparing devotion to the people whose spiritual welfare was given in his charge, made his life an example worthy of imitation, and imposed upon those he so faithfully labored for, an obligation which would be ingratitude in them to forget. He was gifted in many respects. A brilliant speaker, his sermons were gems of oratory in which were beautifully portrayed the doctrines of the church he loved so faithfully and well, and which could not fail to impress upon those who heard them salutary lessons. He found the parish disunited and in disorder, and left it with order and harmony restored. His early death in the summer of 1901, removed from earth one of whom it may be truly said: "the world was better for his having lived."

Father Hogan took charge of the parish temporarily after the departure of Father Daly, until an appointment to fill the vacancy was made. Archbishop Hennessey in the fall of 1898, appointed Rev. Father O'Brien pastor of the parish. He at once went to work to prepare for the erection of a church edifice upon the new location secured for that purpose by Father Daly. Under the circumstances existing this was a formidable undertaking, for a considerable debt on the proposed site for the new church was still unpaid, and the church property owned by the society had to be sold and converted into cash, something not easy to do, owing to the fact that property in the locality had greatly depreciated in value and was not desirable. Besides, money had to be secured in addition to what was possible to be realized from the sale of the property, and which meant under any circumstances, an indebtedness to a considerable extent to be placed upon the society. Nevertheless, Father O'Brien with a persistency not easily shaken, kept on and during the winter of 1899 and 1900 had plans prepared for building the new church, and the society having disposed of the old church property in the meantime, so that in the spring of 1900, after paying off all outstanding obligations, there was on hand the sum of \$1,666, with which to begin operations.

Archbishop Hennessey died in January, 1900, and was succeeded by Archbishop Keane, as Archbishop of Dubuque, during the same year. This change was distinguished by the division of the diocese of Dubuque by Pope Pius the Tenth, by which was erected the diocese of Sioux City from the western part, with the dividing line on the line of Webster and Hamilton counties. The effect of this change on the parish of Webster City was to give to it additional territory.

It having been determined to build the new church, a contract was entered into, and the work begun in May, 1900. The cornerstone was laid on Sunday, July 3, 1900, before a vast concourse of people, Father Garland of Eagle Grove

conducting the impressive ceremonies, assisted by several priests. Rev. John J. Carroll, D.D., president of St. Joseph's College, Dubuque, now Bishop of the diocese of Helena, delivered the address upon this notable occasion.

On December 26, the building was accepted by the society from the contractor, and on January 6, 1901, it was solemnly dedicated to the worship of Almighty God, by Most Rev. Archbishop Keane. During the exercises, morning and evening, the capacity of the new church was packed to its utmost by the vast assemblage who were present to witness the imposing and impressive ceremonies. This event was a red letter day in the history of Catholicism in Webster City. The Catholic people had just cause to feel proud on this occasion. The old church was, in fact, outside the city and for many years it was the most insignificant structure of its kind in the city, while the new temple of worship was not only second to none as to location, but it surpassed them all in the beauty of its architecture and in its substantial character. The new church was placed under the patronage of St. Thomas Aquinas, whose name it bears.

St. Thomas Aquinas church is Romanesque in style of architecture, of a strict ecclesiastical type in the form of a Latin cross. Its dimensions are ninety feet in length by forty-two feet in width across the naves and fifty-four feet across the transept, the foundations are of stone resting upon 12 inches of concrete, the walls are of hard brick with red pressed brick on outside, the windows are furnished with ornamental opalescent glass, the basement is the full size of the building, and is 9 feet in height with stone and brick partitions, and is finished throughout.

The interior of the church is finished and furnished completely, heated by steam and lighted by electricity. Its seating capacity is six hundred and its total cost, including interior furnishings is \$17,000.

In the fall of 1905, Father O'Brien was succeeded by Rev. Father Norton.

The pastorate of Father Norton is distinguished by the advancement and progress attained by the society in many ways. The building of the new church had involved the society in debt to the extent of more than \$9,000, which was still unpaid, when Father Norton took charge of the parish. In addition to the heavy burden of indebtedness resting upon the society, many necessary improvements and furnishings were required for the interior of the church, and besides, the parish was without a suitable pastoral residence.

Father Norton met the situation with an indomitable energy and unsparing devotion which the difficulties presented could not dispel. He proceeded upon the theory that the "only way to get rid of a debt was to pay it," and the sooner the better, and then stay out of debt. Pay what you owe in all things was the watchword. These salutary admonitions were carried into effect. In less than three years the entire indebtedness was fully paid, and the interior of the church, to the extent of more than \$2,000, furnished and finished and all paid for. The parish was out of debt. Father Norton personally donated most liberally towards this remarkable showing.

In the year 1909, it was determined to build a parochial residence, and work was started upon that undertaking. The building was completed in May, 1910. The building is of a substantial character, and is modern in all of its arrangement and conveniences, and completely finished and furnished at a cost of over \$7,000, and fully paid for.

To the energetic efforts of Father Norton, coupled with the personal assistance which he so liberally extended, is the credit due that the material affairs of the parish advanced so rapidly during his pastorate.

In the month of April, 1908, the Catholic society of Webster City, conveyed its property to Most Rev. John J. Keane, Archbishop of Dubuque. Subsequently the health of the archbishop failing, he asked permission to resign his office, which request was granted by Pope Pius the Tenth, in 1910. During the same year Right Rev. James J. Keane, bishop of Cheyenne, was appointed to the vacant Metropolitan See of Dubuque, who soon after became its archbishop, and to whom passed the property belonging to St. Thomas Aquinas church at Webster City. On November 27, 1911, a corporation was formed under the laws of Iowa, with its principal place of business at Webster City, for the management and control of the temporal affairs of the parish, to be known by the corporate name of "St. Thomas Aquinas church." This corporation is governed by a board of directors consisting of five members, two of whom shall be the archbishop and vicar general of the archdiocese who shall be president and secretary, respectively, the remaining three members being chosen from members of the parish one of whom shall be the pastor, and two members of the laity.

Father Norton was succeeded by Rev. Father Thomas A. Barry in the month of July, the present year, and who is now the pastor of the parish.

The present membership of the parish is about three hundred.

In closing this sketch of the history of the Catholic church in Webster City, it is thought proper to call attention to an important reason why the advance of Catholicism in and about Webster City was not more rapid during the period recorded extending over so many years. It should be remembered that this is an agricultural region, and at the time when opportunities were best to secure homes in Hamilton county, there was no Catholic church here. Catholic settlers who desired to locate here, finding no church established, would pass on to locate elsewhere, giving this as the only reason. This fact will be verified by non-Catholics as well as Catholics living here, prior to 1869. Another reason may be offered and one which still exists, has greatly retarded the growth of the church, is the fact that the parish is without a school. The establishment of a parochial school is, however, being contemplated by the parish, and steps taken for that purpose have now been inaugurated and in the near future a school will be in operation. The value of the church property is about \$30,000.

Societies of the parish are: Ladies' Sodality of the Rosary, to which nearly all of the ladies of the parish belong; Ladies' Altar Society, Knights of Columbus Clement Council No. —.

HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WEBSTER CITY, IOWA

*By M. L. Melick, Pastor*

The first settlers of Hamilton county were largely from the Scandinavian countries and so were of the faith and usages of the Lutheran church. Many others of the same faith came from Europe and from France. They were therefore an educated people, well grounded in the faith of the historic church of the Reformation. While these people continue their Bible schools, in this country,

they are also in entire sympathy with the public school system of America. Therefore, their children at once learned the English language and many were soon ready to enter English churches. They went into various Protestant churches until they gave largely tone and character to the services of the churches they entered. However, with a conservatism due to the teachings and usages of the church of the Reformation, the time came for the organization of an Evangelical English Lutheran church in Webster City.

The first man to take up the work leading to such an organization was Mr. Osmund Ellingson. By writing, he laid the interests of an English Lutheran church in Webster City before the board of home missions of the Evangelical Lutheran church of the general synod in the United States. Said board sent its western secretary, Rev. S. B. Barnitz, D.D. of Des Moines, to make a visit to Webster City. Dr. Barnitz spent Lord's Day, June 14, 1896, in Webster City, preaching in the courthouse in the morning and in the United Brethren church in the evening. Both services were well attended and a deep interest was manifest. Deeply impressed with the importance of the work, the general board at once referred the matter to the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Iowa, Rev. J. C. Jacoby, D.D., president. Dr. Jacoby, as president of synod, arranged with neighboring pastors to supply Webster City with English Lutheran services once every two weeks from June 28, 1896, to October 11, 1896. In the meantime, the synod of Iowa met in regular annual convention at Burlington, Iowa, and the matter of a Webster City organization was referred to the advisory board of home missions of the synod. Through the cooperation of this board and the people of Webster City, the work of the English Lutheran church was launched.

On October 12, 1896, a meeting was held in the office of Osmund Ellingson when the president of the synod was present and arrangements were made to begin regular services November 8th, with Rev. J. C. Jacoby, D. D. as pastor. Accordingly, at 7:35 p. m., November 3, 1896, Dr. Jacoby, with his family, arrived in the city to take charge of the work. Services were commenced in the courthouse and on February 28, 1897, Rev. J. C. Jacoby D. D., was formally installed as pastor.

#### CHURCH ORGANIZED

December 20, 1896, the English Evangelical Lutheran church of Webster City, Iowa, was organized with thirty-nine charter members. On December 22d, this organization was completed by adopting a constitution and by electing a church council. The following officers were elected: Elders—Peter Mathre and Charles Swanson; Deacons—J. O. Lenning, Ole I. Kleveland, Simon Sogard, and Henry C. Kesicker. These officers were formally installed January 3, 1897.

#### FIRST COMMUNION SERVICE

On Palm Sunday, April 11, 1897, twenty-eight new members were received, enlarging the roll to sixty-five. Services were continued every night 'till Easter Sunday, April 18, when the congregation held its first Holy Communion service in its history.

#### CHURCH PROPERTY

On June 8, 1897, a meeting of the congregation was held in the pastor's residence to determine the location of a church. After earnest prayer and due

deliberation, the congregation resolved to purchase the P. C. Babcock property on Des Moines street, opposite the east side of the courthouse park, at a consideration of \$2,500.00, which has proved to be a very desirable location.

#### CHURCH BUILDING

With the location secured, the congregation was now ready to plan for a church building. With this end in view, the pastor in his annual report under date of Jan. 11, 1898 recommended: "That the pastor be instructed to circulate a subscription to raise funds for the erection of a church building and that the aim to be secure in cash and subscription at least three thousand dollars before proceeding to draw plans." This recommendation was adopted.

At a subsequent meeting, J. O. Lenning, P. Mathre and Anton Olson were appointed a building committee, with instructions to receive and report on suitable plans for the proposed church building. At a meeting of the congregation, Sept. 12, 1898, the building committee recommended as the most desirable plan, one from Messrs. Omeyer and Thori of St. Paul, Minn., for a building to cost \$5,600. A considerable part of this amount was provided for by cash and subscriptions, the balance remaining as a debt against the property for the time being.

At this meeting on Sept. 12, 1898, the contract for the basement wall was let to a local contractor, Mr. C. L. Briggs, for the consideration of \$498, and on December 30, 1898, the contract for the superstructure (size 40x44) of veneered pressed brick, was let to Mr. J. R. White, a contractor of this city, at a consideration of \$3,889, and on February 17, 1899, the contract for the art glass was closed with the James E. Patton Art Glass Company of Milwaukee, Wis., at a consideration of \$326.

#### CORNERSTONE LAID

Services suitable to the occasion began on Saturday evening, May 13, 1899, when Rev. J. A. Kaser, of Sioux City, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Iowa, preached from the text "And let the House of God be Built in His Place," Ezra 5:15. Next Lord's day morning, May 14, Rev. H. L. Yarger, field secretary of the board of the church extension, preached on the theme, "God's Love." The cornerstone laying proper took place at 3 p. m., with the following services: Scripture lesson by Rev. F. A. Harter, of the Baptist church; prayer by Rev. J. O. Thrush, of the Congregational church; history of the congregation by J. O. Lenning, chairman of the building committee; brief address by Rev. G. H. Kennedy, of the Methodist Episcopal church, followed with the address of the day by Rev. Dr. Yarger—subject—"Christ, the Chief Cornerstone." At the conclusion of this discourse, the cornerstone was formally laid by the pastor, Rev. J. C. Jacoby, D. D., assisted by the president of synod.

On June 7, 1899, the contract for seating the church and for pulpit and altar furniture was let to the Grand Rapids Furniture Company, at a consideration of \$380.

DEDICATION, OCTOBER 29, 1899

The feast of dedication was prefaced by weekday evening services, beginning on Tuesday, October 24, 1899, in the courthouse. On Sabbath morning, October 29th, Rev. S. B. Barnitz, the western secretary of the board of home missions, preached the dedicatory sermon to an audience that filled the beautiful new temple of worship. The services were continued at 3 a. m. The officers of the Iowa synod and those of the boards of home missions and church extension were present from abroad and the pastors of the local churches were in attendance and took part in the services. Mr. J. O. Lenning, chairman of the building committee, delivered the keys of the church to the pastor, Rev. J. C. Jacoby, D. D., who then took charge of the dedicatory service. The offerings of the day were \$1,135.62. The entire cost of the church was about \$6,000.

Rev. J. C. Jacoby, D. D., closed his work as pastor of the church in the spring of 1900.

Rev. W. A. Lipe accepted a call from the congregation and entered upon the work as pastor of the church, December 1, 1900, and continued faithful in the services with happy results, spiritually, for seven years and three months, or till March 1, 1908. During these years of his services, the basement of the church was completed. Necessary drainage was put in at a cost of \$650 and the parsonage built practically new from the foundation up, at a cost of \$1,800, all of which expenses were paid for when the work was completed. An original indebtedness against the church property was at this time provided for by six of the members assuring \$1,300, and the board of the church extension advancing \$1,000 without interest. This \$1,300 was to be considered a complete donation when the non-interest bearing loan from the board of church extension was satisfied. Thus, the property was left at this time without any interest bearing debt.

Rev. C. E. Butler began his term of office as pastor June 5, 1908, and closed his services with his congregation September 1, 1911. During this time, a cistern was built, a bathroom put in the parsonage and a steam heating plant into the church, from which the parsonage is also heated at a total cost for all said items of \$1,000. The board of church extension was also satisfied during this time by paying them \$1,700.

Rev. M. L. Melick took charge as pastor December 1, 1911, and at this writing has been in charge nine months. During these nine months, there were added to the organizations that previously existed, a Young Peoples' Luther league, a Missionary society, the Augsburg Bible class, the Young Ladies' Harmony Bible class, and a Teacher's Training class and the graded lessons introduced into the Sunday school, and money raised for the repainting of the exterior of the church.

#### FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

*By H. A. Maxon*

In Hamilton county, the Church of Christ, commonly called the Christian church, had its first organization at Homer, where a church was built in the winter of '69-'70. The second congregation was organized in Cass township. In this Rev. Jesse M. Moore was the leading spirit and through his efforts, a

church at Cass Center was completed and dedicated in July, 1880. Reverend Moore was the pastor for several years, but he was finally succeeded by others until the year 1891 found Rev. Lawrence Wright in charge. Reverend Wright resided at Webster City while serving the congregations at Homer and Cass Center and it was he who first conceived the idea of perfecting an organization at the county seat.

Brother Wright succeeded in locating some twenty-five or thirty people who had formerly belonged or still retained their membership in this fellowship. To them the idea became a conviction.

Among the number who formed the nucleus for the organization and upon whom fell the burden and responsibility, was J. D. McGuire and family, A. D. McKinley and wife, N. L. Maxon and family, the Nelson family, near Duncombe, H. L. Corbin and wife, Mrs. Delia Moore, the widow of Rev. J. M. Moore, the first pastor of Cass Center church, and the Solomon Snow family, near Highview, and others we do not now recall. A tent or tabernacle meeting was arranged for and G. L. Brokaw, state evangelist, was secured. A tent was pitched on the school grounds north of the high school building during July and August, 1892. The gospel in its simplicity was sung and preached in power, and men and women were added to the church daily. At the end of six weeks, an organization of one hundred and twenty-five members was effected with J. D. McGuire and N. L. Maxon as elders. A committee was appointed to solicit funds for the building of a house of worship. This committee met with a generous response. A lot on the corner of Bank and Des Moines streets was purchased. The foundation was begun late in the fall of 1892, but was not completed until the following spring. The building proper, costing when completed and furnished, \$8,000, was dedicated amidst great joy and thanksgiving in September, 1893. F. M. Rains, of Cincinnati, Ohio, dedicated the church. All the churches of the city assisted.

During the interim, the new congregation succeeded in securing the Willson opera house for services until the severe cold drove them into warmer quarters in the old G. A. R. hall on Seneca street. These quarters were found to be inadequate to accommodate the congregation. The last move was made to the courthouse, where they were comfortably housed until the church building was ready for occupancy.

Immediately after dedication, the services of W. A. Foster, a noted evangelist, were secured for a series of meetings. These meetings were held for eight weeks, at the end of which time, one hundred and forty signified their willingness to become associated with the church. These, together with the former membership, totaled some over three hundred. A good sized yearling!

Bruce Brown, who had been called to minister to the congregation at its organization, remained as such for four years, at the end of which time he was called to the church at Osceola, Iowa. Great things had been accomplished. W. A. Moore, from Panora, Iowa, was engaged to fill this vacancy, but could not come for several months, during which time Reverend Coombs acceptably filled the pulpit.

During the three years of Brother Moore's pastorate, the church reached the high water mark. He was beloved by his people and it was with sadness that he was given up. His wife's health necessitated a change of climate.

E. E. Kneedy was called and for two years labored with the congregation. Brother Kneedy was apt to teach and an eloquent speaker. His pastorate was very successful.

J. Will Walters, one of Iowa's strong preachers, was secured and labored for two years. During his regime, the finances were placed upon a sound basis and a scheme to raise the debt on the church planned and started. To Brother Walters is due much credit.

J. Seaton, an elderly man, an old father in Israel, became pastor, but owing to ill health of himself and wife, was compelled after a few months to resign.

Reverend Burns was the next one to assume the responsibilities of shepherd of the flock, but he, too, stayed but a short time, one year, when the University of Chicago beckoned him.

R. M. Dungan, son of D. R. Dungan, dean of Drake university, accepted the charge and began his work, looking forward to a fruitful harvest. During this pastorate the church debt was raised and the mortgage burned. After two years of hard work, Brother Dungan concluded to go west and take up a claim at Morrell, Nebraska.

W. E. Brandeburg next became associated with the church as its pastor, but remained for only one year when called to York, Nebraska, a larger church, at an advanced salary.

For some time D. R. Dungan filled the pulpit until a pastor could be secured. Brother Dungan recommended John Roland, a Drake student, as one capable of assuming the pastorate. He was employed and served well until Drake university called him back.

Alexander McCracken of Chicago, followed with but a six months' pastorate, when again the pulpit was vacant.

For several months B. E. Youtz filled the pulpit, after which time the congregation extended an unanimous call to Brother A. I. Martin to become its pastor. Born and raised in this county, formally a member of the church and sent out, as it were, from its doors, to become a minister of the gospel, this coming home to administer to the wants and necessities of the home church was a difficult proposition, but he has for over a year successfully shepherded the flock.

During the twenty years of these pastorates, many great meetings have been held by pastors and evangelists. Among the evangelists were Foster, Coombs, Omer, Corey, Johnson and Emmons.

Two members of the church have entered the ministry. The church is missionary in spirit, believing in world-wide evangelism.

Its membership at this time is over three hundred. Like all other organizations, it has had its seasons of drought and times of refreshing, but today stands a monument to the heroism, faithfulness and integrity of its membership.

#### NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Norwegian Lutheran church has a membership in Hamilton county which probably exceeds all other churches. The Norwegian immigration into Hamilton county began in the later fifties; but the great influx of Norwegian settlement into the southern and eastern parts of the county did not begin until

the seventies. The earlier settlers for all social and religious development were a part of the Scandinavian settlement of Story county.

The church records show that on May 7, 1876, a meeting was held in Scott township and the organization of the first Norwegian Lutheran congregation within the county was effected. This was the beginning of the Trinity congregation whose membership now comprises many of the residents of Lincoln and Scott township. The records show that at this meeting John Ringstad was chosen president, and John Thoreson, secretary. This congregation met in school houses and Rev. O. G. Jackman, of Illinois, was called as the first pastor. Some of the charter members of this congregation were Knut Severson, Henry Larson, Christian Sexy, John Reder, Hans Hagland, T. O. Cragwick and A. O. Cragwick. Later this congregation erected two churches, one in Ellsworth known as West Trinity and one in Scott township known as East Trinity. Rev. C. H. Hjortholm the present pastor now ministers to a membership of over a thousand members. The St. Pauli church in Clear Lake township and the Norum church at Stanhope with the Trinity churches comprise the United Lutheran churches of the county. The St. Pauli church is one of the earlier churches and for many years a large membership worshipped in the one church but in 1907 under the leadership of the present pastor, Rev. M. N. Knutsen, the Norum church was erected at Stanhope and the congregation was divided.

The Hauges Synod have erected seven churches within Hamilton county and plans are being made for the erection of the eighth one, which will be located at Williams. The Hauges also maintain the Jewell Lutheran college and have been very active in missionary and educational work. The first churches to be established under the control of these people were at Randall and in Ellsworth township. Rev. C. J. Eastvold for seventeen years ministered to the Bethesda church at Jewell, the Clear Lake and Ellsworth church, Zion and Rose Grove. These churches have a membership of about 1200. The Ennis church at Randall of which Rev. G. O. Paulsrud is pastor, Bethany church of Lincoln township ministered to by Rev. T. J. Knutsen; and Immanuel church, J. R. Walstad, pastor, complete the Hauges congregation in the county.

The members of the Synodia have two churches in the county: One, the Branjord church, of Scott township, of which Rev. H. Stolen is pastor and the Lake Center church of which H. S. Rue is pastor.

In review the membership of the Norwegian churches comprise about 3500 people. The membership is held in the three branches known as the Hauges, the United Church and the Synodia. Beginning in 1876 with one congregation and no church they now own thirteen churches and their membership comprise one-half of the church people of the county.



## CHAPTER XXVII

### IN MEMORIAM

Whether death is the friend or enemy of mankind, we leave to the contemplation of philosophers. We know it is always near us and when it comes into a community, it brings with it a wave of sadness. We stop for a moment, the usual activities of life, to drop a tear of sympathy or give a word of comfort to the bereaved, and then, "the world moves on." There are among the "silent ranks" of Hamilton county, many characters whose daily life endeared them to their fellow men, and whose death was, in a way, a public bereavement, and we stop for a moment, therefore, to make passing mention of some of these:

Jackson Groves, died March, 1881. He was born in West Virginia in 1818, came to Iowa in 1854 and located in Hamilton county in 1855. He was a successful farmer and a leader in the affairs of Hamilton township.

Judge J. D. Maxwell, died November 4, 1882. The following is a tribute to his memory written by Charles Aldrich:

#### "JUDGE MAXWELL IS DEAD!"

"Though we had seen him fading slowly into the silent land, from the effects of age and toil and wasting disease, and knew that his time at farthest could be but short, these words fell upon the ear like a stunning blow. For many years he had lived the quietest of home lives, yet his was one of the familiar forms on our streets, and his name was prominently identified with the early history of our town and county. A man of most decided opinions, to which he gave expression with the greatest freedom, he was an agreeable person to meet, for he was a fine talker, possessing a large fund of anecdote and information, and genial, kindly, friendly and pleasant, in his ways. His acquaintance was quite large, and while our local politics in early days made him and his public acts somewhat of a bone of contention, his private life was not only a blameless one, but in all respects most exemplary and commendable. It may in all truth and sincerity be said that he lived and died without an enemy—respected and esteemed by the entire community.

"In the early history of our county he was a leading and important character. He was our first county judge, elected at the old-time April election of 1857, and reelected at the October election of the same year. This office was the most important one, under the old order of things, as a brief explanation will show. Previous to 1860 the county judge not only wielded all the power now possessed by our board of county supervisors, but vastly more. His powers were larger in the way of incurring indebtedness, and the probate business was all transacted

in his court. The county judge was an autocrat, if he felt disposed to make himself such, and it is a lamentable fact that too many of them abused their privileges and powers, and ran their counties so deeply into debt that they have been unable to meet their obligations even yet. Upon Judge Maxwell most delicate and important duties devolved. He had not only to settle all matters of joint interest with Webster county, of which this county originally formed a part, and until the legislative session of 1856, but it became his duty to organize our own county and set all of its machinery in motion. The transcribing of the records was one of these most important labors, which was performed under his direction and supervision. Here, as in all new counties, vexatious questions arose about the building of a courthouse, the removal of the county seat, the construction of bridges, the location of roads, etc., etc., upon which men took sides as their interests were affected, and acrimonious discussions and contentions arose. During the two years and a half in which he held this most laborious and most thankless office, Judge Maxwell was a subject of much criticism; but there is not a man among us who would today express a doubt that he always acted from conscientious motives, aiming to do his duty by the people he was serving. It is also a question whether what he did do was not at the time the best that could be done under all the circumstances of conflicting interests. Certain it is that he gave the county a prudent and economical administration, and never wasted or misappropriated a dollar of its funds. One of these days we shall doubtless have a local historian, who will find enough in our apparently 'short and simple annals' to fill a great quarto volume. If such a task is ever undertaken, Judge Maxwell's acts cannot be ignored or escape scrutiny; but his record will bring only praise and not censure upon his memory.

"His private life was pure, upright, praiseworthy in all respects. He was a kind husband, a most tender and affectionate parent, and a sincere, sympathizing, reliable, abiding friend. He took a deep interest in all of the local concerns of Webster City and Hamilton county, and every step of our upward and onward progress gladdened his heart. He had long been a professing Christian, remarkable for his unaffected piety and his firm faith in the promises of the Divine Master. His pastor visiting him only a very few days before his death, found him with a clear mind. His preparation for the great change which awaits us all was perfect and complete. He had no doubt of a better life beyond the grave. His death-bed was a triumphant one.

"The chamber where the good man met his fate  
Was privileged beyond the common walk,  
Of virtuous life, quite in the verge of heav'n."

"Judge Maxwell was born in Washington county, Virginia, in 1808, and was therefore seventy-four years of age. He removed to Tennessee, and thence to Edgar county, Ill., where he resided until 1854, when he settled in this county. He enjoyed the personal acquaintance of two presidents—Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson."

May 19, 1882, A. M. Potter, for many years the landlord of the Potter House, died of heart disease. He was born in Oneida county, New York, in 1814. He came to Webster City in 1865, since which time he had been a con-

tinuous resident. His wife had died two years previous to his demise. He left six children—three sons, Allen, Milton and A. M., Jr., and three daughters, Mrs. A. A. Cook, Mrs. E. R. Lee and Mrs. E. W. Olds.

Sumler Willson died December, 1882. From a tribute written by Charles Aldrich are extracted the following words:

"Mr. Sumler Willson was born in the town of Arkwright, Chautauqua county, N. Y., on the 10th day of March, 1827, and was consequently fifty-five years of age. He was the youngest of five children—four sons and a daughter. He settled first in Palmyra, Wisconsin, but came here in 1855, with his brother, Hon. Walter C. Willson, where he has since resided. The accident which bereft him of life was a very singular one—one that would not occur again in a lifetime. He was riding a pony which was a most docile and trusted family pet. He used a stirrup covered with a heavy leather guard, so that it was impossible for his foot to pass through it. But the pony slipped and fell upon its right side, and by some curious happening the rider's foot slipped between the stirrup straps, where it was held as if in a vice. Mr. Willson could only remember that he received three heavy blows. It seems that the pony kicked him in the face, side and chest. He was of the impression that his own excitement and alarm scared the little horse, and made it run, and that had he only kept more quiet he might have escaped injury. When the pony reached home the boot was still between the stirrup straps. It seemed evident from the first that he was very dangerously injured and few who saw him could indulge any expectations of his recovery. But he lingered nearly two weeks, watched and ministered to by tender and loving hands, though all that skill and care could accomplish was but to smooth his way to the grave. That he held out so long after such severe injuries, was no doubt due to the scrupulously temperate manner in which he had always lived—and had he been but forty years of age it is quite probable that he would have recovered. When apprised of the serious nature of his injuries he quietly and calmly remarked that he was prepared for any result—the end if it was to come. Thus closed the useful life of one of our most eminent pioneers—a man who has been especially prominent in the making of Webster City and Hamilton county.

"During the long period in which Mr. Willson lived among us, it is but truth to say that scarcely another man has at times exercised greater influence, or possessed a wider circle of friends. Especially was he a favorite with the young men. He has held some positions of trust, which he always filled with ability and fidelity. In the strife and turmoil of local politics, and the settlement of local issues incident to this as to all new regions, he was never an indifferent spectator, but an earnest, wide-awake, vigilant actor. These contests made him both warm friends and bitter enemies, but it is the highest tribute we now can pay him—a tribute, too, which he would regard with pride were he here to see it set down to his credit—that his circle of friends who now lament his death includes scores of good people who were his friends and warmly attached to him from the start. That they have 'clung to him with hooks of steel,' through fair weather and foul, shows that he possessed the attributes of high and honorable manhood. A man can be judged by the style and character of his friends, as well as by any other outward indication. Applying this standard to Sumler Willson, he must be assigned a prominent and enviable place in the community—

for he stood high in the regard of the best people both of the town and country, as well as of the adjoining counties."

C. E. Wilder died after a brief illness, on the 9th of May. Ed. Wilder was well known throughout the county. He was a soldier in the Union army and a member of the Webster City post of G. A. R.

S. T. Edwards, founder of the Webster City Argus, died in May, 1883. He was a sufferer from consumption. He was about thirty-six years of age at the time of his death.

November 13, 1883, occurred the death of Mrs. Harriet Newell Cooper at the home of her daughter, Mrs. L. L. Treat. She was born at Bach, N. Y., in September, 1818, and moved to Webster City with her husband, William Cooper, in 1857, since which time she had been a constant resident. She was among our earliest settlers and was well known and highly respected.

Wednesday, May 7, 1884, occurred the death of Mrs. D. D. Chase. She was born in Perry, N. Y., in 1838, and had lived in Webster City since 1858. Her maiden name was Harriet E. Bell, being the second daughter of Col. Ralph Bell. Her illness had been long and painful. She bore her suffering with characteristic fortitude. She was a woman of education, culture and much force of character.

News came to Webster City in July, 1884, that Judge Granville Burkley had died at his home in Boulder, Colorado. He was injured by a fall from a horse and this resulted in his death. He was one of the first settlers at Homer and had lived in the county until after the close of the war.

Wesley Cary died at Webster City, August 20, 1884. He was for many years a prominent business man. Wesley Carey was born September 8, 1824, at Boston, Erie county, New York. He married Hannah M. Ross in 1863 at Freeport, Illinois. He came to Webster City in 1873 and engaged in the lumber business.

D. S. Jewett died at his home in Cass township on August 27, 1884, in his fifty-fourth year. He was one of the earliest of Hamilton county's pioneers. The following sketch by Charles Aldrich gives a very good word picture of this good man:

#### THE LATE LIEUTENANT JEWETT

"I understand that a life-long friend of D. S. Jewett will write a notice of the deceased; but I also wish to say a word concerning him. I first met him at 'Camp Franklin,' near Dubuque, in 1862, where we were mustered into the Thirty-second Iowa infantry volunteers. I remember Lieutenant Jewett, as a private at first, but afterwards a non-commissioned officer. He was then a rosy-checked, stalwart, handsome young man, resolute and determined, always ready for duty and always ready to do his duty to the utmost. Of the nearly one thousand men who were in that regiment, it is difficult to remember many individuals after this lapse of time, but my recollection of him seems very distinct. He was a good soldier, who shrank from no duty, however laborious or dangerous. In private life, while always outspoken and independent in his expressions, he always commanded the sincere respect of his associates, and died as he had lived, surrounded by friends. He was always a student and thinker, and was one of the best informed men in our county. He was singularly quiet, retiring and reserved in his general deportment, though warm and abiding

in his friendships. You could always tell just where to find him, and if you counted him as a friend you could confide in him and depend upon him under all circumstances. He led so quiet and unobtrusive a life that, aside from those who knew him intimately, he scarcely passed for his true worth. But a large concourse of people followed his remains to the grave and expressions of the deepest and kindest sympathy for the man and his bereaved family were heard on every hand. In all the relations of life he acted the part of a true man and an exemplary citizen. High consideration was his honest due for in addition to noble qualities of head and heart, he went out to fight for his country, and if need be to die that the nation might live."

Joseph M. Bone, Jr., died in Washington territory, November 3, 1884. He was but twenty-seven years old. He had been raised in Hamilton county and had married Miss Minnie Tremaine, daughter of Hon. Ira H. Tremaine. He had moved to Washington territory in hope of improving his health.

John W. Lee died at his home in Cass township, March 4, 1884. He was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, March 12, 1835. He was the eldest son of Daniel and Maria Lee and a brother of F. Q. Lee. He came to Hamilton county in 1858. He was married to Harriet E. Brewer in November, 1859, and at once settled in Cass township. In early life he was a school teacher and was county superintendent of schools from 1861 to 1865. He was a member of the board of supervisors that built the courthouse in 1876. By occupation he was a farmer and in his business transactions was successful.

On September 5 occurred the death of O. B. Vincent. He was a native of Pennsylvania and came to Hamilton county in 1869. He was a prominent man in politics and in lodge work, being an active member of the Odd Fellows.

November 13, 1886, occurred the death of Albert Hoffman. He was born in Germany in 1835 and settled in Webster City in 1857. He was for some years a member of the hardware firm of Fairchild & Hoffman and in later years was city marshal and constable. He was well known and highly respected.

H. H. Johnson died December 9, 1887. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1847. During the war he was a member of Company A, 25th Iowa Infantry. After the war, he was admitted to the bar, but never practiced his profession. He was elected county superintendent of Hamilton county in 1877 and reelected in 1879 at the same time doing newspaper work. In 1882 he went to South Dakota and engaged in newspaper work, but two years later returned to Hamilton county too broken in health to follow any vocation. He left a wife and two children to mourn his death.

Otto W. Story died at his home in Cass township March 7, 1888. He was born in Chautauqua county, New York, May 24, 1824. Was married to Phoebe Carver August 5, 1847, and came to Hamilton county in 1854, where he lived until the time of his death. He owned a farm about two miles from Webster City in Cass township. He left a wife, four sons and one daughter. The sons were "Park," Norman, Byron, Emery, the daughter's name was Ella. O. W. Story was a quiet, peaceable, honorable citizen.

Michael Sweeney died very suddenly and unexpectedly May 11, 1888. He had gone out for a walk after breakfast intending to visit some land a short distance north of Webster City. About nine o'clock his lifeless body was discov-

ered by L. N. Maxon, lying in the road near the Maxon farm. He had evidently suffered from a stroke of apoplexy.

Michael Sweeney was born in Ireland in 1828 and moved to Hamilton county in 1855. He was a member of the Spirit Lake relief expedition in 1857. He was elected sheriff in 1861 and held the office four years and was afterwards appointed clerk of courts and held that position for eight years. He was unmarried and his only heirs were distant relatives. He was a prominent figure in Hamilton county affairs from the day of his arrival to the day of his death.

Capt. Lewis Crary died June 4, 1888. He was born at Avon Springs, New York, on January 27, 1836, and came to Webster City in 1869, since which time he has been engaged in the hardware business. He had been mayor of Webster City from 1883 to 1887.

John W. Funk died on the morning of the 22d of September. He was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, in 1827 and came to Hamilton county in 1858. For thirty years he was a familiar figure in Webster City, being usually employed as a bookkeeper in some of the banks.

F. J. McConnell died at his home in Independence township, December 14, 1889. He came to Hamilton county in 1856 and had been prominent in local affairs ever since. He was a native of Ireland, but in early boyhood moved to New York. While living in New York he was married to Armilla Cook. In his youth he was a molder by trade, but after coming West engaged in farming, which business he followed with good success.

Ulis Briggs died August 26, 1890, at sixty-nine years of age. He came to Hamilton county in 1857 and had resided here ever since.

Dewey S. Doolittle died at his home in Cass township January 9, 1891, aged sixty-one years. He was born in Vermont November 11, 1829. Moved to New York in 1843. He was married to Carolina Hays in 1851. Moved to Wisconsin in 1855 and to Hamilton county, Iowa, in 1865. He left two sons and five daughters. He was a farmer, well known and highly respected.

Chas. F. Fenton died at Webster City February 1, 1891. He was born in Salisbury, Herkemer county, New York, August 9, 1826, and came to Webster City in 1856. He was one of the owners of the pioneer steam sawmill. He engaged in real estate business for a while and later in life, in stock business. He established the Pioneer Lumber yard and shipped to Webster City the first lumber stock that came west of the Iowa river to this region. He was one of the original incorporators of the First National Bank and was connected with that institution until the time of his death. He was a member of the board of supervisors in 1870 and again in 1885. He was married to Lyda A. Moore January 22, 1867. His wife and four daughters survived him.

John Meeks died at Webster City February 1, 1891. He was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1828, and came to Webster City in 1850. He with Chas. Fenton who died the same day, hauled the printing outfit for the Hamilton Freeman from Dyersville with an ox team in 1857. He left a wife and two daughters and one son surviving him.

"Lottie" Young Hunter died May 11, 1891. She was a daughter of F. D. Young and wife of W. F. Hunter of the Freeman. She was about twenty-five years of age and a woman of unusual promise. She was born in Maine in 1865. Moved to Hamilton county with her parents in 1874. Graduated from the Web-

ster City high school in 1884 and attended Cornell college at Mt. Vernon, Iowa. She was married to W. F. Hunter December 22, 1887.

Bayard Detlor, for twenty years a merchant in Webster City, died May 23, 1891. B. Detlor was born in Ontario in 1846 and came to Webster City in 1871 and immediately engaged in business. About four months prior to the time of his death, he began to show signs of insanity and it was at last found necessary to send him to the hospital at Independence. On May 23 he escaped from the hospital and when found he was dead, having drowned in a small stream near the hospital.

December 26, 1891, occurred the death of W. L. Church at Port Angeles, Washington, and as a tribute to his memory is reproduced an article appearing in the Port Angeles Democrat at the time:

"Capt. Wm. L. Church was born in Richland county, Ohio, in 1862. In 1846 he enlisted in the Third Ohio Infantry and served in the Mexican war. In 1847 he returned from the war and was married to Louisa Jane Swanger. In 1851 he moved to Dekalb county, Indiana, and in 1853 was appointed lieutenant in Company G, Indiana State Militia. In 1855 he came to Hamilton county and a year later, moved to Springfield where his family was at the time of the Spirit Lake massacre. In the fall of 1857 he enlisted in the Iowa Frontier Guards and became a lieutenant in one of the companies. At the breaking out of the Civil war, he enlisted in Company F, Second Iowa Cavalry, and was made lieutenant, but resigned about three months later. In Hamilton county he followed the business of farmer and auctioneer, and was very popular."

Henry Biernatzki died March 18, 1893, aged thirty-five years. He was a son of Charles Biernatzki, Sr., and had lived in the county practically all his life. He was a good business man, well known and universally respected.

Benjamin Beach died in Webster City April 14, 1893. He was born in New Jersey, in 1829. He came to Hamilton county in 1854. Was married to Alvina Dulin in 1865. "Uncle Bennie" was an important factor in the pioneer history of Webster City.

Chas. Wickware died May 4, 1893. The following account of his life appeared in the "Annals of Iowa:"

Lieut. Charles Wickware, who recently died at Webster City, was a heroic soldier of the army of the Potomac. He enlisted as a private, in the Sixth Vermont Infantry, near the beginning of the war. He was shot through the body at the battle of Savage Station, and lay all night on the battlefield, falling into the hands of the enemy. He was taken to Libby prison, but soon after exchanged, and under skilful treatment at the hospital in Philadelphia finally recovered so far as to be able to rejoin his regiment in the field. In the terrible battles in the Wilderness he lost an arm. He was promoted to lieutenant in a colored regiment and served gallantly to the close of the war. He settled at Webster City in 1868, and held many important offices in the city, county and district, serving with the utmost fidelity. He was an active and honored member of the Grand Army of the Republic from the time of its organization to the day of his death."

J. D. Sells died February 6, 1892. He was born in Ohio in 1818 and came to Hamilton county in 1857. He purchased land in both Hamilton and Wright counties and added to it until he owned about eleven hundred acres at the time

of his death. Mr. Sells was the father of thirteen children—six by his first wife and seven by his second. He was one of the strong men of this part of the state.

Horace Segar died February 3, 1892. He was born in New York in 1816. Moved to Hamilton county in 1855. He located in Cass township and continued to reside there until his death. He left a wife and five children.

John R. Clark died in Hankinson, South Dakota, March 22, 1892, at the age of sixty-six. He was born in New York in 1816 and moved to Hamilton county in 1857 and settled on a farm in Cass township and lived there until 1881. He was the father of Will L. Clark, at one time editor of the *Argus*.

O. C. Donaldson, a pioneer shoe dealer, died April 3, 1892, aged sixty-two. He was born in Maryland in 1830, and came to Hamilton county in 1878. He was the father of Oscar F. Donaldson. He was a man of rare intelligence and unflinching integrity.

John Rhodes died in June, 1892. He came to Hamilton county in 1851, and built the first brick store building in Webster City. He moved to Indiana in 1867 and finally settled at Anamosa, where he died.

Allen Brock died at his home in Webster township December 23, 1893. He was born in Indiana in 1813. Moved to Hamilton county in 1855, settled on a farm near Saratoga and resided there until his death.

A. Haswell died in Webster City February 13, 1895. He was born in Ohio in 1832, moved to Hamilton county in 1856. His first wife was Julia A. Cunningham who died in 1861. His second wife was Maggie Sinclare who survived him. He enlisted in the Twenty-eighth Iowa Infantry August 12, 1862, was captured by the confederates in 1864 and was confined in Tyler prison in Texas for about fourteen months. He was honorably discharged from the Union army July 7, 1865. He was a man of good education, religiously inclined and often filled the pulpit of his home church. He was also a graphic writer.

Albert Cook died in February, 1895. He was born in Vermont in 1808. Came to Iowa in 1855 and moved to Hamilton county in 1865. He was a constant resident of Webster City until the time of his death.

Mrs. Willson Brewer died Friday March 26, 1896. She came to where Webster City is now located in 1850 and was one of the first white women to live in Hamilton county. Her husband died in 1857. She survived him almost forty years and was eighty years old at the time of her death. She was born in Virginia in 1816.

B. F. Miller died May 31, 1896. He was born in Virginia February 11, 1833 and he came to Webster City in 1867 and established the first bank in Webster City, what is now the Hamilton County State Bank. He later established the Farmer's National Bank. He was a man of great force of character.

J. D. Stitzer died at his home near Homer July 4, 1896. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1820, moved to Hamilton county in 1868.

John G. Bonner died at his home in Lakins Grove August 9, 1896. He was born in Maryland in 1809, was married to Mary Sedel in 1834 and came to Hamilton county in 1859.

Charles Biernatzki, Sr., died in Webster City August 14, 1896. He was born in Poland in 1819, where he served in the ranks of the rebellion in 1846. He came to Hamilton county in 1858 and located in Independence township.

H. G. Culp died November 7, 1896. He was born in Marshall county, Iowa, in 1864. Came to Hamilton county in 1892. Soon became engaged in the real estate business as a member of the firm of Culp and Lee. During his short life here he did probably more than any other man to advertise and boom Hamilton county land. His frequent trips to Illinois always resulted in scores of land seekers, who seeing our natural advantages, were only too eager to buy our land.

Lars Henryson died at his home in Randall November 14, 1896. He was born in Norway in March, 1822, and came to Hamilton county in 1858, being one of the first settlers in the vicinity of Randall. He was always a prominent figure in his portion of the county.

Peter Lyon died at Webster City February 20, 1897. He was born in Indiana in 1811. He moved to Hamilton county in 1852 and in 1868 moved to Kansas, but returned to Hamilton county in 1889. He was a typical pioneer.

A. J. Allen, a familiar figure, died May 26, 1897. He was born in New York in June, 1821, came to Webster City and engaged in harness business in 1871.

J. P. Allington died August 7, 1897. He was born in New York in 1820, came to Iowa in 1856 and to Hamilton county in 1874.

Michael Foster died at his home in Cass township August 28, 1897. He was born in France in 1819, came to the United States in 1840 and to Hamilton county in 1856. He had lived until his death in Cass township.

L. B. Hill died at the Hamilton County Poor House February 19, 1898. He was born in 1818 and was therefore eighty years of age. He came to Hamilton county in 1854, engaged in farming and at one time was one of the wealthiest men in the county. He had for many years owned a fine farm within sight of the poor house, where he died, a county charge.

Geo. Shipp died November 18, 1897. The Freeman gives the following account of his life:

"George Shipp was born in Center county, Pennsylvania, July 12, 1815, a son of James and Catherine (Helman) Shipp. His father was a native of Pennsylvania and his mother of Maryland. When he was seven years old his parents moved to Wayne county, Ohio, where they were early settlers and where they lived the remainder of their lives. In 1833 George Shipp went to Millersburg, Ohio, where he was employed as clerk in a mercantile house four years. He then returned to Wayne county and engaged in business for himself several years. In the spring of 1852, in company with a hundred men, he started overland for California, taking with him two hundred head of cattle and a number of horses. They were five months on the road. After his arrival in California he engaged in stock raising, and remained two years, when he returned to Ohio and lived until 1856, when he came to Hamilton county, first locating on the farm which is now a part of Webster City. A few years later he embarked in the mercantile business and became an important factor in the growth and improvement of the town, and never withheld generous support from any good work. He was one of the organizers of the Farmers National Bank and was its vice president from the start. In the earlier history of the town Mr. Shipp was treasurer and recorder of Hamilton county two years."

Wm. Tatham, resident of Fremont township, died December 12, 1898. He was born in Ohio February 13, 1833, and came to Hamilton county in 1864.

After living here four years, he went back to Ohio, but in 1882 returned to Hamilton county, where he continued to reside the remainder of his life.

C. H. Brockschink died February 7, 1899. He was born in Germany February 2, 1828. He came to America in 1852 and after living in Ohio a short time located in Webster county, Iowa, in 1857. He came to Hamilton county in 1864 and located in Freedom township. He was a successful farmer and a respected and honored citizen.

Mrs. J. W. Young died February 2, 1899. Margaret Young was born in Maine in 1844. She was married to J. W. Young in 1866 and came to Hamilton county in 1882. She had never enjoyed the best of health and the patience and fortitude with which she bore her suffering excited the admiration and sympathy of all who knew her.

R. N. Woodworth, for years a familiar figure in Webster City, died in Texas February 14, 1899. He came to Webster City about the year 1869 and engaged in real estate and abstract business. He enjoyed the confidence and respect of the people of Hamilton county.

Isaac Rothrock died at his home in Liberty township, February 8, 1899. He was born in Pennsylvania July 25, 1825. Came to Iowa in 1856 and to Hamilton county in 1882. He was a farmer and lived for many years near Blairsburg.

Jotham M. Lyon died March 21, 1899. He was the son of Peter Lyon and came to Hamilton county in 1852. He was born in Indiana August 1, 1837, and was married to Mary Willis in 1865. Mr. Lyon left the house to attend to some cattle and a short time later was discovered by Mrs. Lyon lying on the ground by the kitchen door unconscious. He never recovered.

T. A. Conklin was found dead in his buggy near his home in Webster City November 20, 1899. The coroner's jury pronounced his death due to heart failure. On the same day the family received a telegram announcing the death of Mr. Conklin's son Dudley at Great Falls, Montana.

Mr. Conklin came to Hamilton county in the sixties. When he came here he purchased a fine farm in the suburbs of Webster City, where he lived for more than thirty years. He was a man of good education and took great interest in public matters.

O. W. Hicks, formerly editor of the Graphic Herald, died at the insane asylum Monday, October 9, 1899. He was a man of about thirty-six years of age, unusually bright and active and was a man of great promise. About four months prior to the time of his death he lost his reason and never recovered it.

Reuben S. Bennett, a pioneer bachelor, passed away in October, 1898. He left an estate valued at about \$25,000. A woman from Montana by the name of Ruby J. Britt appeared and claimed that she was a daughter of Bennett's and heir to his estate. After a long trial, she won her case in court and was adjudged to be Bennett's sole heir. Reuben Bennett was a peculiar character and lived the life of a recluse. He was a man of strict honesty, and one who was moved by many generous impulses.

## CHAPTER XXVIII

### THE MILLS OF THE COUNTY

*By Effie McKinlay Kantor*

BRUCE MILL—BELL'S MILL—GROSECLOSE MILL—BONE'S MILL—TUNNEL MILL—  
CHASE MILL—TURBINE MILL—HARRIS MILL—THE STEAM MILL—THE MODEL  
MILLS—THE TEN EYCK MILLS.

A roof to shelter and a loaf of bread were the first needs of the pioneer home. The trapper or hunter could bake his corn cake over the hot ashes of a camp fire and find the sky's blue, and the thick leafy boughs of the woods enough for a shelter. But the settler needed a home; and a home meant a woman, children, four walls, a roof, and bread. So it was that the first activities were sawmills, then grist mills.

Water power was abundant, costing nothing but time and time had not then found its wings. With great labor the necessary machinery was carted with oxen from the eastern boundaries of the state and the production of boards and shingles was begun. As fast as money was forthcoming the sawmills added to them grist mills with two burrs if possible; one for wheat and one for corn, and white bread was no longer a luxury. The early loaf was a far different production than our present one, for in the many processes of bolting and sifting, properties once found in wheat flour are eliminated and white bread has lost in flavor and nutrition. The dark nutty wholesome loaf has disappeared and in its place is one much whiter but with less flavor. Bread earned by the sweat of the brow always has more flavor, and no pioneer bread was forthcoming without hard labor.

In this narrative, particular care has been taken to go wherever possible to the mill-wright, the miller, and the man with the grist. They each have their story and their great part in making this one-time wilderness to blossom. Those who were here in the early fifties have but a few more years among us, and indeed from many, it is too late to hear the story. Mill history gathers to itself poetry and sentiment as naturally as the early stone fences gathered to themselves delicate vines and wild roses.

The locations of the mills were in the most picturesque spots, surrounded by deep woods, by the side of running water, by day the ring of the wood-cutter's ax, the hum of turning mill wheels, the buzz of busy saw; by night the soft voices of the wind from wood and water. Romance thrives on just such fare.

#### THE BRUCE MILL

The first mill of any kind in Hamilton county was three miles north of the mouth of Boone river near Stratford. This was built in 1851 or '52 by Bruce,

a millwright and a miller. This was a grist mill with "nigger-head" burrs made of Iowa rock resembling granite. Later the name of Huffman seems to have been associated with this mill, but nothing more has been ascertained.

#### BELL'S MILL.

The second mill was built by David Eckerson, a Methodist preacher with some means. This was built in about 1853 near the site of Bell's mill. It was a grist mill and at first had corn burrs which also ground buckwheat. Later, having more means than the average settler, he installed wheat burrs. He had a flourishing business. This mill was run, as probably was the Bruce mill, with a wooden overshot water-wheel. It was widely patronized by settlers, for at the time of its building there was no other grist mill nearer than Story City on the east, northern Wright county on the north, or the Bruce mill on the south. But misfortune, like ill health always makes its appearance once in a lifetime, and one day it called upon David Eckerson forcing him to give up the mill. In 1867 it was bought, rebuilt and operated by Joseph Bone. A. A. Wicks of this city and M. E. Pringle were among the carpenters on the mill. In 1869 Alanson Bryan, father-in-law of Joseph Bone, came from Poveshek county to Hamilton county, buying a half interest in the mill. At this time James A. Snodgrass, a Virginian, now of Vancouver, Washington, was the miller. Business was very prosperous with the mill, running day and night during the busy season in common with all busy mills. French burrs were imported and used in all flour mills of any pretensions. The valley between the beautiful hills was often dotted with teams in waiting. Joseph Bone built a new home for himself on the brow of the hill above the mill, in addition to the old log one. He was regarded as not only a fine miller, but a man foremost in promoting good in the community; an uplifting force in church or school affairs, patriotic to the core—an ideal frontiersman.

The days were never dull for the miller's family. There was always the busy mill with its patrons who came for miles to mill, and an occasional immigrant train passed through, halting to exchange commonplaces and receiving the use of the oven for a baking of raised bread. The ash cakes were cooked, or baked, while in camp, but whenever possible the women of the party gratefully accepted the kind proffer of ovens for raised bread. In the winter, bands of Indians were often passing, stopping to barter with beads and baskets for sugar and meal if possible and the element of danger was always present when they were about, for resentment still smoldered in each Indian breast and only the majority of whites made the settler safe. As the winter passed the fear of the ice gorge arose in the miller's heart. Only those who have lived in a miller's household know with what apprehension the opening of the river was greeted. Often a warm night in early March broke up the ice and the swelling, menacing roar aroused the family. Great cakes of ice weighing many tons, carried by the swollen flood piled up in the bend of the river, wedged against the bridge piers, against the mill foundation, hurling themselves upon the corner of the mill which stood upstream, leaving nothing but destruction in their wake. Once while members of the Bone family stood in tearful helplessness on the bank at this mill, the entire end of the mill from roof to foundation fell out into the

stream, leaving the interior with its stacks of grain bags and machinery exposed to view. Fire could be combatted with water, but water and ice knew no defeat; they carried everything before them. So the greatest enemy of the mill was the ice gorge. In 1873 Joseph Bone sold his interest in the mill to John Atherton and September 10, 1875, Alanson Bryan disposed of his interest to members of the Bell family and returned to Poweshiek county. The home he built and lived in while here still stands, remodeled by Jasper N. Bell, the "Old Hickory" of the Boone and used as his home. In 1878 John Atherton sold his interest in the mill to Benjamin Bell and his son, John Bell. In 1880 they sold the mill to Jasper N. Bell who ran the mill successfully eight years. Mr. Bell has always been a prime mover in all pioneer historical work and no old settler's gathering is complete without him and his estimable wife. In 1883 Mr. Bell retained as his miller Lyman G. Perry, whose child met a shocking death. The child, a son named Van, was playing about the mill and attempting to cross the headrace, fell into the forebay. The mill which had been running as usual, stopped and Mr. Perry going below to ascertain the cause, was horror-stricken to find his child's dead body drawn in under the mill wheel. This was the only accident that occurred at this mill. On the night of March 2, 1888, Benjamin Bell died, and the same night a flood carried away the dam, stopping the wheels of the mill forever. This mill was never rebuilt after Joseph Bone rebuilt it, but while J. N. Bell owned it, new machinery was added. The mill has long since been torn down and now nothing remains at the mill site of thirty-five or forty years ago, except the empty house on the hill, and the Bell home under the hill. Even the bridge has been rebuilt and the road changed. Nothing remains—and yet *much* remains, for the beautiful hills under whose lofty brows this industry flourished, are unchanged only when colored by the seasons' paint brushes. Trees may rise and fall along the sides of these hills, but they still remain among the most beautiful in this section of Iowa. The river sings the same song it did to the mill-wheel fifty years ago—the same blue sky is overhead, but "the sound of the grinding is low."

#### THE GROSECLOSE MILL

The third mill on the river was moved here from Polk county by Andrew Groseclose, who came here and built a dam across the river on section 15-87-26, near the David Hook farm in 1852.

The mill was moved later, in 1853, and it was set up by Lewis M. Crary and William Strickler. This mill was also run by an over-shot wheel. The burrs used were the common "nigger-head" burrs two feet across. Corn and buckwheat were ground only, for there was scarcely a bushel of wheat raised here at that time. There was no bolting chest in the primitive mill; settlers did their own bolting at home. Later a hand bolting machine was added to mill machinery, necessitating a "hopper-boy," who fed the grain by hand into a hopper which was turned by hand, fanning out the graham and retaining the fine flour. An old miller from Ohio, Father Comley by name, employed at times in local mills, related how he, as "hopper-boy" in an old mill together with a companion, was instructed by the miller, who was to leave the mill in their care for the day, to carry down several bushels of wheat which was stored on

the second floor. This wheat had been fanned or cleaned and was to be poured into the hopper to be ground. Elevators were then unknown. So, no sooner was the miller out of sight than the ingenious boys hastily constructed a long trough, one end of which they tacked to the floor above and the other end to the hopper. Then boring a hole in the second floor directly over the trough they had but to pour the wheat into the hole and their work was done. But alas! upon his return the thick-headed old miller saw what they had done and mistaking their cleverness for laziness, made them carry the wheat back upstairs and down again by hand, in the good old-fashioned way.

Andrew Groseclose had a large family, one of whom was Mrs. Morgan Hill, now living in Missouri. In 1855 Dr. Charles Fisher, an early-day practitioner, also a millwright and miller, came to this county and bought the mill of Groseclose. Settlers came from such distances in the grinding season that they often had to wait three and four days for their grist. Dr. Fisher had two log houses and always lodged his customers, often providing them food if their own store of provisions ran low. And it was told of him that he always furnished food free. The pay of the miller of this period was every fourth bushel. This mill also ran a saw and made laths and shingles. The mill itself was a small frame one-story building, which finally took fire and burned. It was never rebuilt.

Early settlers also remember the erection on Lick-skillet—a bottom land below Bell's mill, of a sawmill in 1854. This was owned by Butterworth and Messmore. Hiram Dayton bought it soon after and moved the mill west of Homer, where it was later operated under a different name.

#### BONE'S MILL

The site of Bone's mill was for years one of the beauty spots of the county. For a half-mile back on either side of Boone river native timber of walnut, oak and maple made it an ideal home for the settler and a desirable location for a sawmill. Ruthless hands have since cleared this all away and converted the rich soil into farms. About six rods north of the site of Bone's mill, Thomas Williams built his sawmill in 1854. He had come with his family from Dark county, Ohio, to carve for himself and family a home out of the wilderness. This mill was first run as a feed and sash sawmill. Mr. Williams was unfortunate in his choice of a building spot and a location for the dam. The first spring after his mill was built the mill and the entire dam was eaten out by the icy jaws of the spring gorge, and he moved his machinery to the site of Bone's mill. Charles Fisher, who bought the Groseclose mill, was the millwright and took for his pay, land belonging to Williams, which is now the W. O. McConnell farm. The mill, which was a grist mill, was to have been completed in three years, but work was delayed and the property was transferred to Lambert Sternberg. Mrs. James Brock, of Webster City, is a daughter of Thomas Williams and well remembers the troublous times following the destruction of the mill by the ice.

Sternburg put in a new dam of logs and large poles bolted together, also adding machinery for grinding wheat. This addition made it a one-run mill with one set of burrs driven by the old-fashioned Rose wheel. The mill was about fourteen feet in height, a story and a half structure besides the basement.

Settlers came from distances of thirty and forty miles with their grist. If they had to wait two or three days, as sometimes happened, they slept in the miller's office, in his hay loft or perhaps lodged with the miller's family. These unexpected guests were always welcomed by the women and children of the family, for they brought news of the outside world and after the evening meal sat smoking in the gathering darkness, regaling each other with stories.

The usual pay or toll of the miller at this period was every sixth bushel of wheat. Very little actual cash was exchanged, except where the miller sold flour outright. In the late summer when the water ran very low, the miller could not grind at all. No water ran over the dam for two or three months and grists were stacked ten and fifteen grain bags high and the miller watched for heavy rains.

This mill for a time changed owners rapidly. Lambert Sternberg sold to Jay Sternberg in 1863. Jay Sternberg sold the property to John Ross in 1868. It was at this time, when John Ross was the owner, that a tragedy which is still a mystery, occurred. One day in the early summer of 1869, the body of John Ross with a bullet wound in the back, was found in the wheel pit under the mill. Suspicion was at once directed toward a nephew of the murdered man, John Ross, Jr., who had made his home for a time with the uncle. It was known that the nephew had requested and been refused a loan of money. And this fact coupled with the immediate disappearance of John Ross, Jr., was the only clue to the murderer. He was apprehended and brought back to Webster City for trial. The Webster City Freeman of February 18, 1885 says: "A long and complicated trial ensued, in which Charles A. Clark appeared for the state and N. B. Hyatt for the accused, who was but eighteen years of age. The case was tried before Judge D. D. Chase in the December term of district court of 1869, John H. Bradley acting as district attorney." The accused was acquitted by the jury and the matter rested there. No one save the guilty person knows the murderer.

In the fall of 1869 the mill property was transferred back to Jay Sternberg, who sold the mill in 1870 to James W. Kimbell. He put in a feed burr and what was known as a Lafell turbine, forty-eight-inch water-wheel, instead of the old Rose wheel. This Lafell wheel was a clumsy, heavy affair, weighing three tons and was hauled by Mr. Page from the Illinois Central station to the mill, six miles south of town, in a rudely constructed cart. The cart was made of an axle of a new wagon, and an oxcart with sawed-log wheels. A yoke of oxen completed the equipage. The trip was made in two days, breaking through a small bridge near the Treat farm and delayed by minor incidents.

In the fall of 1870, Kimbell sold a half interest to his son, Ben Kimbell. Upon his death, soon after, the widow's interest was sold to Joseph Bone, who had rebuilt and run Bell's mill. The following year Joseph Bone bought out the J. W. Kimbell interest and became the sole owner. At this time he began extensive improvements—building over the house, putting a stone foundation under the mill, and soon after installed the new process of making flour. This necessitated one extra burr, a purifier, a sixteen-foot double reel bolting chest and some other new machinery. He also raised the mill twelve feet, adding one and one-half stories, thus making it the largest flouring mill on the river at this time. He discarded the sawmill to make room for other machinery. A. D. McKinlay

who had been miller for John Hill at the Hill mill, later for Kimbrell, was also retained as miller.

A little touch of romance is added here. For the second time Joseph Bone retained his miller as son-in-law. James A. Snodgrass, his miller at Bell's mill, married his eldest daughter, and A. D. McKinlay, his miller at this place, married another daughter. In 1880 the mills were named "Excelsior," to distinguish them from the other Bone's mill known as Bell's mill. The firm name at this time was Bone & McKinlay and on until 1889. During the years of Cleveland's first administration a postoffice was installed at the mill and named Tremaine for Ira H. Tremaine, whose farm lay near the mill property. This was later discontinued.

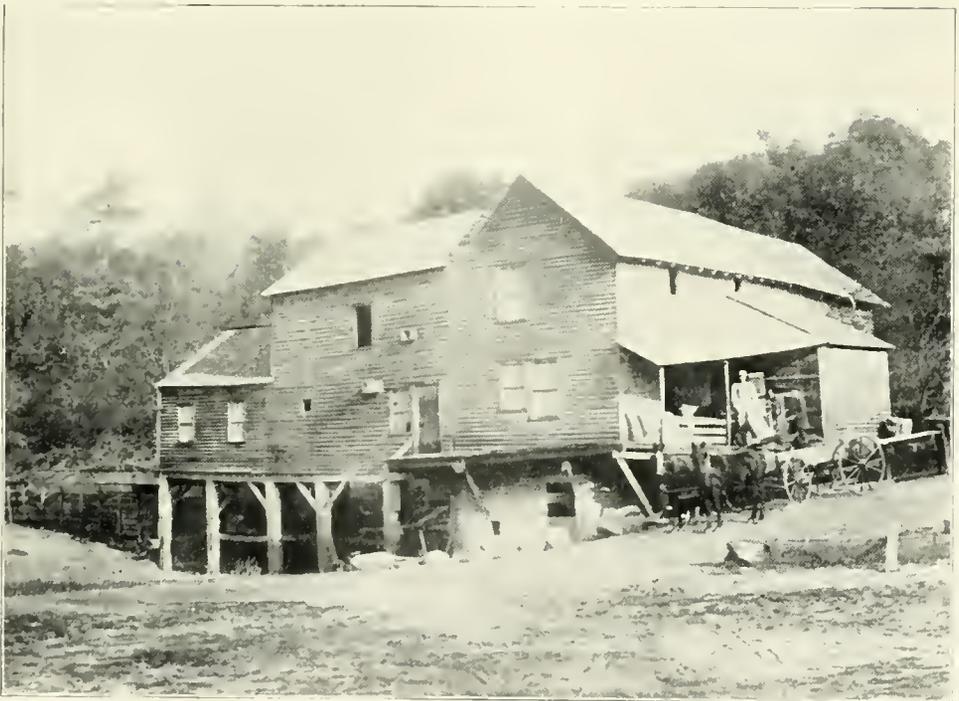
The modern child in kindergarten sings lustily of the miller with his mill wheel turning round, but must sing ignorantly, for he may not learn by experience how musical was the song of the mill. The water mill of forty years ago had none of the metallic, rasping sounds that modern machinery gives forth. When most of the mechanism was of wood the sound was a muffled humming, indescribably sweetened by the splashing of water over the dam, the churning of wheels below in the flume. Inside the mill the sound was louder and a clean, sweet odor greeted the senses. The beginning of bread has a charm also. Not far from the door stood the great wheat hopper from which the miller took his toll and into which the wheat was poured to be cleaned; the great round mill-stones with their little grooves which had to be chiseled out on dull days—sharpening, it was called; the long, clean bolting chest that had its reel covered with the expensive bolting or sifting silk once in ten or twelve years; the dust-room with its thick, wheaty odor; the grain bags stacked high on which many a tired child climbed to view these interesting surroundings, but remained to sleep awhile, lulled by the humming of the mill; and the fine, white flour dust settling thickly over all—the miller's hat, his coat (for the early miller wore no white uniform), powdering his hair and eyebrows with its hoary frost and making a miracle of the cobwebs high in the corners; and over all and through all the hum of the mill. No industry was more productive of contentment and a man who was once a miller never finds occupation more to his liking. This mill was sold to P. G. La Barr in 1889, who ran it until 1895, when it became the property of P. B. Osborn, now of Ellsworth. Mr. Osborn installed a boiler and steam engine, but in 1890 an explosion destroyed these and the house in which they were placed, rendering the mill useless. He then transferred what machinery he could use, to his steam mill in Ellsworth and disposed of the land in small tracts. With these events the long period of usefulness of Bone's mill was brought to a close.

#### TUNNEL MILL.

It is impossible to ascertain the exact date when Robert Watson began his tunnel through which the river was to increase the natural current by a deeper fall at the dam, but the time was in the early '50s. Watson laid his tunnel out with a pocket compass; the tunnel was four hundred feet long and was begun from each end and dug toward the center. Watson's accuracy in such primitive engineering may be judged from the fact that the ends of each starting point were but eighteen inches apart in the center of the tunnel. By such methods around



OLD CHASE MILL, WEBSTER CITY



TUNNEL MILL



the bend of the river from the dam to the mill site the fall of the river was six and one-half feet, and Watson had the privilege of a four and a half foot dam, making an eleven-foot fall of water—head and fall together. This industry in its infancy, was first a sawmill—later a corn grinding mill. Lyman G. Perry bought this mill from Watson in 1867 for \$6,000. He ran it as a saw and corn mill until 1869 or 1870. At this time or about 1871, Gilbert Perry went into the business with him, grinding wheat with one run of burrs. This was one of Boone, Wright, Webster and Greene counties. In pleasant weather or weather the most prosperous of early mills on the river, settlers coming from Story, not too cold, they usually came prepared to stay four or five days if necessary. Mr. Perry remembers that at times the river bottom below the mill was dotted with wagons; twenty teams sometimes being in waiting for their grists. The way to mill was often a dangerous one. There were many things to be considered before starting to mill where one went thirty and forty miles to have their wheat ground. There must be some one to look after the needs of the family and the stock at home; very often this devolved upon the wife and mother and the frontier woman was a woman who could not quake at sight of a band of Indians who may only have come to beg, but more likely to steal or threaten. Provisions must be made ready for the journey and for those left in the home.

Lyman Perry continued running this mill in partnership with his brother about nine years. The dam at this place was never taken entirely out by the ice gorges, but each spring sections were gone and had to be replaced. The tunnel laid out by Mr. Watson was curbed up with planks three feet long and the excavation was in itself three feet by two feet nine inches. It needed constant repair as the water rotted the boards. They also added improvements from time to time and about 1884 changed from burrs to rolls. At this time and for two years previous, they were busy all season. In 1882 they ran the mill steadily for nine months, Sundays and week-days, stopping only long enough to repair and oil machinery. Mr. Perry's manner of pay was to take one-eighth toll of wheat. He weighed every grist just as most millers did. He never did any exchange work as many did, giving flour in exchange for wheat.

On April 14, 1889, the tunnel caved in. This was repaired and work at the mill was resumed.

On November 14th of the same year, he and his son had been grinding buckwheat all day. In fact they had been grinding buckwheat for about three weeks, but this day a hot box annoyed and hindered the work and they shut down the mill at about 7 o'clock in the evening and repaired to the house completely tired out. At 2 a. m. Solomon Dick and his sons awakened by a lurid glare in the sky, hastened to arouse the sleeping miller. They were too late. All that remained of the once flourishing flour mill was a pile of smoking embers. The loss was complete; no insurance was carried and in addition to this, there were stored in the mill, five hundred bushels of winter wheat, one hundred bushels toll wheat, five or six tons of buckwheat flour, two or three tons of white flour, two hundred bushels of corn, two hundred bushels of grists belonging to farmers. A kit of carpenters' tools was also in the burned structure. During its years of activity the mill was also a postoffice and a small store was kept in addition.

## CHASE MILL

In 1855 Sumler and Walter Willson built a sawmill near the site of the old Chase mill. This was, as nearly as can be ascertained, the first sawmill in Webster City. This mill started upon its career auspiciously enough for the settlers were in need of boards and shingles. In 1856 the Willsons disposed of their mill to Chas. B. Stoddard and W. S. Pray. They established a planing mill in addition to the sawmill and made shingles also. A little later the flourishing industry added a furniture factory, and the first work done on a turning lathe was executed here. Cabinetmakers were in demand, and among those, who at one time and another, won local fame as workers in wood were, P. C. Babcock, J. D. Sketchley, B. S. Mason, Lewis Holcomb, Elisha Sackett and Frank R. Mason. There are in the town, pieces of the furniture made here, still in use. They were built to last a lifetime and many of the carefully constructed articles have long outlived their owners. Gilbert Perry has a chair from this factory and there are doubtless others. The only coffins used in the settlement were made here and members of the Pray family still remember how, during a typhoid epidemic, the small force of cabinetmakers worked day and night to fill the orders for coffins.

During these years a corn cracker was added to the other branches of the mill and J. D. Sketchley ran it. Settlers hailed with delight this addition and shelled corn by hand to bring to mill, that they might obtain that delicious old-time dish—hominy. "Samp," was the pioneer name given to the dish. In 1868 John Hill came to the settlement with his family and bought the mill of Stoddard and Pray April 8, 1868. He sold a third interest to Preston Kimbrell, his brother-in-law, who held his interest until death. John Hill was a fine millwright and at once proceeded to build an entirely modern mill. He used every known appliance in the construction of the mill. Business was very good and the flour put out was of excellent quality. The pioneers were not critical of their bread or their flour however, for they were philosophers enough to accept the goods of the gods and be thankful. The times made men philosophers; when hard times came they plodded uncomplainingly on; when good fortune smiled upon them they as quietly accepted it.

John Hill in 1873 sold a half interest to Judge D. D. Chase and the other half was sold to him in 1877. Mr. Chase employed various men at different times to run the mill as a flour mill. Among these were the La Barr brothers; then in 1882 Charles Closs rented and ran it for about three years; successor to him was P. G. Stearns, who ran it as a feed mill for a year or two, until he bought and operated the Plansifter Flour mills near the Crooked Creek station. With the removal of Mr. Stearns the Chase mill was abandoned. It rapidly lost its windows and began to assume the air of "better days" that a once useful or popular person presents when he ends his period of activity. But the timbers of which it had been built—its bones and sinews—were of too hardy material to so quickly succumb as many of its predecessors had. So it stood for years, the last mill upon the river, the "last leaf upon the tree," in dignified solitude, a sightless old landmark with its solid old walls as firm as they had been fifty years before and became unwillingly the haunt of owls and bats by night, its

only companions the complaining wind through its deserted rooms and the murmuring waters of the river.

## TURBINE MILL

The bed of all streams is constantly changing as the current makes deposit of sand and soil. Especially is this true of Boone river just west of the J. C. Sterling farm, five miles south of Webster City. Not many who enjoy the picnic parties and the camping pleasures in this beautiful place know that a mill once stood on the west bank of the river a short distance above the Whist club cabin. This mill was built in about 1869, by Robert Watson, an eccentric character, known locally as "Blue Jacket" Watson. He was a man who possessed not a small amount of ability—a natural surveyor—as shown by his manner of working on the Tunnel mill. The subject of this sketch was called the Turbine mill by reason of its water wheel. A turbine wheel is a horizontal water wheel, while an over-shot water wheel is a vertical one. Most of the other mills on the river had turbine wheels with the exception of Bone's and Chase's mills, which were run by double turbines, called Lafell wheels. Robert Watson sold this property to Brillhart in 1870. Brillhart to Gillette in 1871. Gillette to H. H. Robinson in 1873. H. H. Robinson to Henry W. Robinson in 1876. Robinson sold a half interest to Farmer in 1876. The mill was in a very poor location. There was no bridge near this point and the ford—a mile above the mill—was not always possible; then again the steep hills on the west side of the river made the transportation of grain from that direction, in any weather, a difficult task. Dull business followed as a matter of course and ill feeling began between the two owners. The proceeds of the business grew almost too small to be divided and one day in 1878 a hot quarrel ensued in which Robinson left the mill in anger, going to the small house in which they had lived together, and procuring a shotgun, returned. Farmer came to the mill door to see where Robinson had gone and seeing him approaching with a gun, turned to go in, whereupon Robinson fired, wounding him in the back. Farmer, though wounded, managed to lock and bar the mill door, and securely covered with a box of wheat, a trap door leading to the basement. Then he jumped from a window on the east side of the mill, a drop of twelve feet, while he thought his assailant busy trying to stop the water-wheel. But Robinson heard him drop and gave chase up the mill race until Farmer escaped by running across the river on the ice to the home of A. D. Arthur, now known as the J. C. Sterling farm.

Farmer brought suit against Robinson, but strangely enough, Robinson plead self-defense and on these grounds he was cleared, although he had assailed his victim from the rear.

The trial brought out the fact that Farmer took great pleasure in arousing another man's anger, while apparently holding his own in leash. Farmer fully recovered and bought Robinson out in the same year.

In 1880 he sold the mill to Lyman G. Perry, who also ran it as a grist mill. Mr. Perry was connected with four water mills in Hamilton county during his life. He was a carpenter on the Harris mill, and was miller at the Turbine, Bell's and Tunnel mills. In 1880 or 1881 Perry sold the place to A. D. Arthur and the mill was torn down never to be rebuilt.

## HARRIS MILL.

The first mill on this site was a sawmill, built by Wesley Camp in 1855 or 1856. Camp sold to Hiram Bennett, who began at once the construction of a grist mill. The timbers of this mill were of black walnut and the "raising" of the mill was an event which many settlers still remember. Irving Worthington and J. D. Sketchley were there and perhaps others are still living. William McFerrer was the mechanic; William Cooper, father of Mrs. L. L. Treat, also Lyman G. Perry helped construct the mill. This mill did a considerable business also and was generally prosperous. Averill bought the mill of Bennett, then in a year or so the property reverted to Bennett, who finally disposed of it to Levi Harris. While Bennett owned the mill it had two run of burrs propelled by a turbine wheel. Among those who have been millers in this mill are found the names of Christie, Averill, Ross Harris, Bradenburg, La Barr and Ather-ton. Copying from a Webster City Freeman: "It was at this mill that occurred a frightful accident, by which Mr. Mauler lost his life. It was in the winter and while waiting about the mill for a grist he was strolling about on the second floor of the mill near some gearing into which he was drawn by a long coat he wore. He was badly mangled and only lived a few hours. This was the only serious accident about this mill, except broken limbs, which are not uncommon about mills of any kind."

Levi Harris in time shut down the mill and it was rented later for a slaughter house by a local meat market.

## STEAM MILLS

In 1859 a stock company, of which W. C. and Sumler Willson were members, erected a brick steam saw and grist mill. This was built on the east bank of the ravine that ran north parallel to Funk street, and was on what is now called Third street. The bricks used in the erection of the mill were produced by Ira Hilliard from clay which was dug underneath the mill yard. The mills were known as "Eagle Mills," and for a time put out an immense amount of flour. The upper half of this mill was occupied by the miller's family and some still remember going to parties in the old mill.

The mill was partially destroyed by fire at one time and rebuilt, only to be again destroyed by fire in 1883, when owned by Moore and Fenton. The machinery for the mill was said to have been brought by ox wagons from Dubuque. Michael Sweeney was at one time the engineer here and it was while engaged in this work that he suffered the accident by which he lost his hand.

## THE MODEL MILLS

C. T. Fenton, Jacob Funk, S. B. Rosencrans and J. M. Jones were the stock company which brought here a steam sawmill in the spring of 1850. It was erected east of the present Chicago & North-Western Railroad tracks, south of the flowing well. This was run strictly as a sawmill until 1860. At this time it was sold to Thomas Richards, who moved it to Batch Grove near the north county line. It is impossible to ascertain the exact date of its removal to Second street, but it was brought here and disposed of to Edward Mabbot. Mabbot

installed machinery for grinding flour and feed and added a planing mill. The firm name at this time was Mabbot & Son. They did a large feed business and were very prosperous. Mr. Mabbot owned six business lots about where the armory now stands and his buildings, known as the "Model Mills," occupied these. The mills were modern in equipment at this period and contained three run of burrs run by a twenty-five horse power engine. Edward Mabbot sold these mills to Charles Cloz in the '80s and he disposed of them to the Biernatzki Brothers.

#### THE TEN EYCK MILL

Hamp Dixon built a sawmill on the Ten Eyck farm one and a half miles north of Stratford, in about 1867. H. A. Crandall helped to build this mill. Vradenburg was at one time the miller. This mill was run about two years and then burned to the ground. It never was rebuilt for it was in a poor location to draw trade. One by one the water mills were forced out of business by the noisy steam roller mill and of the many millwrights operating on Boone river few made a fortune or were even prosperous in the last year they ran their mill.

Songs will always be written and sung of the water mill and the miller. Poems will be read and articles written, but the miller at the water mill long since has hung up his dusty coat and "shut down" the water gates. The busy water wheel is stilled, but the music of it still lingers and the miller who "ground his wheat with joy" still hears. But the road that leads to the mill is grass grown and the door is shut.



## CHAPTER XXIX

### PUBLIC BENEFACTORS

KENDALL YOUNG LIBRARY—DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING—LIFE OF KENDALL YOUNG—MERCY HOSPITAL

#### PUBLIC BENEFACTORS

Early in the history of Hamilton county, there came to Webster City two men whose memory will ever be cherished by a grateful people. These were Kendall Young and Jacob M. Funk. They were both capitalists and men of financial genius but both were retiring and modest in general conduct. Kendall Young had no children and Jacob Funk had neither wife nor children. In many respects they were opposite from each other. Kendall Young was a republican, Jacob Funk was a democrat. Kendall Young was a "down town" man, while Jacob Funk was an "up town" man. Kendall Young was a banker and conducted his business in a most orderly and systematic manner. Jacob Funk was a farmer, builder, landlord and man of many diversified interests and usually kept his accounts "in his head." Both agreed, however, in a good opinion of the city in which they lived and of its people, their neighbors and friends. Kendall Young established the Kendall Young Library. Jacob Funk founded Mercy Hospital. Both were public benefactors in a large and unusual degree.

Mr. E. D. Burgess, the librarian of Kendall Young Library, has prepared for this work a description of the Kendall Young gift, which is here presented:

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE  
KENDALL YOUNG LIBRARY  
WEBSTER CITY, IOWA  
*By E. D. Burgess.*

The KENDALL YOUNG LIBRARY of Webster City, Iowa, together with an ample endowment for its perpetual support, is the gift of Mr. Kendall Young, for many years a widely known and honored resident of the city.

Some years before his death, Mr. Young, recognizing the great benefits resulting from the establishment in a community of a public library, determined to secure and perpetuate to the people such a library as would meet every need of the present and of the future; and in a spirit of the broadest and wisest philanthropy, he devoted his entire fortune to that end.

On the 9th day of March, 1894, he made his will, whereby the residue of his estate remaining after providing during her life time for the care and support

of his widow, an invalid for many years before her death, should be devoted to the establishment and maintenance of a free public library in Webster City, to be called the KENDALL YOUNG LIBRARY. At this date (1912) the endowment thus created for the support of the library, exclusive of the library building, its books and furnishings and its site, exceeds \$200,000.00 in value. And it was characteristic of the man that his purpose to make this magnificent gift to his fellow citizens, was not by him made known during his life time.

Mr. Young died June 30, 1896. On the second day of July, following, his will was opened and the people then first learned that their city was the beneficiary of the largest gift of the kind ever made by a citizen of Iowa; a gift that can be fully appreciated only with the lapse of years; a gift reaching to every home, and to every inmate therein, not only of the present, but of generations to come.

In his will, he named Mr. J. W. Young executor of his estate, and appointed F. D. Young, J. W. Young, Samuel Baxter, W. J. Covil, and E. D. Burgess trustees for life of the said library. They constitute the present library board, and the will provides that their successors shall be elected by the people at the regular municipal election for the term of five years.

The will was admitted to probate September 28, 1896. The executor named and the library trustees filed their acceptance of their respective trusts, and Mrs. Jane Young, the widow, elected to take under and assist in carrying out the provisions of the will in lieu of her statutory rights. A copy of the will was filed with the city clerk of Webster City, and November 16, 1896, an ordinance was passed by the city council accepting the gift, with and subject to all its terms and conditions.

It soon became apparent to Mrs. Young that the annual income derived from the estate was more than she desired for her own use and she generously offered to give the use for library purposes, of the commodious Kendall Young residence, beautifully situated, and surrounded by spacious, ornamental grounds, together with its furnishings. She also proposed that the surplus income from the estate should be used for the immediate establishment and maintenance of the library; and, upon the joint application of Mrs. Young and the executor to the district court it was ordered at the February, 1898, term, that the executor annually turn over to the trustees the surplus income from the estate, to be by them used for library purposes.

In pursuance of this order about 1,100 books were purchased and the library was opened to public use July 27, 1898, and was thus maintained until after the death of Mrs. Young in September, 1903, when, under the will, the entire estate became available for library purposes; and the board of trustees proceeded to the erection of a library building.

Mr. Young in his will appropriated the sum of \$25,000.00 for the erection of a library building, and \$10,000.00 for its equipment. After investigating the cost of building, the trustees decided that, in view of the increase in cost of labor and material since the making of the will, a suitable memorial building to Kendall Young could not be erected for that amount; and they determined that, if the funds therefor could be procured, his memory should be honored by the erection of a building more in keeping with his gift to the community.

To that end, the income from the estate was, as far as possible, accumulated



KENDALL AND JANE YOUNG



by the executor and the library trustees, and it was found that by anticipating the income for the years 1905 and 1906 an appropriate building could be erected.

The Kendall Young homestead was removed to another position upon the grounds, and during the years 1904 and 1905, the present library building was erected and equipped upon its site at a cost of about \$50,000.00. It is a permanent and beautiful structure of the best workmanship and most durable material throughout.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING

As one approaches the library, he is impressed, first by the smoothly clipped, beautiful lawn, next by the broad steps and ample entrance and next by the simple yet classic lines of the building itself. It is a fireproof building, built of Bedford stone with only enough mottled brick to relieve the somberness of the grey. A closer view shows the delicate hand carving about the doors, windows and cornice, the beauty of the granite columns which stand like sentinels on either side of the broad doorway and the harmonious coloring of the stained glass which ornaments the structure. Upon entering and passing through the dignified marble vestibule one is hardly prepared for the brilliancy and magnificence of the rotunda. It is surrounded by twelve beautiful columns of Numidian marble of brilliant amber color, each surmounted by a gold capital. The color changes gradually into the softer ambers and greens of the art glass in a perfectly shaped dome which seems to rest upon these columns. To the right of the rotunda is the children's room finished in soft amber colors and furnished to meet every juvenile need. To the left, and toward the south is the main reading room. In its finishing the cool green shades so restful to the student, predominate. This room is well equipped for work and well supplied with reference works and current literature. To the rear of the reading room is the Art Room, designed to commemorate the memory of Jane Young. Here, within mahogany cases, is housed a choice collection of art books.

Just back of the rotunda, and facing the entrance is the charging desk from which the librarian can see at a glance any part of the first floor except the art room and just back of the charging desk are strong steel cases which accommodate thousands of books.

To the rear of the children's room are the amply furnished offices of the librarian.

In the basement, approached by marble steps, flanked by marble wainscoting is found a convenient club room, a small auditorium, and a storage or stack room which will accommodate a large number of books.

The walls are finished in oil. The floors are of tile laid in mosaic patterns.

#### KENDALL YOUNG

Kendall Young was born at Eden, Maine, January 19, 1820. His boyhood days were spent on his father's farm, where his summers were devoted to farm work and fishing and his winters in attending school. When about twenty years of age, he enlisted in the Maine Militia, Northeastern Frontier Disturbances, and served about two months. For this service he received land warrants for forty acres in Hamilton county and one hundred and twenty in Kossuth

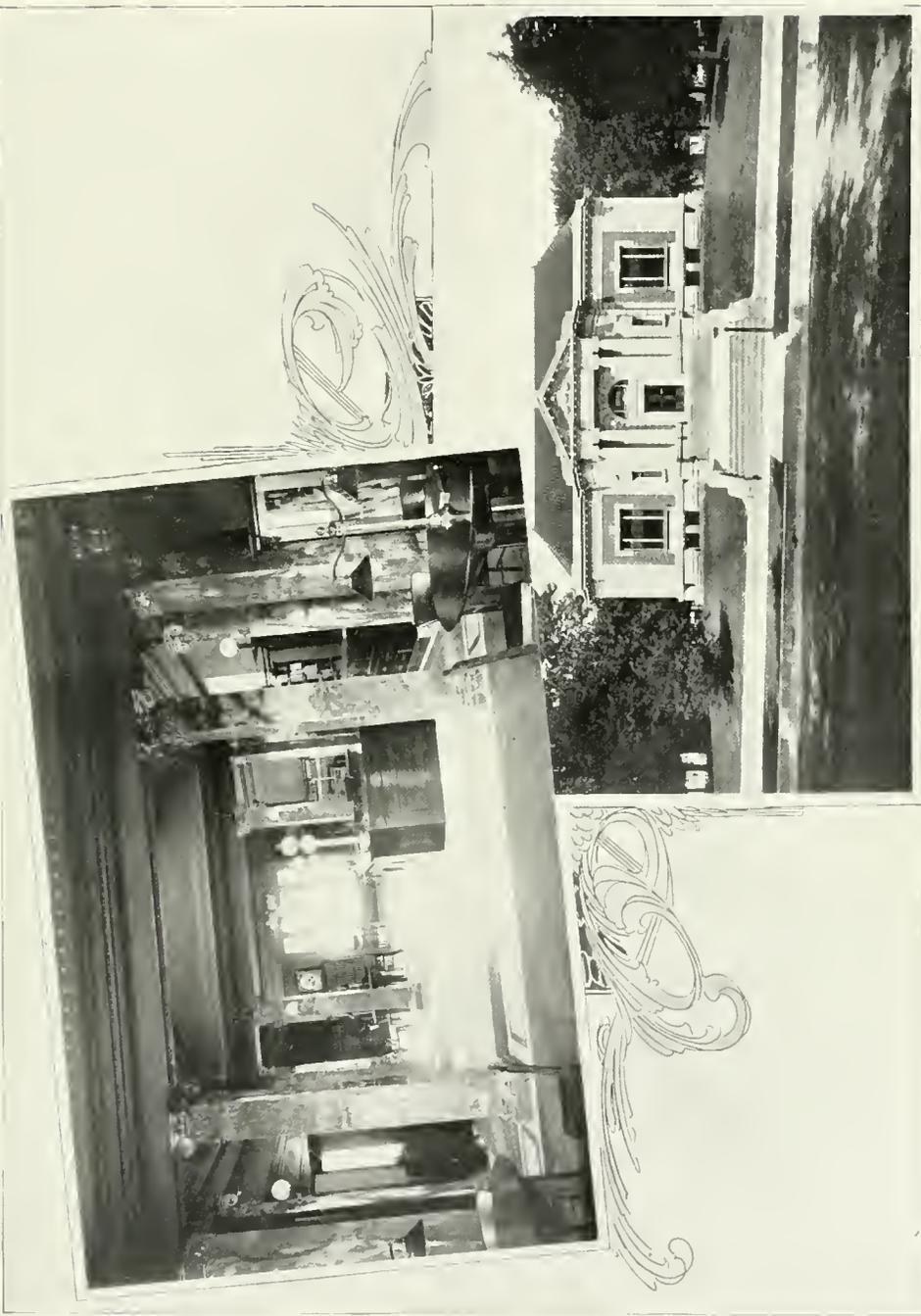
county, Iowa. After leaving the service, he was engaged in cod fishing off the coast of Labrador and later conducted a store for fishermen's supplies. In 1847, he moved to Wisconsin and engaged in farming and in 1849 went to California in search of gold. He located a claim on Norman island in the American River and there for two and one-half years, was engaged in placer mining. In 1852 he returned to Maine, but a year later moved to Rockton, Ill., and became interested in a paper mill. In 1855, he moved to Marshall county, Iowa, where he formed a partnership with L. L. Treat, now of Webster City, and started a mercantile business, at Albion, which continued about one year. In 1856, Young & Treat became associated with George Smith and the three platted the town of Irvington in Kossuth county. At this new town they built a store and a saw mill. Mr. Young was located at Irvington during the Spirit Lake Massacre in 1857, and he and his associates in business, sawed plank and built a stockade with bastions at the corners which served as a refuge for the settlers in that vicinity during that exciting and dangerous period.

On September 23, 1858, Kendall Young and Jane Underdown were married at Webster City. A year later the young couple left Irvington and made Webster City their home. At Webster City Mr. Young opened a general merchandise store which he continued to keep until 1871, when, upon the organization of the First National Bank, he became its president. As a banker he was most provident and conservative and the panics of 1873 and 1893 were met with assurance and confidence. They did not disturb his business. He held the position of president of the First National Bank until the time of his death.

His old time friend and legal adviser, W. J. Covil writes of his character as follows:

"Mr. Young was not of an excitable nature. He was cool and deliberate at all times and under all circumstances. His opinions were slowly formed, but once formed he was slow to abandon them. He was open and direct in all of his dealings and despised meanness, trickery and falsehood. It is related of him that at one time being requested to buy a note having two names as makers, one being that of a man in whose integrity he had not the greatest confidence, he replied: "I don't want any paper with that man's name on it. If you will get his name off the note, I will buy it, sir." In expression, he was deliberate, concise and somewhat emphatic at times. When he expressed an opinion there was no room for doubt as to his meaning. To an inquiry across the bank counter as to what he would give for a note of questionable value, his reply, "Really, sir, I would not give you ten cents for a cart load of such paper," illustrates his decisive way of expressing himself. That he was wise and sagacious, the fortune he left clearly demonstrates.

It was his character as a man, however, that most commends him to us. In the purity of his life, his quiet independence, his freedom from all sham and pretense, his genuine manliness, his practical common sense, his self control, his rectitude in all the relations of life, he presented a striking example of a strong and sturdy New England character, as developed by an active life of half a century in the west, which to an unusual degree commanded the confidence and respect of his fellow men. He was an active member of the Universalist church, and he had an abiding faith in the goodness and justice of God. 'For whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap' was to him a living truth. His own



KENDALL YOUNG LIBRARY, WEBSTER CITY



sense of duty, and not the opinions of others, was his guide through life. The Golden Rule summarized his creed, and few men practiced its teachings more than he. Socially he was a most genial and kind hearted man."

He died June 30, 1896. The funeral was held at his old home. There surrounded by the friends of a life time, the Rev. Amos Crum paid to his memory, the following truthful and beautiful tribute:

"Kendall Young was the gift of New England to our western life. His morals were the morals of New England. His industry was the industry of New England character. His prudence was born of the thoughtfulness, the self-control, the patience and faith of New England. His career extended over a period of seventy-six years. With the experience that came in a long career under these western skies, he of course broadened his views and enriched his character; but his inheritances were of the eastern coasts. Some of his memories and journeyings were of the sea. But whether on land or on sea, he was guided by those beacon lights of character which shine through the moral nature. In 1859, he chose Webster City as his home. Here his wanderings ceased. Here he rested. Here he watched those investments and conducted those enterprises on which he depended for success. Here he planned his domestic life and built this goodly house. Upon it he expended the utmost care and in it he hoped to find rest and contentment, which his simple tastes required. The actual result may have fallen somewhat short of his fondest dream. The long standing illness of his wife has separated the childless pair. His now widowed companion has been long absent in quest of relief from bodily and mental ills. He, a saddened and lonely but uncomplaining man, has moved amongst us and done his work with such cheerfulness as he might.

"When the shadow began to come upon him and he must seek relief in the skill of the medical staff at Battle Creek, Michigan, he walked about this place that he loved and took a tearful farewell of each familiar and cherished object. The spectacle of that lonely old man, stricken with disease and heart hunger, unsatisfied amid his wealth yet uncomplaining amid his woes, is a theme for an artist. It is an object lesson for our meditations. Events move rapidly. The utmost skill of man proves at last unequal to that dread inevitable, which young men may meet and which the old must meet; and Kendall Young bade adieu to all earthly scenes on Tuesday morning, June 30, 1896. Today we are assembled here to do for him those simple things which those who go must ask of those who remain. We will discharge that sacred obligation, and the earth shall receive his dust to hold it in the peaceful city of our dead. This quiet man would, if he could direct our thought and speech today, bid us desist from elaborate eulogy. This modest citizen and methodical business man would, if he could, command us to plan no fulsome demonstration in his name. It is fitting that this closing scene should be like the rest. And it shall be so. His untarnished name, his record with no blot of evil upon it, is proof that in him wisdom and prudence were combined. No vicious habits had undermined his health in youth. He was temperate in all things. He exacted of himself and of others that discipline which earns success. His circumstances, his worldly means increased, but his friendships, his tastes, his modesty, remained unchanged. In religion, it was his to live the broader view, the more kindly hope. For this he did much. He was for years foremost in that group of liberal and farsighted men who founded and sustained

the church which represents his convictions and his hopes. His memory will be cherished there, while memory remains to those who knew him. Our brother has departed from among his familiar paths. If it be asked of us what more is there to say, the prompt reply must be, 'this is not the end for him or for us.' His close here, is the entrance upon another career. He has finished the earthly discipline. He has put off the garment called flesh. He has put on that, to which no age and no sickness can come. To us it seems like loss. To him it is a gain. Today in all seriousness we can say of him, 'Hail, and for a while, farewell.'"

#### MERCY HOSPITAL

In 1902, Jacob M. Funk, who had been a resident of Webster City for nearly fifty years, conceived the idea of founding a hospital, and accordingly erected a fine, large brick structure on a tract of ground located at the corner of Des Moines and Ohio streets. The building was planned especially for a hospital and cost about \$25,000. Mr. Funk had come to Webster City when there were but one or two small buildings in the entire territory occupied by the city, and he had been one of the prime movers in the building of the town. Until 1890, he had been interested in the building of nearly every store building that had been erected on Second street. He was a bachelor, and with him, the good of his town received attention and concern such as the ordinary business man gives to his family. In building the hospital, Mr. Funk was anxious to do some great permanent good for his town and he naturally looked for assistance, first, to the great religious organizations, whose chosen mission was to expound by precept and example, the virtue, morality and charity of the Christ. He finally chose from several applicants, the northwest Iowa conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, as the medium through which this work of charity should be transmitted to the people of his beloved city.

Accordingly, while the hospital building was in course of erection, Jacob M. Funk conveyed it, and the grounds, containing about three and one-half acres, to the trustees of Mercy hospital, of northwest Iowa conference of the Methodist church. The deed provided that the grantees should equip, use, operate and maintain the same as a modern hospital for the care and treatment of persons requiring medical or surgical aid, without regard to sex, color, nationality or religion, under such reasonable rules as might be adopted by the board of directors, and that one-fourth of the privileges and accommodations of said hospital, to be designated by the management of the hospital, should be *free* and extended to such persons as should be unable to pay therefor.

The deed also provided that Jacob M. Funk, L. A. McMurray and Cyrus Smith should constitute a board of directors, and that in case of the death or inability of either to serve, he should appoint his own successor, and in case such appointment was not so made, the district court should make it. That in case of the failure or inability of the Northwest Iowa conference to maintain said hospital as above stipulated, the building and land should revert to the board of directors, who should have power to reconvey it to some other society that would undertake to fulfill the provisions of the grantor, as above set forth. The deed also provided that in the selection or employment of any physician or





JACOB M. FUNK

The founder of Mercy Hospital



VIEWS OF MERCY HOSPITAL, WEBSTER CITY



surgeon, no discrimination should be made in favor of any particular school or practice of medicine. The deed is dated February 23, 1903, and is recorded in Land Deed Record, No. 39, on page 564, of the records of Hamilton county, Iowa.

Under the above conditions and stipulations, the Northwest Iowa conference accepted the trust, and undertook the operation of the hospital, and it may be said to the credit of those placed in charge, that they labored earnestly and faithfully to fulfill the trust in its fullest sense. At this time, Jacob Funk was worth about half a million dollars and had no direct heirs. Many believed that he would make the hospital his heir, and it was but natural that the Methodists should look forward in fond anticipation to the day when the Funk fortune would be left in the hands of the conference for the use of the hospital. There is little doubt that Mr. Funk intended to make some provision for the hospital in his will, but just what that provision should be, he had not decided. On November 29, 1903, Jacob Funk died suddenly in his chair at his hotel. He left no will, and his entire property was inherited by collateral heirs.

After Mr. Funk's death, the Methodists began to complain that the hospital was not self-sustaining; that the deed provided for too much "free service" and some good members of the conference went so far as to insinuate that they had been buncoed into accepting a "white elephant," which was a source of constant worry and expense and of no benefit to anyone except those people of Webster City who were unfortunate enough to need a hospital. It now developed that Mr. Funk had made a mistake in his choice of a medium through which to perform a great charitable work, for the Northwest Iowa conference, instead of looking upon the bestowal of the hospital as opportunity to relieve suffering and perform a great work of benevolence, had apparently accepted the gift with the sole view of gaining worldly advantage. So, when it found that its adopted child was without patrimony and brought no worldly profits, it deliberately deserted it and for more than a year, Mercy hospital was unoccupied. By the provisions of the deed, the buildings and grounds now reverted to the board of directors. Attempts were made to find some other religious or civic society to accept and conduct the hospital in accord with the stipulation of its founder, but the charity clause was in the way. The fear that the hospital would be a source of expense rather than one of profit, caused many a well-meaning organization to hesitate. At last the offer of the hospital was made to the Sisters of Mercy, of St. Joseph's hospital of Dubuque, Iowa, and at last was found an organization that did not gauge its charity by a percent of worldly profit. The offer of the hospital was accepted, and on October 30, 1905, L. A. McMurray, J. L. Kamrar and F. E. Willson as trustees, conveyed the hospital and grounds to St. Joseph's Mercy hospital of Dubuque, Iowa. The Sisters of Mercy at once took charge. Since that time no complaint has been made regarding its financial success. Whether or not it pays, in a worldly sense, is a matter of minor importance. A modern hospital is now conducted in accordance with the wishes and specifications of Jacob M. Funk, its founder, and Webster City has a refuge for the sick and afflicted, and all who apply are received without regard to sex, color, nationality, religion or financial condition. Rich and poor, alike, receive the merciful attention of the Good Sisters, whose lives are consecrated to the acts of mercy, rather than to the accumulation of worldly goods.



## CHAPTER XXX

### THE SCHOOLS

THE SUPERINTENDENTS—SUPERINTENDENT SKINNER'S REPORT—THE FIRST HIGH SCHOOL—SUPERINTENDENT JOHNSON'S REPORT—THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING—THE FIRST COMMENCEMENT

#### THE SUPERINTENDENTS

In 1857-8 the legislature had created the office of superintendent of common schools. The election of this officer took place at the April, 1857, election. A number of persons received a few votes, but C. A. Baum received a majority of all the votes cast and was therefore the first superintendent of schools in the county.

In 1858 Mr. Baum resigned and Rev. T. N. Skinner was appointed to fill the vacancy. The succeeding superintendents were: 1859, E. H. Blair; 1861, John W. Lee; 1865, Rev. O. A. Holmes; 1867, W. J. Covil; 1869, Dr. H. N. Curtis; 1871, Rev. J. A. Potter; 1873, C. A. Howd; 1877, H. H. Johnson; 1881, Geo. F. Richardson; 1887, Wm. Anderson; 1891, J. H. Richard; 1894, A. A. Weaver; 1895, Will F. Cole; 1899, L. N. Gerber; 1906, J. M. Holliday; 1910, E. F. Snow.

#### SUPERINTENDENT SKINNER'S REPORT

Early in March Superintendent Skinner made a report of the condition of the schools of the county and as this is the first report ever made on the subject, we will give a synopsis of it.

January 7 visited school district No. 2 in Cass; taught by J. W. Lee; school-house, a poor log cabin; school well arranged; good order maintained and pupils making rapid progress; school worthy of imitation and teacher worthy of commendation from all.

January 9 visited school No. 2, Homer; teacher, W. B. Goodrich; good house but not finished; small school.

January 10 visited No. 1, Homer; E. H. Blair, teacher; good house; school worthy of imitation.

January 10 visited school, No. 2, Marion; new log house, with J. M. Stover, teacher.

January 11 visited No. 1, Marion; Noah Kunnel, teacher; house a small log cabin, rented.

January 12 visited No. 1, Hamilton; taught by W. E. Gates; small log house; not well seated.

January 14 visited schools in Clear Lake; taught by Thos. Beardsley in new schoolhouse.

January 15 and 16 visited the schools in Webster City; teachers, Mr. Prichard and Miss Susan Hillock.

He then speaks of a number of new districts in which houses will be built and schools taught during the coming year. He gives no report of the number of pupils in the schools, but generally speaks of the school as being small. Compared with the present when every four sections of land on an average has a school, the advancement in this department seems wonderful.

In 1859 a four-room brick school building was erected in Webster City. At the time this was considered one of the best school buildings in Iowa.

#### THE FIRST HIGH SCHOOL

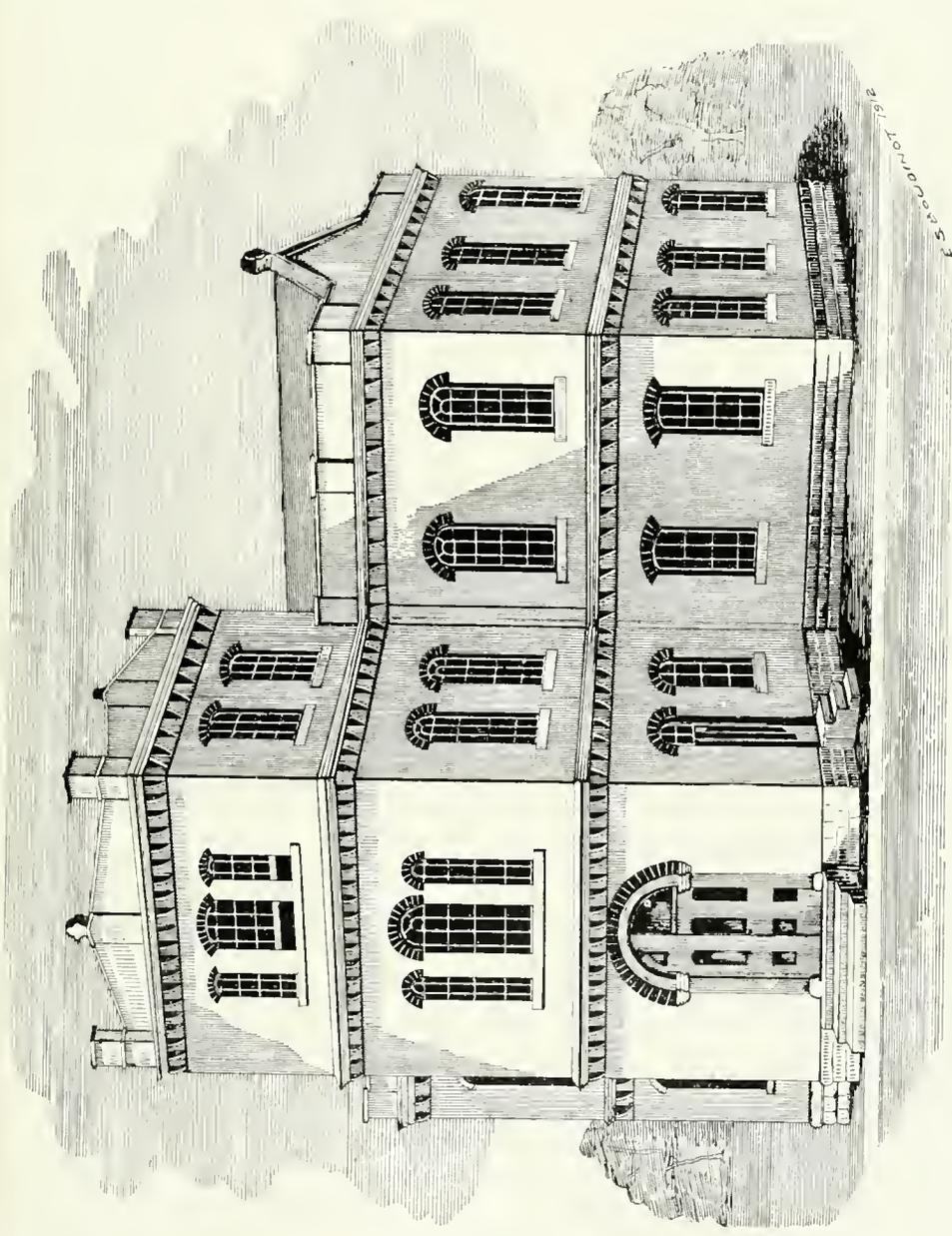
The question of establishing a county high school had been canvassed a great deal from time to time, and received a new impetus when in 1875 Prof. F. O. Baldwin erected a two-story academy building on Bank street between Willson avenue and Des Moines street in Webster City and opened an academy or select school therein. October 1st of that year the project of a select school in Webster City was encouraged by the citizens and the board of supervisors was prevailed upon to submit to a vote of the people a proposition to levy a tax to build a county high school. It was designed that Mr. Baldwin should, if the vote carried, turn over his new building at cost, and the school could be at once put in operation. But though the plan was generally favored in town, the country people opposed it and the vote resulted in 430 for the proposition and 650 against it. The school established by Prof. Baldwin did not prove remunerative and after a trial of two or three years the project was abandoned. The schools of the city had by that time outgrown the capacity of the buildings and the academy building was leased and the higher departments of the city schools were removed to it and it continued to be used by the city until after the completion of the new three-story brick building, when it was abandoned as a schoolhouse. It was soon afterwards transformed into a residence property. The building is still standing. It is the frame building just east of the Christian church.

#### SUPERINTENDENT JOHNSON'S REPORT

In September, 1880, County Superintendent H. H. Johnson published the following report concerning the schools of the county:

This being census year, I will make and publish a limited report of the progress of our schools in ten years. According to the county superintendent's report for the year beginning October 5, 1860, and ending October 4, 1870, we had in Hamilton county 49 school districts, 2,212 persons between the ages of 5 and 21, 53 schools, 1,675 pupils enrolled, an average attendance of 929, average number of months of school, 6, average compensation of teachers, males, \$37.32; females, \$28.78.

There were 51 schoolhouses valued at \$30,184.45, with apparatus valued at \$250.



Drawn from an old print by E. S. Boudinot

THE OLD BRICK SCHOOLHOUSE  
Built in 1858 and torn down in 1880

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Now we have 95 schools (16 independent and 79 sub-districts) and 102 schoolhouses, just double the number we had ten years ago. During the year we have had 105 schools with an average of  $7\frac{7}{10}$  months school. The average compensation of teachers was males, \$28.15; females, \$25.47 per month. The number of persons of school age, 3,652. Number enrolled, 2,700; total average attendance, 1,601. Our schoolhouses are valued at \$47,075.00 with apparatus valued at \$924.00.

In 1880 the teachers in the Webster City schools were as follows: Principal, Miss E. H. Hillock; assistant principal, L. J. Pierson; A. grammar, Geo. F. Richardson; B. grammar, Miss Hattie Richardson (now Mrs. Louis Lager); intermediate and primary, Miss Brewster, Miss Baird, Miss Fisher; outside schools, Miss Ella Snook (now Mrs. R. I. Burseson), Miss Cora Call (now Mrs. F. E. Whitley), Miss Amy Legg, Miss Eva Pray (now Mrs. Wesley Frank).

#### THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING

The project of building a new schoolhouse in Webster City, one that should not only afford ample facilities for the public schools, but be an ornament and an honor to the town as well, had for several years been much talked of, and one or two votes had been taken upon the question. But the people were divided in opinion as to what sort of a building should be secured. Some objected to the proposed style, others to the cost. Some thought it too small, others thought it too large, while others yet declared that the old schoolhouse with the ward schools then established with an occasional addition of other cheap houses, made ample provision for the schools and that there was no necessity for the expenditure for a large sum of money to build a large schoolhouse. These contending opinions struggled together for several years, the latter opinion holding the field in practice until 1880. At that time the schools of Webster City were being conducted in houses as follows: Four rooms in the old brick building, one room in a small frame building, a few feet from the old brick, two rooms in the Baldwin building on Bank street, one room at the west end on Second street, one room in the east end west of the river on Division street, one room on the east side of the river and one room in the south part of town on Seneca street. The schoolhouses except the old brick and the academy buildings, were all small, built after the fashion of country district schoolhouses and with a capacity each of from fifty to seventy-five pupils. The question now presented itself in a little different form. Some of the houses in use must be repaired or rebuilt. The Baldwin academy was only rented and with all, more room was needed to accommodate the pupils. It became a question then, whether to continue the old plan of building small buildings about town, or of building one large central building that would accommodate all the schools. Public meetings were held and the question discussed, citizens talked over the question on the streets and some gave expression to their views through the local papers and as a result of all this discussion and agitation, public opinion crystalized into tangible form and the question of issuing bonds for \$20,000 and building a house to cost that amount, was submitted to a vote on March 16, 1881. The proposition carried by a large majority and the school board entered at once upon the work of securing plans preparing to execute the will of the people upon this question. The

school board at that time consisted of G. B. Pray, president, Col. G. W. Crosley, Sumler Willson, I. W. Packard, E. N. Lee and F. Q. Lee. School buildings in other towns were examined and all the information gained that was possible and the board were mostly of the opinion that a two-story building should be built. But there seemed to be a general demand on the part of the citizens for a three-story building, one that would be imposing in appearance and an ornament to the city. The board therefore yielded to the general wish and about the 30th of April, adopted plans furnished by Architect Foster of Des Moines. Foster had been the architect for the courthouse and his work gave such general satisfaction that the board were pleased to have him placed in charge of the new school building. The contract was let to D. N. Stearns for \$21,900. After the schoolhouse was completed, the contractor was unable to pay all his bills and it was represented to the school board that on account of the advance in cost of labor and material, the building had cost over \$3,000 more than the contract price and an effort was made to get the board to pay this extra price. The board had no authority to do this, but they did appoint a committee to investigate the cost of the building and the committee reported its actual cost to be \$25,285.90. As a consequence of this investigation, the following proposition was submitted at the March, 1883 school election: "Shall a tax of \$2,500 be voted to reimburse Mr. Stearns for his loss in erecting the school building?" The proposed tax failed to carry, the vote being 45 for and 245 against.

While this tax proposition was submitted ostensibly to aid the contractor, the real parties in interest were Nelson and Sladden, local lumber dealers who held a large unpaid account against the contractor, and who had made the mistake of attempting to hold the school district liable for the material sold to the contractor.

#### THE FIRST COMMENCEMENT

On June 24, 1881, occurred the first annual commencement of the Webster City high school. The exercises were held at the Congregational church. The graduates were Anne J. Parker, Clara M. Willson, Nora F. Thompson and Teressa Willson.

The course of study in the high school at the time of the first commencement was as follows:

First year: Arithmetic, English grammar, U. S. history, civil government, physiology, physical geography.

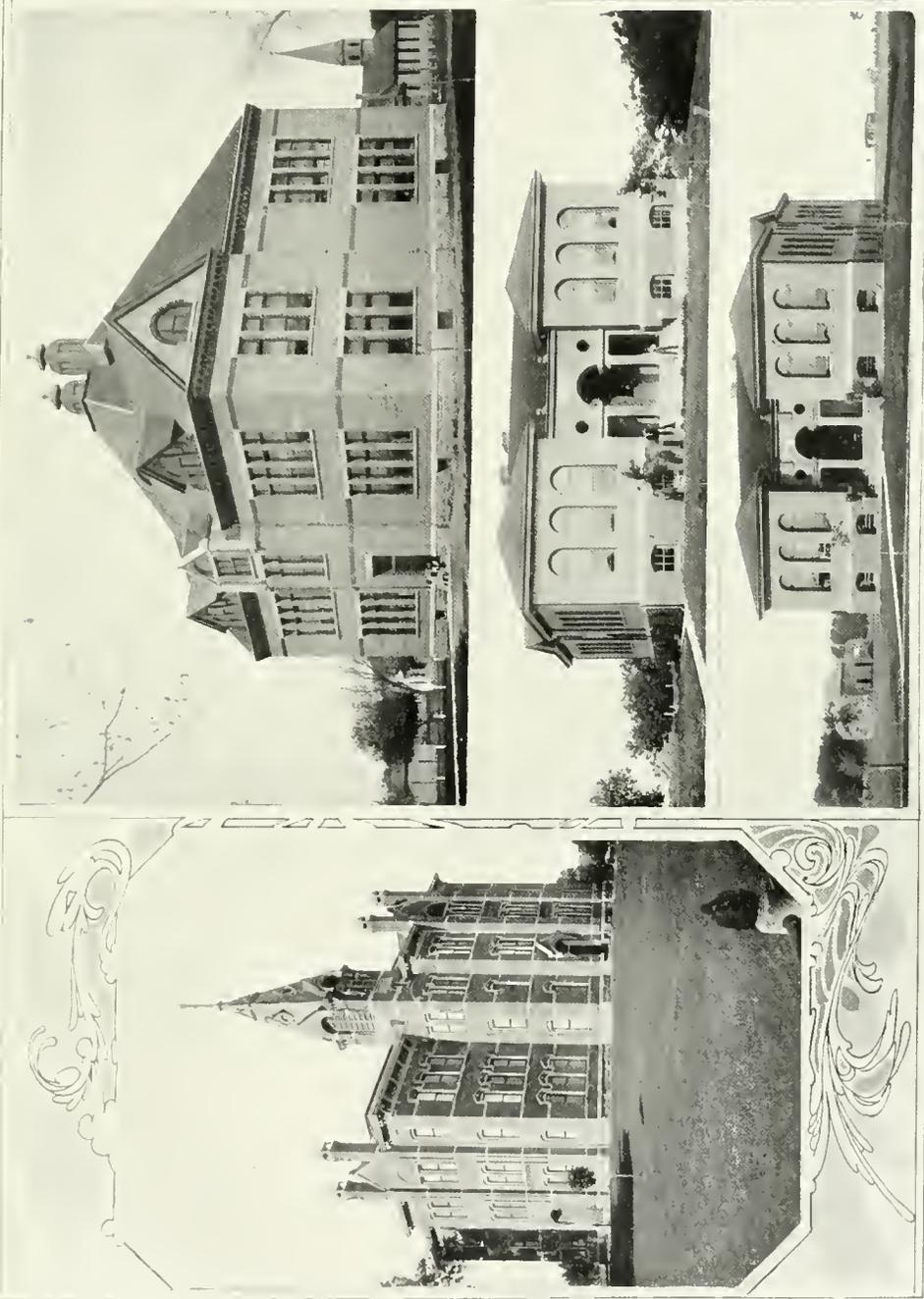
Second year: Bookkeeping, algebra, natural philosophy, chemistry.

Third year: Algebra, geometry, chemistry, general history, botany.

Fourth year: Geometry, general history, zoology, geology, astronomy, botany, rhetoric.

Elective courses of Latin and German were also provided.

At the time of the first commencement, Elizabeth Hillock was at the head of the schools. When the new schoolhouse was completed Prof. W. H. Dixon was placed in charge, and was retained about six years. In 1887 B. F. Barge, a member of the school board, was elected principal but after a month's unsuccessful attempt to manage the schools, he resigned and Prof. A. A. Weaver succeeded him. Prof. Weaver remained in charge until 1892 when he was succeeded by Prof. E. T. Fitch. Prof. Fitch was succeeded by W. H. Martin-



PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS, WEBSTER CITY



dale and he by Lyman H. Ford. Prof. Ford conducted the schools until 1909, when D. M. Kelly, the present superintendent, was elected. During the thirty-five years of its existence the Webster City high school has graduated nearly six hundred pupils.

Besides the high school at Webster City there are now high schools at Williams, Ellsworth, Jewell and Stratford.

Higher education is also supplied by the Jewell Lutheran college, which was established at Jewell, Iowa, in 1893, and has an enrollment at the present time of about two hundred pupils.

Hamilton county supports one hundred and thirty-three rural schools.



## CHAPTER XXXI

### AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Notwithstanding the fact that agriculture is the oldest of known sciences and has been the main occupation of the people of Hamilton county for over sixty years, it is still, so far as this county is concerned, in its infancy. Until within the last few years, farming has been looked upon as an occupation that required nothing but strength and endurance to perform hard and unceasing manual labor. The man who had these could succeed at farming or perhaps it would be more appropriate to say that he could if he were so disposed accumulate enough to enable him to move to town at the age of forty-five, broken in health and doomed to spend the rest of his days in idleness. The fact that farming was a scientific pursuit that required not only a scientific education, but also a most thorough and complete business education apparently did not occur to many who had made farming the business of their lives. So farming in many cases has been a life of aimless drudgery. The children have been kept out of school to work in the fields until they were old enough to break from parental control and flock to the towns and cities, the boys to seek enervating positions in stores and offices, while the girls found employment in the kitchens of their inferiors.

But happily these conditions have now passed. The farmer of today is a student, whose term of study never ends, an investigator, who ever sees before him, subjects for research and experiment, new, and increasing in number. He may not be a college graduate, but he has the education just the same, and it is no less effective because it was self acquired, and you may depend upon it, his sons and daughters are attending college.

In 1860 there were 139 farms in Hamilton county and of these, only 19 were of more than 100 acres in extent and more than half the entire number were of less than 50 acres in extent. The farms were small, located along the streams where timber furnished shelter and fuel, while the adjoining prairie furnished abundance of free range for stock.

In 1870 the number of farms had increased to 708 and still only 78 of these were over 100 acres in extent. There were two farms of over 500 acres each. In 1880 there were 1,565 farms nearly half of which were over 100 acres in extent. The farms were now divided mostly into eighties, quarters and half sections and from this time on farms of a quarter section in size predominated. In 1875 there were 64,000 acres of improved farm lands in Hamilton county. In 1880, 120,309; in 1885, 190,925; in 1890, 232,315; in 1895, 240,657; in 1900, 328,308; in 1905, 326,522. The wet years following 1900 had evidently caused some of the improved land to "go back" as it will be noticed that

the number of acres had decreased in 1905. While there had up to the beginning of the twentieth century been steady development in the opening up and improving of new lands, little improvement had been made in the productive qualities of the land that was being farmed. For in 1865 the average production of corn was 39 bushels per acre; in 1867, 23 bushels; in 1875, 32 bushels; in 1880, 40 bushels; and in 1905, 36 bushels, while in individual cases, as high as 80 bushels per acre have been frequently raised, the "average" farmer has usually been content with 40 bushels and oftentimes has been compelled to be content with less.

The soil of Hamilton county is so uniform in quality that the wide difference in yields so often found on adjoining farms can only be explained by an inquiry into the methods of farming employed.

Prior to the beginning of the twentieth century, the development in agriculture was turned chiefly toward the opening up of new farms and in supplying proper buildings for the care of live stock. The land itself had been so rich that methods to increase its productiveness were not considered and so cheap that if the farmer needed more grain, he bought more land. The real development in agriculture has been forced upon the people when the demand, and consequently the price, increased until the farmer who needed more grain could not buy the quarter adjoining him. He began, of necessity, to look about for means for increasing the yield on the acres he already owned. Rotation of crops, and the use of clover was hailed as a new discovery; though in fact this "new discovery" had been made repeatedly for centuries. But even rotation of crops and the use of clover would not cure a condition that prevented the full use of nearly half the land in the county. There was hardly a prairie farm that did not have nearly half its area damaged by the presence of sloughs and swamps. When the enterprising farmer sought to drain his land, his neighbor in the course of drainage below him objected. He argued, "If you turn the water from your swamp land into my land, you will damage my farm" and the law sustained the objector. This law was based upon a decision of the supreme court made in an early day before the question of drainage had been seriously considered. A man had by means of mole ditches and drains, collected all of the water on his farm into a single channel. This channel passed across the land of his neighbor and the volume of water flowing through the channel was so increased by the aforesaid mole ditches and drains that it washed out a part of the foundation from under the neighbor's corner. The neighbor sued for damages and the supreme court held that the owner of the dominant estate had no right to collect the water on his land and discharge upon the land of his neighbor in a way that either increased its volume or changed the manner in which the water from above naturally flowed to the land below.

For years this law stood directly in the way of drainage and was a most serious stumbling block to the progress of Iowa. Then the legislature passed a law that provided that the owner of land might collect the water on his own land in any manner he saw fit, provided none of it was diverted from the natural course of drainage and the owner of the servient estate should have no claim for damages because the water from above came upon his land in volume or manner different than it came naturally. This law helped a few, but in a level country



WEBSTER CITY ON WATERMELON DAY, 1911



where the general fall is not more than one or two feet to the mile, it furnished but little relief.

Then was enacted the drainage law that has done more for Hamilton county than any law ever placed upon the statute books of the state. As amended, it provides that any man who owns agricultural lands that need drainage may petition the board of supervisors for the formation of a drainage district and the board on investigation finds that the land within the proposed district needs drainage and the cost will not be in excess of the benefits that will accrue to the land, it shall establish the district and construct drains which furnish all the land in the proposed district a general outlet. The cost of this improvement is then assessed, or apportioned among the different forty acre tracts within the district in proportion to the benefits received by each tract from the improvement. Under this law, the board of supervisors of Hamilton county has established over one hundred drainage districts, and there has been expended for public drainage improvement, over \$1,139,000, and a million more has been expended for private drainage made possible by the public drainage. As a direct result of this expenditure of a little over two millions for drainage, the lands of Hamilton county have advanced in value over *eighteen million dollars* and besides this, the increased production due to the draining out and farming of hitherto worthless swamps, has paid for the cost of the improvements many times over.

Yet, this great project was met throughout with the bitterest opposition. The members of the board who established the districts were vilified and abused in a most shameful manner and the commissioners who spread the assessments, came in for their share of the venom that was thoughtlessly thrown at them. But they all persisted in the course they believed to be right, and which proved to be the most beneficent stroke of public policy ever adopted since the founding of the county.

Let history record on its roll of honor, the names of George S. Neel, John H. Sparboe, H. A. Stafford, William D. Bonner, Hampton Wilson, N. H. Bawden, men who served on the board of supervisors of Hamilton county during the great drainage era.

Now that the possibility for thorough drainage is secure, the farmer may well turn with hope and confidence to the methods of agriculture that will increase his yield. Without drainage, these methods were practically useless; with thorough drainage, the wonders that can and will be accomplished with Hamilton county soil have never yet been realized.

Only a few years hence, when you meet a farmer, you will find a scientist, who knows his soil and its needs, who knows why his crops grow or why they fail, and how that failure may be averted. You will find him to be a business man, versed not only in books of account, but also in methods of management that leave no room for waste, either of product or energy. You will find him a machinist who builds, repairs and operates the most intricate of farm machinery and moreover, you will find him to be a gentleman who demands and receives his just due, but is too proud to take advantage of the frailties or ignorance of his fellow men. In all well established countries since time began, the land owners have been the aristocrats. Hamilton county is no exception to the rule. But the aristocracy of Hamilton county will not be alone one of wealth but also one of education and refinement.

## HORTICULTURE

When the pioneer first settled in Hamilton county he set out his orchard and raised fruit for his own use, and the pioneer will remember that fruit growing was successful. Jacob Paine, Benjamin Millard and Huitt Ross were enthusiastic fruit men. At one time Huitt Ross originated a new variety of apple of superior qualities and named it "The Hamilton Freeman." But the sons of the pioneer have been too busy raising corn and hogs to pay any attention to fruit and the old orchards have died of neglect and have never been replanted and fruit growing has been consigned to those less fortunate communities where they "can't raise anything but fruit." Yet fruit raising in Hamilton county can be made a most profitable business. A crop of strawberries can be raised about as easily as a crop of potatoes and will yield a revenue of from \$300 to \$500 per acre. Raspberries are prolific bearers if given a little intelligent treatment and the home market has never been half supplied. Plums, cherries, apples, grapes are a sure crop and if given the care and attention that is given them in "fruit countries" will bear abundantly.

With the land worth from \$150 to \$200 per acre it will be necessary to resort more or less to intensified farming and it requires no great foresight to see that at no distant time, Hamilton county will be the home of many a prosperous fruit farmer.











