

of charge was limited to forty pounds and all excess of that amount was charged at the regular passenger rate on an estimate of 150 pounds to the passenger. On this occasion there were nine passengers in the stage and they arrived at Fort Dodge on the 4th day of May. The day of their arrival was one of public sale of government lands in Hancock and Winnebago counties. There were only a few buildings on the site of the present city of Fort Dodge and they were already filled to their utmost capacity, so that Mr. Struthers had to go a half-mile out of town to find a lodging place. On that day he bought a quarter-section of land in Bingham township, Hancock county, that he continued to own as long as he lived. The sale on that day was called from an open window and the street was filled with a dense crowd of people for a considerable distance around it.

When he arrived at Cedar Falls he received his first intelligence of the Spirit Lake massacre that had occurred two months before. At this place he encountered a number of covered wagons moving east, that were filled with frightened people who expected the Indians would soon raid the entire northwest part of the state.

After locating his claim in Des Moines township and doing some work of improvement upon it, Mr. Struthers bought a lot in Fort Dodge and erected a small house on it. Then, about the latter part of June, with a mule team he returned to Dubuque where he awaited the arrival of his family and household effects and loading them in his wagon brought them thus to Fort Dodge. About two weeks were occupied in this trip across the country and they were fortunate in having beautiful weather and good roads. After a residence of one year in Fort Dodge, in the fall of 1858, they moved to the log shanty

built that year on their claim in Des Moines township. This shanty, 16x16 feet, which was one of the first half-dozen in the settlement, and served as the family residence for fifteen years, in 1873 was replaced by a fine, large dwelling house that now stands, not upon the wild, open prairie, but upon one of the most beautiful, highly improved and best cultivated farms in the country. Here a sturdy family of three sons and four daughters grew up around them, or went forth from the parental roof to found new homes of their own. They continued to reside here until 1893, when the venerable patriarch, accompanied by his wife and two members of the family, moved to Rolfe to spend the remainder of his days. The decease of his faithful wife occurred in her 70th year, June 9, 1897, and his own noble career was ended in his 69th year, Sabbath evening, September 18, 1898.

Mr. Struthers bought more land as he was able but did not sell an acre, and at the time of his decease in addition to the home in Rolfe, was the owner of 1240 acres of land most of which was located in Des Moines township, where two of his sons still reside; William E. married to Alice Price, on section 3, and Andrew J. married to Etta Parkins, at the old home on section 12. The entry for the 120 acres on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of this section which he claimed as a home by right of pre-emption in May, 1857, seems not to have been made until Nov. 16, 1866, and the patent for it was issued Nov. 20, 1883. His daughter Ellen, wife of Richard S. Mathers, who lives one mile east of Rolfe, was the first white child born (January 1, 1859) in the north part of the county. Susan, married to Col. J. B. Kent; Grace, married to James McClure; Maggie J. and Robert A. all reside at Rolfe.

During the first forty years of this county's history this noble-minded

man was a conspicuous and influential factor. He was a man whom neither Indians, blizzards, grasshoppers nor even hard times could frighten from his purpose "to found a home in the west and grow up with the country." He was a man of public spirit and rendered service in his own township and county in an official capacity, for a longer period of years than any other man in the county except possibly W. H. Hait. In 1859, at the time of the county's organization, he was chosen one of the justices of the peace for the township which then embraced the county, and at the time of his decease in 1898, he was mayor of the city of Rolfe and a justice of the peace for Clinton township; and there was not an intervening year he did not have some official duties to perform.

In the fall of 1859 he was elected county surveyor; for this office he was the first one to qualify and was the only incumbent of it during the next ten years. In 1865 and '66 he served two years as County Recorder.

In 1872-3 he had the honor to serve as the first representative from this county in the legislature of Iowa. The district then embraced Kossuth, Palo Alto, Pocahontas and Calhoun counties, and his election was secured without any opposition from an opposing candidate. This legislature was distinguished by the fact it held two sessions. At the first session in 1872, there was adopted the present mode in Iowa of assessing and taxing the property of the railroads and Wm. B. Allison was elected to the U. S. senate. At the special session held in 1873, the Code of Iowa was arranged and prepared for publication later that same year.

For fifteen years in succession, 1878-1892, he was Assessor of Des Moines township; and from its organization in 1859 to 1893, the year of his removal to Rolfe, he held the office of Justice of the Peace almost continu-

ously. While serving in this capacity he performed the first marriage ceremony in the north part of the county. This wedding occurred July 18, 1861, at the home of Samuel N. Harris, and the contracting parties were his daughter Elizabeth Harris and W. S. Feagels, a trapper, who later homesteaded the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 13, Des Moines township.

Robert Struthers was the first person to receive a certificate of naturalization in this county and it was issued to him Jan. 3, 1860, at Highland City, (later Old Rolfe) by Samuel N. Harris, Clerk of the District Court. This certificate was recorded and reads as follows:

"Robert Struthers, a native of Scotland, having resided five full years in the United States and one full year in the state of Iowa, immediately preceding this date, and having made proof of being a man of good moral character and well disposed towards the institutions of this country, and having declared on oath that he has absolutely and entirely sundered and abjured all allegiance to any foreign king, prince, potentate, state or sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly to the Queen of Great Britain, of whom he was late a subject, and on oath declares that he will support the constitution and laws of the United States and the constitution of the State of Iowa, it was ordered that the said Robert Struthers be admitted a citizen of the United States of America."

In the spring of 1860, when the first school election was held, Mr. Struthers was chosen one of the three members of the first board of directors of the Des Moines district, which then embraced all of the county except what was included in the Lizard district. His intelligence and energy as a member of this board, enabled him to exert such an influence that there has been accorded to him the honor of being "The father of Pocahontas county's school system, and that it has become a worthy monument to the memory of its founder."

He had the honor to serve as chairman of the first republican convention held in this county; was chairman of the county central committee many years in succession in the early days and, with a single exception, attended every republican county convention held previous to 1881.

When the Pocahontas County Bible Society was organized at Old Rolfe in 1867, he became a loyal supporter of it and served as president of that organization from that year until the time of his decease, a period of thirty-one years.

Hon. James F. Wilson, late U. S. senator from Iowa, addressing a public meeting held in this county, at which he was presiding, paid him the compliment that like others of his countrymen, "Robert Struthers was a hardy son of toil, raised on oatmeal and the Shorter Catechism."

Dr. Johnson, the well-known English writer, referring to this plain diet of his neighbors once rather wittily described oats as, "In Scotland food for Scotchmen, but in England food for horses." He was well answered however, by the indignant Scotchman who replied, "Yes, and where can you find such men as in Scotland or such horses as in England."

Mr. Struthers was a man of very positive convictions in matters relating to religion, morality and politics. He was a firm believer in the inspiration and authority of the Bible as the Word of God, and both in business and politics, forced the question, "Is this right or is it wrong?" He was a total abstainer from the use of all intoxicating liquors, (the first it has been said, in the county) and believing it to be the duty of the state to prohibit the traffic in them wherever it was possible, he was always ready both to defend and advocate the cause of legal suasion. He was a man of practical ideas and methods. According to his own statement he became a

republican in politics while he resided in Ontario in 1855, when that party was organized in Philadelphia and framed a platform in regard to slavery and the protection of American industries that received his hearty endorsement. His political principles were subordinated to and made to harmonize as nearly as possible with the teachings of divine revelation, and when he cast his ballot it was for the support of the principles of truth, justice, honor and righteousness. Such a man resents with scorn the idea that he can be swayed like unstable reeds by the political winds that blow from one direction today and from another tomorrow.

Few such men are to be found in any country. He was an uncut diamond without the polish of a finished education or skill in the conventionalities of this life, yet he was a man of marked intelligence, affable, hospitable, had a good memory that retained with distinctness the incidents of early days and no one stood as his superior in honesty of purpose and integrity of character. When called upon to decide matters between neighbors, a circumstance of frequent occurrence, his decisions were always tempered with justice. And as a friend to the young he has left his memory indelibly stamped on all who came in contact with him in their struggle for a start in life.

His estimable wife, who shared with him the privations and trials of frontier life, shared also with him the noble sentiments that animated his life and to which he gave the more public utterance, "She was a true wife to true husband, clothing herself afresh to his heart as her beauty faded, with a new beauty that was to be appreciated rather than seen."

Fearless they lived, fearless they died, Battling always for truth and righteousness;

Building monuments of worthy deeds, Fortune upon them graciously smiled, And domestic bliss was also vouchsafed.

1858 AND 1859.

During the two years 1858 and 1859, a number of new families located in the Des Moines settlement, among whom were David Slosson, John A. James, Perry Nowlen, Henry and William Jarvis, Ora Harvey, O. F. Avery, James Edelman, Hank Brown and John Straight.

David Slosson, in May, 1858, came to Pocahontas county, with a family consisting of his wife, Esther Vaughan, who died in 1875, three sons—Oscar, Orlando and Edmond—all of whom were young men, and one daughter, Ann, who became the wife of Romeyn B. Fish and is still a resident of the county. On his arrival, David Slosson located on section 26, and on September 28, 1858, entered his pre-emption claim for lots 1 and 2 and the $W\frac{1}{2}$ $NE\frac{1}{4}$ of that section, containing 158 acres. His eldest son, Oscar Slosson, December 8, 1860, entered as a pre-emption the $SE\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 24, 160 acres, same township, and received the patent for it June 1, 1861; and Orlando, the second son, on January 18, 1868, entered as a homestead the $NW\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 26, 160 acres, same township and received the patent for it September 1, 1869.

David Slosson was the son of David and Esther (Vaughan) Slosson, his father being of Welsh and his mother of English descent. He was a native of Vermont, where he was born March 11, 1811, near Grand Isle. He received a good common school education, and when quite young moved to New York state, where he learned the shoemakers' trade.

At twenty he married Rachel Vaughan, a cousin, and during the next five years worked at his trade during the winter and on the farm uring the summer. He then moved

to Summit county, Ohio—later to Clinton county, N. Y., and in 1846 returned to Summit county, Ohio. The next move was to Michigan, and in 1852 he came to Clinton county, Iowa, where he remained until the time of settlement in this county in 1858.

His next move was to Washington Territory, where his three sons—Oscar married to Julia Towslee, Orlando married to Harriet Halstead and Edmond married to Ellen Savage—still reside. He died there June 30, 1884. His daughter, Mrs. R. B. Fish, resides at Rolfe.

At the time of the organization of this county, David Slosson had the honor to be chosen the first County Judge and served in that capacity from March 21st, the day he qualified, to Dec. 31, 1859. The duties devolving upon this officer were those that are now performed by the Board of County Supervisors. As there was no public building in the county his cabin, which was somewhat central in the Des Moines settlement, became the seat of government for the county, and the public records were kept there until the erection of the first court house, in the fall of 1860.

His administration of the affairs of this county, though limited to a period less than one year, was unusually eventful and has been rendered memorable by three important contracts that were concluded by him in behalf of the county. These contracts related to the erection of the first court house at Old Rolfe, the construction of the first bridge over the Des Moines river and the special survey of the swamp lands of the county that they might be given in payment for the public building and bridge.

The following item from the record is of interest as showing the salary of the Judge and his systematic method of keeping the record:

STATE OF IOWA, }
Pocahontas Co., } ss.

COUNTY COURT,

July 9, A. D. 1859.

On this day, I, David Slosson, County Judge of said county, drew a warrant for \$12.50 for one (the first) quarter's salary fee. DAVID SLOSSON,
County Judge.

The law creating the Board of County Supervisors was enacted in 1860, and in 1861 he had the honor to serve as a member of the first Board of County Supervisors. He also served on this Board during the years 1863 to '67, 1870 to '71 and 1874 to '79, making a period of nearly thirteen years that he served in this capacity, the longest of any incumbent in that office.

John A. James, who came in 1858, located on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 36, Des Moines township. On April 18, 1864, he entered as a homestead claim lots 7 and 8 and E $\frac{1}{2}$ of this section, containing 172 acres, and received the patent for it June 1, 1866. He was the second to hold the office of County Judge. For this office he qualified Jan. 3, 1860, and continued to serve until May 6, 1861, when he resigned. His first act was the appointment of Oscar Slosson, Jan. 9, 1860, the second Assessor for the county and on the same day he appointed David Slosson a Justice of the Peace. At the time of the organization of Clinton township in the fall of 1860, his home being included therein, he was chosen Clerk and also a Justice of the Peace of the township. He served as Clerk of the township three years, and subsequently served as Trustee and Assessor. At the general election held in the fall of 1863 on the home vote he was declared elected to the office of Sheriff for the county by a majority of two votes. But when the soldier vote was received and a new canvass made, about one month later, Abiel Stickney, the rival candidate, won the office by a majority of two votes. There were but four soldier votes returned, but in this in-

stance they were sufficient to reverse the decision of the home vote.

Perry Nowlen and Julia A., his wife, who now reside at Rolfe, in March, 1858, came to Des Moines township and pre-empted the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 12, 160 acres, making the entry Aug. 20, 1860, and receiving the patent April 1, 1861. They occupied and improved this claim until 1894, a period of 36 years, when they moved to Rolfe. They still own it and at the present time it is a source of pleasure to them to know that no mortgage was ever allowed to be filed against this claim around which cluster so many and varied experiences of pioneer life. They came to this claim with hands that were empty, but willing to work, and with heroic spirit they encountered and overcame the trials and privations incident to a settlement in a new country. Their pioneer home has been improved with fine buildings, groves and orchard, and they have made other purchases in addition to the home in town, so that they are now the owners of 315 acres of land and are in very comfortable circumstances.

Mr. and Mrs. Nowlen have had a trying experience with hard times, grasshoppers and the like, but they achieved success in spite of these evils by their persistent industry, economy and skill in farming. During seven out of nine years the grasshoppers made greater or less havoc of their crops. On one occasion from ninety acres of promising wheat he harvested not a sheaf. They survived the period of hard times by making cheese. As soon as they were able they purchased a few cows, keeping usually fifteen to eighteen, and these became the principal source of their income. Mrs. Nowlen was a skillful hand at making butter and cheese and they made butter in the cooler and cheese in the warmer weather. By this arrangement they had a marketable product

from their dairy when butter was only ten cents and not in demand. During one year, not counting what was used in the family or fed to the pigs, the manufactured product of butter and cheese sold averaged \$37.00 and during the year 1864 \$44.00 to each cow. For a considerable time Fort Dodge, forty miles distant, was the nearest post-office and for many years the nearest market, and many a time did Mr. Nowlen take his night's rest under the wagon while making this trip, which always required two days.

Mr. Nowlen was the first farmer in the north part of the county to engage in raising flax. He obtained his seed from New York state and received \$2.00 a bushel for all he sold from the first two crops. He was also the first bee-keeper in the north part of the county. His first crop of timothy seed, raised on nine and one-half acres of breaking, brought him \$244.00.

Mr. Nowlen is a native of Allegheny county, Maryland, where he was born Oct. 31, 1823. He was the son of Samuel and Rachel Nowlen and his marriage occurred in New York state, July 24, 1853. He has always been a republican but has never taken any particular interest in politics, preferring to be a practical and successful farmer. He has one son Charles, who is still at home.

Perry Nowlen, at the first *general* election, held Oct. 11, 1859, was elected Superintendent of the Public Schools of the county, but did not qualify. On Oct. 8, 1861, he was elected and on Jan. 6th, following, qualified as County Judge but resigned the office after the lapse of five months.

He who would succeed in this life,
Must have an abundance of pluck;
No one can win in the strife
By trusting to what is called "luck."

Henry Jarvis, whose home near Old Rolfe, became the first voting place in the north part of the county, was a

native of England, where he was born Jan. 11, 1832. After coming to America he located first in Illinois and later at Dyersville, Iowa, where on May 25, 1858, he married Mary Tilley, (b. June 19, 1839) and accompanied by his brother William Jarvis, they came to Pocahontas county and built a log shanty in the Des Moines settlement, on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 24, in which for several months they lived together.

Both of them selected pre-emption claims. Henry, on Sept. 20, 1859, entered his claim for lots 2, 3 and 4, 60 acres, on Sec. 24, Des Moines township, and received the patent April 5, 1862. On June 10, 1864, under the homestead law, he filed a claim for lots 7 and 8, Sec. 25, 115 acres, and renewed this claim May 5, 1870. In 1894, he purchased some land near Rolfe and building thereon, moved to town where he and his wife still reside. Their family consisted of eleven children, two of whom died young and George, the eldest, after his marriage.

Henry Jarvis was the second sheriff in Pocahontas county, and he served in that capacity 1860 to 1863 and 1865 to 1867. His cabin was the polling place in the Des Moines settlement for the first three elections held in the year 1859, and the fourth one, on Nov. 19, was held at the home of his brother William Jarvis.

William Jarvis pre-empted the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 14, Des Moines township, 160 acres, making the entry Sept. 20, 1859, and receiving the patent Sept. 15, 1861. He was born in Somersetshire, England, Jan. 4, 1829, and married there Sarah Sandy, March 26, 1856. Three weeks later they came to America and after one year spent in Illinois, they came to Dyersville, Iowa. From this place they came to the Des Moines settlement by ox-team, in the spring of 1858. The weather was wet, the streams and sloughs were full and frequently they had to make their own road. On their arrival they

erected a log shanty 16x24 feet, with two rooms and began farming operations with the oxen, having brought with them a year's supply of provisions. Mr. Jarvis was a good feeder, and turning his attention to raising cattle and hogs, he soon acquired a considerable fortune. After occupying their first residence fifteen years, they returned to England, and after three years they located in the town of Old Rolfe, and now reside at Rolfe.

William Jarvis, in 1860, served as coroner and drainage commissioner for the county. At the first election for the township he was chosen one of the trustees for Des Moines township and served in that capacity from 1860 to 1872, when he returned to England, a period of thirteen years.

Ora Harvey accompanied by O. F. Avery hisson-in-law, and their families came to Pocahontas county and located on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 10, 92-31 (Clinton township). The family of Ora Harvey consisted of himself, wife (Eliza Marcy) and younger daughter, Helen M., who later became the wife of W. H. Hait. The family of O. F. Avery consisted of himself, wife (Jennie S. Harvey) and one son, Eugene.

Mr. and Mrs. Ora Harvey were natives of New Hampshire but had spent the early part of their lives in the town of Weathersfield, Vermont, where their two daughters were born and grew to womanhood. Both Ora and his wife had received and appreciated the value of a good education and they provided for both of their daughters the opportunity of taking a complete academic course before leaving that place.

It was the 7th day of November, 1859, when they arrived upon their purchased frontier home in Clinton township. The winter following was extremely mild and by early spring they had a small house built that they were only too glad to occupy. The mother and her two daughters, who

were thus called upon to leave the pleasurable scenes and employments of an older and more cultured society in an eastern town for the sparsely settled settlement on the frontier, did not see another woman's face during the first six months of their residence in Clinton township. To say that this experience was to them a lonely one only moderately expresses the situation.

Under these privations their education and culture prepared them as it were to extract sweets from the many rough experiences they were called upon to endure as early pioneers. These lonely experiences were endured not only without a murmur of complaint but were oftentimes turned into pleasurable enjoyments. It must be remembered that there were only three other homes or cabins built in the township at that time and what is now the populous and flourishing township of Clinton was then a vast expanse of wild prairie.

Ora Harvey, on April 22, 1862, was appointed Superintendent of the Public Schools of this county and served in this capacity until Jan. 7, 1863. At the first election held in Clinton township in the fall of 1860, he was chosen a member of the first Board of County Supervisors and, for eight successive years, 1861 to 1868, was continued a member of that Board. At their first meeting held Jan. 7, 1861, he had the honor to be chosen its first Chairman, and as long as he was continued a member of this Board that honor was annually accorded to him. This privilege of serving as Chairman of the Board of County Supervisors for a period of eight successive years was an unusual distinction and reveals the confidence reposed in him and the esteem in which he was held. Though modest and unassuming, he possessed an unusual tact in managing his political opponents and those who differed from him in judgment. He was one

of Nature's noblemen, gentle in manner and brave in action. He was a man whom his friends delighted to honor; and during those eight years of public service, though many important items of business came before the Board, no consideration sufficed to sway him from an honest course and no event occurred to lessen the confidence of the people in the integrity of his purpose. Mrs. Harvey died July 4, 1880, and his death occurred at Humboldt.

Oscar F. Avery was born in Herkimer county, New York, July 20, 1833, and after attending public school until he was sixteen, enjoyed the advantage of one term at Fairfield Academy. After teaching public school in his own county four winters he spent one and one-half years in the State Normal School at Albany, N. Y., where he graduated in January 1856. He continued to teach school during the next three years, teaching one year in Michigan and the next in Wisconsin. His marriage occurred a short time after he graduated and his last term of school was taught in Pocahontas county during the winter of 1860, making him one of the first three teachers of the county. This school was taught in the log house built by W. H. Hait that stood upon the ground occupied by his present residence on Section 26, Des Moines township.

O. F. Avery by appointment of County Judge, John A. James, served as the first Superintendent of Public Schools of this county from March 20, 1860 to May 6, 1861 when he resigned the office. On December 24, 1860 he received \$6.00 for his services rendered as County Superintendent from the time of his appointment until that date, a period of nine months. He issued certificates to Helen M. Harvey, Ellen Condon and one or two others.

In the fall of 1860 he selected a claim of 170 acres just across the line in Humboldt county and, moving upon

it the ensuing summer occupied it nearly twenty years. During this period he and his family experienced some dark and also some bright and happy days—the former to be forgotten, the latter to be remembered and cherished while life has its claim on this planet. Engaged in the real estate and lumber business he now resides in one of the largest and most beautiful homes in the city of Humboldt and has become one of the most prominent and influential citizens of that county. His wife (Jennie S. Harvey) died August 24, 1892, leaving one daughter who still resides with her father. Her portrait and also those of her sister Mrs. Hait and their parents, Ora and Eliza Harvey, may all be seen in this volume.

James Edelman was a trapper, and though on June 12, 1859, he entered as a pre-emption claim, lots 1 and 2 and the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 36, 93-31, (Des Moines township) 134 acres, he sold it before the patent was received after a residence of one year in the county. His claim joined that of Edward Hammond on the north. At the first election held March 15, 1859, he was elected Drainage Commissioner for the county but was not called upon to perform any official duties in that capacity.

John Straight was a brother-in-law of Perry Nowlen. He came here from Wisconsin and located on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 35, Des Moines township where he remained several years and then returned East.

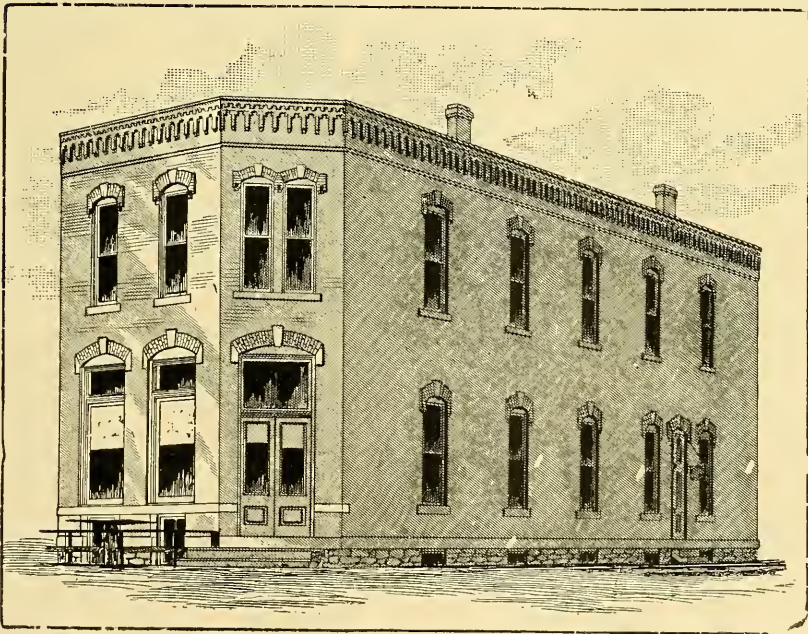
Hank Brown selected the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 34, Des Moines township as a pre-emption claim and partly erected a log cabin on it, but afterward abandoning it without entry, in 1865 Wm. D. McEwen entered it with a land warrant.

"His happy home
A cabin in the grove,
Seat of contentment,
Gratitude and love."

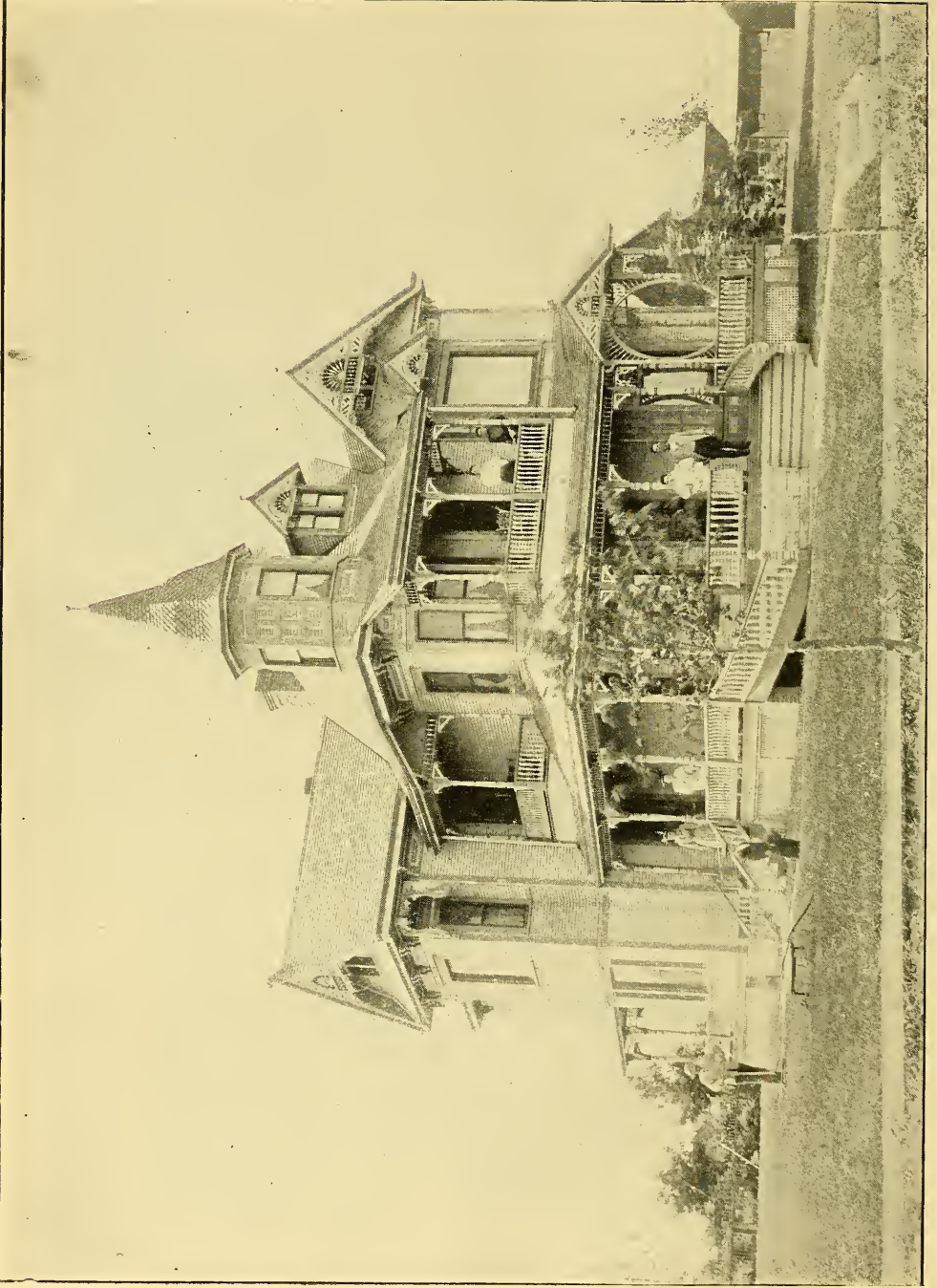
W. D. McEwen in July 1857 engaged



BRICK BLOCK OF C. F. GARRISON, PHOTOGRAPHER, AND
S. A. BRIGHT, GROCER, ROLFE.



STATE SAVINGS BANK, ROLFE, W. D. McEWEN, PRESIDENT.



RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM D. McEWEN, Esq., ROLFE.

in carpenter work at Fort Dodge and in the spring of 1858 walked from that place to the home of Robert Struthers, his brother-in-law in Des Moines township for the purpose of locating a pre-emption claim. But finding that another man had taken the claim he had in view he returned to Fort Dodge, and remaining there during that winter and the year following, was a frequent visitor to his friends in the pioneer settlement in in the northeast part of the county. In 1859 he returned to the east and spent several years in school. In 1865 he located permanently at Old Rolfe the first county seat and commencing an official career as Superintendent of the Public Schools of this county in 1866, he continued in the public service until Dec. 31, 1887, a period of 22 years. The offices filled were Co. Superintendent, 2 years, 1866 and '67, Clerk of the District Court six years, 1867 to 1872; County Judge in 1869, the last incumbent of that office; Clerk of the Board of Supervisors three years, 1867 to 1869; County Auditor four years, 1870 to 1873, the first incumbent of that office; and County Treasurer twelve years, 1874 to 1883 and 1886-87. In 1876 he was the Commissioner from this county to the Centennial at Philadelphia.

"Pay as you go" has ever been a cardinal business principle with him and finding the county \$20,000 in debt when he became Auditor, he began to use his influence to protect the credit of the county and maintain its warrants at par value. Before the close of his public career he had the pleasure to see every vestige of indebtedness removed. Few men enjoy the privilege of rendering so long a period of public service or of receiving so many proofs of appreciation from the people whom he served as W. D. McEwen. On Jan. 12, 1884, when his final accounts for the first ten years of service as treasurer were audited and ap-

proved by the Board of Supervisors, they passed a resolution expressing their sincere thanks to him for the kind, gentle and manly manner in which he had filled the office of County Treasurer so long, and presented him with the gold pen he had used, as a memento of the office. As a public officer he was uniformly courteous and considerate, and kept the records in a plain, neat and methodical manner.

He has been a loyal and ardent republican, was personally and very favorably known to every voter in the county, and no one could say aught against his qualifications or honesty. On one occasion near the close of his public career, having received the nomination for County Treasurer about the fourth time, one of his friends very wittily remarked that the only exception his opponents could take to him as a candidate, was that expressed by the young man who, being present at a wedding in a New England town, when the minister asked if any one objected to this man marrying this woman, interrupted the ceremony by stammering out, "I want her myself." So with his political opponents, they have been chiefly those who wanted the office for themselves.

He has been a persistent friend of progress and aided greatly in the development and upbuilding of the interests of this county. In 1867 he assisted in the publication of a pamphlet giving a description of Pocahontas county and inviting immigration, of which hundreds of copies were distributed in the East. In 1869 he commenced the publication of the Pocahontas Journal, the first paper published in the county, but as it could not be made a financial success it was discontinued in 1872. In 1875 he published a map of the county, and in 1876 he resumed the publication of a county paper, the Pocahontas Times, that has been continued until the

present time, though for two years under a new name—The Fonda Times. In 1878 he issued a second advertising pamphlet of the county and in 1881, 15,000 copies of another one entitled, The New Home, all for free distribution.

W. D. McEwen was born in Chateaugay county, Canada, July 9, 1838, and was the son of William and Margaret McEwen both of whom were natives of Scotland and came to the Province of Quebec in 1820. He attended public school until he was fourteen years of age and then learned the carpenter trade during the next three years, working chiefly at bridge building. This was his employment while he remained in Fort Dodge from July 1857 to the fall of 1859 and again in 1864 when he returned and completed his citizenship at that place. When he visited the Des Moines settlement in 1858 he found it a boundless wilderness and as the times were dull and his expected claim taken he decided in the fall of 1859 to enter Huntingdon Academy in the Province of Quebec and complete his education. He remained at this institution until the death of his father, who appointed him executor of his estate. As soon as the affairs of his father's estate had been settled, he arranged to return to the land of his adoption with the \$5,000 that fell to his share.

In the spring of 1865 when he located permanently in Pocahontas county, Robert Struthers, his brother-in-law, was County Recorder. Having a farm and family to look after, W. D. McEwen at once became his deputy and the work of the Recorder's office was turned over to him. As the work of this office was not very exacting nor very lucrative, he worked at his trade during the day and on the public records in the evening. Frequently the records of the entire week were written on Saturday night. During the first three years of his residence in the

county he taught school at Old Rolfe in the winter and worked at his trade in the summer. In his youth he recognized the importance of getting a good start in life; he was never idle and on several occasions, carrying his tools on his shoulder, he walked eight miles (once barefooted) in order to assist where he was needed.

On November 18, 1885, he married Jennie Matson, a lady who, like himself, was also of Puritan descent, a resident of Des Moines township and one of his own pupils when he taught at Old Rolfe. She was the daughter of William and Mary (Baxter) Matson, who located at Old Rolfe in 1867. They have one son, Donald, who is in his thirteenth year. They are still residents of the county and live at Rolfe, where he is engaged in banking and occupies one of the finest residences in the county.

LIZARD AND DES MOINES SETTLERS.

These were the first settlers in the Lizard and Des Moines settlements, which were the first in the county.

It may be observed that those in the Lizard settlement were all of Irish descent; most of them being natives of Ireland, who had lived a few years in the coal regions of Pennsylvania. In religious belief they were devout Catholics and as early as 1857, when a private house large enough for the purpose was erected in the eastern part of the settlement in Webster county, public worship was established that resulted in the organization of the Lizard Catholic parish in 1870, and the erection of the Lizard Catholic church in 1871. All of them, with a single exception, favored the principles of the democratic party, and under these conditions the colony was united and disposed to share each other's hardships during the period of hard times.

Those in the Des Moines settlement, on the other hand, were nearly all of

Scotch descent and had come either from Canada or New England. Most of them were Presbyterians in religious belief, and as early as 1859, under the ministry of Rev. David S. McComb, united to form the Unity Presbyterian church, the first church organized in the county. They were practical farmers and a large number of them had received a liberal education. These circumstances were of great advantage to them, enabling them to act as leaders in the organization of the county and to secure for themselves some special benefits during the first few years of the county's history. Their political faith was, for the most part, republican.

For nearly twenty years after the arrival of these first settlers the progress of the county was very slow. At that time there were no settlers west of these places except the few pioneers who had located along the Little Sioux river. The Spirit Lake Massacre had occurred early in the spring of 1857 and the excitement from it had, to a large extent subsided before the settlement of the northern part of the county had fairly commenced; yet for several years the settlers were subject to considerable anxiety lest another outbreak should occur. During the years immediately following these first settlements, many pioneers passed westward through this section and it was only occasionally that one stopped to select a claim and improve it.

For many long years Fort Dodge, distant twenty to forty miles, was the nearest trading point and postoffice for all of the settlers in the county. In 1857 there was no mail route to the west except the one from Fort Dodge via Twin Lakes and Sac City to Sioux

City and by means of a line of daily stages, that became a great thoroughfare of travel for western emigration. The route to the northwest was along the west branch of the Des Moines river. Early in the sixties a postoffice was opened in Des Moines township, and in 1865 a mail route was established from Fort Dodge to Spirit Lake via Old Rolfe.

During the years 1856 to 1858 no crops were raised in the county except a little sod corn and a few potatoes, the whole amount of breaking not exceeding about thirty acres. The settlers had to live on what they brought with them or bought. The winter of 1856-7 was very severe and noted among the early settlers for its deep snows, terrible blizzards and extreme cold; but the winter following was comparatively mild.

"The pioneers who came to this county during the fifties and also the sixties, in leaving their more or less comfortable homes in the Eastern states for the western prairies, found a country so wide, so smooth and so unbroken in its painfully solemn quietude, hundreds of miles from mail facilities and neighbors so few and far between that only those who were patient, persevering, brave and courageous could achieve success. The new resident of today, after the lapse of forty years finds a land dotted with towns and villages, schools and churches, thrifty groves, broad acres of fertile soil and a country settled with a prosperous and happy people, with all the advantages and luxuries of the East brought within easy attainment by the network of iron that has spread like a civilizing web over the prairie wastes of 1857."

VII.

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTY.

“What constitutes a state?
 Not high raised battlements or labored mounds,
 Thick walls or moated gate;
 Not cities proud, with spires and turrets crowned;
 But *men*, high-minded men;
 Men, who their duties know,
 And their rights dare maintain.”

1859.



DURING the fall and winter of 1858 the settlers discussed the propriety of effecting the organization of the county and most of them signed a petition asking the County Judge of Webster County—to which Pocahontas was then attached—to issue a call for an election and an order for organization. This petition was granted and a special election was ordered to be held on March 15, 1859, under the auspices of a Committee of County Canvassers, consisting of Luther L. Pease, County Judge, Henry Winn and Egbert Bagg, Justices of the Peace, all from Webster county. By this order Des Moines township was constituted, embracing the entire county, but as a matter of convenience to the voters it was divided into two voting precincts known as the Des Moines and Lizard precincts. Two voting places were designated, one at the house of Henry Jarvis on section 24, 93-31 (Des Moines township) and the other at the house of Chas. Kelley on Sec. 12, 90-31 (Lizard township.)

At this election 23 votes were cast and the following county officers were elected: County Judge, David Slosson;

Clerk of the District Court, A. H. Malcolm; Treasurer and Recorder, William H. Hait; Drainage Commissioner, James Edelman; County Surveyor, Guernsey Smith; Coroner, Henry Park; Sheriff, Oscar Slosson. This report of the board of County Canvassers was made at Fort Dodge March 21, 1859, and on that same day before Luther L. Pease, County Judge of Webster county, David Slosson took the oath of office and filed bonds as County Judge of Pocahontas county, his term of office to continue until his successor should be elected and qualified. All the other officers elected qualified before Judge Slosson, except A. H. Malcolm and on May 11, 1859, at the first session of the county court S. N. Harris being appointed in his stead, qualified as Clerk of the Court until his successor should be elected and qualified. This appointment was the first official act of the County Judge of Pocahontas county in open court and it was the only one at this session of the Court.

Officers for Des Moines township, which then included the entire county, were also elected as follows: Justices of the Peace, Robert Struthers and S. N. Harris and Township Clerk,

W. H. Hait. No record was made of the election of trustees or assessor. On April 19, 1859, W. H. Hait was appointed assessor, and on October 12th, following, justice of the peace in place of S. N. Harris, who did not qualify.

During the first two years of the county's organization, 1859 and 1860, the general management of the county's affairs was vested in the County Judge, the Board of Supervisors not having an existence at that time.

The County Judge held all the authority now vested in the Board of Supervisors and part of that vested in the Auditor and District Court.

The first entry in the Record Book of David Slosson, the first County Judge of Pocahontas county, is of date, May 25, 1859, and reads as follows:

STATE OF IOWA, }
 Pocahontas Co., } ss:

COUNTY COURT,
 May 25, 1859.

Now on this day comes N. W. Mills & Co., and present their bill for books furnished for said county amounting to the sum of \$285.00, as per voucher, said amount having been examined and found correct, it is therefore ordered by the Court that said claim be allowed and that a warrant be issued in favor of said N. W. Mills & Co. for \$285.00 and vouchers placed on file.

DAVID SLOSSON, County Judge.

W. H. Hait was allowed a bill of \$6.00 for bringing the above books for the County Records from Des Moines.

On the same day it was ordered that a warrant of \$100 be issued to George S. Ringland and John W. Brady in part payment of a contract made and entered into by and between Messrs. Ringland & Brady and Pocahontas county on the — day of March 1859, for the selection, surveying and making returns of the swamp and overflowed lands of the county. On this contract, for the survey of the swamp lands, there were issued that same year other warrants as follows:

July 8, 1859,	Ringland & Brady,	\$	125	00
Aug. 19, "	"	"	1003	00
Nov. 8, "	"	"	850	00
" 29, "	"	"	1920	00
Dec. 17, "	"	"	1866	50

Total for the year 1859. . . . \$5864 50

On July 9, 1859, the salary of the county officials including the Treasurer, Clerk of the Court and County Judge was fixed at \$50.00 each for that year.

W. H. Hait made a transcript of the Records relating to Pocahontas county from those of Webster county and received for this service \$30; and David Slosson, for the rent of his house for the use of the county officers during the year 1859, received \$80.

Aug. 8, 1859, on the application of a majority of the citizens of this county, A. W. Hubbard, of Sioux City, Judge of the 4th Judicial district of Iowa, appointed C. C. Carpenter, of Webster county; Niles Mahan, of Palo Alto county and Hiram Benjamin, of Humboldt county, Commissioners to locate the county seat of Pocahontas county as near the geographical center as possible, having due regard for the present and future population and to make report of their proceedings in this matter to the County Judge of Pocahontas county. In accordance with these instructions Messrs. C. C. Carpenter and Hiram Benjamin on Aug. 20, 1859, visited this county and made a report locating the county seat on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 26, Des Moines township, containing 200 acres according to the original survey. The little village that grew as a result of this location of the county seat was successively called Highland City, Milton, (Old) Rolfe and Parvin, and it continued to be the county seat until Oct. 1, 1876, when the public records were removed to Pocahontas.

As soon as the county seat was located the erection of a public building or court house became the all-

absorbing topic of public discussion. There were some serious difficulties to be met and overcome. The erection of a building of suitable size would involve a large expenditure of money, and if there was any one thing that the early settlers could not give, but all alike felt the imperative need of, it was money. When the financial panic of 1857 is recalled one is not surprised at the statement that there was no money in the hands of the settlers of Pocahontas county at this early date for this public improvement. It must be remembered they were very few in number and having built their cabins, shanties or log houses, the effort to hold their claims and subsist on the productions of the soil exhausted all their resources. The only things of which they had a surplus were sunshine, fresh air and swamp land. The sunshine and wind did not "count for much" in a bargain and the swamp lands were regarded as scarcely more valuable, save that they could be measured, the mine of wealth possessed in them being both undiscovered and unappreciated.

The proposition to utilize the swamp or overflowed lands of the county, the special survey of which was then in progress, met with general favor, and on September 7, 1859, at a special election held for that purpose this proposition was submitted to a vote of the people. At the two polling places at which this election was held, sixteen votes were polled and all of them were cast in favor of this method of paying for the building, and disposing of the "waste" lands of the county.

A form of contract was then prepared that provided for the erection of a court house and also a bridge across the west branch of the Des Moines river near the proposed site of the county seat, both by William E. Clark, of Baltimore, Md., and the consideration specified therein was "all the swamp and overflowed lands in

the county."

According to the terms of this contract the public building was to be built of brick upon a stone foundation. It was to be a "court and school house combined," 36 feet wide in front, 50 feet deep and the second story 14 feet high. The brick were to be made of as good clay as could be procured in the vicinity and well burned. They were to be laid in mortar composed of well burned and well slaked stone lime and clean, sharp sand. The wall in the first story was to be 16 inches and in the second, 12 inches in thickness. All the openings for doors and windows, except the round-topped ones of the second story, were to have lintels of wood, that should not appear upon the face of the wall, and have arches of brick thrown over them. All the timber used, including the flooring, was to be of oak, elm or walnut and of the best quality obtainable in the vicinity. The roof, a plain comb, was to be supported by rafters 3x4 in. overlaid with good sheeting and covered with good shaved or cut shingles not more than four inches to the weather. The chimneys, two on each side, were to be built in the walls and extend above the roof at the eaves. The frieze and cornices were to be furnished with beads and moldings to correspond with the tools most easily obtained. The front door was to be double and have four panels on each half. The front steps were to be furnished with seven-inch risers and ten-inch treads with molded nosings; and the platform extending the full width of the entrance, was to be four feet wide and finished at each end with a square pediment. The space on the first floor was to be divided into four apartments with a hall-way through the center of it. The court or school room in the second story was to be furnished with a Judges' bench, jury and prisoners' boxes, and the stairway with newel post, hand-rail

and banisters. These were all to be of black walnut varnished. The rest of the interior woodwork was to have two coats of white lead in oil mixed with other colors to bring it to the proper tint.

The bridge was to be built at the most convenient point on section 25, Des Moines township, upon supports constructed of wood, sills and posts well framed together, the spans not to be more than thirty feet and resting on stringers not less than 10x12 in. square, four in number to each span. It was to be ten feet wide, covered with oak planks two inches in thickness and be above the high water mark.

Both the building and the bridge were to be received by the County Judge upon the approval of Egbert Bagg, of Webster county, architect and inspector. Upon the completion of this contract David Slosson issued the following proclamation calling for another special election to be held Nov. 19, 1859, to approve or disapprove this contract:

STATE OF IOWA, }
Pocahontas Co., } ss:

COUNTY COURT,
Oct. Term, 1859.

Whereas, a contract has been entered into between Wm. E. Clark, of Baltimore City, and state of Maryland, and the County Judge of Pocahontas county and state of Iowa, for the erection of a public building and bridge; and whereas, in the above referred to contract the County of Pocahontas proposes to pay the entire cost of erecting said public building and bridge by deeding her lands known as Swamp and Overflowed Lands to the said Wm. Clark, as will more fully appear by the contract hereto appended; and whereas, it is prescribed by law that the above referred to contract and the question therein involved shall be submitted to the people of the county in the manner provided for in Section No. 114 and 115 of the code. Now, therefore, be it known that I, David Slosson, Co. Judge of Pocahontas county, in compliance with the said contract and the law

in such cases made and provided, do hereby give notice to the legal voters of said county that the question will be submitted to them at a special election which is hereby called for that purpose to be held on the 19th day of November, A. D. 1859, within the several townships of said county, at the usual places of holding elections in said township and county, whether or not a public building and bridge shall be erected in said County of Pocahontas to be paid for with the swamp and overflowed lands in said county as set forth in contract and which is now submitted for satisfaction or rejection; and I do further declare that the manner of voting shall be as follows: Upon each ballot shall be written or printed, "For the contract for the erection of a public building and bridge to be paid for in swamp and overflowed lands," or "Against the contract for the erection of a public building and bridge to be paid for in swamp and overflowed lands;" and I further declare that if a majority of the votes be cast affirmatively, then such vote shall be deemed to be in favor of the contract herewith submitted, and said contract shall be binding upon the said Wm. E. Clark and upon the officers and people of Pocahontas county as therein set forth in every particular; and if a majority of the votes so cast are in the negative it shall be deemed a rejection of the contract and neither party shall in any wise be bound thereby. The votes shall be returned by the proper judges of the several precincts to the County Court of said county, on or before the 23d day of November, 1859, to be there canvassed according to law.

DAVID SLOSSON,
Co. Judge of Pocahontas County.

This proclamation of the County Judge was duly published by Oscar Slosson, "the high Sheriff of Pocahontas County" and, after the lapse of some thirty days according to the public records, the voters of the county in response thereto met first at the home of Henry Jarvis, but adjourned and held this election at the house of his brother William Jarvis where, according to the canvass made November 21st, it was declared twenty-one votes were cast and all of them in favor of approving the proposed contract.

This was, however, the election at which Patrick Forey cast the famous "decisive vote."** According to tradition or the statements of those who participated in it, some of whom are still living, this election was the first spirited contest among the voters of this county and it became intensely interesting because the voters in the two settlements or precincts, being relatively about equal in numbers, became directly arrayed against each other, not on the lines of partisan politics, but in regard to the propriety of the proposed disposition of the swamp lands of the county.

The fact the public records contain no summary of the vote on this occasion in the Lizard precinct is no greater surprise than the general fact that they contain no summary from that precinct of any of the four elections held in the county during the year 1859. The following incidental allusions in the records of the County Judge, by way of recording payment for services rendered as election officers during that year, are very suggestive. At the first election of March 15th, Michael Collins was one of the judges and Michael Broderick one of the clerks; at the second one held on the 7th day of September, John Calligan and Peter Garrahan were judges and Phillip Russell and Michael Collins were clerks; at the third or general election held on the 11th of October, Patrick McCabe, John Calligan and Peter Garrahan were judges and Michael Broderick one of the clerks. The latter was also paid \$8.00 as a messenger, for carrying the returns of Lizard township for the year 1859.

The following statements from Walter Ford, one of the Lizard voters at that time and now a resident of Clare, are pertinent: "The Lizard and Des Moines precincts were both organized in the spring of 1859.

*See pages 165-166.

By appointment of Luther L. Pease, county judge of Webster county, at Fort Dodge, Michael Collins, Chas. Kelley and I prepared the poll-books of Lizard precinct for the first election of that year. The polling place for all the voters of the Lizard precinct, at all of the four elections held in 1859, was at the home of Charles Kelley on section 12, Lizard township. At the special election held Nov. 19, 1859, Michael Broderick was one of the clerks at the home of Charles Kelley; I voted there early in the morning of that day and then went to the polling place in the Des Moines precinct to challenge illegal voters; and Patrick Forey was the only Lizard voter who voted in the Des Moines precinct that year and he only once, namely, at this last special election."**

That Walter Ford and others who assisted in preparing the first Lizard poll-books and also as clerks and judges of election in the Lizard precinct during the year 1859, are not incidentally named in the county records is no doubt due to the fact they presented no claims for the public services thus rendered.

According to the facts thus incidentally noted in the records of the County Judge and more fully stated by Walter Ford and others, the result of the special election of November 19, 1859, in regard to the contract for the erection of a court house and bridge to be paid for with the swamp lands of the county, was no doubt 11 for approval and 10 for disapproval; or a majority of one—the decisive vote of Patrick Forey—in favor of approving the contract. The votes were canvassed on the 21st day of November and as a result of the election, the contract was declared by the County Judge to be binding upon the parties.

When the fact is noted that the consideration in this contract was

**Letter of Walter Ford, Clare, Iowa, March 18, 1899.

an indefinite and also an undetermined quantity, namely, "all the swamp and overflowed lands in Pocahontas county," one is not surprised there should have been a difference of opinion among these early pioneers in regard to its ratification. A great deal of space in the public records of 1859 is devoted to selections and contracts relating to the swamp lands involved in this contract. This disposal of them became an important event in the history of the county, one often referred to by the early settlers, and as it did more than all subsequent transactions to cloud the titles to lands then listed as "swamp and overflowed," a brief history of them will be appreciated.

THE SWAMP LANDS.*

On the 28th of September, 1850, an act of congress was approved by which the United States granted to the state of Iowa all of the swamp and overflowed lands within the limits of the state then undisposed of. Two years later the State of Iowa, by an act of the General Assembly, approved Feb. 2, 1853, granted these "swamp and overflowed lands" to the counties in which they were situated, and made provision for their selection. This was the status of these lands when Pocahontas county was organized. David Slosson, on behalf of the county and in pursuance of these acts, as soon as he was elected County Judge—in March, 1859,—entered into a contract with Ringland & Brady, of Fort Dodge, for their special survey and selection. As this contract does not appear on the records it is impossible to give its exact terms, but it has been stated the surveyors were to receive for their services a certain compensation for each acre thus selected. Two selections were made during the year 1859. The first one, by Messrs.

Ringland & Brady, was rejected as a whole by the commissioner of the general land office; and one is not surprised at this result when it is known that the whole of township 91, range 32 (Lincoln), was included as swamp. The second one was made by G. S. Ringland and Guernsey Smith, who made their report Aug. 3, 1859. In this report they state that they were appointed commissioners by the County Judge to make selections of the swamp and overflowed lands, and it is presumed that such was the case, although no entry of their contract or appointment is found on the records. They swear that "they have examined the lines of each and every tract selected, and that the greater part of each is swamp and overflowed land." The number of acres according to their footing is 72,075.75, an amount equal to 114 sections or six sections more than three townships—about one-fifth of the entire county.

At this day it seems quite incredible that an amount of land so large should have been reported under oath as "swamp and overflowed." There are, however, three good reasons which may in a measure explain why an amount so large was selected. In the first place the compensation for the selection and survey was based on the number of acres selected; second, at that time the value of these treeless prairie lands was neither realized nor appreciated on the part of the pioneer residents of the county, many of whom were indifferent to a certain extent as to what became of them; and third, the cupidity of the parties who conspired to become possessors of so vast a domain. This second selection, however, had to be submitted to the commissioner of the general land office for his approval or rejection.

The contract with William E. Clark, of Baltimore, Md., of date Oct. 18, 1859, and declared Nov. 21st, following, as having been approved by the

*J. J. Bruce in Pocahontas Record, May 1, 1884, and Plat Book of Pocahontas County, 1887, page 6.

people—on Nov. 14, 1860, “for good and valuable considerations in hand paid” was assigned by W. E. Clark to John M. Stockdale, of Webster county. The latter, under President Buchanan, had been register of the U. S. land office at Fort Dodge, and the former proved to be a mere figure-head working under his direction. When Lincoln was elected, the latter soon retired from the land office and assumed open control of his scheme.

The public building and bridge when completed by John M. Stockdale were accepted, and on Dec. 9, 1860, there was deeded to him, according to the government survey, 76,250 acres of land in Pocahontas county, the deed containing a clause that expressly released the county from all liability arising from the reclaiming of these lands. This deed was attested by John A. James, County Judge, and the estimated value of the lands conveyed was \$91,000.

It will be noticed that until this date the title to these lands rested upon an act of Congress and a subsequent one by the General Assembly of Iowa, both of which were of a general nature referring to a certain *class* of lands, namely, “swamp and overflowed lands” and not to particular tracts. This left the title of particular tracts without foundation until the selections should be approved by the government and their respective patents be issued. Until the land in particular tracts should be patented to the county, its title thereto would be imperfect and its deed to another would of course convey no title to the land. This was the kind of deed given to John M. Stockdale, who understood its imperfect nature, but expecting to secure the approval of his entire list, he was willing to let the entire matter rest in that condition. He began at once to sell particular tracts, putting his lists in the hands

of agents in all parts of the country. He gave warranty deeds, selling generally large quantities to each purchaser and representing to parties purchasing that patents could be procured at any time upon application, but as the land was not taxable until patented, it was better to let them lie as they were and thus avoid taxation.

Of the 76,250 acres deeded by the county to John M. Stockdale, the commissioner of the general land office approved and issued patents to him for 29,000 acres, and formally rejected the remaining 47,000 acres as not swamp land within the meaning of the act. The last were disposed of by patent as follows: about 27,000 acres in a body to the Dubuque and Pacific Ry. Co., some to the Des Moines Valley Ry. Co., some to the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Ry. Co., some to the Agricultural College, some to cash purchasers and others were claimed by homesteaders. Nearly all of these lands are now occupied as farms. The tracts patented to the county on which the taxes have been paid annually, thereby avoiding entanglement by tax sales, have good and perfect title.

Another remarkable incident in the story of the swamp lands is the fact that John M. Stockdale under his imperfect deed from the county, continued to sell all the lands included therein, he seeming to be entirely indifferent about the matter of patent. The fact that most of these lands had been patented to other parties made no difference to him so long as he could find buyers willing to purchase from him. The last lot sold by him was in the year 1882; it contained 9,000 acres and the price paid was \$200. Of the 29,000 acres patented to him and upon which the taxes have been paid the county probably suffered no great loss, since the amount originally received together with the taxes and interest paid would amount to about the present value of the land. The

misfortune of the transaction came in a subsequent period of litigation over titles and consequent uncertainty in the minds of owners as to the stability of their tenures.

It will be seen, from this brief resume, that patented swamp lands have good titles and the rejected selections had no valid title through John M. Stockdale.* The traffic in these respective swamp lands was a great scandal upon land titles and many innocent parties were bled severely.

1860.

The first officials of the county, elected at the special election of March 15, 1859, held office only during the remaining months of that year. At the general election held October 11th following, a full set of county officers for 1860 was elected as follows: John A. James, County Judge in place of David Slosson; Samuel N. Harris Clerk of the Court, a position he had filled by appointment; Wm. H. Hait was re-elected Treasurer and Recorder, Henry Jarvis, Sheriff; Robert Struthers, Surveyor; William Jarvis, Coroner and Drainage Commissioner; Perry Nowlen, Superintendent of Schools. Perry Nowlen did not qualify, and on March 20, 1860, Oscar F. Avery was appointed Superintendent by John A. James, County Judge.

At that time the entire county still formed but one township with two voting precincts, and the following township officers were elected: Trustees, William Jarvis, Perry Nowlen and Oscar Slosson; Justice of the Peace, W. H. Hait; Township Clerk, Henry Jarvis; Road Supervisors, Perry Nowlen and Patrick Fury; Constables, William Jarvis and Roderick Harris; Assessor, A. H. Malcolm. A. H. Malcolm did not qualify, and on January

*Mr. Stockdale died in Washington, Pa., Sept. 17, 1897. He was well known to the early settlers of this county, and the titles to many farms bear his name as their first owner.

1, 1860, Oscar Slosson was appointed Assessor in his stead for one year. On January 9, 1860, David Slosson was appointed a Justice of the Peace for two years.

The election officers making the return of this general election in the fall of 1859, were those of the Des Moines precinct, namely, Perry Nowlen, Robert Struthers and Henry Jarvis, Judges; Samuel N. Harris and W. H. Hait, Clerks. At this election 34 votes were cast and all of them were credited to Des Moines township because it embraced the entire county at that time.

If the previous year (1859) was one of organization, discussion and contracts, the year 1860 was one of further development in the matter of organization and was marked by the occurrence of several interesting events.

April 1, 1860, under the appointment of John A. James, Robert Struthers and W. H. Hait, constituting the first county Board of Equalization, levied taxes for that year as follows: State tax one and one-half mills; county tax four mills; teachers' fund four mills; schoolhouse fund four mills, and for road purposes one mill.

June 23, 1860, Hiram Evans was a juror, the first and only one named at this early date. Others who served in that capacity later that year were Ora Harvey, Robert Struthers, Edward Hammond, Isaac N. Belknap, Abiel Stickney, David and Orlando Slosson, W. H. Hait, Patrick Forey, James Donahoe, Roger and Patrick Collins and William E. Clark.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

The most important events that occurred during the year 1860, that render that year memorable in the history of the county were the erection and completion of the first public improvements in the county, consisting of the first court house at Highland City—the name for a short time given to the first county seat—and of the first

bridge over the west branch of the Des Moines river, a short distance northeast of the public building.

For the preparation of the materials to be used in the construction of these public improvements, a brickyard was established at Highland City for the manufacture of brick, and a sawmill was located in the timber for the purpose of sawing the lumber. The opportunity of obtaining profitable employment was afforded many of the settlers when these various enterprises were all in successful operation and the hum of business interrupting the solemn stillness of the wilderness was delightful music to every ear. Late in the fall of that year (Dec. 9, 1860) the court house and bridge were completed and both of them were sources of great convenience to the people living in that section of the county. For nearly two years the public records of their respective offices had been kept and the public business of the county transacted in the homes of David Slosson and W. H. Hait. The public records and business were now transferred to the new and comfortable quarters that had been provided for them. The occupancy of the new building was in a measure coincident with the election of the first board of county supervisors, in the fall of 1860.

Another public improvement that remains at Old Rolfe a reminder of the same eventful year, is the brick school house, located near to and just west of the court house. The contract for this building was let July 21, 1860, to W. H. Hait and Robert Struthers for \$4,850. The brick were burned in the immediate vicinity and the lumber was sawed at the steam sawmill of W. H. Hait, purchased from John M. Stockdale. It was completed and accepted March 9, 1861. This was the first school house built in the county, and as a building it is still in good condition for use.

FIRST PUBLIC ROADS.

August 6, 1860, in response to a petition signed by a number of the citizens of the county and presented to John A. James, County Judge, Edward Hammond was appointed a commissioner to view and locate a county road from the best point on section 4, Des Moines township, and passing southeast by the newly located county seat, extend to the line of section 7, 92-30, now Avery township, Humboldt county. This road when located, was surveyed by Robert Struthers and Edward Hammond and, on May 6, 1861, was established by the Board of County Supervisors.

On the same day, August 6, 1860, in response to a petition signed by thirteen citizens of Lizard precinct, Patrick Forey was appointed a commissioner to locate a county road, for the accommodation of the settlers along the Des Moines river and vicinity, extending from the northeast corner of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 36, 93-31 (Des Moines township) southward by the best route to the southeast corner of Sec. 36, 90-31 (Lizard township.) After the completion of the Des Moines river bridge the proposed route of this highway was changed so that on May 7, 1861, when it was established by the Board of County Supervisors, it extended from the river bridge southward to Sec. 2, Lizard township, where it crossed Lizard creek on the line between sections 1 and 2, thence south and east on the west and south lines of section 1. John A. James was appointed to view the route as thus amended, and the survey of it was made by H. Morrison, of Fort Dodge, assisted by Orlando Slosson and Hiram Evans as chain carriers. These were the first public highways located in the county.

The third public road was not located until January 6, 1863, when Patrick Collins was appointed a commissioner to view and locate a road for

which Patrick McCabe and others had filed a petition, requesting that it extend from the corner stake of the east line of Sec. 24, 90-31, (Lizard township) by the most suitable route northwesterly to the quarter stake at the west line of section 13, near the house of Michael Walsh, and thence northwesterly to the Buena Vista county line at the southwest corner of Sec. 6, 92-34, (Marshall township). This diagonal road was on the direct line from Fort Dodge to Sioux Rapids, then the county seat of Buena Vista county. It passed from the northeast part of Lizard township through Lincoln and Grant to the northwest corner of Marshall township.

FIRST DIVISION OF THE COUNTY—LIZARD AND CLINTON TOWNSHIPS ORGANIZED.

When the county was organized in March, 1859, it formed one township with two voting precincts. Des Moines precinct included the four townships in the northeast part of the county and Lizard precinct the four townships in the southeast part of it.

On September 15, 1860, in response to a petition signed by a large number of the legal voters of the county and presented to John A. James, County Judge, a third election precinct (Clinton) was established, embracing all of townships 91 (Lake) and 92, (Clinton) and the south half of the south tier of sections of township 93 (Des Moines,) all of range 31. The house of Edward Hammond was designated as the polling place where at the time of the next annual election they should elect one county supervisor, township clerk, assessor, three trustees, two justices of the peace, two constables and one road supervisor, all of whom were elected November 6, 1860. Clinton township was thus established by the order of Judge John A. James, of date September 15, 1860.

In the records of the County Judge

of September 15, 1860, no mention is made of Lizard voting precinct being accorded the full rights and privileges of a township, but as a matter of fact what Clinton did Lizard did also; and at the general election of November 6, 1860, Lizard precinct elected one county supervisor, Michael Collins, who was at the same time elected *township* clerk for Lizard *township* and so qualified before John A. James, County Judge, January 7, 1861. John Calligan, Charles Kelley and Patrick Collins were elected trustees and John Quinlan assessor, all for Lizard township. Other township officers were elected but their names have not been preserved. This exercise of the rights and privileges of a township indicate that Lizard township was established September 15, 1860.*

DES MOINES, LIZARD AND CLINTON TOWNSHIPS RE-ARRANGED.

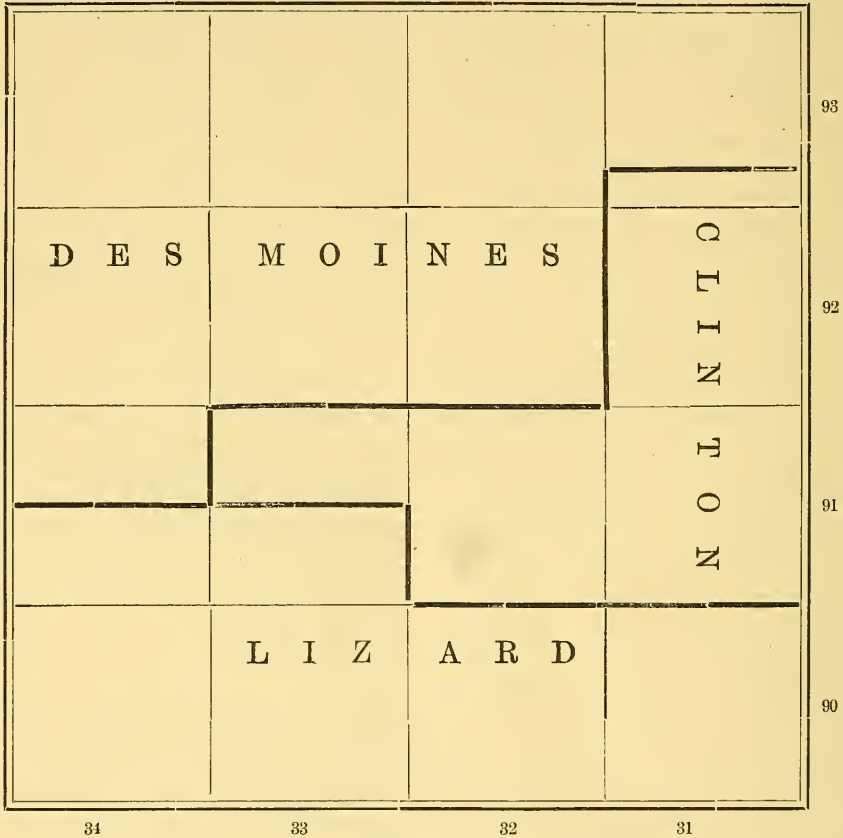
On May 7, 1861, Des Moines and Clinton townships being still included in the same school district, the county was divided by the Board of Supervisors into two districts by a line running east and west that should divide equally the entered land, for school purposes. At their next meeting, on June 4th following, this action was declared null and void.

*These particulars have been given quite fully at this place because of the difficulty experienced in ascertaining the date when Lizard township was established. Those who have gone over this ground before, meeting with the same difficulty, have either refrained from designating the date when that township was established, or have given as the date of the establishment of both Lizard and Clinton townships, June 4, 1861. From the facts narrated above, it will be perceived that this date is nearly one year too late; that Lizard township, which was made a voting precinct of Des Moines township in March, 1859, when the county was organized, and Clinton also were both fully established in the enjoyment of all the rights and privileges of a township, from September 15, 1860.—R. E. F.

On June 4, 1861, the Board of Supervisors decided to re-arrange the three existing divisions of the county into three "townships, districts or election precincts." Under this new arrangement Des Moines township embraced the entire north half of the county

the south tier of townships (Lizard, Bellville, Colfax and Cedar), the south half of 91-33 (Grant), and south half of 91-34 (Dover). These changes left the county in the shape indicated by the accompanying cut.

On December 1, 1862, another change



Pocahontas County, June 4, 1861.

and the north half of township 91-34 (Dover), except township 92-31 and the south tier of sections in township 93-31 (Des Moines). Clinton township was composed of townships 92-31 (Clinton), 91-31 (Lake), 91-32 (Lincoln), north half of 91-33 (Grant), and the south tier of sections of 93-31 (Des Moines). Lizard township embraced

the boundaries of the townships by the Board of Supervisors. Lizard township was given the south tier of townships (Lizard, Bellville, Colfax and Cedar), the south half of 91-33 (Grant) and south half of 91-34 (Dover) as before, and in addition thereto the south tier of sections of townships 91-31 (Lake) and 91-32 (Lin-

coln). Clinton township was arranged so as to include all of township 92-31 (Clinton), the north five tiers of sections of townships 91-31 and 91-32 (Lake and Lincoln), and the north half of townships 91-33 and 91-34 (Grant and Dover), the south tier of sections of 93-31 (Des Moines) and the south half of township 92-34 (Marshall). Des Moines township remained the same as before, except that the north half of township 91-34 (Dover), and south half of township 92-34 (Marshall), had been assigned to Clinton.

THE REMAINING TOWNSHIPS ESTABLISHED.

On September 3, 1866, the township of Nunda was established, composed of township 93-32 (Powhatan), which was set off from Des Moines. Although the records do not show it, this township originally embraced also the two townships west of it now called Washington and Swan Lake; later the south half of Swan Lake was annexed to Des Moines. April 20, 1867, the name of this township was changed from "Nunda" to "Powhatan." In June, 1874, the name was again changed from Powhatan to "Jackson;" and on January 8, 1878, it was finally changed from "Jackson" to "Powhatan."

On June 2, 1868, the south tier of sections in township 93-31 (Des Moines) was taken from Clinton and annexed to Des Moines.

On June 6, 1870, several new townships were established that materially affected the map of the county. Bellville township was established on this date, embracing township 90, range 32; Cedar was established, embracing township 90, range 34, and Grant township, embracing township 91, range 33. A petition was also presented asking for the establishment of Colfax township, (90-33); for some reason this petition was not granted, and on the 6th of September following, it was separated from Lizard and annexed to

Cedar township. In the meantime townships 91-31 (Lake), and 91-32 (Lincoln), had been taken from Clinton and attached to Lizard, thus leaving Clinton to embrace township 92, range 31, as at the present time.

On September 6, 1870, Dover township was established, embracing township 91, range 34, that had previously formed a part of Lizard and Clinton townships, and on June 7, 1871, township 92-34 (Marshall), was attached to Dover.

On September 4, 1871, two new townships were established, Colfax and Swan Lake; the former embracing township 90, range 33, and the latter township 93, range 34.

On June 4, 1872, township 91, range 32 was established under the name of Carter township, but on July 8, 1873, the name "Carter" was changed to "Lincoln."

September 7, 1872, Center township, (92-32) was established.

September 5, 1876, Washington township was established, embracing townships 93-33 and 92-33, (Washington and Sherman.)

June 5, 1877, township 91-31 (Lake), was established under the name of Burke township, and on September 3d following, the name "Burke" was changed to "Lake."

April 5, 1880, Sherman township was established, embracing township 92, range 33.

June 5, 1882, township 92-34 (Marshall), was established as Laurens township, but on September 2, 1884, the name "Laurens" was changed to "Marshall." This was the last township organized and since the change of its name to Marshall, no similar changes have occurred. It may be observed that the civil townships, as at present organized, are identical in their boundaries with the congressional townships; and from the establishment of Des Moines township in 1859, the period of their organization, in-

cluding the last change noted, embraced just a quarter of a century.

COUNTY SEAT RE-LOCATED.

At the general election held Oct. 12, 1875, a proposition to re-locate or remove the county seat from (Old) Rolfe to Pocahontas Center, was submitted to a vote of the people with the result that 356 votes were cast in favor of this proposition and only 57 against it. In view of this approving vote of the people the Board of Supervisors ordered the change of county seat on October 18th following; and the public offices and records were transferred from (Old) Rolfe to Pocahontas, October 1, 1876.

ORIGINAL ORDER FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY.

The following order of Luther L. Pease, County Judge of Webster county, obtained after the foregoing part of this chapter had been printed, will be read with interest, since it furnishes positive information in regard to the establishment of two voting precincts at the time of the organization of the county—Lizard and Des Moines precincts—and the names of those who were appointed to serve as judges at this first election in each precinct.

STATE OF IOWA, }
 Webster County. } ss.

COUNTY COURT,
 FORT DODGE, Feby. 19, 1859.

On this day comes Guernsey Smith, of the county of Pocahontas, which is by law attached to the county of Webster for election purposes, and presents the petition of John A. James and twenty-six others, citizens and voters of Pocahontas county, and the said Smith makes oath that said petition contains the names of a majority of the legal voters of said Pocahontas county, and makes application for an order to hold an election for the purpose of organizing said Po-

cahontas county.

It is ordained, by the County Court of Webster county, that an election be held in said Pocahontas county on the third Tuesday in March, (15) 1859, for the purpose of organizing said county, and for electing the following county officers, towit: A County Judge, Clerk of the District Court, Treasurer and Recorder, Sheriff, Surveyor, Coroner and Drainage Commissioner; also the following township officers, towit: Three township trustees, a township clerk, two justices of the peace, two constables, one assessor and a supervisor of roads for each district.

It is further ordered that two election precincts be formed in said Pocahontas county: Townships number 90 and 91, of ranges 31 and 32, shall constitute, be designated and known as Lizard precinct; and townships number 92 and 93, of ranges 31 and 32, shall be known and designated as Des Moines precinct.

The election to organize said county shall be held in the Lizard precinct at the house of Charles Kelley; and Michael Collins, Patrick Forey and Charles Kelley shall be judges of said election at said place of voting.

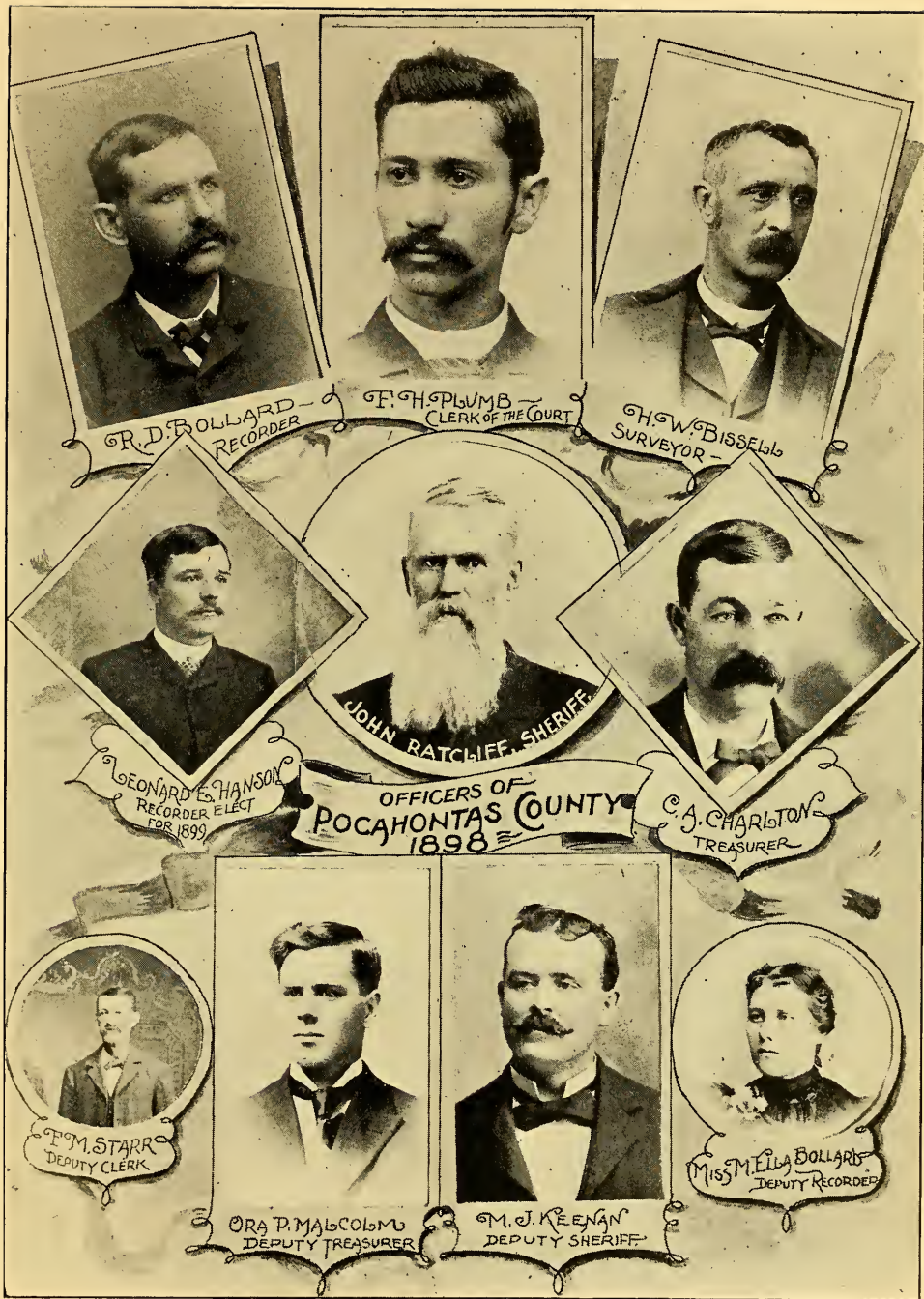
The place of voting in the Des Moines precinct shall be at the house of Henry Jarvis; and Samuel N. Harris, Perry Nowlen and Guernsey Smith shall be judges of election at said place of voting.

And it is further ordered that Guernsey Smith be directed to post three notices of said election in each precinct in said county at least fifteen days before said third Tuesday in March, 1859, one of which notices in each precinct must be at the place of holding said election.

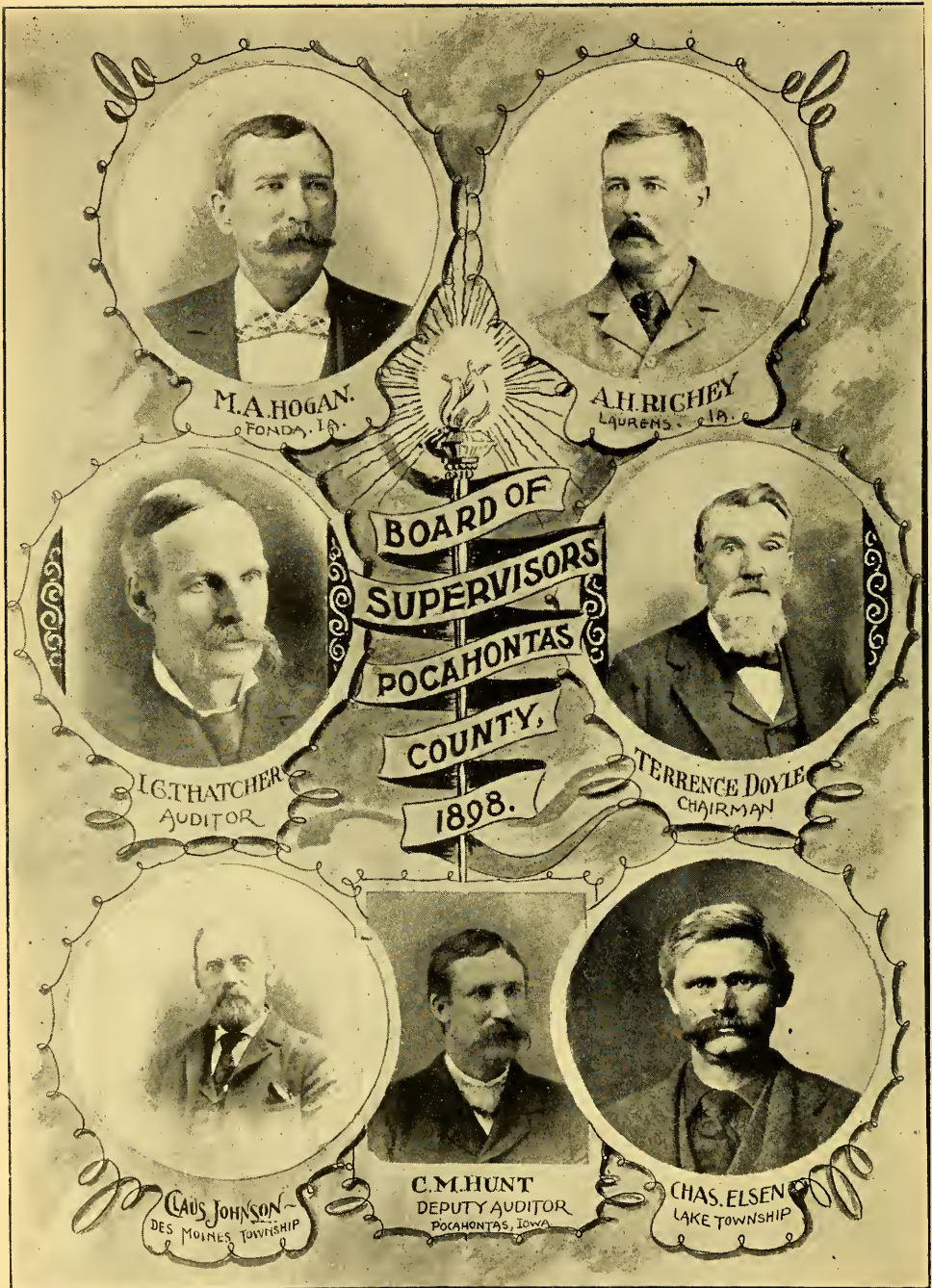
The judges of said election are required to make return of said election to the office of the County Judge of Webster county, on or before the seventh day after the holding of said election. The poll-books containing said returns are to be returned sealed, as the law directs.

Given under my hand and the seal of Webster county, the date first above written.

LUTHER L. PEASE,
 County Judge.



Group of County Officers and their Deputies, —1898.



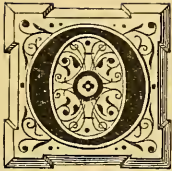
Auditor and Board of County Supervisors,—1898.

VIII.

THE COUNTY OFFICERS.

“We live in deeds, not years;
In thoughts, not breaths;
In feelings, not in figures
On a dial.”

COUNTY JUDGE.



On March 15, 1859, Judges and *ex officio* the first County Auditor.

when the county was organized, David Slosson was elected as the first County Judge, and six days

In 1861, when the Board of County Supervisors was organized, the office of the County Judge became a comparatively unimportant one; the general authority previously vested in him was transferred to the Board and there was left for him only some matters pertaining to the probate court, the settlement of estates, the administration of oaths and the performance of an occasional marriage ceremony. The office of County Judge, however, continued in existence until the year 1869, when, in accordance with a law enacted the previous year, it was abolished and its incumbent made *ex officio* County Auditor, an office that was created at that same time. The circuit court, though it was afterward abolished, came into existence that same year, 1869.

later qualified for that office before Luther L. Pease, County Judge of Webster county, at Fort Dodge. He was not a candidate for re-election, and on January 3, 1860, he was succeeded by John A. James who held the office until May 6, 1861, when he resigned and Isaac N. Belknap was appointed by the newly organized Board of County Supervisors to fill the vacancy. At the ensuing general election of that year Perry Nowlen was elected and qualifying as his successor January 1, 1862, served until June 2d of that year, when he resigned and Charles C. Converse was appointed to fill the vacancy. The office was vested in him from June 2, 1862, until October 19, 1863, when Fred E. Metcalf, who had been elected as his successor, qualified for a term of two years. On January 1, 1866, he was succeeded by Samuel N. Harris, who in the fall of 1867 was re-elected and held the office until January 4, 1869, when he resigned and William D. McEwen became his successor. The latter thus became the last of the County

On January 5, 1861, John A. James, County Judge, issued a warrant of \$100 to Edward Hammond for grading the court house yard, and seven others amounting to \$2500 to John M. Stockdale, on a contract for the erection of a bridge.

After the date on which these warrants were issued there are no further records of the proceedings of the County Judge, until April 13, 1865, a

period of more than four years, when Frederick A. Metcalf, as Judge of the County Court, issued a marriage license to Samuel A. Booth and Angie C. Keeney, with both of whom he states he was "personally acquainted and knew them to be of competent age and condition." He received \$1.00 for the license issued. On May 2d following, he issued a similar license to Orlando Slosson and Loretta L. Coffin.

The next and also the last recorded proceedings of the County Judge are of date November 25, 1868, when Samuel N. Harris served as the presiding member of the court before which was heard the first election contest in the county. This contest was instituted by Philip Russell, as member elect from the Lizard district, for the office of county supervisor against James J. Bruce, the previous incumbent. The other members of this court were W. S. Fegles, chosen by the contestant, and Patrick Forey, chosen by the incumbent. From the judgment rendered in this case it seems the contestant received a majority of the votes cast at the previous election, but the bond presented was deemed insufficient, and the case was decided in favor of the previous incumbent.

There are only two other recorded proceedings of the County Judge, not already referred to in this and the preceding chapter that are worthy of mention, and they are as follows:

Sept. 16, 1860, John A. James issued to William E. Clark, the original contractor for the erection of the court house, a warrant of \$1800.00 for sinking a well; and on Sept. 26th following he issued a warrant of \$163.00 to A. S. White for printing the first delinquent tax list of the county.

According to the records the first session of the county court was held May 25, 1859, when the claim of \$285.00 was presented by Mills & Co. for preparing the first county records; and

the first warrant of \$100.00 was issued to Geo. S. Ringland and John W. Brady on the contract for the special survey of the swamp lands of the county, which contract, it is stated on Nov. 8 following, had been concluded in the month of March, previous. Eight persons held the office of County Judge during the period 1859 to 1869, but only four of them performed any acts that were made matters of record; namely, David Slosson, John A. James, Frederick E. Metcalf and Samuel N. Harris.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY SUPERVISORS.

On March 22, 1860, an act of the General Assembly of Iowa was approved that created the Board of County Supervisors. This act provided that the Board of Supervisors in each county should consist of three persons, but on the petition of one-fourth of the qualified voters of the county, the Board might provide that their number be increased to five or even seven members.

Members of the Board were to be elected for a term of two years (in 1871 the term was increased to three years) save that those elected at the first election should draw cuts for their terms of one, and two years respectively, so that at least one member of the Board should be elected each year.

This act with subsequent amendments, now provides that the members of this Board shall meet regularly at their respective county seats on the first Mondays in January, April, June, September and the first Monday after the general election in each year.

To the Board of County Supervisors thus established there has been entrusted the general management of the business affairs of the county such as the examination and approval of all claims or expenditures from the public funds, the establishment of highways, erection of bridges, care of all public buildings and grounds, the

levying of taxes and management of the county road, school, poor, and special bounty funds, power to establish, organize and change the boundaries of townships and to constitute a board of county canvassers after all elections that may be held.

The first members of the Board of Supervisors for Pocahontas county were elected in the fall of 1860, and held their first meeting in the new court house at Old Rolfe, January 7, 1861. The members of the Board were Ora Harvey, of Clinton township; David Slosson, of Des Moines, and Michael Collins, of Lizard. The Board organized by the selection of Ora Harvey, chairman; and the appointment of W. H. Hait, the county Treasurer and Recorder, their clerk *pro tem*. They then proceeded to ballot for their respective terms of office, with the result that Ora Harvey was assigned the term of two years and each of the other two members a term of one year. Inasmuch as there was no further business to transact at this their first meeting, the Board adjourned until the first Monday in February following.

On February 4, 1861, when the second meeting of the Board was held, there were present only two members of the Board—Messrs. Ora Harvey and David Slosson—and W. H. Hait, clerk *pro tem*. The resignations of the following officers were presented and accepted, namely: David Slosson as County Supervisor of Des Moines township, John A. James as County Judge, and Samuel N. Harris as Clerk of the District Court. The Board then adjourned until the first Monday in May following. On May 6, 1861, when the Board held its third session, there were present Ora Harvey and Michael Collins, members of the Board; and Perry Nowlen, who was appointed supervisor for Des Moines township in place of David Slosson who had resigned, and he immediately qualified.

Augustus H. Malcolm was appointed Clerk of the District Court and also of the Board of Supervisors until his successor should be elected and qualified.

Isaac N. Belknap was appointed County Judge to fill the unexpired term of John A. James, who had resigned.

William H. Hait was appointed to fill the office of County Superintendent of common schools until his successor should be elected and qualified.

It was decided to allow the clerk of the Board of Supervisors \$2.50 a day for his services and to allow the same compensation to all township officers whose fees were not prescribed by law.

The county was divided into two school districts and the teachers' fund in the hands of the County Treasurer was apportioned to the districts according to the number of children in each district.

The first two roads, already named, were established and the Clerk of the District Court was authorized to take counsel concerning the legality of certain bridge contracts made by John M. Stockdale and the County Judge of Pocahontas county during the previous year.

Appropriations were made for the purchase of a "desk for each of the township clerks also a desk and bookcase for the use of the Board of Supervisors."

The claims of a number of township officers were allowed, among which we note \$15.20 paid to Charles Kelley, of Lizard for clerk's fees, house rent and mileage during the previous year; \$2.00 to Perry Nowlen for one wolf scalp, and \$22.00 to Edward Hammond for wood for the court house during the previous winter.

During the first six years, 1861 to 1866, the Board consisted of only three members, one from each of the three townships then organized in the county. During the next five years, 1867

to 1871, it consisted of four members, Powhatan township, organized in 1866, having been accorded a representative on the Board. In 1870 several new townships were organized and the propriety of increasing the membership of the Board was submitted to a vote of the people. A large majority were in favor of this measure, and before the general election of the ensuing year the county was arranged into five supervisor districts and from January 1, 1872, until the present time the Board has consisted of five members, one from each district.

The Supervisor Districts are now arranged as follows:

1st—Des Moines, Clinton and Powhatan townships.

2d—Swan Lake, Washington and Marshall townships.

3d—Cedar, Dover and Colfax townships.

4th—Lizard, Bellville and Lake townships.

5th—Center, Sherman, Grant and Lincoln townships.

The present division of the county into supervisor districts is certainly an ideal one. Each of the four corner townships of the county is the central one of the three townships comprising their respective districts, which are numbered one, two, three and four respectively, commencing at the northeast corner and ending at the southeast corner of the county; and the fifth district is composed of the four central townships of the county. That which gives ideality or uniqueness to these districts is the fact that the county seat is central to all of them and then the largest town or postoffice in each district, where the triennial nominating conventions are naturally held, is located near the center of it, namely, Rolfe in the first, Laurens in the second, Fonda in the third, Lizard postoffice in the fourth and Pocahontas in the fifth. It is doubtful if these ideal conditions can

be duplicated by any county in the state.

SUCCESSION OF SUPERVISORS.

The first one named each year was chairman that year; the township in which he lived is also indicated.

Board, three members; term, two years.

1861. Ora Harvey, Clinton; David Slosson, (resigned), Perry Nowlen (appointed May 6, 1861), Des Moines; and Michael Collins, Lizard.

1862. Ora Harvey, Clinton; David Slosson, Des Moines; and Patrick McCabe, Lizard.

1863. Ora Harvey, Clinton; David Slosson, Des Moines; and Patrick McCabe, Lizard.

1864. Ora Harvey, Clinton; David Slosson, Des Moines; and Patrick McCabe, Lizard.

1865. Ora Harvey, Clinton; David Slosson, Des Moines; and Patrick McCabe, Lizard.

1866. Ora Harvey, Clinton; David Slosson, Des Moines; Philip Russell, Lizard.

Board increased to four members.

1867. Ora Harvey, Clinton; David Slosson, Des Moines; Philip Russell, Lizard; Henry Thomas, Powhatan.

1868. Ora Harvey, Clinton; David J. Bishop, Des Moines; James J. Bruce, Lizard; and Henry Thomas, Powhatan.

1869. James J. Bruce, Lizard; David J. Bishop, Des Moines; A. H. Malcolm, Clinton; and Ira Strong, Powhatan.

1870. A. H. Malcolm, Clinton; David Slosson, Des Moines; David Miller, Lizard; and Ira Strong, Powhatan.

1871. M. A. Moore, Lizard; David Slosson, (resigned), John Heald (appointed April 3, 1871), Des Moines; and John A. Hay, Cedar.

Board, five members; term, three years.

1872. John A. Hay, Cedar; R. B. Fish, Des Moines; Andrew Jackson, Powhatan; Walter Ford, Lizard; and A.



THE COURT HOUSE AT POCAHONTAS, ERECTED IN 1876.



THE COUNTY ASYLUM AND POOR HOUSE GRANT TOWNSHIP.



**OLD ROLFE AND VICINITY. THE FIRST COUNTY SEAT, 1859 TO 1876
DES MOINES TOWNSHIP.**



**PILOT CREEK AND DES MOINES RIVER VALLEYS. SCENE OF INDIAN BATTLE,
FROM THE SOUTH, A KNOLL ON SEC. 12, CLINTON TOWNSHIP.**

- W. Rake, Grant.
1873. Romeyn B. Fish, Des Moines; Andrew Jackson, Powhatan; Ray C. Brownell, Colfax; Walter Ford, Lizard; and A. W. Rake, Grant.
1874. Walter Ford, Lizard; David Slosson, Des Moines; Andrew Jackson, Powhatan; Bernard McCartan, Cedar; and Ray C. Brownell, Colfax.
1875. Bernard McCartan, Cedar; David Slosson, Des Moines; J. C. Strong, Washington; Ray C. Brownell, Colfax; William Stenson, Lizard.
1876. J. C. Strong, Washington; David Slosson, Des Moines; Bernard McCartan, Cedar; William Brownlee, Bellville; and William Stenson, Lizard.
1877. William Brownlee, Bellville; David Slosson, Des Moines; J. C. Strong, Washington; Harvey W. Hay, Cedar; William Stenson, Lizard.
1878. Harvey W. Hay, Cedar; David

- Slosson, Des Moines; J. C. Strong, Washington; William Brownlee, Bellville; Carl Steinbrink, Lizard.
1879. J. C. Strong, Washington; David Slosson, Des Moines; Harvey W. Hay, Cedar; Wm. Brownlee, Bellville, Carl Steinbrink, Lizard.
1880. Carl Steinbrink, Lizard; James J. Bruce, Clinton; J. C. Strong, Washington; William Bott, Cedar; Wm. Brownlee, Bellville.
1881. William Bott, Cedar; J. J. Bruce, Clinton; J. C. Strong, Washington; William Brownlee, Bellville; Carl Steinbrink, Lizard.
1882. James J. Bruce, Clinton; J. C. Strong, Washington; Wm. Bott, Cedar; Wm. Brownlee, Bellville; Carl Steinbrink, Lizard.
1883. J. C. Strong, Washington; J. J. Bruce, Clinton; James Mercer, Cedar; Wm. Brownlee, Bellville; Carl Steinbrink, Lizard.

1884. James Mercer, Cedar; J. J. Bruce, Clinton; Charles G. Perkins, Colfax, (by appointment, Jan. 7, 1884, in place of Wm. Brownlee, the Treasurer elect, resigned); T. J. Calligan, Lizard; J. W. O'Brien, Sherman.
1885. James Mercer, Cedar; J. J. Bruce, Clinton; Swan Nelson, Bellville; T. J. Calligan, Lizard; J. W. O'Brien, Sherman.
1886. T. J. Calligan, Lizard; Alexander McEwen, Powhatan; Wm. Bott, Cedar; Swan Nelson, Bellville; J. W. O'Brien, Sherman.
1887. Wm. Bott, Cedar; Alexander McEwen, Powhatan; L. D. Beardsley, Swan Lake; Swan Nelson, Bellville; M. T. Collins, Lizard.
1888. Alexander McEwen, Powhatan; L. D. Beardsley, Swan Lake; Wm. Bott, Cedar; Swan Nelson, Bellville; M. T. Collins, Lizard.
1889. L. D. Beardsley, Swan Lake; Alexander McEwen, Powhatan; Wm. Fitzgerald, Dover; Swan Nelson, Bellville; M. T. Collins, Lizard.
1890. Alexander McEwen, Powhatan;

OLD ROLFE AND VICINITY.

This view is taken from a point a little east of south, and one-half mile distant. The highway shown runs north and south through the center of section 26, Des Moines township, and through W. H. Hait's farm. The old court house site is on the crest of the hill to the left of the road. The grove on the west side of the road surrounds the home of Mr. Hait, his barn and pasture appear on the east side of the road.

The house and barn, that appear southwest of the court house site, belonged to the farm of William Matson, now owned by R. B. Fish, of Rolfe. North of this and through the open grove can be seen the Old Rolfe brick schoolhouse, and west of that, near the left edge of the picture, is the home so long occupied by Wm. Jarvis, and now owned by W. Woodruff, of Marshalltown. The timber that appears on the horizon near the right hand edge, is on the Des Moines river south of the farm of Wm. Struthers. Of Old Rolfe it may be said:

"Sweet smelling village
Loveliest of the lawn,
Thy sports are fled,
And all thy charms withdrawn."

- L. D. Beardsley, Swan Lake; Wm. Fitzgerald, Dover; Swan Nelson, Bellville; M. T. Collins, Lizard.
1891. Alexander McEwen, Powhatan; J. L. Hopkins, Swan Lake; Wm. Fitzgerald, Dover; Alexander Peterson, Colfax; M. T. Collins, Lizard.
1892. J. L. Hopkins, Swan Lake; Alexander McEwen, Powhatan; Frank A. Thompson, Dover; Alexander Peterson, Colfax; M. T. Collins, Lizard.
1893. Alexander McEwen, Powhatan; F. A. Thompson, Dover; Alexander Peterson, Colfax; Terrence Doyle, Lincoln; Samuel Powell, Center.
1894. Alexander McEwen, Powhatan; F. A. Thompson, Dover; Alexander Peterson, Colfax; Terrence Doyle, Lincoln; Samuel Powell, Center.
1895. J. J. Bruce, Clinton; M. A. Hogan, Dover; Alexander Peterson, Colfax; Terrence Doyle, Lincoln; Samuel Powell, Center.
1896. J. J. Bruce, Clinton; M. A. Hogan, Dover; Alexander Peterson, Colfax; Terrence Doyle, Lincoln; Louie E. Lange, Swan Lake.
1897. J. J. Bruce, Clinton; M. A. Hogan, Dover; Alexander Peterson, Colfax; Terrence Doyle, Lincoln; C. B. Elsen, Lake.
1898. Terrence Doyle, Lincoln; Claus Johnson, Des Moines; A. H. Richey, Marshall; M. A. Hogan, Dover; C. B. Elsen, Lake.
1899. Terrence Doyle, Lincoln; Claus Johnson, Des Moines; A. H. Richey, Marshall; M. A. Hogan, Dover; C. B. Elsen, Lake.

COUNTY AUDITORS.

In 1869 the office of county auditor was created by the same law that abolished the office of county judge, and William D. McEwen, on Jan. 4th, that year, by appointment of the board of supervisors, became the first Auditor of Pocahontas county. At the general election in the fall of 1869, he was elected to that office and, being re-elected two years later, held it until January, 1, 1874, a period of five

years.

Abram O. Garlock, elected in the fall of 1873, and three times thereafter re-elected, became his successor and held that office until January 1, 1882, a period of eight years. He was succeeded by C. H. Tollefsrude, who served two terms, or a period of four years—1882 to 1885. The next incumbent was T. F. McCartan, who was twice re-elected, his third term being one of three years. By the act of the General Assembly of Iowa, approved April 5, 1890,* for the purpose of having the election of the county Auditor and Treasurer come on alternate years, an additional year was added to his third term, making his period of service seven years—1886 to 1892. F. G. Thornton, his successor, served two terms, or four years—1893 to 1896. I. C. Thatcher, the present incumbent, is now serving his second term.

All of the gentlemen who have held this office, with the single exception of A. O. Garlock, (Des Moines) are still residents of this county.

It is the duty of the Auditor to record all the proceedings of the board of supervisors in books printed for that purpose; to sign all orders issued by the board for the payment of money; to preserve and file all accounts acted upon by the board and perform such other special duties as are or may be required of him by law. The County Auditor has also the general custody of the court house, subject to the direction of the board of supervisors.

CLERKS OF THE COURT.

The office of Clerk of the Court was first filled by appointment. In March,

*The law as amended April 5, 1890, provides that there shall be elected in each county at the general election in each even-numbered year, a Clerk of the District Court, a Recorder of Deeds, an Auditor and a County Attorney; and in each odd-numbered year, a Treasurer, a Sheriff, a Coroner, a County Superintendent and a Surveyor, all of whom shall hold office for the term of two years.

1859, A. H. Malcolm was elected to the office, but as he did not qualify, the County Judge, on May 1st, 1859, filled the vacancy by the appointment of S. N. Harris. In the fall of that year he was elected for the term of one year, and in the fall of 1860 he was re-elected, but resigned the office on February 4th, 1861. On May 4th following, A. H. Malcolm was appointed his successor but served only until September 2d following, when he was succeeded by Edward Hammond, also by appointment. In October following, Philip Russell was elected for a term of one year and, at the next election in 1862, was re-elected for a term of two years, making his period of service three years—1862 to 1864. W. H. Hait, who had been elected his successor, on Jan. 3, 1865, appointed Mr. Russell his deputy and left him in charge of the office, and resigning the office on March 20th following, the board of supervisors appointed Mr. Russell Clerk of the Court for the remainder of that year. In October, 1865, A. H. Malcolm was elected for the remaining year of that term and served during 1866. W. D. McEwen, as his successor, was elected for a term of two years and, being twice re-elected, served as Clerk of the Court six years—1867 to 1872.

The next incumbent was M. E. Owen, who held the office two years—1873 and 1874. "He became involved in financial troubles and just before the expiration of his term fled the country, taking with him about \$1000 of the public funds belonging to his office. He was indicted by the grand jury and the board of supervisors offered a reward of \$200 for his arrest and delivery, but he was never apprehended."

In the fall of 1874, J. W. Wallace was elected Clerk of the Court and was re-elected five times, making his term of service twelve years—1875 to 1886. Whilst several others rendered

public service to the county in different offices for a longer series of years, this is the longest period of consecutive service in the same office rendered by any of the public servants of Pocahontas county.*

On January 1, 1887, W. C. Ralston, Esq., became his successor and, being re-elected three times, served eight years—1887 to 1894. On January 1, 1895, Frank H. Plumb, the present incumbent, became his successor and he is now serving his third term.

The clerk of the district court was by virtue of his office clerk also of the circuit court and it is his duty to keep a correct record of the proceedings of the court.

COUNTY TREASURERS.

During the first six years after the organization of the county, or until January 1, 1865, the offices of county treasurer and county recorder were united under the name of "treasurer and recorder."

W. H. Hait was the first one to fill the double office. He was elected March 15, 1859, and being re-elected for a full term at the general election in October following, held these two offices during the first three years of the county's history, 1859 to 1861.

On Jan. 1, 1862, Michael Collins became his successor in the double office and in 1863 was re-elected to the same offices for a second term. In the spring of 1864, an act of the General Assembly of Iowa was approved that divided these two offices and provided that the "treasurer and recorder" should hold the office of treasurer only, after that year. By reason of this act of the legislature, Michael Collins held the double office of treasurer and recorder only three years, 1862 to 1864, while he served as treas-

*W. D. McEwen held the office of County Treasurer the same number of years, and during the same period of time, except that the period of continuous service was broken by an interval of two years between the fifth and sixth terms—1884 and 1885.

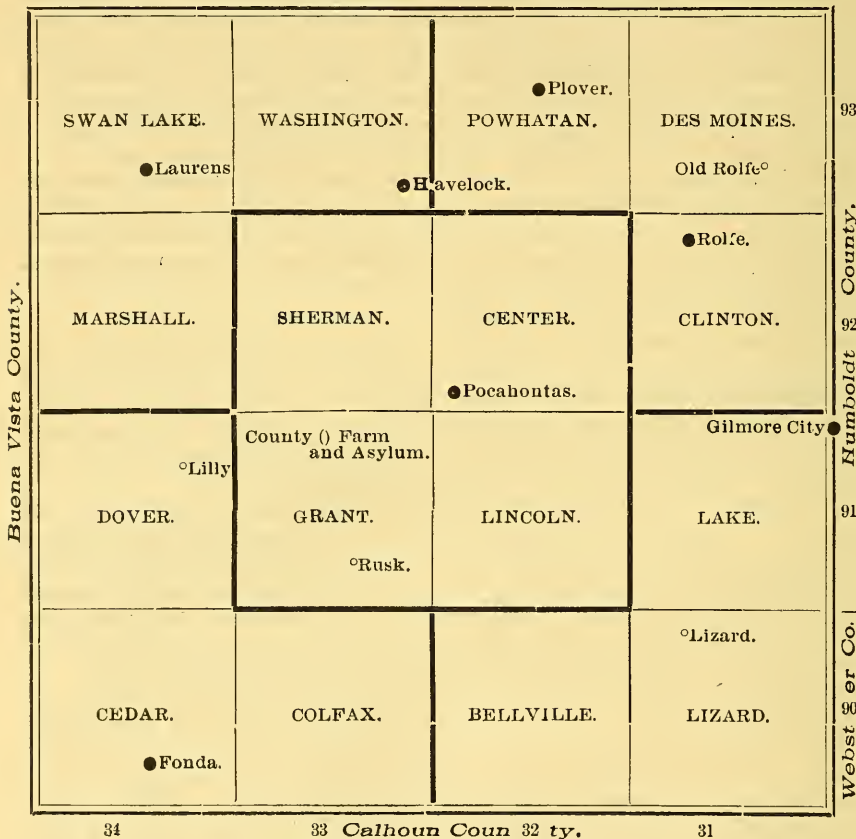
urer four years, 1862 to 1865.

On Jan. 1, 1866, W. H. Hait again succeeded to the office of county treasurer and, being re-elected the ensuing year, served two terms or four years,

urer and, being re-elected five times—

in 1875, 1877, 1879, 1881 and 1885—held the office for a period of twelve years, 1874 to 1883, and 1886 to 1887—a period unbroken except by the two years in-

Palo Alto County.



POCAHONTAS COUNTY,

Showing the Townships, Towns, Postoffices and Supervisor Districts in 1898.

^oSUPERVISOR DISTRICTS—No. 1, Des Moines, Clinton, Powhatan; No. 2, Swan Lake, Marshall, Washington; No. 3, Cedar, Dover, Colfax; No. 4, Lizard, Bellville, Lake; No. 5, Center, Sherman, Grant, Lincoln.

1866 to 1869. He was succeeded by James J. Bruce who, being re-elected in 1871, served four years, 1870 to 1873. W. D. McEwen then became Treas-

tervening between the fifth and sixth terms, 1884 and 1885, when he was not a candidate for re-election. William Brownlee served as Treasurer during

the two years, 1884 and 1885. On Jan. 1, 1888, J. N. McClellan became Treasurer and being twice re-elected, held the office during a period of six years, 1888 to 1893. On Jan. 1, 1894, he was succeeded by C. A. Charlton, who is now serving his third term.

COUNTY RECORDERS.

On January 1, 1865, the offices of treasurer and recorder having been separated the previous year, Robert Struthers became County Recorder and served one term of two years, 1865 and 1866. During his first year he was invested with the duties of an office to which Michael Collins, then serving as county treasurer, had been duly elected in the fall of 1863. On Jan. 1, 1867, E. C. Brown succeeded Robert Struthers and served one term of two years, 1867 and 1868. On Jan. 1, 1869, Thomas L. MacVey became the next incumbent and, being twice re-elected, held the office of recorder for six years, 1869 to 1874. He was succeeded by Andrew Jackson, who served one term of two years, 1875 and 1876.

On Jan. 1, 1877, Oscar I. Strong became Recorder and performed the duties of the office until May 1, 1878, when on account of failing health, he appointed Jason H. Lowrey deputy recorder and, placing him in charge of the office, made a trip east. On June 5th following, he resigned the office and the board of supervisors appointed Jason H. Lowrey Recorder in his stead for the remainder of that year.

On Jan. 6, 1879, Geo. Wallace, of Colfax township, entered upon the duties of this office, and two days later the board of supervisors approved the appointment of O. I. Strong as deputy recorder. Mr. Wallace held the office until the time of his decease, August 20, 1880, and the board of supervisors, at their session in September following, appointed C. A. Bryant recorder to fill the vacancy thus occurring, which included the remaining months

of that year.

Michael Crahan was the next Recorder and he served during the two years, 1881 and 1882.

A. L. Thornton was his successor, and being re-elected in 1884, he served from Jan. 1, 1883, until the time of his decease, May 13, 1885. Nine days later, or on May 22, 1885, the board of supervisors appointed Miss May E. Thornton, his daughter (now Mrs. Port C. Barron) to fill the vacancy thus occurring, until the end of that year. At the ensuing election in the fall of 1885, she was elected Recorder by the people and served the remaining year of that term—1886. Whilst other ladies have rendered very efficient service as deputies, this is the only instance in which a lady has served as one of the public officers of this county previous to this date.

W. F. Atkinson was the next incumbent and, being re-elected in 1888, he served a period of four years, 1887 to 1890. He was succeeded by R. D. Bollard who, being thrice re-elected, held the office a period of eight years, 1891 to 1898. On the first Monday in January, 1899, he was succeeded by Leonard E. Hanson, the present incumbent.

It is the duty of the county recorder to make and keep a record of all deeds, mortgages and other instruments in writing that may be delivered to him for record.

SHERIFFS OF THE COUNTY.

The first Sheriff of Pocahontas county was Oscar Slosson, who was elected March 15, 1859. On Jan. 1, 1860, Henry Jarvis succeeded him and being re-elected in 1861, 1864 (for one year—an unexpired term) and in 1865, filled that office seven years, 1860 to 1863, and 1865 to 1867. For the term commencing Jan. 1, 1864, he was not a candidate, and Abiel Stickney, who had been elected, having resigned the office March 21, 1864, Edward Hammond, by appointment of the board of

supervisors on that date, performed the duties of that office until the end of that year.

It is of interest to note that Abiel Stickney was the one candidate in this county who was elected by the soldier vote. At the general election of Oct. 13, 1863, the home vote for the candidates for sheriff was as follows: John A. James, 16 votes; Abiel Stickney, 14; and John A. James was declared elected by a majority of two votes. But one month later when the four soldier votes were canvassed and all of them were in favor of Stickney, they gave him a majority of two votes and he was then declared elected.

On Jan. 1, 1868, Oscar Slosson became the successor of Henry Jarvis, and being re-elected in 1869, served four years, 1868 to 1871. At the general election held in the fall of 1867, the contest for sheriff became a very spirited one and each of the candidates, Oscar Slosson and George Spragg, received 50 of the 100 votes polled in the county at that election. On drawing cuts the tie was decided in favor of Oscar Slosson.

T. J. Curtis was the next incumbent and he served two years, 1872 and 1873.

Joseph Breitenbach in 1874 became his successor, and in 1875 he was re-elected. In 1877 he was again a candidate for re-election, his opponent being T. L. Dean, and the vote was very close. The board of canvassers found Dean had received 269 votes and Breitenbach 266, and declared the former duly elected; but the latter contested the election and retained the office until the time of his decease, Sept. 13, 1878.

This election contest was first tried, Nov. 24, 1877, before a court consisting of William Brownlee, chairman of the board of supervisors, Judge *ex officio*; W. H. Hait and J. E. Pattee associate judges, appointed by the contestants respectively. Captain J.

A. O. Yeoman, of Fort Dodge, appeared as attorney for the contestant, P. C. Hudson, of the same place, and J. A. Gould, of Pomeroy, for the incumbent. Two days were spent in receiving the testimony of witnesses and hearing the explanatory addresses of the attorneys. The court then by a majority of one, gave its decision in favor of Thomas L. Dean. The dissenting judge, however, filed three reasons for his dissent, one of which was, that owing to the irregularities that had been proven the entire vote of Center township (27 votes) was illegal and, not counting it, the contestant had a majority of 24 votes. The case was then appealed to the district court and before it was decided Mr. Breitenbach met with the runaway accident, one mile south of Pocahontas, that caused his death on the day following.

Thomas L. Dean, who had qualified Jan. 6, 1877, by appointment of the board of supervisors served as Sheriff during the unexpired term, Oct. 1, 1878, to Dec. 31, 1879. He was succeeded by Capt. Joseph Mallison who, being re-elected in 1881, held the office four years, 1880 to 1883. J. F. Pattee was his successor and he being twice re-elected, in 1885 and 1887, held the office six years, 1884 to 1889. John A. Crummer was the next incumbent and he was three times re-elected—in 1891, 1893 and 1895. He held the office eight years, 1890 to 1897. John Ratcliff, the present Sheriff, entered upon the duties of this office Jan. 3, 1898.

The sheriff is the custodian of the jail and of the prisoners confined in it. He and his deputies are conservators of the peace and in the effort to prevent crime, arrest criminals or execute the processes of the law they have the power, when necessary, to summon others to their assistance. It is the duty of the Sheriff to attend all the sessions of the court, to execute

all orders placed in his hands by the court, the public and peace officers of the county and to make due return of them.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS.

Perry Nowlen, of Des Moines township, was the first one elected to the office of Superintendent of Schools in Pocahontas county. It was at the second election of county officers, held Oct. 11, 1859, that he was elected but he did not qualify. On March 20, 1860, the County Judge, John A. James, appointed Oscar F. Avery to fill the vacancy, and as its first incumbent, he held this office from the date of his appointment until May 6, 1861, when he resigned. W. H. Hait was appointed as his successor on that same date, by the board of county supervisors, and held the office of county superintendent until April 22, 1862, when he also resigned. Ora Harvey on that day was appointed to fill the vacancy and served as County Superintendent during the remaining months of that year. On Jan. 7, 1863, Michael Collins was appointed Superintendent of Schools by the Board of Supervisors and held the office during that year.

Fred E. Metcalf, the next County Superintendent, was elected by the people and served one term of two years, 1864 and 1865. He was succeeded by W. D. McEwen, who served one term, 1866 and 1867; James J. Bruce one term, 1868 and 1869; David Miller one term, 1870 and 1871; and Geo. W. Hathaway one term, 1872 and 1873.

Oscar I. Strong was elected as the next incumbent and served from Jan. 1, 1874, to June 9, 1875, when he resigned on account of poor health and went to California. J. F. Clark on Oct. 12th, following, was elected to fill the vacancy thus occurring, and being re-elected the ensuing year, held the office from the date of his appointment until the first Monday in January,

1878, a period of three and one-half years.

David Miller, being re-elected, served the next term, 1878 and 1879; and he was succeeded by Oscar I. Strong, who served his second term during the years 1880 and 1881.

J. P. Robinson was the next incumbent and, being re-elected in 1883, served as County Superintendent four years, 1882 to 1885. J. H. Campbell was his successor and also served four years, 1886 to 1889.

Fred C. Gilchrist held the office during the next two years, 1890 and 1891; and Clel Gilchrist, his elder brother, during the next three terms, or six years, 1892 to 1897. Arthur W. Davis, the present incumbent, entered upon the duties of this office Jan. 3, 1898.

It is the duty of the County Superintendent to serve as the organ of communication between the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the school authorities of the district or township; to furnish the latter with all necessary blanks, circulars and other communications directed to them and to visit each school in his county once each year. It is also his duty to provide an opportunity for the examination of teachers at the county seat on the last Saturday in each month and to issue certificates to those who are competent to teach, good for a term not exceeding one year; and to hold annually a normal institute for the instruction of teachers and those who may desire to teach. To defray the expenses of the institute he shall require the payment of a registration fee of one dollar from each person attending the institute and the same amount from every applicant for a certificate. It is also his duty on the first day of November each year to report to the superintendent of the Iowa College for the Blind (Vinton) the name and address of every blind person residing in the coun-

ty, who may be of suitable age and capacity to be entitled to an education at that institution at the expense of the state; and to the superintendent of the Iowa School for the Deaf (Council Bluffs) the name of any deaf and dumb person between the ages of five and twenty-one years.

COUNTY SURVEYORS.

At the first election held March 15, 1859, Guernsey Smith was elected as the first County Surveyor for the remaining months of that year. The records do not show that he qualified for this office, but only that, in partnership with Geo. S. Ringland, he assisted in making the second special survey of the swamp lands of the county during that summer, under a special contract with Oscar Slosson, the County Judge.

At the general election held in the fall of 1859, Robert Struthers was elected County Surveyor and seems to have been the first to qualify for that office. He was re-elected in 1863 and resigned Nov. 11, 1864. No one was appointed to fill the vacancy, and in the fall of 1865 he was again re-elected, and qualified. He was the only incumbent of the office during the ten years from Jan. 1, 1860, to Jan. 1, 1870.

Geo. W. Strong was elected as his successor and held the office from Jan. 1, 1870, to April 3, 1871, when he resigned and Oscar I. Strong, his cousin, was appointed to fill the vacancy during the remaining months of that year. Geo. Van Natta was elected as his successor and served as County Surveyor from Jan. 1, 1872, to June 3, 1873, when he resigned and William Marshall the next day was appointed to fill the vacancy during the remaining months of that year. In the fall of that year William Marshall was elected for the ensuing term and being re-elected in 1875, 1877, 1879 and 1881, held the office from the time of his appointment, June 4, 1873, until Jan. 4, 1884, a period of ten and one-

half years. On Jan. 6, 1874, when he qualified for his first full term, he had Oscar I. Strong appointed as his deputy, and the latter, who was County Superintendent, had William Marshall appointed deputy Superintendent. These were the first deputies in these two public offices.

Lute C. Thornton served the next term during the years 1884 and 1885, and after the lapse of two years, served another term during 1888 and 1889. John J. Cullen served the intervening term, during 1886 and 1887. H. W. Bissell became the next County Surveyor and being re-elected, served four years, 1890 to 1893, when Fred A. Malcolm served two terms, 1894 to 1897, and H. W. Bissell, on Jan. 3, 1898, became his successor and is now serving his third term.

It is the duty of the County Surveyor to make all surveys of land within the county that he may be called upon to make, and his surveys are presumed to be correct. He is required to establish corners and mark them by stones firmly placed in the ground, or by mounds. All plats and records made by him must show at whose personal request they were made, the names of the chainmen and that they were approved and sworn by the surveyor, the date of the new survey and the variation of the magnetic from the true meridian stated.

COUNTY CORONERS.

The office of County Coroner is not very lucrative and for this reason nobody fights for it. It is the one public office that is allowed to "seek the man" rather than the "man seek the office." Frequently those who have been nominated and elected have not sufficiently appreciated the honor as to qualify for the performance of the duties pertaining to this office.

At the first election for the organization of the county, William Park was elected as the first coroner but it does not appear that he qualified. At

the general election in the fall of 1859, William Jarvis was elected and held the office during the four years, 1860 to 1863. Edward Hammond was elected for two terms covering the four years, 1864 to 1867; but qualified only for the first term. John H. Johnson was elected for the next term, 1868 and 1869. Joseph Clason served two terms, 1870 to 1873. J. M. Carroll, M. D., served the next term, 1874 and 1875; and he was succeeded by John H. Johnson, who was re-elected for the years 1876 and 1877. J. C. Enfield served two terms, 1878 and 1879, and 1882 and 1883; J. M. Brown serving the intervening term 1880 and 1881. M. F. Patterson, M. D., served during 1884 and 1885, J. M. Carroll, M. D., during 1886, W. W. Beam, M. D. during the next three years, 1887 to 1889. For the year 1890 this office was conferred upon C. C. Delle, Esq., and for 1891 upon J. M. Carroll, M. D. O. A. Pease held it during 1892 and 1893; and Frank Reyburn the next four years, 1894 to 1897. C. B. Lawrence, the present incumbent, has held the office since Jan. 3, 1898.

It is the duty of the coroner to perform all the duties of the sheriff when there is no sheriff, and in all cases before the court when it appears from the papers that the sheriff is a party to the action.

It is his special duty to hold an inquest or official inquiry as to the cause of death, upon the dead bodies of those persons who are supposed to have died by unlawful means. When there is no coroner, and in case of his absence or inability to act, any justice of the peace of the same county is authorized to perform the duties of the coroner in relation to the dead.

DRAINAGE COMMISSIONERS.

In the early days there existed an unimportant office called "drainage commissioner." In the spring of 1872 the General Assembly of Iowa transferred the duties of this office to the

board of county supervisors and abolished the office after the end of that year.

At the first election in the spring of 1859, James Edelman, and in the fall of that year, as his successor, William Jarvis were elected drainage commissioners for this county. During the next ten years, or until the general election held in the fall of 1869, no one was elected to this office. In October, 1869, W. S. Fegles was elected to this office and two years later he was re-elected for a second term; but neither he nor his predecessors in this office had any official duties to perform.

The duties of this officer related to the location and construction of ditches or drains, or changes in the direction of any watercourse, as a matter of public benefit, in response to petitions signed by a majority of persons residing in the county and owning the land adjacent to the proposed improvement.

COUNTY ATTORNEYS.

The office of county attorney was created by an act of the General Assembly of Iowa in the spring of 1886 and at the ensuing election William G. Bradley was elected as the first County Attorney of Pocahontas county and he served one term of two years, 1887 and 1888. He was succeeded by Byron J. Allen and C. C. Delle, each of whom served one term. Frank L. Dinsmore held the office four years, 1893 to 1896. William Hazlett, the present incumbent, entered upon the duties of this office Jan. 3, 1897, and is now serving his second term.

The county attorney is elected in the even-numbered years and for a term of two years. It is his duty to appear for the state and county in all cases and proceedings in the courts of his county to which the state or county is a party. He is the legal adviser of the board of supervisors and other county officers in all matters in

which the state or county is interested. His annual salary is fixed by the board of supervisors and he may not accept any fee or reward from or on behalf of any one for services rendered in any prosecution commenced in the name of the state or county, or for the conduct of any official business as the county attorney.

DISTRICT ATTORNEYS.

Previous to the establishment of the office of county attorney the functions and duties of that officer were performed by district attorneys, one of whom was elected in each judicial district for a term of four years. He appeared for the state and the several counties composing his district, in all matters in which the state or any county he represented was a party both in the district and circuit courts of his district.

In this county the following persons have rendered service as district attorneys:

O. C. Howe, Dickinson Co.,	1859-1862
Henry Ford, Harrison county	1863-1866
Orson Rice, Dickinson	" 1867-1870
C. H. Lewis, Cherokee	" 1871-1874
G. B. McCarty, Palo Alto	" 1875-1876
J. M. Toliver, Calhoun	" 1877-1884
John W. Cory, Dickinson	" 1885-1886

The office was then abolished.

I. DISTRICT JUDGES.

(4th District.)

A. W. Hubbard, Woodb'ry Co.	1859-1862
Isaac Pendleton, "	" 1863-1866
Henry Ford, Harrison	" 1867-1874
C. H. Lewis, Cherokee	" 1875-1886

(14th District, 1877, Jan. 1.)

Edward R. Duffie, Sac	" 1877-1884
Lot Thomas, Buena Vista	" 1885-1898
F. H. Helsell, †	" 1898-date
George H. Carr, Palo Alto Co.	1887-1894
W. B. Quarton, * Palo Alto	" 1894-date

II. CIRCUIT JUDGES.

J. M. Snyder, Humboldt Co.	1869-1872
Addison Oliver, ‡ Monona Co.	1873-1874

†Appointed Aug. 16, 1898, in place of Lot Thomas, resigned; elected Nov. 8, 1898.

*Appointed Oct. 13, 1894, to fill vacancy; elected Nov. 6, 1894.

‡Resigned.

J. R. Zouver, Harrison Co.	1875-1876
Jno. N. Weaver, Kossuth Co.	1877-1884
J. H. Macomber, Sac Co.	1885-1886

JUDICIAL DISTRICTS.

On Feb. 20, 1852, which was soon after the establishment of Pocahontas county, and before there were any settlements in it, this county was assigned to the 5th Judicial district; on Jan. 22, 1853, it was attached to Boone county, and on Jan. 24, 1855, to Webster county for judicial purposes.

After the adoption of the state constitution of 1857, the judicial districts in Iowa were re-arranged by an act of the General Assembly of Iowa, approved March 20, 1858, the change taking effect Jan. 1, 1859. At this date Pocahontas and twenty-one other counties in Northwest Iowa were included in the *Fourth* Judicial district and so remained until July 4, 1876, when by an act approved March 8th previous, the counties of Kossuth, Humboldt, Emmet, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Calhoun, Dickinson, Clay, Buena Vista, Sac and Ida were detached to form the new Fourteenth district, but for the purpose of holding court remained connected with the former district until Jan. 1, 1877. On Jan. 1, 1887, when the circuit court was abolished and the judicial districts were re-arranged, Pocahontas county remained as a part of the Fourteenth district together with Buena Vista, Palo Alto, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Humboldt and Kossuth counties. For the district and circuit courts the judicial districts were the same. The judges in both courts were elected for a term of four years.

The Circuit court, established Jan. 1, 1866, had general original jurisdiction in all civil and special proceedings, and exclusive jurisdiction in all appeals and writs of error from inferior courts or officers. This court was abolished Jan. 1, 1887, by an act of the General Assembly of Iowa, approved

April 10, 1886; but the judges of the circuit court whose terms of office had not expired Jan. 1, 1887, became judges of the district court in the district in which they resided.

The District court has original and exclusive jurisdiction in all actions, proceedings and remedies, both civil and criminal, and exercises all the powers possessed by courts of record. It has the power to probate wills, grant letters of administration and appoint guardians of persons and property, subject to guardianship. It succeeded to and exercises full authority over the records of the circuit court and is invested with all the

of the Sixth congressional district, in 1872 a part of the Ninth and in 1882 a part of the Tenth district to which it still belongs. Members of the lower house of congress are elected for a term of two years and in this district in the even-numbered years. The representatives from this district have been as follows:

Dist.	Name.	Address.	Date
II.	Wm. Vandever,	Dubuque,	1859-1862
VI.	A. W. Hubbard,	Sioux City,	1863 1868
	Charles Pomeroy,	Webster Co.	1869-1870
	Jackson Orr,	Boonesboro,	1871-1874
IX.	Addison Oliver,	Onawa,	1875-1878
	Cyrus C. Carpenter,	Fort Dodge,	1879-1882
X.	A. J. Holmes,	Boone,	1883-1888
	J. P. Dolliver,	Fort Dodge,	1889-date

Representatives in the General Assembly of Iowa.

SENATORS.				REPRESENTATIVES.		
G. A.	Dist.	Name.	County.	District.	Name.	County.
1860.	8th	32d, J. F. Duncombe,	Webster	51st.....	Samuel Rees	Webster
1861.*	"	" " " "	"	51st.....	Samuel Rees	Webster
1862.	9th	" " " "	"	58th.....	Chas. C. Smeltzer	Webster
" *	"	" " " "	"	58th.....	Chas. C. Smeltzer	Webster
1861.	10th	43d, Geo. W. Bassett,	Webster	60th.....	James W. Logan	Harrison
1866.	11th	44th, " " "	"	57th.....	Robert Alcorn	Webster
1868.	12th	45th, Theo. Hawley,	Webster	62d.....	Samuel Rees	Webster
1870.	13th	" " " "	"	59th.....	G. S. Toliver	Greene
1872.	14th	47th, Wm. H. Fitch,	Calhoun	67th.....	Robt. Struthers	Pocahontas
1873.*	"	" " " "	"	67th.....	Robt. Struthers	Pocahontas
1874.	15th	" " " "	"	71st.....	E. J. Hartshorn	Palo Alto
1876.	16th	47th, E. J. Hartshorn,	Palo Alto	51st.....	G. S. Robinson	Buena Vista
1878.	17th	" " " "	"	72d.....	L. H. Gordon	Buena Vista
1880.	18th	49th, E. J. Hartshorn,	"	72d.....	D. J. McDavid	Sac
1882.	19th	" " " "	"	72d.....	Horatio Pitcher	Cherokee
1884.	2th	47th, Chas. C. Chubb,	Kossuth	78th.....	Josiah D. McVay	Calhoun
1886.	21st	" " " "	"	78th.....	James J. Bruce	Pocahontas
1888.	22d	50th, A. O. Garlock,	Pocahontas	77th.....	Chas. W. Fillmore	Clay
1890.	23d	50th, Edgar E. Mack,	Buena Vista	77th.....	James Mercer	Pocahontas
1892.	24th	" " " "	"	76th.....	F. E. Carpenter	Humboldt
1894.	25th	50th, G. W. Henders'n	Pocahontas	76th.....	Parley Finch	Humboldt
1896.	26th	" " " "	"	76th.....	Parley Finch	Humboldt
1897.*	"	" " " "	"	76th.....	Parley Finch	Humboldt
1898.	27th	50th, Parley Finch,	Humboldt	79th.....	M. E. DeWolf	Pocahontas
1899.	"	" " " "	"	"	"	"

*Extra sessions of the General Assembly were held in 1861, 1862, 1873 and 1897.

powers of a court of law and equity.

REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS.

At the time of its organization in 1859, Pocahontas county was a part of the Second congressional district which then embraced the north half of the state. In 1862 it became a part

Mr. Dolliver, the present representative, has been five times re-elected and when his present term expires in 1900, his period of service from this district will have included twelve years.

The legislative authority in Iowa is vested in a General Assembly that con-

GENERAL EXHIBIT OF COUNTY OFFICERS,
1859 TO 1899.

	County Judge.	Auditor.	Clerk of Court.	Treasurer.	Recorder.
1859	David Slosson		A. H. Malcolm*	W. H. Hait	
1860	J. A. James		S. N. Harris†	W. H. Hait	
1861	I. N. Belknap†		S. N. Harris	"	
1862	Perry Nowlen		Ed. Hammond	Michael Collins	
1863	C. C. Converse†		Philip Russell	"	
1864	F. E. Metcalf		"	Michael Collins	
1865	F. E. Metcalf		W. H. Hait	Michael Collins	Robert Struthers
1866	S. N. Harris		Philip Russell†	W. H. Hait	"
1867	"		A. H. Malcolm	"	E. C. Brown
1868	S. N. Harris		W. D. McEwen	W. H. Hait	"
1869	W. D. McEwen†	W. D. McEwen†	W. D. McEwen	W. H. Hait	Thos. L. MacVey
1870	"	"	"	"	"
1871	"	W. D. McEwen	W. D. McEwen	J. J. Bruce	Thos. L. MacVey
1872	"	"	"	"	"
1873	"	W. D. McEwen	M. E. Owen	J. J. Bruce	Thos. L. MacVey
1874	"	A. O. Garlock	"	W. D. McEwen	"
1875	"	"	J. W. Wallace	"	Andrew Jackson
1876	"	A. O. Garlock	"	W. D. McEwen	"
1877	"	"	J. W. Wallace	"	Oscar I. Strong
1878	"	A. O. Garlock	"	W. D. McEwen	J. H. Lowrey†
1879	"	"	J. W. Wallace	"	Geo. Wallace†
1880	"	A. O. Garlock	"	W. D. McEwen	C. A. Bryant†
1881	"	"	J. W. Wallace	"	Michael Crahan
1882	"	C. H. Tollefsrude	"	W. D. McEwen	"
1883	"	"	J. W. Wallace	"	A. L. Thornton
1884	"	C. H. Tollefsrude	"	Wm. Brownlee	"
1885	"	"	J. W. Wallace	"	A. L. Thornton†
1886	"	T. F. McCartan	"	W. D. McEwen	May E. Thornton
1887	"	"	W. C. Ralston	"	W. F. Atkinson
1888	"	T. F. McCartan	"	J. N. McClellan	"
1889	"	"	W. C. Ralston	"	W. F. Atkinson
1890	"	T. F. McCartan	"	J. N. McClellan	"
1891	"	"	W. C. Ralston	"	R. D. Bollard
1892	"	"	"	J. N. McClellan	"
1893	"	F. G. Thornton	W. C. Ralston	"	R. D. Bollard
1894	"	"	"	C. A. Charlton	"
1895	"	F. G. Thornton	F. H. Plumb	"	R. D. Bollard
1896	"	"	"	C. A. Charlton	"
1897	"	I. C. Thatcher	F. H. Plumb	"	R. D. Bollard
1898	"	"	"	C. A. Charlton	"
1899	"	I. C. Thatcher	F. H. Plumb	"	L. E. Hanson
	Sheriff.	Superintendent.	Surveyor.	Coroner.	Drainage Com.
1859	Oscar Slosson	Perry Nowlen*	Guernsey Smith*	Henry Park	J. Edelman
1860	Henry Jarvis	O. F. Avery†	Robert Struthers	Wm. Jarvis	Wm. Jarvis
1861	"	W. H. Hait†	"	"	"
1862	Henry Jarvis	Ora Harvey†	Robert Struthers	Wm. Jarvis	"
1863	"	Michael Collins†	"	"	"
1864	Abel Stickney	Fred E. Metcalf	Robert Struthers	Ed. Hammond	"
1865	Ed. Hammond†	"	"	"	"
1866	Henry Jarvis	W. D. McEwen	Robert Struthers	Ed. Hammond	"
1867	"	"	"	"	"
1868	Henry Jarvis	"	Robert Struthers	John H. Johnson	"
1869	Oscar Slosson	J. J. Bruce	"	"	"
1870	Oscar Slosson	Dayid Miller	G. W. Strong	Joseph Clason	W. S. Fegles
1871	"	"	O. I. Strong†	"	"
1872	T. J. Curtis	G. W. Hathaway	Geo. Van Natta	Joseph Clason	W. S. Fegles
1873	"	"	Wm. Marshall†	"	"
1874	J. Breitenbach	O. I. Strong	Wm. Marshall	J. M. Carroll	"
1875	"	J. F. Clark†	"	"	"
1876	J. Breitenbach†	J. F. Clark	Wm. Marshall	John H. Johnson	"
1877	"	"	"	"	"
1878	T. L. Dean	David Miller	Wm. Marshall	J. C. Enfield	"
1879	"	"	"	"	"
1880	Jos. Mallison	O. I. Strong	Wm. Marshall	J. M. Brown	"
1881	"	"	"	"	"
1882	Jos. Mallison	J. P. Robinson	Wm. Marshall	J. C. Enfield	"
1883	"	"	"	"	"
1884	J. F. Pattee	J. P. Robinson	Lute C. Thornton	M. F. Patterson	"
1885	"	"	"	"	"
1886	J. F. Pattee	J. H. Campbell	John J. Cullen	J. M. Carroll	Co. Attorney.
1887	"	"	"	W. W. Bean	W. G. Bradley.
1888	J. F. Pattee	J. H. Campbell	L. C. Thornton	"	Byron J. Allen
1889	"	"	"	W. W. Bean	"
1890	J. A. Crummer	F. C. Gilchrist	H. W. Bissell	C. I. Delle	"
1891	"	"	"	J. M. Carroll	C. C. Delle

General Exhibit of County Officers, 1859 to 1899—Continued.

	Sheriff.	Superintendent.	Surveyor.	Coroner.	County Attorney
1892	J. A. Crummer	Clel. Gilchrist	H. W. Bissell	O. A. Pease	" "
1893	" "	" "	" "	" "	F. L. Dinsmore
1894	J. A. Crummer	Clel. Gilchrist	F. A. Malcolm	Frank Reyburn	" "
1895	" "	" "	" "	" "	F. L. Dinsmore
1896	J. A. Crummer	Clel. Gilchrist	F. A. Malcolm	Frank Reyburn	" "
1897	" "	" "	" "	" "	Wm. Hazlett
1898	John Ratcliff	A. W. Davis	H. W. Bissell	C. B. Lawrence	" "
1899	" "	" "	" "	" "	Wm. Hazlett

* Did not qualify.

† Appointed.

‡ Died while in office.

sists of a senate and house of representatives. The sessions of the General Assembly are held biennially and convene in the capitol at Des Moines, on the second Monday in January in each even-numbered year. Members of the house of representatives must be twenty-one years of age and are elected for a term of two years. State senators must be twenty-five years of age and are elected for a term of four

years. It will be perceived that during the past history of this county it has been represented in the state senate by two of its own citizens; Abram O. Garlock in 1888-89, and Geo. W. Henderson, 1894 to 1897. In the house it has been represented by Robert Struthers, in 1872 and 1873; James J. Bruce in 1886-87; James Mercer, 1890-91, and M. E. DeWolf, 1898-99.

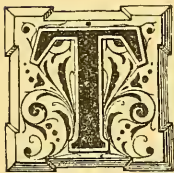
IX.

PIONEER PERIOD, 1855 TO 1869—OTHER IMPORTANT EVENTS

“As I sit in my home in the fire-light glow,
 Watching the shadows flit to and fro,
 My mind wanders back
 Over life’s thorny track,
 To the bright golden days of long ago.

A feeling of sadness comes stealing along,
 And with it some strains of a dear old song,
 That calls from the shadowy past
 Visions of joy too sweet to last:
 How the years with their treasures roll swiftly along!”

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, 1862 TO 1869.



THE first settlements in the southeast and northeast parts of the county previous to the year 1860, have already been noted; also the principal events of that and the previous years when the county was organized and the first court house built. All the proceedings of the county judges worthy of mention have also been noted and those of the board of supervisors during the year 1861.

NEWSPAPERS.

The Iowa Homestead, a weekly farmers’ journal, published in Des Moines in the early sixties by Mark Miller and later by G. Sprague, at \$2.00 a year, was subscribed for by the county board July 1, 1862; and this subscription for the Homestead was continued until 1869. In 1870, the board subscribed for a copy of the Western Farm Journal and it was continued until 1877, when the custom of the board to subscribe for an agricultural paper seems to have been

abandoned.

The delinquent tax list, in 1862, was published by John F. Duncombe, at Fort Dodge for \$130.00, and for several successive years by B. F. Gue, at the same place.

In 1869, the county printing was done for the first time in a home paper by local parties. For that year the delinquent tax list, the proceedings of the board and the advertisements of the sale of the school lands of Des Moines, Clinton, Lizard and Powhatan townships, the only ones then organized, were printed in the Pocahontas Journal, of which Wm. D. McEwen and J. J. Bruce were the proprietors. They received for this work \$237.00, and on Feb. 9, 1870, the Journal was again selected to do the county printing, including the publication of the laws of the 13th General Assembly that year.

HONOR ROLL.

On June 6, 1863, by the appointment of

Edw. Hammond	for Clinton Twp.
Philip Russell	“ Lizard “
W. H. Hait	“ Des Moines “

an arrangement was made for the enrollment of the militia of the county which included all the able-bodied male citizens between the years of eighteen and forty-five, who were not exempt from military duty.

At their meeting held Jan. 2, 1865, the board agreed to pay a bounty of \$900 to each volunteer who would enter the army or navy of the United States, and the later records show that Dennis Quigley and Thos. Quigley were recipients of this special bounty. This volunteer *bounty* fund was raised by an assessment of four mills on the dollar during the year of 1865. A soldiers' *relief* fund of two mills on the dollar had been raised for the benefit of those who had enlisted at the beginning of the war, namely:

A. H. Malcolm, Henry Cooper,
Oscar Slosson, Henry Tilley,
Chas. W. Jarvis, Hiram Evans,
W. S. Fegles, John Gayler,
Andrew Mills.

"For those true men who fought to lift
Our country's banner high in air,
Wreaths of lilies we weave and bring
Roses and star-eyed pansies fair."

During the war, Pocahontas county furnished eleven men, which was one-third of the able-bodied residents of the county at the time. This was her full quota and there was no need of a resort to a draft.

Four of those named above, namely, A. H. Malcolm, Henry Cooper, Hiram Evans and Oscar Slosson enlisted at the same time—Sept. 2., 1861, at Fort Dodge—and became members of Co. A, 11th Pennsylvania Volunteers, under Captain Franklin A. Stratton, of Fort Dodge. This company went by stage to Cedar Falls, the nearest railroad station, and in due season arrived at Dubuque where they were mustered in, September 21st, following.

On October 6th they were transported via Chicago and Pittsburg to Washington. At Newton Hamilton, Pa., where the train stopped to let another

one pass it, a member of the company, Peter Bowers, was killed by falling under the wheels in trying to board the train while in motion. With others he had gone to get some ripe apples from a tree near the railroad and the train was moving slowly from the station when he returned.

At Washington the company found their tents, horses, bridles, saddles and sabers awaiting them, and on December 24th they passed to Annapolis, where they embarked on an old worn-out propeller—Pocahontas—and landed at Fortress Monroe. Here in March, 1862, they witnessed the destruction of the Congress and the grounding of the Minnesota by the rebel ram, "Merrimac," and its destruction by the Monitor on the day following. Other places where the company was located were Norfolk, Suffolk, Gatesville, North Carolina; Windsor, Hanover Court House, Yorktown, Williamsburg, Gloucester and Petersburg. On September 20, 1864, only 37 of the 83 men comprising the company remained with it to be mustered out at Jones' Landing, and of this number were Henry Cooper, John Gayler, trumpeter, and Sergeant A. H. Malcolm, from Pocahontas county. The company had been constantly engaged doing scouting work in front of the rebel lines, and many had become victims of disease, died in rebel prisons or had fallen in conflicts with the enemy. Their return was via Bermuda Hundred, Fortress Monroe (where they waited three days for their pay) and Baltimore.

FIRST TAX SALE.

The first instructions of the board to the assessors seem to have been given on Jan. 6, 1863, when the assessors of the three townships then organized were directed to estimate the value of the taxable property of the county as follows:

Working oxen (pair)...\$25 00 to \$50 00
3-yr-old steers..... 12 00 " 18 00

Horses.....	15 00	“	75 00
Cows.....	7 00	“	10 00
Real estate.....	2 00	per acre	

For the year 1864, this valuation was directed to be considerably higher, so that a pair of oxen should rate \$40 to \$80; 1-year-old steers, \$6 to \$10 each; horses, \$15 to \$100 each, and swine 50 cents to \$1.50 a head. The land continued to be rated at \$2.00 an acre until the last year of the period, (1869) when it was raised to \$2.50 an acre.

The first sale of lands for the non-payment of taxes, seems to have occurred at the court house, May 15, 1862, under the direction of Michael Collins, county treasurer. At this sale a large number of lands were sold for delinquent taxes, and Pitt Cook was the principal purchaser. After the sale some doubts arose in regard to its legality, owing to the fact no warrant had been endorsed on the tax lists by the proper officers of the county to the treasurer, authorizing him to collect the taxes, and some of the previous owners threatened to commence legal proceedings against the treasurer of the county for the recovery of the lands. On March 3, 1863, the board of supervisors found it necessary to sign a bond of \$10,000 to indemnify the county treasurer before it was deemed advisable for him to disburse the funds received from this tax sale. Later, \$62.08 was returned to Pitt Cook for lands erroneously sold, and to Caspar Rice were returned all funds received from him, with interest; and to Widow Washburn was restored the title to her lands, and in 1868 to E. G. Morgan, also.

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

The first three county roads have already been noted. During the latter part of this pioneer period a number of new roads were laid out, of which the principal ones were as follows: On Nov. 6, 1865, Hugh Collins was appointed to view and locate a road from the northeast corner of sec-

tion 24, Lizard township, westward to the Buena Vista county line.

The next year Jeremiah Young was appointed to locate the Des Moines river and Swan Lake road, commencing at the northeast corner of the NW¼ Sec. 26, Des Moines township, and running west to intersect the Buena Vista county road as near Swan Lake as practicable. In the survey of this road Oscar I. Strong was assisted by Henry Thomas as carrier. On the petition of Patrick Forey and others the Branch road was established extending from the Des Moines river to the north line of section 1, Lizard township; thence to Lizard creek and thence on the nearest and most practicable route to the county road in Buena Vista county. This road was located by Henry Cooper and surveyed by O. I. Strong, assisted by Charles and Geo. W. Strong, chain carriers.

At the request of A. H. Malcolm and others, the same year a road was established, commencing at the north line of section 4, Des Moines township, extending thence south to the quarter stake on the east line of section 28, thence east to the center of section 26, until it intersected the Des Moines river and Lizard road. A. H. Malcolm was appointed to view and locate this road and it was surveyed by Robert Struthers assisted by Oscar Slosson and Joseph Clason, chain carriers, and James Drown, axeman.

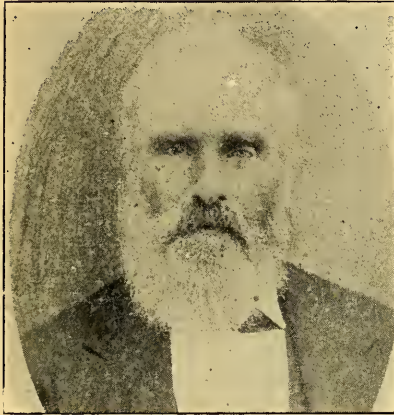
In 1867, the Clinton road was established at the request of Daniel W. Hunt and others, and it was located by Samuel N. Harris; and the next year the Barrett and Boyd road was established in Lizard township. This road was located by R. L. Sherman, and surveyed by D. C. Russell assisted by John Price, axeman. The Powhatan and Lizard road was established the same year at the request of Daniel Thomas and others. It was located by B. L. Inman and



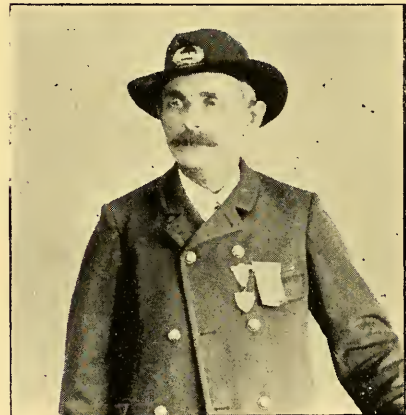
ORA HARVEY, Clinton Twp.
Co. Supervisor, 1861-1868



MRS. ORA HARVEY



DAVID SLOSSON,
First Co. Judge, Mar. 15 to Dec. 31, 1859.
Co. Sup'v'r, 1861, 63-67, 70-71, 74-79.



ROMEYN B. FISH,
County Supervisor, 1872-73

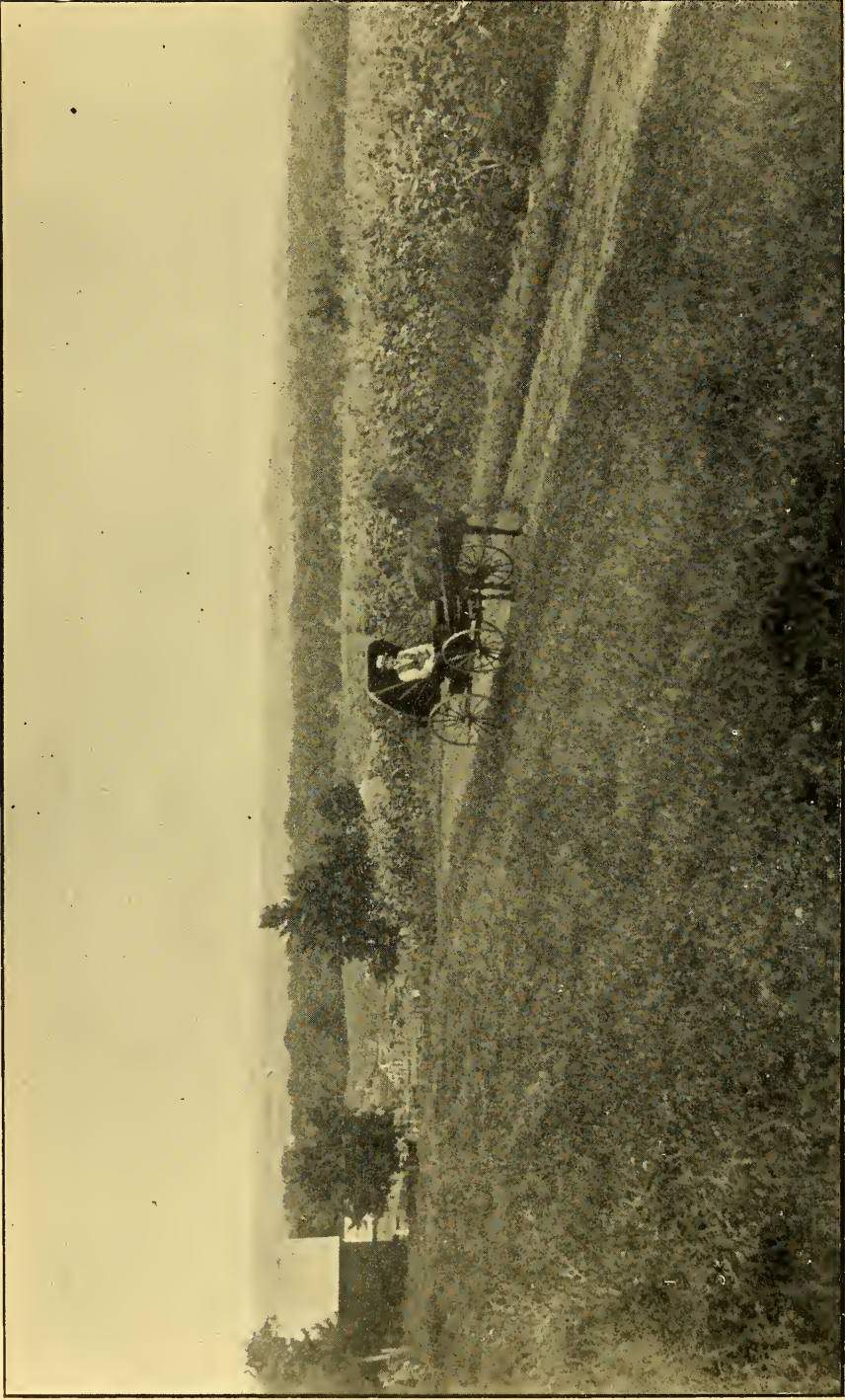


Bruce & McEwen's Store



Brick School House 1861

OLD ROLFE.



VIEW OF THE DES MOINES RIVER VALLEY LOOKING SOUTH-EAST FROM OLD ROLFE COURT HOUSE SITE.

The barn at the left is W. H. Hait's; the timber belt is along the river and the horizon line is over in Humboldt County. Chas. E. Fraser, a Pocahontas County boy, appears in his rig.

surveyed by O. I. Strong assisted by E. J. and D. Strong.

In 1866, Henry Cooper and others petitioned for a road extending from the south line of section 4, Des Moines township, so as to intersect the Fort Dodge and Spirit Lake road, and thence west to the west line of Powhatan township. This road was located and surveyed by Henry Cooper and it was known as the Coopertown road.

In 1869, the Depot road was established in Lizard township at the request of H. B. Vaughn, and it was located by E. V. Brown.

In 1862 arrangements were made for the erection of three important bridges—one over the Des Moines river, by W. H. Hait, and two over the Lizard, one by Charles Kelley and the other over the north fork by Michael Morissey. The two latter were inspected by Robert Struthers, and his report, which was spread upon the records, shows the discriminating judgment and sterling integrity of that worthy pioneer. His report was as follows:

MILTON, Jan. 2, 1866.

TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

GENTLEMEN—According to appointment, I did visit on the 15th day of July, 1865, the two bridges built over the Lizard. I found the one built by Charles Kelly complete, but the other one was very imperfect both as regards material and workmanship.

ROBERT STRUTHERS.

On October 18, 1865, Messrs. Elijah D. Seeley, Charles Campbell and Wm. D. McEwen reported favorably on the completion of the bridge built over the Des Moines river by W. H. Hait.

The dates of these reports indicate that these public improvements moved slowly in those days. It was the period of the war when public attention was directed to the scene of conflict, and every available man had enlisted. It was also the period of hard times and there was not to be found either the men or the money to secure the

speedy erection of these public improvements. When these contracts were let there was no money in the county treasury to pay for them. The funds were provided by voting a special three-mill tax in November, 1862, for the Des Moines river bridge and a two and one-half mill tax, on September 5, 1863, for the two bridges over the Lizard, that cost \$1,396. The whole number of votes polled at this last election was twenty-four, and twenty-three of them were for the special levy.

During the sixties two other bridges were built, one by W. H. Hait, over Pilot creek in 1865, at a cost of \$250; and one by Charles Kelley, over the Lizard, and inspected by W. H. Hait, Robert Struthers and Jas. McCaskey. In the last year of this period (1869) provision was made for the erection of a number of bridges. Thomas L. MacVey was appointed to view the ground and prepare the specifications for one where the Branch road crossed Pilot creek, near the home of D. W. Hunt, and another one over Beaver creek, where it is crossed by the line of section 27, Des Moines township. The latter was erected by Henry Jarvis, for \$167.00. Andrew Jackson built one over the Big Slough on the Branch road and another one on the Swan Lake road where it crossed the Lizard, each of them costing \$175.00. J. C. VanNatta built one over Beaver creek on the North Branch road for \$255.00. Contracts were also made with Michael Wiese for the erection of two bridges over the Lizard, one on the Depot road for \$445 and the other on the Barrett and Boyd road for \$425.00.

In 1867, the fourth member was added to the board of supervisors, Nunda (now Powhatan) township being represented. On June 6th, Galusha Parsons, of Fort Dodge, was employed as an attorney for the county at a salary of \$25.00 a year. The dis-

district attorney at this time lived in Dickinson county. The first fees for services as constable seem to have been paid this year to Joseph Clason who received \$1.00 for services rendered under the direction of the district court. The first of the county coroners to receive compensation seems to have been John H. Johnson, of Lizard township, who received \$16.90 for services in 1869. The salary of the sheriff in 1864 was \$20.00; in 1869 it was raised to \$50.00 and in 1870 to \$100.00. The salary of the county superintendent from 1868 to 1870 averaged \$100.00 a year. The salary of the double office of treasurer and recorder in 1864 was \$840; the next year these offices were separated, and in 1870 the salary of the treasurer was fixed at \$1000, and that of the auditor at \$800.

WOLF BOUNTY.

On Nov. 15, 1864, the board agreed to give a bounty of \$2.00 each for wolf scalps in addition to the \$1.00 provided by the state. Those who were recipients of this wolf bounty in 1865, were Wm. Harris for one and Charles Kelley for two scalps. In 1866, Joseph Clason received \$21.00 for five scalps. Some of these were timber and others were prairie wolves, and two of them were claimed to be a cross between the timber and prairie wolf, and for these two he received \$5.00 each.

On Jan. 8, 1867, the board increased the bounty on wolves to \$5.00 each, and the recipients that year were Joseph Clason, \$25.00; David J. Bishop, \$5.00; Richard Chatfield, \$10.00 and Samuel Bowman, \$6.00 for six swifts. The swift was an animal having the color and habits of a small fox, but with a darker head, more slender form and swifter movement. The prairie wolf was a little larger and darker in color than the coyote and the timber wolf was about twice as large as the prairie wolf.

On Feb. 29, 1868, the board rescind-

ed the act allowing a county bounty on wolves, but before this act was passed, Wm. L. Clason and Richard Chatfield each reported the capture of two wolves that day.

On Jan. 4, 1869, the board agreed to give a bounty of \$3.00 each for wolves caught in this county. On the next day, however, when it was known that O. F. Avery, of Humboldt county, but county superintendent in 1861, was in town with seventeen wolf scalps, the board hastily rescinded its action of the previous day and gave him a warrant for the state bounty at \$1.00 each. The other recipients of the state bounty that year were Richard Chatfield, Wm. L. and Henry Clason.

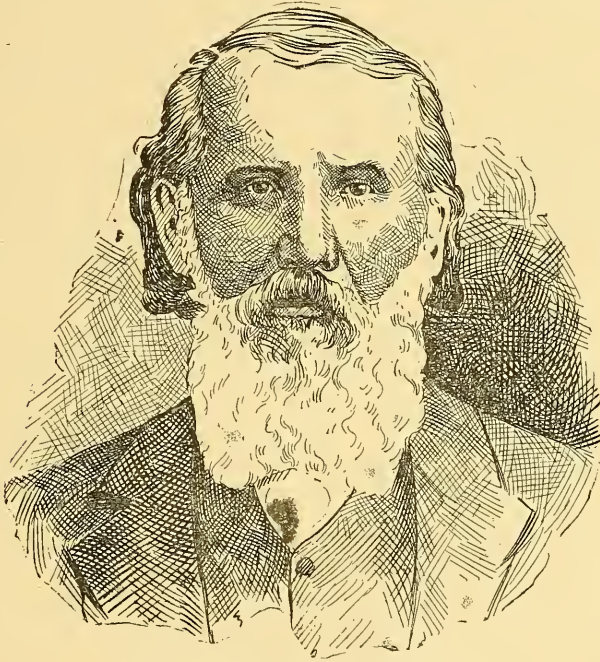
UNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The first religious services held in Pocahontas county were conducted by Rev. David S. McComb, of Algona, who, visiting the northeast part of this county in the spring of 1859, organized the Unity Presbyterian church with a membership consisting of the following persons: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Struthers, of Pocahontas county; Mr. and Mrs. John McCormack, Sr., Thomas and John McCormack, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Carter, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel McClellan, of Palo Alto county; Mr. and Mrs. Seth G. Sharp and Mrs. Hannah Evans, of Humboldt county, and Mr. and Mrs. Edward McNight. At the time of its organization John McCormack, Sr., John McCormack, Jr., and S. G. Sharp were appointed elders, and a little later Joseph Clason was added to their number. Others who served in this capacity during the later years of this organization were Robert Lothian, James Dean, Robert Struthers and Robert Anderson.

The services were held once in two weeks and at the homes of the settlers. A frequent place of meeting was the cabin of Edward McNight, a settler from Pennsylvania, who in 1856 had

erected a substantial log cabin in the grove of natural timber near the county line on the eastward curve of the Des Moines river, now known as McNight's Point. As soon as it was ready for occupancy in 1860, the court house at Old Rolfe became the regular place of meeting and later the brick school house when it was com-

Dubuque, Maquoketa and Delaware county, in 1856 he located at Algona, then a mere hamlet, where he organized a church. In October, 1861, he was elected county judge of Kossuth county for one year. He was the first moderator of the Presbytery of Fort Dodge, November 2, 1865. In 1868 he located on a homestead in Palo Alto



REV. DAVID S. McCOMB,

The pioneer preacher of Pocahontas County. Pastor of Unity Presbyterian Church, Old Rolfe, 1859 to 1871.

pleted in 1861.

Rev. David S. McComb ministered to this congregation nearly thirteen years, 1859 to 1871. He was a native of Washington county, Pa., a graduate of Jefferson college and Allegheny Theological seminary. He was ordained in 1841 and four years later came to Iowa where he spent a life-long service in pioneer missionary work. After pastorates in Oskaloosa,

county, one mile west of Rodman, where he died June 12, 1888. As a minister he was always very prompt in meeting his appointments. In storm and wind as well as sunshine he was seeking out the destitute and bringing to them the tidings of the gospel. So fearless was he in his work that riding in a severe gale to meet one of his appointments, he lost the sight of one of his eyes. Of this pio-

neer preacher it may be said:
 "This man never preached for money,
 If he did he never got it;
 He had faults and many virtues,
 He was conscientious and devoted,
 Persevering and determined.
 Long his name will be remembered."

Other pastors who served this Unity church were Mr. Hugh McGuire, in 1872; Rev. Walter L. Lyons, three years, 1873 to 1875; Mr. F. F. Young, a student of Park college, two years, 1876 to 1878, and Lyman C. Gray, two years, 1879 and 1880. At this date the new town of Rolfe was located in Clinton township, the place of meeting was changed and a new organization being effected known as the Second Presbyterian church of Rolfe, the former organization known as the Unity Presbyterian church, after an existence of twenty-one years, became obsolete.

THE LAST BUFFALO CHASE.

The buffalo, that noble specimen of the ox species, that once grazed in almost countless numbers on these beautiful prairies, afforded the red man abundance of meat, and so much did he prefer it to all others while it was available, that deer, elk and other smaller kinds of game were left to sport upon the prairies undisturbed, unless their hides were needed for dress or tent coverings. The buffalo, or more properly speaking, the bison, is a noble animal and it once roamed over the vast prairies from the borders of Mexico on the south to Hudson's bay on the north. Their size was somewhat larger than that of common cattle and their flesh, which had a delicious flavor resembling and equaling that of fat beef, furnished the savages of these vast regions a wholesome and substantial element of food upon which they sometimes lived almost exclusively; while their hides, horns, hoofs and bones were utilized for clothing, tenting and the construction of bows, shields and ornaments. The male when fully grown, was one of

the most formidable and frightful looking animals in the world when excited to resistance; his long, shaggy mane hung in great profusion over his neck and shoulders and often extended quite down to the ground. The cow was less in stature and less ferocious, but just about as wild and frightful in her appearance.

In noting the large boulders in this county a reference was made to the supposed "buffalo wallow" at the base of the one in Lincoln township. An account of these old landmarks is now appropriate.

Like a "buffalo in his wallow," is an old adage that had a very significant meaning to those who have seen the male buffalo perform his ablutions, or rather cool his heated sides in the warmer weather by tumbling about in a mud puddle.

In the heat of summer these huge animals, that no doubt suffer great discomfort from the profusion of their long and shaggy hair, while grazing on the low grounds or sloughs on the prairies where there is a little standing water upon the surface and the ground underneath is soft, lowered upon one knee will plunge first their horns and then their head, shoving out the earth and making an excavation in the ground into which the water filters from the surrounding surface and forms for them a cool and comfortable bathing place into which they plunge like a pig in the mire. Into this delightful laver the buffalo throws himself flat upon his side and forcing himself violently around, with his horns and huge hump on his shoulders he continues to plow up the ground by a rotary motion and sinks himself deeper and deeper by the constant enlargement of the place until he becomes nearly immersed.

"Oft in the full descending flood he
 tries,
 To lose the scent and lave his burn-
 ing sides."

It is generally the leader of the herd that makes the wallow, and when he has cooled his sides in the water and mud mixed into a perfect mortar that completely changes his color, he comes forth a walking mass of dripping, black mortar—a hideous monster of mud and ugliness too frightful and eccentric to describe.

One wallow served for a herd, and when the leader came forth from it another and another stood ready to enjoy this luxury until the entire herd had their turn, each adding a little to its size and carrying away an equal share of the dirty, black mortar. These wallows were often left fifteen to twenty feet in diameter and two feet deep; and when filled with vegetable deposits through the lapse of years they have yielded an unusual growth of grass and herbage in circular form that has attracted the attention of the traveler and awakened his curiosity.*

The chief hunting amusement of the Indians consisted in the chase of the buffalo which was almost invariably done on horseback with bow and arrow. Mounted on his little wild horse, which had also been caught on the prairies and trained for the chase, without bit or bridle the Indian dashed off at a full speed for the herd, and when alongside his game, sent his deadly arrows to their hearts from the back of his pony.

And now the morning sun ascends the sky,
The armed hunters after the buffalo
hie. —VIRGIL.

On August 20, 1863, the last buffalo seen in Pocahontas county was chased and killed by W. H. Hait assisted by Orlando Slosson, Robinson Gordon and Abiel Stickney.

Mrs. Charles Jarvis, whose husband that year was running Mr. Hait's sawmill and with her living in his home, and now a resident of Bradgate,

*George Catlin, in *North American Indians*.

was the first to see this one in the distance. On going to milk the cows at the barn in the morning before breakfast she found them missing, and viewing the country around to see where they were, her eye fell on a strange looking object capering on a little knoll on section 22, about one and one-half miles northwest of the court house, that awakened her surprise. Mr. Hait was in the court house at this time, and when he returned home for breakfast and his attention was called to it he recognized it as a buffalo.

Mr. Hait hurriedly partook of some breakfast and then began to prepare for the chase by summoning to his assistance the men named above. Three things were needed—fleet horses, good weapons and ammunition. In the court house there were some old Springfield army muskets, but there was no ammunition suited for them. The only ammunition available was in the form of some little cartridges for a small (No. 32) revolver owned by Mr. Hait. As it was deemed advisable that each man should have a loaded weapon, the muskets were loaded as best they could be with that kind of ammunition, and while Mr. Hait took his revolver, each of his assistants was armed with a musket. Unfortunately suitable horses were as scarce as the weapons, there being but one horse available that could run as fast as a buffalo. Happily this one belonged to Mr. Hait, and he mounted it while the others took such as they could get. Thus equipped

“They to the buffalo's pursuit,
With spurring put their horses to it;
And, till all four were out of wind
And their game captured, never looked
behind.”*

As the buffalo was capering with manifest enjoyment, they did not plan to flank or surround him, but started off in high glee expecting to give him a general broadside that would lay

*Hudibras.

him low; but when they had proceeded a short distance the buffalo perceived them and avoided the broadside by quitting his capering, turning tail and speeding away in a northwesterly direction. The chase was now begun with all possible earnestness, each hunter urging his steed to make his utmost speed.

Mr. Hait, who was riding a horse bred in Kentucky and one of the fleetest ever brought to this county, was soon a considerable distance ahead of the others, and it became apparent that his steed was the only one in the lot that could run as fast as the buffalo. After a chase of two miles or more he overtook the buffalo and galloping by his side, at the distance of one rod, he fired in quick succession as many shots as he could from his little revolver, aiming at the heart of the brute.

When the third wound had been inflicted the buffalo became enraged and, charging furiously at the steed of his pursuer, compelled Mr. Hait to beat a hasty retreat. This retreat took the form of a semi-circle, and the buffalo followed Mr. Hait until his companions arrived, when each of them fired a shot as he had opportunity. About the only effect of these shots was to lead the buffalo to attack each man as he inflicted a wound. One of the men in his effort to avoid the charge of the buffalo, dropped and lost his musket in the grass.

Mr. Hait having reloaded, and seeing the danger of his companions who were scarcely able to keep out of his way when pursued by the enraged brute, for the purpose of attracting him from them, again rode close by and fired another series of shots at his heart. This was the crisis or turning point in the battle with this buffalo. The buffalo did not now attack Mr. Hait as before but sought shelter from his pursuers and relief from the

oppressive heat by running in a westerly direction to the center of a large slough. All the men now realized the danger connected with their undertaking. The retreat of the buffalo was a source of great relief, affording them time to reload their weapons and give their exhausted steeds a few moments of greatly needed rest.

The battle after this point took the form of a series of skirmishes in as many as four or five different sloughs, each one being some distance further westward. In these skirmishes in the sloughs, the men would go as near to the buffalo as they could safely with their horses and firing at him he would charge upon them, compel them to retreat and then seek refuge in another one further west.

At last the buffalo became too weak and weary to charge upon his pursuers and finding they could not kill him outright, they drove him back about a half-mile when, exhausted and dying, he lay down on that part of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 24, Powhatan township, that is now owned by Dora Strong. When he lay down Orlando Slosson ventured close to him and fired two more shots into him after which he soon expired. About three hours had been occupied in the chase, and the place where he fell was about five miles northwest of Old Rolfe.

Mr. Hait and two of the men now returned home for a team and left Oscar Slosson to guard their game and enable them to find the place where he was lying. The latter, however, became very dry, and going some distance in search of a stream of running water, lost his bearing and was vainly trying to find the buffalo, now concealed from view at a distance by the tall grass of the prairie in the midst of which he was lying, when his companions returned with the team. By following his trail in the grass the buffalo was finally located.

This buffalo was a very large one and

his weight was estimated at 1400 pounds. His horns were not very long but were very strong, being fully three inches in diameter at the base and each had seventeen rings. They removed his hide and the hump of lean meat on the top of his neck and shoulders. The latter was about the size of the drum of an old-fashioned cook stove, weighed over one hundred pounds, and being divided among the settlers who lived in the vicinity of Old Rolfe, furnished them a good, tender steak as long as they were able to keep it in the hot weather.

This was the last buffalo known to have grazed on the prairies of this county. This largest of American game, like the Indian to whom he was the principal means of subsistence, is fast passing away at the approach of civilized man. In the winter of 1881 and 1882 there were killed in this country 80,000 of these noble creatures. At this time there remains only a few small herds of them and they are in the region of country drained by the head waters of the Missouri river west of the Black Hills. In a very few years the wild buffalo will live only in books that contain his history and in pictures upon canvas.

THE LAST INDIAN HUNT, JULY 13, 1864.

Among the many incidents of interest that happened to the early pioneers of this county were those caused by Indian scares. The Spirit Lake Massacre occurred in 1857 and the greater one at New Ulm a few miles further north in 1862, and one is not surprised at the statement that the mere report of the red man advancing upon the defenceless and unprotected settlers always had a very disquieting effect; and when the report was communicated by one who had a sight of the real Indian dressed in war costume with feathers and gun, as was the case in 1864, the effect was magical.

In the month of July, 1864, what

was believed to be a lone Indian was reported to have been seen passing down Pilot creek amid the timber in Clinton township. He was decked with war-paint, had the ominous feathers in his cap and carried his gun in his hand. This report excited and aroused all the settlers for many miles around Old Rolfe, and they deemed it expedient to take immediate steps for their mutual protection. The fact that the Indian disappeared as suddenly as he had made his appearance, left the community in a state of bewilderment almost unendurable.

Scouting parties scoured the country for a short distance around, the first evening, but did not discover any trace of the Indians. On the following morning about sixty of the settlers of Pocahontas and Humboldt counties assembled at a place in the southeastern part of Powhatan township, then known by the euphonious name of Gandertown, and a council of war was held. It was finally decided to divide their number into two companies, one of which under the command of Oscar F. Avery, should go west to Swan Lake, and the other under the leadership of Edward Hammond, should go south to Lizard lake.

The first party, under O. F. Avery, started in a westerly direction but the day being cloudy and dark, the tall grass of the prairies trackless and the region traversed uninhabited, they found it a difficult matter to keep the right course. At three o'clock in the afternoon they discovered they were at the southern extremity of Rush lake, which is about six miles north-east of Swan Lake. They arrived at the latter place about five o'clock.

This long and tedious ride, like other similar ones, was not lacking in its amusing features. Its tediousness was somewhat mellowed by listening to the many and various plans that

some of the brave members of the

party proposed to execute in the event they had the good fortune to find the fiendish and brutal Sioux.

As they neared the timber that skirted the outlet at the southeast part of the lake they began to discover trails made by the passing and re-passing of Indian ponies along the lake; signs that told quite plainly that the much hated red man had occupied this locality, but just how long before that day it was impossible to tell.

While the leader of the party was searching intently for newly made signs of the presence of Indians and was about to enter the timber, he was surprised to find that the horses of a large number of the party had suddenly become very tired on arriving at a shooting distance of the timber, and refused to advance any nearer. The only remaining horses, that retained vigor enough to carry their riders to the timber with their leader, were those in charge of W. H. Hait, Fred E. Metcalf and A. M. Adams, who is now editor of the Humboldt Independent.

These four men proceeded cautiously through the narrow belt of timber and across the outlet of the lake. There they found, not the Indians they were looking for, but a deserted place where seven tepees or Indian tents had been recently pitched and the campfire was still burning; and strewn promiscuously around it were the fresh remains of elk, deer and fish. A careful inspection led to the conclusion that this camp had been deserted about twenty-four hours before and they dismounted for the purpose of resting their tired limbs.

A few moments later Metcalf discovered a sand-hill crane a few rods distant and, thinking no harm would result, shot the bird; but before the echo of the gun had died away they were startled by the sound of horses galloping at a distance. This led

them to feel they had misinterpreted the deserted camp and that they were soon going to be surrounded by a band of the treacherous and savage Sioux.

Hastily remounting their steeds and recrossing the belt of timber, they were surprised to find that none of the horses of their brave comrades were near at hand but at the distance of a mile or more were passing over the brow of a slight elevation, bearing their riders at a breakneck speed in the direction of Old Rolfe. At the distance of two miles some of them halted to investigate the cause of alarm, but of two of their number it is said, they were so badly frightened they were unable to check their horses until they were once more within sight of the old court house.

On realizing, with considerable feeling of amusement, the new situation of affairs, Mr. Avery and his companions again dismounted for a short time to let their horses rest and feed. They then returned to Old Rolfe, where they arrived about eleven o'clock that night. Edward Hammond and his party, whose trip to Lizard lake had been without incident save the disappointment in not finding some trace of Indians, had returned to this place, and about two hundred others, old and young, had also gathered here from the surrounding country for their better protection from the Indians and to hear the news. About midnight O. F. Avery, Edward Hammond, Ora Harvey, A. M. Adams, W. H. Hait and their families with an armament from the court house armory, consisting of a half dozen Harper's Ferry muskets of the patent of 1827, returned to Avery's Park Grove farm, located across the line in Humboldt county. The others also sought places of safety and rest for the night.

Thus ended one of the most exciting incidents in the early history of Pocahontas county. No event connected

with the quiet life of the little village of Old Rolfe ever developed anything like the intense and long sustained excitement of this memorable 13th day of July, 1864.

Time hath wrought a wondr'us change,
The painted warrior is no more;
The pale intruders' herds now range
Along the lake and river shore.

THE GRASS AND MOSQUITOES.

The grass of the prairies in these early days was very luxuriant. The prevalence of a large amount of surface water in the sloughs and ponds resulted in the luxuriant growth of several varieties of tall grasses that was neither cut nor pastured, and in midsummer this growth of grass to a great extent prevented the evaporation of the surface water. Illustrations of three kinds of native grasses appear in the frontispiece of this volume. The samples of wild rye at the left and of panic or upland prairie grass at the right were each three and one-half feet in height, and the sample of fresh water cord or fine slough grass in the center, measured seven and one-half feet. Another variety known as coarse slough grass and also the iron weed, both grew to the height of seven to eight feet, so that a man riding horseback amid these tall grasses in the low places could knot them over his head and ride forth from under the knot.

The sloughs with their moisture and luxuriant vegetation became breeding places for the mosquitoes, and from early spring until the first frost of autumn their musical notes were heard. It was impossible to milk the cows after sundown without a smudge (a smoky fire) or a protection of mosquito bar over the face. It was conceded by all who spoke of the mosquitoes that they were the "toughest and longest bill of fare the pioneer had to contend with."

The mosquito has been described as "the smallest fowl that navigates the

air." Although they do not soar so high as other fowls they make fouler sores than any other and are so tame that they will eat out of your hand. They are not very devout and yet they sing. As songsters they are a success, making some of the sweetest sounds ever heard. One was sometimes constrained to lie awake all night to listen to their strains even if it was a confounded strain on the sleeper. If any one did not like their music and "got on his ear" about it, they were very accommodating and pretty sure to light on his ear. One naturally liked their music better than anything else about them. Many a time has an early settler, as he lay upon his downy bed, listened to their charming music until he, too, would join their melody by shouting "Shoo fly!" and clap his hands together in the hope of capturing some of his interesting little serenaders.

TRIALS AND PRIVATIONS.

The early settlers in a homestead country are usually not very rich in this world's goods, and their first years in the new country are invariably characterized by privation and hardship, especially if the promised railroad lags at an eastern terminus. The markets are at a great distance from home, the rivers and sloughs are unbridged and during a considerable portion of the year impassable, thus forcing the pioneer to depend on his own resources.

In the spring of 1867 the streams were unusually high and the dam of the mill at Fort Dodge, which was the nearest one accessible to the pioneers of this county, was swept away. No flour could then be procured nearer than Boonesboro, Nevada or Webster City, and it was impossible to reach these places for several weeks, because nearly all the bridges were also swept away.

Very few of the settlers had any great quantity of flour or meal on

hand for they had neither the room nor the receptacles for it, and long before the waters subsided so that the streams could be forded or the mills repaired the supply of these necessities of life in the northeast part of the county was exhausted. The outlook was dark and discouraging. Nearly all had grain of some kind in the crib or bin, but they had no means of converting it into meal or flour. The settlers of Powhatan township, being the furthest from all sources of supply, were the worst off.

During this period many of them lived on johnny-cake and hominy. The corn was converted into meal by running it through a coffee-mill. Unfortunately there were but two or three coffee-mills in the township at this time and the settlers had to take their turns in grinding their little grists, each doing his own turning.

The grinding of the flinty corn on the coffee-mill was a slow process and hard work. The mill had to be set so as to grind it coarsely the first time and when set closer the grist was run through it a second time before it was fine enough for use. The effort to "keep the wolf from the door" by this means was declared by one to be a real "ground-hog case," and one of the good ladies remarked that there was always a "bear in the house" whenever her husband run the mill, which was three times a day. The time required to grind a one-meal grist for a family of four was three quarters of an hour, and the head of the family was usually glad there were no more. The first flour, that was brought into the Powhatan settlement after the spring floods of 1867 had subsided, was hauled on wagons from Iowa Falls to Humboldt and cost there \$11.00 a hundred weight.

Sometimes when the corn began to mature in the fall of the year, ears that were soft enough were reduced

to a coarse meal by rubbing them over a rude grate made by punching holes in the bottom of a tin pan; and when the grain became drier many an ear was reduced by means of a jack-plane. Wheat from the bin was often boiled and eaten with a fair degree of thankfulness, and hominy was made from the corn in the crib. When coffee and tea could not be obtained or afforded, a substitute was found in a decoction made from corn and peas mixed together, roasted and ground.

This coarse, rough food, consisting of boiled wheat, whole or cracked corn, agreed very well with the young and vigorous but it was not a suitable diet for the sick and aged. An elderly lady, (Mrs. Lowrey) who had been in the settlement only a short time and was in poor health, failed rapidly when the supply of nourishing food was exhausted and, her immortal spirit passing to that land where there is neither hunger nor thirst, on the morning of May 15, 1867, she was buried at Old Rolfe the next day.

The year 1869 was also remarkable for an unusual rainfall. The heavy rains of the spring filled all the sloughs, ponds and streams. During the months of July, August and September that year it rained about four days in each week and the streams were full of water all that year.

On March 27th that year, the mill-dam at Fort Dodge was again swept away. Among the first to discover this fact were James J. Bruce, William Price and Charles Kelley, of Lizard township, as they were returning home from Fort Dodge. Knowing this event was not known in Fort Dodge they immediately returned to that city and bought all the flour available on that market at \$7.00 a barrel. When the dealers later learned of the washout and found they could not get another supply of flour except by team from Webster City after the floods should subside,

they created quite a row until they succeeded in buying back their own stocks at an advanced price.

In the month of June following, a little incident occurred in Lizard township that illustrates the inconvenience of living in a country where the streams are unbridged. At the county convention that year Messrs. W. D. McEwen and James J. Bruce were appointed delegates from this county to attend the senatorial nominating convention. A couple of days before the senatorial convention the former came on horseback to Lizard township, where the latter was still making his home. The next morning they started on their trip to the convention, having only one horse between them. When they came to the Lizard, near the line between section 29 and 30, it was bankfull and too deep for them both to ride across on the back of the same pony. The crossing was, however, successfully effected by one of them taking the pony and the clothing of the other while the latter swam across. The public spirit of these men, or their interest in the convention, was not dampened by the high water and their inconvenience was not an infrequent experience in the early days.

PIONEER DWELLINGS.

The dwelling places of most of the settlers during this early period were small, rude structures and were built either of logs in the vicinity of native timber, or of sod on the distant prairie. The supply of oak timber along the Des Moines river suited for building purposes was soon exhausted, and although there was a market at Fort Dodge for groceries, provisions and other supplies, the nearest places where pine lumber and building material could be obtained were at Boonesboro and Nevada, sixty to eighty miles distant, and the price of it was exorbitant.

The first log houses, especially in

the northeastern part of the county, were low structures protected with a shed roof of common boards, and they were called "shanties" or "cabins." During the sixties, when the comb-roof covered with shingles came into use, they were called "log houses."

On the prairie the first dwellings during the sixties and early seventies were usually constructed of the prairie sod. The tough, virgin sod was turned with a breaking plow and cut into pieces of a suitable length that were laid one upon the other to form the outer walls of the structure, which were about eighteen inches in thickness and never more than one story in height. Occasionally these sod houses were covered with a roof of boards, but most frequently the roof was constructed of wood overlaid with earth and sod.

The "sod house" thus constructed, though not without its inconveniences, was nevertheless cool in summer, warm in winter and formed a cozy and quiet retreat in the time of storm. It was not, however, a very permanent structure and had to be rebuilt every one or two years. The frost in winter and dampness in the spring of the year seriously affected the walls, causing them to heave or spread, thus endangering the lives of the occupants by the falling of the heavy roof.

A family in an adjoining county (Palo Alto) was aroused from sleep by a crackling sound that came from the inner supports to the roof. They hastily arose and went to the home of a neighbor for the remainder of the night. In the morning when they returned they found their sod house a mass of ruins. The walls had spread and the heavy roof had fallen to the ground; had they remained the entire family might have perished.

When an excavation of two feet or more was made for the sod house located on the slope of a little knoll, it was called a "dug-out." Sometimes

the only openings in a dug-out were the door of entrance and the exit for the smoke in the comb of the roof.

In the center of the frontispiece may be seen the cut of an improved, enlarged and substantial dwelling of this sort built and still occupied by John Woods and family, in the southeastern part of Cedar township. The first building on this site had a board roof and sides; and in 1882 it was rebuilt with walls of rock, a shingle roof and an addition to the front of it. This dwelling is located near the path traversed by several of the cyclones, that have visited this section, and its inmates have dwelt in safety and security. On the morning after the cyclone that came from the southwest on April 11, 1893, overturning all the buildings within three quarters of a mile of it, the writer found this home a veritable hospital, where four of the injured in other families were lying abed in one of its apartments and others were enjoying the hospitality of this home and family.

In the frontispiece may also be seen two other illustrations of pioneer homes; first, the log house of John Fraser, built in 1868, on section 36, Powhatan township, and in which all of his children were born; and underneath it a cut of the log cabin built by Henry Thomas* near the southwest corner of section 24 of the same township, in 1866. This relic of pioneer days, now owned by Miss Dora, a grand-daughter of Ira Strong, is still used as a dwelling house, and the grove of cotton-wood trees around it, planted by Henry Thomas in 1865, are believed to be the oldest and many of the trees the largest of their kind in the county, being about three feet in diameter.

The log cabins built along the Des Moines river and Lizard creek were quite substantial and rendered good

*Erroneously credited to Ira Strong, in the frontispiece.

service for many years. Mrs. Charles Kelley and family, of Lizard township, are still living comfortably in one of the first log houses erected in this county. It is located on section 12, was built of oak in 1856, and after forty-three years of constant use, looks as though it would last as many more.

“From cabins such as these
Come our sturdy natures,
Who give proud inspiration to a state,
Who fight its battles and decide its fate,
Who make its courts
And shape its legislatures.”

The first settlers in the wilderness of the west, like the savages whom they displaced, contented themselves with very humble and inexpensive dwellings, but the modest log cabin was a palace compared with the tepee or wigwam of the Indian. The log house, with its many cracks and chinks between the logs and its great open fire-place almost large enough for a small bedroom, was just the right place in which to lay the foundation for that soundness and hardiness of constitution which is the most reliable basis for the highest usefulness.

The men born and reared in the modern well built frame or brick house, that has succeeded the log cabin in due course of time as wealth increased, and replaced the yawning fire-place—the best of ventilators—by the air-tight stove and room, are the ones who fill the growing ranks of consumptives, dyspeptics and rheumatics.

The pioneer's humble home,
His log cabin in the grove,
Was the seat of contentment,
Of health, gratitude and love.
—LEONARD BROWN.

LOST ON THE PRAIRIE.

In these early days on the prairies at a distance from the Des Moines river, there were no groves and but very few houses to serve as way-marks for the traveler, and as a natural result the pioneer of these days when

overtaken on a journey either by night-fall or a snow storm, was liable to lose his direction and be compelled to spend the night alone on the prairie. In the summer season this experience was one to be feared because there was no refuge from the bloodthirsty mosquitoes, whose constant attentions prevented the approach of "tired Nature's sweet restorer," and the barking of prairie wolves in the vicinity was sure to awaken feelings of discomfort; but to lose one's way in the winter by reason of the falling snow, and especially to become bewildered in a blinding and freezing blizzard, was fearful and sometimes proved fatal to the lost ones.

Among the number of those who experienced a night on the prairie in a lost condition, we note three instances during this period—Robert Struthers, John B. Joliffe and one other who perished, whose name is unknown.

About the year 1869 and in the month of June, Robert Struthers, of Des Moines township, found that three of his colts had strayed away. In a lumber wagon, accompanied by his hired man and horse, he started in search of them, first to Dakota City, then northward. Learning they were in the vicinity of Algona, he sent his hired man for them and started homeward with the wagon. When the shades of night began to fall upon him it also began to rain and he was then on the open prairie in an uninhabited and trackless section of Palo Alto county. It was impossible for him to see in front of his team and before he was aware of it the horses mired in a slough and stopped. Relieving the horses and hitching them by means of a chain to the rear end of the wagon, he drew it out of the slough but did not then know how to cross it. He therefore prepared for the night by removing the harness from the horses, tying their halter

straps to the lines and the latter to the clips on the singletrees and then placed the doubletree under the wagon. Removing his boots which were full of water, he lay down under the wagon, having only the wild grass of the prairie for a bed and using the doubletree for a pillow.

A little later the running of a wolf or fox frightened the horses and they ran away dragging the evener and whiffletrees with them. Not seeing but hearing them, he ran after them and succeeded in catching them at a distance of three quarters of a mile and, placing the evener on his shoulder he endeavored to lead them back to the wagon. All his efforts to find the wagon in the darkness were unavailing and he was compelled to plan to spend the remainder of the night without its comfort and protection. This was done by tying the horses as before to the singletrees and letting them feed while he lay down again on the doubletree, but this time hatless, bootless and exposed to the drizzling rain. When morning dawned he was pleasantly surprised to find he was not more than five rods from the wagon and it was headed toward his home.

On February 15th and 16th, 1868, John B. Joliffe, of Powhatan township, came near losing his life in a blizzard. While returning from the home of Henry Cooper, whither he had gone to borrow some meal, he was caught in a blizzard, lost his direction and aimlessly wandered about in the blinding, drifting snow all night. The home of Henry Cooper was on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 6, Des Moines township, and that of Mr. Joliffe on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 2, Powhatan township, two miles distant to the northwest, the direction from whence the storm came. His own thrilling account of his terrible experience is as follows:

"Sometimes I sank down in a snow-drift, but my freezing hands and feet warned me that if I expected to survive I must keep moving and await

the light of day. When the daylight came it brought no relief; there was no cessation of the terrible storm and it was impossible to see more than a few feet in advance of me. My feet and limbs being frozen I felt as though I was walking on sticks, and the almost superhuman will that had sustained me in the weary hours of anguish in the night, now seemed about to yield to the inevitable—to lie down and die. But just when the feeling of drowsiness was about to overcome me there came to me bright visions of all that I held dear in life, visions of home and friends, and a thought of their feelings should they find my body frozen and the snow my winding sheet; my thoughts also ascended to the throne of the Invisible and amid the blinding storm I knelt and prayed for deliverance, and He whose ear is open to the heartfelt prayer, answered mine. I rose from my knees with the assurance that my prayer had been heard and deliverance was near at hand. On walking a few rods farther I came to a wire fence, and following it slowly around to the buildings, found I was about to enter again the home of Henry Cooper that I had left the previous evening. When I entered this home, scarcely more alive than dead, I fell prostrate and remained in it until my frozen hands and feet had been thawed out and I had regained my strength."

In the spring of 1866, there was found on the homestead of Robert Anderson, Powhatan township, by his brother John Anderson, the whitening bones of a man who became lost and perished in a blizzard two years before. A part of a woolen mitten still encased a fleshless hand, and his boots, charred by the prairie fires, clung to his feet. His relatives, who lived near Tobin's ford, gathered his bones and gave them christian burial.

In January, 1869, a severe blizzard passed over this section, that caught Charley Hale, the stage-driver, on the road between Fort Dodge and Twin Lakes. The following account of his experience is from the pen of Thomas L. MacVey, one of the pioneers of Powhatan township, who met him the following summer and listened to his own recital of his terrible experience

with the Storm King:

Charley Hale left Twin Lakes for Fort Dodge just before the storm came and was caught in its fury at a distance from any settlement. When the falling snow had covered the trail before him and he had driven several hours drifting before the wind, he unhitched the team from the sleigh, adjusted the harness on each of them and turned them loose while he remained at the sleigh until near morning, vainly hoping the storm would abate. Notwithstanding he was warmly clad, the increasing fury of the storm and intense cold warned him that if he would survive, he must move with the storm and trust to providence that, as he drifted to the southeast, he might live to reach a settlement along the Des Moines river in the southern part of Webster county. Turning his back to the storm he began a lonely and perilous journey upon a blinding desert of ed-dying snow.

For three days and nights the storm raged with unrelenting fury and during this period he was driven before it, save at short intervals when nearly exhausted he would bury himself in the snow and snatch a few minutes of rest and sleep, with little hope that he would ever awake again. Possessing an iron constitution and indomitable will he would rise from his fleecy bed, brush the snow from his aching eyes and, with failing strength but determined perseverance continue the unequal contest between life and death. The day passed into night and the night into day but the storm still raged. Hunger, cold and fatigue were proving more than equal to his iron will, yet he struggled on with frozen feet and limbs, so nearly exhausted that to make any headway he had to use his hands to lift his numb and useless feet. The morning of the fourth day finally dawned upon the sufferer and, the storm having passed, the rising sun cast his bright rays over the desert waste. Hale was still alive but no longer able to walk. Working himself along upon his hands and knees he moved slowly toward a house that finally appeared in the distance. He at last arrived at the door and managed to enter it but found no one at home. This family had gone to visit a neighbor just before the storm and had not been able to return. They however returned in time to aid the sufferer and to procure

for him medical assistance by means of which his life was saved but with the loss of both of his feet. His place of rescue was in the settlement just west of Dayton, and during the progress of the storm he had been driven about thirty miles before it.

POSTOFFICES.

During this early period there were but two postoffices in the county. Early in the sixties a postoffice was established at Old Rolfe in Des Moines township, and the mail for the northeast part of the county was received once a week from Fort Dodge. In 1865 a mail route was established from Fort Dodge to Spirit Lake via Old Rolfe, and the mail was received more frequently. The postmasters at this place were W. H. Hait and J. J. Bruce during this period and later, Geo. W. Horton, who was in charge of the office at the time of the removal of the county seat in 1876.

The first postoffice in the south part of the county was established in December, 1868, and William Stenson, now in Manson, but then the occupant of the west half of the southeast quarter of section 14, Lizard township, was the first postmaster. He held the office nearly four years and received a salary of one dollar a month. He was succeeded by M. E. Owens, who moved the office to section 10. The postoffice at Manson having been established, this one was discontinued about the year 1873.

TRIALS ON THE WAY.

Many of the settlers of this period had a trying time in getting their families to their intended homes on the frontier while the terminus of the railroad remained at Dubuque or later, at Iowa Falls. Some of them traveled this remaining distance on foot rather than pay the high rates by stage.

John Calligan, in the spring of 1856 at Dubuque, put his wife and four children on the stage and paid \$45.00 for their fares to Fort Dodge while he

made the trip of 200 miles on foot. The spring was a wet one, the trails were muddy and swampy, and the streams were unbridged except at Cedar Falls. A ferry boat for a traveler would consist of a wagonbox set on a few pieces of timber and it would be propelled either by rude paddles or a pole. He waded through the sloughs and smaller streams and was ready to swim when it became necessary.

In the Lizard settlement he and others experienced the same inconvenience in crossing Lizard creek during the three wet seasons (1856-1858) that followed their settlement there. His own account of going to mill, with his first crop of wheat, is as follows:

"I had to go to the woods, get a tree and hollow it out for a canoe, then I would transfer the grain across the creek in the canoe, and when the wagon had been transferred in the same way, piece by piece, I would swim the oxen across, taking one at a time. On my return I had to work the flour, the wagon and the oxen in the very same way."

Walter Ford relates how he and Thomas (a brother of John) Calligan came very near losing their lives by drowning, in Lizard creek in the spring of 1858. At that time there were only three "dug outs" or canoes from basswood trees, along Lizard creek from its sources in this county to its mouth near Fort Dodge. Traveling on foot from Fort Dodge, they came to what was then known as the Snodgrass ford in Webster county, and George Smith undertook to ferry them across in a dug-out. The wind struck the side of their little craft causing it to roll and when they were in the middle of the stream it cap-sized, throwing all of them into the deep water. Mr. Ford, who could not swim, caught the boat and clung to it until he was drawn ashore. After wringing the water out of their clothing as much as possible they went to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Michael

Collins where they were very kindly received.

James J. Bruce in March, 1866, on his way to the Lizard settlement carried his grip and footed it from Iowa Falls, a distance of 77 miles, and made the trip in three days. From Fort Dodge he was accompanied by Mr. Wallace and when they arrived at the Des Moines river they saw no one in sight but did see a boat at the other side. He waded the stream and returning with the boat took his companion and their luggage across. By this time the wife of the owner of the boat was at hand and gave them the assurance that it was a fortunate thing her husband was not at home or he would have given them a good thrashing for taking the boat without her permission. She was however, unwilling to take anything for the use of the boat.

THE PRAIRIE FIRE.

To the early settler of this period, who lived out upon the prairie at a distance from the timber, the dread of the "prairie fire" was as great as his fear of the Sioux Indians.

They were exposed to the prairie fire in the early spring, if the season was dry, but the period of special danger was the fall of the year, particularly the months of October and November when the luxuriant grasses of the prairie had fully matured and the sloughs were dry. Many severe and apparently irreparable losses did they sustain from this cause. Frequently did they see their hay and grain, in the field or stack, go up in smoke in an unexpected moment, and sometimes their hard earned improvements including their dwellings met with the same fate. It was just as liable to come upon the lonely settler during the night as in the daytime; and it has been said that many of them, in this section in dry seasons, "did fret day and night" lest they should be surprised by finding they

were in the way of one of these raging demons of the wilderness that should arouse them from their midnight slumber and sweep away their property. His only protection from the prairie fire-fiend was the fire-guard which consisted of a number of fresh furrows plowed around his buildings or stacks; and if the wind was high these afforded but little or no protection.

If the reader will turn to the frontispiece there will be seen the cut of a tumble weed. This cut is from a sample that was three feet high and four feet wide. This weed matures early and as soon as it attains its growth it becomes loose at the root and is then ready to commence the tumbling process by rolling over and over with the first breeze that blows. When dry they are very light and a strong wind will even pick them up and carry them a considerable distance. The tumble weed aflame has never been a respecter of fire-guards and when the fire on the prairie has been driven by a high wind the thatched roofs of buildings have been seen ablaze before the fire on the ground had reached them.

Sometimes the prairie fire would originate by getting beyond the control of a settler while burning off a pasture or field, but more frequently they occurred by some careless traveler throwing a burning match into the dry grass after lighting his pipe. The paper wadding used in the old shotgun and musket, was also sufficient under favorable circumstances to start a fire on the prairie and this fact made the hunter a menace to the safety of the pioneer.

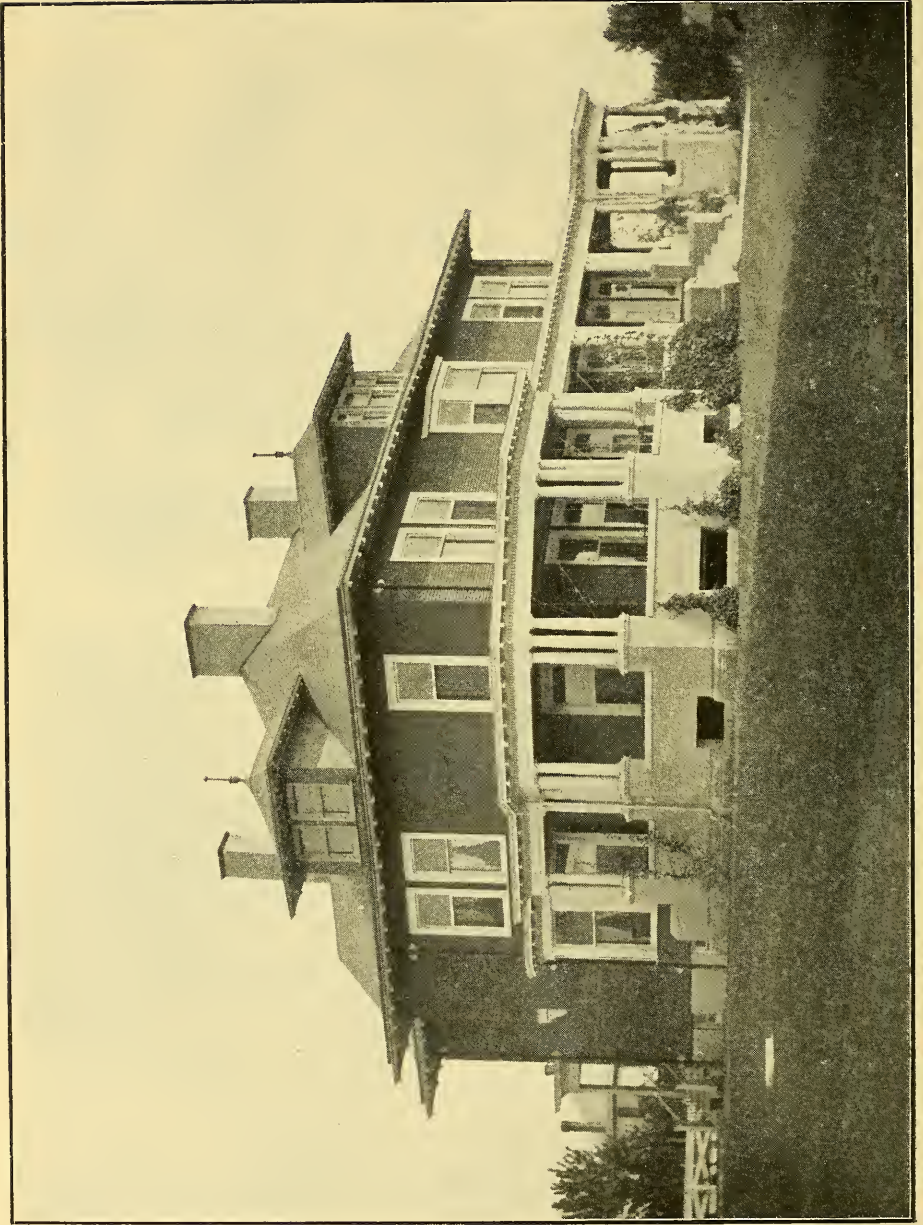
These prairie fires moving with the wind would travel with alarming rapidity and leap over creeks, in some instances, as many as four rods in width. In a gentle breeze the fire would travel as fast as a man walks, but when the wind was high the



RESIDENCE OF GEORGE SANBORN, FONDA.



MANSE OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FONDA, 1893.



RESIDENCE OF GEORGE FAIRBURN, FONDA, 1901.

"head-fire" would rush through brush and brake with loud crackling sound "as fast as a horse could run."

The prairie fire, as it used to be, is now an event of the past in this county, and the following vivid description of a fearful one that passed over the county during this period of its history, (just after the war) from the pen of John M. Russell, of Lizard township, will be read with interest:

One fine evening, about the middle of autumn and after the close of the war, the wind, as it oftentimes does, suddenly turned and came from the northwest. The weather for several weeks had been dry, and a hot wind from the south had prevailed for several days, withering the ripened grass on the prairie and rendering it inflammable as tinder.

About dusk a faint glow was observed in the sky to the northwest, the appearance of which was similar to that seen in the east on a clear night just before the rising of the full moon. This glow, as it was afterward learned, was caused by a fire on the prairie started by a settler several days previous along the Little Sioux river far to the southwest. Driven by the hot wind it had moved northward many miles through an uninhabited section and the side-fire had widened eastward to the west line of Pochontas county. When the wind changed, this long line of fire began to move in a southeasterly direction over a vast expanse of territory.

To the observer in the Lizard settlement no flame was at first visible, but as the moments passed the horizon gradually grew brighter and about eight o'clock the flames of the "head-fire" could be distinctly seen. A little later several fine, luminous lines, like threads of tiny, sparkling beads, became visible. "Distance lends enchantment to the view" but the observers well knew that in those faint, glimmering lines of beauty there dwelt, in an ungovernable form, the most fiendish of devouring elements, fed by an abundance of dry prairie grass and driven by a powerful wind. In this instance the warning came before bedtime and opportunity was afforded to provide some protection against it. Those who were not already secure now went scurrying about with plows, scythes, matches,

mops and buckets of water.

The fire had crossed Cedar creek in several places in the north part of the county, and the head-fire when first seen was sweeping down the north flank of the Lizard creek bottom. Another head of the fire, separated from the other by a large slough near the source of the west branch of the Lizard, was coming down the west and south branches of the Lizard and moving in the direction of the present town of Barnum. The progress of this line of fire seemed now more rapid than the other, which was impeded in its course by the curves of the west branch of the Lizard which it jumped in several places, thus forming a series of new head-fires on the south side of that stream.

Thus this great fire came sweeping across this county like a messenger of vengeance set loose from the kingdom of Tartarus to scorch, as it were, the "Lizards" and see who could stand before its chargers armed with an hundred heats.

About nine o'clock it had come within a short distance of the settlers and was practically upon them. It was in the dark of the moon and the brilliancy of the fire was even greater on this account. The smoky firmament was gorgeously illumined with lurid splendor and together with the numerous lines of side-fire, far and near, interspersed with the black, burnt sections, presented a spectacle of appalling magnitude that was both grand and dismal.

The noise of this immense display of fireworks was like the continuous roar of distant thunder and the thick columns of curling smoke, that issued petulantly from some deep sloughs, reminded one of those scenes described in Milton's *Paradise Lost* or Dante's *Inferno*.

No one along the Lizard dared to close his eyes in slumber that night until all felt sure that the impending danger had passed. On the next morning they awoke to find the prairie bare, the air rank with the smell of burnt grass and entire counties a blackened waste. A considerable amount of hay and timber along the branches of the Lizard and several bridges over those streams were destroyed. These streams and the belts of timber along them were a natural protection to the early settler both from the blizzards in winter and the prairie fire in summer.

The severest fire in the Lizard settlement during this early period was in the fall of 1859, their first dry year. The ponds were dry for several months that year and when the fire came, late in the season, it burned everything; and the peat in the dry bottoms of the ponds continued to burn for more than a week after the fire had passed.

POPULATION.

The population of the county during this period was as follows:

Year	Pop.	Year	Pop.
1855	7	1860	103
1856	45	1863	122
1857	75	1865	215
1858	90	1867	453
1859	108	1869	637
		1870	1446

These figures indicate that there was no perceptible increase in the population of this county from the year 1859, when it was organized, until the year 1865 which was at the close of the civil war, and that it was even less in 1860 than in 1859, and only a few more in 1863. Three unfavorable circumstances tended to prevent the growth and development of this county during this period. These were the years of distrust and hard times that followed the financial panic of 1857 and 1858, the fact that the settlements in this county, contrary to all expectation, remained 230 miles distant from the terminus of the nearest railroad, and further, every able-bodied man, responding to the call of his country, had entered the army.

At the close of the war the construction of the railroads across this state was resumed and the Dubuque & Sioux City road (Ill. Central) was built as far as Ackley. The building of the railroads attracted the public attention again to western Iowa and a new impulse was given to the settlement of this county.

It is worthy of note that this new immigration commenced in the year 1865, just ten years after the first one

began, and with it came the era of sod shanties in both the north and south parts of the county, a circumstance due to the fact they had to build at a distance from the timber and at a time when lumber was not available.

The leading attraction at this period was the *homestead* and among the number of those who located in this county at this date—1865 to 1869—we note the following, most of whom were heads of families:

I.—IN NORTH PART OF THE COUNTY.

Beriah Cooper,	Wm. D. McEwen,
Henry Cooper,	Alex. McEwen,
Thos. E. Cooper,	Wm. Matson,
James Drown,	Wm. Struthers ('60)
Roswell Drown,	Lot Fisher,
Chas. C. Converse,	Daniel W. Hunt,
R. B. Fish,	Marcus Lind,
Park C. Harder,	E. Northrop,
Elijah D. Seeley,	W. F. Seaman,
George Stevens,	Isaac Peed,
Thomas Rogers,	Gilbert G. Wheeler,
Edward Tilley,	Geo. Goodchild,
A. H. Hancher,	Henry Thomas,
Henry Fulcomer,	Robert Lothian,
Edw. Anderson,	John Fraser,
Geo. Henderson,	Robert Anderson,
Jno. B. Joliffe,	Jas. Henderson,
Samuel N. Strong,	Edward Hammond
F. A. Metcalf, ('62)	S. E. Heathman,
Thos. L. MacVey,	Ira Strong,
Geo. W. Proctor,	Geo. W. Strong,
Andrew Jackson,	Oscar I. Strong,
Wm. S. Fegels,	A. M. Thornton,
John B. Strouse,	Frank G. Thornton,
David Hays,	Oscar A. Pease.

II.—IN SOUTH PART OF THE COUNTY.

Carl Steinbrink,	Wm. Westlake,
Wm. Price,	John F. Hintz,
James J. Bruce,	G. Schoonmaker,
Jacob Carstens,	John Weise,
G. B. Carstens,	Michael Weise,
David Wallace,	John Julius,
John W. Wallace,	M. McCormick,
H. Stickelberg,	M. Fitzgerald,
A. H. Van V'lnb'g	Patrick Crahan,
Patrick Enright,	Michael Crahan,
Ferdinand Zanter,	James Sinnott,
Michael O'Shea,	Dennis Mulholland
David Miller,	Henry Shields,
John Donahoe,	David Brown,
John H. Johnson,	Joseph Fell,
*Julia A Johnson,	John Harrold,
Isaac W. Johnson,	Thos. Harrold,

*Widow of Marshall Johnson, later married to Robert Russell.

Daniel Johnson,	R. F. Cedarstrom,
Wm. Stenson,	C. F. Hillstrom,
Wm. Boyd,	Chas. P. Peterson,
J. D. Hoefing,	Fred Smith,
Jos. Brittenbach,	William Bell,
Wm. Brownlee,	Nils Hanson,
Swan Nelson,	W. B. Dickinson,
John Lampe,	R. Ziemann, Sr.,
F. J. Lampe,	H. Helmich,
Henry Lampe,	August Mullen,
John W. O'Keefe,	John Kreul,
Benjamin Rost,	Bernard Stegge,
Henry Shields,	William Tobin,
Carl Rodman,	E. K. Cain,
Patrick Riley,	Bernard Niehouse,
J. C. Carey,	Michael Rankin,
Elijah Chase,	John C. Evervine,
Geo. Spragg,	Horace Skinner,
Ephraim Garlock,	Charles Skinner,
A. O. Garlock,	John Dunkerly,
W. E. Garlock,	H. C. Tollefsrude,
Geo. W. Smith,	C. H. Tollefsrude,
Fred Steendorf,	E. M. Tollefsrude,
Geo. Sanborn,	H. L. Norton,
Joseph Brinker,	S. W. Norton,
C. M. Saylor,	J. S. Howell,
Felix W. Parrish,	I. E. Parrish,
Rev. J. A. Griffin,	Rudolf Ziemann,
August Prange,	Amandus Ziemann,
Gad C. Lowrey,	Ludwick Turner,
John Russell,	John A. Hay.

These hopefully came to the west.

A wilderness before them lay,
 A garden that should bloom one day.
 No castes were here but all were free
 To found a home in a land of liberty.

These pioneers, like the few who had arrived before them, did not come to this section to mine gold, to gain wealth by lumbering or make their living by hunting game with the gun, or fish with the rod and net; they came for higher and nobler purposes; to found homes, to convert these desolate wilds into fruitful fields and develop a christian civilization that would secure to every citizen the same privileges and advantages in solving the problem of their individual destiny. Their first concern was to provide a place of shelter and then for the cultivation of the soil. All that they found was Nature's handiwork. Pocahontas then was seen,
 Arrayed in her robe of green;
 A maid of more than usual charms,
 A prairie destined for a thousand farms.

GROVE PLANTING.

The date of this second immigration marks the era of grove planting. The first settlers located along the streams where there were narrow belts of natural timber and they had secured all of these apparently most desirable locations. The newcomers were therefore obliged to build on the open prairie and a grove of timber around their buildings became necessary as a protection from the high winds and storms. In the course of a few years the prairies were dotted with beautiful groves of maple, willow and cottonwood, and these gave a finer appearance to the country.

One can no longer see the long distances that were possible to an observer before the era of artificial groves. Citizens of Bellville township state that, during this early period and from elevated points in that township, it was possible to see the grove of natural timber at Sunk Grove in the northwest part of Cedar township, and also buildings in process of erection at Sac City.

TRAPPING.

The coming of this second immigration marks also the beginning of the period when "trapping" became a popular and profitable business among the settlers. During the winter of 1859 a hunter by the name of Jacob Mirale, shot and killed along the Des Moines river ninety-six deer, six elk and one buffalo. Nearly all the large game in Northwestern Iowa, however, disappeared during the early sixties, and hunting, except for small game and waterfowl, was no longer profitable. Trapping muskrats now became not only the most interesting diversion in the fall of the year, but to some their most profitable avocation.

The first settlers of this county were neither hunters nor trappers. This fact is worthy of note, for if they had

engaged in trapping they might have secured a larger income from this source than from their little patches of corn and wheat. They were no doubt aware of the fact that mink and otter were plenty, that beavers had built numerous dams along the streams and that muskrats, building their slough grass houses in the sloughs had made them look like real cities of rats where they multiplied from five to fifteen fold each year; also that professional trappers and bands of peaceful Indians made annual pilgrimages to this "trappers' paradise" along the Lizard streams, but not having come to this section attracted by these aquatic rodents, it required the lapse of several years before they came to an appreciation of the value their hides might have been to them. The furs of these animals at that time brought a high price, as follows: Muskrats 20 to 35 cents each; mink \$5.00 and upwards; beaver and otter \$5.00 to \$15.00 each.

All the settlers of this entire pioneer period enjoyed unrestricted privileges for raising cattle. Their herds roamed over the prairies for miles in all directions without the least hindrance, and the income realized from this free pasturage was, in most cases, greater than that derived from their cultivated farms.

THE PRE-EMPTION CLAIM.

The only title to the soil that has ever been recognized in the aboriginal inhabitants of this country was that of occupation. This right has generally been respected until it has been extinguished by treaty, purchase or conquest under the authority of the nation exercising dominion over them, but they have never been permitted to dispose of their possessions except to the nation to which they were thus bound by a qualified dependence. The United States, or the state government, thus becomes the original source of title to all lands in this

country; and the official certificate of the government, by which the title of the public lands is conveyed to individual holders, is called a "patent," to denote that it is the original certificate of conveyance and to distinguish it from all subsequent ones, which are called "deeds."

By an act of congress approved September 4, 1841, all lands then belonging to the United States or to which the Indian title might later be extinguished, were subject to the right of pre-emption under the conditions prescribed in that law. Under this "pre-emption law" any one who was the head of a family, a widow or a single person over the age of twenty-one years and a citizen of the United States, (or had filed a declaration of intention to become a citizen as required by the naturalization laws) might locate on these unoccupied lands, and file a claim with the register of the land office for that district for any number of acres not exceeding one hundred and sixty, if it was beyond the limits of any railway grant.

The first step in securing a pre-emption was to go upon the land and commence improvements. When this was done, if the land had been offered at public sale, the applicant within thirty days from the date of his settlement, filed his claim and within one year made proof of actual residence on and cultivation of the land. On the payment of \$1.25 an acre, (or \$2.50 if within a railway grant) he received a patent, or certificate of ownership, from the government.

The first settlers in Lizard and Des Moines townships secured their homes under this law. They were called "pre-emptors" and their claims "pre-emptions."

By an act of congress approved May 15, 1856, a grant of every alternate section designated by the odd numbers for six sections in width on each side

of the road, was made to the state of Iowa for the purpose of aiding in the construction of a railroad from the city of Dubuque to Sioux City; and on December 27, 1858, this belt of alternate sections, twelve miles in width across this state, was certified and approved by the Department of the Interior as belonging to the Dubuque & Pacific (now Ill. Central) railway Co.

The pre-emptor who had located on an odd-numbered section and had obtained his patent before these lands were certified to the railway company, was not affected by this grant save that he found all lands adjoining had doubled in value; but the pre-emptor who had not gained previous possession now found that his improvements were upon the lands of another owner, and in changing his location to the even-numbered sections within the railroad limits, he could pre-empt only eighty acres and had to pay \$2.50 an acre.

On May 20, 1862, the time for a pre-emptor to make his final proof and payment was extended from one year to two and one-half years, and to all persons rendering military or naval service the time was indefinitely extended to six months after the expiration of their term of service.

In the north part of the county there were pre-emptors in two of the townships as follows:

DES MOINES—A. H. Malcolm, Guernsey Smith, Robert Struthers, Wm. Struthers, Wm. Jarvis, Henry Jarvis, Samuel N. Harris, David Slosson, Orlando Slosson, John Strait, James Smith, John A. James, James Edelman, Julia A. Nowlan and Daniel W. Hunt.

CLINTON—Ora Harvey.

In the south part of the county the following residents of Lizard township were pre-emptors: John Calligan, Michael Collins, Roger Collins, Charles Kelley, Philip Russell, Walter Ford, Dennis Connors, Chris No-

lan, Nicholas Nolan, James Gorman, Peter McCabe, Michael Broderick, Michael Walsh, James Donahoe, John Quinlan and Thomas Crowell.

In Lake township the only pre-emptors were Patrick Forey, Henry Brockschink and John Russell.

THE HOMESTEAD.

The homestead law was framed by Galusha A. Grow and approved by President Lincoln May 20, 1862.

Under the homestead law the land is virtually a gift to the settler by the government in consideration of settlement and cultivation, the fees charged being about sufficient to cover the cost of entry and conveyance. Under the pre-emption law the right of purchase was conceded only to the actual settler, and under both laws the lands occupied were exempt from taxation during the term necessary to acquire a title, or a patent was issued.

The homestead consisted of eighty acres or less within, and of 160 acres or less, beyond the limits of a railway grant, save that all honorably discharged soldiers from the army and sailors from the navy, by the act of June 8, 1872, were entitled to 160 acres within as well as beyond the railway limits. The entry fee for eighty acres or less was \$5.00 and for more than that amount, \$10.00. The commissions within the railway limits were double those beyond and made the total cost of the land to the homesteader as follows: For 40, 80 and 160 acres beyond the railway limits—the land being valued at \$1.25 an acre—\$7.00, \$9.00 and \$18.00 respectively; and within these limits—the land being valued at \$2.50 an acre—\$9.00, \$13.00 and \$26.00 respectively. On July 1, 1879, this law was amended so that citizens as well as soldiers might homestead 160 acres within the railway limits.

In favor of the soldiers of the war of the rebellion it was provided that the term of their service during the war

to the extent of four years, might be deducted from the five years' residence required by law; and a soldier honorably discharged by reason of wounds or disability contracted in the service might be so credited with the entire term of his enlistment.

In order to obtain a homestead, the applicant filed with the register of the U. S. land office a declaration that he was over twenty-one years of age, that he was a citizen of the United States or intended to become one, and that the entry was made for his exclusive use and benefit for actual settlement and cultivation. The entry thus made vested in the homesteader only an inceptive right. He had a claim to the land which no one could dispute so long as he complied with the law requiring him to live upon and cultivate it for five years; but he had no title to the land whereby he could convey it. If he abandoned the land or remained absent from it more than six months his entry was liable to be contested and cancelled; and then the land was again open to the first legal applicant. Having resided upon and cultivated his claim for five years the settler was allowed two years more, but no longer, in which to make his "final proof." This final proof consisted in the affidavit of the settler and another one signed by two disinterested witnesses, showing that the claimant was a citizen of the United States, that he had made actual settlement upon and cultivated the land in good faith for the time required and that he had never perfected or abandoned an entry made under the homestead laws.

"Happy the man whose wish and care
A few productive acres bound;
Content to breathe the balmy air

On his own ground;
Whose herds yield milk,
Whose fields yield bread,
Whose trees in summer yield him shade
In winter, fire."

The townships in which most of the

"homestead" claims were located were Lizard, Bellville, Colfax, Cedar, Dover, Grant, Lincoln, Powhatan and Des Moines. From one to three claims were located in Clinton, Lake and Swan Lake townships, but none in Center, Sherman, Marshall and Washington townships. The lands in these last named townships were bought by non-resident purchasers before the settlement of the county had been extended to them; there were no permanent settlements in them until the spring of 1870. The only advantage the pre-emptor had when compared with the cash purchaser was, that he obtained possession of his lands without advance payment and held them without taxation until his final payment was made the same as the homesteader. As soon as the first railroad grants were made, thereby doubling the price of all lands within their limits, the attention of cash purchasers was directed to the lands just beyond those limits, and in a very short time they had gained possession of them.

The feeling that one was settled and fixed on a "homestead" was an inducement to improve it by the erection of comfortable buildings, by enclosing fields and planting shade trees, groves and orchards. Each successive improvement was a bond binding the settler still closer to his home, and this brought contentment to his family. His wife and daughters fell in love with the country, his sons, appreciating the home founded for them on the farm more than places of dissipation, preferred farming to professional loafing, and the father was happy in seeing the contented and cheerful faces of his family.

The home may be humble, but make it convenient and beautiful, and the children will love it above all other places; they will leave it with regret, think of it with fondness, come back to it joyfully and seek their chief hap-

plness around the cozy and familiar fireside.

The effort to improve and beautify the old homestead gave unusual pleasure and delight. It awakened the feeling that

“There is something to live for
And something to love,
Wherever we linger,
Wherever we rove;
For the spirit of man
Is like garden or grove;
It will yield a sweet fragrance,
If by unremitting toil
He develops the spring blossoms
And cultivates the soil.”

Women and children need more than bread and raiment. They have a love for the beautiful that seeks expression as well as tastes that may be cultivated. Their ingenuity was taxed and their time employed in efforts to make their humble home on the prairie a lovely one, by constant efforts to multiply its comforts and conveniences. They planted the fragrant flowers and trailing vines while others set the trees for their shade and luscious fruit.

When necessary, the little cabin on the old homestead was opened for school and public worship. Thus their minds and hearts were cultivated as well as the fields, and intelligence and contentment became the rule instead of the exception.

The difficulties to be surmounted by the occupant of the old homestead in this county during this period were certainly very great. He obtained land, plenty of it; it was fertile and he could claim it as his own, but he had little else. The produce of the soil had to be consumed at home or near it; ready money was scarce, distant products were scarcer and comforts, other than the modest substitutes of home manufacture, were unobtainable. The experience of privation and hardship usually fell most heavily upon the wives and mothers, and no estimate of the heroism needed

to achieve final success in the old homestead would be adequate that did not include woman's share in it.

The women, who by the sides of their husbands have endured the privations and hardships incident to the development of new countries, are among the noblest of their sex. Their self-sacrifice and devotion have marked every age in the settlement of the American continent, and looking back to the early days of this county we see that here they maintained that reputation. In the early settlement of this county they ground the corn for the stock, held the plow, went often without the necessaries of life; they helped to gather the scanty crops, and, amid the heat of summer and the cold of winter, they wavered not because of want and exposure.

As unto the bow the cord is,
So unto the man is woman;
Though she bends him, she obeys him,
Though she draws him, yet she follows;
Useless each without the other.

—LONGFELLOW.

THE TIMBER CLAIM.

On March 3, 1873, an act was approved known as the “timber culture act,” the purpose of which was to encourage the growth of timber on the western prairie where large portions of the unoccupied public lands were destitute of timber. Under this act anyone entitled to claim a homestead, might enter as a “timber culture” claim one quarter section (160 acres) of prairie land, upon making affidavit to the fact that he desired it for his own benefit and for the purpose of planting and cultivating timber upon it.

The person making the entry for a “tree” or “timber claim” of 160 acres was required to break or plow five acres during the first year; and during the second year to cultivate them and plow five additional acres. During the third year he was required to cultivate the second plot that had been broken and plant the first

one with timber seeds or cuttings. During the fourth year he was required to plant the second plot with timber, seeds or cuttings, and to protect and cultivate both of them. Fruit trees and shrubbery were not regarded as timber under this act. Timber claims of less than 160 acres were to be cultivated and planted during the same periods and in the same proportion, namely, to the amount of one-sixteenth of the area claimed. The land office fees for the timber claim were \$9.00 for 80 acres or less, and \$14.00 if more than that.

If at the expiration of eight years from date of entry or at any time within five years thereafter the claimant proved by two witnesses that he had successfully cultivated the required amount of timber for not less than eight years according to the provisions of the act of June 14, 1878, he was entitled to a patent for the land embraced in the entry. But if at any time after one year from the date of entry, the claimant failed to comply with any of the requirements of the act, his claim became liable to contest; and upon due proof of such failure his entry was cancelled and the land again became subject to entry, either as a homestead or timber claim by some other persons. If, however, his trees were destroyed by fire, drought or grasshoppers, his time for final proof was extended.

It will be perceived that the "timber culture" act did not require the settler to live upon the claim as the pre-emptor and homesteader were required to do. By reason of this fact the homesteader, if he wished, could also enter a timber claim. In fact, after a settler had exercised his right of pre-emption and obtained a title to his claim, there was nothing in the laws subsequently enacted to prevent him from proceeding to settle upon another tract under the homestead law; and if, during the period of his

residence on the homestead, he made another entry for a "timber claim," it was possible in this way for the settler to acquire a title to an aggregate of 480 acres. This was done occasionally, but more frequently the additional claims were taken by different members of the same family.

So far as we have been able to learn, fifteen "timber claims" were located in Pocahontas county, and J. A. Sayre located the first one on section 18, Dover township, July 13, 1875. During the next year Joseph Southworth located one on the same section and Swan Peterson one on section 36, Bellville township. The other timber claims were filed by Abraham Borjenson on section 18, and C. G. Blanden on section 24, Bellville township; George Garlock (cancelled) and John C. Williams on section 18, Dover township; John Lemp on section 18, Cedar township, and Emma Hirshfield on section 28, Swan Lake township. The application for this last one was filed August 18, 1883; Blanden's claim was filed in November following. A little later Wm. H. Burnett made an entry of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 6, (40 acres) Cedar township, as a timber claim, and it is now held as such by Henry Voss.

The other timber claims were secured by J. B. Joliffe on Sec. 2 and J. B. Kent on Sec. 4, Powhatan township; L. C. Coffin on Sec. 7 and Thomas Enright on Sec. —, Clinton township; W. F. Atkinson on Sec. 10, Marshall township.

THE SOURCE OF SUPPLIES.

During this entire period, which preceded the advent of any of the present railway facilities, Fort Dodge was the source of supplies to all the settlers of this county. The following facts in regard to this city are of historic interest:

The town of Fort Dodge was platted in March, 1854, at which time the only residents were Major Williams, James B. Williams, John M. Hefley

and the family of Wm. R. Miller, who kept the hotel. During that same month, John Scott and his brother Robert and family arrived; and on June 28th following, ex-Governor Cyrus C. Carpenter, walking the distance from Des Moines to that place. He taught the first school in that town the ensuing winter, in a small log building back of the Wahkonsa hotel. In the spring of 1855, John F. Duncombe, Geo. B. Sherman and a host of others arrived, and so great was the crowd for the size and capacity of the town that when the dinner bell at the hotel rang, fifty persons would make a rush for the table, which could accommodate only ten. In May, Wm. Hodges bought the hotel and enlarged the table to a capacity for one hundred guests. The population of the town was then about 150 persons and the greater part of them were young men. A postoffice was established and Major Williams became the first postmaster. John F. Duncombe was the first lawyer, and Geo. B. Sherman established the first grocery store, where he furnished the early settlers with groceries, often exchanging them for furs, deer skins or any other commodity that would bear transportation to Muscatine and other places along the Mississippi river. The first frame building in the town was erected in May, that year, and was used for a public office, and the first brick building was erected that fall. As winter approached, the squatters on the pre-emption claims in the country around returned to the town, and the hotel and boarding houses being full, they established bachelor halls where the young men broiled their own venison and provided for their hungry comrades. In 1856, the grant of lands was made to the Dubuque & Pacific railway, and this company giving the assurance that their road would be built at once and Fort Dodge be made an important station, it gave the town

an additional impulse, new sections were platted and the city grew rapidly.

The wonderful advance of civilization is frequently remarked in a general way, but few of us practically realize the progress of settlement during the past forty years in this section of the country. In 1859, when this county was organized, there was not a single postoffice within the territory now included in the states of North and South Dakota, whose population is now counted by hundreds of thousands. Ten counties in Northwestern Iowa, among which were Buena Vista, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, Plymouth and Pocahontas, had not a postoffice. The counties of Clay, Cherokee, Emmet, Carroll, Ida and Sac had one each, while Crawford, Dickinson and Palo Alto had two each.

THE U. S. LAND OFFICES.

The first United States land office in Iowa was established at Burlington. In January, 1848, one was established at Iowa City, where it remained until the capital of the state was transferred to Des Moines, in 1857. On November 5, 1855, the state of Iowa was divided into four districts, viz: Des Moines, Fort Dodge, Sioux City and Council Bluffs, and a land office was established in each of them, in the city giving name to the district.

The Fort Dodge district extended along the north boundary line of the state from the line between ranges 33 and 34, to the line between ranges 24 and 25; thence south along this range line to the corner common to townships 93 and 94; thence east to the line between ranges 18 and 19, and thence south to the line between townships 85 and 86; thence west to the line between ranges 33 and 34, and thence north to the north line of the state.

The U. S. land offices at Fort Dodge and Council Bluffs were continued for the convenience of settlers in making their entry of the public lands, until

June 1, 1873, and at Sioux City until December 31, 1877, when by executive orders issued by the president of the United States, they were consolidated with the office at Des Moines. At the time of the last named date there were less than 2000. acres of lands in Iowa subject to the disposal of the government; and arrangements were made for homesteaders to obtain complete title by making final proof before the courts of record in the counties where the land was situated. This county belonged to the Fort Dodge district, except the west range of townships, including Cedar, Dover, Marshall and Swan Lake, which belonged to the Sioux City district.

The land office at Fort Dodge was a matter of great convenience to all the settlers in the eastern part of this county, for they had opportunity to visit the office and report their intended settlement while on the way to their lands. By this means they were freed from all anxiety and fear on the part of the "claim jumper." Those who located claims in the west range of townships, had to go to the office at Sioux City and it was not an unusual occurrence for the settler to find that the lands he had selected were either bought or taken by others before he arrived and gained the attention of the register of the land office, especially if he discovered to others on the way the location of his claim and spoke very highly of its merits. We learn there are residents of this county today who had this experience when the rush of settlers came to this section with the advent of the railway, about the year 1870.

The story is told that a certain chap, who selected a claim a little further west, made a free use of the names of several of the most prominent men in this country at that time in order to hold it while he went to the land office. This was done in a very effective manner by tacking to a stake set

on the claim the following notice:

☞ N. B.* ☞

We, the undersigned, claim this homestead. Pass on.

U. S. GRANT.
BRIGHAM YOUNG.
SITTING BULL.

Of course no one dared to meddle with this claim.

THE RAILROAD LANDS.

A reference has been made to the act of congress approved May 15, 1856,† granting to the state of Iowa, for the purpose of aiding in the construction of railroads across the state, every alternate odd-numbered section for a distance of six miles on each side of the road. This act provided that when the lines of these roads should be definitely fixed, if it should appear that any section or part thereof thus granted had been previously sold or pre-empted, then the railway companies might select, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, from the unoccupied and unsold lands nearest their line of railway, so much land in alternate sections as should equal the amount thereof sold or pre-empted; but the lands thus located should in no case be more than fifteen miles distant from the line of the railroad. Under this provision, it will be perceived, the belt of railroad lands would naturally vary all the way from six to fifteen miles on each side of the line of the railway.

The legislature of Iowa, by an act at a special session held in Iowa City and approved July 14, 1856, made a grant of these lands to the Dubuque & Pacific R. R. Co. upon the condition that the company should complete and equip 75 miles of its main line within three years from Dec. 1, 1856, 30 miles in addition each year thereafter for five years, and the remainder of their road including a

*From "*Not a bene*" and means "Take Notice."

†Page 81.

branch from Dubuque to the mouth of the *Tete des Morts*,[‡] within one year thereafter,—Dec. 1, 1865. The main line of this company was to extend from Dubuque to Sioux City.

All persons who, at the time this grant was made, held valid claims by actual occupation and improvement upon any of these railway sections were protected in their rights, but to secure this protection, within three months from the passage of this act, they had to prove to the satisfaction of the county judge that their claim was valid and existed at the time the grant was made; then on the payment of \$2.50 an acre they were entitled to a patent for the land.

By an act of the legislature of Iowa, approved Jan. 28, 1857, the five railway companies in Iowa, to whom the first grants in Iowa had been made,* were allowed to execute mortgages or deeds of trust upon these odd-numbered sections of railroad lands for the purpose of securing the funds necessary to complete the construction of their respective railroads.

Under the provisions of this act the Dubuque & Pacific R. R. Co. on March 14, 1857, executed a trust deed of all their lands along their proposed route, to Abram S. Hewitt, Thomas E. Walker, Frederick Schuchardt and Curtis B. Raymond, trustees of said company, for the sum of \$12,000,000 secured by 12,000 construction bonds of \$1000 each, with the right to issue a further amount of 3,000 similar bonds, making on the whole a sum not exceeding \$15,000,000. To secure the payment of these bonds the railway company conveyed to these trustees all their right, title and interest in the public lands granted to it.

[‡]Ta'ta de More, a creek near Sabula.

*Burlington & Missouri River, (now C. B. & Q.) Mississippi and Missouri River, (now the C. R. I. & P.) Iowa Central Air Line, (now C. & N. W.) Dubuque & Pacific, (now Ill. Central,) and McGregor & Missouri River (now C. M. & St. P.)

In the year 1860, Morris K. Jesup, Platt Smith, W. W. Hamilton and Herman Gelpecke had become the successors of Messrs. Hewitt, Walker, Schuchardt and Raymond as trustees of the Dubuque & Pacific R. R. Co. A large amount of bonds had been issued under the mortgage of March 14, 1857, and default in the payment of the interest having been made, these trustees brought an action of foreclosure in the district court of Dubuque county at the August term, 1860, against the railway company and a decree of foreclosure was entered August 21, 1860, by which it was ordered that these trustees recover of the Dubuque & Pacific R. R. Co. the sum of \$1,722,510, and if payment of this amount was not made in ten days then the equity of redemption should be forever barred and foreclosed. In contemplation of this foreclosure, a large number of persons who were interested in the railway company, as holders of its bonds and stock, formed a new company under the name of the Dubuque & Sioux City R. R. Co., to become the successor of the Dubuque & Pacific R. R. Co., for the purpose of acquiring all their rights, privileges and land grants, and to complete the construction of the railroad. This deed was executed by the president and secretary of the railway company and also by Morris K. Jesup and others, trustees, default having been made.

On April 7, 1862, an act of the General Assembly of Iowa was approved requiring the Dubuque & Sioux City R. R. Co. to release all the "swamp and overflowed" lands within the fifteen-mile limit of the road to the county in which they were situated, according to the act of congress approved March 3, 1857. In consideration of this relinquishment of the "swamp and overflowed" lands, the time of completion of any part of the road was extended one year.

On December 1, 1866, when it should have been completed, this road extended only to Iowa Falls, and the company failed and refused to execute the release of the swamp and overflowed lands as required by the act of the legislature of Iowa, April 7, 1862. By an act approved March 10, 1868, the General Assembly of Iowa declared the forfeiture of the lands granted to the Dubuque & Pacific (now Dubuque & Sioux City) R. R. Co. beyond the extension of their line and their reversion to the state of Iowa.

On January 7, 1868, the Dubuque & Sioux City R. R. Co. conveyed so much of the Dubuque & Sioux City railroad as remained to be constructed at that time and the pro ratio of six sections a mile of the lands granted by congress to aid in the construction of this road west of Iowa Falls, to the Iowa Falls & Sioux City R. R. Co.

The Iowa Falls & Sioux City R. R. Co. was formed to complete the construction of the road from Iowa Falls to Sioux City, and the Dubuque, Bellevue & Sabula R. R. Co. was organized to construct the *Tete des Morts* branch along the west bank of the Mississippi river south from Dubuque. On April 7, 1868, an act of the General Assembly of Iowa was approved that renewed the grant of lands forfeited by the Dubuque & Pacific (per the Dubuque & Sioux City) R. R. Co. to the two companies last named, upon the condition that the main line be completed to Fort Dodge by July 1, 1869 and to Sioux City before January 1, 1872.

DUBUQUE & SIOUX CITY R. R. LANDS.—Under these enactments the following lands in Pocahontas county were assigned to the Dubuque & Pacific (Illinois Central) R. R. Co., namely: All the odd-numbered sections in Lizard, Bellville, Colfax, Cedar, Dover, Grant, Lincoln and Lake townships, embracing the two south tiers, and in

the south half of Center, Sherman and Marshall, in the third tier of townships, and all or parts of sections 29, 31, 32, 33 and 35, Swan Lake township.

Previous to the transfer of its interest to the Dubuque & Sioux City R. R. Co., Aug. 24, 1860, the Dubuque & Pacific Co. had built the road to Waterloo, a distance of 80 miles, and had disposed of a large amount of their lands to eastern capitalists, who in turn sold them to settlers at \$1.25 to \$2.50 an acre and all the titles thus given were good.

All their lands in Lincoln township were sold to the Artisan's Bank of New York city, and this bank becoming insolvent, the railroad lands in that township were ordered by the courts of the state of New York to be sold at public auction. This sale was held in the city of New York, July 23, 1862, and the purchasers were Geo. W. Powers, Jacob S. Carter, John E. Corwith and Charles J. Forrest.

They also sold a great many of their lands in this county to a company composed of some twelve men in Boston, who organized themselves into the corporation known as the "Iowa Homestead Company," and appointed Geo. J. Forrest, Wm. J. Barney and Frederick C. Gebhardt their trustees. These trustees acquired the title to these lands direct from the railroad company and held them for the Iowa Homestead Co. until about March, 1880, when they sold them to the Iowa Land & Loan Co., of which Joseph Sampson, of Sioux City, (then at Storm Lake) was president for many years.

The railroad lands in the south half of Center township were included in the grant received by the Dubuque & Sioux City R. R. Co., and all of these south of section 15, including sections 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33 and 35 were sold to Warrick Price, of Cleveland, Ohio.

The Rogers' Locomotive company, of New Jersey, in compensation for

supplies furnished the Dubuque & Pacific R. R. Co. and their successors, became the owners of 4,800 acres of the lands granted this company in this county, located in Lizard, Bellville, Colfax, Sherman and Grant townships.

DES MOINES VALLEY R. R. LANDS.
—The Des Moines Valley Railroad Co. was organized to build a railroad from Des Moines to the north line of this state along the Des Moines river, and this company received a grant of land along the line of its railway under the act of congress approved July 12, 1862. Their lands in this county were located in the north and eastern parts of it, as follows:

Clinton township—All of sections 19, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35 and part of Sec. 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 21.

Des Moines—All of section 1 and part of section 3, 5, 7, 9, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31 and 33.

Powhatan—All of sections 13 and 22, and part of Sec. 1, 3, 11, 18, 19, 21, 26 and 27.

Swan Lake—All of section 1, 5 and 8, and part of sections 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 17, 18 and 20.

The fact that so many parts of sections appear in this grant is due to the fact the government had issued scrip to many persons, especially soldiers, in compensation for services rendered the government, and those who held this scrip had purchased therewith parts of these sections before the grant was made to this railroad company.

In the year 1877, the Des Moines Valley R. R. Co., having completed its line only to Fort Dodge via Tara, went into liquidation and the Des Moines and Fort Dodge R. R. Co. became its successor. In 1881 it extended the railway through this county to Ruthven and secured possession of the lands previously granted.

MCGREGOR AND MISSOURI RIVER R. R. LANDS.—The McGregor and

Missouri River R. R. Co.* was organized to build a railroad from McGregor, in Allamakee county, to a point on the Missouri river, and on July 19, 1867, this company received a grant that included the following lands in Pocahontas county: Part of sections 7 and 9 in Clinton township, part of section 3 in Des Moines, part of all the odd-numbered sections from 3 to 35 in Washington, part of sections 1 and 3 in Sherman and part of sections 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 in Center township. The patent for these lands was issued by the State of Iowa, Dec. 20, 1880.

It is not known that this company built any railroad, and its successor, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, R. R. Co., built none in this county nor within fifteen miles of it, but they acquired the lands, franchises, etc., of the former company. This company made sales directly to the settlers and favored all of them with a rebate on the purchasing price that broke a certain number of acres within a specified time.

The Toledo & Northwestern R. R. Co., which in 1881 built the railroad passing through Rolfe and Laurens, a branch of the Chicago & Northwestern system, received no grant of lands nor any public aid along its line in this county.

OTHER LAND GRANTS.

There have been approved to Iowa, under the several grants of congress, above 8,000,000 acres of land, or nearly one-fourth of the entire state. Of this amount about 400,000 acres were approved to the state to aid in the improvement of the Des Moines river; 1,500,000 acres for the support of the public schools; 204,000 acres for the support of the Agricultural College; 45,000 acres of saline lands, the unsold portion of which was transferred to the State University by an act of the General Assembly of Iowa approved

*The successor of the McGregor & Sioux City R. R. Co.

March 25, 1864; 4,675,000 acres to aid in the construction of the first railways across the state; and 1,570,000 acres of swamp lands, including those for which cash and land indemnity had been allowed.

The grant in Pocahontas county for the support of the public schools, embraced section number 16 in each township, or 10,240 acres.

Of the Agricultural College lands, 4,730 acres were located in this county on Jan. 13th and April 15th, 1869, under the act approved Dec. 16, 1864. Of this amount 1,760 acres were located in Bellville township, (Sec. 14, 28, 31, 32 and 36) and the remainder in Colfax (Sec. 18, 20), Lizard (Sec. 20, 28), Marshall (Sec. 22, 26), and Swan Lake (Sec. 26, 34, 36), townships.

Ten other counties in the earlier settled portions of this state, located 14,086 acres in this county. The selection and location of these lands was as follows:

Tama county, Sept. 23, 1864, in Powhatan township (Sec. 2, 3, 6) 1031 acres.

Johnson county, Dec. 28, 1864, in Powhatan (Sec. 8, 18) 400 acres, and Washington (Sec. 4, 6, 10) 1081 acres; total 1481 acres.

Buchanan county, Feb. 28, 1865, in Powhatan (Sec. 20) 200 acres and in Washington (Sec. 2, 14) 600 acres; total 800 acres.

Butler county, June 20, 1865, in Lincoln (Sec. 18) 214; Grant (Sec. 2, 6, 14) 608; Center (Sec. 2, 6, 18, 30) 767; Sherman (Sec. 4, 6, 18) 771; total, 1684 acres.

Allamakee county, June 27, 1865, in Powhatan (Sec. 8, 10, 28, 30, 34) 1787 acres.

Bremer county, June 29, 1865, in Center (Sec. 4) 130; Lake (Sec. 6, 18, 30) 304; Powhatan (Sec. 32) 560; and Washington (Sec. 18, 20, 22) 880; total, 1870 acres.

Dubuque county, Nov. 18, 1865, in Lake township, lot No. 2 of Sec. 22, 31 acres.

Jasper county, Feb. 17, 1869, in Cen-

ter (Sec. 13) 240; Swan Lake (Sec. 30) 80; Marshall (Sec. 8, 18, 20) 1214; total, 1534 acres.

Clinton county, March 20, 1870, in Dover (Sec. 10) 40, and Swan Lake (Sec. 2, 22, 24, 34) 400; total, 440 acres.

Cedar county, in Washington township (Sec. 5, 7, 17, 18) 1064 acres.

THE DISTRICT AND CIRCUIT COURTS; FIRST SESSIONS.

The first record of a term of the district court and of a trial before it is of date, "Highland, Nov. 2, 1860." Hon. A. W. Hubbard, of Woodbury county, was the presiding judge, and the first case was entitled:

A. K. HILL

vs.

PERRY NOWLEN,

and W. H. Hait appeared as the attorney for the plaintiff.

Only one other case was tried at this term of the court and it was entitled "John M. Stockdale vs. John C. Straight."

Thomas McCormick, a native of Ireland, was declared a citizen of the United States.

These items represent the business done at this first session of the district court in this county, and both the record and attestation thereof are in the handwriting of Judge Hubbard.

The time for the next term of court was May 22, 1862, but the only case in hand was granted a change of venue to Kossuth county by reason of the fact it was impossible to secure a jury of twelve men in this county for the trial of it. This change of venue was granted by the judge without coming to this county, and all the other items of business were postponed until the next session of the court.

The next records of the district court are of date Oct. 31, 1863, and show the business done at the second session of the court. At this date Isaac Pendleton, of Woodbury county, had become the successor of Judge Hubbard and, not arriving until the

third day of the session, Philip Russell, the clerk of the court, maintained the session by opening the court each day at the appointed hour and then adjourning it from day to day until the time of his arrival.

There were twenty-two other counties in Northwest Iowa in this judicial district at this date and the district court held only one session each year in thirteen of them, Pocahontas being among this number. In the other nine counties two sessions were held annually.

In 1869; the "circuit court" was established for the purpose of holding two sessions each year in every county. The first session of this court in this county was held at (Old) Rolfe, May 4, 1869, by Judge Jared M. Snyder, of Humboldt county, and only two items of business were transacted that became matters of record. James N. Prouty made application and was admitted to the practice of law before this court. He then presented to the court Thomas Peters, a foreigner, and secured his naturalization. When the second session of the court was held in this county, Feb. 8, 1870, several state and probate cases were heard and disposed of.

On the records of the courts during this period the names of the following persons appear as applicants for naturalization, the date given being the one on which the final papers were issued and the country, their native place:

1860, Jan. 3, Robert Struthers, Scotland.

1861, Aug. 23, James Hood, Canada.

1863, Nov. 2, William Struthers, Canada.

1864, Feb. 2, Matthew Tilley, England.

1867, June 4, John Weise, Prussia.

1867, June 4, Michael Weise, Prussia.

1869, May 4, Thomas Peters ———

1871, Feb. 6, Bernard Stegge, Germany.

1871, May 1, John Kreul, Germany.

1871, May 1, Peter H. Niemand, Germany.

1871, May 1, Robert Lothian, Scotland.

HAIT'S SAWMILL.

The only sawmill ever erected in the county was the one located at Old Rolfe in 1860, by Wm. E. Clark and John M. Stockdale for the purpose of sawing the material for the first court house and bridge over the Des Moines river at that place. It consisted of a circular saw run by steam and was located near the residence of W. H. Hait on section 26, Des Moines township. After the completion of the court house and bridge, Mr. Hait bought it and retained possession of it until 1870, when it was sold to the owner of a grist-mill in Webster county.

The first one who died in this county was Patrick Calligan, in the Lizard settlement, in August 1856.

The first white children born within the limits of the county were Rose Ann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Donahoe, Feb. 23, 1857; Maggie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Calligan, Aug. 11, 1857; Annie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Collins, March 10, 1858; Mary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Walsh, April 10, 1858, and Charles Joseph, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kelley, May 6, 1858. All of these belonged to the Lizard settlement. The portraits of all but two of these persons may be seen in this volume.

The first birth in the Des Moines settlement occurred on January 1, 1859, when Ellen, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Struthers, was born. She is now Mrs. Richard Mathers, of Clinton township.

The first marriage in this county occurred in the Des Moines settlement December 30, 1859. The ceremony was performed by Samuel N. Harris, clerk of the district court, and the con-

tracting parties were Michael O'Boyle and Margaret Sheridan, both of Humboldt county. The first marriage of residents of this county occurred at the home of Samuel N. Harris, in Des Moines township, July 18, 1861. In this instance the contracting parties were William Seymour Fegles and Miss Elizabeth Harris, the ceremony being performed by Robert Struthers, a justice of the peace.

On July 15, 1869, the Pocahontas Journal, the first newspaper published in the county was established at (Old) Rolfe by W. D. McEwen and J. J. Bruce.

X.

Second Period, 1870 to 1882—Period of Railroad Construction and Township Organization.

“While I behold the rushing tide of life,
Advancing westward, covering all the land,
A land, the richest in the fertile world,
The glorious garden of the peopled earth,
Budding, blossoming like the lovely rose,
I ask myself, what will this country be
When for its development time is given?”—L. BROWN.

THE FIRST RAILROAD.



T the beginning of this period, it may be said “The movers came by dozens, staked their claims and built their cabins.”

The year 1870 marks a new era in the history of this county. It was during this year the first railroad was built through its borders, and this event gave a new impetus to the settlement of the county, that was felt in every township, but most in those situated in the southwestern part of it.

In 1866 the Dubuque & Sioux City R. R. Co. had secured the extension of their line from Dubuque to Iowa Falls, a distance of 143 miles, but there it rested. In October, 1868, John I. Blair, of Blairstown, N. J., contractor and builder for the Iowa Falls & Sioux City R. R. Co., began the extension of the road to Sioux City, a distance of 183 miles. This railroad was completed to Webster City Dec. 31st,

following; to Fort Dodge in May and to Pomeroy Dec. 25, 1869. This railroad reached Cedar creek on the bank of which Fonda now stands, about May 1, 1870, and was completed at Storm Lake July 4, following. The west half of this railroad was built from Sioux City to Storm Lake.

William Bott, who is still an honored resident of Fonda, superintended the laying of the track of this first railroad from Iowa Falls to Storm Lake and, as a foreman of track-hands continued in the employ of the railroad company for a number of years afterward. He and his family were the first occupants of the depot at Fonda, and they enjoyed this luxury until the arrival of the first ticket and freight agent, Geo. Fairburn, a young man from Dubuque, full of hope, pluck and energy, well equipped for all the duties of this new and responsible situation on the frontier, and who, from that date, Oct. 15, 1870, until the present time, has been prominently

identified with the public and business interests of the new city then founded, first called Marvin, now Fonda.

The completion of the Iowa Falls & Sioux City railroad was signalized by the construction company running an excursion train from Fort Dodge to Sioux City on July 4, 1870. This train consisted of an engine profusely decorated with flags, several open flat-cars and a caboose; and most of the passengers were workmen and those who were interested in the railroad.

Among those who came on this train to see the location of the new town on the east bank of Cedar creek, was Abram Weaver, of Deerfield, New York, the present owner of section 1, Cedar township. On this, his first visit to this section he made the purchase of the west half of that section and two other tracts of land in the vicinity of Twin Lakes.

In June, 1869, thirty days after the completion of the railroad to Fort Dodge, The Illinois Central R. R. Co. leased the road and established a train service to that city. When the railroad was completed to Sioux City the Construction Company established a daily train service about August 1, 1870. This service at first consisted of one train a day each way, and during the months of August and September their agent located at Newell, Captain E. W. Stetson, still a resident of the town of Newell, attended to all the business at the Marvin station by coming to this place on one train and returning to Newell on the next one. This train was a mixed one, consisting of several freight cars and one passenger coach. On October 15th, the Illinois Central R. R. Co. having leased the entire line of the road, established a through train service, which, during the first year, was similar to that established

by the Construction Co.*

About ten miles of this railroad were built in Pocahontas county. It entered the county on the south side of Sec. 34, Colfax township, and passed through it in a straight line running about 15 degrees north of west to the west line of Sec. 19, Cedar township. It is so free from steep grades that a Mogul engine, the kind now used on it, having 18x24-inch steam cylinders and weighing 25 tons, can draw a load of 300 tons exclusive of the weight of cars, over its entire length in Iowa.

The Western Union Telegraph Co. handles the telegraph business along this road, under a contract given Sept. 20, 1863, to the Illinois & Mississippi Telegraph Co. The telegraph company furnishes the necessary material and the R. R. Co. the labor for the maintenance of the line, all messages of the R. R. Co., pertaining to their business, being transmitted free. The American Express Co. has charge of the express business, and on the main line the mails are weighed every four years from 1895 to determine the compensation for carrying them.

When this first railroad entered Pocahontas county in the spring of 1870, a settler resided upon a homestead in the vicinity of Storm Lake, but there were no visible indications of the thriving city that now bears that name; and when it reached Cedar creek, the section of country now occupied by the city of Fonda was a wild but beautiful prairie broken only by the trail of an occasional team to Fort Dodge.

*The Dubuque & Pacific R. R. Co. built the railroad from Dubuque to Independence, a distance of 69 miles, reaching that place June 3, 1860. The Dubuque & Sioux City R. R. Co., their successor, extended it to Iowa Falls, a distance of 74 miles, on April 15, 1866. On Oct. 23, 1888, all the railroad built by the Iowa Falls & Sioux City R. R. Co. was conveyed to the Dubuque & Sioux City R. R. Co., and it still owns the road from Dubuque to Sioux City.

FONDA FOUNDED IN 1870.

Peter G. Ibson, who is still a resident of the county, but then a blacksmith for the bridge builders along the line of the railroad, in February, 1870, erected a blacksmith shop about twelve feet square, on the present site of the Fonda water works, and this was the first building erected on section 27, Cedar township. He had entered the employ of the bridge builders of the railroad construction company near Webster City the previous year, and moving his shop westward with the progress of the road, chose this location as one convenient for the builders of the railroad bridge across Cedar creek. The superintendent of the bridge builders was George Sargent.

Previous to this date, (Feb., 1870) two small buildings had been erected about three-quarters of a mile west of Cedar creek on section 28. One of these was a little one-story frame building built in the fall of 1869 by Jacob Silbar, a Jewish peddler, who sold his goods from a wagon during the summer, and erected this building for a home during the winter. It stood south of the railroad grade, and as soon as Cedar creek became dry in 1870, Maurice Chase, a resident of the settlement at Sunk Grove and who the previous year had hauled the lumber for it from Fort Dodge, drew this building on a set of skids across the creek at the old fording place north of the Catholic church, and located it a few feet east of Ibson's shop. The sight of these two unpretentious looking buildings on the prairie just south of the railroad, is a matter of very distinct recollection on the part of many of the older residents of this community.

The other building west of Cedar creek, was built by John A. Hay on his homestead on the north half of section 28, and the place where it stood is still marked by a grove of

cottonwood trees that may be seen north of the railroad and about forty rods west of the east line of the section. In this building, which was erected also in the fall of 1869, John A. Hay and his brother, Harvey W. Hay, lived during that winter, and the former kept a small stock of groceries, receiving his supplies from Fort Dodge.

In the summer of 1870, John A. Hay built a store building that was first located on what for many years has been known as the Geo. Ellis property, south of Second and east of Main streets, where he sold goods under the firm name of Hay & Alford, the latter being a resident of Fort Dodge. Wm. Marshall, who arrived in May, 1870, built the first dwelling house, hauling the lumber from Pomeroy. This was a one and a half story building located north of Second street, first on lot 6 of block 8, and at present on the southwest corner of the next block east. Mr. Marshall had no desire to keep hotel but it became a matter of necessity that he should be willing to receive and entertain transients until a hotel was built. He established a lumber yard northwest of the depot, later owned by Geo. Fairburn and now by the Shull Bros.' Lumber Co. The depot was the next building completed, and Wm. Bott and family began to occupy it about the first of August. Two months later when he had to vacate it, the workmen under his care in one day erected a building north of the track, into which he moved and remained a considerable time.

In September, 1870, John I. Blair, of Blairstown, N. J., owner of the section, (27) had Frederick Hess, of Fort Dodge, make a survey and plat of the new town which he called Marvin, in honor of Marvin Hewitt, superintendent of the Illinois Central R. R. Co. at that time. The original plat embraced four streets running



GEORGE FAIRBURN

President, Pocahontas County Bank, Fonda.



Fonda and Vicinity.

northward from the railroad, on the east bank of Cedar creek, and named from it, Howard, Main, Franklin and King streets; and four streets running east and west, numbered from the railroad, First, Second, Third and Fourth streets, the last being south of the Presbyterian church. This plat was filed for record Sept. 13, 1870, and Fonda thus became the second town platted in the county. Mr. Blair set apart for public use as highways forever all the land included in the streets and alleys as shown in the original plot, the width of Main street being 100 feet and of the other streets 80 feet.

After the town was platted, John Hay moved his store building to the west side of Main street on the lot now occupied by the north half of the Fairburn bank building, Jacob Silbar erected a new building on the next lot north of it, and Peter Ibson built a new shop south of Second street near the former site of Hay's store, where it remained about two years or until it was moved to the corner on the west side of Main street now occupied by the brick block of Roberts & Kenning.

When Geo. Fairburn arrived he was accompanied by W. S. Wright, a young man also from Dubuque, and both of them made their home in the depot. The latter became the first express agent and postmaster. He established the first postoffice in the depot, under the name of Cedarville, and during the year he remained in charge of it the mail was kept in a little box that had only four pigeon-holes.

The first hotel was built by Albert Hay, an uncle of John A. Hay, on the corner north of the railroad, now occupied by the Washington hotel, for which it is still used as a kitchen.

The second good residence building was built by Wm. Snell, on the east side of Main street and on the second

block from the railroad. This building for many years was the home of Capt. Joseph Mallison, but in 1899, the large cottonwood trees that had been planted in front of it were cut down and it was removed to the lot of Frank Scott, near the cemetery, to make room for the two-story brick block of J. W. Rock. Wm. Snell established a real estate agency in partnership with Jacob Snyder, and a place for the sale of agricultural machinery in partnership with Wm. Marshall.

On the east side of Main street on the first block from the depot, several other buildings were built in 1870. One was erected as a restaurant by Horace and Charles Skinner, on the corner now occupied by the bank building of the Farmers' Loan and Trust company. Their first structure consisted of a board roof that rested on corners and pillars built by placing bunches of shingles on top of each other and the spaces between them were protected with canvas or tenting. Canute Tisdale, severing his connection with Jacob Silbar, built a shoemaker shop near the south corner of that block. North of it M. D. Skinner, of Webster City, built a long frame building that was intended to serve as a residence and printing office. A printers' outfit entirely new was put in the front room of this building and Mr. Skinner as editor and proprietor began to issue the Pochontas Times. Previous to the issue of the Times, W. S. Wright, the express agent, had had several weekly issues of the Cedarville Herald printed at Storm Lake and distributed through the postoffice at the depot. Dick Mills erected a temporary meat market near the alley a little north of the site of McKee's brick block and Charles Skinner a flour and feed store on the west side of Main street. About this time Samuel Hughes arrived and, purchasing the building

and stock of goods owned by Jacob Silbar, moved the building forward to the line of Main street, and its previous owner left the settlement.

CEDAR TOWNSHIP—FIRST RESIDENTS.

1868. The first residents of Cedar township seem to have been Elijah Chase and family, consisting of wife and five children, and Geo. Spragg and family. These two families were related to each other by marriage, and bringing their effects from Buchanan county on wagons drawn by oxen, they located at Sunk Grove on Sec. 6, Aug. 9, 1868. At this date there were no settlements west of those along the Lizard streams and not even a beaten wagon trail through this township.

For several months during the fall and winter preceding, Bartlett M. Morse, now a resident of Calliope, Sioux county, had engaged in trapping around the lake at Sunk Grove, and lived in a rude shanty in the grove; and another trapper by the name of King occupied it the ensuing winter, but neither of them became permanent residents of the township.

1869. On March 23, 1869, Ephraim Garlock, Abram O. Garlock, Geo. Hathaway and A. W. Creed entered and with their families began to occupy homesteads on section 24, and Geo. H. Wright and family on section 36 of Cedar township. Andrew J. Norem entered his homestead on section 22, on March 5th previous, but he did not immediately locate upon it.

In May following, Wm. Erastus Garlock and family and his brother George Garlock arrived in wagons, bringing their own and their father's stock from DeKalb county Ill., and located also on section 24; John Dunkerly and family on section 6; Sidney E. Wright, (a brother of Geo. H.) Geo. W. Wood and John R. Perry on section 36, and Julius F. Steveng on section 4.

In June the new settlers were Hor-

ace R. and Chas. Skinner on section 6; John A. Hay on section 28; Wm. Richards on section 32; Wm. Lawler, John Brown and Wm. Lynch and family of four children, all on section 2.

Other settlers that arrived later and entered their homesteads that year were Harvey W. Hay and J. S. Howell and family on section 28; John Diviny and Mrs. Rachel Hartwell on section 6; John Lemp on section 18; John M. Wood on section 36; and John Olson, wife and three children, who bought the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 33, and lived upon it until 1885.

1870. The first homesteaders to arrive in Cedar township in 1870, were Geo. Sanborn and family on section 34; Austin G. (brother of A. W.) Creed, on section 12; Matthew Byrne on section 4, and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mallison on section 20. These were followed in the spring by Jeremiah Sullivan and Chas. Breslin who came together and located also on section 4, April 7th. Among those who followed later that year were Samuel H. McDeid, Geo. E. Thompson and family and Geo. H. Thompson his nephew, all of whom located on section 18; Geo. A. Woolworth and Albert Wolfe on section 11; Pelatiah F. Bennett and Albin C. Spearin on section 8; Joseph C. Stevens, Albert Hanke and his brother Frank Hanke, all on section 6; Adam Cleghorn on section 20; Thomas Slater and Edward Mellen on section 36; John N. Welsh, Carrie, sister of A. W. Creed, and David Spielman on section 24.

The following additional persons in 1869 visited and located homesteads in Cedar township, namely: John D. Nichols, Wm. H. Schooley, James C. Kromer, Alfred Rowe, Grimes I. Snow, Justus F. Heath, Eugene Criss, Wm. Curney and Charles M. Hunt; and in 1870, Henry Paltersels, James F. Capen, Wm. G. Winn and John Munro, but they remained only a short time and their claims were cancelled.

WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP, 1868-1870.

With the tide of immigration that reached the western part of Pocahontas county, along the route of the proposed railroad, a settlement was formed in Williams township, Calhoun county, adjoining Cedar township on the south and tributary to Fonda as a center of trade, of which the following facts, pertinent to the history of this period, will be read with interest.

1868. The first families to locate in this settlement were those of Wm. H. Stott and of his wife's brother, Wm. P. Bush, both of whom located on section 14, in the early part of 1868. Soon afterward that same year they were joined by Samuel Poland, Jacob Stilts and family, George Fastle, Hugh Hocking, Jr., and his brother Wm. Hocking, all on section 10; Hugh Hocking, Sr., and his family, and his son John Hocking, on section 2.

1869. In 1869, John Stott and family located on section 18, on which his two sons, John Jr., and George also took homesteads that so cornered with their father's that when they built their house, which had three rooms, one room of it was on each of the three homesteads.

William Kennedy and family in April located on section 4, on the farm now owned by Charles Zeigler, and on June 5th, 1869, they were joined by Geo. Sanborn and family, his brother-in-law, with whom the latter remained until February, 1870, when he moved to his own homestead on section 34, Cedar township, one-half mile south of Fonda.

Sarah J. Clemens and family of four children, purchasing the homestead right of Alfred Hay, located on section 12, and in December, 1870, she was joined by her eldest daughter, Harriet A., then a school teacher, but now the wife of Baxter S. Chapman. This homestead is now the farm of

D. C. Morey.

Lemuel Milnor, Isaac Warner and family and Silas Flint and family located on section 12, the latter and his son George taking homesteads on that section, and Charles Flint on section 14. Charles H. Poland, Sr., Roderick J. Abbott and his brother Wm. Abbott, located on section 10; Nicholas Strauss and family and Henry Baker and family on section 6. Orlando O. Brown and family and his two sons, Nathan L. and Lyman W. Brown, located three homesteads on section 8, and James Rigby on the fraction of section 4. The latter was an earnest Seventh-day Adventist and in 1876 organized an Adventist church of thirty-six members in the Kennedy (now Mayo) school house.

Mrs. Mary Jane Jenkins (daughter of John Hocking, Sr.) and family, Jacob E. Kephart and David Thayer and family located on section 2.

In 1870, Obed Slater and family located on section 2, James Whitbeck on section 12, and a number of others, too numerous to mention, in various parts of the township.

At this date the settlement had already come to be known as the "Williams settlement," by reason of the fact that three of the first men to locate in it—Wm. Stott, Wm. Bush and Wm. Kennedy were often referred to as the three "Williams."

In 1871 when the township was organized, it was very naturally named "Williams" in honor of these three men whose public spirit made them as prominent as the fact they were early pioneers.

The first death in this settlement is believed to have been Amanda Stilts, the daughter of Jacob Stilts, who died about December 28, 1870, and was buried on a spot of high ground on her father's homestead which was on the E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 10. The location of this grave is still indicated by a clump of cottonwood trees that were planted

around it after her burial.

Miss Harriet A. Clemens taught the first school in this settlement, a term of two-months, in January and February 1871. This was before the organization of the township, and among the pupils that she enrolled there were two that were over age, namely, John Stott and Wm. P. Bush. The latter was thirty-two years of age and gave as the reason for his attendance the fact that his enlistment in the army prevented him from going to school in his younger days. He is now a resident of Gilmore City.

In the spring of 1871 this settlement was divided into two school districts. In district No. 1, the first teacher was Miss Harriet A. Clemens, (now Mrs. B. S. Chapman) who taught the summer and winter terms of 1871, the former term in the summer kitchen of Wm. H. Stott, on section 14, where she taught the previous term, and the latter one in a small temporary school building that was located near the center of section 11 on the north part of the farm now owned and occupied by Isaac P. Longnecker. Roderick J. Abbott taught the summer and winter terms of 1872 and Mrs. Rachel Hartwell, of the Sunk Grove settlement, the summer and winter terms of 1873 in the same temporary building. In 1874, when the school house was built in this, the Warner district, James Clemens was the first teacher to occupy it.

In the other district the first teacher was Edgar E. Mack, who taught the summer and winter terms of 1871 and also of 1872, in the home of Nathan L. Brown, on section 8. Mrs. Alice B. Ellis, wife of Capt. Ellis, of Ft. Dodge, taught the summer and winter terms of 1873 in the same place. In 1874, the Kennedy (now Mayo) school house was built and the first two terms in it were taught by Miss Sarah J. Darling, now the wife of Judge S. M. Elwood, of Sac City.

The first board of directors consisted of O. O. Brown, president; Wm. P. Bush, secretary; John Stott, treasurer; Wm. Kennedy and Roderick Abbott.

The first permanent school buildings in Williams township were built in the Warner, Kennedy (now Mayo) and Jackson districts, in the season of 1874 and by Abram O. Garlock, a resident of Cedar township, as contractor and builder.

The Jackson district received this name from Joseph Jackson, who located in that district about the year 1871. He was a carpenter as well as a farmer, and in 1875 was the contractor and builder of the school house in district No. 3, the Strauss neighborhood. The first teacher to occupy this building was George Sanborn, the present editor of *The Fonda Times*.

THE TOWNSHIPS ORGANIZED.

"American youth behold where you stand!
To you must be given the care of this land;
Prepare for your calling; be worthy the trust."

As a natural result of the immigration to this section, induced by the construction of the first railroad through it, four new townships were organized in Pocahontas county in the year 1870, namely, Cedar, Bellville and Grant on June 6th, and Dover (including Marshall) on September 6th, following. One year thereafter Colfax and Swan Lake townships were established; and in 1872 Lincoln (under the name of Carter) and Center townships.

About this date the ravages of the grasshoppers and other causes of hard times checked immigration very seriously and a period of four years elapsed before Washington township was established (Sept. 5, 1876.) and Lake, the year following. Another period of three years, suggestive also of hard times, elapsed before Sherman

township was established. Finally on June 5, 1882, Marshall township, the last one remaining, was established under the name of Laurens.

The last date given marks an important epoch in the history of this county. It not only denotes the time when the organization of the townships of the county was completed, but the period when this county was traversed in the north and east by two more important railroads, the Toledo & Northwestern and the Des Moines Valley (now the C. R. I. & P.). This date also marks the end of a period of repeated disappointments, hard times and unexpected disasters on the one hand, and the beginning of an era of uninterrupted growth and prosperity that has continued until the present time.

The following exhibit of the population of the county during this period, 1870-1882, shows when its growth was retarded by unfavorable circumstances and when manifest impulses were received.

Year	Pop.	Year	Pop.
1869	637	1875	2249
1870	1446	1880	3713
1873	2175	1885	6154

It will be perceived that there were two short periods of manifest growth that in general may be said to have embraced the first two and the last two years of the period under consideration; and that almost the entire decade included in the seventies—1872 to 1879—was an era of slow growth in the development of the county, a circumstance that was no doubt due to the trials and hardships experienced by those who weré residents of the county during that time.

If we seek for the principal causes that checked the forward impulse of 1870, it will be found that they were three in number, namely; the grasshoppers, the financial panic of 1873 and the strikes or hard times of 1877. The first of these retarding causes was in some measure local, but the

two last were felt more or less seriously throughout the whole country.

THE GRASSHOPPERS.

As early as 1856 and 1857, and again in 1864 and 1866, the grasshoppers of the Rocky mountain region visited the states of Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and Kansas, but owing to the limited number of the settlements at that early date, their ravages were not seriously felt or emphasized.

In Pocahontas county there were three distinct visitations of grasshoppers that are well remembered. These occurred in 1867 and '68, in 1873 and '74 and, in diminished numbers, in 1875 and '76, when they departed, unwept and unmourned.

These visitations were the cause of a vast amount of suffering throughout the entire northwestern part of this country and added greatly to the ordinary hardships of pioneer life. When they came sweeping through the land on the wing they darkened the face of the sun, and when they lighted on the farmers' gardens and growing crops they darkened the face of the husbandman, who saw before them his hope of subsistence but after them only a desolate wilderness. Whilst they would satisfy the cravings of their hunger, when necessary, by feeding on the tough native grasses of the prairie, they always manifested a keener relish for the tenderer vegetation that grew in the cultivated fields of the settler, and when they found them they "cleaned them out."

The region known as the permanent home of the Rocky mountain locusts or grasshoppers, where they breed every year and are always found in greater or less numbers, embraces the greater part of Montana, a narrow strip of western Dakota, most of Wyoming and Colorado, the eastern portions of Utah, Idaho and Oregon, and a very large area in the British possessions north of Montana that equals more than one-third of the whole re-

gion. The region over which they have temporarily migrated in years of excessive abundance, but from which they have disappeared the following year, includes on the eastern side of the mountains all of Texas, Indian Territory, Kansas, Nebraska, western Missouri, the greater half of Iowa, nearly all of Minnesota, Manitoba and the country north to Lake Winnipeg.

"The locusts," says the wise man, "have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands." This is true of the grasshopper, which is a species of locust. They form in compact ranks like the battalions of a disciplined army and they march at the command of a divine and mysterious will. One spirit rules the mighty hosts, and they move in numbers without number—countless as the snowflakes and dark as the clouds. When they travel on the earth they cover everything as completely as the river its bed. When they fly they not only darken the sun, but the sound of their wings is as the sound of many waters. They enter windows, doors and chimneys, cover beds, tables and furniture and fill all wells and open fountains of water. They are omnipresent like the pestilence and, defying sword, spear and cannon, are resistless like the tornado. Famine and pestilence follow their march.

The Arabs say "they have the face of a horse, the eyes of an elephant, the neck of a bull, the horns of a deer, the chest of a lion, the belly of a scorpion, the wings of an eagle, the thighs of a camel, the feet of an ostrich and the tail of a serpent."

One who had the opportunity of observing them and their habits in 1876, wrote as follows:

The grasshopper as a champion multiplier has no equal. He lays an egg which is about the size and shape of a long primer "O;" in fact he lays several of them. From the first of Au-

gust until winter he is actuated by a reckless ambition to bore holes in the ground about the size of a pipestem and then to fill these holes with cream-colored eggs. Although he is small he attends to business and is a triumphant success. In stature he is a match for a six-penny stub nail and in form he is like unto a linchpin. He wears a green sealing-wax head and a pair of large glass eyes, so that with his long-tailed duster he looks like an unsophisticated school-master.

He is not, however, unsophisticated; he thoroughly understands numeration and multiplication. He will stand himself bolt upright like a peg in one of those holes aforesaid, and viewing the heavens with sublime serenity and wooden-headed unconsciousness knows just what he is about. He prefixes himself like a figure "1" in the business and adopting the decimal system of notation calmly places a "0" where it will do the most good. That stands for 10, and before you know it he has added another cipher to that and he now reads 100. About this time you begin to find out what kind of a multiplier he is and you entertain a degree of awe for him not inspired by a front view of his green goggles; you discover that he is a dangerous neighbor. In one hour he has given you a problem that with all your powers of multiplication cannot be solved. He compounds his interest at 100 per cent every month and puts a snap judgment on your cornfield before you can say "grasshopper."*

A practical use of the innate energy of the grasshopper is suggested by the following incident. A man riding along the border line of the county about the time of their last visitation, was passed by a runaway mule and soon after met fragments of a wagon and the owner of the outfit. The owner, after making inquiries, remarked quite cheerfully that he was pretty sure he had cured his mule of "balkin'." "You see, I heerd that a grasshopper put in the ear of a hoss or mule would cure 'im from balkin'." So I tied a rag over the critter's ear so it couldn't get out, cotched a grasshopper, put it in, an' stranger,

*Fergus Falls Journal.

it's the best remedy I ever seed. The mule didn't give me time to get in the wagon. I never seed a mule so sprightly. I reckon the hopper's out now an' I'll go an' catch the mule."

The eggs of the grasshopper are laid in almost any kind of soil, but principally in one that is tolerably compact rather than loose. When about to lay her eggs the female forces a hole in the ground by means of the two pairs of horny valves that open and shut at the tip of her abdomen and which, from their peculiar structure are admirably fitted for the purpose. The eggs in each nest are carefully placed side by side in four rows and each row generally contains seven. The laying season, commencing about the first of August, lasts six to eight weeks, and each female lays 100 to 150 eggs during that time. The young hatch out about the first of May following and as soon as the supply of food in their locality is exhausted, they commence to migrate, frequently in a body a mile wide, devouring as they advance all the grass, grain and garden truck in their track. In migrating they move, as a rule, during the warmer hours of the day only, and always in search of food. If it is perfectly calm a traveler may meet different bodies of them moving in different directions, but if there is a breeze they rise facing it and then move with it. Only those that are hatched in their *permanent* region near the Rocky Mountains are capable of reproducing their species; that those hatched in this section and throughout the region of their temporary migrations lack this power is attributed to the effect of the change of climate. If the latter lay eggs they hatch the same season and are killed by the frosts of autumn. Their rate of movement when half grown is seldom greater than three yards a minute and then they walk three-fourths of the distance and hop the rest; later

when they take wing they average about 20 miles a day.

In 1867, the date of their first serious visit to Pocahontas county, they came to Powhatan township from the southwest, and when alighting their appearance was like the "falling snowflakes of a December storm." They moved in vast swarms, sometimes several miles in extent, and in looking toward the sun they appeared a mile in depth. After doing considerable damage and depositing their eggs they rose from every part of the country like smoke from a forest and departed for Minnesota. Their reappearance in 1868 consisted of the young brood that came from the eggs deposited the previous year in this section of the country. During this year their ravages were seriously felt in Lizard township.

In 1867 they came from the Rocky Mountain region and, depositing their eggs, a second crop appeared in the young brood that hatched in this vicinity in the spring of 1868. Their ravages during both of these years was felt most in the gardens, where they devoured most of the vegetables. They flavored their tobacco and cabbage with onions, peppers, carrots, peas and tomatoes. Pumpkins and squashes were partially destroyed but they were not favorite articles of diet.

On Friday, June 13, 1873, the first year of their second visitation to this county, a swarm arrived in Cedar township. In two days they had devoured the corn and garden truck, but they remained in this section until they had deposited their eggs. These hatched the following spring about May 15th and by July 1st were ready for migration. Their injury this year was chiefly confined to the small grain and this was so nearly destroyed that in Cedar township in threshing time 15 acres of wheat yielded 6 bushels, and 10 acres of oats 30 bushels. Six farmers who were neighbors stacked

all their crops together to get a setting for the thresher, and it still cost them about ten cents a bushel, the crop consisting almost entirely of straw.

J. C. Strong, a resident of Washington township, on June 13, 1873, had occasion to go to Sioux Rapids, and when a short distance east of that place he encountered them on their first recorded arrival in that township. They were coming from the west and in a cloud so dense and thick that it was with difficulty he kept his team in the road or urged them forward. They were in the act of alighting and when he emerged from the swarm the ground was covered with them. When they encountered on the wing a building or other obstruction, they fell to the ground and laid in heaps and rows like drifts of snow that could be scooped with the shovel.

This swarm arrived in the northwest parts of the county, in Swan Lake and Marshall townships, on June 14th, and other townships south and east on the day following. In crossing Pickerel lake they did not commence to alight until they had passed about a mile beyond it, and by reason of this circumstance, the fine crop of Milton Newell on the east side of the lake escaped uninjured. Some time after harvest this crop was bought by J. C. Strong and it yielded about 400 bushels of wheat and 600 bushels of oats.

The grasshoppers on this occasion did not incline to alight on the open prairie, no doubt because the grass was well advanced in its growth and it did not afford them so delicious a repast as the tender, cultivated crops of the early settlers. The settlers then were few in number, widely separated and their cultivated areas became the special object of their ravages. When they passed to another district the scene left behind them was as sterile as if had been swept by the dreaded prairie fire.

The second crop of this visitation,

the one that hatched in this section in the spring of 1874, was not quite so destructive as the first one, during the previous year, and various means were employed both to destroy them as soon as they were hatched and to protect the growing crops from their ravages.

Constant and unceasing cultivation was found to be of great value in saving the corn crop. On cool nights and windy days the young grasshoppers would cluster in bunches of old hay, grass or stubble as a protection from the cold. By taking advantage of this instinct of their nature, dry hay and straw were sometimes scattered in small bunches and many were thus burned in the cool of the following morning before they began to move about. Sometimes a deep ditch was sunk on one side of a field and some dry straw or hay being placed in the bottom of it, several persons moving abreast with brush in their hands would then drive them into the ditch and there burn them.

Another device for destroying them, called a "hopper catcher," consisted of a tin pan which in some respects resembled an eaves-trough. It had a high back and was divided into sections each one foot in length. It was usually eight, twelve or sixteen feet long, six inches wide, two inches high in front and ten at the back. The short ones were carried by hand either level or at an inclination of forty-five degrees, but the long ones were usually supported by a pair of light wheels, one at each end, and they were then drawn or pushed along either by hand or a horse. This machine was intended to catch the young grasshoppers when they attacked the heads of the wheat and oats crops, and when ready for use the sections were filled with kerosene, or water and kerosene. When it was passed back and forth over the field scaling the heads of the growing crops, the hoppers naturally and fortunately hopped against the

high back-board and falling into the kerosene, very soon expired. Wm. Bott and Wm. Snell, of Cedar township, and others in this vicinity, used these hopper catchers with good results.

Hon. L. S. Coffin, of Webster county, using hot water in the sections instead of kerosene, saved the grasshoppers and feeding them to his hogs found that for that purpose one bushel of them was worth about three of corn. When the chickens, however, fed upon them too freely, their eggs, of which the yolks became red like blood, had a peculiar taste and emitted an unpleasant odor that unfitted them for use.

Prof. J. H. Fowler found that one barrel of grasshoppers contained from three to four gallons of a fine grade of machine oil, suited for sewing machines and the like, and that a manufacturer of the oil could afford to pay from 75 cents to \$1.00 a barrel for the hoppers for that purpose.

At their meeting held January 5, 1875, the board of supervisors of Pocahontas county, finding that many of the settlers were unable to pay their taxes by reason of the loss of their crops by the grasshoppers in 1873 and 1874, adopted a resolution to the effect "that no interest should accrue on taxes delinquent until March 1, 1875."

In 1876 the grasshoppers came again from the Rocky Mountain region and in as great numbers as in 1873, but they arrived too late in this county to injure the crops of small grain for they had already been harvested. In Cedar township, coming from the northwest, they began to alight about noon on Sabbath, the 6th day of August. The air was full of them and they began their depredations by devouring the choicest morsels of the husbandman's store, the garden vegetables. The next day at noon most of them "took wing," and though they left their mark behind them, very little damage was done, the corn crop

being well advanced. In Dover township and other parts of the county they arrived two weeks earlier, did more damage especially to the late corn, and deposited their eggs.

On Saturday evening, September 23, 1876, a meeting of the citizens of Grant township was held in school house No. 1, and an organization was effected for the mutual protection of that settlement, then embracing eleven sections, against prairie fires and the ravages of the young grasshoppers the ensuing season. A. W. Rake was elected chairman and C. H. Tollefsrud secretary of this meeting.

In the spring of 1877 the young brood, forming the second crop of this visitation, commenced to hatch about the first of April and in numbers so great as to endanger all the crops of that year. Fortunately for the farmers, a storm of three days' duration commenced on Thursday, April 26th, that destroyed most of them. This storm was a regular old-fashioned blizzard, somewhat out of season but bringing relief so immediate and complete from the grasshopper pest that every old settler remembers it with a feeling of gratitude. A gentle rain commenced on Thursday that on the next day about noon changed to snow accompanied with a high wind, and the snowing and the blowing continued until nearly Sabbath morning following, when the ground was covered with a deep snow. The frosts and the dampness that ensued had the good effect of destroying the unhatched eggs and most of the young brood. The few that survived, at the time of their maturity, "took wing" and departed. A little later the same season another lot came from the northwest and settled in the gardens and fields of oats, then nearly ripe, but they remained only one or two days.

These repeated ravages of the grasshoppers deprived the farmers of Northwestern Iowa not only of their ex-

pected incomes, but of profitable employment. Their lands were rendered valueless, many were compelled to seek lucrative employment in other sections and the outlook was dark indeed.

NO MORE GRASSHOPPERS.

In the spring of 1877, Prof. Aughey, the celebrated western naturalist, who had made a special study of the grasshopper, predicted that that season would be the last of the grasshopper visitation for many years. The U. S. commission entertained the same opinion. The basis of this opinion was the following report made to the governor of Nebraska, June 10, 1877, by Prof. Aughey and Prof. C. Thomas:

We consider the danger from the young which have hatched out this season in Nebraska, over, and that this part of the problem is already solved. We also believe the long series of their visitations has come to a close. There may be and doubtless will be at irregular periods, visitations by migrating swarms, but it is not at all likely that the present generation will ever witness another such a series as that which has just passed.

These predictions were singularly verified for that and every year since that time. Their conclusions were based on facts that they had learned from the natural history of this insect. The cultivated areas are now so large that in the future, even if they should come, they will not be able to make much if any impression on the growing crops; and the people have learned how to meet and contend successfully with them when they appear in the spring, so that as a destroyer they have lost their terror.

FINANCIAL PANIC OF 1873.

In 1870 and 1871 occurred the brilliant victories of Germany over France that resulted in an accession of territory and the payment of an indemnity of more than a thousand millions of dollars to the former. Two short years thereafter a series of financial

disasters occurred, commencing with the crash on Wall street, New York city, that caused among others on that same day, the failure of Jay Cooke & Co., September 19, 1873, the panic of that year and a period of hard times, that culminated in this country in the bloody railroad strikes of 1877. The day on which this crash came on Wall street was Friday, and so far-reaching were its ominous results that it has since been known as "Black Friday."

The panic of 1837 inaugurated a period of hard times that old men still remember as disastrous, but it was preceded by bountiful harvests and food was plenty. The panic of 1857 was one that ruined the material prosperity of thousands, but it was soon relieved by the discovery of gold the same year in California and Australia, and the use of steam in industry had marvelously increased the productive power of human labor, but in 1873, no adequate immediate relief was found; even the planting of new homes on the frontier was completely checked by the remarkable visitations of the grasshoppers that occurred at this time and for several years devoured the new settlers' means of subsistence.

RAILROAD STRIKES OF 1877.

The great railroad strikes of 1877 had their beginning in the east, on July 16th, when the locomotive engineers and firemen on the Baltimore & Ohio, at Martinsburg, W. Va., left their posts, and in less than twenty-four hours the entire B. & O. system of railroads was idle. The men on other railway systems joined the strike, so that on August 1st, following, they numbered 15,000 who, resisting the constituted authorities of the government, burned a vast amount of railroad property in Pittsburg and caused the shedding of blood in Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michi-