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HISTORY OF
BUTLER COUNTY
IOWA

A Record of Settlement, Organization, Progress
and Achievement

By IRVING H. HART

VOLUME I

ILLUSTRATED

CHICAGO
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CONTENTS

CHAPTER I

DESCRIPTIVE

LOCATION — BOUNDARIES — SURFACE — DRAINAGE — TIMBER —
PRAIRIES—FRUIT AND CROPS—WILD LIFE—POPULATION... 9

CHAPTER II

GEOLOGICAL

PRIMARY PERIOD—TROPICAL IOWA—SECONDARY PERIOD—THE
GLACIAL EPOCH—TERTIARY PERIOD—DRIFT DEPOSITS—THE
WISCONSIN DRIFTS—THE IOWAN DRIFTS—GLACIAL BOWL-
ERS—“PILOT ROCK”—AGENCIES OF SOIL FORMATION—THE
SOIL OF BUTLER COUNTY 17

CHAPTER III

HISTORICAL—IOWA TO THE ADMISSION OF THE STATE

PRE-HISTORIC PERIOD; FIRST INHABITANTS OF IOWA—THE MOUND
BUILDERS—THE AMERICAN INDIANS. HISTORIC PERIOD; DIS-
COVERY—EXPLORATION AND COLONIZATION—THE STRUGGLE
FOR NORTH AMERICA—THE FRENCH IN THE MISSISSIPPI VAL-
LEY—MARQUETTE AND JOLIET—LA SALLE IN LOUISIANA—
TREATY OF 1763—LOUISIANA UNDER SPANISH RULE—CON-
QUEST OF THE NORTH WEST TERRITORY—NAPOLEON AND THE
SECRET TREATY OF ST. ILDEFONSO—THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE
—GOVERNMENT OF THE NEW TERRITORY—MISSOURI TERRI-
TORY—MICHIGAN TERRITORY—WISCONSIN TERRITORY—IOWA
TERRITORY—ADMISSION AS A STATE..... 23

CHAPTER IV

HISTORICAL—STATE AND COUNTY

FIRST SETTLEMENT—JULIEN DUBUQUE—TREATIES OF PURCHASE AND CESSION—"THE NEUTRAL STRIP"—FIRST PRICE OF BUTLER COUNTY LAND—THE BLACK HAWK PURCHASE—THE FIRST COUNTIES; DUBUQUE AND DES MOINES—BUCHANAN AND FAYETTE COUNTIES—BUTLER COUNTY; NAME, ORGANIZATION AND FIRST ELECTION	35
--	----

CHAPTER V

EARLY DAYS

THE HUNTER'S PARADISE—EARLY SETTLEMENTS IN TIMBER LANDS—THE PIONEER LARDER—GOING TO MILL—DANGERS AND PRIVATIONS—COMPENSATIONS	41
---	----

CHAPTER VI

EARLY SETTLEMENT OF BUTLER COUNTY

CARPENTER'S GROVE—COON GROVE—THE HICKS AND WAMSLEY FAMILIES—OTHER EARLY SETTLERS—FIRST LAND ENTRIES—THE INDIANS IN BUTLER COUNTY—INDIAN SCARE OF 1854—GENERAL ITEMS	53
---	----

CHAPTER VII

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

THE COUNTY COURT—FIRST TRIAL—FIRST PLATTED TOWN—FIRST COURT HOUSE—EARLY ELECTIONS—GOVERNMENT BY A BOARD OF SUPERVISORS—OTHER COUNTY OFFICERS—LISTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS	69
--	----

CHAPTER VIII

LOCATION OF THE COUNTY SEAT

THE FIRST COUNTY SEAT CLARKSVILLE 1853 TO 1860—AGITATION FOR REMOVAL—GEORGETOWN, ELECTION OF 1858—BUTLER CENTER, ELECTIONS OF 1859 AND 1860—SECOND COUNTY SEAT BUTLER CENTER 1860 TO 1881—FURTHER AGITATION—THIRD COUNTY SEAT ALLISON 1881	83
--	----

CHAPTER IX

REPRESENTATION—STATE AND NATIONAL

CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION—STATE OFFICERS FROM BUTLER
 COUNTY—REPRESENTATION IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. . . . 93

CHAPTER X

THE JUDICIARY AND THE BAR

THE DISTRICT COURT—COUNTY COURT—THE CIRCUIT COURT—THE
 BAR 99

CHAPTER XI

MEDICAL PROFESSION 113

CHAPTER XII

THE PRESS 123

CHAPTER XIII

EDUCATIONAL

FORMS OF ORGANIZATION—RECENT SCHOOL LEGISLATION—THE
 SCHOOL FUND COMMISSIONER—COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT—
 EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS—PROMINENT EDUCATORS 131

CHAPTER XIV

AGRICULTURE AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

THIRTY YEARS AGO—IOWA'S PRIMACY IN AGRICULTURE—CLIMATE
 —METEOROLOGY OF BUTLER COUNTY—CROP PRODUCTION AND
 OTHER STATISTICS—AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES—OAK GLEN
 FARM 141

CHAPTER XV

BUTLER COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR. 157

CONTENTS

CHAPTER XVI

REMINISCENT	195
-------------------	-----

CHAPTER XVII

TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION	205
-----------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XVIII

ALBION TOWNSHIP—TOWN OF PARKERSBURG.....	209
--	-----

CHAPTER XIX

BEAVER TOWNSHIP—TOWNS OF BUTLER RAPIDS, WILLOUGHBY AND NEW HARTFORD	237
--	-----

CHAPTER XX

BENNEZETTE TOWNSHIP—VILLAGE OF AREDALE.....	253
---	-----

CHAPTER XXI

BUTLER TOWNSHIP—TOWN OF CLARKSVILLE.....	263
--	-----

CHAPTER XXII

COLDWATER TOWNSHIP—TOWN OF GREENE.....	283
--	-----

CHAPTER XXIII

DAYTON, FREMONT AND JACKSON TOWNSHIPS.....	305
--	-----

CHAPTER XXIV

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP—TOWNS OF BUTLER CENTER AND COSTER..	319
--	-----

CHAPTER XXV

MADISON TOWNSHIP—VILLAGE OF KESLEY.....	331
---	-----

CHAPTER XXVI

MONROE TOWNSHIP—TOWN OF APLINGTON..... 341

CHAPTER XXVII

PITTSFORD TOWNSHIP—TOWN OF DUMONT.....355

CHAPTER XXVIII

RIPLEY AND WASHINGTON TOWNSHIPS 375

CHAPTER XXIX

SHELL ROCK TOWNSHIP—TOWN OF SHELL ROCK..... 389

CHAPTER XXX

WEST POINT TOWNSHIP—TOWN OF BRISTOW..... 409

CHAPTER XXXI

ALLISON, THE COUNTY SEAT 423

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Irving H. Hart

History of Butler County

CHAPTER I

DESCRIPTIVE

LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES

Butler county is situated a little to the east of the north central portion of the State of Iowa, in the third tier of counties south of the Minnesota line and the fourth tier west of the Mississippi river. It is bounded on the north by Floyd county, on the east by Bremer and Blackhawk counties, on the south by Grundy county, and on the west by Franklin county. Cerro Gordo, Chickasaw and Hardin counties corner with Butler county on the northwest, northeast and southwest, respectively. The county is an exact square, twenty-four miles on a side, containing sixteen congressional townships, making its area 576 square miles.

SURFACE

The surface of the county is a rolling plain, broken by few conspicuous topographic forms. No detailed geological survey of the county has ever been made but from the data at hand it would appear that the highest point in the county is on the divide between the Shell Rock and West Fork valleys, probably the point of the location of the present county courthouse in Allison. The lowest point is in the extreme southeastern corner of the county where the Beaver creek crosses the county line into Blackhawk. The measure of range of elevation between these points does not exceed 250 feet, the altitude of Allison, as determined from the railway surveys, being 1,044 feet above the sea level and that of New Hartford, in the Beaver valley in the southeastern portion of the county, being 895 feet. In general the surface of

the county slopes to the south and east, following the direction of the streams.

DRAINAGE

The county is chiefly drained by three streams, the Shell Rock river, the west fork of the Cedar, and Beaver creek. A small portion of the extreme northeastern part of the county is drained by a series of streamlets flowing into the Cedar.

The Shell Rock river has its source in Silver lake in Worth county and flows southeastward through Cerro Gordo and Floyd counties, entering Butler county at a point a short distance northwest of Greene. It flows diagonally southeast through Coldwater, Dayton, Jackson, Butler and Shell Rock townships, and thence through Bremer county to its junction with the Cedar in the northwestern part of Blackhawk. Its valley is broad, with gently sloping hills rising on either side. Practically all of the valley is capable of cultivation and forms one of the most fertile farming districts of the county. The width of the stream proper averages several hundred feet and its volume is sufficient to supply much more power than is now utilized. It is one of the most beautiful streams in the state, its crystal clear waters flowing over sand and limestone and winding placidly through groves of stately natural timber to join with the classic Cedar, which it rivals in all save romantic interest.

The west fork of the Cedar, or "The West Fork," as it is commonly called, rises in Cerro Gordo and Franklin counties, being formed by the confluence of Datlmann's creek, Mayne's creek, Kilson's creek and a number of other small streams. It flows in a southeasterly direction through the county and furnishes an outflow for the surface water of the western and south central townships. Its bed is of a much more muddy nature than that of the Shell Rock and its flow more sluggish. Its broad flood plain was in an early day so frequently overflowed as to be practically impassable at certain seasons of the year.

Beaver creek flows almost due east through the southern tier of townships and empties into the Cedar river some distance above Cedar Falls. Its volume of water is not so large as that of the streams mentioned above but it is sufficient to furnish some water-power were its power made available. Like the other streams it has a much broader valley than its size would appar-

ently justify. On the northern edge of this valley in the eastern part of its course rises Beaver ridge, a wooded bluff which extends westward for six or seven miles through Beaver and Albion townships. The eastern portion of the divide between the Beaver and the West Fork furnishes the most rugged section of the county, the region being one of sharply alternating ridges and ravines. Largely for this reason this section differs materially both in the character of its soil and of its people from the rest of the county.

THE PRAIRIES

Butler county lies in the heart of the prairie region of the state, although a portion of its area has always been covered with natural timber; but sixty years ago by far the greater part of its extent was open rolling prairie. It is difficult for one to realize now when on every hand the view is broken by stately groves and fruitful orchards around practically every farm home that then over most of the county the eye could sweep from horizon to horizon without sight of a tree, except in the valleys of the principal streams and their larger tributaries. The Shell Rock, the West Fork and the Beaver wound their courses through tracts of forest land that in some places compared well with the best virgin timber of the eastern states. Occasionally small groves were found on the prairies away from the water courses.

TIMBER

The principal varieties of trees found in the early forests were hickories, walnut, oaks, maples, ash, elms, basswood, cottonwood, willow and others of less importance. Some red cedar trees were to be found when the first settlers came to the county but these as well as the best specimens of oak and walnut were cut and utilized for lumber almost before the prairie sections were settled. That the forest growth did not extend farther up the streams and outward across the prairies was due to no lack of fertility of the prairie soil or of adaptability for the growth of trees as subsequent experience has demonstrated was rather due principally to the immense prairie fires which swept every year over the plains. As settlement extended outward upon the prairies most of the causes of fire were removed and in many instances

the forest growth began to extend farther up the streams and back to the uplands.

When the people learned that the prairie soil was as valuable for agricultural purposes as that of the forest regions and the settlements began to extend out upon the prairies, there arose a need for the protection of the new homes from the severity of the hot and cold winds of summer and winter. Since the need was immediate and the softwood trees were cheap, easily obtained and productive of early results, the first plantings of artificial timber were largely made up of such species as cottonwood, soft maple, box elder and willow. As the county grew older and more wealthy, better homes were built surrounded by slower-growing and longer-lived trees. So today we find the farm homes surrounded by groves of evergreen of various kinds with elms and hard maple and other hardy trees that in themselves bespeak a thought for the welfare of the future. Many of these artificial groves are of relatively large size and point the way by which the threatened timber famine due to the depletion of our natural forests may be avoided. Honey locust, ash, black walnut, catalpa, and European larch are being grown for posts and lumber and wherever reasonable care has been given them they have given good results. One of the most remarkable of these artificial groves is that on the Iowa Central Stock Farm in West Point township. Here between twenty and thirty acres were planted to selected hardy varieties of trees some forty years ago and today they form what has been termed by an expert from the State Agricultural College at Ames as "probably the most remarkable growth of artificial timber in the state."

FRUITS AND CROPS

While somewhat north of the fruit belt, nearly every farm has an orchard and there are a number of successful fruit raisers in the county. Apples, cherries, plums, and grapes are grown in abundance and the smaller fruits, strawberries, currants, raspberries and blackberries are staple products of the farms. The soil, the quality of which is discussed in detail in a later chapter, is unsurpassed in fertility. Butler county has never known a genuine crop failure. Corn is king of the farm crops, but it is ably seconded by the crops of small grains, all of which may be grown with profit on this rich soil. In an early day much wheat was

grown. The experience of that day, however, was that other crops could be grown with equal profit and less drain upon the natural richness of the soil, so today comparatively little of this cereal is raised in the county. Oats rank next to corn as the most important crop with barley, rye, wheat and buckwheat following in order. The forage crops, clover, timothy, and wild hay rank next in importance and value. A diversity of vegetables is produced on farms and in gardens, potatoes being practically the only vegetable produced in quantities sufficient to supply more than the local markets. In general it may be stated that in all farm and garden products that are raised in any section having similar climatic and geologic conditions, Butler county stands with the first in quantity of yield and quality and diversity of products.

WILD LIFE

Before the coming of the white man, the prairies and woods of Butler county were the homes of many forms of wild life. Deer, elk and buffalo grazed over the grassy hills and along the margins of the streams. The rifles of the pioneer hunters had driven most of these from their native range to the westward before the first settlements were made here; but for many years thereafter the county was a hunter's paradise. In season, countless coveys of quail and prairie chickens were found on the prairies and along the water courses wild geese and ducks abounded. The former have almost disappeared, although in the last few years under the protection of the new game laws a few quail and prairie chickens are seen where thousands once were to be found. With the advance of civilization, too, the prairie wolf, once ubiquitous, has disappeared, being seen now only at rare intervals and in widely scattered localities. Today there is little or nothing left to remind one of the wild life that surrounded the pioneer settlers of these virgin acres.

POPULATION

In common with other essentially rural sections of the state, Butler county has made no growth in population in the last decade. On the contrary the census figures show a slight loss. In this the county does not stand alone. All over the Central West the

rural communities have suffered a loss in population. It is only the cities that have gained. Butler county has no towns of over 1,200 people and so has not shared in the general urban increase. Of the 17,119 persons reported as residing within the county limits by the census of 1910, 5,990, or less than 35 per cent, are reported as living in incorporated towns or villages. There are nine of these towns and villages, ranging in size from Greene with 1,150 people to Bristow with 291. Of the ninety-nine counties of the state Butler ranks fifty-fifth in population.

Below are appended tables of the population of the county as shown by successive state and national censuses since its organization and of the towns and villages since 1885.

POPULATION OF BUTLER COUNTY, 1852-1910

1852	73	1875	11,734
1854	420	1880	14,293
1856	2,141	1885	14,523
1860	3,724	1890	15,463
1863	4,142	1895	16,966
1865	5,006	1900	17,955
1867	6,542	1905	17,636
1870	9,951	1910	17,119

POPULATION OF TOWNS AND VILLAGES IN BUTLER COUNTY, 1870-1910

Town	1870	1875	1880	1885	1890	1895	1900	1905	1910
Allison	336	...	436	463	503	495
Aplington	379	427	503	427	441	448
Bristow	198	218	257	355	317	348	291
Butler Center	152	...	149
Clarksville	...	699	818	...	735	830	849	957	895
Dumont	433	562	550
Greene	711	780	845	1,168	1,192	1,224	1,150
New Hartford	244	277	...	452	570	574	482
Parkersburg	652	796	760	999	1,164	1,114	938
Shell Rock	719	780	733	828	839	848	741

POPULATION OF TOWNSHIPS, 1890-1910

	1910	1900	1890
Albion township, including part of Parkersburg town..	1,433	1,689	1,440
Beaver township, including New Hartford town.....	1,223	1,349	1,074
Bennezette township.....	681	689	580
Butler township, including part of Clarksville town...	1,471	1,527	761

HISTORY OF BUTLER COUNTY

Coldwater township, including Greene town.....	1,836	1,967	1,608
Dayton township.....	633	641	667
Fremont township.....	757	757	778
Jackson township, including parts of Allison and Clarks- ville towns.....	781	811	704
Jefferson township.....	642	657	642
Madison township.....	755	679	604
Monroe township, including Aplington town and part of Parkersburg town.....	1,363	1,388	1,088
Pittsford township, including Dumont town and part of Bristow town.....	1,286	1,202	782
Ripley township.....	602	621	493
Shell Rock township, including Shell Rock town.....	1,461	1,547	1,482
Washington township.....	756	925	735
West Point township, including parts of Allison and Bristow towns.....	1,439	1,506	1,033
Total	17,119	17,955	15,463

CHAPTER II

GEOLOGICAL

We are indebted to geologists and their detailed study of the remains of the past ages for our knowledge of the periods that preceded history. These scientists tell us and the unimpeachable geologic records sustain their statements that for ages what is now Iowa and the greater part of the Mississippi Valley lay beneath the waters of the sea. During this period by a process incomprehensibly slow the sedimentary strata of Iowa were formed. Gradually the sea receded to the southward until the whole surface of the state was exposed. Later, forests and other forms of vegetation came to cover the land surface. Before, however, Iowa was raised permanently above the surface of the waters, another long period passed during which the greater portion of the state was again sunk beneath the level of the sea. Finally some unknown change of the surface of the earth took place as a result of which Iowa was finally elevated to a level above that of the ocean.

TROPICAL IOWA

From this time on for uncounted centuries, the climate of this section of North America was tropical. Tropical trees such as the cypress, magnolia, cinnamon, fig and palm flourished here and tropical animals were found in the forests and swamps.* “Iowa and all the adjacent regions far north and westward reveled in the luxuriance of a tropical climate. The air was balmy and laden with the odors of flowers and fruits. The bright summer days seemed never ending. A listless languor sent the birds and beasts into the shade at midday. Tropical vegetation grew spontaneously; brilliant foliage and flowers, luxuriant ferns and clinging vines mingled with the forests and open vistas in landscapes of surpassing beauty.

* B. F. Gue: History of Iowa.

THE GLACIAL PERIOD

“But in the course of time a change was perceptible. The intense heat of the long summer days was tempered by refreshing breezes and the nights became delightfully cool. The winters were slowly growing colder. Snow storms came and piercing winds swept over plain and forest. Tropical plants were stricken with early frosts; ice formed in lakes and streams where it had never before appeared. The more hardy animals sought the shelter of wooded ravines and deep gorges. Snow fell to unusual depths; year after year it came earlier, and winter continued later. The earth became frozen to great depths; fruit and trees disappeared. As the snow piled higher each succeeding year, and the summers were too short and cold to melt it, all animal life perished. The pressure of mountains of snow and the percolating rains converted the mass into a solid sheet of glacial ice that not only covered nearly all of Iowa, but reached out over the northern half of North America.

“The ice sheet of this period had its southern margin south of the latitude of St. Louis. The ice was slowly moving outward from the center of accumulation, grinding over the underlying rocks and crushing them to the finest powder. Fragments of enormous size were frequently caught in the lower portion of the flowing ice and carried forward bodily, grinding the rock strata into rock flour, and being themselves planed and grooved on the lower surface. All boulders of crystalline rock which we find strewn over the state were carried from their native ledges in British America by these ice sheets during this period.”

* “Glaciers and glacial action have contributed in a very large degree to the making of our magnificent state. What Iowa would have been had it never suffered from the effects of the ponderous ice sheets that successively overflowed its surface, is illustrated in the driftless area of northeastern Iowa. Before the glacial drift was deposited, the surface of Iowa was carved into an intricate system of hills and valleys. There were narrow gorges hundreds of feet in depth and there were rugged, rocky cliffs and isolated buttes corresponding in height with the depth of the valleys.

“In such a region a quarter section of level land would be a curiosity. This is a fair sample of what Iowa would have been

* Condensed from Samuel Calvin: Geology of Iowa.

had it not been planed down by the leveling effect of the glaciers. Soils of uniform excellence would have been impossible. The soils of Iowa have a value equal to that of all the silver and gold mines in the world combined. And for this rich heritage of soils we are indebted to the great rivers of ice that overflowed Iowa from the north and northwest. The materials which they deposited are in places hundreds of feet in depth. They are not oxydized or leached, but retain the carbonates and other soluble constituents that contribute so largely to the growth of plants. The physical condition of the materials is ideal, rendering the soil porous, facilitating the distribution of moisture, and offering unmatched opportunities for the employment of improved machinery in all of the processes connected with civilization."

In all, four great ice sheets, each making a corresponding deposit of glacial drift, invaded Iowa at different times. These sheets did not come from exactly the same direction and there is some difference in the character of the material which they brought. The first and the greatest of these ice sheets that pushed their way into Iowa from the frozen regions of the north is known as the Kansan Ice Sheet, from the fact that it extended as far south and west as the present State of Kansas. This sheet covered the whole surface of Iowa except the extreme northeastern corner, which, as was said above, was never affected by glacial action. The drift deposited by this glacier is now hidden from view, covered deep below the surface of the later drift deposits.

DRIFT AREAS

The other three areas of glacial drift are known as the Illinoisan, the Wisconsin and the Iowan drifts. The Illinoisan which covered a small portion of the southeastern part of the state and the Wisconsin which covered the part of the state from Osceola to Winnebago counties on the north and south to Polk county, had no direct effect upon the soil condition in Butler county. The Iowan glacial ice sheet, however, was the direct agent of the formation of the soil in this section of the state. Roughly speaking the area of this Iowan glacial drift covered a territory from Worth county south to Marshall, east to Linn and north to Howard county, including all the territory within these boundaries. Butler county lies entirely within this drift area.

It is estimated that from one hundred thousand to one hundred and seventy thousand years have elapsed since this invasion of Iowa by the glaciers. Subsequently another climatic change came slowly and the ice began to melt. When the ice of this last great glacial sheet which may have been ten thousand feet in thickness melted away, there was left upon the surface of the earth an accumulation of rock flour, sand, gravel and boulders from two hundred to five hundred feet thick. The surface of this mass was not smooth to begin with. There was no natural drainage. The sediment of the turbid waters formed from the melting ice was deposited in layers of yellow clay. Gradually as time passed the lower places were filled up by deposits of this sediment and by washing from the higher levels and streams began to carve their channels over the surface of the drift. With the establishment of natural drainage lines the surface assumed the most favorable condition for agricultural operations.

This condition has been reached in the region covered by the Iowan drift but in the area of the Wisconsin drift to the west of us the earlier stage of development is still evident. Here the land surface is practically in the same condition in which it was left after the enormous mass of ice melted away, except, of course, that it is now covered with vegetation. A few large streams, such as the Des Moines, flow across it but for the most part they have not had time to extend their tributaries very far back from their main channels. Nearly the whole territory is as yet a monotonous stretch of prairie, dotted with undrained ponds, sloughs and lakes. In consequence of this absence of a natural system of drainage, the surface is frequently so marshy and waterlogged that agriculture can be carried on only at a great disadvantage and with frequent loss in seasons of heavy rainfall. The chief problem of this region is to secure adequate drainage.

The area of the Iowan drift in which Butler county is located shows a marked contrast to the above conditions. This glacier invaded the state before the Wisconsin and its deposit is therefore older. Its drift area has entered well upon the second stage of development indicated above. Natural drainage lines have been developed for the most part. The excess of rainfall and surface water has, therefore, much greater opportunity of flowing away of its own accord. This in itself constitutes the chief advantage which this area enjoys over that of the Wisconsin glacier to the west.



PILLOT ROCK

A glacial boulder on the farm of W. P. Miller in West Point Township



Another contrast is to be noted in the character and size of the boulders, the presence of which in great numbers is noticeable in both areas. The granite boulders of the Wisconsin area are much smaller than those of the Iowan area and are in many instances apparently as fresh as when first broken from their parent ledges by the slowly moving ice cap. The most obvious characteristic of the Iowan area is the enormous size of the boulders which it contains and their greater age as evidenced by the decay of their surface. Although conspicuous on account of their imposing dimensions, these boulders are rarely so numerous as to constitute an interference to agriculture.

“PILOT ROCK”

The illustration here given shows one of these typical boulders found in Butler county. “Pilot Rock” stands on the farm of W. P. Miller in section 22 of West Point township. Although now so surrounded by growths of artificial timber as to be hidden from view except at close quarters, in an early day it formed one of the most conspicuous landmarks upon the treeless, trackless prairie. This boulder is one of the largest in the state, measuring thirty-eight feet in length, twenty-six in width and twelve feet in height above the ground. How much of it is buried beneath the surface is unknown. It is composed of a very hard gray granite similar in quality to many of the boulders of the surrounding territory and plainly coming originally from the same parent ledge in the far away northland.

AGENCIES OF SOIL FORMATION

Over this thick layer of glacial deposit there has been spread through the process of the centuries that have elapsed since the far off glacial age a mantle of the most fertile soil in the world. Many agencies have contributed to this result.

* “The chief agents concerned in modifying the surface throughout most of Iowa since the disappearance of the latest glaciers have been organic, although the physical and chemical influences of air and water have not been without marked effect. The growth and decay of a long series of generations of plants have contributed certain organic constituents to the soil. Earth worms bring up fine material

* Calvin: Geology of Iowa.

from considerable depths and place it in position to be spread out upon the surface. The pocket gopher has done much to furnish a surface layer of loose, mellow, easily cultivated and highly productive soil. They drag leaves and any manageable portion of plants into their burrows and much of the material so taken down into the ground decays and enriches the ground to the depth of several inches. Like the earth worm, the gopher for century after century has been bringing up to the surface fine material to the amount of several tons annually to the acre avoiding necessarily the pebbles and coarser constituents. The burrows collapse, the undermined boulders and large fragments sink downwards, winds and rains spread out the gopher hills and worm castings, and the next year and the next the process is repeated; and so it has been for all the years making up the centuries since the close of the glacial epoch. Organic agents in the form of plants and burrowing animals have worked unremittingly through many centuries and accomplished a work of incalculable value in pulverizing, mellowing and enriching the superficial stratum and bringing it to the ideal condition in which it was found by the explorers and pioneers from whose advent dates the historical period of our matchless Iowa."

SOIL OF BUTLER COUNTY

The soil of Butler county is typical of this region. Deep borings have shown the presence of sedimentary lime rock underlying the later deposits. There are in places traces of coal deposits but neither in quantity nor quality sufficient to justify development. Upon this underlying stratum rests a thick deposit of glacial till consisting of blue and yellow clay, sand, gravel and boulders. Above this on the surface is the mantle of humus, the soil which furnishes the elements of plant food and makes this the most desirable farming section in the state.

CHAPTER III

HISTORICAL—IOWA TO THE ADMISSION OF THE STATE

FIRST INHABITANTS

The first evidences of the presence of man upon this portion of the earth's surface are found in the geologic remains from the period immediately succeeding the final disappearance of the glaciers. The discovery of arrow heads in undisturbed beds of loess and of skulls of horses and other animals used for food with their skulls crushed as with a stone ax or other similar weapon together with the presence of stone axes in the same deposit with the skulls all indicate the existence of man at this period.

No well authenticated instance of the discovery of human remains dating back to this early prehistoric period is known in Butler county, but in Floyd county to the north and Chickasaw county to the northeast, human skulls have been discovered that indicate that the first inhabitants of this section were "low-browed, brute-like, small-bodied beings who were but a grade above the lower animals." These skulls resemble those of the gorilla, having thick ridges over the eyes and an almost total absence of forehead, indicating a low degree of intelligence. It is not at all improbable that if a thorough investigation were to be undertaken under the direction of competent archaeologists similar remains might be discovered in this county.

THE MOUND BUILDERS

Later in the prehistoric age, Iowa and the upper Mississippi valley were peopled by a race whom for lack of a better name we call "The Mound Builders." Of these strange, unknown people who possessed this land we now call ours, Gue in his "History of Iowa" says:

“Stone and copper implements found indicate that they had made progress in the scale of intelligence. Whether they cultivated the soil, erected comfortable dwellings and built towns is not known; but that they made cloth is proven by samples found in the mounds; strangely preserved through the innumerable ages that have elapsed. The numbers, color, habits, customs and forms of government of these people, as well as the manner in which their mounds were constructed, the purpose for which these enduring earthworks of various forms were used, and a thousand interesting details of these inhabitants of Iowa must forever remain unknown. Whence they came, how long they possessed the land, from what cause they were exterminated, are problems that will never cease to have an absorbing interest to succeeding races and generations.”

Evidences of the work of these people are numerous along the Mississippi in Iowa and are not unknown in this section of the state. From these evidences the conclusion is inevitable that their civilization was well advanced, that they existed in great numbers and that they possessed the land for many thousands of years. In the end they were assailed by a new race of warlike invaders coming upon them from the north and west, before whom after generations of conflict they retreated gradually to the southward. It is possible that the last remnants of this once mighty people sought refuge from the onsets of their resistless foe in the almost inaccessible cliffs of the Southwest where today we find the villages of the “Cliff Dwellers.” It is probable that the conquerors of the “Mound Builders” were the ancestors of the American Indians whom the first European discoverers found in undisputed possession of the continent.

DISCOVERY

With the discovery of America by Columbus there begins the period of authentic history. On the basis of the Columbus discovery and the subsequent discoveries and explorations of a score of adventurers under the flag of Castile and Arragon, Spain laid claim to all the vast North American continent from the Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic regions. Basing her claims upon the fact that the Cabots were the first Europeans actually to sight the mainland of North America and upon the establishment of permanent settlements along the Atlantic coast, England announced

her title to the continent from ocean to ocean. At the same time France through the voyages of Cartier and his successors and the settlements in the St. Lawrence valley laid similar ambitious claim to these lands and all those that lay to the south and west of them. So were sown the seeds of a worldwide struggle that was to terminate only after centuries of warfare with the practical annihilation of one and the elimination of another of the three great nations that coveted the possession and control of this new world.

EXPLORATION

At first England and Spain contented themselves with a mere skirting of the fringes of the continent. True, for the latter nation, De Soto and Coronado penetrated the heart of the continent from opposite directions and displayed to the view of the white man regions before existing but in the fervid imaginings of dreams. They sought, however, as all Spaniards did, not to build the foundations of a new nation in the wilderness and to make it strong by the development of its natural resources, but to exploit the country for their own selfish ends, to find the fabled "Land of Eldorado" where lay the "seven cities of Cibola" whose walls were built of precious stones and whose streets were paved with gold and silver. Failing utterly in this hope, finding only disappointment, disaster, and death as recompense for all their toil and hardships, the Spaniards abandoned the great Central valley and made no serious attempt to assert their rights to its possession which these explorations gave them.

COLONIZATION

England builded better than she knew in laying the foundations of her future greatness in America. Her pioneers in the new world were home builders. For nearly two centuries after their first settlement on the Atlantic coast, the English in America were content to make firm their hold upon the little strip of the continent that lay between the Appalachian highland and the sea. This made sure, eventually by a process of natural expansion, their descendants pushed across the low mountain barrier and down into the great valley. But England was never to hold in fee simple the title to the lands of North America lying

west of the Mississippi river; for before this irresistible westward movement had more than well begun, England's American colonies had been lost to her forever and it remained for the United States, England's rebellious offspring, to make sure her place among the sisterhood of nations by the annexation of this vast region in which we live today.

THE FRENCH IN THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

But this is anticipating the actual progress of history. It remained for France actually to explore and settle the Mississippi valley. Under the French flag missionary and trader advanced hand in hand. Beginning in the St. Lawrence valley a chain of trading posts and mission stations was founded, extending westward around the Great Lakes and finally reaching the center of the continent. As early as 1634, Nicolet, a French explorer, traversed the northern portion of the United States lying just to the west of Lake Superior. Thirty-five years later, Allouez, a French missionary, reaching the same region previously explored by Nicolet, heard from the Indians of the existence of a mighty inland river flowing southward between boundless and beautiful meadows. The Indians called it "Mis-sis-se-pe," "The River of the Meadows."

In 1670, Father Dablon wrote of this river:

"These people (the Illinois Indians) were the first to come to Green Bay to trade with the French. They are settled in the midst of a beautiful country away to the southwest toward a great river named Mis-sis-se-pi. It takes its rise far in the north, flowing toward the south, discharging its waters into the sea. All of the vast country through which it flows is of prairie without trees."

MARQUETTE AND JOLIET

From the earliest discovery of the new world, men of all nations had been searching for a passage through the continent to the western ocean. Nerved by a new hope roused by the news of this mighty body of water flowing southward to the sea, Marquette, a missionary, accompanied by Joliet, an explorer and trader, set out early in the year 1673 to explore this stream. From Green Bay the voyagers paddled up the Fox river, por-

taged across to the Wisconsin and then floated down this stream to its junction with the Mississippi.

* "It was on the 17th day of June, 1673, that Marquette and Joliet looked out upon the bold bluffs of the western shore a few miles below where McGregor now stands. They were the first white men who ever saw Iowa. Pushing out into the current they beheld a wild and beautiful landscape. On the Wisconsin side was a level prairie shore stretching northward for many miles covered with tall grass waving in the June breeze. Eastward were the bluffs which in prehistoric times had been washed by a torrent of which the Mississippi of modern days is but a little remnant. Westward coming down to the water's edge were lofty, wooded, rocky hills and deep gorges fringed with rich foliage and flowers. Once out upon the waters of the greatest river of the continent they felt the inspiration of a great discovery.

"Marquette and Joliet were charmed with the beauty of the country, the fertile prairies with their mantles of luxuriant grass and wild flowers stretching away westward; the fish and game most plentiful, and their friendly reception by the Indians. This was Iowa, as it was first seen by white men, and no more enchanting land ever met the gaze of explorers."

The explorers continued their voyage southward until they reached the mouth of the Arkansas river, a distance of more than eleven hundred miles. There they encountered Indians with whose dialect they were unfamiliar and who were far more hostile than any with whom they had come in contact before. Fearing that the little party might be overwhelmed by their foes and all the results of their journey lost to the world, they turned back and after weary weeks of rowing against the current finally reached the mouth of the Illinois. This stream, the Indians told them, would give them a shorter and easier route to the lakes than the one by which they had come; so, passing up this river nearly to its source, they crossed to the headwaters of the Chicago river and thence to Lake Michigan and their starting point.

Although this discovery of the great river and the exploration of its upper valley received little attention in Europe at the time, it led directly to the expeditions of La Salle in the next ten years and so constitutes the most valid basis of the claim which France set forward to all the Mississippi valley.

Robert Chevalier de La Salle, the most famous of the explorers of the Mississippi valley, inspired by the achievements of Marquette and Joliet, made several unsuccessful efforts to complete the exploration of the great river. On one of these expeditions, Father Hennepin with seven attendants ascended the Mississippi from the mouth of the Illinois to the falls of St. Anthony where Minneapolis now stands. They completed the exploration of the eastern border of Iowa. In the account which La Salle wrote of this Hennepin expedition occurs the first mention of the Iowa Indians from whom our state takes its name.

Later in 1682, La Salle was finally successful in his hope to explore the Mississippi river to its mouth, where he took formal possession of all the regions drained by its waters in the name of his royal master, Louis XIV. Thenceforth all this region was called Louisiana in honor of the king. Eventually the establishment of the English claim to the territory east of the Mississippi restricted the name Louisiana to the lands lying to the west of the great river.

LOUISIANA UNDER SPANISH RULE

Spain still asserted a claim to the territory now called Louisiana and its definite ownership was not finally settled until the close of the French and Indian war in 1763. In 1762 a preliminary treaty between France, England and Spain was signed at Fontainebleau by which it was agreed that the boundary between the provinces of England and France should be irrevocably fixed by the Mississippi river. By this treaty Iowa was definitely placed in the possession of France and all rights of claimants through charters and grants made by English kings in the previous centuries were terminated. The Treaty of Paris which was signed in 1763 confirmed the boundaries agreed upon in the preliminary treaty. By this act ostensibly, Spain was to be definitely and finally excluded from the Mississippi valley. However, at approximately the same time that these negotiations were in progress, by a secret treaty between France and Spain all the French possessions lying west of the Mississippi river, including Iowa, were ceded to Spain. Formal possession of this vast region

was not taken by Spain until seven years later. From 1769 to 1800 Louisiana was administered as a Spanish province.

Up to the time of this secret cession to Spain no permanent settlements had been made by white men within the limits of Iowa. Fur traders, hunters, trappers and missionaries had ascended its streams, built temporary cabins on the river banks, dwelt for a time amidst its beautiful groves, and departed, leaving no record or trace of their sojourn other than the naming of the principal rivers and prominent landmarks, some of which names remain to the present day. During the earlier part of the period of Spanish possession, the same conditions prevailed. The fur trade with the Indians remained practically the only industry of this region and its continuance and increasing importance stood in the way of the development of the rich agricultural and mineral resources which were later to constitute Iowa's basis of permanent prosperity.

A strong rivalry grew up between the English and the French over this fur trade with the Indians and this rivalry became one of the chief causes of what is known as the French and Indian war. Another result of this rivalry was the establishment of a trading post on the west bank of the Mississippi a few miles below the mouth of the Missouri which in later years was to become one of the foremost cities of the new world, the city of St. Louis.

CONQUEST OF NORTHWEST TERRITORY

For Americans, after 1763 interest shifts from the great struggle of France and England for world-wide supremacy to the lesser but far more significant struggle of our forefathers for their rights as Englishmen in the new world. To the outcome of this war for independence, Iowa with all the sisterhood of states owes its very existence; but one incident of the war bears, perhaps, more directly upon the development of Iowa than any other event of the period. This was the conquest of the Northwest Territory by George Rogers Clark.

The story of this magnificent achievement need not be retold here, but to it and to the man who made it, the United States owes its immediate possession of all the territory lying east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio and probably its ultimate success in maintaining its existence as a free nation in the second war for independence from 1812 to 1815. At the close of the War

of the Revolution in 1783, by virtue of the actual military occupation of this territory, England was forced to recognize the claims of the United States and ceded all her possessions east of the Mississippi river from its sources to the thirty-first parallel of latitude to the new republic. Thus was the western boundary of the United States extended to the Father of Waters and the eventual acquisition of the territory lying still farther to the westward rendered inevitable.

The period of the Spanish government of Louisiana from 1769 to 1800 was one of stagnation rather than development. The only European inhabitants of the territory were of French origin and they resisted persistently the attempts of the Spanish governors to enforce the use of Spanish laws and language. Even after the close of the Revolution, Spain still held possession of the territory on both sides of the Mississippi as far north as the thirty-first parallel. This enabled her to control the navigation of the river. As the only commercial outlet for the products of the Mississippi valley, its free navigation was a matter of vital importance to the settlers farther up the river. This question was one of the rocks upon which the infant republic so nearly went to wreck and ruin in those critical years following the cessation of hostilities. The apparent timidity of the Government of the United States and the constant intrigues of the Spaniards led finally to suggestions of secession on the part of the people of the upper valley. In the end wiser councils prevailed and after years of fruitless negotiation a treaty was concluded with Spain whereby the free navigation of the river was guaranteed to the citizens of the United States.

NAPOLEON AND THE TREATY OF ST. ILDEFONSO

The days of Spanish supremacy in Louisiana, however, were rapidly drawing to a close. Weakened by internal dissensions and foreign wars, disgraced by the profligacy of the queen and the imbecility of the king, the once proud Spanish monarchy was tottering to its fall. France, meanwhile, had emerged from the shadow of the great revolution and under the guiding genius of Napoleon was again the dominant world power. His boundless ambition looked forward to the reestablishment of the lost colonial empire of France in the new world. As a first step in the realization of this project, he compelled the weak king of Spain

by a secret treaty agreed to at St. Ildefonso in 1800 to recede Louisiana to France upon the fulfillment of certain considerations to be performed by the French Republic. This agreement was publicly ratified in the following year by the treaty of Madrid and Louisiana became for the second time the possession of France.

THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE

Before adequate provision could be made by Napoleon for the occupation and defense of his new possessions in North America, he was confronted by the armed strength of Europe in another great struggle for supremacy. In order to save Louisiana from falling into the hands of the English and at the same time to insure the neutrality of the United States and make it a formidable rival of England in the new world, Napoleon opened confidential negotiations with the American minister to France looking toward the transfer of the sovereignty over this territory. On the 30th of April, 1803, a treaty of purchase was concluded between the representatives of the United States and of Napoleon, whereby for a consideration of \$15,000,000, France relinquished all her claims to territory lying west of the Mississippi and north of the Spanish possessions. Out of this vast domain, an empire in extent, embracing a greater area than all of the United States at that time east of the Mississippi river, fourteen states of the Union today have been carved either wholly or in part. And the proudest of these is our own State of Iowa.

“Our new possessions proved to be of greater value than all the territory conquered and held by Napoleon during his brilliant and unscrupulous wars of conquest in Europe and Africa. No such acquisition of valuable territory was ever before made peaceably by any nation in the world’s history. The industrial, commercial, political and geographical importance of this region were colossal and inestimable. It rounded out our territorial possessions, opened up an inland water route to the sea, and at one step lifted the young republic into rank and power with the first nations of the earth.”

GOVERNMENT OF THE TERRITORY

The first act of Congress providing for the government of the territory acquired in this manner was approved Oct. 31, 1803.

and provided that all military, civil and judicial powers should be "vested in such persons and exercised in such manner as the President of the United States shall direct." This was followed in 1804 by an act dividing the territory into the Territory of Orleans and the District of Louisiana, the thirty-third parallel being the boundary line between these divisions. The District of Louisiana was temporarily placed under the control of the Governor and the judges of Indiana territory, which then comprised all of the present states of Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and a part of Minnesota. In 1805, Congress established a separate territorial form of government for this district, executive and judicial powers being vested in a Governor and three judges to be appointed by the President.

MISSOURI TERRITORY

Coincident with the admission of Orleans territory as the State of Louisiana in 1812, the name of the Territory of Louisiana was changed to Missouri territory and an additional department of government was established. This department comprised a territorial Legislature of two houses, a Council of nine members appointed by the President for terms of five years, and a House of Representatives with one representative for every 500 free white male inhabitants to be elected for terms of two years by the suffrage of all free white male taxpaying citizens. The power of absolute veto was vested in the Governor. Later, in 1816, Congress conceded to the citizens of the territory the right to elect the members of the Council. At the same time the area of the territory was reduced by the formation of Arkansas territory. Throughout this and the following period, the capital of Missouri territory was St. Louis.

MICHIGAN TERRITORY

In 1821 by the terms of the famous Missouri Compromise, Missouri was admitted as a state with substantially its present boundaries. The remaining portion of the former territory of the same name was sparsely settled and for this reason and possibly because public attention was so concentrated upon the problem of the extension of slavery, now for the first time become a serious political question, no further provision was made for the

government of the lands lying north of Missouri. It continued to be called Missouri territory but had no definite form of government until 1834 when the portion lying between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers as far north as the British possessions in Canada was joined to Michigan territory.

WISCONSIN TERRITORY

With this act, the separate history of Iowa under its present name may be considered to have begun, as from this time on the new district over which the authority of Michigan had been extended was known as the Iowa district. Events moved rapidly now toward the final formation of the state. In 1836, Wisconsin territory was set off from Michigan as a preliminary to the admission of the latter as a state and the Iowa district became a part of the new territory. Two years later by an act of Congress approved June 12, 1838, Wisconsin territory was divided and the portion west of the Mississippi was given a separate territorial form of government under the name of Iowa territory. This in turn led in 1846 to the admission of Iowa as a state.

The act of Congress creating the Territory of Wisconsin in 1836 is significant in that it provided that the members of the legislative Council and the House of Representatives should be elected by popular vote, all free white male citizens having the right of suffrage without regard to property qualifications.

“Thus for the first time was the prerequisite of taxpaying omitted from the qualifications of voters in this territory. Hence also the first time the people of this territory elected their lawmakers a property qualification to vote was not required. In no part of the country east of the western line of the State of Iowa, except in Iowa and Minnesota, has it been true that the people have always exercised the right of suffrage without the prepayment of some sort of tax.”

IOWA TERRITORY

The first session of the Legislature of Wisconsin territory was held at Belmont, Wisconsin, in the winter of 1836. This assembly selected Madison as the permanent capital of the territory but voted to meet for its next session at Burlington, Iowa, until the new capital city should be ready to accommodate them. Burlington continued to be the capital of Iowa territory after

its creation by act of Congress in 1838 until the removal of the seat of government to Iowa City in 1841. The present capital, Des Moines, was selected by a commission appointed in accordance with an act passed in 1854. The final relocation of the capitol was completed in December, 1857, when the last load of material, "drawn by oxen upon a bobsled through wind, rain and snow" arrived at the new capitol in Des Moines.

ADMISSION OF IOWA AS A STATE

The Second Territorial Legislature which met in 1840, passed an act submitting to the people the question of the calling of a convention to form a constitution preliminary to the admission of the state. The proposition was defeated at the polls. A similar act passed by the Fourth Territorial Legislature was also voted down. The Sixth Legislature passed an act to this effect which was ratified by the people and the first constitutional convention in Iowa met in 1844 and prepared a constitution which fixed the boundaries of the proposed state so as to include a large part of the present State of Minnesota. Congress in its enabling act of 1845 relating to the admission of Iowa changed these boundaries by cutting off considerable portions on the north and west. Largely because of the action of Congress in this regard, this constitution was rejected by the people in the election which followed. After another unsuccessful attempt to secure the passage of this constitution with the boundaries as they came from the convention, the matter was dropped until the meeting of the Eighth Legislature. This assembly passed an act calling for a convention which was carried by the people. The convention met in 1846 and prepared a constitution which determined the present boundaries of Iowa. This constitution was adopted by a vote of 9,492 for and 9,036 against. In December, 1846, the act of Congress admitting Iowa into the Union was approved by the President. An election had been held in October for state officers and members of the Legislature. The First General Assembly of Iowa met at Iowa City in November, 1846, and, after providing for the inauguration of the new state government, passed in January, 1847, an act accepting the proposition of Congress for the admission of Iowa. Thus was completed the final step by which Iowa became a member of the sisterhood of states of the American Union.

CHAPTER IV

HISTORICAL—STATE AND COUNTY

FIRST SETTLEMENT

The various changes of sovereignty and forms of government that have been enumerated in the previous chapter are significant as matters of history only. Previous to 1832 there were no permanent white settlements within the present limits of Iowa. A few white men had settled at widely separated points and had dwelt there among the Indians. The first of these and the man to whom is accorded the honor of being the first white settler in the state was Julien Dubuque, an educated and accomplished French-Canadian, who settled at a point near the site of the city which now bears his name. Dubuque, having heard that lead had been discovered along the upper Mississippi came west for the purpose of developing this natural resource if possible. Gaining the confidence of the Fox Indians who occupied what is now the northeastern portion of Iowa, he persuaded them to grant to him the exclusive privilege of lead mining on a considerable tract of land along the west bank of the Mississippi. This grant is dated Sept. 22, 1788.

JULIEN DUBUQUE

Dubuque brought a sufficient number of assistants from Canada to enable him to develop the mines which he had discovered. He erected a smelter, built houses for his men and opened a trading store for the exchange of goods and trinkets for furs from the Indians. He soon became the most influential trader in the upper valley, making semi-annual trips to St. Louis with his boat loads of ore, furs and hides. The right of Dubuque to the land granted him by the Indians as well as his right to trade with them was confirmed by the Spanish government in

1796. Dubuque and his little colony continued to occupy these lands and to carry on his industries until the death of the founder in 1810. Shortly thereafter trouble broke out between the white successors of Dubuque and the Indians as a result of which the whites were expelled from the territory and the Indians re-assumed possession. They erased every vestige of civilization on the site of the former settlement and revoked or denied the grant.

This became the cause of one of the most famous of the early cases of litigation in Iowa. Claimants and heirs of the Dubuque interests attempted through the United States courts to regain possession of the lost mines. In the end, however, the courts held that both the Indian and Spanish grants to Dubuque had been in the nature of leases and that no permanent title to the land involved could arise therefrom.

TREATIES OF PURCHASE AND CESSION

From the death of Dubuque to the close of the Black Hawk war, no white settlements were attempted in Iowa. The period is marked by the conclusion of a number of treaties with the Indian inhabitants of Iowa by which they were gradually induced to relinquish their claims to the lands which from time immemorial they and their ancestors had held as their own. The first of these treaties was concluded between Gen. William Henry Harrison and representatives of the Sac and Fox Indians whereby these tribes agreed to cede all their lands east of the Mississippi to the United States. The United States in turn agreed not to molest the Indians in their enjoyment of their remaining territory nor to allow anyone else to do so. In strict violation of the terms of this treaty, in 1808 a fort was built on the west side of the Mississippi which was named Fort Madison and stood near the present site of the city of the same name. In the War of 1812 the Sacs and Foxes took sides with the British and compelled the garrison of Fort Madison to abandon and destroy it.

At the close of the War of 1815, treaties of peace and amity were concluded with these tribes and others occupying Iowa territory. In 1824 another treaty was concluded with the Sac and Fox tribes by which the Indian title to all lands in Missouri and in what was known as the "Half-breed Tract" in southeastern Iowa was extinguished. A year later Commissioners Clark and Cass secured an agreement between the Sioux tribes on the one

hand and the Sacs and Foxes on the other whereby the lauds in Iowa were divided between them, the Sioux agreeing to remain to the north and the Sacs and Foxes to the south of an imaginary line dividing the state from east to west. A portion of this line passed through Franklin, Cerro Gordo and Floyd counties, just a little above the northwest corner of Butler county.

“THE NEUTRAL STRIP”

This line, however, failed to restrain the hostile tendencies of the warring tribes and in 1830, the Sioux ceded a strip of land twenty miles in width extending from the Mississippi to the Des Moines river and adjoining the treaty line of 1825 on the north. At the same time a similar cession of a strip of land of the same width and length adjoining the treaty line on the south was made by the Sacs and Foxes. These two cessions comprised what was thereafter known as the “Neutral Strip.” By this act the title to the greater part of what is now Butler county passed to the United States. The southern boundary of the “Neutral Strip” passes through Butler county from east to west, entering on the east a little below the northeast corner of Shell Rock township and emerging on the west a little south of the northwest corner of Washington township.

FIRST PRICE OF BUTLER COUNTY LAND

In the same treaty, the Sacs and Foxes gave to the United States a large tract of land lying in the western part of the present state. The consideration paid to the Sioux and the Sac and Fox Indians for this vast cession of territory was \$284,132. It is difficult to determine the exact extent of territory affected by this transfer but it contained approximately twenty thousand square miles. The first recorded purchase price of Butler county land may therefore be considered to have been only slightly in excess of two cents an acre.

THE BLACK HAWK PURCHASES

The defeat of the Indians under the noted chieftain, Black Hawk, in the war called by his name resulted in the cession in

1832 of a tract about fifty miles in width extending along the western side of the Mississippi from the "Neutral Strip" to Missouri. This was supplemented in 1836 by the "Second Purchase" to the west of this tract. These two purchases opened the eastern part of state to settlement. Immigration spread rapidly over the territory thus acquired. The Indians attempted for a time to retain their hold upon what was left of their original territory in Iowa. As always it was a forlorn hope, but it was not until 1842 that the Sacs and Foxes ceded to the United States all their remaining lands east of the Missouri. This cession included the southern portion of Butler county not covered by the "Neutral Strip." The purchase price of this land was approximately ten cents an acre.

The remaining rights to land in the state were secured when in 1846 the Winnebagos, who by previous agreement had been settled upon that portion of the "Neutral Strip" to the east of the Shell Rock river in its course through Floyd and Butler counties, ceded their interest in the "Neutral Strip" and when finally the Sioux in 1851 gave title to the land which they still claimed in the northern portion of the state.

THE FIRST COUNTIES

The rapid increase of population in the new lands acquired as a result of the Black Hawk war necessitated some provision for the establishment of local governments. To meet this need, in 1834 the Sixth Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Michigan, of which, as has been explained above, Iowa was then a part, divided the Iowa district into two counties by running a line due west from the lower end of Rock Island. The county to the north of this line was named Dubuque county and that south Des Moines county.

BUCHANAN AND FAYETTE COUNTIES

In 1837 during the second session of the First Territorial Legislative Assembly of Wisconsin, an act was passed dividing Dubuque county into thirteen counties, eight of which were then given the same boundaries as now. The territory now comprised within the limits of Butler county was by this act divided between Fayette and Buchanan counties. Buchanan county under this act

contained all of the original portion of Dubuque county lying directly west of Delaware county and extending to the Missouri river. This included what is now the southern tier of townships of Butler county. Fayette county, as originally established, was the largest county in the United States. It extended west from Clayton county to the extreme limits of the territory and north from Buchanan county to the British possessions, comprising within its boundaries most of what was afterward divided into twenty-eight counties of Iowa, all of the State of Minnesota west of the Mississippi river and all of the Dakotas east of the Missouri and White Earth rivers. It covered an area of 140,000 square miles, nearly three times the size of the State of Iowa.

The boundaries of Fayette county were later reduced within the limits of the State of Iowa but no further changes in form or organization were effected until 1851 when, during the session of the Third General Assembly of Iowa, forty-nine new counties were established. Among the forty-nine were Butler county and all of the counties surrounding it except Blackhawk which had been previously established by act of the Territorial Legislature in 1843.

BUTLER COUNTY

For some time after the date of the legislative act creating the county of Butler, the term remained a mere geographical expression. The name Butler had no local significance but was selected by the legislative committee which prepared the bill providing for the organization of the forty-nine counties mentioned above. The Mexican war had closed but two years before this session of the Legislature and the names of its battlefields and military officers were fresh in the memories of the people. Of our neighboring counties, Hardin was named for Colonel Hardin of Illinois, who was killed in battle in the Mexican war, and Cerro Gordo for one of the famous battles fought by General Scott on his victorious march from Vera Cruz to the Mexican capital. Butler county was named in honor of Maj.-Gen. William O. Butler, another military hero of the Mexican war. General Butler commanded a division of the volunteer army in this war and achieved sufficient prominence to receive the nomination for the vice-presidency on the democratic ticket in the campaign of 1848. He has no other connection with the county's history and it is doubtful whether he

was ever even aware of the honor that was in this way conferred upon him by the Legislature of Iowa.

The act of 1851 provided temporarily for the attachment of Butler county to Buchanan county for judicial purposes. By 1853 a sufficient number of settlements had been made in the county to warrant an attempt to organize a local government. Accordingly, Judge Roszell, of Buchanan county, in May, 1853, appointed a commission to locate a county seat for Butler county. Acting upon the instructions of the court the three gentlemen comprising this commission finally fixed upon a site in what is now Clarksville. This occurred about the 14th or 15th of May, 1853.

In August, 1853, Judge Roszell ordered an election to be held in Butler county for the choice of officers to provide for the organization of the local government of the county. No records of this election have been preserved, but it is known that George W. Poisall was elected county judge. None of the county officers chosen at this election qualified. This first attempt to provide for the organization of the county, therefore, failed and the matter was for the time being abandoned.

Following this failure to organize a separate county government, in the same year, 1853, Butler county was detached from Buchanan county and attached to Blackhawk county for judicial purposes. In August, 1854, a second election for the choice of county officers was held under orders issued by Judge Knapp of Blackhawk county. As a result of this election, a full list of county officers was chosen, all of whom qualified except the county attorney. This office was filled by appointment and on the 2d of October, 1854, the permanent organization of the county government was effected and the separate corporate existence of Butler county became an accomplished fact.

CHAPTER V

EARLY DAYS

Before passing on to a more or less detailed consideration of the development of the county, it may not be out of place to pause for a backward glance upon the conditions that surrounded the early settlers of this and the other counties of Iowa in the log cabin days. Here and there among us still there lingers a gray haired man or woman whose memory fondly turns back upon these days of long ago. We cannot hope to reconstruct for the young people of today the life of these early times with any degree of the vividness that it has in the minds of these pioneers, but if we can in some measure indicate something of the toil and hardship, something of the courage and determination that made it possible for Butler county to become what it is today we shall be content. And in so doing we shall hope to surround the lives of these honored representatives of a rapidly departing generation with a halo of love and respect and to make their journey down the sunset slopes of life a pleasant and a happy one.

The early settlements in Butler county were largely made up of men and women whose wealth consisted chiefly of youth, health, industrious habits and a determination to better their condition in life. They came from the eastern states, from the states of the Central West, from England, from Ireland, from Germany. They had little or nothing in common except the common experience of having to struggle to accumulate anything of a surplus over bare subsistence and the earnest desire to leave to their children something other than an inheritance of the habit of industry. They saw in these unsettled Iowa prairies the possibilities of a great future. They were not deceived as to the price that they must pay to achieve this great ideal. They knew that it meant the severing of all the ties of kindred and association, that it meant stern privation, slavish toil and long slow waiting for the coming in later years of the advantages that their children were some day

to enjoy. But taking all this into account, they came here, and amid hardship, sickness and often absolute want, they spent the best years of their lives in the building of a new civilization.

The young people of today can know little and appreciate less the slow progress of evolution that has transformed the bleak prairies of sixty years ago into the beautiful farms of unsurpassed fertility, adorned with shady groves, fruitful orchards, modern homes, and magnificent barns and outbuildings equipped with every modern labor-saving device, that surrounds us on every side today. They cannot realize that our modern system of transportation of persons, commodities and news by a network of railroads and telegraph lines, rural telephones and rural mail delivery has so recently displaced the emigrant wagon drawn by oxen, the stage coach and the weekly horse-back mail carrier; that our towns and cities and thriving villages with their modern homes, imposing business blocks, factories, banks, churches and schoolhouses have within the memory of the older citizens displaced the Indian wigwam and the pioneer log cabin and sod house.

A HUNTER'S PARADISE

When the first settlers came into Butler county, they found a land which was a veritable hunter's paradise. Buffalo, deer and elk were plentiful. With these there were bear, lynx, foxes, wildcats, ground hogs, weasels, raccoons, otter, beaver, muskrats, partridges, wild turkeys, wild geese and numerous other wild beasts and fowls. So plentiful was this wild game that the earliest pioneers had no difficulty whatever in obtaining a fair share of their subsistence with their trusty rifles. From 1851 to 1856, hunting was the main employment of many of the earliest settlers.

In the northern part of the county the Goheen brothers, E. R. and James, and one "Tobe" Miller were famous as successful hunters, E. R. Goheen having the record of shooting twelve deer and one buffalo in one day. At one time he made a contract to furnish deer for what the hides were worth, as he could shoot them standing on his door steps. In the winter of 1853-54, the Goheen brothers came upon a large buffalo near the present site of the Dunkard church in Greene, and shot it so as to cripple it. It was storming at the time, however, and the crippled beast managed to escape. The next morning it was captured and killed by a man named Winchell, of Marble Rock.

Up until the winter of 1856-57, buffalo, deer and elk were found in large numbers in the county, especially in the western part around what is now Bristow, then called Boylan's Grove. So far as meat was concerned, the settlers fared sumptuously every day. In the winter of 1856-57, snow fell in unusual quantity until it lay three feet deep on the level. Alternate thawing and freezing caused a crust of ice to form over the top of the snow strong enough to bear up the weight of a man. It was not, however, sufficiently strong to support the weight of the deer and elk. These, as they endeavored to run, would break through the crust and, floundering in the soft mass beneath, become so impeded in their progress as to fall an easy prey to their pursuers, whether hunters, dogs or wolves. As a consequence nearly all the deer and elk were destroyed that winter. By actual count, at what was known as Jamison's grove, within the space of two miles up and down the West Fork, thirty-two deer were killed during this season. The elk on account of their greater weight were even more handicapped. Many were killed with axes and hatchets without the aid of dog or gun. A similar slaughter of these animals took place in other parts of the northern section of the state. After that month, few deer and no elk were ever again seen in Butler county. Wolves, said always to be plentiful where deer are, are also said to have been less numerous after this extermination of the deer and elk. This reduction in the number of wolves, though, may be more readily ascribed, perhaps, to the activities of two men, Jacob Yost and Joseph Riddle, who for several seasons poisoned large numbers of them by the use of strychnine. Prairie wolves, however, continued to be sufficiently numerous to constitute a positive nuisance for thirty years afterward. At the present time, although not unknown, they are uncommon. A few instances of the presence of gray timber wolves are recorded by the pioneers. One of the last appearances of one of these fierce brutes occurred within the memory of the writer, then a very small boy, about the winter of 1884-5, in the grove on the Iowa Central Stock Farm in West Point township. This wolf, after a fierce battle with two large dogs, was routed by a farm hand armed with a pitch fork and made his escape toward the West Fork woods.

So before the forces of Nature and the progress of civilization, aided by the deadly rifles of the hunters and the snares of the trappers, the wild life of these woods and plains rapidly, but most reluctantly, retreated. The resounding echoes of the woodman's

ax and the carpenter's hammer and mallet and the crack of the pioneer's ox whip succeeded the crack of the hunter's rifle. An age-long era in the history of this land ended and a new era of progress and civilization began when the first lofty walnut, hickory and oak trees were felled to be converted into cabins and barns and fences for the new homes of the pioneers and their families.

SETTLEMENTS IN TIMBER LANDS

This necessity for utilizing the standing timber for the construction of the first homes of the pioneers accounts in part for the fact that the first settlements in Butler county and in all the western prairie country were made along the timbered streams. A careful examination of the earliest records of the original entries of land in Butler county reveals the fact that the first lands selected for homesteads were uniformly covered wholly or in part by timber. Another consideration which influenced this choice was the necessity of locating the home near an unfailing supply of good water, which as a matter of course could only be found in a spring or running stream, almost all of which were surrounded or bordered by timber.

In common, however, with the ideas of their generation, the earliest settlers considered the soil of the timbered lands of a quality superior to that of the timberless prairies and so they laboriously cut the trees and cleared the stumps from their claims, leaving often untouched by the plow the vast areas of open prairie land, almost within a stone's throw, land which we know today to be of far greater fertility than any of the lighter sandy soils of the river valleys.

THE PIONEER LARDER

The woods, too, contained thickets of wild plums, tangled clusters of wild grape vines, hazel brush, hickory nut and walnut trees, choke cherry trees, wild currants and gooseberry bushes, all of which added to the sometimes monotonously meager contents of the pioneer larder. These, with the wild game, most of which was found more plentifully in the woods and along the streams, formed the staple articles of subsistence, until the time when the first crops of sod corn, beans and potatoes could be raised. The corn thus raised was often crushed in home-made wooden mortars

and so prepared to make the meal from which corn bread was baked.

In winter time the supplies sometimes ran low and the family diet was meager and monotonous indeed. As one of the pioneers tells it:

“One winter night our supply of meat, upon which we had largely depended for subsistence till spring, was stolen from the little lean-to shack where we kept it. Wild game had ceased to be plentiful and my father was compelled to take the long journey to market to replenish our supply of provisions. We were fortunate enough to have a cow and a fair amount of corn meal. Father was delayed by storms and bad roads and was gone for several weeks. Until his return it was mush and milk for breakfast, mush and milk for dinner, and mush and milk for supper every day for six days in the week except Sunday—and then we had milk and mush.”

GOING TO MILL

After a year or two some wheat began to be raised and a very few families were able to enjoy the luxury of flour and wheat bread. Not many enjoyed this privilege, though, and those who did had to pay a high price in labor for it. At first the nearest flour mills were at Cedar Rapids and Independence. The trip could be made with a four-horse team in a week when the weather and other circumstances were favorable.

Van E. Butler, in an article published some years ago in the *Clarksville Star*, said: “This history would be incomplete without reference to the first settlers, who dared the trials and hardships of pioneer life, when they were obliged to haul their supplies from Dubuque or Iowa City. The nearest grist mill was at Independence or Quasqueton, when a barrel of salt was worth \$9, a bushel of corn \$1.50, and a pound of bacon 25 cents. Our people were then compelled to accept what they could get from the mill owners and post agents, who supplied us with the necessities of life, and it was frequently very light returns, as was the case on one occasion, when Phillip J. Ebersold, of Dayton, in company with Charley Angell, of the same town, came home with the grist of twenty bushels of wheat—consisting of only three sacks of flour, and Charley remarked, jocosely, ‘You’re lucky they didn’t chase you clear home for the empty sacks.’”

Later a mill was built at Cedar Falls and it is stated that when it was possible to secure flour so near at home the settlers were "a happy people." The Cedar Falls mill, at first, was provided with machinery merely for grinding the wheat, the bolting or separating the bran from the flour, having to be done at home by hand.

In 1856, the first mill in Butler county was erected at Clarksville. The stones for this mill were brought from St. Louis, the balance of the machinery being obtained at Rock Island. After several changes of ownership this mill passed into the hands of Thomas Shafer, grandfather of the present sheriff of Butler county, T. J. Shafer, by whom it was owned and managed for many years, and then it passed into other hands. The completion of this mill marks another important step in the progress of the frontier community toward modern civilization. Thereafter some, at least, of the raw materials produced on the farms could be transformed into the finished product without dependence upon outside agencies.

DANGERS AND PRIVATIONS

Toil had no terrors for these pioneers; all were of necessity workers. The very conditions of their life eliminated the unfit. The women, too, were constant toilers. In addition to the housework that is the common lot of woman, they had to spin and weave and cut and make the family clothing. They were artisans and manufacturers as well; and often they were the only teachers of the children.

There were other dangers and privations than those already mentioned. The narratives of the lives of the early settler make frequent mention of sickness. Death from disease all too soon made necessary the founding of cities for the dead alongside of the dwellings of the living. The prevailing form of sickness was "fever and ague," a malarial fever caused, doubtless, by the decaying vegetation and the lack of adequate natural drainage. Several severe epidemics of typhoid fever also are recorded. When sickness came, neighborly help and kindness had to supply the place of the skilled medical aid and the scientific nursing of modern times. The nearest physician was usually too far away to be of assistance except in cases of severe and prolonged illness. When death came, as it often did, and cast its dark shadow over

the stricken home, willing hands and warm hearts ministered to the bereaved family and tenderly performed the last sad offices for the dead. A rude box, hastily constructed by a frontier carpenter, formed the casket, which was borne by neighbors to a lonely grave. "Often there was no minister, no music, no flowers. No carved monument told the name of the dead; the sturdy oak or lofty elm cast a grateful shadow over the grassy mound that alone marked the last resting place of the departed pioneer."

The winters during this pioneer period were, most of them, very severe, much more so than the winters of the present day. Although in part, no doubt, this impression arises from the better means we have today of combating the cold through better houses and better heating facilities, still it remains unquestioned that a certain degree of climatic change has gradually taken place to make our winters less severe and the amount of snow fall much less plentiful.

BLIZZARDS

Then hardly a winter passed without its blizzard. This danger no human foresight could guard against. The roads of those days were mere trails winding over an otherwise trackless prairie. The first fall of snow obliterated every trace of the road. And yet journeys to the nearest trading place, for supplies, or to the timber for fuel had often to be made by one man alone. Many such a man perished a victim of the blizzard in the early years of the settling of the prairies. They came without warning, an ever-increasing northwest wind driving particles of flint-like snow resistlessly before it. The temperature fell rapidly to a point many degrees below zero. With the sun obscured and a changing wind, with no landmarks to guide him, God pity the hapless man at the mercy of the pitiless storm!

One of the best accounts of a blizzard in the early history of Butler county is given below from the pen of Dr. John Scoby, a pioneer physician of Shell Rock:

"On the 14th of January, 1856, early in the morning, I started as usual to visit a number of patients up the river, some fifteen miles away. The northwest wind was blowing very hard and cold and the snow flying. My first call to be made was at Mr. Martin's, east of Turkey grove, five miles away and two miles east from the Clarksville road. No track was to be seen after

leaving the main road. Fanny plunged ahead until we came to the slough, some twenty rods from the house. She could go no farther. I tightened the reins and covered her with blanket and robe. I wallowed across the slough, found the house and prescribed for the patients. Mr. Martin asked me to step with him to his yard, where I think I saw six dead hogs, which had chilled and were frozen by coming out of their pen to eat corn. He showed me a pair of oxen that were chilled badly in their stall. The wind was veering and the air full of snow. I could not see six feet in any direction. I crossed the slough. My sleigh was not there. I traveled, as I supposed, up the slough, down the slough, up and down a number of times, the snow up to my waist. Fanny was not to be found. I stopped, kicked the snow away and stamped my cold feet. Where was Martin's house? I could not see it—in what direction I did not know. My hopes were gone. A cold snow-drift would be my winter tomb; the prowling, hungry wolves would feed upon my physical form. Good-bye to my family and friends. I straightened up and tried to look around. Naught could I see but flying snow.

“Oh! for one glimpse of beacon light for me to steer,
To cheer me in my last, my hopeless fear.

“In those eternal moments of dark despair, had I owned this globe and the revolving worlds in the solar system, I would gladly have given them all for the privilege of stepping into my sleigh behind Fanny.

“In those moments of intense thought that seemed to embrace an eternity of time, all the acts, thoughts and deeds of my past life—of three score years—were presented to my mind. My thoughts did not peer into the future; I saw but the past and the present. A thought came; I would start for Martin's though I perished in the attempt. As I was lifting my foot to take the first step, Fanny whinnied not more than one rod from where I was standing. It was a melodious sound that burst upon my ear through the whirling snow-flakes. My flagging energy revived; I skipped to the sleigh, helped Fanny turn it round, and I stepped in. Fanny would soon reach the Clarksville road in the timber. I was now monarch of all I could see; there were none to dispute my right but old Boreas. He may rage with all his power in his hydrophobic whirls, and drive his snow minions into fits of desperation, but Fanny and I will win the race without my giving a world or a dime. The road being found, I passed

up the river to Clarksville, and went several miles above, making frequent calls to see the sick. In the evening I returned safely home; I enjoyed a quiet rest and started on another pilgrimage the next morning”

PRAIRIE FIRES

Another danger that was encountered by the first settlers in the county was from the annual prairie fires. From midsummer on until snow fall there was constant danger from this source. The heat of the August sun and the early frosts of fall would kill the prairie grass and make it as dry as timber. Many of the recent settlers, unaware of their danger, neglected to take proper precautions for the protection of their buildings and stacks, and even of their families. The wiser and older settlers were accustomed to plow a few furrows around their homesteads as a fire break but even these often failed to stem the tide of destruction. There is not an inhabitant of this county of more than thirty years' residence who cannot recall with greater or less vividness the picturesque but awful grandeur of the approach of a prairie fire at night. These fires were often caused by thoughtless emigrants who carelessly left smouldering camp fires to be fanned into flame by a rising wind, and sometimes such carelessness was paid for by serious loss and even death.

The worst of these fires swept over the southern tier of townships in the fall of 1856, as a result of which a little daughter of Jacob Codner was burned to death. This fire started somewhere on the prairies of Grundy county. The hurricane of fire, driven by an ever-increasing wind, swept northward with the speed of a race horse, reaping a swath of destruction miles in width. Escape for man or beast would have been impossible if back fires had not been started in time to meet the advancing tornado of resistless heat that could be stayed only by a counter fire. It was literally fighting fire with fire. Houses, barns, stacks, fences, bridges and much stock were destroyed and the ground left a blackened, blistering waste of desolation. The fire burned into the timber around Parkersburg and killed a large part of it. Mr. Curtis, who kept the ferry across the Beaver just north of Parkersburg, had a hard fight for his life against it. It jumped the Beaver and swept on to the north, leaped the West Fork south of Butler Center, where a man named Samuel Gillard was

nearly burned to death. It then passed on and finally burned itself out somewhere in the comparatively uninhabited timber to the northwest of Butler county.

COMPENSATIONS

There were compensations, however, for the privations and endless toil of the pioneers. Hospitality was nowhere more general or more genuine than among the early settlers. Entertainment of newcomers was generally free and cordial. The one-room cabin was never too full to furnish shelter and food for the traveler. Neighborhood corn-huskings ending with a dance for the elders and a frolic for the youngsters gathered the settlers for miles around. Shooting matches, with turkeys for prizes, were often held, and many a rifle that had winged its message of death to far larger and wilder game won for its owner these humbler prizes of his skill.

CAMP MEETINGS

The religious fervor of the pioneer found expression in camp-meetings held in some grove by the Shell Rock by the light of blazing log fires, where young and old assembled to listen to the rude but fervid eloquence of frontier preachers, sermons livid with hell-fire and brimstone and filled with endless wrath and eternal damnation for the unregenerate sinner. One of these early preachers possessed such a degree of dramatic intensity and hypnotic power of suggestion that he is said actually to have been able to open for his hearers the very gates of hell and as he metaphorically cast sinner after sinner into the fire that dieth not, his auditors would be roused almost to a frenzy of awe and terror until shrieks and groans would fairly drown the preacher's voice. But all this suited the sturdy pioneers. The sugar-coated religion of today would have seemed insipid enough to their more hardened emotional natures. Many a man and woman quiet and retiring in daily life, lifted a voice eloquent in prayer and exhortation at these meetings, and old and young alike joined in singing the grand old hymns with a fervor that roused enthusiasm to the highest pitch and made the woods ring, and the hills and valleys echo and re-echo to a sound that must have struck with strange dissonance upon these sentinels of Nature after all the silence of the centuries.

In the annual Fourth of July celebration, opportunity was found for the expression of the patriotism that was rampant in the breasts of these truest of Americans. Poor, indeed, was the community that could not raise its Liberty pole on the birthday of the country's freedom and listen to some rising young politician as he twisted the British lion's tail and recounted the glories and wonders of the new democracy of the western world.

So out of this warp and woof of variable conditions of life, with toil and hardship and privation, but withal with hospitality, and good fellowship and a genuine joy in living was spun the mighty fabric of our civilization today. Life was lived then more in the open. There was little of pretense and less of foolish pride. To most of us today, it would seem crude and raw in the extreme. But underneath it all there ran the current of true manhood and womanhood, of courage in the face of danger, and determination in the face of misfortune that alone made it possible for these pioneers to build so broadly and so surely the foundations of civilization upon which we of a later generation have often unknowing builded. Theirs be the honor and the glory. Let every man and woman of today stand uncovered before the memorial of veneration and regard which we have built in our hearts in their honor.

CHAPTER VI

EARLY SETTLEMENT OF BUTLER COUNTY

CARPENTER'S GROVE

Of the earliest settlement of Butler county a former historian says: "There are differences of opinion as to who was the first to make permanent settlement in the county, and it is a hard matter to settle conclusively, as there is no one now living, who can be interviewed, who positively knows. It can only be given as tradition hands it down.

"Late in the fall of 1850, two hunter brothers, Harrison and Volney Carpenter, and D. C. Finch, wended their way up the valley of the Shell Rock in quest of game. They had come from Linn county, where they had also stopped for a time. It was a magnificent country, and game of all descriptions abounded. Upon arriving at the point on the river where the village of Shell Rock now rests, they determined to make that spot a temporary home, while they scoured the country for game. A little log cabin was accordingly erected, in which they took up their abode, and for about one year made this a sort of a 'huntsman's rendezvous,' when Volney, who was a married man, moved his family there. The whereabouts of any of the party at present, or whether they are yet alive, we are unable to state. The grove afterward took the name of Carpenter's Grove."

This statement of the earliest settlement is commonly accepted as correct and is so given in Gue's History of Iowa, and in official publications of the state in regard to Butler county. There is little doubt, however, that there were many other pioneers whose names have never been recorded. They were nomads, and after sojourning a little while along the streams and in the groves of Butler county, they took their departure, leaving no record or memory of their settlement.

COON GROVE

The Carpenters do not seem to have remained long in their new home in Butler county, for no other account of them is to be found and their subsequent history is unknown. The honor of being the first permanent settler is ascribed to Joseph Hicks, who in December, 1850, came from Rock county, Wisconsin, and located a claim near the present site of Clarksville. His log cabin was built in a grove which stood on the site of the gravel pits west of Clarksville.

This cabin became the nucleus of a settlement here and for a time gave promise of becoming a town. The grove in which this cabin was situated was for some unknown reason called Coon's grove, and the open country to the west was called the "Coon Prairie country." Here in Coon's grove in 1853 was established the first postoffice in Butler county, with Abner G. Clark as the first postmaster.

With the Hicks family came Robert T. Crowell, later the first sheriff of Butler county. Crowell, however, returned for the time being to his old home in Wisconsin. Two years later he came to Butler county again and settled upon a claim near Hicks. Until the spring of 1851 the Hicks family were alone in their enjoyment of the new land, their nearest neighbor in the valley being the family of James Newell, who had settled on the Cedar, in Black Hawk county, about thirty miles to the southeast, near the junction of the West Fork and the Cedar. During the winter of 1850-51, Hicks was obliged to carry his provisions overland on his back from Cedar Falls, then the nearest trading point. These were supplemented by what he could secure in the way of game and fish, by hunting, trapping and fishing. In these latter enterprises he is said to have been ably assisted by his good wife,—a typical pioneer woman, who could handle a rifle as well and shoot as straight as any man.

In the spring of 1851, Henry J. Hicks, father of Joseph, came from Rock county, Wisconsin, and erected the first blacksmith shop in the county near the home of his son. Here was forged the first iron in the Shell Rock valley. Henry J. Hicks entered claims on sections 12 and 13, in Jackson township, on June 24, 1851, his claim being the fourth to be entered in Butler county, and probably the first to be entered by an owner actually in occupation of the premises. Henry Hicks died in the winter of 1854 and was

buried on his home place. His remains later were removed to Lynwood cemetery, near Clarksville. Another son, John B. Hicks, came with the father from Wisconsin and settled on a claim in Jackson township. One of his daughters, Ida Hicks, married Henry Wamsley.

This spring of 1851 was marked by the arrival of the Wamsley brothers, Malon B. and William S., who came from Ohio and settled a short distance northwest of where Clarksville now stands. M. B. Wamsley settled on a claim in section 1, Jackson township, previously taken up by his brother, John Wamsley. Mr. Wamsley commenced to build a log cabin, broke a piece of land and during this first year raised a crop of corn, beans and potatoes, sufficient for the family use. The family, consisting of himself, his wife and two children, in common with the other early settlers, suffered from ague. They were of true pioneer stuff, however, and stayed by their claim, steadily improving it, and within a few years the log cabin was replaced by a substantial dwelling which remained the family home for a number of years. Mr. Wamsley's health failed him about the year 1870 and he retired from active farming, later removing to the town of Clarksville. With this community he was identified from that time until his death. He was one of the incorporators of the Butler County Bank, and was its president for ten years. Mr. Wamsley was the first justice of the peace in Butler county, having been appointed to this office in the fall of 1853 by the county judge of Black Hawk county, to which Butler was then for judicial purposes attached. He died Sept. 9, 1887.

William S. Wamsley was a younger brother of M. B. Wamsley, mentioned above, both being natives of Adams county, Ohio. Thrown upon his own resources at an early age, he worked for a time at farming and subsequently entered the employ of the owner of a steam sawmill, with whom he remained until he was twenty years of age. At that time, with his brother, M. B., he purchased a half interest in the mill but as this did not prove entirely a success, in 1850, accompanied by a younger brother, John N., he boarded the steamboat at Cincinnati and started out in search of a new home somewhere in the boundless West. They traveled by steamer down the Ohio and up the Mississippi to Dubuque, from which point they set out on foot to explore the country to the westward. After some rather futile wanderings in search of a satisfactory location, they came upon Henry Moore, son of Aaron

Moore, better known as "Uncle Aaron," an early settler of the Shell Rock valley. Mr. Moore was looking for some one to help him take a drove of cattle up into Bremer county. As he was enthusiastic in his praise of this section of the country, the Wamsleys agreed to accompany him. Arriving in Bremer county, they assisted in the building of the first cabin in the vicinity of Waverly. Here they heard glowing reports of the fertility and wonderful opportunities of the land to the westward, on what was known as "Coon Prairie." They started out on horseback and after a few hours' ride reached a point on the Shell Rock river. They found the country fully equal to the reports and at once concluded to settle there.

For some reason the Wamsleys did not take any definite steps at that time toward taking up claims. M. B. Wamsley, the older brother, remained in the employ of "Uncle" Aaron Moore, while W. S. Wamsley returned to Ohio, where on the 20th of February, 1851, he was married to Ann Eliza Richards. In March, 1851, Mr. Wamsley and his bride, accompanied by his half brother, Martin Van Buren Wamsley, started overland by team for Iowa. They were met at Muscatine by Malon B. Wamsley and his family, who had come down the river by steamboat. Ferrying across the Mississippi, the families journeyed northward together, arriving at Aaron Moore's about the 20th of April. On the 26th of that month, W. S. Wamsley located a claim on the northeast quarter of section 12, in Jackson township. The definite entry of this claim was not made until the 1st of September, 1851, as shown by the records of the general land office at Dubuque. The Wamsley brothers had but one team of horses and one wagon together, which they had brought from Ohio. They each possessed a cow and a pig and a few chickens, and these with a few household goods comprised their entire personal property.

The purchase of eighty acres of land apiece, at \$1.25 an acre, took the balance of their cash, so with all their worldly resources invested in the possibilities of this new land, they began their lives on their pioneer farms in the spring of 1851. This season of 1851 proved to be an exceptionally wet one. It was often very difficult, and sometimes impossible, to get to market. In June W. S. Wamsley started for Muscatine. When he arrived at Marion, in Linn county, the constant rain had rendered the streams so nearly impassable that he decided to turn back. Purchasing a few goods, he commenced his homeward journey. The streams

were so swollen that he was compelled to fasten the wagon box to the running gear to keep it from floating away, while crossing the streams. In order to cross the Cedar river he had to take his wagon apart and transfer it over, piece by piece, in boats and swim the horses to the opposite shore. They experienced all the hardships and privations that were the common lot of the pioneers but after weathering through this first and hardest test of their perseverance, they found life considerably easier. Within a few years the fruits of their toil began to return to them in increasing abundance, and Mr. Wamsley became one of the most substantial citizens and owners of improved land in Butler county. With his brother he was the founder of the Butler County Bank, and served for a number of years as one of its directors. Mr. Wamsley died October 19, 1905.

OTHER EARLY SETTLERS

The fall of this year 1851 saw several additions to the little group of settlers in this section of the county. Among these were Jeremiah Perrin, an Englishman, who with his wife had emigrated to the United States in 1845 and settled in Pennsylvania. In 1851 he started for the western country, traveling by steamboat down the Ohio and up the Mississippi to Muscatine. He had planned to purchase land but suffering from a temporary illness, he decided instead to rent a farm in the neighborhood of Muscatine, where he remained through one season. During the summer he made the acquaintance of two gentlemen named Taylor and Ensley, who had come from Indiana and were planning to go on farther west in search of land. These gentlemen had only an ox team. Mr. Perrin had a good wagon and a team of horses and he proposed to them that if they would bear their share of expense he would take his team and drive them through. This agreement was made and the three men started out. After some journeying, they finally selected a site in what is now Butler township for their future homes. Perrin and Taylor returned to Muscatine and brought their families back with them, settling in their new homes on the 16th day of September, 1851. Ensley brought his family about six weeks later. They all erected cabins on their claims and prepared for the coming winter. Mr. Perrin's farm was located about a mile east of Clarksville, on section 17. Here later he built a home, which at that time was probably the finest house in Butler

county. Mr. Perrin proved to be a very successful farmer and succeeded in accumulating a considerable property in farm lands and business blocks. Mr. Perrin died in 1908. Morrison A. Taylor died on the 30th of December, 1856. Andrew E. Ensley sold his Butler county land within a few years after his settlement here and his subsequent history is unknown.

These gentlemen named above, so far as is generally known, were the earliest permanent settlers of Butler county. In the years immediately following, a constantly increasing number of emigrants came in and took up claims and built homes in the Shell Rock valley. The limit of this work forbids going more into details of these settlers but they each and all did their part in the founding of a new civilization and the building up of a new community in this previously uninhabited country. More detailed mention of some of these will be made in connection with the separate histories of the townships.

FIRST LAND ENTRIES

At the time of the earliest land entries in Butler county there were two land offices in the state—one at Dubuque, and one at Des Moines. The dividing line between the territory covered by these two offices was the line running between ranges 16 and 17, thus dividing Butler county equally north and south. The first settlements in the county were all made in the eastern half, and as a consequence, the first entries of land were all filed in the Dubuque land office. It was not until 1853, as will be indicated elsewhere, that the first entry of land was made in the western half of the county through the Des Moines land office.

The honor of being the first man to enter a piece of land in Butler county belongs to an Irishman named John Heery. This constituted 160 acres located on sections 18 and 19, in Butler township, and a similar amount of land on sections 13 and 24, in Jackson township. Both these entries were made on the same day—Nov. 22, 1850. The land entered in Butler township lies just in the bend of the Shell Rock river, adjoining Clarksville on the southwest. Mr. Heery was at that time a resident of Milton, Wisconsin. He first heard of this land from James Newell, who had been trapping along the Shell Rock river. On Monday morning, Nov. 11, 1850, Mr. Heery left his home in Wisconsin for the purpose of locating and enter-

ing a claim in the Shell Rock valley. He assured his wife before his departure that he would return within two weeks. He made the trip the entire distance on foot. On reaching the Shell Rock valley he was successful in finding the identical piece of land which had been described to him by Newell. On this he staked out his claim and on his homeward journey went by way of Dubuque, where he made the entry in the land office, on the 22nd of November. He reached home on the evening of the second Saturday following the departure, having traversed on foot approximately four hundred miles. In the spring of 1852 Mr. Heery brought his family to their new home.

The second entry of land in Butler county was made on Dec. 21, 1850, by George Kittle, who secured by land warrant the northeast quarter of section 31, in Beaver township. There is no record of the actual settlement upon this claim by Mr. Kittle. He was a resident of Carroll county, Illinois. In 1851 he quit-claimed this quarter section to one Jacob Kittle, of the same county in Illinois, for the consideration of \$150. Jacob Kittle remained in possession of the premises until the 30th of April, 1857, when by warranty deed it was transferred to Nicolas Puterbaugh for \$800. It would appear therefore that the Kittles were never actual settlers of the county.

The third entry of land was made by Jesse Morgan, on the 10th of April, 1851, who entered forty acres in the southeast quarter of section 36, of what is now Beaver township. No further mention of Mr. Morgan occurs in the records of the early history of the county and we take it for granted that this entry also was made merely for speculative purposes rather than for those of actual settlement.

The fourth entry by Henry J. Hicks has been referred to above as having been made on the 24th of June, 1851—160 acres in sections 12 and 13, Jackson township. These claims included the land now occupied by the gravel pits west of Clarksville extending thence westward across the river, including 120 acres in section 13 and forty acres in section 12.

A number of other entries were made during the year 1851, in Butler, Beaver, Shell Rock and Dayton townships, which will be noted in connection with the individual histories of these sections. Most of these claims were paid for by soldiers' land warrants.

During the first two or three years after the actual settlement of Butler county began, the settlers gradually pushed up the valleys of the Shell Rock and the Beaver, locating their claims along these waters. For reasons already indicated, these timbered sections of the country were considered superior to the prairie lands. Later adventurous pioneers began to push out across the prairies, and by 1852 a few log cabins had already been erected in the western portion of the county. For the actual date of these settlements we are dependent more or less upon tradition. The first officially recorded date in the history of the western section of the county is that of the entry by William H. Jamison, who on the 11th of August, 1853, entered 120 acres in section 18, and 160 acres in section 20, of what is now Pittsford township. This entry was made in the land office at Des Moines, being the first original entry of land in the western half of the county, the dividing line between Dubuque and Des Moines districts being, as has been stated above, on the line between ranges 16 and 17. As Mr. Jamison was one of the earliest and most prominent settlers in this section of the county, more detailed mention of him will be deferred until the treatment of Pittsford township.

From 1854 on, the county filled up rapidly in all its parts, and by the close of 1856, life had lost much of its pioneer character and had begun to assume the aspects of life in the more thickly settled portions of the United States.

THE INDIANS IN BUTLER COUNTY

So far as is known, Butler county was never the site of any permanent Indian villages. It had been, however, from time immemorial a hunting ground for the various tribes that occupied this territory before the coming of the white man. Mention has already been made of the series of treaties by which gradually the Indians were led to dispose of their right and title to this land and relinquish its possession. The three tribes of Indians whose claim to this territory was recognized by the United States in these treaties were the Sioux, the Sacs and Foxes, and the Winnebagoes. The cession of the "Neutral Strip" by the Sioux and the Sacs and Foxes in 1830 marks the relinquishment of title to what is now the greater part of Butler county on the part of these two tribes. The remaining portion, not including

the "Neutral Strip" was secured by treaty with the Sacs and Foxes in 1842.

The Winnebagoes had entered into a treaty of peace and amity with the United States in 1816, following the conclusion of the War of 1812. In 1832 they joined Black Hawk in his war against the United States and at its termination, as a punishment for their breach of faith they were required to give up their lands in Wisconsin in exchange for a tract in Iowa included in the portion of the "Neutral Strip" east of the Shell Rock and Cedar rivers. This territory they occupied until 1846, when they were induced to cede their Iowa lands for a tract in Minnesota, to which they soon after removed. They were induced to make this change largely because of the fact that while occupying the "Neutral Strip" they found themselves constituting a sort of buffer between the Sioux on the north and the Sacs and Foxes on the south. For many years, however, parties of them returned to hunt and trap along their favorite Iowa rivers until most of the game had disappeared.

INDIAN BATTLE IN BENNEZETTE

The early settlers in the northern part of Butler county have left rather a fragmentary record of a battle between the Winnebagoes and the Sioux, which occurred in the northern part of Bennezette township. The location of this battlefield is given as on section 5, about where Coldwater creek enters the township from the north. The battle seems to have been the concluding one of a campaign that had begun between the tribes sometime previous and somewhere to the northward of Butler county. The Winnebagoes in retreat took their stand here and are said to have thrown up earthworks and fortified themselves as best they could. The Sioux greatly outnumbered their opponents and attacking them from behind their fortification, brought on a terrific conflict. The Winnebagoes are reported to have been overwhelmingly defeated. The date of this battle is given as 1853 but this is probably a mistake, as after 1846 there were rarely any large bands of warriors of either of these nations in this territory. Early settlers in Bennezette township used to visit the scene of the battle and find there many Indian relics, such as knives, broken guns, arrow heads and Indian jewelry.

The Winnebagoes annually made a journey through the western part of the county on their way from Clear Lake, in Cerro Gordo county, to a camping ground in the vicinity of James Newell's on the Cedar. Their route led them through Jamison's and Boylan's groves, thence down the West Fork, to its junction with the Cedar. Occasionally parties of Sioux traversed the same route. These annual incursions continued for some years after the county began to be settled. When finally the game became scarce, these Indians were rarely seen. For years afterward, however, little groups of Musquakie Indians from the Tama reservation were accustomed to traverse the county, begging their way from house to house. These Indians were semi-civilized and constituted a nuisance rather than a menace. Occasionally coming upon some outlying farm house where only women and children were at home, they were the cause of some fright, but these fears were usually groundless. No instances of unusual outrage are recorded against these Indians.

INDIAN SCARE OF 1854

In January of 1854, a desperado, Henry Lott, who had some trouble with a band of Sioux Indians, treacherously lured a Sioux chief away from his home and killed him from ambush. That night with more than savage cruelty and deceit, Lott butchered the Indian women and children belonging to the family of this chief. A brother of the murdered chief, with another band of Sioux, discovered the dead and mangled bodies a few days later and learning from some children who had escaped the massacre, the identity of the murderer determined upon revenge. This was the beginning of the troubles between the Iowa settlers and the Sioux Indians, which eventually culminated in the Spirit Lake massacre. The story of this tragic event forms one of the most remarkable series of incidents in the history of this or any other western state. It is not, however, distinctly germane to the history of Butler county. It is indicative, however, of the fact that this possibility of an invasion by hostile Indians was ever present in the minds of these early settlers. It is easy now to minimize its danger and to laugh at the sometimes rather ludicrous incidents that grew out of the fears which these pioneers sometimes entertained. But a study of such events as those occur-

ring at Spirit Lake will justify in the minds of any fair-minded person the presence of such fear.

W. L. Palmer, in a "History of Clarksville," gives a graphic description of the Indian scare of 1854 in Butler county:

"In the spring or early part of the summer of 1854, the nerves of the whole population of North-central Iowa were set into a terrible flutter by the announcement, heralded throughout the country, that the noble 'red men' were greatly incensed by the appearance of numerous pale faces within their, to them, legitimate territory, and that they proposed to massacre, at one fell swoop, every man, woman and child. Had the shock of an earthquake, or the coming of a second deluge been announced, with as much probable certainty, the panic could not have been more successful, and for days and nights, the most timid might have been seen rapidly running toward the south. In some instances everything was left in the rear except sufficient to sustain life until a 'heavier settlement' could be reached. But all did not act thus. The bugle was sounded, the standard unfurled, and courageous volunteers rallied to its support.

"Colonel Abner Eads, at that time superintendent of public instruction for the state, happened to be in Cedar Falls. Having been an officer in the army, during the war with Mexico, he was immediately elected impromptu commander-in-chief of all the forces that were about to engage in the prolonged and bloody campaign, and promptly set himself about organizing, drilling and reviewing two companies of volunteer 'dragoons.' During the organization, M. M. Trumbull, who was a sergeant of artillery in the Mexican war, and who had distinguished himself in the battles of Palo Alto, Monterey, Chapultepec, etc., was honored by the Colonel with the position of adjutant-general and chief-of-staff. Ed. Brown was captain of the company from Black Hawk and Jerry Farris of that from Bremer. So soon as the roads and weather would permit, 'Brigadier' Eads headed his noble column and boldly struck out for the frontier. When the column had reached Clarksville, its ranks were considerably swollen by the gradual 'falling-in' of strong-hearted recruits from the wayside. At Clarksville it halted for supper, a night's rest and a council of war, after a forced march of twenty-five miles. The refreshments were generously furnished by the remaining citizens who were so extremely patriotic that they would not 'take a cent'; but when the troops proceeded the next day, found they had been eaten out

of 'house and home.' The decision at the council of war no man knew, save those in authority, but were compelled to 'guess' from the proceedings which followed. A small detachment of 'regulars' was left with the citizens, under orders to erect a fort—on the hill where Mr. Baughman's residence now is—and not delay a moment until its completion. The noble little garrison went manfully to work, detailed two-thirds of their number for picket duty, while the rest began sinking trenches and throwing up breast works, never stopping a moment except to eat, drink and sleep. During the progress of this work, the main column had proceeded as far northwest as Clear Lake, and frightened a few whites and a number of Winnebagoes almost out of their wits, who thought them red-skins. All the excitement was caused by the murder of a 'skinaway' and the scalping of an old 'squaw' belonging to the Winnebago tribe, by a marauding band of Sioux. The troops bivouacked for the night, and many were the disappointed heroes who would be compelled to return the next day bearing the sad tale to their friends that the Indian war was a myth, and that they were not permitted, by kind Providence, to wholly exterminate the very name of 'Injun' from the face of the earth, by pouring out their life's blood in defense of their homes and firesides. During the home march of the veterans they were not so careful of their powder as on their northern trip, and occasionally amused themselves by discharging a shot at some wayside object, the reports of which 'panicked' the remaining settlers, who fled to the protection of Fort Eads, at Clarksville. Adjutant-General and Chief-of-Staff Trumbull, when the troops went into camp for the night, strolled away in search of the Shell Rock river for the purpose of bathing. While enjoying the refreshing bath, he chanced to observe a woman, near the bank opposite, washing clothes. An idea struck him. He would rush wildly into camp and report that Indians, thousands of them, were on the opposite side of the river and were preparing an attack. The disclosure had the desired effect. 'Boots and saddles' was immediately sounded and the bold soldiers were off in a trice: not toward the enemy, but each upon his own hook, bound to receive shelter behind the protecting walls of the little fortification. When the headlong retreat of the troops, who had all been 'cut to pieces,' was known at the fort by the arrival of the better mounted dragoons—the only ones who escaped with their 'har'—the scenes in the fort could not have been better imagined than described; for there were assembled the women

and children! Brave hearts almost ceased to perform their proper functions! Timid women wrung their hands and fainted, while the children wept at beholding the fearful carnage! Quietude was at length restored; a hearty laugh indulged in; the war ended, and all returned to their peaceful homes. Thus closed the Indian massacre of 1854."

GENERAL ITEMS

The vital statistics of the county in the early days, were, as is not uncommon, more or less incomplete. It is commonly accepted that the first birth in the county was that of a son of Jeremiah and Elizabeth Perrin, who was born in March, 1852, on the Perrin farm east of what is now Clarksville. The child was named William and died about six months later.

The first death recorded in the county occurred in the fall of 1851, when a man named Joseph Kirker, about forty years of age, died at the house of William S. Wamsley.

The first marriage license recorded in the county authorized Greenberry Luck and Susan Williams to be joined in the holy bonds of matrimony. This is dated Nov. 1, 1854. This marriage license is the first to be given on the books of the clerk's office, although two others bear earlier dates. These are Daniel W. Kinsley and Mary Farlow, dated Sept. 10, 1854, and Samuel E. Taylor and Julia E. Armstrong, on the 26th of September, 1854. Both these marriages are recorded as having been celebrated by a justice of the peace, Alfred M. Elam. The marriage of Greenberry Luck and Susan Williams took place at Clarksville on the same day that the license was issued. This marriage was celebrated by Rev. W. P. Holbrook, a pioneer preacher of this section. The bride was the daughter of one Comfort Williams, who had come from Cedar Rapids in the summer of 1854 and settled in Pittsford township. Mr. Luck was also from Cedar Rapids and doubtless had been acquainted with the family before his arrival in the county. On the day of the wedding, Mr. Williams, the father of the bride, and a woman who had been living with him, doubtless considering the opportunity a favorable one, also procured a marriage license and were joined in matrimony the same day and by the same preacher. Williams and his wife soon afterward removed to Cedar Falls and Mr. and Mrs. Luck settled in Beaver township, where they resided for a number of years.

The first foreigner to be admitted to full American citizenship in this county was William Gough, a native of England, who on the 6th of October, 1857, received his final papers of naturalization. Mr. Gough was a resident of Butler county from 1854, settling first on a farm in Dayton township and later on section 4, West Point township. He is the father of Thomas A. and Joseph J. Gough, at the present time well known and prominent citizens of the central part of the county.

The first school in the county was taught by Miss Malinda Searles, in a little log cabin in Clarksville, in 1855.

The first recorded transfer of land in Butler county was filed for record on Dec. 13, 1853, and is of a warranty deed issued by John F. Ballier, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, by his attorney, William J. Barney, to Alfred M. Elam, of Butler county, Iowa. It is of date Oct. 21, 1851. By this deed Mr. Elam came into possession of eighty acres, situated in section 28 of what is now Butler township. The consideration of this purchase was \$200. This is the first warranty deed recorded but not the first instrument, the power of attorney from John F. Ballier to William J. Barney, under which the latter negotiated the transfer referred to above, having been given on the 10th day of September, 1851. This power of attorney was filed for record the same day as the warranty deed referred to above.

Several instruments bear earlier dates of filing than these two, the earliest of these being a deed from Barnett Grandon and wife, of Butler county, to Nathan Olmstead, of De Kalb county, Illinois, whereby forty acres in section 30, Beaver township, were transferred for the consideration of \$150. This instrument is dated Sept. 10, 1853, and filed for record Sept. 21, 1853.

The first transfer of property by will in the county is that by which William Goheen, of Clinton county, Iowa, gives and devises to his two sons, James Wilson and Edward Rufus Goheen, his land in section 19, of Dayton township. This bequest is made with the following peculiar proviso, "provided they stay me until my death." It is concluded as follows:

"Signed, published and declared by the said William Goheen as and for his will in presents of us, who at his request have signed as witnesses to the same.

"Test.

"Delana McCain

"Frederick Hobbart.

“In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 20th day of February, 1852.

“William Goheen.”

The date of filing of this instrument is Nov. 10, 1853.

These records were transcribed from the files in the office of the county recorder of Black Hawk county, to which at this time Butler county was joined for judicial purposes.

The first mortgage for land in Butler county was made on the 11th day of October, 1854, by John W. Sperring, of Oswego county, New York, to Reuben T. Davis, of Delaware county, Iowa, whereby the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 10, in township 90 north, range 15 west, was mortgaged for the consideration of \$432. This instrument bears the earliest date of any mortgage recorded on the records of Butler county, but is preceded on the books by several instruments bearing later dates. For this reason it has escaped the notice of previous writers.

The oldest living women in point of residence in the county at the date of writing this history are Mrs. M. M. Molsberry and Mrs. W. H. Moore, of Clarksville. Mrs. Molsberry was Sabra Jane Wamsley, a daughter of Malon B. Wamsley, who came to the county with her parents and settled near Clarksville in 1851. She has from that time to date been continuously a resident of the county—a period of sixty-three years.

Mrs. W. H. Moore, Mary Ann Perrin, was born in Pennsylvania in 1847, and came to Butler county with her parents, Jeremiah and Elizabeth Perrin, in the fall of 1851. Since coming to Iowa with her parents, Mrs. Moore has continuously resided in Butler county, except during the second year of her marriage, when they returned for a time to New York. About a year later they came again to Iowa and settled on a farm in Butler township, on which they lived for many years. Mrs. Moore has been for more than six decades a witness of the growth and development of the county and state.

Henry Wamsley, oldest son of Malon B. Wamsley, was an infant, only a few months of age, when his parents first settled in Butler county, in the fall of 1851. Since that date he has been continuously a resident of the county and enjoys at the present time the distinction of the longest period of residence within the county limits of any man who is today living.

CHAPTER VII

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

THE COUNTY COURT

As has been stated in a previous chapter, the permanent organization of county government in Butler county was finally effected on Oct. 2, 1854. At that time the local government of counties in Iowa was vested in a "county court," which consisted of county judge, county clerk and sheriff. In the first county election held in August, 1854, John Palmer was elected county judge, William E. Burton, clerk of the court, and R. T. Crowell, sheriff. The other officials elected at that time were: A. G. Clark, treasurer and recorder; and James Griffith, school fund commissioner. The first term of the new county court was held in October, 1854, in Clarksville, then the county seat. The little log hut in which Mr. Clark sold groceries, was used as the first courthouse. The first entry in the records of this court is dated Oct. 2, 1854, and is as follows:

"Ordered that the following taxes be and are hereby levied: For state purposes, one and one-fourth mills on the dollar; for county purposes, five mills on the dollar; for school purposes, one mill on the dollar; for road purposes, one mill on the dollar; poll for county purposes, 50 cents; poll for road purposes, \$1.00.

"(Signed) John Palmer,

"County Judge."

The first case tried before Judge Palmer was in connection with an application for writ of injunction made by Solomon W. Ingham against Daniel D. Myers, of Shell Rock, restraining him from selling a piece of land in section 2, Shell Rock township. Having filed his petition and given bond in the sum of \$100, the writ was issued and placed in the hands of Sheriff Crowell for service. This took place on Oct. 12 and 13, 1854, and on the 19th the plaintiff was notified that on Jan. 1, 1855, a motion

would be made to dissolve the injunction. After further conference between the parties this matter was deferred until early in February, 1855. On the date agreed upon the case was called up by the court, Attorneys M. M. Trumbull and A. Van Dorn appearing for Mr. Myers and Mr. Ingham, respectively. The motion to dissolve the injunction was sustained by the judge on the ground that the writ was not issued by a properly qualified officer. Mr. Myers, by his attorney, moved to assess damages against the defendant in the amount of \$100. This motion was overruled because no damages had been proven. A motion to allow evidence to prove damages was sustained. A jury of six was summoned, composed of T. T. Rawson, J. V. Hicks, D. C. Hilton, M. B. Wamsley, James Ford and R. W. Butler. After the examination of a number of witnesses the jury brought in the following verdict: "We, the undersigned jurors, do agree that the said Solomon W. Ingham pay to the said Daniel D. Myers the sum of 25 cents, with costs." The costs were \$5.90. Defendant gave notice of an appeal to the district court, but so far as the county court was concerned this first law suit ended here.

The third entry records the platting of the village of Clarksville. It is given below in its entirety:

"State of Iowa, }
Butler County. } ss.

"On this day, to-wit, October 27th, A. D., 1854, the plat of the village of Clarksville, with the acknowledgments of Thomas Clark, Elizabeth Clark, Jeremiah Clark, Maria Clark, D. C. Hilton, Seth Hilton, Elizabeth Hilton, Dan Mather and Roxana Mather, proprietors of the land upon which the above mentioned village is situated; that the same is with their free consent and in accordance with their desire. And the court being satisfied that the requirements of the law have been complied with, it is therefore ordered that the same be placed on the records of Butler county, as the law requires.

"John Palmer,

"County Judge."

Thus Clarksville has the honor of being the oldest town in Butler county. At this same session of the court, H. F. L. Burton was appointed clerk of the court and M. M. Trumbull, deputy treasurer and recorder. Harlan Baird, who had been elected prosecuting attorney in the August election, having failed to

qualify according to law, Aaron Van Dorn was appointed to fill the vacancy and thereafter served the county in this capacity.

The first criminal case in the history of the county to be tried by the county court came up before a special term of court held Dec. 9, 1854. It was entitled

“The State of Iowa
vs.
William Casterline.”

The entry on the minute book is as follows:

“Now, to-wit, December 9, 1854, comes Rufus L. Hardy, first being sworn, deposeth and saith on his oath that one William Casterline did threaten to beat, wound and murder the said Rufus L. Hardy, and further says that in consequence of said threats he, the said Hardy’s life is in danger from the said Casterline and files an information to the above import, subscribed and sworn to as the law directs and producing Stephen L. Hardy as a witness verifying the above statement. A warrant issued directed to any sheriff or constable in the said county commanding him to arrest and bring before the county court the said Casterline to answer according to law.

“Warrant returned served by arresting and bringing the said Casterline into court. When the court proceeded to try the case and upon hearing all the evidence in the case it is hereby ordered by the court that the said defendant be held to bail in the sum of \$100 to keep the peace and to answer at the next term of the district court of Butler county, in the state of Iowa.

“John Palmer,
“County Judge.”

“Bill of Costs.

“Sheriff’s fees	55 cents
Witness “ R. L. Hardy.....	50 “
“ S. L. Hardy.....	50 “
“ Lucretia Hardy	50 “
“ James Mann	50 “
“ Mrs. Casterline	50 “
“ Daniel Clark	50 “

The further trial of this case is given in connection with the history of the district court of Butler county.

On the 29th of March, 1855, George W. and Elizabeth Adair presented to the court the plat of the town of Shell Rock. This

being in proper form, it was ordered recorded by the county judge.

In April, 1855, the second election was held, as a result of which Aaron Van Dorn was elected prosecuting attorney; W. H. Bishop, sheriff; and W. R. Jamison and Thomas Clark, justices of the peace. Appended to this chapter will be found a complete list of county officers from the beginning, it being deemed unnecessary to devote more space to the consideration of the first elections.

THE FIRST COURTHOUSE

In an entry on the court records, dated June 4, 1855, the first steps toward providing a courthouse for Butler county are given. It is ordered "that sealed proposals (be received) for building a courthouse on the courthouse square, in the village of Clarksville, of the dimensions as follows: 40x40 feet, two stories high, the first to be 9 feet and the second 9½ feet in height, to be made of good and durable material, either of wood or brick."

Nothing seems to have come of this effort to provide a home for the county officers, as on the 22d of April, 1856, the following record is found:

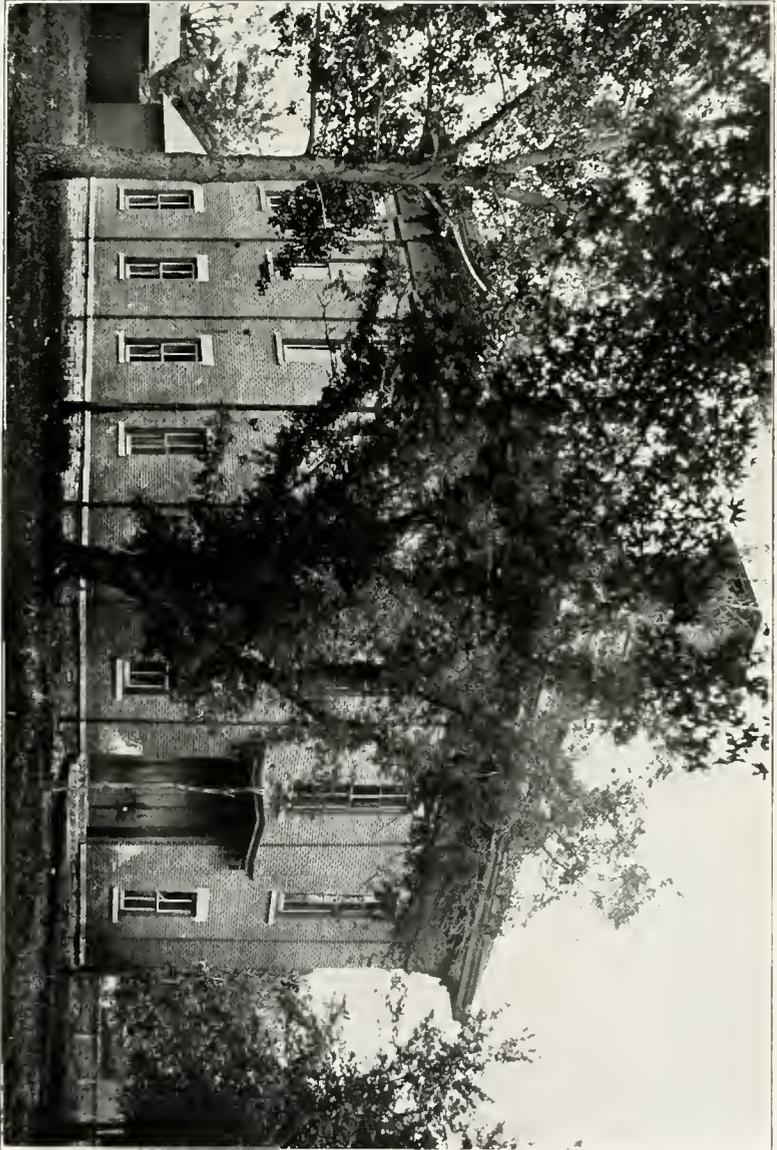
"In the Matter of Public Buildings.

"Whereas, great inconvenience is experienced by the county officers and other citizens in consequence of the want of room and accommodations for holding court and for the transaction of other public business, and whereas the county seat is entirely destitute of public buildings or of any other place in which the business of the county can be conveniently done or the public records safely and properly preserved, it is ordered by the county court of Butler county that advertisements be forthwith issued for sealed proposals for erecting a court house at Clarksville, the county seat of said county. Said court house to be 40 feet by 60 feet, two stories high, be of brick of good material and to be enclosed by the 1st of November, A. D., 1856. Said proposals to be received untill the first Monday of June next (1856). It is further ordered that a plan and specifications be procured and filed in the judge's office for reference.

"A. Van Dorn,

"County Judge."

On Nov. 3, 1856, the court ordered that on account of insufficient means, want of time and material to complete or



FIRST COURT HOUSE IN BUTLER COUNTY
Built in 1856-7 at Harkeville and used as a school house from 1863 to 1903, when the
present school house was built on its site

enclose it for protection against the weather, further progress of building the courthouse be postponed until the spring of 1857. This building was erected in the following year, and was used as a courthouse so long as Clarksville remained the county seat, and thereafter as a schoolhouse. It was finally torn down in 1903 to make room for the present commodious public school building.

From the first there was agitation for the removal of the county seat from Clarksville. It was recognized that while for the time being Clarksville was the center of population, its distance from the geographical center of the county would eventually render it an unsatisfactory location for the county seat. The first petition looking toward the removal of the county seat from Clarksville was presented to the county court in June, 1856. It was eventually overruled by the judge.

EARLY ELECTIONS

On the first Monday of April, 1857, a special election was ordered to take place to fill a number of vacancies, which for one reason and another had occurred in the offices of drainage commissioner, county clerk, surveyor and coroner.

At this same election a proposition for ratifying the courthouse loan was carried by a vote of 304 to 165. At this same election the question of borrowing \$20,000 on five-year bonds for the purpose of building a number of bridges in the county was carried by a majority of 180. Eleven bridges were provided for by this proposition—one at Shell Rock, two near Clarksville, one at New Hartford, and the others in various other parts of the county.

Another special election was called for the 12th day of September, 1857, for the purpose of determining whether or not the county should subscribe for \$200,000 worth of stock, in bonds, payable in twenty years, in the Chicago, Iowa & Nebraska Railroad, with the proviso that the company should build its Cedar Valley branch through the county within one mile of Clarksville and Shell Rock. This proposition carried by a vote of 244 to 187. This railroad was never constructed. The Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern, however, fourteen years later constructed a line through the Shell Rock valley and gave to the county its first railroad service.

In this same special election, D. W. Miller was elected county judge by a majority of fifty-four votes over Alonzo Converse, the latter having made his campaign chiefly upon the removal of the

county seat from Clarksville. The result of this election was contested by Mr. Converse, and although it appears from the record that Mr. Miller on the 29th of September, 1857, presented his bond and was duly qualified for the office of county judge, it appears from subsequent entry on October 5, 1857, that after a hearing before Judge J. D. Thompson, Miller was ordered to deliver the office and the books pertaining thereto to Converse. At the November term of court this year Alonzo Converse was present and presided as county judge.

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The Eighth General Assembly of Iowa in 1859 passed an act by which the county government thereafter was to be vested in a body termed the board of supervisors. By this act the old county court was abolished and a new body, consisting of one supervisor for each civil township, was vested with nearly all the authority formerly held by the county court. On the 7th day of January, 1861, the first meeting of the new board of supervisors chosen in accordance with this act was held at Butler Center, now become the seat of county government. This board, the membership of which is given below, effected an organization by the choice of Peter Coyle, of Madison township, as temporary chairman; James W. Davis as clerk; and Messrs. Milo Hard, of Beaver township, W. R. Jamison, of Pittsford, and Thomas Haggarty, of Dayton, as committee on credentials. The members then proceeded to draw lots to determine whether their terms should be one or two terms in length, according to law. As a result Messrs. Wilson, of Shell Rock, Haggarty, Stoner, Aldrich, Coyle, Long, Jamison and Taylor drew two-year terms, and the remaining members of the board one year.

At this first session of the board A. J. Thompkins presented himself for admission as supervisor from Butler township. After an examination of his credentials, the committee appointed for this purpose reported unfavorably. Mr. C. A. Bannon was seated as supervisor from this township. James W. Davis, who was chosen clerk of the board of supervisors at this first session, remained in this office throughout the entire period, during which the county government was in the hands of a board of sixteen supervisors. A complete list of the various members of this board from 1861 to 1870, with the chairman for each year, is given below.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1861—Madison, Peter Coyle, chairman; Albion, S. H. Taylor; Beaver, Milo Hard; Bennezette, Milton Wilson; Butler, C. A. Bannon; Coldwater, Moses Aldrich; Dayton, Thomas Haggarty; Jackson, Jonathan Gilbert; Jefferson, O. Rice; Monroe, Wells A. Curtis; Pittsford, W. R. Jamison; Ripley, George W. Stoner; Shell Rock, James Wilson; Washington, W. H. Long; West Point, Julius Hoffman; Fremont, S. Bonwell.

1862—Madison, Peter Coyle, chairman; Albion, S. H. Taylor; Beaver, Milo Hard; Bennezette, Milton Wilson; Coldwater, Moses Aldrich; Dayton, Thomas Haggarty; Jackson, Jonathan Gilbert; Pittsford, W. R. Jamison; Washington, W. H. Long; West Point, Julius Hoffman; Fremont, S. Bonwell; Butler, James R. Fletcher; Shell Rock, James Wilson; Jefferson, W. A. Lathrop; Monroe, J. J. Criswell; Ripley, George W. Stone.

1863—Madison, Peter Coyle, chairman; Fremont, S. Bonwell; Jefferson, W. A. Lathrop; Monroe, J. J. Criswell; Beaver, Milo Hard; Jackson, J. Gilbert; West Point, J. Hoffman; Bennezette, Milton Wilson; Coldwater, William J. Nettleton; Pittsford, John M. Nichols; Ripley, John C. Hites; Shell Rock, M. Hollenbeck; Washington, H. A. Tucker; Dayton, C. Forney; Butler, J. R. Fletcher, resigned, A. J. Thompkins to fill vacancy; Albion, S. H. Taylor.

1864—Monroe, J. J. Criswell, chairman; Albion, S. H. Taylor; Coldwater, William J. Nettleton; Pittsford, John M. Nichols; Ripley, John C. Hites; Madison, Peter Coyle; Washington, H. A. Tucker; Dayton, C. Forney; Bennezette, I. Chamberlin; West Point, Johnson Lawyer; Beaver, William Rosebrough; Jefferson, E. B. Allen; Shell Rock, Thomas G. Copeland; Jackson, M. B. Wamsley; Fremont, S. J. Boorum; Butler, H. F. L. Burton.

1865—Butler, H. F. L. Burton, chairman, resigned; Madison, Peter Coyle, chairman; Dayton, Thomas Haggarty; Fremont, S. J. Boorum; Monroe, J. J. Criswell; Jackson, M. B. Wamsley; West Point, J. Lawyer; Bennezette, I. Chamberlin; Coldwater, Joseph Miller; Pittsford, James Harlan; Shell Rock, W. S. Wilson, resigned, J. G. Scoby to fill vacancy; Jefferson, E. B. Allen, resigned, W. A. Lathrop to fill vacancy; Ripley, J. B. Bullis; Washington, R. R. Parriott; Albion, R. W. Shaw; Beaver, James Collar; Butler, E. Fowle to fill vacancy.

1866—Madison, Peter Coyle, chairman; Fremont, S. J. Boorum; West Point, J. Lawyer; Jackson, M. B. Wamsley; Butler, Edwin Fowle; Shell Rock, J. G. Scoby; Beaver, James Collar; Albion, R. W. Shaw; Coldwater, Joseph Miller; Pittsford, James Harlan; Ripley, James Bullis; Washington, R. R. Parriott; Dayton, Thomas Haggarty; Monroe, J. J. Criswell; Jefferson, Stephen Morse; Bennezette, Oliver Evans.

1867—Butler, Edwin Fowle, chairman; Fremont, S. J. Boorum; Bennezette, O. Evans; West Point, J. Lawyer; Jackson, M. B. Wamsley; Shell Rock, J. G. Scoby; Jefferson, S. Morse; Dayton, J. V. Boggs; Coldwater, James Griffith; Pittsford, S. B. Dumont; Ripley, Henry Trotter; Madison, T. W. Smith; Washington, M. F. Whitney; Monroe, Isaac Hall; Beaver, A. Converse; Albion, W. H. Hersey.

1868—Pittsford, S. B. Dumont, chairman; Dayton, J. V. Boggs; Bennezette, O. Evans; Jackson, M. B. Wamsley; Monroe, J. J. Criswell; Coldwater, James Griffith; Ripley, H. Trotter; Madison, T. W. Smith; Albion, W. H. Hersey; Fremont, S. Bonwell; West Point, B. F. Garrett; Butler, J. Lyle; Beaver, Amos Nettleton; Shell Rock, J. Preston; Jefferson, J. Palmer, removed, George Murphy, ad interim, James McEachron to fill vacancy; Washington, M. F. Whitney.

1869—Pittsford, S. B. Dumont, chairman; Fremont, S. Bonwell; West Point, B. F. Garrett; Jackson, M. B. Wamsley; Ripley, H. Trotter; Monroe, J. J. Criswell; Madison, T. W. Smith; Beaver, A. Converse; Jefferson, James McEachron; Albion, W. H. Hersey; Bennezette, O. Evans; Butler, J. M. Lyle; Dayton, J. F. Newhard; Coldwater, J. M. Miller; Shell Rock, E. L. Thorp; Washington, William Kenefiek.

1870—Pittsford, S. B. Dumont, chairman; Jefferson, James McEachron; Jackson, M. B. Wamsley; Albion, W. H. Hersey; Madison, T. W. Smith; Beaver, A. Converse; Ripley, H. Trotter; West Point, B. F. Garrett; Dayton, J. F. Newhard; Coldwater, James Griffith; Washington, William Kenefiek; Fremont, E. P. Day; Monroe, Isaac Hall; Butler, J. R. Jones; Shell Rock, J. Preston; Bennezette, W. A. Keister.

The last meeting of the board of supervisors represented by a member from each township was held in the fall of 1870. Under the new law, still in force, the members of the board convened on

the 2d day of January, 1871. The members of this governing body from that time up to the present follow:

1871—Alexander Chrystie, chairman; M. B. Wamsley, H. C. Brown.

1872—Alexander Chrystie, chairman; H. C. Brown, S. Bonwell.

1873—Alexander Chrystie, chairman; H. C. Brown, S. Bonwell.

1874—Alexander Chrystie, chairman; H. C. Brown, S. Bonwell.

1875—Alexander Chrystie, chairman; H. C. Brown, N. H. Larkin.

1876—Alexander Chrystie, chairman; N. H. Larkin, G. Hazlet.

1877—Alexander Chrystie, chairman; N. H. Larkin, G. Hazlet.

1878—Alexander Chrystie, chairman; G. Hazlet, A. N. Leet.

1879—Alexander Chrystie, chairman; A. N. Leet, Milton Wilson.

1880—A. N. Leet, chairman; M. Wilson, J. J. Burnham.

1881—A. N. Leet, chairman; M. Wilson, J. J. Burnham.

1882—A. N. Leet, chairman; J. J. Burnham, C. L. Jones.

1883—A. N. Leet, chairman; C. L. Jones, J. M. Groat.

1884—C. L. Jones, chairman; J. M. Groat, J. H. Hickle.

1885—J. M. Groat, chairman; C. L. Jones, J. H. Hickle.

1886—J. H. Hickle, chairman; C. L. Jones, J. M. Groat.

1887—J. W. Ray, chairman; J. H. Hickle, C. L. Jones.

1888—J. W. Ray, chairman; J. H. Hickle, F. E. Newberry.

1889—J. H. Hickle, chairman; F. E. Newberry, J. W. Ray.

1890—J. W. Ray, chairman; F. E. Newberry, J. W. Temple.

1891—J. W. Ray, chairman; J. W. Temple, Milton Wilson.

1892—J. W. Temple, chairman; Milton Wilson, J. W. Ray.

1893—J. W. Ray, chairman; Milton Wilson, B. Leavens.

1894—J. W. Ray, chairman; B. Leavens, Norman Long.

1895—B. Leavens, chairman; Norman Long, Stanley Conn.

1896—Norman Long, chairman; Stanley Conn, B. Leavens.

1897—B. Leavens, chairman; Stanley Conn, John Wade.

1898—John Wade, chairman; B. Leavens, Stanley Conn.

1899—John Wade, chairman; Stanley Conn, B. Leavens.

1900—Stanley Conn, chairman; B. Leavens, John F. Wade.

1901—John Wade, chairman; B. Leavens, Stanley Conn.

1902—J. F. Wade, chairman; Stanley Conn, John F. Mott.

1903—Stanley Conn, chairman; J. F. Mott, James McTaggart.

1904—J. F. Mott, chairman; James McTaggart, William Dawson.

1905—James McTaggart, chairman; William Dawson, J. F. Mott.

A bill had been passed by the Legislature providing for biennial elections, so that those holding office whose terms would otherwise have expired by law held over until their successors were elected in the fall of 1906 and qualified for office in January, 1907. Automatically the terms of all county officials expired and their successors were elected as follows, the tenure of office being two years:

1907-08—For term of three years, E. Lehman and William Dawson; for term of two years, James McTaggart.

1909-10—James McTaggart, William Dawson, E. Lehman.

1911-12—R. H. Waugh, William Dawson, James McTaggart.

In the June meeting of the board of supervisors of 1890 the board voted to divide the county into three supervisor districts. Thereafter members of the county board were elected from these districts instead of from the county at large as before. This system of election has been continued to the present time. The first supervisor district comprises the townships of Dayton, Fremont, Butler, Jackson and Shell Rock. The second district contains the townships of Coldwater, Bennezette, West Point, Pittsford and Madison. The third contains Jefferson, Ripley, Beaver, Albion, Monroe and Washington townships. Since the adoption of this plan the following have served as supervisor from the first district: J. W. Temple, B. Leavens, J. F. Mott, E. Lehman and R. H. Waugh; second district, M. Wilson, Norman Long, John Wade, James McTaggart; third district, J. W. Ray, Stanley Conn and William Dawson.

OTHER COUNTY OFFICERS

As has been stated above, the official list of the county at the time of its organization comprised the offices of county judge, treasurer and recorder, county clerk, sheriff, prosecuting attorney, school fund commissioner, county surveyor, drainage commissioner and coroner. The county judge, clerk and sheriff constituted the county court. This body had entire control of the affairs of the county and in addition to holding other powers and duties, exercised all those belonging at present to the board of supervisors.

In 1861 C. A. Bannon was elected county judge to succeed Alonzo Converse. Mr. Bannon before the expiration of his term of office enlisted in the Thirty-second Infantry, thus vacating his office. A special election was called to fill the vacancy and J. R. Fletcher, at that time supervisor from Butler township, was chosen to fill the vacancy. Mr. Fletcher had been one of the most ardent partisans of Clarksville in the county seat controversy, and possibly for this reason neglected, or declined, to remove the books and papers belonging to this office to the county seat at Butler Center. At the June session of the board of supervisors in 1863, a resolution was offered ordering the clerk to notify Fletcher to bring his books and papers pertaining to the office to Butler Center, and to forthwith hold the office there in accordance with the law. On failure to do so, the clerk was instructed to proceed against said Fletcher, according to the law. This resolution was adopted by a vote of fourteen to one. The compliance with this resolution completed the removal of the county offices to Butler Center.

As has been indicated elsewhere, the functions of the county court were superseded by a board of supervisors, one from each township in the county, in 1861. Thereafter the county judge continued to exercise jurisdiction over probate matters until the office was abolished about 1870. By the terms of the law making this change, county judges in office became ex-officio county auditor. A. J. Thompkins, who had been elected to the office of county judge in 1865, and reelected in 1867, thus became the first county auditor. This office is the most important in character and most diversified in functions of any of the county offices.

The offices of treasurer and recorder were joined during the early period of the county's history and the duties appertaining to these offices were exercised by the same officer from 1854 to 1864. In the latter year the two offices were separated and thereafter were held by different individuals. John Palmer, elected in 1863, was the last to hold the two offices together. He was retained under the law of 1864 as county treasurer, while J. H. Hale was elected the first county recorder. In 1910 Grace E. Dreher was elected county recorder, being the first woman in the history of the county to be elected to this office—the only one except that of county superintendent which under the present law may be held by a woman.

The office of clerk of the courts had existed without essential change from the date of the organization of the county. W. E. Burton was the first county clerk. From January 1, 1859, to January 1, 1873, seven consecutive official terms, James W. Davis performed the duties of this office. This term of official service is the longest in the history of the county.

The office of sheriff was first held by Robert T. Crowell, who came to the county with the family of Joseph Hicks, the first permanent settlers, in 1850.

The first prosecuting attorney was Aaron Van Dorn, who was appointed to the office by Judge John Palmer. He filed his bond and qualified on January 2, 1855. In the April election of this year Mr. Van Dorn was elected prosecuting attorney and continued in office until October of the same year, when he became county judge. George McClellan succeeded him in the office of prosecuting attorney. McClellan resigned before the expiration of his term of office and the vacancy was filled by the appointment of John Palmer, former county judge. He held office until 1856, when C. A. Bannon was elected to the position. The law at that time provided that in case of the absence of any incumbent for a period of six months, the office should be declared vacant and a new election held to fill the vacancy. Mr. Bannon during his term of office left the county and it was understood that he did not contemplate returning. Therefore a special election was called to select a successor. W. R. Jamison was elected by a large majority, but before he qualified Mr. Bannon returned and Mr. Jamison withdrew, leaving the office to the former incumbent. Before the expiration of the term for which Mr. Bannon had been elected, the office was abolished by law. The functions of this office were thereafter largely performed by the district attorney. The present office of county attorney was created in accordance with an act of the General Assembly in 1886. The first county attorney under the present law was Frank Lingenfelder.

The office of county treasurer was created in 1857 to take the place of township assessor. W. R. Cotton was the first and only officer elected to this position. Before the expiration of his term the office was abolished and the system reverted to the former one of assessment by township officers. The office of county surveyor was abolished by act of the Thirty-fifth General Assembly and that of county engineer created in its place. This office is

appointive by the board of supervisors. The first county engineer of Butler county is the present incumbent, Frank W. Cave.

The first woman to hold a county office in Butler county was Miss Emma Miner, who, in 1892, was appointed county recorder to fill a vacancy caused by the death of her brother, Marion W. Miner.

LIST OF COUNTY OFFICIALS FROM 1854 TO 1914

County Judge—1854, John Palmer; 1855, Aaron Van Dorn; 1857, Alonzo Converse; 1861, C. A. Bammon; 1862, J. R. Fletcher; 1863, Ansel Durand; 1865, A. J. Thompkins.

Auditor—The first county auditor as appears by the records was A. J. Thompkins, who was elected as a republican to the office in 1869. The names of his successors follow: 1871, R. L. Chase; 1877, J. McElvain; 1879, James W. Spencer; 1884, George O. Van Vleck; 1888, Edgar J. Davis; 1893, George W. Conn; 1899, W. A. Reynolds; 1903, Henry W. Seitz; 1907, T. M. Early; 1911, Eugene Owen.

Clerk of Courts—1854, W. E. Burton; 1856, Mahlon Crozier, resigned, John Leslie (to fill vacancy); 1857, James E. Walker; 1859, James W. Davis; 1873, William Burdick; 1879, C. H. Ilgenfritz; 1883, W. S. Montgomery; 1887, John Barlow; 1891, Ernest W. Virden; 1895, William C. Thompson, Jr.; 1899, M. L. Palmer; 1903, E. J. Davis; 1907, J. W. Thompson; 1911, George R. Dennis.

Treasurer—1854, A. G. Clark; 1855, D. C. Hilton; 1859, J. H. Hale; 1863, John Palmer; 1867, J. F. Wright; 1871, W. C. Thompson; 1875, E. Thomas; 1879, John W. Ray; 1885, Samuel Thomas; 1889, W. E. Hyde; 1893, Frank P. Bolton; 1897, Levi Baker; 1899, W. J. Burbank; 1903, Mason F. Green; 1907, H. F. Wild; 1911, James A. Barlow.

Recorder—1854, A. G. Clark; 1855, D. C. Hilton; 1859, J. H. Hale; 1869, George M. Craig; 1873, Elwood Wilson; 1879, W. W. Pattee; 1883, W. M. Hunter; 1887, L. J. Rogers; 1891, Marion W. Miner; 1892, M. J. Kelley; 1893, Albert N. Bonwell; 1897, E. V. Franke; 1901, J. H. Hunt; 1905, W. R. Stanley; 1911, Grace E. Dreher.

Sheriff—1854, R. T. Crowell; 1855, W. H. Bishop; 1859, James Leverich; 1861, W. H. Bishop; 1863, M. Hollenbeck; 1867, L. L. Smith; 1871, J. R. Jones; 1877, M. B. Speedy; 1879, Gilbert Hazlet; 1884, Lorenzo Bartlett (to fill vacancy) C. S. Root; 1886, Lorenzo

Bartlett; 1888, T. M. Early; 1892, Thomas Walsh; 1896, T. M. Early; 1898, M. S. Cline; 1902, A. W. Johnson; 1907, F. H. Hill; 1911, Thomas J. Shafer.

Surveyor—1855, T. T. Rawson (resigned), George McClellan (to fill vacancy); 1857, J. Ellis; 1859, Judd Bradley; 1861, G. McClellan; 1863, A. F. Townsend; 1865, M. D. L. Niece; 1867, O. W. McIntosh; 1871, M. D. L. Niece; 1873, J. G. Rockwell; 1881, O. W. McIntosh; 1884, J. G. Rockwell; 1885, A. L. Stannard; 1888, F. F. Voeltz; 1892, Ed Madigan; 1893, F. F. Voeltz; 1894, Edward V. Franke; 1898, Ward M. Jones; 1901, John E. Crossant; 1907, F. F. Voeltz.

Prosecuting Attorney—1855, A. Van Dorn; 1855, G. McClellan; 1856, C. A. Bannon (removed), John Palmer (to fill vacancy); 1858, W. R. Jamison; 1858, C. A. Bannon.

District Attorney—1858, Milo McGlathery; 1864, John E. Burke; 1868, I. W. Card; 1872, L. S. Butler; 1876, J. B. Cleland.

County Attorney—1887, Frank Lingenfelder; 1891, Willis A. Lathrop; 1893, John W. Arbuckle; 1897, George A. McIntyre; 1901, C. G. Burling; 1905, W. F. Evans; 1907, Robert F. Camp; 1911, J. B. Gregory (resigned), W. S. Montgomery (to fill vacancy); 1913, Montgomery (resigned), G. C. Burling (to fill vacancy).

Coroner—1855, D. W. Kensley; 1856, Orson Rice; 1857, J. V. Boggs; 1859, J. A. Barker; 1863, E. W. Metzgar; 1865, George Murphy; 1867, E. W. Metzgar; 1869, T. G. Copeland; 1873, E. W. Metzgar; 1875, C. W. Murray; 1877, H. J. Playter; 1881, W. M. Foote; 1884, Thomas M. Early; 1886, N. H. Larkin; 1892, L. Bartlett; 1893, O. W. Rowley; 1895, A. N. Leet; 1896, Dr. T. D. Askew; 1898, Dr. V. C. Birney; 1907, Dr. W. E. Patterson; 1909, Dr. Paul R. Burroughs; 1911, Walter Burroughs.

CHAPTER VIII

THE LOCATION OF THE COUNTY SEAT

As has already been indicated, the earliest settlements in the county were all in the eastern and extreme southeastern portions of the county. As a natural consequence, when the location for the first county seat was chosen, it was fixed on the present site of Clarksville, then the center of the most numerous settlement in the county.

THE COUNTY SEAT AT CLARKSVILLE

The location of this first county seat was fixed by a commission of three men—John P. Barrick and William Payne, of Bremer county, and D. C. Overman, of Black Hawk county—acting under instructions issued by Judge O. H. P. Roszell, of Buchanan county, to which judicial district Butler county belonged at that time. These gentlemen met by appointment at Barrick's Ford, in Bremer county, and journeyed westward on horseback until they reached the Shell Rock river in the vicinity of the settlement made by the Wamsleys and others who have been mentioned. There seemed to be little question at the time that this location was most desirable for the county seat but there was considerable rivalry among the individual settlers to have the exact location fixed where it would be most advantageous to them and enhance the value of their holdings. Influenced by the persuasive powers of Jeremiah and Thomas Clark and W. S. Wamsley, whose claims were situated about a mile north of the present location of Clarksville, the commissioners had about determined to fix the seat of justice on the lands of these gentlemen, when they were called upon to stay the proceedings until the rival claims of Messrs. G. W. Poisal and Seth Hilton, Sr., might be presented.

Just what arguments were brought to bear upon the commissioners is unknown, but judging from the result they must

have been potent ones, for after only a comparatively brief consideration of the new claims the commissioners turned their backs upon the location first determined upon and selected a site on the claim of D. C. Hilton as the spot where the future courthouse should be built. This spot was marked by an oak stake, which was driven into the ground on section 18, Butler township, on the spot where the Clarksville schoolhouse now stands. A compromise was arranged between the Hiltons and the Clarks, whereby the latter were given a half interest in forty acres later platted as the town of Clarksville. Reference to the copy of the record filed with the county court with the plat of this village, which is given in full above, will show the names of all the owners of this town site.

The date of this first official proceeding in Butler county is pretty generally fixed by a receipt signed by Commissioners John P. Barrick, D. C. Overman and William W. Payne, at Barrick's Ford, on May 6, 1853, acknowledging the receipt from Thomas Clark of the sum of \$24 to cover their necessary expenses. George W. Poisal was produced as a witness to the payment of this sum by Clark and the latter was reimbursed for his expenditure by a county warrant for the sum of \$24, issued January 4, 1855.

THE FIRST COURTHOUSE

In 1856 the construction of the new courthouse was begun but was not completed until the spring of 1858, when the first court was held within its walls and the county offices moved into it. This building was of brick, 40x60 feet in dimensions, two stories high and cost about \$20,000. After the removal of the county seat from Clarksville the building was sold to the school district for \$2,800, and was remodeled and used as a schoolhouse until the construction of the present building.

AGITATION FOR REMOVAL

Even before the courthouse was finished the question of the removal of the county seat began to be agitated. Other towns were springing up in various parts of the county and each one was ambitious to become the county capital. Mutual jealousy, a desire to increase the value of their town property and a natural love of controversy, which seems more or less inherent in American

nature, kept the agitation going and for years excitement was at a high pitch in relation to this question. When it became evident that no town already platted and settled would probably have a better chance to secure the county seat than Clarksville, the point was raised and kept before the people that it was highly desirable that the county seat should be located near the geographical center of the county.

GEORGETOWN

In order to meet these conditions, a town was finally platted and recorded, embracing forty acres in the exact geographical center of the county, at the four corners of Jefferson, Jackson, West Point and Ripley townships. This paper town was called Georgetown, and on paper it made the best appearance of any town in the county. The plat was exceptionally well drawn and the location unquestionably favorable but the prospective county capital had not a building nor a sign of habitation. It existed solely in the imagination of its projectors.

A petition to bring the question of relocation of the county seat at Georgetown was drawn up and extensively signed. This petition was presented to Judge Alonzo Converse, who granted the request and ordered the question submitted to the voters of the county at the April election in 1858. After an active campaign the matter was decided in favor of leaving the county seat at Clarksville by the narrow majority of 327 to 320. As all the hopes for the future Georgetown had rested upon the successful termination of this campaign, its prospects received a death blow by this result. No further effort was made to establish a town on this location. It remains therefore merely a geographical expression.

BUTLER CENTER

The friends of removal, however, would not acknowledge defeat. Having failed in their attempt to relocate the county seat at Georgetown they fixed upon Butler Center, a village situated about two miles south of the geographical center of the county, which already had quite a few residents and several places of business. Another petition was circulated which secured over four hundred signers, requesting that the matter be submitted again to the people to determine whether the county seat should

be moved to Butler Center or to remain at Clarksville. The petition was granted and the question submitted to vote on the 4th of April, 1859. As a result of this vote Butler Center received 357 votes and Clarksville 336—a majority of 21 for the former. The following entry on the records of the county court under date of April 11, 1859, is self explanatory:

“Be it remembered that on this 11th day of April, A. D., 1859, the returns from the election from all the townships having been received, the County Judge calling to his assistance George McClellan and John M. Nicholas, two justices of the peace of Butler county, proceeded to canvass the said returns of the vote cast upon the question of the county seat on the 4th day of April, 1859, between Clarksville, the existing county seat, and Butler Center, and it appearing that a majority of all the votes cast were in favor of Butler Center, the point designated in the petition asking for a vote upon the question; therefore, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 46 of the Acts of the Fifth General Assembly of the State of Iowa, Butler Center is hereby declared to be the county seat of Butler county, Iowa.”

The joy of the people of Butler Center and of the friends of removal in general and the enemies of Clarksville in particular was unbounded at this successful termination of their efforts. However, their celebration was temporarily interfered with by a writ of injunction, which was sued out by the people of Clarksville for the purpose of staying the removal until certain legal objections which they had to present could be formally heard and passed upon.

In July following the district court declared this election void because of certain irregularities in its conduct. The joy of the people of Butler Center was changed to wrath, and the people of Clarksville on their part availed themselves of the opportunity for what appeared to the others to be a most unseemly exhibition of joy.

REMOVAL TO BUTLER CENTER

Another petition was circulated early in 1860 and presented to the board of supervisors asking that the matter again be submitted to vote. The petition was granted and the 2d day of April, 1860, fixed for the election. When the votes cast at this election were canvassed it was declared that the result showed a majority

of over eighty votes in favor of Butler Center over Clarksville. This time Butler Center's jollification was not unwarranted. They did not allow any time to pass. On the next day after the canvass of the votes, April 5, 1860, the books, documents and county records were removed to Butler Center.

The courthouse in Butler Center was a frame structure 20x36 feet in dimensions and two stories high. The upper story, which contained the court room, was reached by an outside wooden stairway. The lower story was divided into three offices which were occupied by the county treasurer, county recorder and the clerk of the courts. This building was erected at a cost of about \$2,000, and with about two acres of ground surrounding it, was donated to the county by Andrew Mullarky, of Cedar Falls, who owned a large amount of land in the vicinity of Butler Center, and who perhaps was more influential than any other man in securing the removal of the county seat from Clarksville.

FURTHER AGITATION

In January, 1861, a petition signed by D. W. Miller and some four hundred others was presented to the board of supervisors asking that the matter of changing the county seat from Butler Center to Clarksville be resubmitted to the people. A committee was appointed by the board to investigate the matter, which reported adversely. One member of the committee offered a minority report in favor of the petition. The report of the committee was submitted to the board of supervisors and it was decided that the petition should be denied.

The record of the first session of the board of supervisors in 1862 indicates that C. A. Bannon appeared before the board as attorney of certain petitioners who again requested a vote on the matter of relocation. The petition was signed by 440 voters. Forty-two names were stricken from this list by a committee of the board of supervisors appointed to investigate it. The petition was followed by a remonstrance signed by about the same number of citizens objecting to any further agitation of the question.

The relative equality of the number of names on this petition and remonstrance indicates that there was much dissatisfaction with Butler Center as the county seat. This was due of course in part merely to the natural jealousy of Clarksville, but also to the

difficulty which the citizens of the county experienced in reaching Butler Center in the late winter and early spring months. As was common in those early days there were no adequate highways. The country surrounding Butler Center to the east and south was practically impassable by teams during wet seasons. The residents of the county of those days recount many unpleasant experiences which they and others had in their efforts to reach the county capital. Sometimes in the early spring the West Fork south of Butler Center was several miles in width and could only be crossed by means of boats.

The committee referred to above, in whose hands this matter was placed, reported their investigations to the board without any recommendation. The board then listened to the arguments of attorneys on both sides, after which James R. Fletcher, supervisor from Butler township, offered a lengthy resolution setting forth the fact that the petition had been signed by one-half of the legal voters of the county as shown by the census of 1859, and ordering that the matter be submitted to a vote in the April election of 1862. To this resolution W. A. Lathrop, supervisor from Jefferson township, in which Butler Center was situated, offered an amendment as follows: "To strike out all of Mr. Fletcher's resolution after the word 'Resolved' and insert 'that the facts as set forth by the committee on the county seat do not show that the petitioners are entitled to a vote.' Therefore the prayer be not allowed." This amendment was carried by a vote of ten to six. An attempt to rescind this action on the following day was defeated by a majority of six.

The board of supervisors for 1863 was again called upon to pass upon the matter of removal by a petition to relocate the county seat at Shell Rock. As before, this petition was followed by a remonstrance. The whole question was deferred by the board until the September session, when it was taken up and the petition refused. Thereafter, there were a number of abortive attempts to secure the resubmission of the county seat question, but Butler Center remained in possession of the county seat of justice for about twenty years.

In the meantime two railroads had penetrated the county,—the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern, passing through the towns of Shell Rock, Clarksville and Greene along the Shell Rock valley, and the Dubuque & Sioux City, through the southern tier of townships. The distance of Butler Center from a railway

came therefore to be a new and persistent cause of dissatisfaction in its retention of the county capital. Late in the '70s a new railroad was surveyed through the center of the county from east to west, called at first the Iowa & Pacific. For reasons which will be noted elsewhere Butler Center failed to take advantage of the opportunity to secure this railroad. In the end it was surveyed west from Clarksville, leaving Butler Center four or five miles from its nearest point. A new town on this line of railroad was platted as near to the geographical center of the county as Butler Center and the people of the county realized that very soon the county seat question would come up again for decision.

ALLISON

In anticipation of this movement and with the hope of preventing it, the people of Bristow, in the summer of 1880, published a notice and circulated a petition for the removal of the county seat to that place. The new town of Allison, however, also came into the field with a petition and a fight was on. The campaign was a hot one. Newspaper articles, stump speeches and mass meetings in the schoolhouses were characterized by extreme bitterness of feeling. In the end, however, the Allison petition secured a majority of the signers. The board of supervisors acted favorably upon this petition and at the November election in 1880 the question of the removal of the county seat to Allison was carried by a majority of 265 votes, Allison receiving 1,529 and Butler Center, 1,264.

In connection with the submission of this question to the people of the county, the Allison Town Company, represented by John R. Waller, of Dubuque, filed a bond in the sum of \$25,000 with the county auditor, guaranteeing in consideration of the removal of the county seat from Butler Center to Allison, the building of the courthouse adequate in size to accommodate the business of the county and furnished in an appropriate manner. With this there was also to be made a cession of ten acres of land to belong to the county so long as it should continue to be used for county purposes.

REMOVAL TO ALLISON

When in January, 1881, the board of supervisors ordered the county records removed to Allison, there was no building ready

for their accommodation. The county clerk, recorder and sheriff found quarters in the upper story of a building owned by A. M. McLeod. The auditor and treasurer were accommodated temporarily in the drug store then owned by Dr. Riggs, and later occupied by S. W. Burroughs, on the east side of Main street. As soon as possible a small office building, which had been occupied by the county officers at Butler Center was moved over and these officers took up their quarters in this.

THE COURTHOUSE

The Allison Town Company, which was largely financed by H. L. Stout, owner of the Iowa Central Stock Farm, a Dubuque lumberman and capitalist, was ready to fulfill to the letter its agreement with the people of the county regarding the erection of the courthouse but it became evident that public opinion favored the expenditure of a larger sum than had been agreed upon in the preliminary negotiations. In the end a compromise was effected between the supervisors and the Allison Town Company, by which the latter agreed to deposit to the credit of the county the sum of \$7,000 in cash to be used in the erection of the courthouse, the county agreeing to furnish a sum one-third as great in addition thereto.

In the spring of 1881 the contract for the construction of the courthouse was let to L. D. Harvey, of Clarksville, for the sum of \$10,680. The building was completed and ready for occupancy by October, 1881. For the time, the building was distinctly a creditable one. It was built with wooden frame, with brick veneer, 50x55 feet in dimensions, two stories in height.

In 1903 an addition to the courthouse equal in height to the main building and 20x51 feet in dimensions was constructed on the north, the contract price being \$5,000. This addition furnishes space for the heating plant, fuel rooms and jail in the basement. The first floor contains vaults for the clerk's office and the auditor's office and toilet rooms. On the second floor in the addition are located the grand and petit jury rooms and a retiring room for the district judge. For lack of other quarters, the petit jury room has in recent years been given over to the office of the county superintendent of schools. This location is an inconvenient one for many reasons and eventually doubtless it will be found necessary for other arrangements to be made.

The county jail in the basement of the courthouse has been condemned by a number of grand juries and is unfit for use as the habitation even of suspected criminals. In the election of 1912 the proposition to build a separate jail and sheriff's residence was defeated at the polls by a small majority. Such a building, however, is a crying necessity and the people of the county will sooner or later come to see it.

The present courthouse stands at the head of Main street on the crest of a rise of land which is said to be the highest point in Butler county. This situation gives it an imposing appearance as the land slopes gently away from it in every direction. It is surrounded by ample grounds, beautifully parked and planted to a variety of well chosen shade and ornamental trees. On either side of the main entrance stand two cannon, a gift to the county from the United States Government through the courtesy of Col. D. B. Henderson at the request of his friend, I. M. Fisher. Visitors to Allison frequently comment upon the courthouse square as constituting the finest county property in the state.

Since the location of the county seat at Allison no serious attempt has been made to resubmit the question of removal. It is not probable that it will ever again be raised. For some years Allison had to struggle against a certain amount of jealousy and hard feeling which had been engendered by its choice as the county capital. Gradually, however, this feeling has been allayed and today the people of Butler county are coming increasingly to take pride in their county seat and to desire to assist it in maintaining a position of equality with the county seats of surrounding counties.

CHAPTER IX

REPRESENTATION STATE AND NATIONAL

CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION

At the time of its organization, Butler county was a part of the Second Congressional District and was represented in Congress by John B. Cook, of Davenport. Mr. Cook served one term in the Thirty-third Congress, from 1853-55. He was elected to Congress as a whig but before he took his seat the whig party had practically disappeared. Thereafter he affiliated with the democratic party. In the Thirty-first Congress, 1855-57, the Second District was represented by James P. Thorington, of Davenport, a republican. The Representative in the Thirty-fifth Congress was Timothy Davis, of Dubuque, elected by the American party. William R. Vandever, of Dubuque, represented the district in the Thirty-sixth and Thirty-seventh Congresses, from 1859 to 1863. While serving his second term the Civil war broke out. Representative Vandever abandoned his seat, returned to the state, and raised a regiment of infantry, of which he was made colonel. He was later promoted to brigadier-general and at the close of the war brevetted major-general.

In accordance with the new apportionment for the sessions of 1860, Iowa was assigned six representatives in Congress. The state was accordingly redistricted, Butler county becoming a part of the Sixth District. The first representative of this new district was Asahel W. Hubbard, of Sioux City. Mr. Hubbard served through the Thirty-eighth, Thirty-ninth and Fortieth Congresses, from 1863 to 1869. Charles Pomeroy, of Fort Dodge, was elected to the Forty-first Congress from the Sixth District. Pomeroy was the first farmer to hold this office, his predecessors, all of them, having been members of the legal profession. The representative in the Forty-second Congress was Jackson Orr, of Montana, Iowa.

The apportionment following the census of 1870 increased the Iowa representation to nine. Butler county thereafter became a part of the Fourth Congressional District, being represented in the Forty-third and Forty-fourth Congresses by Henry O. Pratt, of Charles City. His successor was Nathaniel C. Deering, of Osage, who served for three terms, from 1877 to 1883.

In 1882 the state was again redistricted and Butler county became one of the counties forming the famous "Third, or "Monkey Wrench" District. Hon. David B. Henderson, of Dubuque, was elected to the Forty-eighth Congress from this district and served it continuously in this capacity in all the sessions of Congress from the Forty-eighth to the Fifty-seventh, inclusive. Colonel Henderson, or "Dave," as he was better known to most of his constituents, counted a multitude of personal friends in Butler county. He was a frequent visitor to the county, usually making his headquarters on the Iowa Central Stock Farm. Colonel Henderson possessed that rare quality of being able to remember faces and names. He never forgot a friend and rarely failed to be able to call by name any man whom he had met. This quality, together with his whole souled, genial nature, made him a personal friend of his constituents. They all rejoiced with him in the honor that came to him when he was chosen speaker of the National House of Representatives. His voluntary retirement from the office in 1903, at the conclusion of his ninth term, was deeply regretted by his loyal Butler county friends. Colonel Henderson was succeeded in the Fifty-eighth Congress by Benjamin P. Birdsall, of Clarion, who served three terms, until 1909, when Charles E. Pickett, of Waterloo, succeeded him. Mr. Pickett served through the Sixty-first and Sixty-second Congresses but was defeated for re-election in the campaign of 1912, by Morris Connolly, of Dubuque. Mr. Connolly is the first democrat to represent Butler county in Congress since the days of John P. Cook, in 1855.

Of the United States Senators who have represented Iowa in Congress since its admission as a state, Butler county always had a particularly warm place in its heart for Senator William B. Allison. Mr. Allison was a personal friend of H. L. Stout and the other gentlemen who formed the Allison Town Site Company, and the Butler county seat was named in his honor. He was a frequent visitor at the farm owned by his friend, Mr. Stout, and on a number of occasions appeared in public addresses before the people

of the county, the last of these being on the occasion of the dedication of the new Butler county fair grounds at Allison in 1887.

Senators Gear, Dolliver, Cummins and Kenyon have all at various times made public addresses in the county but for none of them have the people of the county had the personal feeling that they had for Senator Allison. It is gratifying to note that Butler county loyally supported the aged Senator in his last campaign for the nomination to the senatorship in 1908.

STATE OFFICERS FROM BUTLER COUNTY

Butler county takes pride in the fact of having furnished one Governor to the State of Iowa. The Hon. Frank D. Jackson, fourteenth Governor of Iowa, was born at Arcade, Wyoming county, New York, January 26, 1854. In 1867 he came with his parents to Jesup, in Buchanan county, Iowa, where he attended the public schools. He also attended the State Agricultural College, afterward entering the law department of the State University, where he graduated in 1874. He removed to Butler county in 1880, settling at Greene, where he engaged in the practice of law. He was chosen secretary of the State Senate in the winter of 1882 and was reelected in 1884. At the Republican State Convention of 1884 he was nominated for Secretary of State and elected, serving by successive elections for three terms. In 1893 he was nominated by the Republican State Convention for Governor. For four years the democratic party had secured the chief executive in the election of Governor Boies. The campaign was conducted with great vigor on both sides and resulted in the election of Frank D. Jackson by a plurality of more than thirty-two thousand. Governor Jackson served but one term, declining to be a candidate for reelection.

Captain W. V. Lucas, auditor of the State of Iowa from 1881 to 1883, was for a number of years a resident of Butler county and at one time editor of the Shell Rock News. His deputy, Rufus L. Chase, was a citizen of Butler county, having served several terms as county auditor.

John F. Wade, of Butler county, was a member of the State Board of Control from 1909 to the date of his death in 1913. He is noticed more fully elsewhere.

REPRESENTATION IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Butler county was first represented in the Fifth General Assembly of Iowa, which convened at Iowa City on December 4, 1854. As a state senatorial district, it was associated with Dubuque, Delaware, Buchanan, Blackhawk, Grundy, Bremer, Clayton, Fayette, Allamakee, Winneshiek, Howard, Mitchell, Floyd and Chickasaw counties and was represented in the Senate by William W. Hamilton, Maturin L. Fisher and John J. Shields. Senator Fisher was chosen president of the Senate during this session. In the House of Representatives, Butler county was represented by Jacob W. Rogers, of West Union, whose district included Fayette, Chickasaw, Butler, Bremer, Blackhawk, Grundy, Franklin, Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Howard, Mitchell and Worth counties, forming the Third Representative District.

In the Sixth and Seventh Assemblies Butler county was districted in the Thirty-third Senatorial District, with Fayette, Bremer, Franklin, Grundy, Hardin, Wright, Webster, Boone, Story, Greene and Humboldt counties. This district was represented in the Senate by Aaron Brown, of Fayette county. The Forty-eighth Representative District, comprising Bremer, Chickasaw, Butler, Floyd, Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Kossuth and Grundy counties, sent E. R. Gillett as their representative. His postoffice address and home county are both unknown.

With a number of other counties, Butler was represented in the Third Constitutional Convention of 1857 by Sheldon G. Winchester.

The first citizen of Butler county to be honored with election to the House of Representatives was Matthew M. Trumbull, who in the Seventh Assembly represented the Twelfth District, comprising Mitchell, Floyd and Butler counties. He was elected by the narrow majority of six over his democratic opponent, J. C. Bishop, the vote standing 172 to 166.

Alfred L. Brown, of Cedar Falls, represented Butler county in the Senate during the eighth and ninth sessions of the General Assembly, his district consisting of the counties of Grundy, Blackhawk, Butler and Franklin for the first two years, and the same counties with the exception of Grundy in the last two. Chauncey Gillett, of Franklin county, was a member of the House of Representatives in the Eighth Assembly, being elected by the voters of Franklin, Wright, Butler and Grundy counties.

Alonzo Converse, who has already been mentioned in connection with the office of county judge, was elected to the House of Representatives for the Ninth Assembly from the Fifty-fifth District, including Butler, Grundy and Franklin counties. Mr. Converse served only one term in the House of Representatives, being succeeded by W. A. Lathrop, who is largely identified with the early county history and receives detailed mention elsewhere. In the Senate of this session, the county was represented by C. F. Clarkson, of Grundy Center, Hardin, Franklin and Blackhawk counties being associated with Butler in the Thirty-ninth Senatorial District.

James B. Powers of Cedar Falls, represented Blackhawk and Butler counties in the Senate of the Eleventh General Assembly and Lorenzo D. Tracy, of New Hartford, Butler and Grundy counties in the House.

Marcus Tuttle, of Cerro Gordo county, was elected to the Senate for Franklin, Butler, Grundy and Cerro Gordo counties in 1868, serving through the session of the Twelfth Assembly. James A. Guthrie, of New Hartford, was State Representative from Butler and Grundy counties in this session.

Of the Thirteenth Assembly, R. B. Clark is said to have been elected Senator, although the records of the state as to the members of the General Assembly do not include his name. His death occurred some time after the election and it is probable that he never qualified for the office. Emmons Johnson, of Bremer county, was elected to fill the vacancy. S. B. Dumont, of Pittsford township, was elected Representative for this session of the assembly and served two terms in the office, in one of which he represented both Butler and Grundy counties. Beginning with the sessions of the Fourteenth General Assembly in 1872 Butler county constituted a separate representative district.

Alonzo Converse, of New Hartford, was chosen Senator from the Forty-third District, including the counties of Floyd, Butler and Mitchell at this time and served until 1876. The list of members of the Senate and House of Representatives from this date to the present time is given below:

Senators:—Arad Hitchcock, 1876-78; W. W. Blackman, 1878-80; W. P. Gaylord, 1880-82; Alvin M. Whaley, 1882-88; L. S. Hanchett, 1888-92; R. S. Smith, 1892-94; George M. Craig, 1894-1904; John F. Wade, 1904-08; Charles Gates, 1908-12; F. P. Hagemann, 1912—

All these since 1882, with the exception of L. S. Hanchett and F. P. Hagemann, have been residents of Butler county and have represented the Senatorial district comprised of Butler and Bremer counties. They are mentioned more at length in connection with the history of their particular localities in the county.

From 1874 to date the members of the House of Representatives from Butler county have been as follows:

Charles A. L. Roszell, 1870-76; John Palmer, 1876-78; A. M. Whaley, 1878-82; H. C. Brown, 1882-86; Elwood Wilson, 1886-90; S. W. Soesbe, 1890-92; C. T. Coonley, 1892-96; W. G. Ladd, 1896-1900; M. F. Edwards, 1900-02; Stanley Conn, 1902-08; John A. Cousins, 1908-12; W. I. Atkinson, 1912—

CHAPTER X

THE JUDICIARY AND THE BAR

THE DISTRICT COURT

Several years after the organization of Butler county, the Thirteenth Judicial District, consisting of the counties of Butler, Franklin, Grundy, Hamilton, Hardin, Marshall, Story and Wright, was created in March, 1857. Judge James D. Thompson of Hardin county was elected district judge of this district in April, 1857, and held the first term of district court in Butler county, in October of the same year, at the Grout schoolhouse in Clarksville. Previous to this the only court that had held sessions in the county was the old county court. The district court at this time had approximately the same jurisdiction and organization as at present. James E. Walker was clerk of the courts and W. H. Bishop sheriff in the first session. The first grand jury consisted of John T. Newhard, foreman, J. M. Vincent, bailiff, William Hoisington, John Braden, James Wood, L. D. Owen, G. T. Root, John Palmer, James Bywater, James McKinney, John Boggs, L. A. Orvis, Judd Bradley, Peter Riley, M. B. Wamsley and A. J. Lewellen. This grand jury met on a little knoll later occupied by the residence of S. M. Townsend in Clarksville, and organized in the open air. Their later sessions, however, were held in a room which was furnished them. The first petit jury consisted of A. Van Dorn, foreman; G. W. Stoner, bailiff; Felix Landis, Christian Forney, John M. Hart, Charles Ensign, Aaron Hardman, George Harlan, Samuel McCreery, John Lash, James Blake, J. H. Smith, William Burress, Charles Lusted, A. Glenn and Jacob Shaffer. Enough men could not be obtained for this jury, so the grand jury was ordered to be in attendance on this term of court. At this session, on motion of M. M. Trumbull, James R. Fletcher, C. J. Bannon, W. R. Jamison, John Palmer, Orson Rice and George A. Richmond were admitted to practice as attorneys.

The first case to come before the court was that of the State of Iowa vs. William Casterline, in which the defendant was accused of threatening to kill some one. He had been previously tried in the county court and had been bound over to the district court. Before the matter was submitted to the jury the charge was withdrawn and the case was dismissed.

The second district judge to hold court in Butler county was Samuel Murdock, a judge of the Tenth Judicial District, who presided over the June term in 1858.

The next district judge whose name appears in the records is Elias H. Williams. As Judge Williams was a resident of Clayton county and is given in the register of the judiciary of the state as judge of the Tenth District, it would appear that Butler county had been made a part of this district. Judge Williams presided over the district for two full terms, from 1859 to 1866. The name of James W. Davis appears as clerk of the courts for the first term under Judge Williams.

William B. Fairfield, of Charles City, in Floyd county, was the next district judge to hold court in Butler county, his term extending from 1865 to 1870, when he resigned. During his term of office, Butler county was a part of the Twelfth Judicial District. He was succeeded on the district bench by George W. Ruddick, of Waverly, Bremer county, who held his first term of court in the county in 1871. Judge Ruddick remained upon the district bench for more than twenty years, his term of service ending in 1892.

Among the amusing incidents connected with the records of the district court is found one relating to the prosecution of Joseph and William J. Good, which came in May, 1878, before Judge Ruddick. This case had been postponed and deferred again and again until the costs to the county had amounted to rather an alarming figure and exhausted the patience of both attorneys and court. Finally, the defendants managed to escape and left the county. When this was made known, Judge Ruddick ordered the case dismissed, with the following order which appears on the record: "Satisfactory evidence appearing that the defendants have left the county, it is ordered on motion of the district attorney that this case be dismissed for fear they may be brought back or may voluntarily return."

After 1887, an additional judge was assigned to the Twelfth District. John B. Cleland, of Mitchell county, served one year.

1887-8, as Judge Ruddick's associate. Mr. Cleland was succeeded in 1888 by Judge John C. Sherwin, of Cerro Gordo county, who remained upon the district bench for eleven years. At the conclusion of this period he was elected to the supreme court of Iowa, where he remained until 1913.

Judge Ruddick was succeeded by Porter W. Burr, of Floyd county, 1893-6. At the conclusion of this period Jefferson F. Clyde, of Mitchell county, succeeded him, whose term of service covering fifteen years, ending in 1912, is exceeded in length only by that of Judge Ruddick. Judge Sherwin, on his elevation to the supreme bench, was succeeded by Clifford P. Smith, of Cerro Gordo county, who resigned in 1908, to accept a position of importance in the Christian Science church at Boston. His successor was Joseph J. Clark, of Cerro Gordo county, who is still on the district bench.

In 1898, a third judge was added to this district and Charles H. Kelly, of Floyd county, was elected to the position. Judge Kelly is still on the bench. In 1912 Butler county was honored by the election of one of its foremost citizens, Millard F. Edwards, of Parkersburg, to the judicial position previously occupied by Judge Clyde. Judge Edwards is the first citizen of Butler county to occupy a position on the bench of this district. A detailed sketch of his life is given in the second volume of this work.

THE COUNTY COURT

At the time of the first organization of Butler county all legal matters were in the hands of the county court, consisting of the county judge, the prosecuting attorney, clerk of the courts and the sheriff. The jurisdiction of this court was complete. In addition, many of the powers now vested in the board of supervisors, were exercised by the county judge. He had jurisdiction in all probate matters, issued marriage licenses and attended to the financial affairs of the county except in the disposal of the school fund, the supervision of which was in the hands of an officer called school fund commissioner. The first county judge elected was George W. Poisal, who, however, failed to qualify, as noted previously. The first judge who qualified was John Palmer, who assumed the duties of this office in 1854. Some account of the records of Judge Palmer's first court has already been given. The judge was a native of Ohio and for his

time, possessed an education somewhat above the average. He was a millwright by trade. In character, while not distinctively aggressive, he was firm in his attitude and handled the manifold duties and responsibilities of this office in a manner to meet with general approval. He served for one term and was succeeded by Aaron Van Dorn, a lawyer of considerable ability.

The third election resulted in a controversy which caused considerable feeling. Alonzo Converse and George W. Poisal were the opposing candidates in the August election of 1857, the former receiving a majority of eight votes. Under the law as in force at that time, it was provided that in case the judge elected did not qualify within twenty days after the election, the office was vacant. It appears that Mr. Converse did not qualify within the twenty day limit, the last day coming on Sunday. On the following Monday he arrived but Judge Van Dorn refused to allow him to qualify and issued a call for a special election to fill the vacancy. In this election, D. W. Miller received a majority of 54 over Converse. Mr. Converse contested this election and carried his case to the district court, where it was tried before Hon. J. D. Thompson, who decided the contest in favor of Mr. Converse. The office and all papers and books pertaining thereto were turned over to him and he assumed control of the position. Judge Converse served two terms as county judge, until 1861. He occupied the office throughout the trying period already referred to, during which the county seat was removed from Clarksville to Butler Center. It was inevitable that he would in his capacity as chief executive and judicial officer of the county incur much enmity, no matter what position he took upon this much mooted question. However, he came through it with honor and left the bench with the respect of even most of his antagonists.

C. A. Bannon succeeded to the office of county judge in 1861 and served for two years. During his term a new system of county government, through a board of sixteen supervisors, was instituted, thus greatly reducing the importance and the work of the office. The county judge, however, retained within his jurisdiction probate matters and the issuance of marriage licenses. The immediate successor in this office was J. R. Fletcher, 1863-5. He was succeeded by Ancel Durand, who served for one term, when A. J. Thompkins was elected. During Judge Thompkins' second term in office the circuit court was established, which

took control of all probate matters, while the issuance of marriage licenses was placed in the hands of the clerk of the courts. The duties of the office of county judge having thus devolved upon other officials, the county judge was made ex-officio county auditor, a detailed account of which office is given in connection with the account of the county government.

THE CIRCUIT COURT

On the first Monday in January, 1869, Butler county became a part of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, embracing the counties of Butler, Bremer, Mitchell, Worth, Cerro Gordo and Hancock, with boundaries identical with those of the Twelfth Judicial District. The first circuit judge was George W. Ruddick, of Waverly, who served from 1869 until 1870. He was then, as noted above, elected district judge.

The second circuit judge was Robert G. Reiniger, of Floyd county, who served in this capacity for fourteen years. He was succeeded by John B. Cleland, of Mitchell county, who served one year until the circuit court was abolished by act of the General Assembly. Thereafter the duties and functions of this court were performed by the district court, an additional judge having been provided this court in order to take care of the added duties.

THE BAR

Perhaps no body of men, not excepting the clergy, may exercise a greater influence for good in a community than those who follow the profession of the law, and it must be admitted that to no other body, not even to the so-called criminal classes, are committed greater possibilities for an influence for evil. What that influence shall be depends upon the character of the men who constitute the bar of the community—not merely on their ability or learning but on their character. If the standard of morality among the members of the bar is high, the whole community learns to look at questions of right and wrong from a higher plane. If the bar, consciously or unconsciously, adopts a low standard of morality, it almost inevitably contaminates the conscience of the community. And this is true not only in the practice of the profession itself, not only because of the influence of members of the bar as men rather than lawyers, but in the effects upon other pro-

fessions and occupations to which the bar acts as a feeder. The members of the Legislature are recruited largely from the legal profession. How can legislation, designed solely for the welfare of the public, be expected from one whose honor as a lawyer has not been above suspicion? And since lawyers, outside of the Legislature, have a great influence in shaping the law, how can the people expect that influence to be exerted in their behalf when the bar itself is unworthy? Still more does the character of the bar affect the judiciary, which is supplied from its ranks. It is not always, perhaps not generally, the case that members of the bench are chosen from those lawyers who have attained the highest rank in their profession. If a judge be industrious and honest but not of great ability, or if he be able and honest, though lacking industry, the rights of the litigants are not likely to suffer seriously at his hands. But there have been instances where judicial office was bestowed solely as a reward for political service; and while it is sometimes realized that one who has been a strenuous and not too scrupulous politician up to the moment of his elevation to the bench, has thereafter forgotten that there was such a trade as politics and has administered justice without fear or favor, the experiment is a dangerous one. No one need be surprised if in such a case the old maxim holds true: "He who buys the office of judge, must of necessity sell justice." Let our judges be men who are subject to other influences than those of the facts submitted to them and the law applicable to those facts, let them lack that independence which is an imperative requisite to one who holds the scales of justice, let a well founded suspicion arise that their decisions are dictated by something outside of their own minds and consciences, and the confidence of the people in the maintenance of their rights through the agency of the courts is destroyed.

It has been the good fortune of the county of Butler that the members of the bar here have been, for the most part, men of high character as well as of ability and learning, so that its bar has won a high and honorable reputation throughout the rest of the state, and because of the high character of the bar it has followed that those of its members who have been elevated to the bench have enjoyed the confidence and respect of the public and have been honored not only in their own locality but in many cases, throughout the state and in other states.

Yet the preparation of a history of the bar, so far at least as that part of it which lies back of one's own generation is concerned, is attended with considerable difficulty. Probably few men who in their time play important parts in the community or even in the state or nation, leave so transient a reputation as lawyers do. A writer on this subject who took for his text, "The Lawyers of Fifty Years Ago," said: "In thinking over the names of these distinguished men of whom I have been speaking, the thought has come to me how evanescent and limited is the lawyer's reputation, both in time and space. I doubt very much if a lawyer, whatever his standing, is much known to the profession outside of his own state." Those who attain high rank in the profession must realize that with rare exceptions, their names are "writ in water." One may turn over the leaves of old reports and find repeated again and again as counsel in different cases the name of some lawyer who must have been in his time a power in the courts, only to wonder if he has ever seen that name outside of the covers of the dusty reports in which it appears. Hamilton, in the conventions, in the Federalist and in the treasury, and Webster, in the senate and in public orations, have perpetuated and increased the fame of Lawyers Hamilton and Webster; but were it not for their services outside the strict limits of their profession, one might come upon their names at this date with much the same lack of recognition as that with which one finds in a reported case the names of some counsel, great perhaps in his own time, but long since forgotten.

And there is another difficulty in preparing such a history as this, brief, and therefore necessarily limited to a few names, and that is that some may be omitted who are quite as worthy of mention as those whose names appear. It is not often that any one man stands as a lawyer head and shoulders above the other members of the profession; and the same may be said of any half dozen men. In many cases the most careful measurement would fail to disclose a difference of more than a fraction of an inch, if any. Lives of eminent men who have at some period been practicing lawyers, have contained the assertion that while they were engaged in the practice of their profession they were the "leaders of the bar," but there is almost always room for doubt as to whether the title is not a brevet bestowed by the biographer alone. Therefore the mention in this article of certain lawyers must not be taken as any disparagement of those who are not mentioned.

and finally, it is to be observed that this article, so far as the bar is concerned, will treat not only of those who are past and gone, but will make mention of some of those now in the flesh.

The first person to settle in Butler county and take up the practice of law, was Matthew M. Trumbull, a man of great ability and acumen. He was a native of England. When a young man he crossed the sea, set out westward upon touching American soil and chose Linn county, Iowa, as an abiding place. While here he read law and was admitted to the bar in 1852. Two years later found him located at Clarksville, where he hung out his modest shingle, which notified the people of the pioneer town that a lawyer had settled among them. Mr. Trumbull was a man of education, well fortified with the principles and practice of the law and ambitious to win a foremost place at the bar. It is needless to say his aspirations were in a great measure gratified; and during the years of his residence here he was the foremost lawyer in this section of Iowa. When the Civil war broke out Mr. Trumbull offered his services to his country, which were accepted and he went to the front as captain of Company I, Third Iowa Infantry; he was mustered out with the brevet of brigadier-general. Leaving the service General Trumbull returned to Iowa and located at Waterloo, where he resumed the practice and held a high place at that bar. He then spent a few years at Dubuque, where his splendid intellect and legal learning had a wider and more lucrative range for their employment. Still a greater and more concentrated practice awaited him in the wonderful metropolis of the West, Chicago, and to that city he took his way and with him a splendid library, where he soon gained recognition at that noted bar. General Trumbull had the distinction of being the first person returned to the Iowa Legislature from Butler county.

Capt. C. A. L. Roszell, who engaged in the practice of law at Clarksville about 1858, came to Clarksville from Independence, Iowa. A native of New York, he was graduated from the collegiate and law departments of Harvard College. He was captain of Company G, Thirty-second Iowa Volunteer Infantry, in the Civil war from 1862 to the close of the war. He was a brilliant scholar and soldier. During his lifetime he was considered the dean of the bar of northern Iowa. His public addresses and arguments to courts and juries were models of scholarly versatility and of forensic eloquence. He died at his home in Clarksville about ten years ago, at the close of a successful and honorable

career. He devoted the whole of his time to the practice of law.

J. R. Fletcher came to Clarksville, Iowa, in the year 1856. He was a native of the state of Pennsylvania. He engaged in the practice of law and supplemented his work at an early day by public surveying. Mr. Fletcher was well educated and was a man of fine attainments. He did not give the whole of his time to the practice of law but during many years of his life paid much attention to his farming interests. He was an honored member of the bar during his lifetime and practiced his profession successfully. At the time of his death he was the oldest living member of the earlier members of the bar of Butler county. He died at his home in Clarksville in the year 1913.

John Palmer, an early resident of Clarksville, was also one of the pioneer members of the bar of this county, although not actively engaged in the practice of his profession. He was county treasurer during one or more terms. He left this county about 1884, going to Minnesota, where he established his home and where he died. His was an honored career and successful in that he merited and received the high esteem of all who knew him.

J. R. Jamison, now deceased, was one of the pioneer residents of the county and a member of the bar. He did not maintain an office in any town of the county but had his home on his farm at Jamison's Grove, west of Bristow, where he lived for a great many years and where he died. Mr. Jamison was not active in the practice of his profession but gave much of his time for the benefit of his neighbors, who called upon him for counsel and advice, and handled many of their disputes in the justice courts, and occasionally appeared in trial cases in the district court and circuit courts of the county. He lived a useful and active life.

Judge Alonzo Converse, an early pioneer resident of Beaver township, was also a member of this bar and at one time county judge. Judge Converse was a finely educated man and was well versed in the literature of law although not active in its practice. He, like Mr. Jamison, gave much of his time and efforts for the benefit of his neighbors who called upon him for advice and counsel. He removed from this county many years ago, going to South Dakota, where his life closed after a very successful career.

M. T. Johnson, Mike Downey, John Beemer and W. H. Burdick were pioneer residents of Parkersburg and members of the bar of this county prior to 1883. Hon. O. B. Courtright, now of Waterloo, succeeded the last of the gentlemen above named. Mr.

Courtright after a successful career as a lawyer in this county, removed to Waterloo, Iowa, ten or twelve years ago, where he has since continued in the active practice of his profession. He is a lawyer of high standing and merits the reputation which he has earned by his earnest efforts and honorable fidelity to his profession, the public and his clients. At the time Mr. Courtright left this county he was a member of the firm of Courtright & Arbuckle. The other member of the firm is also a resident of Waterloo, Iowa, at the present time. Mr. Arbuckle was admitted to the practice of the law in this state about the year 1889 and has continued in the profession up to the present time. Mr. Arbuckle left this county a few years ago and continued his connection with the firm of Courtright & Arbuckle of Waterloo. He is a brilliant attorney and his success has been all that an attorney can desire. He is now connected with several of the banks of Waterloo as stockholder and officer and has a large clientage among the business men of Waterloo.

George M. Craig, J. W. Davis and Willis A. Lathrop were among the pioneer residents and lawyers of old Butler Center and later of Allison. Of the three, George Craig is the only one living. Mr. Craig came to this county about the year 1866 and was soon thereafter elected county recorder. After his term of office closed he engaged in the abstract business until he retired from business one year ago and removed from this county to California, where he hopes to end his days. Mr. Craig was successful as a lawyer in every sense of the word, his career honest and honorable. He represented this senatorial district in the State Legislature for two successive terms. His work in the Legislature was of a high order. Every position of public trust committed to him was honored by him.

J. W. Davis was a pioneer resident of the county and was clerk of the courts of the county for over sixteen years. He was not active in the practice of law. His legal learning was extensive and he was qualified in every way to discharge the duties of a successful lawyer. Pages might be written recounting the good deeds done by Mr. Davis during his lifetime. He is well remembered by all of the older citizens of the county and his memory is revered by them. Many of his relatives and descendants are still living in the community or near-by towns.

Willis A. Lathrop was a friend and neighbor of Mr. Davis and Mr. Craig during their long residence in old Butler Center

and Allison. Mr. Lathrop was one of the pioneer lawyers of the county. His general education was broad. He filled the office of county superintendent of schools of this county successfully. For many years he was active in the practice of law, held the office of county attorney and by his brethren of the bar was known to be a lawyer of good attainments, honorable and always faithful to his clients. His word was as good as law among his brethren. He died at Allison some years ago at the close of a long and successful life.

John W. Gilger was one of the early lawyers engaging in the business at the comparatively new town of Greene in this county. After practicing law at Greene for a few years Mr. Gilger removed to Hampton, where he remained a while and from there went to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he is still engaged in practice. Mr. Gilger was a soldier in the Civil war. He is now hale and hearty and gives but little evidence of the hardships he endured during that struggle. He was in the cavalry service and relates that at one time he was on picket duty and riding a mule. The mule got scared and instead of having sense enough to retreat, went the other way and not only carried Mr. Gilger through the rebel lines without accident but got through himself. Mr. Gilger says that was the only time he knew a "reb" shot at him. He knew that time. Mr. Gilger is a man of fine legal attainments and was successful in the practice of his profession from the beginning. Since moving to Minneapolis he has had among his clientage many of the largest firms and corporations of the city. At one time he was a member of the firm of Gilger & Harrison, Judge Harrison, his partner, having formerly been a member of the firm of Starr, Patterson & Harrison, of Charles City, Iowa. While it is no longer necessary for Mr. Gilger to work to live, still he loves his profession and can be found at his office regularly every day.

S. W. and E. W. Soesbe, brothers, were also pioneer lawyers and bankers of Greene. They are both now deceased, the death of S. W. preceding that of his brother E. W. They were men of good character, energy and ability and did much to build up the town of Greene, and many of the improvements now seen are due to the efforts of these two men. Soon after engaging in the practice of law they engaged in the banking business, which necessarily required much of their time and prevented them from taking an active part in the practice of law. They were, how-

ever, recognized as good lawyers, honorable in every particular, and respected members of the bar. S. W. Soesbe was a member of the State Legislature from this county and was an honored member of that body.

So far as known, C. R. Failing was the first lawyer to locate in Greene and after a few months' residence there he removed from the new town.

Frank Lingenfelder, now a practicing attorney of Charles City, Iowa, engaged in the practice of law at Greene about the year 1883, having come from Allison to Greene. Mr. Lingenfelder was one of a family of lawyers and has demonstrated by his ability and successful work as a lawyer that he was not the runt of the family. He continued in the practice of his profession at Greene until the year 1893. During the last year he was a member of the firm of Lingenfelder & Hartness. Mr. Lingenfelder is regarded as one of the strongest members of the bar in this district and his practice has been characterized by ability, honesty and the faithful discharge of every trust committed to him. He is the father of one of the present district court reporters of this district, Walter L. Lingenfelder.

Frank D. Jackson came to Greene from Independence, Iowa, about the year 1878 and engaged in the practice of law. He continued in active practice until elected secretary of state of the State of Iowa, which office he held for three successive terms and later filled the office of Governor of the State of Iowa. Frank D. Jackson's life is as an open book to the people of the State of Iowa and nothing can be said here which will add to the information the public generally possess. In his home town in Greene he was held in the highest esteem by those who knew him best. He was faithful to his friends, a good neighbor and loved by all who knew him.

A. I. Smith was in partnership with George Craig in Allison, in the law and abstract business for a number of years, and after leaving Allison went to Kansas City, where he resumed the practice of his profession. His career there as a lawyer has been highly successful.

Charles A. Bamon was educated in Pennsylvania and admitted to practice law, at Bedford, a town in the Keystone state. He came to Butler county with J. R. Fletcher, in 1856, and they formed a partnership and opened a law office at Clarks-ville. Mr. Bamon was of Irish extraction and was not lacking

in the wit always attributed to sons of the Emerald isle. He was also a good lawyer and "with the gift of gab," he made a most interesting and delightful orator, especially when on the hustings. When the Civil war came on to distract the country, young Bannon enlisted in Company G, Thirty-second Iowa Infantry, of which C. A. L. Roszell was captain, and was commissioned first lieutenant. He served until the close of hostilities, came back to Clarksville with health shattered and in a short while answered the last rally call. Thus was cut short the life of one who would have made a high place for himself among men, had not death overtaken him almost at the beginning of his career.

Orson Rice was not, *per se*, a lawyer while a resident of Butler county, but he practiced at this bar, with more or less success. He was, in a way, what is termed "a character"; but effrontery and determination won him a fair measure of success as a "lawyer" and hence, when the bar of Butler county is upon the tapis, no one who is familiar with its history fails to mention Orson Rice. Therefore, his name will be handed down to the next historian, in these pages, and to that end it may be well to state that Orson Rice came to Butler county from Illinois, in 1854, when about twenty-eight years of age and located at Clarksville. If he had any schooling at all his manner of speech failed to indicate it. He was very illiterate, but notwithstanding this handicap he succeeded in being admitted to the bar in 1857 and engaged in the practice of law and attracted to himself a no inconsiderable clientele. Many are the laughable stories told of blunders in his pleadings and the haphazard manner in which he examined a witness. Situations often arose in court that were embarrassing to himself, the court and his fellow members of the bar; more often they were hilariously amusing to the latter. But these things made no difference to Rice. He continued his course serenely, at times morosely and desperately, and in the end, he was to be found at Spirit Lake, where he located in 1865, enjoying a good practice, after having served the county as district attorney. His further ambition, to reach the circuit judgeship, seemed to be beyond the range of his abilities, but not his yearnings. He sought the office, and to give him his dues it should be said he came very near being elevated to the position.

John E. Burke was one of the early lawyers of this county and secured a good practice for the times. He removed to Chicago many years ago and became a prominent lawyer of that

city. Before moving away, however, he served a term as prosecuting attorney for this judicial district.

George A. Richmond was a well educated young man, who came west from Pennsylvania in 1854, and located at Butler Center. He first turned his activities toward speculating in land, in the meantime acquiring a smattering of the law. His practice never reached a wide extent. He enlisted for the Civil war, served gallantly in the army and when the internecine struggle between the states was settled by the arbitrament of arms, Richmond returned to his native state.

D. J. Marts also located in Greene in the seventies, coming from Pennsylvania. He first located on a farm and taught school. His admission to the bar followed, but he had little practical knowledge of law and, as a consequence, reaped but a scant reward from the practice. John Jamison also practiced law at Greene. He was admitted to the bar at Butler Center and after a year's stay at Greene he located in Shell Rock, from whence he removed to Belmond and secured a good practice.

William M. Foote practiced law at this bar for a number of years. He was admitted to the bar at Greenville in 1858 and came to Butler county in 1871, establishing an office at Greene. Being elected justice of the peace in 1872, most of his time was taken up with official duties.

Other early lawyers worthy of mention follow, namely: L. A. Orris, admitted to the Butler county bar in 1858; C. M. Greene, who came to Greene in 1881 and began the practice; R. D. Prescott, at Shell Rock in the seventies; Colonel Woods, in the pioneer days at Butler Center, a town long since extinct; J. H. Boomer and Burrell, who at one time practiced at Shell Rock; D. W. Mason, who also practiced law in Butler county and was its first superintendent of schools; W. S. Montgomery, who located at Clarksville in 1880, and early acquired a large practice and held offices of trust in the county, now living in Allison; J. F. Ellsworth, who located at Bristow in 1875 and removed to Dakota in 1881; Oscar H. Scott, Allison; N. T. Johnson, W. P. Robertson, Sawyer Haswell, B. L. Richards, at one time in the practice at Parkersburg. Here follows a list of names of the members of the bar now practicing in Butler county: D. Voogd, Aplington; W. C. Shepard, Allison; O. F. Missman, Allison; W. S. Montgomery, Allison; C. G. Burling, Clarksville; M. Hartness, Greene; C. M. Greene, Greene; R. R. Williamson, Parkersburg; W. T. Evans, Parkersburg; George A. McIntyre, Shell Rock; L. G. Arthurholt, Shell Rock.

CHAPTER XI

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

The pioneers of the healing art in Butler county were the guardians of a widely dispersed population. Aside from their professional duties, they contributed their full share to the material development of a newly opened country. Some were men of culture, who had gained their medical education in college. Others were of limited educational attainments, whose professional knowledge had been acquired in the offices of established practitioners of more or less ability in the sections from which they emigrated. Of either class almost without exception, they were practical men of great force of character, who gave cheerful and efficacious assistance to the suffering, daily journeying on horseback scores of miles, over a country almost destitute of roads, and encountering swollen unbridged streams, without waterproof garments or other now common protection against the elements. Out of necessity the pioneer physician developed rare quickness of perception and self-reliance. A specialist was then unknown, and the physician was called upon to treat every phase of bodily ailment, serving as physician, surgeon, oculist and dentist. His books were few and there were no practitioners of more ability than himself with whom he might consult. His medicines were simple and carried on his person, and every preparation of pill or solution was the work of his own hands.

During the summer and autumn of 1854 cases of bilious remitting fever occurred, which readily yielded to treatment. The winter following several cases of bilious pneumonia demanded prompt attendance and special vigilance in the observance of changes indicative of greater danger. These were the diseases and the principal ones which called for medical help up to the year 1859. Since that year, or from that period, the summer and autumnal fevers have ceased to be epidemical and pneumonia has become less

frequent. It may be well to mention here that the fevers of 1859 after the third and fourth day assumed a typhoid character, the remission hardly observable, and the nervous depression occasioning great anxiety.

It was probably Dr. Rush of Philadelphia,—a great name up to about 1825—who said the lancet was a “sheet anchor” in all inflammatory diseases, so it might have been said of quinine, as used in remittent and intermittent fevers, in both the Mississippi and Missouri valleys from 1830 up to 1850. During that period 120,000 square miles west of the Mississippi and north of St. Louis became populated and all of it was more or less malarious. In some of these years the demand for quinine was so great that the supply in the American market became exhausted. “Sappington’s pills” were indirectly the power which worked steamboats up the river from 1835 to 1843. They were verily the “sheet anchor,” not only aboard boats but in many households. Dr. Sappington was a regular allopathic physician of considerable ability, residing up the Missouri river, who thought it would be a benefaction to the new civilization of the west to prepare quinine ready to be taken in the form of pills. Boxes of his pills contained four dozen each and the pellets two grains each. The direction on the box was to take from two to twenty as the urgency of the case seemed to require, without reference to the stage of the paroxysm.

In the early days the doctor had a “hard road to travel” in Butler county. Everything was in a primitive stage. There were no roads, bridges, or other means of travel than by “foot or horseback.” He made his own pills, or pellets, compounded needed nostrums and when in doubt in a critical case, had only his own native wit and ability to consult. Drug stores were unknown in the region, hence drugs and surgical instruments and appliances were scarce, and only to be obtained by a long and tedious journey to “the city,” wherever that may have happened to be. The settlements were scattering and far apart, but no matter the distance, let the weather be ever so inclement or the going so bad, the pioneer doctor strapped his saddlebags to his “critter” and mounting the faithful brute, took the trail and kept it to his journey’s end, which often would be a lone log cabin, tenanted by a settler without a dollar in the world.

The pioneer physician was indeed a martyr to his profession and ambition. He was in every way, save and except a moiety of skill and unbounded faith and determination, poorly equipped

for his work; but he managed to meet the demands upon his abilities and energies and was generally loved and venerated for his many personal qualities as a ministering angel, a neighbor and a man.

The charlatan was not wanting in the community, even in the days of its incubation. There were quacks and herb doctors, who plied their trade to a greater or less extent and, as a matter of fact, the first to take up the practice of the healing art in the community were not "regular" practitioners; that is to say, they were not qualified as graduates of a medical institution to diagnose a case or prescribe medicine. However, there were persons of the latter character who attended the sick and ailing, who will long be remembered for the good they accomplished.

To illustrate and accentuate what already has been said of the hardships and dangers which were the hourly menace of the pioneer physician, the following excerpts from a reminiscient sketch, written by Dr. John Seoby, of Shell Rock, for the History of Butler county, published in 1883, are reproduced. The worthy physician relates:

"By the solicitation of friends and former acquaintances I visited Shell Rock in the spring of 1856. The village then numbered from fifteen to twenty families. There were two clergymen and a justice of the peace. There was one small dry-goods store, one sawmill, and a flouring mill being erected. I viewed the Shell Rock river at this place, and thought then, as I do now, that it was the finest stream of pure water I had ever seen. Its hydraulic power at this point was sufficient to drive a great amount of machinery. Its waters were stored with vast numbers of fine fish; its banks crowned with fine timber, and frequently skirted with waving groves of small timber. After viewing the local advantages here, I harnessed my trusty mare, Fanny, and started southwest to take a view of the prairie. Fanny ferried me over the Shell Rock, there being no bridge. It was the last of May; the undulating plains were dressed in Nature's gay attire of living green. There were but few, if any, laid-out or worked roads or bridges in the county. I traveled on, as best I could, avoiding the sloughs, which were very miry. Log cabins were occasionally to be seen; but the most of these rich alluvial prairies were then performing their diurnal and revolutionary movements, without a human inhabitant.

"After meandering over the country, visiting the different localities, where villages were being started, I returned to Shell Rock and located here as a physician. I purchased several town lots, which, like most of the other lots, were in their wild condition, covered with hazel bushes, limbs of trees, decaying logs and mudholes. The next summer I erected my present cottage house, which is enclosed with two-inch plank spiked into sills eight inches square. This cottage stands the test of moving time, with but few signs of decay. Within a few years I built on my lots two more dwelling houses, which have been occupied by families for several years. In the meantime I purchased fifty acres of land lying contiguous to the town plat, which has been cleared of its timber and underbrush, and for years has yielded splendid harvests of wheat and corn.

"My family arrived here from Ohio in September, 1856. They had never seen wild uncultivated prairies before. Why were they brought to such an awful looking place? There was not a well worked street. The town was full of stumps, logs, bushes, underbrush and mudholes. The schoolhouse was but a rude log shanty, and the meeting house but little better. Soon they discovered squads of Indians rambling up and down the river. Their fears were excited. The torch fire, the war club, the hatchet and the scalping knife would be raised. They would return to friends in Ohio. They would not stay here to be murdered by Indians, or to be torn to pieces by wild beasts. This prairie country was only fitted for Indians, bears, wolves and ferocious wild beasts. The Indians were peaceable and friendly, and our family fears subsided into friendly donations.

"During the first summer and fall my medical rides extended over a large part of this county and into the adjoining counties. My long rides were fatiguing. Chills and fever were frequent, and most of the cabins were increasing their family numbers. In the month of November a dangerous type of typhoid fever began to rage, which proved fatal in some localities, and continued its ravages during the winter. . . .

"Here in Shell Rock how changed are the rides and labors of practicing physicians. There has long been three or four practicing physicians located here, all of whom do not travel over more territory in their medical rides than one did between the years 1820 and 1830, when there was not a good road or a safe bridge in the county. Now they can dance their spring buggies

or sleighs over smooth roads by day or night. No sloughs in which to mire; no wolves to growl; no prairie fires to dread or to flee from; no deep rivers to wade through in the darkness of the night; no drifted sloughs on the lonely, wild prairie, to wallow through in the depth of winter. In this incorporated town, for the last ten years, there has been but few if any thistle or thorn beds, or wiry brush beds filled with wild, stinging nettles and burdock burrs to tear the clothes and scratch and bleed the doctor's hands, and no filthy mudholes in which to soil his boots and pants. He winds his way by night or day over well graded streets and well finished sidewalks, calling, as required, at fine brick, stone or wood residences, without opening a log cabin door."

The first physician to locate in Butler county was James E. Walker, who selected Clarksville as a place of residence in the year 1854. He was well versed in the theory and practice of his profession and endeared himself to the settlers of the early days by his warmth of heart and the skill displayed in combating the ailments that came under his observation and ministrations. In 1857, Dr. Walker was elected clerk of the courts, serving one term. A few years later he returned to Maine, his native home. Other early physicians at Clarksville, the first town in the county, were Drs. Jeremiah Wilcox and J. F. Logan. Later physicians were Drs. A. F. Tichenor, D. S. Byers, M. C. Camp and H. W. Dickenson.

Dr. John Seoby, who is quoted at length in the beginning of this chapter, was the pioneer physician of Shell Rock, locating there in May, 1856. He was born in New Hampshire, received academic training and attended lectures and clinics at Dartmouth Medical College in the year 1824, graduating as a physician and surgeon in 1826. For some years Dr. Seoby was in the practice in eastern cities and spent twenty years in his profession at Jackson, Ohio. He came to Shell Rock in 1856 and of his early experiences in Butler county mention has already been made. An excellent physician and skilled surgeon were the professional attributes of Dr. Seoby, who continued in the practice at Shell Rock until 1875, and then retired upon well earned laurels and a competency.

Dr. M. I. Powers came to Parkersburg in 1867 and was the first physician to locate there. He was not only an able and conscientious practitioner but also progressive and enterprising. He at once became one of the leaders in building up Parkersburg and

his name is frequently mentioned in the history of that splendid little city.

Dr. A. O. Strout, a native of Portland, Maine, found his way to Chicago in 1867 and there taught school five years; in the meantime he read medicine and graduated from the Chicago Medical College with the class of 1875. Dr. Strout located in Parkersburg in 1879 and soon was recognized as a leader in his profession.

In speaking of the early physicians at Parkersburg the names of Drs. E. B. Ensign and John Wyatt are deserving of a place here. They were of the homeopathic school.

Dr. E. Leroy Turner began the practice of medicine at Bristow in 1874. He came with his father from Illinois to Shell Rock in 1856, read medicine in the office of Dr. Boys, at Waverly, and graduated from Rush Medical College, Chicago, in 1871. Dr. Turner then practiced at Shell Rock a short time and finally located at Bristow, succeeding Dr. Charles McCormack. He built up a lucrative practice and became a leading citizen of the little town.

Dr. H. S. Strickland preceded Dr. Turner at Bristow in point of time. Both he and Dr. McCormack remained in the village some years and then left for other scenes of professional activity.

Dr. Jacob Krebs located in Bristow in 1881. He spent a year at Notre Dame University, read medicine, graduated from the medical department of the Iowa State University and located in the practice of his profession at Geneva, Illinois. Upon the removal of Dr. Strickland he succeeded to that physician's practice.

In the year 1871 Dr. Nichols opened an office at Greene and was the first person to take up the practice of medicine in the place. He was of the old school of medics and secured a remunerative practice. However, he finally removed to Rockford.

Dr. V. C. Birney settled at Greene in 1872. His father was a physician, who gave the lad good schooling and then sent him to Rush Medical College, and the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Keokuk. He graduated from the latter institute in 1873.

Dr. C. C. Huckins came to Greene in 1873 and opened an office. He was a native of Maine; served in the Civil war; attended lectures at the Maine Medical School; and the College of Physicians and Surgeons. He came west thoroughly equipped for the practice and made a success of his undertaking at Greene.

Miss H. D. Cramer came to Greene from Wisconsin in the seventies and opened an office as a regular, practicing physician.

She met with a fair measure of success in her chosen profession. She removed to Mason City and there resumed her practice.

Dr. William Young was in the practice at Greene but a short time when death called him in 1878. He was a graduate and had the ability to win a place among his fellows, but the fates decided against him.

A. K. Johnson was a homeopathic physician who located in Greene in 1880. Doctor Johnson graduated from Hahnemann Medical College in 1878. Another early physician here was Dr. John Nevins, who enjoyed a measurably good practice.

Dr. D. M. Wick located at New Hartford in 1875. He attended public schools of Illinois, Mount Morris Seminary and Cornell College, Iowa. One year was spent in the medical department of Ann Arbor University and two years at the Chicago Medical College, from which he graduated with the class of 1874. He was a member of the Iowa State Medical Association and a charter member of the Butler County Medical Society.

Dr. William H. H. Hagey became prominent in business and social circles of New Hartford in the early days. He was a Pennsylvanian by birth; gained a common school education in Illinois; served his country in the Civil war; graduated from Rush Medical College in 1868; practiced for a while in Whiteside county, Illinois and Chicago, and in July, 1881, came to New Hartford, where he built up a large and remunerative practice.

Dr. E. L. Thorp first saw the light of day at Bedford, Mass., in 1836; removed with his parents to Kenosha and there attended the public schools and afterwards entered Beloit College. He studied medicine and attended lectures and clinics at Rush Medical College; began the practice of his profession at Shell Rock in 1865; took a post-graduate course at Eclectic Medical College of Cincinnati; became prominent as a physician and surgeon and together with his practice maintained a drug store twelve years at Shell Rock.

Dr. E. H. Dudley came to Shell Rock in the formative days of that lively trading point and opened an office. He was well prepared for the vocation chosen, having secured a classical education at Evansville Seminary in Wisconsin from which he graduated in 1868. At the age of sixteen, he was a Union soldier in a Wisconsin regiment, graduated from Rush Medical College in the winter of 1873-4, and spent a few months in the practice at Broadhead, Wis. He came to Shell Rock in 1875 and became an efficient

and successful physician. Doctor Dudley was a member of the State and Butler County Medical Societies and in 1880, was appointed United States medical examiner for pensions.

Another physician who located at Shell Rock in the '70s was Dr. W. H. Smith, who was born at Sheboygan, Wis., in 1851. He was well educated, attended Wayland Academy, at Beaver Dam, Wis., studied medicine in Milwaukee and graduated from Rush Medical College in 1878. He practiced medicine at Sheboygan a few months and then located at Shell Rock. Doctor Smith was a member of the State and Butler County Medical Societies. Dr. E. E. Sill established an office and practiced here as a "homeopath" in 1881 and secured a large clientele.

Dr. E. L. Blackmore was one of the pioneer physicians at Aplington. He was well fortified for his professional duties, having attended a course of lectures at the St. Louis Medical College, of which he is a graduate. In 1868 the doctor located at Butler Center, from which place he removed to Aplington in 1873. Doctor Blackmore was one of the prosperous and influential citizens of this place and at one time was owner of the Aplington Mills.

THE BUTLER COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The Butler County Medical Association was organized April 2, 1878, with the following members: F. H. Boucher, H. L. Isherwood, Clarksville; J. H. Brower, Butler Center; E. H. Dudley, Shell Rock; M. I. Powers, Parkersburg; I. R. Spooner, D. M. Wick, New Hartford; E. Leroy Turner, Bristow.

The first officers were I. R. Spooner, president; E. L. Turner, vice president; F. H. Boucher, secretary; H. L. Isherwood, treasurer; M. I. Powers, J. H. Brower, E. H. Dudley, censors.

The object of the society is based on and is in conjunction with the tenets of the Iowa State Medical Association. No one not a graduate of an accredited medical college is eligible to membership. The first meeting was held at Butler Center and interest in the society has been maintained up to the present time, although called meetings in some of the years were few and far between.

The present officers of the society are: P. R. Burroughs, of Allison, president; J. I. Scripture, Clarksville, secretary and treasurer.

NAMES OF PAST AND PRESENT BUTLER COUNTY PHYSICIANS

The Twenty-first General Assembly, which met in 1886, passed a law requiring all persons desiring to practice medicine in any county of the state to have his certificate recorded in the office of the county recorder. Since the passage of this law, the following physicians who have since removed from the county have registered their certificates with the Butler county recorder:

Allison, T. B. Askew, S. E. Burroughs, Jerome Burbank, P. R. Burroughs, E. A. Hazlet, James S. Riggs, D. N. Reeve, Norman M. Smith, Willis J. Vaupell.

Aplington, E. L. Blackmore, Harriet N. Blackmore, John W. Cunningham, Thomas A. Hobson, John A. Rolfs, Charles W. Vroom.

Aredale, E. J. Thierman, H. J. Wickman.

Bristow, G. W. Appleby, E. H. Best, H. E. Day, A. J. Hobson, A. E. Rodgers, R. E. Robinson.

Clarksville, D. S. Byers, J. N. Clemmer, W. F. Gannon, T. D. Haner, W. H. William, J. F. Logan, W. E. Patterson, H. C. Smith, J. L. Scripture, C. C. Smith.

Dumont, W. E. Day, M. St. Peter.

Greene, W. R. Arthur, Varillas Birney, L. S. Boyce, A. H. Bruce, V. C. Birney, A. E. Cainey, M. B. Call, H. M. De War, C. C. Huckins, John Nevins.

New Hartford, C. W. Childs, John G. Evans, E. T. Jaynes, A. E. Kauffman, I. M. McBride, D. H. Pelletier, Duncan Reed, C. P. Soper, D. M. Wick.

Parkersburg, E. I. Bradley, J. J. Fisher, H. C. Hunter, Leopold Louis, M. A. Marty, Hugh Mullarky, Jr., W. E. Noble, M. I. Powers, W. W. Parker, A. O. Strout.

Shell Rock, J. F. Auner, E. H. Dudley, Bruce Ensley, J. R. W. Kirton, F. N. Mead, W. H. Smith, E. L. Sheldon, E. L. Thorp.

In addition, the following have practiced for brief intervals in the county:

O. P. Thompson, Allison; T. A. Dumont, Dumont; E. A. Cantonwine, Parkersburg; W. C. Lathrop, Clarksville; M. A. Taylor, Clarksville; D. W. Battin, Shell Rock; ————Classen, Shell Rock.

The addresses given above are those where the physicians were located at the time of the first registration of their certificates in Butler county. Since that time in the case of several their locations have changed and they are practicing at the present time in other towns of the county.

CHAPTER XII

THE BUTLER COUNTY PRESS

The press of a community reflects the tone, character and sentiment of its people. It is justly considered among the most important institutions of every city, town and village. The people regard their particular newspaper as of peculiar value, not merely on account of the facts already alluded to, but because the paper is the repository wherein is stored fact and events, the deeds and the sayings that go to make up the local history. One by one these things are gathered and placed in type; one by one the papers are issued; one by one these papers are gathered together and bound, and another volume of local, general and individual history is laid away, imperishable. The volumes thus collected are the sources of research for the historian and are often referred to by the editor himself. The local press, as a rule, reflects the business enterprise of a place, and judging from this standard, the enterprise of the citizens of Butler county is indeed commendable. Its papers are well filled though not overcrowded, with advertisements of home merchants and of its business affairs. No paper can exist without these advertisements and no community can flourish as it should that does not use the advertising columns of its local papers.

THE PARKERSBURG ECLIPSE

One of the brightest and newsiest papers published in the county is the Eclipse, for many years past under the able management of E. E. Schrack. The paper was established August 30, 1872, by C. D. Anyer and S. T. Edwards. It originally was an eight-column folio, all home print; it is now issued in the form of a six-column quarto. In September, 1874, the names of Frank L. Dodge and E. E. Savage appeared as editors and proprietors, and in January, 1877, Frank L. Dodge was in full control and

presided over the destinies of the Eclipse until 1880, when he admitted into partnership his brother, Fred A. Dodge. The paper was sold to E. E. Schrack and E. A. Wright, in August, 1887, and the publication was continued under the firm name of Schrack & Wright until May, 1888, when the partnership was dissolved, E. A. Wright retiring and E. E. Schrack retaining possession. Mr. Schrack still has control of the Eclipse and has a very competent assistant in his wife, who is a state official of the Woman's Relief Corps.

BUTLER COUNTY PRESS

The Press long has been one of the representative newspapers of northern Iowa and is today under the capable editorial control of George B. Tracey. The paper was founded in August, 1873, by H. C. Hammond, the first issue appearing as a six-column folio with "patent insides." Mr. Hammond remained but a short time in the editorial chair and was succeeded in 1874 by Editor Failing, who was followed by 'Squire Soesbe. In July, 1874, J. R. Wagner and W. W. Riner became the owners and remained in possession until May, 1880, at which time Wagner retired from the firm and was succeeded by George E. De Lavan. This arrangement was terminated in July, 1880, by the withdrawal of Mr. Riner from the editorial yoke. Mr. De Lavan was the editor until 1891, when he sold to Charles E. Clonkey. Later Mr. Clonkey leased the plant to Frank Lingenfelder. The lease expired March 31, 1893, and then came the Booton brothers. From 1896 to June 5, 1903, W. L. Booton was sole proprietor. Charles E. Cook was in control from June, 1903, until October, 1903, when the paper was sold to F. N. Eldridge. The latter retired in July, 1904, in favor of F. H. Camp, who was its editor the following seven years. Camp sold to Benjamin Boardman in June, 1911, and that gentleman sold the plant—the best equipped in Butler county—to the present owner, George B. Tracey, in February, 1914. The same month Mr. Boardman was elected county superintendent of schools to fill a vacancy.

THE ALLISON TRIBUNE

The Allison Tribune was established by the Dodge brothers, Frank L. and Fred A., in December, 1880. At that time Allison

had been determined on as the county seat, and desiring to be first in the field at this place, a lot was secured by the Dodge boys upon which they erected a "print shop." In May, 1881, the plant was running and on the 16th of June following the first issue of the Tribune was printed. The paper has had many proprietors. Their names follow: Dodge Brothers, E. E. Schrack, C. S. Linn, E. W. Wright, Amos Ingalls, L. R. Lynn, Mitchell & Mitchell, M. D. Morgan, E. W. Booton, Shepard & Gregory, H. Falken, W. J. Hunt.

THE CLARKSVILLE STAR

Going back to the real beginning of the Clarksville Star several other papers, of which the Star is the outgrowth, must be mentioned. First and foremost comes the Butler County Jeffersonian, the second newspaper established in Butler county and of which the Clarksville Star is in a direct line, the only living heir. The Jeffersonian was founded in 1860, by William Haddock and in about four months thereafter, Martin Bailey was the editor and publisher. He changed the name in 1862 to the Stars and Stripes, and under that patriotic title the paper was ably edited and published until 1865. In the month of August of the last mentioned year, McCormack & Francis purchased the material and again the name of the paper was discarded. This time it came out as the Butler County Argus and continued to be published as the Argus six months, when Judge John Palmer purchased the property and adopted the fierce and cutting title of The Stiletto for the much named sheet. Judge Palmer sold The Stiletto to his son, William Palmer, in the spring of 1866, who moved the plant and place of publication to Shell Rock. In the following fall the paper was again issued at Clarksville having been consolidated with the Clarksville Gazette, which had been founded in 1866, by Van E. Butler, who formed a partnership with William Palmer, when the merger was made and the firm name of publishers became Butler & Palmer. Under this management the paper was named the Star of the West and so continued until 1868, when Frank Case became the owner and changed the name to the Clarksville Star, which, happily, for the future historian remains to this day at the top of the newsy little publication's first page. James O. Stewart was in the editorial chair by the year 1872, and each week gave the people of Butler county all the

local news of importance until the month of June, 1882, when he sold his interests in the Star to L. O. Hull. The last named ran the paper several years and had for his successors Ed Madigan and Will Morrison, who sold the property to W. L. and E. W. Booton in 1893. Madigan recovered possession within the year. He was the publisher until 1909. In November of the year just mentioned, John M. Ramsey, the present proprietor and editor, who had been foreman of the office twenty years, bought the paper and changed it from a six-column quarto to a seven-column quarto.

THE SHELL ROCK NEWS

The paper with the above name in this caption, was established in August, 1872, by J. H. Boomer & Co., and made its first appearance on the twenty-third day of the month. The founders within four weeks' time sold out to F. M. Barnard & Co., who continued the publication until March 5, 1873. That year the partnership dissolved and Silas White and Frank Hall, under the firm name of White & Hall, took possession. Hall retired in August, 1874, and alone White continued as editor and proprietor until Jan. 5, 1875, when he sold a half interest to O. B. Courtright. The partnership firm of White & Courtright sold out to Dr. E. A. Kittel Feb. 19, 1875, and in a short time Hazlet & Thorp were the proprietors. They changed the name to the Shell Rock News, published the paper until Nov. 2, 1876, and then turned it over to George E. Farrar. The new owner, Mr. Farrar, was editor and manager of the News until the 6th of September, 1877, when he disposed of his interests therein to E. E. Savage. The next known proprietor of the News was J. P. Reed, who came into possession at sheriff's sale in September, 1878. Mr. Reed retained control a number of years and then came G. A. McIntyre, who moved the plant into a handsome new two-story brick home. Mr. McIntyre, who is one of the older members of the Butler county bar and present mayor of Shell Rock, ably edited and managed the News until 1900 when, in the month of December of that year F. L. Witt became the owner and editor, having associated with him his son, C. E. Witt, who assumed complete management of the office in 1906; in February, 1910, he acquired possession of the plant by purchase.

THE IOWA RECORDER

The Recorder is issued in the interests of the democracy and its owners. It is the only partisan paper in the county with democratic leanings and was established by John Passage and Amos Ingalls, at Greene, Aug. 12, 1884. In 1887 a change took place in the ownership. That year Mr. Passage retired and Mr. Ingalls remained in sole possession and editorship. The concern was reorganized in 1904, and formed into a corporation, taking the name and title of the Recorder Printing Company. Mr. Ingalls retained an interest in the property, and by the change J. Knox Hall became manager and editor, retaining the place one year. Then came Fred Flack, who remained about four months and three or four others succeeded him. But, in 1908, Mr. Ingalls returned and forming a partnership with A. B. Mahnke, the Recorder has prospered and increased its clientele and influence with the passing of the years, by united efforts and a firm determination to win in a field occupied only by itself.

APLINGTON NEWS

The Aplington News is a six-column quarto, four pages home print and has a good circulation throughout the county. The paper was founded in 1891, by one Keenan, who sold to J. M. George. Mr. George held down the editorial chair about three years and then gave way to F. M. Coggshall. About the year 1897, O. A. and Dick Voogd bought the paper and since 1901 O. A. Voogd has been sole proprietor and editor. The News is well edited and printed in a workmanlike manner. When first issued it was a seven-column folio; since 1909 it has been a six-column quarto, patent inside.

NEW HARTFORD REVIEW

The first issue of the New Hartford Review appeared June 22, 1896. The editor and owner was E. W. Booton, who brought the plant from Monroe. In the latter part of 1901, the paper was sold to Hamilton Brothers, of Waterloo. The new firm was in possession about six months when the property was purchased by J. W. Hartinger. Six months later E. W. Booton assumed control and remained in editorial charge until September, 1906.

Frank Kaley purchased the Review in the last mentioned year and has now practically a new plant, which turns out a nicely printed and carefully edited newspaper.

THE DUMONT JOURNAL

As far as data indicate, the Vidette was the first paper published at Dumont. After a short and precarious existence it collapsed in the year 1905, and in 1907, H. Z. Babcock founded the Journal. He issued a five-column quarto, patent inside. The next owner of the Journal was G. A. Griswold, who changed the size of the paper to a six-column quarto, four pages home print. Succeeding owners were: Frank Gates and L. O. Brewer. The latter took possession May 15, 1910.

BUTLER COUNTY TIMES

The Times is published at Bristow and was established as the Enterprise, the plant of which was brought from Readlyn, Bremer county, in 1903, by E. F. Ready. As the Enterprise the paper was issued for a time and its name was changed to the Butler County Times. In course of time S. L. Sherman had the paper, but unable to pay for it, he relinquished all control in favor of Mrs. E. F. Ready, who, in June, 1906, sold the property to the present owner, J. B. Williams. Mr. Williams is receiving gratifying patronage.

PAPERS THAT HAVE BEEN AND ARE NOT

The first newspaper published in Butler county, was the Butler Transcript, established at Clarksville in 1858 by Palmer & James, the senior member of the firm, Judge John Palmer, being a man of affairs and a practicing attorney the while. The innovation was most too soon to be properly supported by the few settlers in the community and this necessitated the suspension of the publication, in 1860, and removal of the material to Winterset, the capital city of Madison county. The Parkersburg Times was a venture into the local newspaper world, by W. L. Palmer in 1870, which had "rough sledding" from the start. Its downfall was inevitable, but this calamity (?) did not occur until several venturesome aspirants for the immortal shoes of Horace Greeley tried their hand at editorial work and collapsed. In

1871, C. G. Bundy took over the property, and early in 1872, gave up in despair of success at Parkersburg. He moved the plant to Maudville, a name given the Iowa Central Stock Farm, and before the expiration of the year 1873, the sheet faded from sight, never more to be seen of man. The New Hartford Bugle was only heard during part of the year 1873 and the Butler County Standard, established by J. B. Adams in 1876, at Greene, lived precariously about four years and was then moved to Rockford, Iowa. Bristow had a paper in 1878, known as the Bristow Dial. A Mr. Morgan was the founder. He sold to J. O. Stewart. In 1880 the plant was taken to Sumner, in Bremer county.

CHAPTER XIII

EDUCATIONAL

In matters of education, Butler county ranks as one of the most progressive counties of the state. The school laws of Iowa have undergone so many changes that it would be impossible here to go into details regarding the various forms of government and organization which have characterized the educational history of Butler and the other counties of the state. Originally the schools of the county were organized upon the township district basis. The electors of each township met in annual meeting in March of each year to determine the amount of tax levy for school purposes, elect the members of the school board and transact such other business as might properly come before them. The district townships were divided into sub-districts of such number and size as seemed best to serve the interests of the people. A more or less detailed account of these district township organizations is given in connection with the separate history of the townships.

FORMS OF ORGANIZATION

Later provision was made by the State Legislature for the organization of rural independent districts. It was left to the discretion of the electors as to which of the forms of organization for the rural schools they should adopt.

THE DISTRICT TOWNSHIP

The two systems are markedly different and each possesses its advantages and disadvantages. Under the district township organization all of the sub-districts are a part of the whole and the business affairs of the entire district are managed by one board of directors made up of a sub-director elected from each district. No one sub-district may levy a tax for any purpose,

either that of building a schoolhouse or increasing the compensation of its teachers, without the consent of the whole township. In some instances this form has operated to prevent progressive rural communities from doing for their school what they wish. However, in a business way, it is possible through the township organization to manage affairs much more expeditiously and economically than is possible under the independent district organization. The trend of the times educationally appears to be toward this form of organization. In the last session of the Legislature, a bill making the township the sole unit of rural school organization was defeated by a small majority. It is not improbable that some such action will eventually become a statutory provision in this state.

THE RURAL INDEPENDENT DISTRICT

In the independent district organization, each district manages its own affairs through a board of three directors who are chosen at the annual election in March. Each independent district is a corporate body, with the same powers within its limits as are exercised by the board of directors of the district township. At present five of the sixteen townships of Butler county are organized on the independent district basis. These are Fremont, Butler, Shell Rock, Ripley and West Point.

The remaining eleven civil townships are organized as township school districts. The boundaries of the school districts do not in every instance coincide with those of the civil township. The school township of Jackson, for example, has attached to it portions of Butler and Jefferson townships for school purposes.

TOWN INDEPENDENT DISTRICTS

In addition to these two forms of rural school districts there exist in the county also ten town or village independent districts. This form of district may be organized under the law upon the written petition of any ten voters of a city, town or village of over one hundred residents, provided a majority of the electors residing within the boundaries of the district vote in favor of the proposition. It is not necessary that the village be actually incorporated under the laws of the states in order to secure the benefits of this form of organization. Township and county lines need not

be considered in forming such districts. The school affairs of these districts are in the hands of a board of five directors.

RECENT LEGISLATION

An attempt was made by the last Legislature to abolish the office of treasurer of all school corporations and place the handling of school funds with the county treasurer. This attempt was unsuccessful. However, it was provided by law that the school treasurer must serve without compensation and that all monies belonging to school districts coming into his hands must be deposited in an approved bank and draw interest. This enactment of the Legislature has proved somewhat unpopular and it is probable that it will be still further amended in the coming Legislature. The proposal to place the handling of all the school funds of all the districts, both town and rural, in the hands of the county treasurer, while it has met with considerable opposition so far, would seem a very reasonable one. There is little question but that some such solution of the present unsatisfactory and unbusinesslike methods of handling these funds will eventually be made.

Iowa has for a number of years had a compulsory school law upon its statute books. By the terms of this law the attendance of all children between the ages of seven and sixteen years is required for a minimum of twenty-four consecutive weeks in each school year. Children between the ages of fourteen and sixteen who are regularly employed may be excused from compulsory school attendance. The enforcement of this law is provided for by penalties, to be attached on the failure of school directors to enforce it, and by fines for each offense to be assessed against the parent or guardian of the child whose non-attendance is charged.

The purchase of library books by the rural districts is also made compulsory; not less than five cents for each person of school age in the district being required to be appropriated each year by each district for the purchase of library books.

Another school law of general application and widespread influence is that of a recent Legislature, providing for free high school tuition for pupils of the rural districts. By the terms of this law, the pupils who have passed the eighth grade examinations, under the direction of the county superintendent, and have received a certificate of proficiency in the common branches,

may be admitted to any approved high school in the state that will receive them, and have their tuition paid by the districts of their residence. While this law has resulted in some instances to a certain extent in a sort of double taxation, there is little or no question but that its results are wholly good. Sooner or later it is to be hoped that provision for high school education may be made by the rural districts themselves and that the boys and girls of the farmers of Butler and the other counties of Iowa may not have to leave their homes in order to secure an education that is their right and their desire.

THE SCHOOL FUND COMMISSIONER

At the time of the organization of the county the laws of the state provided for the administration of the school funds by an officer known as the school fund commissioner. As the title indicates, this officer had jurisdiction only over the school funds. He had no authority or connection with the administration of the schools, either in matters of discipline or instruction. These school funds were derived in addition to the sums raised by the tax levy in the various school districts from the sale of school lands (for which purpose section 16 of each township was set aside by the state) and from all estates escheating to the state as a result of the lack of heirs. The school fund commissioner had authority to loan the funds under his control to private parties, on good security, at a reasonable rate of interest. As a matter of fact, the records show that in an early day most of the money that was borrowed on farm mortgages came from these funds.

James Griffith, of Coldwater township, was the first school fund commissioner in Butler county. He was elected in the fall of 1854. His administration of the funds was eminently conservative and efficient. The first mortgage loan recorded on the books of the county was made by him. This indenture was made on the 8th of January, 1855, between Robert T. Crowell and Lucretia Crowell, his wife, and James Griffith, school fund commissioner. In consideration of \$298.14, a mortgage on the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter, and the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 18, 92-15, was given as the security for the loan. This mortgage was released on the 22nd day of April, 1857.

On the same day and date a similar indenture records the mortgage of the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 36, and the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 25, in township 93, range 16, for a loan of \$300, made by James Griffith to William and Susan Gough. The interest rate named in these instruments is ten per cent per annum.

James Griffith was succeeded as school fund commissioner by John H. Morton in 1856. Before the expiration of Mr. Morton's term, the duties connected with this office were by law placed in the hands of the county judge, and the office of school fund commissioner abolished. Under this law the county court had supervision of the school funds and so continued until the adoption of the system of county government by a board of supervisors in whose hands the disposition and management of the school funds have remained to the present time.

THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

The funds set aside for the maintenance of normal institutes for the instruction of teachers were later placed under the supervision of the county superintendent of schools. This office of county superintendent of schools was created by an act of the Legislature in 1858. D. W. Mason was the first incumbent of this office, elected in the spring of 1858. A complete list of the county superintendents is given at the close of this chapter.

Butler county has been peculiarly fortunate in the character of the men and women who have so ably filled this office, a number of them having, subsequent to their occupation of this office, filled positions of responsibility and importance elsewhere.

Ida F. Leydig, who was elected to this office in the election of 1900, was the first woman to be elected to this office by the voters of Butler county.

From the creation of the office until 1914, the election of county superintendents was made in the same manner as the other offices were filled. Nominations for the office were made by the political parties in conventions or later by the primary system. In some places this resulted in making the office of county superintendent a mere political plaything, and at times unworthy and incompetent persons were, as a result of the exigencies of politics, chosen to this position. This, however, was never true in Butler county. Although in form a political office, practically it was non-partisan.

The Thirty-fifth General Assembly changed entirely the manner of choice of the county superintendent, providing for the election of this officer by a convention consisting of the presidents of the district townships and town independent districts, and one representative of each township divided into rural independent districts. This law went into effect July 1, 1913. The first regular meeting of this convention was provided for April, 1915. However, the resignation of Irving H. Hart, in February, 1914, led to the calling of this convention in special session, at which time the present incumbent of the office, Mr. Benjamin Boardman, was chosen.

NORMAL INSTITUTES

Normal institutes, to be held annually by the county superintendents of each county in Iowa, were provided for by act of the General Assembly in 1873. The object of these institutes was at first in part to provide an opportunity for review in the branches required for examination for certificates, and in part to present to the teachers of the county such improved methods of teaching and opportunities for self-improvement as would serve to make them more efficient teachers. The expenses incident to holding these institutes were to be provided from what was known as the institute fund, consisting of an appropriation of \$50 from the state, the \$1.00 examination fee paid by each candidate for a teacher's certificate, and the enrollment fee of \$1.00 paid by each member of the institute. This fund was under the exclusive control of the county superintendent, subject to the supervision of the state superintendent of public instruction.

In 1906, a law providing for uniform county certificates in the State of Iowa was passed by the Legislature and thereafter the matter of certification of teachers was taken out of the hands of the county superintendents and placed with a board known as the board of educational examiners. The examination fee was from this date divided equally between the state and the county. A provision was also made for the payment of a registration fee to validate the uniform county certificates as licenses to teach in a particular county. These registration fees were also paid into the institute fund. At a subsequent legislative session, the institute enrollment fee was abolished, thus materially reducing the county institute funds.

Among the many school laws passed by the Thirty-fifth General Assembly was one which decidedly changed the system of maintenance and control of the normal institute. Beginning July 1, 1914, normal institutes are to be held when schools are generally in session. The registration fee for certificates is to be abolished and the institute fund recompensed for the loss by an appropriation of not less than one hundred and fifty dollars from the general county fund. Attendance at these institutes is made practically compulsory. The teachers in actual service are to receive full pay while in attendance. Absence is to be excused only for physical disability or other valid reasons. The success of this plan is as yet a matter to be determined by experience.

The first institute held in Butler county was in August, 1874, under the superintendency of John W. Stewart. These early institutes were usually held either at Shell Rock or Clarksville. Since the removal of the county seat to Allison, practically all of the institutes have been held here with possibly three exceptions, when Clarksville was the location of the institute. The last of these occasions was during the summer of 1912, when the construction of a new school building at Allison left the town without a satisfactory place for holding the institute.

STATISTICS OF EDUCATION IN BUTLER COUNTY

From the last annual report of the county superintendent the following items are taken:

Number of town and village districts.....	10
Number of school townships.....	11
Number of rural independent districts...	39
Number of sub-districts.....	96
Number of teachers employed.....	296
Average number of months taught.....	87
Average compensation per month—males..\$	67.46
Average compensation per month—females \$	47.80
Number of persons of school age—males..	2,662
Number of persons of school age—females.	2,570
Total enrollment	4,506
Average daily attendance.....	3,263
Average cost of tuition per pupil.....\$	2.83
Number of schoolhouses.....	148
Total valuation of schoolhouses.....	\$195,690.00

Total amount paid teachers—males. . . . \$ 11,485.45

Total amount paid teachers—females. . \$ 70,413.42

UNIFORM TEXT-BOOKS

A number of years ago the Iowa Legislature authorized the electors of the counties to adopt uniform series of text-books for use in the rural schools. Butler county was among the first of the Iowa counties to adopt this system, which it has adhered to ever since. The adoptions occur at intervals of five years, the last one having been made in January, 1911. This system has a distinct advantage for the patrons and taxpayers, inasmuch as it provides for securing the text-books used, at a special price, and makes it possible for children to pass from one school to another in rural districts without the necessity of a change of texts.

GRADED AND HIGH SCHOOLS

There are ten graded schools in Butler county, four of which maintain accredited four-year high schools. These are Clarksville, Greene, Parkersburg and Shell Rock. The Shell Rock high school in addition has been designated as a normal training high school under the law passed by the Thirty-fourth General Assembly. Four-year courses approved by the department of public instruction are also maintained in the Allison and Aplington high schools. Dumont has a three-year high school course, approved in like manner. New Hartford and Bristow also maintain three-year high-school courses. Kesley maintains a graded school, with two teachers. They have no high school department.

PROMINENT EDUCATORS

Among the prominent educators who have been at one time and another identified with the schools of Butler county, may be mentioned E. C. Bellows, who served as county superintendent from 1885 to 1889. Mr. Bellows later removed to the Pacific coast and was appointed consul general of the United States in Japan.

George H. Betts served as principal of schools in the towns of Bristow, Clarksville and Allison. Later he entered Cornell College at Mount Vernon, Iowa, and after his graduation from

this institution, was given a position on its faculty. He is now head of the department of education of his alma mater and is widely and favorably known as an author of educational works. His book, "The Mind and Its Education," is a standard text in elementary psychology. Professor Betts occupies a foremost place among the educational thinkers and writers of the present day. He is a native of Butler county, having been born and raised in Shell Rock township.

W. F. Barr, dean of the College of Liberal Arts of Drake University, at Des Moines, is a former superintendent of schools in Greene and Parkersburg. No man in educational circles in Iowa is more widely and favorably known than Professor Barr. Butler county is proud to recall his connection with her educational interests.

Frank E. Howard, former county superintendent of schools, is at present at the head of the department of education in the Idaho State Normal, at Albion.

Professor C. L. Fullerton of the department of music in the State Teachers College at Cedar Falls is another former superintendent of schools in Parkersburg whose present prominence in the educational world reflects credit upon his connection with Butler county.

These are but a few of the more prominent men in an educational way who have been connected with the schools of Butler county. Space would not allow us to mention the large number of prominent men and women who have gone out from Butler county's rural schools to positions of leadership and efficiency, both in the educational world and in other avenues of life.

Butler county has reason to be proud of the record made by her sons and daughters and of the efficient work which has been done by the schools of the county in training and educating these boys and girls to become men and women of power and ability. However, progress is the law of life, and while present conditions in no way justify an unduly critical attitude toward school conditions in the county, yet a careful and comparative study of the schools and the other activities of the county justify one in expressing a doubt as to whether in all instances the schools have kept pace with progress in other lines. With all just pride in the records of the past, the people of Butler county should look forward with full faith to a future of magnificent achievement for

her schools, keeping ever in mind as their motto the slogan "Better Schools for Butler County."

SCHOOL FUND COMMISSIONER

1854, James Griffith; 1856, John H. Morton.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

In the year 1858 the office of school fund commissioner was abolished and that of county superintendent of schools was created. The names of the incumbents of the office just named appear below:

1858, D. W. Mason; 1859, I. R. Dean, resigned, M. D. L. Niece (to fill vacancy); 1861, R. Merrill; 1865, W. H. Gue; 1867, W. A. Lathrop; 1871, J. W. Stewart; 1881, John D. Anderson; 1885, E. C. Bellows; 1889, George F. Wood; 1893, Frank E. Howard; 1897, H. B. Aikin; 1901, Ida F. Leydig; 1907, Mary A. Faint; 1913, Irving H. Hart, resigned; 1914, Benjamin Boardman (to fill vacancy).

CHAPTER XIV

AGRICULTURE AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

The following quotation from a former historian of Butler county gives in a very satisfactory manner the summary of the agricultural conditions up to that time:

THIRTY YEARS AGO

“Butler county is acknowledged as being among the best and most prosperous agricultural counties in Iowa. Its people are awake and keep step with the progressive march of the times in all that pertains to a civilization of happiness, industry and culture. Its future possibilities may be set high among the cluster of its hundred sisters, a star of pride to the noble state. The early pioneers did not come loaded with wealth, and in fact few had more than enough to barely get settled upon their lands, but they came with that which in those days was equal to it—training in agricultural pursuits, brawny hands that were able and not ashamed to do hard work, and in connection with industrious habits, the energy and determination to win success. The country was new, and there was no alternative but that success must be wrought from the soil, which was their only wealth and their only hope. And, in spite of all the obstacles and inconveniences to be encountered, success has attended their efforts, and the transformation from the primitive to the present comfortable condition of things was accomplished. Nor is the end yet reached, but the county still has a mine of agricultural wealth yet undeveloped, which, as years roll on, will grow more and more valuable, and when years of cultivated maturity shall dawn to transform the yet unsubdued prairie to waving fields of growing grain, Butler county will occupy a place among the foremost ranks of Iowa’s banner counties.

“Early in the development of this country, wheat was the main product, and for a number of years excellent crops were raised with scarcely a failure. At the present time it has partially given up its former place to other cereals, while the farmers find many other avenues in which to devote their time and energies. The general theory, or it might be more properly said, it is known in a general way, that the wheat belt has been traveling westward ever since it was first started at Plymouth, Massachusetts, when the Pilgrim fathers landed there over two hundred and sixty years ago. At first it moved on its westward march, not in a very rapid way, until fifty years ago the valley of the Genesee, in New York, was the great wheat raising region. But when Michigan, Illinois and Iowa were opened up for cultivation, the wheat-growing center began its kangaroo jumps toward the setting sun, and Iowa was for years its resting place, but how long it will be before its now receding line will pass clear beyond the confines of Iowa and land in Dakota and Nebraska, time alone can determine. The gradual increase in stock-raising has placed corn in the front rank at present. Flax of late years has been raised quite extensively. Rye, barley and all the cereals common to this latitude do well, and vegetables and small fruits grow abundantly where well cultivated. It was formerly taught that apples could not be successfully raised here, but the county now has many fine and thrifty orchards which have proven the matter quite to the contrary and have punctured this fallacy. About one-half of the area of the county is under a good state of cultivation.”

The quotation above is interesting for the purposes of comparison, and in connection with the comparative statistics given below will furnish striking evidence of the progress of Butler county in an agricultural way in the years that have lapsed since the publication of the work from which this quotation was taken.

IOWA'S PRIMACY IN AGRICULTURE

Iowa easily holds a foremost place among the agricultural states. Statistics of its soil products and the live-stock industry justify this claim and a careful study of climatic records and the vast resources of soil fertility will reveal the cause of this primacy in agriculture. Its location within the greatest corn producing area in this country, or in the world, is especially favorable. In fact it may be claimed without exaggeration that Iowa consti-

tutes the most productive section of the famous corn belt area and the statistical records will sustain this claim. The distinctive feature of the state is the fact that about 95 per cent of its area may be made to produce something of value.

In crop production the prime factors are the fertility of soil and a congenial climate, and the latter is the chief feature. There are millions of acres in this country comparatively worthless, although containing abundant supplies of fertility, the one thing lacking being a favorable climate. The lack of moisture in the growing season or the prevalence of low temperature or frequent occurrences of frosts render the possession of the most fertile soil of little or no use.

THE CLIMATE OF IOWA

Situated near the geographical center of the United States, too far inland to be affected by the ocean winds, the climate of Iowa is strictly continental in type. This naturally involves a wide range of temperature, winters of considerable severity and summers of almost tropical heat and a larger percentage of sunshine than may be found in regions nearer the coast. What is true of Iowa as a whole is true of Butler county in particular, there being comparatively little variation in climatic and soil conditions and productivity in the various sections of the state. However, the absence of great variations in altitude, the generally level character of the country in Butler county, the fact that its river valleys have in the process of the ages reached a stage which is known as that of maturity, that its swamp lands which doubtless formerly existed in vast areas have been drained largely by natural causes, although in part by the agency of man in recent years, all have resulted in reducing the amount of waste land in Butler county to a minimum, and entitle it to a place in possibility as a leader in crop production in the State of Iowa.

METEOROLOGY

There has never been a permanent meteorological station in Butler county. However, for about fifteen years, beginning with 1897, a station was maintained at Greene, under the control of J. L. Cole, who made regular annual reports to the Iowa Weather and Crop Service Bureau. A summary of these reports indicates

a total average annual precipitation of about 29 inches of rainfall. This is very close to the average for the north central district. The mean annual temperature for the same period is about 47 degrees above zero. The highest recorded temperature is 111 degrees above zero, and the lowest, 29 degrees below. From an agricultural point of view the most important feature of the climate of Iowa and Butler county is the fact that its maximum rainfall comes in the crop season from April to September, inclusive. The monthly averages of precipitation show that the average winter precipitation is less than 2 inches. In the four most critical crop months, from the 1st of May to the 1st of September, more than 50 per cent of the bulk of the precipitation is received. In the balance of the year the climate is relatively dry.

Naturally there are great variations in the amount of rainfall from year to year but an actual study of the statistics will prove that there is no just basis for the claim that great changes are taking place in the amount of rainfall. In Butler county this variation ranges from about 9 inches in the four crop-growing months to 29 inches as a maximum, the average being in the neighborhood of 15 inches.

Killing frosts rarely occur at so late a date in the spring as to be destructive to crops. Occasionally the earliest killing frost in autumn, as the farmers say, "catches" the late corn, but this is not frequent.

CROP PRODUCTION

Corn is the chief product of Butler county farmers, the total number of bushels raised in 1913 being 3,744,000. The average yield per acre in this year was 36 bushels. The state average was 34.9 bushels. Of the ninety-nine counties in Iowa, Butler ranked forty-first in the total number of bushels produced, and forty-seventh in the average yield per acre. Iowa leads the world in corn production, not because it grows more bushels per acre but because it possesses the largest area of farm land adapted to the production of this great cereal.

The hay crop which ranks second in the state is relatively less important in Butler county, if we are to leave out the consideration of the acreage of farm lands devoted to pasturage. The production of hay in the county in 1913 was 40,500 tons of tame hay and 14,700 tons of wild hay.

The oat crop fills a very important place in the agriculture of the county, the total production in 1913 having been 2,465,000 bushels, an average of 29 bushels per acre. In the total production Iowa ranks eighteenth among the counties of the state but in the average production per acre it ranks ninetieth. Evidently too many Butler county farmers consider the oat crop as merely a convenient means of resting the land between the years when they can raise corn thereon. The state average for 1913 in the bushels of oats per acre was 34.2.

OTHER STATISTICS

The agricultural statistics show that in 1860 there were 379 farms in Butler county. This number increased steadily to 1905, when there were 2,209. In 1912 the number had decreased to 1,976. Since 1880 the number of acres in farms in Butler county has increased from 290,728 to 334,769.

The following taken from the crop and farm statistics for 1912 indicate accurately the present productiveness of Butler county soil: Total number of farms, 1,976; total acreage in farms, 334,769.

Total Acreage		Total Yield	
Corn	105,458	Bushels	4,915,284
Oats	83,339	“	3,060,996
Spring wheat	601	“	10,398
Winter Wheat	881	“	14,969
Barley	1,532	“	41,495
Rye	3,095	“	57,089
Tame hay	22,457	Tons	25,385
Wild hay	11,042	“	11,842
Alfalfa	14	“	28
Potatoes	1,483	Bushels	149,945
In pasture	90,404	Apples total yield	7,303 bushels
In orchards	499½		
Total number silos....	81		

STATISTICS OF LIVE STOCK

Total number horses, 15,015; mules, 271; hogs, 88,987; cattle, 44,368; sheep, 1,693; pounds of wool clipped, 21,043; poultry, 383,319; total dozen eggs, 1,108,343, est.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

THE BUTLER COUNTY FAIR

The first definite agricultural association in the county was known as the Butler County Agricultural Society which held its first meeting at Butler Center, on March 15, 1866. Previous to this date, the society had existed under a system of annual memberships. Fairs had been held at different points in the county for a number of years previous but under this system the grounds were but temporarily fitted up, the interest of the members but temporary and there could be no permanent basis for success.

There is some question as to where the first fair in Butler county was held. An early historian says: "The first fair held in Butler county was held at Willoughby village about 1856 or 1857. It was a small affair but a good time was had. The village at which the fair was held has long since been counted a thing of the past." Thomas Hunt, of Clarksville, at the date of the present writing perhaps the oldest citizen of the county both in years and in point of residence, says: "To the best of my knowledge the first fair in Butler county was held at Clarksville in 1856. Another fair was held here in 1857. Thereafter fairs were held at Butler Center, Willoughby, New Hartford and Shell Rock, approximately in this order. Later the fairs came to be held regularly at Shell Rock." Martin Bailey, the first secretary of the permanent organization says in his report to the Auditor of State in 1866: "Fairs have been held at different times in the county for the last seven years, no one place having it for two successive years."

At the meeting at Butler Center referred to above, plans for organization on a more permanent basis were discussed and it was finally decided to appoint a committee to secure as many as fifty life members, who would agree to subscribe the sum of \$10 to the association. This committee consisted of James W. Davis, Martin Bailey, J. H. Hale and John Palmer. This committee also was to prepare articles of incorporation.

On the 2nd of June another meeting was held at the courthouse in Butler Center, at which time it was reported that fifty subscribers for life membership had been secured. Articles of incorporation were reported and adopted. The names of the incorporators were as follows: A. Converse, M. Hollenbeck, J.

H. Hale, James Collar, W. A. Lathrop, E. Landphier, J. A. Wood, B. Leavens, M. Bailey, S. Rice, J. G. Scoby, J. Bishop, E. W. Metzger, J. H. Carter, E. Town, F. Leavens, J. Palmer, J. F. Wright, R. R. Parriott, C. B. Simons, W. Adair and O. S. Newcomb.

The name chosen for the association was the Butler County Agricultural and Horticultural Society. The location of fairs to be held by the society was fixed at Shell Rock. The incorporation was for a period of twenty years. According to the terms and articles of incorporation, the business and object of the society was to hold fairs and offer suitable premiums for the encouragement of agricultural, horticultural and mechanical pursuits, and the improvements of the stock and productions of the county.

Thirteen directors were provided for the first board consisting of the following named persons: A. Converse, R. R. Parriott, J. F. Wright, John Hickle, J. H. Hale, M. Hollenbeck, James Collar, C. B. Simons, James Wood, Charles Ensign, M. Bailey, B. Leavens and J. H. Carter. These articles of incorporation were filed for record June 2, 1866.

The first officers chosen were: James Collar, president; C. B. Simons, vice president; S. Rice, treasurer; and M. Bailey, secretary. In consideration of publishing done for the society William M. Palmer, editor of *The Stiletto*, was elected to membership in the association. At this first meeting of the permanent organization thirty-four members paid \$10 each to the association. The dates of the fair were fixed for Oct. 2 and 3, 1866.

During this year a committee of the board of directors prepared and adopted a set of by-laws to govern the society and purchased a site for the fair grounds of James W. McCague for the sum of \$200. This site stood west of the present town of Shell Rock.

The sum of \$600 was appropriated for fencing the fair grounds.

At the close of this first year the secretary, Martin Bailey, made a report to the Secretary of State, from which we quote the following: "The premium list was published in our county paper, *The Stiletto* on August 2d. The fair, held on October 2d and 3d, was a decided success. The list of horses entered was extensive and embraced several excellent stallions of different breeds from the ponderous Samson to the stylish Black Hawk. There were several fine thoroughbred Durham cattle, a few very

good sheep and several choice blooded swine upon exhibition. The display of farm products was not very extensive, but grass seed, wheat, oats, etc., were represented. Garden vegetables were fine and there were two entries of apples that were creditable."

The report of the treasurer on this first year is as follows: "Receipts: Funds of the old society, \$50; membership, \$460; entrance fees, \$91.55; gate fees, \$215; total, \$816.55. Disbursements: Fences and buildings, \$522.50; printing and stationery, \$58.75; expenses of fair, \$54.35; total, \$635.55; balance, \$181. Indebtedness: Premiums, \$191.50; Due on grounds, \$200, showing an excess of indebtedness over the balance on hand of \$210.

In the annual meeting in June, 1867, the premiums awarded in 1866 were ordered paid in full. The receipts of the fair held in 1868 were not sufficient to pay the premiums, expenses and other indebtedness, the weather having been extremely unfavorable. A tax of \$2 was therefore levied upon each life member at a special meeting held on September 24th.

The Clarksville band was hired for the fair in 1870.

At a special meeting held Jan. 28, 1871, the question of selling a right of way through the fair grounds to the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Minnesota railway was discussed. It was agreed to adjourn to meet later to decide this question. At a meeting held the last of April this railroad was given the right of way through the grounds. Inasmuch as this would result in rendering the grounds unfit for use for fair purposes an arrangement was made with Sylvester Rice to lease a tract of land belonging to him and lying immediately south of the former site for the purpose of holding the succeeding fairs. Mr. Rice gave this lease free of charge on condition that he be allowed to pasture the lands at times when the fair was not being held.

At the regular annual meeting in 1871 the old fair grounds site was sold to Sylvester Rice outright and twenty acres south of the former site were leased from him for twenty years.

As early as 1867 a substantial premium was offered by the society for the best artificial grove planted and cultivated under conditions set forth in the premium list. In 1872 a committee of the board of directors was appointed to investigate the condition of groves planted in accordance with the requirements. There is, however, no record of a report by this committee until the annual meeting of 1874, at which time on recommendation of a committee

the premium for the best artificial grove planted and cultivated under the premium offer of 1867 was awarded to Amos Ressler, of Shell Rock township. The grove for which this premium was awarded consisted largely of soft maple, with some black ash and white elm trees. The trees were said to average twelve feet in height and to be in excellent condition. There are records also of premium awards for the best acre of wheat, the best acre of oats and the best half acre of potatoes, showing clearly that the society was endeavoring to the best of its ability to carry out the aim and object of its organization—improvement of farm crops and production in Butler county.

At the annual meeting in 1877 the president reported that the grounds had been removed without expense, to a new site north-east of Shell Rock, on what was known as the Williams place. This is the location of the present race track southeast of the Great Western depot.

The original term of incorporation for twenty years expired in 1886. In preparation for reorganization, a meeting was called in August, 1885, at which general plans for reorganization were discussed. On Oct. 17, 1885, it was voted to renew the articles of incorporation for twenty years and new articles of incorporation were adopted.

The question of reorganization, however, was not yet settled. The location of Shell Rock at the extreme eastern side of the county was unsatisfactory to a large majority of the people of the county. So much dissatisfaction with the location had been expressed that even the people of Shell Rock reached a point where they were willing to consider a relocation of the site of the annual county fair. In the meantime, as will be noticed later, an agricultural organization had been formed at Clarksville which had been holding annual fairs for a number of years.

The question of reorganization and relocation was discussed at a number of adjourned meetings in the early part of 1886. Finally at a meeting held in Shell Rock in May, J. R. Jones, Jeremiah Perrin and Cyrus Doty, representing the Clarksville Agricultural Association, appeared and proposed to consolidate the two societies and to provide for annual fairs to be held in alternate years at Clarksville and Shell Rock. This proposition was first voted upon at a meeting in August, 1886, with the result that thirty-four votes were cast in the affirmative and thirty-two in the negative. Inasmuch, however, as this consolidation involved an

amendment to the constitution and required a two-third vote of the members present, it was declared lost.

At a meeting held in October, the proposition of the Clarksville Society was again presented and again lost on the lack of a two-third vote, the vote this time being forty-one for to twenty-six against. At the same meeting the proposition to secure the removal of the fair to Allison was presented and was defeated for the same reason by a vote of twenty-one to seventeen, the Clarksville members of the association not voting.

It became evident, however, that it would be impossible to continue the location of the fairs at Shell Rock and it was equally evident that the Clarksville location would not be any more satisfactory to the majority of the members. As a result, on the 30th of October, 1886, at a meeting of the stockholders, article 1 of the constitution was amended by substituting the name "Allison" for "Shell Rock" as the place of holding the fairs, the vote being sixty-five to nine—a decisive majority. It was voted to tear down the buildings on the Shell Rock fair grounds and pile the lumber preparatory to moving it to Allison.

A committee consisting of Jeremiah Perrin, S. Rice, R. Stanley, L. J. Rogers, I. M. Fisher, G. M. Craig, J. W. Wright, James Collar, S. M. Baldwin, S. B. Dumont and N. O. Ohmstead was appointed to secure a new location near Allison. This committee secured twenty-three acres of ground, partly within and partly out of the corporate limits of the town of Allison, the land being purchased from H. L. Stout and the Allison Town Company, for a consideration of something over one thousand dollars.

The annual meeting of 1887 was held in the court room at Allison. At that time the by-laws were amended so as to have one director from each township and the date of the annual meeting changed from the first Saturday in June to the first Wednesday after the first Monday in January. The first board of directors representing the sixteen townships was: N. H. Larkin, Fremont; Levi Baker, Dayton; Samuel McRoberts, Coldwater; M. Wilson, Bennezette; W. R. Nichols, Pittsford; J. H. Neal, West Point; Cyrus Doty, Jackson; J. Perrin, Butler; G. W. Adair, Shell Rock; S. M. Baldwin, Jefferson; F. A. Randolph, Ripley; W. Watson, Sr., Madison; J. J. Burnham, Washington; Joseph Linn, Monroe; James Collar, Beaver.

The first fair at Allison was held in the fall of 1887, by which time a half mile track had been laid out and graded and a covered

amphitheatre and floral hall completed, and barns for the accommodation of horses and cattle constructed from the material hauled from the old site at Shell Rock. Senator William B. Allison was present on the dedication of the new grounds and delivered an address.

In 1895 the system of electing one director from each township in the county was abandoned and thereafter seven directors were chosen. As a rule these have been chosen, two from each supervisor district in the county and one elector at large. Before this date several of the townships had ceased to have representatives upon the board of directors, especially Fremont township, which is territorially contiguous to Nashua, where the Big Four fair is annually held; and Washington township, which is nearer to the Hardin county fair.

In June, 1895, a special meeting for the board of directors was held to arrange for repairing buildings on the fair grounds, which had been wrecked by a wind storm. It was found necessary to reconstruct the stalls, the amphitheatre and the floral hall, and an assessment upon the stockholders was made to cover the cost of repairs.

The changing character of the fair begins to be shown from the records as early as 1896. At that time apparently it had ceased to be so largely agricultural and horticultural as it was an amusement proposition. At the annual meeting in 1896 provision was made for bicycle races, football games and a balloon ascension. The total amount appropriated for amusements at that time, however, did not exceed \$200. The comparison with the amount paid for amusement purposes in recent fairs is a striking one. In 1899 the amount appropriated for amusements was \$250. In 1900 an appropriation was made for building a hog house on the fair grounds. In 1901 the weather was so unfavorable the fair was held for only one day. In 1902 so rapidly had the character of the fair changed that we find record to the effect that the committee on amusements was to be limited to the expenditure of \$1,000.

The second period of incorporation having expired in 1906, the articles were revised and the corporation renewed for another twenty-year period. Important changes in the articles were made at that time.

In 1907 the date of the annual meeting was changed to the second Saturday in October. In July, 1907, at a special meeting of the organization it was announced that the board of super-

visors of Butler county had in accordance with the provision of section 1660 in the code of 1897, appropriated the sum of \$1,000 for the use of the society. This appropriation was expended and the money used for building a new stock pavilion, the construction of which was awarded to F. F. Junkins. The final cost of this building was \$1,310. At the same time provision was made for the construction of a new tight board fence along the main road on the west side of the fair grounds and for the sale of advertising space thereon.

The progress of the times is indicated by the fact that in the fair of 1907, provision was made for automobile races. At the fair this year, Gov. Albert B. Cummins was present and addressed the people. In 1910 provision was made for holding a corn-growing and corn-judging contest for the boys and girls of Butler county. Great interest was aroused in this contest in this and the succeeding year, large prizes being offered and a number of contestants competing. Sen. Jonathan P. Dolliver was present at the fair in 1911, only a few months before his death.

The fair has now maintained a continuous existence as a corporation for nearly a half century. Its maintenance has always been at the cost of a continued struggle. Mention has been made of the changing character of the fair in more recent years. While this is somewhat perhaps to be regretted, it is apparently unavoidable that the chief features of the fair should be of the amusement nature; yet it is difficult for a fair located near a small town to compete as an amusement proposition with the larger fairs and parks of nearby cities. Means of transportation in these days when automobiles are so generally owned are so well adapted for covering long distances that the directors of the Butler County Fair Association are confronted by an eternal problem of securing the attendance, upon which the success of the fair in a financial way must always depend.

A list of the presidents and secretaries of the association from the beginning to the present time follows:

Presidents—James Collar, 1866-73; M. Bailey, 1873-75; Richard Hughes, 1875-78; James Collar, 1878-80; J. H. Carter, 1881-85; M. Bailey, 1885-86; J. H. Carter, 1886-93; A. O. Strout, 1893-94; J. H. Carter, 1894-95; G. M. Craig, 1895-97; H. C. Brown, 1897-1901; K. S. Green, 1901-02; A. F. Yarcho, 1902-04; John Coster, 1904-12; Frank Fishel, 1912-13; John Coster, 1913 to date.

Secretaries—M. Bailey, 1866-70; J. W. Davis, 1870-71; O. W. McIntosh, 1871-72; J. O. Stewart, 1872-75; J. W. Davis, 1875-76; M. Bailey, 1877-79; R. Hughes, 1879-85; E. Wilson, 1885-86; W. J. Hunt, 1886-87; G. M. Craig, 1887-88; C. W. Levis, 1888-90; H. F. Wild, 1890-91; R. Gonzales, 1891-92; H. F. Wild, 1892-93; S. E. Burroughs, 1893-96; G. Hazlet, 1896-97; L. J. Rogers, 1897-1901; R. Gonzales, 1901-02; Garfield Merner, 1902-03, resigned, S. E. Burroughs appointed; H. F. Wild, 1903-04, resigned, Paul R. Burroughs appointed; J. W. Ray, 1904-05; L. J. Rogers, 1905-06; J. V. Gregory, 1906-07; M. B. Speedy, 1907-08; N. W. Scovel, 1908; W. C. Shepard, 1908-12; O. F. Missman, 1912-13; W. C. Shepard, 1913.

CLARKSVILLE AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

The Clarksville Agricultural Association was organized in 1875, and during the same year the fair grounds were purchased of John Hicks and others, containing twenty-five acres. The incorporators were as follows: E. A. Glenn, G. R. Peet, Ike E. Lucas, L. Bartlett, George Barber, S. McRoberts, Jr., David Crosby, Benjamin Crosby, J. R. Fletcher and J. O. Stewart. The first officers were: Samuel McRoberts, Sr., president; Ike E. Lucas, secretary; Cyrus Doty, treasurer; J. R. Jones, James R. Fletcher, E. A. Glenn, Lorenzo Bartlett and George R. Peet, directors.

The first fair was held in October, 1876, and proved a splendid success.

This association continued to hold annual fairs for some years on its fair grounds situated just west of the Rock Island tracks. Later the annual fairs were abandoned for some time. Of recent years an annual summer fiesta has been held on the association grounds with considerable degree of success.

THE FARMERS INSTITUTE

The Butler County Farmers Institute was first organized about fifteen years ago and has held annual meetings since that time at different places in the county. The first officers of the Farmers Institute were George Adair, Shell Rock, president; John Ressler, Shell Rock, secretary. The institutes have resulted in great benefit to the farmers and townspeople in Butler county.

The movement is one of increasing importance and is securing the substantial support of the more progressive citizens of the county.

OAK GLEN FARM

At the Iowa State Fair in 1913, Mrs. Fannie Klinek, of Clarksville, was awarded first premium for exhibit from a farm of forty acres or less. This farm, known as the Oak Glen Farm, is situated about two and a half miles north of Clarksville. A photograph of this exhibit is given in connection with this article.

ASSESSED VALUATION OF REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY FOR TAXABLE PURPOSES, 1913

	Number of acres	Value as equal- ized by state	Actual value real property	Taxable value personal property
Fremont	23,451	\$ 1,627,464	\$ 1,597,204	\$ 399,301
Dayton	23,100	1,522,076	1,385,240	346,310
Coldwater	22,460	1,558,576	1,438,852	359,703
Bennezette	22,204	1,535,652	1,623,076	405,769
Pittsford	21,904	1,457,312	1,318,292	329,573
West Point	21,788	1,508,408	1,403,364	350,841
Jackson	22,232	1,449,492	1,345,028	336,257
Butler	22,624	1,652,616	1,477,516	369,379
Shell Rock	22,140	1,533,828	1,428,572	357,143
Jefferson	23,019	1,414,076	1,322,684	330,671
Ripley	22,691	1,387,684	1,266,880	316,720
Madison	23,193	1,424,128	1,383,496	345,874
Washington	22,923	1,603,692	1,479,588	369,897
Monroe	22,366	1,449,996	1,288,956	322,239
Albion	22,471	1,516,212	1,390,080	347,520
Beaver	21,725	1,368,620	1,303,748	325,937
Greene	66	590,640	877,472	219,368
Dumont	878	227,488	323,632	80,908
Bristow	425	112,813	172,948	43,237
Allison	583	242,158	349,648	87,412
Clarksville	376	392,478	526,376	131,594
Shell Rock	368	330,476	435,544	108,886



INDIVIDUAL FARM COLLECTION RAISED AND EXHIBITED BY
FANNIE M. KLINCK, CLARKSVILLE

Won first premium in 80-acre class and grand champion sweepstake over all classes at
Iowa State Fair, Des Moines, 1913

HISTORY OF BUTLER COUNTY

Aplington	203,277	289,540	72,385
Parkersburg	474,595	773,960	193,490
New Hartford 97	158,320	262,692	65,673
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> Total 363,084 \$26,742,077 \$26,464,388 \$6,511,287 </div>			

CHAPTER XV

BUTLER COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR

When the war between the states began in 1861, Butler county was yet in its infancy. Hardly ten years had elapsed since the first permanent settlement within the borders of the county. The increase of the population in these ten years had been relatively very rapid. The census of 1860 showed the presence of 3,724 people in the county. Of these it may be ascribed that not more than one-fifth were men of military age. The exact number of soldiers enlisted from Butler county cannot be definitely given. There were 293 volunteer enlistments during the years 1861 and 1862. During the entire period of the war there were some five hundred and four enlistments and reenlistments. These figures would indicate that practically all the able bodied male citizens of Butler county who were not exempt from military service at one time or another answered the call of their country and served in its armies in the war for the preservation of the Union.

The story of the Civil war, its causes, events and results need not be retold here. If we could, we would recreate that period for the benefit of the present generation, to most of whom those bitter days of warfare are but an abstraction. Such an achievement is beyond our power. We must therefore be satisfied with a brief statement of the part which Butler county played in the war and a brief summary of some of the services rendered the common country by citizens of Butler county, and supplement this by as complete a list as is possible to secure of the volunteer soldiers who enlisted from Butler county. These lists will of necessity be inaccurate and incomplete. For years the adjutant general's office has been engaged in the revision and correction of the records of the soldiers of the War of the Rebellion. However, unavoidable errors and omissions have been made. The records here given are as complete and as accurate as the time and material at our disposal will allow.

BOUNTIES AND SOLDIERS' RELIEF

The first official reference to the Civil war occurs in the minutes of the board of supervisors at a special session in April, 1862. At this meeting, W. A. Lathrop offered a resolution granting a bounty of \$20 "to all volunteers under the call for 300,000 men, which shall be accepted and mustered into the service of the United States, upon sufficient evidence being lodged with the clerk." This resolution was laid over till the September term. In September, Supervisor Lathrop again moved the adoption of this resolution.

As a substitute for this resolution, W. R. Jamison offered the following: "Whereas, large numbers of our fellow citizens of this county have most probably volunteered their service in defense of the Constitution and the Union in order to crush this most unholy rebellion, and whereas, the time for recruiting for the volunteer service has now, for the present at least, expired, and whereas, some of the families of those persons who have volunteered and who are in the actual military service of the United States and whose families still continue to reside in this county, may be in destitute circumstances, therefore, be it resolved that we hereby pledge the faith of the county that those families left in destitute circumstances by the enlistment of the heads thereof, shall be looked after and properly cared for by the county during their absence. That the supervisors from the several townships act as a relief committee, each for the township he represents, which service shall be performed gratuitously by said committee, and we recommend to each member of said committee that they look well to the interests of the county and yet be faithful in attending to the necessities of those left behind by the brave men who have so nobly gone forth to fight the battles of their country in defense of the Union."

Supervisor J. R. Fletcher offered an amendment to the resolution of W. A. Lathrop, "offering a bounty of \$25 to each single man and \$50 to each married man who had volunteered from Butler county since the call for 300,000 men."

After several attempts further to amend or substitute these resolutions, the board by a vote of six to eight defeated both the resolution of W. R. Jamison and the substitute of W. A. Lathrop.

A committee consisting of Supervisors Fletcher, Lathrop, M. Wilson, Hoffman and Criswell, was appointed to report a resolu-

tion providing ways and means to support the families of volunteers in accordance with Chapter 38 of the Acts of the Extra Session of the Iowa Legislature of May, 1862. This committee reported that in order to carry out the true spirit and intent of this act of the Legislature, each township supervisor "be especially charged that families of all volunteers that have gone, or may go, from his township, be supplied with necessary food, clothing and fuel and to this end that they be empowered to have the clerk draw orders on the county treasury from time to time as they shall judge that causes may demand immediate relief, and in all cases to report at the succeeding meeting of the board." In accordance with this resolution, from time to time relief was furnished to the families of volunteers, as is shown by the records of the board.

At the first regular meeting of the board in 1864, Supervisor Allen of Jefferson township, offered a resolution providing that a bounty of \$100 be paid to each volunteer that had gone from Butler county under all the calls for volunteers made by the President of the United States, or who might go under such calls, the same bounty to be paid to the families of those who have been killed or died of disease in the service. Provision was made for a separate fund for the payment of these sums to be known as the Volunteer Bounty Fund, to be raised by a levy upon the taxable property of the county. Persons who had deserted the service of the United States were not to be entitled to the benefits of this resolution. After full discussion and debate this resolution was adopted by a yea and nay vote, eleven members voting yea and four nay.

This resolution was later restricted at the June meeting by providing that bounties paid under it should be so construed as not to include commissioned officers or any volunteers dishonorably discharged from the service. Further, only those soldiers who had volunteered for a term of three years, or during the war, were to receive the benefit of this bounty. An attempt to provide a bounty of \$100 for veterans who reenlisted was defeated.

In January, 1865, those volunteers who had enlisted under the call for one hundred days' service were made eligible to receive the \$50 bounty from the county. At the same session Supervisor Allen proposed raising the bounty to be paid to three-year volunteers to \$300. This resolution was referred to a committee and reported back with the recommendation that the amount be raised

to \$500. The committee's report was adopted by a vote of nine to seven. A bounty of \$100 was unanimously voted in favor of all who had reenlisted in the service of the United States as veteran volunteers.

This summary of the official actions of the board of supervisors in relation to issuing bounties to volunteer soldiers of the county speaks for itself and indicates more plainly than could be shown in any other way how nobly Butler county did its part in supporting the families of the volunteers and in compensating the individual soldiers who had offered their lives in defense of the country. Under these various bounty acts something over forty thousand dollars was appropriated by the county. In addition to this, a sum of approximately thirteen thousand dollars was paid for the relief of the families of absent and deceased soldiers.

FIRST IOWA INFANTRY

The first hostile shot was fired from a Confederate battery upon Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor, on the morning of April 12, 1861. Three days later, President Lincoln issued his first proclamation calling for 75,000 men for the suppression of armed rebellion against the Government of the United States. In response to this call the first regiment of Iowa Volunteers went forth as the vanguard of the mighty host that followed from the state under subsequent calls of the President. This regiment was made up of the organized military companies of the state, which had already offered their services to Governor Kirkwood. The ten companies which comprised this regiment were rendezvoused at Keokuk, in May, 1861, where they were soon afterward mustered into the service of the United States. The companies comprising this regiment were all from the eastern and central portions of the state, then much more thickly settled. The lack of means of transportation and communication, as well as the limited number of men needed to complete the Iowa quota prevented the organization of any companies in this section of the state, and equally the enlistment of any number of men from this section. So far as is known, Butler county was represented in this first regiment by one man only—George C. Miller, of Clarksville, who enlisted in Company K on the 24th of April, 1861. He later reenlisted in Company B of the Twentieth Infantry. To George C. Miller, therefore, is due the honor of being the first volunteer soldier from

Butler county. The first regiment was enlisted for a term of three months. During that short time its service was utilized to the utmost. On the 13th of June the regiment left Keokuk, was transported down the river by boat to Hannibal, Mo., thence by rail to Macon, Mo., and from this point marched across country to Boonville—a distance of fifty-eight miles. This march is an extraordinary one for men fresh from civil life and not inured to the hardships of military service. At Boonville, the regiment joined General Lyon's command on the 21st of June, where it remained until July 13th. On the 10th of August, General Lyon gave up his life on the battlefield at Springfield, or Wilson's Creek. The First Iowa Infantry rendered important service on this occasion. Immediately thereafter the regiment was ordered to St. Louis, where it was mustered out on the 21st of August. Practically all of the members of this regiment reenlisted for three years under subsequent call.

SECOND IOWA INFANTRY

In the Second Iowa Infantry, the first regiment mustered into the service of the United States under call for three years, were, so far as is known, no representatives from Butler county. Most of the men from this regiment came from the southeastern part of the state.

SECOND VETERAN INFANTRY

The Second Veteran Infantry, which was formed at the conclusion of the term of service of the former regiment, however, had several representatives from Butler county. As these volunteers had all of them a record of previous service in other regiments, their names will be found in connection with the history of those regiments.

THIRD IOWA INFANTRY

Most of the companies comprising the second and third regiments of Iowa Infantry were formed and had responded to the first call of President Lincoln for volunteers, but as only one regiment from Iowa could be accepted under that call, these companies were compelled to wait during the brief time before the

second call was issued. On the 17th of May, 1861, Governor Kirkwood received telegraphic communication informing him that two more regiments of volunteers were required from this state. He immediately ordered the ten companies, designated as the second regiment, to rendezvous at Keokuk on the 25th of May, and the companies in the third regiment at the same point on the 3d of June. So promptly were these orders obeyed that there was but little difference in the dates when they assembled at Keokuk. On the 10th of June the members of the Third Iowa Infantry were mustered into the service of the United States.

Butler county was represented in this regiment by a company under command of Capt. Matthew M. Trumbull. This company was mustered into service as Company I. On the 27th of June, seventeen days after the last company was mustered into service, the regiment was conveyed by steamer to Hannibal, Mo., whence it was transported by rail to Utica, Mo., where it went into camp. Here the regiment suffered much from sickness and up to the time when it first encountered the enemy in battle, its greatest loss had been by deaths from disease and the discharge of men who proved physically incapacitated to stand the hardships and exposure incident to a soldier's life.

The most important of the expeditions undertaken during the summer of 1861 was that against Kirksville. In comparison with later engagements of the war these were mere skirmishes but they served to satisfy the desire of these ardent young soldiers to meet the enemy in a general engagement. Lieutenant-Colonel Scott, who commanded the detachment consisting of about five hundred of the Third Iowa, which marched upon Kirksville, in his report of the battle states that he came upon the enemy's pickets at 2 A. M. on the morning of the 17th of July. About three o'clock in the afternoon he discovered the enemy in force, concealed upon both sides of the road. The enemy opened a heavy fire which drove back Union skirmishers and in the attack which followed the Federal artillery suffered so heavily that their only piece—a brass six-pounder—was left without sufficient force to man it. Some of the gunners abandoned the position and could not be rallied. The enemy kept up a heavy fire and as the artillery was useless and many of the officers and men disabled, it was deemed advisable to fall back, which was done slowly, and the six-pounder was brought off by hand, through the gallantry of Captain

Trumbull and other officers and men of the Third Iowa after it had been entirely abandoned by the artillerists.

The heaviest loss was sustained by Company I, which lost four killed and twenty wounded—one-fourth of the total loss. This company was the one referred to above as having been very largely recruited from Butler county, which was commanded by Captain Trumbull, who was mentioned for gallantry in the report of the battle. Lieut. John P. Knight, first lieutenant of this company, although not a resident of Butler county, was wounded three times but refused to retire from the field, and remained with his men until the close of the engagement.

That this battle ended in defeat does not detract from the bravery of its officers and men. They were greatly outnumbered and it is greatly to the credit of the commander and the best possible evidence of the coolness and courage of the men that the regiment was able to extricate itself from its perilous position and retire from the field in good order. A few days after this battle this detachment of the Third Iowa rejoined General Sturgis at Kansas City. Here the Third Iowa was again reunited but on account of the large number of men on the sick list it was deemed best to give it a change of location and an opportunity to rest and recruit. It was therefore ordered to Quincy, Ill., where it went into camp and enjoyed a season of rest. In November, 1861, the regiment was transported to St. Louis, Mo., and went into quarters at Benton Barracks. From here it was sent to guard the line of the Northern Missouri Railroad, where it remained until the 3d of March, 1862, much to the regret of its officers and men who chafed from the lack of opportunity to take part in the campaign which General Grant had waged against Forts Henry and Donelson. The regiment was ordered to Cairo, Ill., from which point it proceeded up the Ohio and Tennessee and joined General Grant's army at Pittsburg Landing on the 17th of March, 1862. Here the regiment was assigned to the first brigade of the fourth division of the Army of the Tennessee, under command of Gen. S. A. Hurlbut. The brigade was commanded by Colonel Williams of the Third Iowa, while Maj. W. M. Stone was in command of the regiment in the absence of Lieutenant-Colonel Scott, who was sick.

On the morning of April 6, 1862, the great battle of Shiloh was begun. The Third Iowa, with the other troops of its brigade and division, moved rapidly to the front and was soon engaged with the enemy. Colonel Williams had his horse shot from under him

early in battle and was entirely disabled for further duty. Late in the afternoon, Major Stone, the regimental commander, had his horse shot from under him and was stunned by the fall. Capt. M. M. Trumbull, commander of the Butler county company, then took command of the regiment, which had become separated from its brigade. Upon reaching its own camp ground, the regiment again faced the enemy but found itself in the desperate situation of being nearly surrounded. It again retired, fighting its way through its own camp in which many of its men were killed and wounded, one of the latter being the gallant Captain Trumbull. The casualties among the officers was so great that only seven lieutenants remained upon duty, First Lieut. G. W. Crosley being the ranking officer in command of the regiment, which continued to fight its way to the rear until about 5.30 in the evening it formed on the right of the Thirteenth Iowa in the line of last resistance. After dark the regiment rejoined its brigade and on the morning of the 7th again went into action and fought until the close of the battle that day.

The next day the dead were collected from the field where they had fallen and were buried near the regimental camp with the honors of war. Among these martyrs in the cause of liberty was Stephen De Witt, a resident of Clarksville, a private of Company I, who was killed on the battlefield on the afternoon of April 6th. He is buried in the Shiloh National Cemetery at Pittsburg Landing. Capt. M. M. Trumbull, though still suffering from his wound, took command of the regiment shortly after the battle and wrote the official report, including a list of the wounded and missing. In summary it is as follows: "Killed, 23; wounded, 134; captured by the enemy, 30; total, 187 out of 560 engaged. Of the captured, nearly all were wounded. Sixteen of the wounded who were not captured died of their wounds in the hospital, increasing the death list of the total to 39. The total loss was one-third of the number engaged."

Captain Trumbull in his report says: "The regiment went into battle on the second day under the command of First Lieut. G. W. Crosley, of Company E, and as I am well assured, nobly maintained the honor of the flag. Should I designate meritorious officers I should have to name nearly every officer in the regiment. I think, however, none will feel envious if I especially mention Lieutenant Crosley. I desire to call the attention of the general commanding the division to the gallantry and good conduct of

Sergt. James F. Lakin, of Company F, who carried the colors on the first day, and of Corp. Anderson Edwards, of Company I, who carried the colors on the second day of the battle.”

Anderson Edwards was a resident of Clarksville and had enlisted on May 20, 1861. He was slightly wounded in the first day's battle, but as indicated above, acted as color sergeant in the second day's fight. He was later promoted fourth sergeant in July, 1863. At the expiration of his term of service he reenlisted in the Third Veteran Infantry, and still later in the Second and Third Veteran Infantry Consolidated. He was promoted second lieutenant Jan. 6, 1865, and mustered out July 12th at Louisville, Ky.

Of the part of the division to which the Third Iowa belonged, played in this battle, Gen. Hurlbut says in his order, thanking the survivors for their good conduct during the battle: “Let this division remember that for five hours on Sunday it held under the most terrific fire, the key point of the left of the army and only fell back when flanked by overwhelming masses of the enemy, pressing through points abandoned by our supports. Let them remember that when they fell back it was in good order and that the last line of resistance in the rear of the heavy guns was formed by this division. Let them remember that on the morning of Monday, without food and without sleep, they were ordered forward to reinforce the right and that wherever either brigade of this division appeared upon the field, they were in time to support broken flanks and hold the line. Keep these facts before your memories to hand down to your children when we conquer a peace and let it be the chief pride of every man of this command, as it is of your general, that he was at Shiloh with the fighting fourth division.”

More space has been given to the account of this battle than will be possible to be devoted to other engagements of the Civil war. This has been done, however, not only because the battle of Shiloh was one of the most important of the whole Civil war, but chiefly because of the glorious part which was played in it by the men of Company I, who came from Butler county.

Following the battle of Shiloh the regiment performed its share of the service in the advance upon Corinth and was later quartered at Memphis. In the fall of 1862, with the other regiments of the fourth division, it entered upon another long and arduous campaign. A number of battles were fought, in which

the Third Infantry bore a most conspicuous part. During this time the regiment was under command of the brave and intrepid Captain Trumbull. In the battle at the bridge over the Hatchie river, the regiment crossed the bridge under heavy fire, formed in line of battle under the fire of the enemy and charged up a steep hill and drove the enemy from a strong position on its crest. In this battle Lieut. John G. Scoby, of Shell Rock, who had been promoted from first sergeant, received special mention for bravery and efficiency. Corp. Anderson Edwards again bravely bore the colors of the regiment and seemed gifted with a charmed life, receiving special mention.

In October, 1862, Capt. M. M. Trumbull was promoted to lieutenant colonel. He served in this position only until November 20th, when he resigned to accept promotion as colonel of the Ninth Cavalry. During the winter of 1863 the regiment remained stationed at Moscow, Tenn. In the following year they took part in the Vicksburg campaign, following the surrender of Vicksburg were ordered to Jackson, Miss., and took a most important part in the siege of that city.

Here the Third Infantry suffered a most disastrous loss. It is the saddest chapter in the history of the regiment, which may be well compared with the charge of the Light Brigade which Tennyson has immortalized in verse. Like the soldiers of the noble sixteen hundred at Balaklava, they knew "that some one had blundered," but "theirs not to reason why; theirs but to do or die." The regiment went into this battle with 223 enlisted men. Of this number it lost 114—fifty per cent of the number engaged. No official investigation was ever made. The division commander, J. G. Lauman, gave the command for its disastrous charge as it was received by him from the corps commander, Maj.-Gen. E. O. C. Ord. The men of the brigade had implicit faith in General Lauman and believed he gave the order as it was given him. On the evening of that fatal day, only a little more than a full company of effective men answered the roll call. The regiment now returned to Vicksburg, whence it was ordered to Natchez, Miss., where it remained until early in December. It was then reorganized as the Third Iowa Veteran Infantry.

A list of the officers and men of this regiment who enlisted from Butler county follows:

FIELD AND STAFF OFFICERS

Lieutenant Colonel
Matthew M. Trumbull, Clarksville

Quartermaster Sergeant
Edward H. Mix, Shell Rock

COMPANY I

Captain
Matthew M. Trumbull, Clarksville

First Lieutenant
John G. Seoby, Shell Rock

Sergeants
Anderson Edwards, Clarksville; E. H. Mix, Shell Rock
Isaac M. Henderson, Shell Rock

Corporals
John Booram, Butler County; William Burdick, Clarksville
James Buel, Clarksville; Charles E. Turner, Shell Rock

Privates

Bishop, Alfred H., Clarksville	Merrifield, Willis H., Clarksville
Clousky, Joseph S., Clarksville	Mix, Thomas M., Clarksville
Colton, or Cotton, Charles M., Shell Rock	Myers, Campbell, Shell Rock
Cotton, Gaylord M., Shell Rock	Parks, G. W., Shell Rock
Crosby, Spencer S., Shell Rock	Pauly, Charles, Clarksville
DeWitt, Stephen, Clarksville	Robinson, Albert, Clarksville
Filkins, William, Willoughby	Trobridge, Samuel, Clarksville
Forney, Abraham, Clarksville	Warner, Asa H., Clarksville
Gitchell, William, Clarksville	Warner, William E., Clarksville
Gilbert, T. G., Clarksville	Wilcox, Alfred M., Shell Rock
McElvaney, J. R., Butler Center	Wilcox, Jesse B., Shell Rock
Martin, Henry, Clarksville	Wilcox, John, Shell Rock
	Winship, James W., Shell Rock

SEVENTH IOWA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

There appear to have been no enlistments in the Fourth, Fifth or Sixth Iowa Infantry Regiments from Butler county. The

Seventh Infantry, however, had one company, B, in which a number of Shell Rock boys enlisted. This regiment assembled at Burlington and was mustered into service of the United States between July 23 and August 2, 1861. Col. Jacob G. Lauman, who has been mentioned in connection with the history of the third regiment above, was its first colonel. Company B, in which the Butler county soldiers enlisted, was largely recruited in Chickasaw county. Its officers were: Captain, Gideon Gardner, New Hampton; first lieutenant, Robert G. Reinigar, Charles City; and second lieutenant, George W. S. Dodge, Bradford.

Four days after the last company had been mustered, the regiment was ordered to St. Louis. After remaining in Jefferson Barracks for a short time they went to Pilot Knob and thence to Ironton, where it remained in quarters about two weeks. About the first of September it began its first campaign. On November 6th the regiment, with others under the command of Gen. U. S. Grant, took part in the battle of Belmont. In this engagement the Confederate troops were driven from their camp. Later, having been reinforced, they returned and attacking the Union troops, subjected them to a heavy fire which forced them to retire. During this retreat Lieutenant Dodge, of Company B, was killed.

In his official report, Gen. U. S. Grant says: "The Seventh Iowa behaved with great gallantry and suffered more severely than any other of the troops." Of the total loss sustained by the two brigades in battle, the Seventh Iowa sustained nearly one-half. Of this battle another writer has said: "It seems almost incredible that these untrained troops fighting their first battle and led by regimental and company officers, without military training or experience, should have acquitted themselves when under fire for the first time as well as in any of the subsequent battles in which they were engaged and in all of which they nobly maintained the honor of the state which sent them into the field."

Another notable feature of the battle of Belmont was the fact that it was the first in which General Grant had command of the Union troops and his first opportunity to demonstrate his fitness and capacity to command. After this battle the regiment was sent to Benton Barracks near St. Louis, where it enjoyed a brief season of rest and made up some of its losses by recruiting. On the 30th of January, 1862, the regiment left St. Louis to join the army under General Grant and took part in the capture of Forts Henry and Donelson. The Second Iowa was given the post of

honor in leading the final charge on Fort Donelson but was gallantly supported by the Seventh Regiment. The loss of the regiment in this battle was not as severe as in many other engagements, owing to this fact. The regiment took part in the battle of Shiloh and in the advance upon Corinth, bearing its full share of duties, dangers and hardships. On the 3d and 4th of October the Confederate force made a desperate attempt to recapture Corinth. In this battle the Seventh Iowa Regiment took a prominent part. Company B was in the thick of the fight. Captain Reinigar, who had been promoted from lieutenant on Sept. 1, 1862, on the resignation of Captain Gardner, was mentioned in the report of the battle made by Colonel Rice, who was in command of the regiment in this engagement. More than one-third of the regiment were killed or wounded in this battle. So many of the officers and men had been killed or had died of disease, the total loss to Oct. 4, 1862, being 422 officers and men, that an order was issued withdrawing the regiment for the time being from active service until the spring of 1863. The regiment saw some active service during this year and finally went into winter quarters at Pulaski, Tenn., November, 1863. In December, three-fourths of the men reenlisted and were given a furlough of thirty days, furnished transportation to Keokuk, Iowa, and from that place to their respective homes. In February, the regiment was reassembled, together with a large number of recruits. During this year they took part in Sherman's campaign against Atlanta, Ga., and later in the famous march to the sea. From Savannah they marched northward with Sherman's troops to Washington and on the 24th day of May, 1865, the Seventh Iowa Infantry wheeled into its place in the line of the grand army that marched down that broad avenue of the nation's capital and passed in review for the last time. Its days of fighting were over. It was later sent to Louisville, Ky., where on the 12th day of July, 1865, it was mustered out of service.

Butler county members of this regiment were as follows:

COMPANY B

Sergeant

William L. Palmer, Shell Rock

Corporal

John Adair, Shell Rock

Privates

Campbell, James, Shell Rock	Myers, Joseph R., Shell Rock
Cotton, Theodore L., Shell Rock	Porter, Abel G., Shell Rock
Dunham, Alfred G., Shell Rock	Senior, Charles V., Shell Rock
Mason, William H., Shell Rock	Wilson, Alvin M., Shell Rock

EIGHTH IOWA INFANTRY

The Eighth Iowa was organized in accordance with a proclamation of the President, dated July 23, 1861. The companies assembled at Davenport, where they were mustered into the service of the United States by Sept. 4, 1861. The regiment experienced some desultory campaigning in the earlier part of its term of service, operating in Missouri and Kansas. In March, 1862, the regiment was ordered to St. Louis and from there conveyed by boat to Pittsburg Landing, Tenn. On its arrival there it was assigned to the Third Brigade of the Second Division of the Army of the Tennessee. Under command of Brig.-Gen. W. H. L. Wallace in this great battle, the Eighth Iowa rendered conspicuous and important service and suffered a correspondingly great loss.

Col. J. L. Geddes, of Vinton, Benton county, was in command of the regiment in this battle. After a desperate and terrific conflict, during which the fire of the enemy's artillery was concentrated upon this regiment, the Eighth Iowa with other regiments of the division, was forced to retire. About 6 p. m. of the first day the major portion of this regiment was captured. There were six regiments in the brigade. Of the total loss in this battle the Eighth Iowa lost 493.

Of its action on this occasion the following quotation speaks: "The truth of history demands that the credit of saving the day for the Union army at Shiloh be given its gallant regiments, three of them from Iowa, who stood their ground without hope of reinforcement and with the full knowledge that it was only a question of time when they would be completely surrounded by overwhelming numbers and compelled to surrender. To concede this honor is no discredit to the gallant men who, profiting by the delay thus afforded, rallied behind the concentrated Union artillery and hurled death and destruction upon the advancing columns of the enemy and at last turned what seemed certain defeat into victory."

Almost the entire number of the Eighth Iowa Infantry who had escaped being killed, were captured and entered upon a long and weary term of imprisonment, during which many of them died. The surviving prisoners were paroled on the 18th of October and exchanged on the 10th of November, 1862. During the winter of 1862-3 the regiment was reorganized at St. Louis and assigned to the Fifteenth Army Corps commanded by Gen. W. T. Sherman. They participated in the Vicksburg campaign and in the campaign against General Johnston around Jackson, Miss.

Of this period of regimental operations Colonel Geddes says in his official report: "From the 2d of May to the 25th of July we marched without tents or transportation over three hundred miles, engaged the enemy at Vicksburg, twice at Jackson and at Brandon, and though during the operations of this ever memorable campaign, both officers and men of the regiment suffered much exposure and hardship of a very trying character, they endured it all without a murmur and with a fortitude which elicited the unreserved commendations of the commanding general."

Following this campaign, the division to which the Eighth Iowa belonged was engaged in guarding a line of railroad until January, 1864. The term of service having expired, about three-fourths of the men reenlisted as veterans. In February, 1864, the regiment participated in the Meridian campaign. Thereafter the regiment was divided, the veterans being permitted to go home on furlough and the non-veterans taking part in the Red River campaign. Later the regiment was reorganized as the Eighth Veteran Volunteers. The remainder of its service was doing garrison and guard duty at different points in the south. The regiment was finally mustered out, April 20, 1866, having served a little over four years and eight months. It was the last Iowa regiment to be mustered out of the service. Most of the Butler county members of this regiment enlisted in the latter years of the war. A number of them were transferred from companies in the Thirty-second, in which they had previously enlisted. Following are the names of the Butler county soldiers who were members of this regiment:

COMPANY B

Bonwell, Shadrach, Butler Costlow, Thomas, Butler
county. county.

COMPANY C

Albright, county.	Elias D.,	Butler	Jones, Henry O., Shell Rock. Mix, William N., Shell Rock.
Campbell, county.	James E.,	Butler	Ohmstead, O. P., New Hartford. Peck, Josiah, New Hartford.
Copeland, Rock.	George R.,	Shell	Williams, William H., Shell Rock.

COMPANY D

Dobbins, county.	George W.,	Butler	Goodhue, James M., Butler county.
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COMPANY E

Needham, Edward E., Butler county.

COMPANY G

Bishop, Harvey A., Clarksville.	Muffley, William, Butler county.
Lenhart, Washington, Butler county.	Murray, Daniel, Butler county. Whitted, Lewis J., Butler county.
Maynard, Curtis, Butler county.	
Miller, James M., Butler county.	

COMPANY H

Beecher, Albert R., New Hartford.

COMPANY I

Bourquin, Louis, New Hartford.

COMPANY K

Beebe, Eli H., Butler county.

NINTH INFANTRY

A few Butler county volunteers enlisted in the Ninth Regiment Iowa Infantry. They are as follows:

COMPANY D

Manwarin, Emery, Butler county.

COMPANY E

Hanstad or Hemstad, Herman, Butler Center.

COMPANY G

Larue, Francis, Butler county. Myers, John M., Shell Rock.
Leverich, Willard, Shell Rock.

COMPANY I

Considine, Patrick, Butler Cen- ter	Inman, Frank E., Butler Cen- ter
Inman, Chester W., Butler Cen- ter	Porenpile, James H., Butler Center
Inman, Daniel W., Butler Cen- ter	

So far as is known there were no Butler county soldiers in the Tenth and Eleventh Regiments of Infantry.

TWELFTH INFANTRY

One company of the Twelfth Infantry, Company E, was raised by William Haddock, of Waterloo, who recruited a number of members for this company in and around Butler Center. This regiment was mustered into the United States service at Dubuque, between October 17th and November 25th, 1861. Three days after the last company was mustered, the regiment left Dubuque and proceeded to St. Louis, Mo. It was then ordered to proceed to Cairo, Ill., where it was placed under the orders of General Grant. It took part in the Fort Henry and Fort Donelson campaign, in which on the 15th of February it suffered its greatest loss.

In his official report Col. J. J. Wood says: "Every commissioned officer of the regiment performed his duty without flinching. The same may be said of the non-commissioned officers and privates, with a few exceptions."

In the battle of Shiloh this regiment formed a part of the division of Gen. W. H. L. Wallace, the division composed of the Second, Seventh, Twelfth and Fourteenth Regiments of Iowa Infantry, which was destined to save the day for the Union army on Sunday, April 6, 1862. In the report of this battle particular mention is made of Captain Haddock as having performed well his part. The colonel says: "Non-commissioned officers and men stood bravely up to their work and never did men behave

better. At the close of this first day's fight the regiment had lost many officers by being either killed or wounded, the command devolving on a captain. The enemy so closely surrounded the regiment that to have held out longer would have been to suffer complete annihilation. It was therefore compelled to surrender. It is no disparagement to any of the other regiments who participated in this extreme battle to say that the service rendered by the brigade, to which the Twelfth belonged, which included also the Eighth and Fourteenth Iowa, which stemmed the tide of battle at the front, with the victorious enemy on both flanks pushing the remainder of General Grant's army to its last line of resistance, was of transcendent importance in deciding the fortune of that first day's battle."

Afterward the remnants of the brigade were consolidated into an organization known as the Union Brigade. The Twelfth Iowa had an aggregate of only seventy-five men—three commissioned officers and seventy-two men—when it was assigned to the Union Brigade. This detachment of the Twelfth was under command of Lieut. David B. Henderson, who rendered important service during the advance upon and siege of Corinth. Among the wounded were D. B. Henderson, who lost his left leg. Lieutenant Henderson was later promoted colonel of another infantry regiment and subsequent to the Civil war served the people of the third congressional district of Iowa as its representative in Congress.

About half of the regiment who had been captured at Shiloh were paroled and sent to St. Louis, Mo., to await the exchange. The rest remained in prison during the summer and fall. Many died in prison and many were incapacitated for further service. They were finally sent to Libby prison, in Richmond, Va., and finally paroled on the 20th of November, 1862. Among the soldiers of the Twelfth who were confined in Libby prison was G. Hazlet, a member of Company C, from Fayette county, who, subsequent to the Civil war, was for nearly forty years a resident of Butler county.

In the winter of 1862-3 the regiment was reorganized and in the following year took part in the Vicksburg campaign and later still in the Red River campaign. In 1864 the regiment took part in the campaign against the Confederate General Price in Arkansas and in the latter part of that year it repeated its splendid fighting record in the battle of Nashville. In the spring of

1865 it took part in the operations against Mobile. During the remainder of that year it did garrison duty in the south and was not mustered out of the service of the United States until the 20th of January, 1866, at Memphis, Tenn. Butler county soldiers in this regiment were as follows:

COMPANY E

Sergeants

Jeremiah Margretz, Butler Center
Harvey Smith, Jr., Willoughby Center

C. V. Surfus, Boylan's Grove

Corporals

E. R. Bird, Butler Center; J. C. Stewart, Butler Center

Privates

Ahrens, John, Boylan's Grove	Hoisington, Hiram, Butler Center
Beckwith, William H., Butler Center	Hoisington, John, Butler Center
Bird, R. L., Butler Center	Hubbard, George, Butler Center
Bird, W. O., Shell Rock	Johnson, Charles, Butler Center
Boylan, Thomas, Boylan's Grove	Mason, George, Butler Center
Carter, John B., Clarksville	Myers, Alexander, Shell Rock
Davis, Samuel, Shell Rock	Pomeroy, William L., Butler county
DeMoss, James, Boylan's Grove	Spears, William, Butler county
DeMoss, Thomas, Boylan's Grove	Strong, Nelson, Boylan's Grove
Early, T. M., Boylan's Grove	Williams, Philo, Butler county

COMPANY K

De Witt, Reuben A., Shell Rock

FOURTEENTH IOWA INFANTRY

The organization of the Fourteenth Iowa Infantry was attended by circumstances which were somewhat peculiar. Three of the

ten companies assigned to it by Governor Kirkwood—Companies A, B and C—were ordered to go into quarters at Iowa City on dates ranging from the 1st to the 7th of October, 1861, and they were there mustered into the service of the United States by the 25th of October. Seven companies, D to K, inclusive, were ordered into quarters at Davenport and were mustered into the service by the 6th of November, 1861. By order of the war department, Companies A, B and C were transferred to the Forty-first Regiment of Iowa Infantry and sent to Fort Randall, Dakota territory, to operate against the Indians. To fill the vacancy thus occasioned three new companies were organized, which were later known as A, B and C. The new Companies A and B did not join the regiment until the end of its first year's service and the new Company C did not become a part of the regiment until June, 1863. The original Company A of the Fourteenth contained a number of Butler county recruits. They are commonly given as members of the Forty-first Infantry, to which these companies were transferred. However, as their first enlistment was in the Fourteenth, their names are given below in connection with this regiment. The new Company C was recruited in this section of the state, and as will be noted in the list below, contained a large number of Butler county soldiers.

At first the service of the Fourteenth Infantry refers to that of Companies D to K, inclusive. The regiment comprising these companies took part in the Fort Henry and Fort Donelson campaign, formed a part of the division of Gen. W. H. L. Wallace at Shiloh, and were with the other regiment of the division when it surrendered as prisoners of war the evening after the first day's fight. The total loss of the seven companies engaged in the battle of Shiloh were 273 killed, wounded and captured. It can justly be claimed by its heroic commander, Colonel Shaw, that no more efficient and important service was performed by Union troops than upon that heroic battlefield. The survivors of the regiment were consolidated into the Union Brigade, which they served with credit until the regiment was exchanged and reorganized.

The service of the reorganized regiment was in connection with General Bank's Red river campaign. On the 10th of March, 1864, the regiment left Vicksburg for the mouth of the Red river. The capture of Fort DeRussey was a brilliant and remarkable military exploit. Special mention is made in the report of the conduct of the Fourteenth Iowa which led the advance in attack

upon this fort. From Fort DeRussey the brigade proceeded to Alexandria and thence it proceeded to Pleasant Hill, La. Of the total loss of 753 sustained in the battle of Pleasant Hill by the five brigades which took part in the engagement, the brigade commanded by Colonel Shaw of the Fourteenth Iowa, lost 484.

After returning to Vicksburg the regiment enjoyed a brief rest, then moved up the river where it took an important part in the expedition, participating in the battles of Tupelo and Town Creek, Miss. Its subsequent service was largely by detachments but in every instance the service was performed with honor. In November, 1864, the regiment was conveyed to Davenport, Iowa, where it was mustered out. A number of reenlisted men and recruits formed what was known as the Residuary Battalion of the Fourteenth Iowa, but before it could be sent to the front its service was no longer required for active duty.

It has been said of this regiment: "The record of service of the Fourteenth Regiment of Iowa Volunteers is one of the best. Its survivors can justly claim that during the long years in which they marched and fought and suffered, they never wavered in their devotion to their Government and its flag. Their children and children's children may well be proud of the legacy of heroism they have inherited. The writer extends a soldier's greeting to the survivors of the old Fourteenth Iowa and on behalf of the state which has made provision for the preservation of this record extends greeting to the families and relatives of those whose memory they cherish and honor and who will ever be commended as an example and inspiration to all loyal and liberty loving people of the state."

A list of soldiers in the Fourteenth follows:

COMPANY A

Sergeant

E. C. Bristol, New Hartford

Privates

Barker, Albert C., Swanton	McClane, Campbell, New Hart-
Dailey, Anthony, Butler county	ford
Gilbert, James M., Clarksville	Mann, Isaac B., New Hartford
Leffler, Godfrey, Parkersburg	

Smith, Benjamin F., Boylan's Grove
 Smith, Orrin C., Boylan's Grove
 Wemple, Philip, Parkersburg

Smith, Isaac A., Willoughby

This company was later transferred to the Forty-first Infantry.

COMPANY C

First Lieutenant

John Braden, Butler Center

Second Lieutenant

William Stoughton, Shell Rock

Sergeants

Henry Beckwith, Shell Rock; A. A. Cook, Butler Center
 Valentine Spaur, Clarksville

Corporals

Miles Chitester, Butler county	Thomas L. Cotton, Shell Rock
Henry P. Considine, Butler county	Frank E. Inman, Butler Center
D. B. Henderson, Butler county	John H. Margretz, Butler Center
Thomas C. Wetsel, Butler county	

Privates

Bird, Eli, Butler Center	Halstad, William R., Butler county
Boylan, Cornelius, Clarksville	McAllester, Asahel P., Shell Rock
Boylan, William H., West Point	Myers, Uriah, Butler county
Butger, George, Butler county	Stuart, Charles, Butler county
Couch, Manderville, Butler county	Wetsel, James T., Butler county
Cummins, John R., Butler county	Winchell, Lyford H., Shell Rock
Dawson, Martin, Butler county	

FIFTEENTH IOWA INFANTRY

COMPANY H

Allen, David C., Union Ridge	Park, John M., Boylan's Grove
Allen, James W., Union Ridge	Webster, Wheeler R., Union Ridge
Bartholomew, Ezra, Boylan's Grove	

EIGHTEENTH IOWA INFANTRY
COMPANY H

Corporal
E. B. Brown

TWENTY-FIRST IOWA INFANTRY
COMPANY A

Sergeants
Daniel Haine, Aaron Moss

Corporal
Ransom H. Gile

Privates

Hall, William
Hart, Francis
Inman, Walter

Moss, Jacob
Sturtz, Jacob

THIRTY-SECOND INFANTRY

Two full companies of the Thirty-second Infantry were recruited in Butler county. These were Companies E and G, captained by **John R. Jones**, of Shell Rock, and **C. A. L. Roszell**, of Clarksville. The companies comprising this regiment were recruited in the summer and early fall of 1862. They rendezvoused at Dubuque, where on the 6th of October they were mustered into the service of the United States. **John Scott**, of Story county, was colonel and **E. H. Mix**, of Shell Rock, lieutenant colonel.

In November, 1862, the regiment left for St. Louis, where they remained a few days, when six companies under Colonel Scott proceeded to New Madrid, Mo., and the remaining four companies under Maj. **G. A. Eberhart**, of Blackhawk county, went down the river to Cape Girardeau. This separation of the regiment continued until the spring of 1864 and was the prolific cause of annoyance and extra labor. Of the Butler county companies, E remained with the detachment under Colonel Scott and G with that of Major Eberhart.

In the spring of 1863 Major Eberhart's detachment operated against the Confederate General Marmaduke in and around Cape

Girardeau. Here on the 24th of April they were with the other troops, comprising General McNeil's command invested by a force of 10,000 Confederate troops under Marmaduke. A flag of truce with a demand for unconditional surrender was sent to the Union commander and he was given thirty minutes for decision. General McNeil sent back a flat refusal in one minute and requested a credit of twenty-nine minutes from the Confederate general. The attack, however, did not commence until the morning of the 26th, when reinforcements under General Vandever ran down the river, forcing the Confederates to retire.

In July the detachment was joined to the Reserve Brigade of the First Cavalry Division, Department of Missouri, and participated in the memorable march which terminated in the capture of Little Rock, Ark. In August they took part in the expedition up the White river, marching and fighting through scorching heat, marching over parched ground with the air at times filled with flying dust. Reaching a stagnant lake, called Dead Man's lake, the men plunged into it and drank greedily of the filthy water, although it was covered with a green scum.

Hard marching, bad water and the intense heat of summer caused a great amount of sickness. When they reached Duval's Bluff, a small side-wheeled steamer came up the river and took on board a load of sick and wounded men. "Not a spot on that boat from the border deck to the hurricane deck but was covered with a sick man. Sick men were piled away on that hurricane deck in the broiling sun, wherever a man could be laid. Is it any wonder that on that run of about four hours, twenty-six men died on that boat—one of them a corporal of Company G—James H. Carter."

The rest of the month was spent in marching through the burning heat and torrential rain. The command had little or no rations except such as they managed to forage from the surrounding country. No sanitary or sutler supplies reached them and much of the ordinary soldier's fare was unfit for use. As one of the soldiers expressed it, "Much of the hard tack had *too much life.*"

Later the detachment was sent to Little Rock, where it was relieved for a time except of the care of its own sick. A number of the men died there. Yet Little Rock proved to be a very healthy place, and while there the company, considering its reduced condition, improved very rapidly. This Arkansas expedition was

one of the most destructive of life of any campaign in the war. General McPherson, medical director, afterwards said at Vicksburg that the sending of the four companies through on that campaign to keep up with the cavalry was a burning shame, one of the outrages of the war.

They remained at Little Rock until the middle of October and then removed to Benton, twenty-five miles distant. They then returned to Little Rock, where they remained until January, 1864, when they were ordered to report to Brig.-Gen. A. J. Smith, at Vicksburg.

In the meantime, the six companies under Colonel Scott had proceeded from New Madrid to Fort Pillow, where they remained on garrison duty for nearly six months. The command embarked for Columbus, Ky., went into camp and there the regimental headquarters remained for seven months, Colonel Scott being commander of the post most of the time. In July this portion of the regiment was divided into detachments, Company E being placed at Fort Quimby, not far from Columbus. The other companies located at scattering points in the vicinity. From this on until January, 1864, the history of most of these detachments is devoid of particular interest. In January, 1864, the six companies again assembled and embarked for Vicksburg. Later they were assigned to the second brigade, having seen practically no active service and none whatever as a command.

It is probable there was not a single organization in the whole army under Major-General Sherman that welcomed the opportunity of active service as gladly as did these companies of the Thirty-second. On their return from Vicksburg they found Major Eberhart and his four companies, and the whole regiment was joined, the first time since the 1st of November, 1862.

Shortly thereafter the regiment was ordered to the Department of the Gulf and took part in the disastrous Red river campaign. In this campaign the Thirty-second suffered more severely perhaps than any of the other regiments. It formed a part of Gen. A. J. Smith's command, which left Vicksburg on March 9th, on transports, accompanied by gun boats. At the mouth of the Red river this fleet was joined by Admiral Porter with a large fleet, including several ironclads. The fleet disembarked from the transports at Semmesport and immediately commenced the march on Fort DeRussey. In the assault the Thirty-second was on the right

and it was the men on the right who took the fort, as the Confederate prisoners afterwards said.

From Fort DeRussey they embarked for Alexandria, at which point General Smith formed a junction with the column that had marched up from New Orleans. On the 7th of April it took part in the battle of Pleasant Hill, where the brigade to which it belonged, commanded by Colonel Shaw, belonging to the Fourteenth Iowa, stood the brunt of the fight, being longer in battle and fighting longer than any other in the hardest of the contest, the last to leave the field, and losing three times as many officers and men as any brigade engaged.

In his report of the battle, Gen. A. J. Smith says: "Of Colonel Scott, Thirty-second Iowa, it is sufficient to say that he showed himself worthy to command the Thirty-second Iowa Infantry—a regiment which, after having been entirely surrounded and cut off from the rest of the command, with nearly one-half its number killed or wounded, among them many of the best and prominent officers, forced its way through the enemy's lines and was again in line, ready and anxious to meet the foe, in less than thirty minutes." No regiment ever fought with a sublimer courage than did the Thirty-second on the battlefield of Pleasant Hill. Its heroism and sacrifices were worthy of a better fate than a retreat from the scene of its splendid daring and glory.

In this engagement the regiment suffered the loss of its lieutenant colonel, E. H. Mix, a Butler county soldier, and many other officers and men were either killed or wounded. In all 210 officers and men were reported killed, wounded and missing after this battle.

As mentioned above, in connection with the history of the Fourteenth Iowa, Colonel Shaw's brigade, including the Thirty-second, covered the retreat of the army to Grand 'Ecore. Of the rear guard action at Bayou de Glaize, Colonel Shaw says: "To Colonel Gilbert, of the Twenty-seventh Iowa, Major Eberhart of the Thirty-second Iowa, Captain Crane of the Fourteenth Iowa, and their commands, is due the safety of the army. Had they failed to move in the position assigned them with less celerity or failed to hold it after taking it, our left in the rear would have been overwhelmed and never could have saved us, not even the fighting qualities of the Sixteenth Corps."

On the 10th of June the regiment reached Memphis, from which point it marched with General Smith's forces on the

First Lieutenant

Alonzo Converse

Second Lieutenant

John F. Wright

Sergeants

Marshall Kelley
 Samuel German
 Edward A. Glenn

William H. Guy
 Ovid Hare
 Samuel E. Hayden

Corporals

William M. Martin
 Wesley H. Long
 Robert Stanley
 Robert Inman

Alexander March
 Clark Speedy
 Albert O. Royce
 Jacob Hinkle

Musicians

William H. Burham

John Burham

Wagoner

Nathan Ohmstead

Privates

Ackerman, Lawrence
 Asprey, Joseph
 Albright, Elias D
 Broque, Mordecai B.
 Blackman, Anson
 Blass, John W.
 Blackman, E. W.
 Bolton, George
 Brookman, Albert H.
 Burgess, Eli S.
 Brannic, Francis
 Billhimer, Henry
 Kimmel, Bacheus F.
 Ketchem, William H.
 Leverich, James P.
 Langdon, John B.
 Lewis, Charles

Lewis, Wilbert L.
 March, William
 Mead, Rollins P.
 Mix, William N.
 Mix, Charles E.
 Newcomb, Orlando S.
 Needham, Edward E.
 Copeland, George R.
 Conner, John N.
 Codner, Oliver
 Codner, George G.
 Churchill, James N.
 Collins, Henry C.
 Clayton, Dow
 Dunning, Abram
 Dunning, William H.
 Dodge, Mordecai

Dickison, John	Olmstead, Oren P.
Ede, Richard T.	Putnam, Fletcher C.
Ferris, Theodore H.	Plummer, Daniel C.
Foster, Francis G.	Parriott, Jasper
Flood, William	Peck, Josiah
Griffith, John W.	Quimby, John
Hartman, Matthew	Quinn, James W.
Henderson, David M.	Roberts, Benjamin
Hedrick, Moses	Rockwell, Myron
Hannant, Robert	Royce, Amos O.
Howard, James N.	Sunner, John C.
Hall, Calvin	Sperry, James N.
Hites, Elijah	Sowash, George
Houck, Thomas	Stockdale, William
Hinkle, Jacob	Sperry, John
High, Isaac	Smith, James
Hough, Nehemiah R.	Thomas, Henry
Jones, Nathan	Turner, Jesse
Jones, Henry O.	Whitney, Samuel B.
Knight, Hinkley	Williams, William H.
Kimmel, George W.	Wilson, Ezra S.
Needham, Perrin O.	Wilcox, Austin
Olmstead, Robert L.	Wheeler, Solomon
Orvis, Franklin E.	Waters, Julius A.
Olmstead, Wallace W.	Williams, George H.
Olmstead, Theodore	Zelmer, George E.

COMPANY F

Champlin, William R.	Pierce, Moses
	Yaw, Marcellus

COMPANY G

Captain
Charles A. L. Roszell

First Lieutenant
Charles A. Bannon

Second Lieutenant

Daniel Haine

Sergeant

William Poisal

Corporals

John McCain

Daniel W. Kinsley

Emanuel Surfus

Roselle Kane

Uriah Farlow

George H. Burton

James Butler

Musician

Archison Wilson

Wagoner

J. Rush Brown

Privates

Anderson, Benjamin

Allen, Sylvester

Allen, William V.

Allen, George L.

Bishop, Harvey A.

Boon, Sylvester M.

Boon, Warren

Boon, Sidney W.

Boon, James H.

Burton, George H.

Bishop, William C.

Boggs, Albert

Babcock, Joseph

Brooks, Henry

Beetles, David

Clawson, Phineas

Cavo, William R.

Carter, James H.

Cline, Michael

Cosson, Wilbur C.

Clark, Mortimer O.

Clark, Daniel N.

Doty, Aaron

Harter, Aaron M.

Hardman, James L.

Kane, Roselle

Keller, Richard

Lenhart, John

Martin, John

Maffit, Apollos W.

Miller, Francis M.

Miller, Elias

Miller, James M.

Muffler, William

McClellan, George

Miller, George G.

Modlin, Isaac N.

Phillipi, Jehu

Phillipi, James M.

Poisal, George C.

Poisal, Hiram

Phillips, Joel

Smith, Henry	Graver, Seth H.
Straum, Jabez	Harrison, DeWitt C.
Sturtz, Solomon	Sturtz, Adam
Sturtz, Michael	Straum, Nicholas
Davis, Nathaniel W.	Swim, John D.
Dockstader, Josiah	Sheffer, James M.
Ellis, Andrew	Thomas, Charles N.
Forney, John C.	Upps, John
Farlow, George	Warner, Daniel D.
Farlow, Leander	Wamsley, Martin V.
Goodhue, James M.	Whitted, Oliver P.
Goodhue, S. Newell	Whitter, Baltzer

COMPANY H

Sergeant

James H. Hall

Privates

Beecher, Albert R.	Hesse, Stephen
Considine, Peter	Robinson, Solomon
	Yost, Josiah W.

THIRTY-EIGHTH INFANTRY

COMPANY B

Musician

Cassius P. Inman

FORTY-FIRST INFANTRY

Mention has been made of the Butler county enlistments in this regiment, in connection with the history of Company A of the Fourteenth Iowa Infantry. In addition to the names given there, one, that of Adam C. Pattee, a private, is given in connection with the Forty-first.

FORTY-FOURTH INFANTRY

In the Forty-fourth Infantry, a regiment of one hundred day men which was mustered into the service of the United States at Davenport, June 1, 1864, with Stephen H. Henderson as colonel,

Company E was recruited in Butler county and consisted largely of Butler county men. It was captained by H. F. L. Burton, of Clarksville. A list of its members is given below:

COMPANY E

Captain

H. F. L. Burton

Sergeants

Hiram W. Babcock
Edward Nutting

Orin F. Shaw
George A. Mead

Corporals

Amos G. Waters
William Farlow
Eliphalet W. Ensign

John C. Jerome
Milo E. Mather
Ezra Winslip
Willet A. Willis

Musicians

Henry F. Blakenship

George Adair

Wagoner

John L. Eddy

Privates

Ackerson, Joseph
Alexander, Frank E.
Colver, Walter J.
Dobbins, George P.
Edson, William
Fulsom, Lewis L.
Fague, Calvin J.
Goodhue, James M.
Guthrie, Thomas E.
Gilmore, Samuel
Hilton, Seth
Harmon, Charles R.
Hopkins, Harvey H.
Hunt, Hiram T.
Keuison, George

Kenison, Solvin S.
Low, Walter W.
Maxwell, John E.
Mather, Milo E.
Mills, Adrian D.
Orvis, Fletcher L.
Overacker, Ransom P.
Parthemer, Arthur A.
Porter, George L.
Spawn, Marion
Smith, Oliver J.
Scribner, John W.
Sturdevant, Harvey B.
Tibbles, James
Voltz, Ferdinand

Wright, Eugene A.
Wieser, Andrew
Wheeler, John

Walter, John W.
Willett, Aaron B.
Wilcox, Jacob

FORTY-SEVENTH INFANTRY
COMPANY E

Corporal
Leonidas L. Lush

THIRD BATTERY

In August, 1861, the Third Battery, more generally known as the Dubuque Battery, was organized in the city of Dubuque, with Capt. M. M. Hayden in command. The command distinguished itself at Pea Ridge. Afterward its principal battle was at Helena, where it won high praise. It was subsequently in the Arkansas campaign. Enlistments from Butler county were as follows:

Corporals

Seymour Brookman

Harvey Quinn

Musicians

Joseph Waters

Orvell O. Williams

Artificers

Zur H. Graves

William H. Bisbee

Privates

Baker, John N.

Hyde, Charles B.

Brookslan, Albert

Hall, Lewis G.

Brown, Andrew H.

Kelly, John F.

Clark, William H. H.

Martin, Charles S.

Daniels, Samuel A.

Maxwell, George W.

Davis, William W.

Owens, John D.

Dawson, William

Owens, Ludlow D.

Dockstader, L. F.

Owens, Chauncey F.

Folsom, Daniel

Overacker, Henry D.

Richardson, William H.
Wright, Samuel J.

Wells, Sidney H.
Yocum, Christopher

Veterans

Sergeants

Charles S. Martin

Hiland H. Weaver

Corporals

Nathan W. Aplington

William H. Main

Bugler

Joseph H. Waters

Privates

Brooksland, Albert
Bisbee, William H.
Folsom, Daniel

Hall, Lewis G.
Owen, John D.
Quinn, Harvey

“DEAD ON THE FIELD OF FAME”

The following list includes so far as possible all soldiers from Butler county who gave up their lives for their country on the battlefields, in prison pens, in hospitals, or in their homes, as a result of wounds or disease contracted in service. Words are empty things when by their use it is attempted to offer such heroes their just meed of praise and honor. It should be enough here to emblazon their names upon the roll of honor and to say of them all they are “dead on the field of fame.”

Mix, Lieutenant Colonel Edward H., killed in battle, April 9, 1864, at Pleasant Hill, Louisiana.

Braden, Lieutenant John, died of wounds at Rolla, Missouri, October 31, 1864.

Ahrens, John, died at Macon, Georgia, September 25, 1862.

Allen, Sylvester E., died September 26, 1863, at Brownsville, Arkansas.

Blackman, Anson, died March 3, 1865, at Nashville, Tennessee.

Boylan, Cornelius, died in Andersonville prison, September 21, 1864.

Burgess, Eli S., died March 7, 1863, at Fort Pillow, Tennessee.

Bird, William O., died at Macon, Georgia, September 29, 1862.

Booram, John, died June 29, 1862, at Corinth, Mississippi.

Blass, John W., killed in battle, April 9, 1864, at Pleasant Hill, Louisiana.

Burton, George H., killed April 9, 1864, at Pleasant Hill, Louisiana.

Boon, Sylvester M., died January 3, 1863, at Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Boon, James H., died September 26, 1863, at Little Rock, Arkansas.

Babeock, Joseph, died June 5, 1864, at Pleasant Hill, Louisiana.

Brooksland, Albert, died September 5, 1865, at Fort Smith.

Champlain, William R., died May 21, 1864, at Pleasant Hill, Louisiana, of wounds.

Clawson, Phineas, died June 5, 1864, at Memphis, Tennessee.

Considine, Peter, died at Keokuk, December 5, 1862, of typhoid fever.

Cook, H. D., died at Butler Center while home on furlough, January 12, 1864.

Cummins John R. died of wounds received in action at Pilot Knob, Missouri, October 25, 1864.

Cotton, Charles M., died in hospital.

DeWitt Stephen, killed April 6, 1862, at Shiloh, Tennessee, in battle.

Dodge, Mordecai, died March 5, 1864, at Columbus, Kentucky.

Daniels, Alfred, died March 2, 1864, at Benton Barracks, Missouri.

DeMoss, James, died October 10, 1862, at Corinth, Mississippi, of wounds.

Davis, William W., killed July 14, 1863.

Dockstader, Leonard T., died August 24, 1865, at Little Rock, Arkansas.

Ferris, Theodore H., died April 26, 1863, at Fort Pillow, Tennessee.

Farlow, Uriah, died July 1, 1864, at Cedar Falls.

Hoisington, Hiram, died in prison at Atlanta, Georgia, June 30, 1862.

Hodgson, Samuel, died May 7, 1865, at St. Louis, Missouri.

Hopkins, Harvey W., died at Memphis, Tennessee, September 19, 1864.

Halstead, William R., died July 8, 1864, at Memphis, Tennessee.

Henderson, David M., died March 12, 1865, at Davenport.

Hites, Elijah, killed April 9, 1864, at Pleasant Hill, Louisiana.
Hough, Nehemiah R., died June 4, 1864, at Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Hesse, Stephen, died February 9, 1863, at Fort Pillow, Tennessee.

Hubbard, George, died at Butler Center, May 12, 1862.

Inman, Cassius, died September 13, 1863, at New Orleans, Louisiana.

Inman, Frank E., died at Memphis, Tennessee, June 24, 1864.

Johnson, Charles, died of wounds received in battle of Shiloh, April 21, 1862.

Kelley, Marshall, died at New Madrid, December 21, 1862.

Kimmel, George W., died March 8, 1863, at Fort Pillow, Tennessee.

Kimmel, Zacheus F., died April 5, 1863, at Fort Pillow, Tennessee.

Leverich, Willard, killed March 7, 1862, at Pea Ridge.

Long, Wesley H., died April 27, 1864, at New Orleans, Louisiana.

Lewis, Charles, died September 16, 1864, at Tyler, Texas, while prisoner of war.

Lewis, Wilbert L., killed April 9, 1864, at Pleasant Hill, in battle.

Mason, George, died at St. Louis, January 25, 1862.

Martin, Henry, killed June 23, 1863, at Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Mix, Thomas M., killed September 17, 1861, at Blue Mills, Missouri.

Myers, John M., killed March 7, 1862, at Pea Ridge, Arkansas, in action.

Myers, Joseph R., killed in battle of Corinth, Mississippi, October, 1862.

Myers, Philip B., died of wounds received at Atlanta, Georgia, August 1, 1864.

McCain, John, died September 12, 1863, at Brownsville, Arkansas.

Miller, Elias G., died December 12, 1863, at Benton, Arkansas.

Miller, Francis M., died January 20, 1863, at Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Nutting, Edmond, died at Memphis, June 29, 1864.

Olmstead, Robert L., died April 20, 1864, at Pleasant Hill, Louisiana, of wounds.

Parks, George, died of wounds received at Matamora, Tennessee, October 18, 1862.

Parriott, Jasper, killed April 9, 1864, at Pleasant Hill, Louisiana.

Phillipi, Jehu, killed April 9, 1864, at Pleasant Hill, Louisiana.

Pauly, Charles, died of typhoid fever, Huntsville, Missouri, February 16, 1862.

Pieree Moses, died July 14, 1864, at Cairo, Illinois.

Spears, William, died of chronic diarrhoea, November 10, 1864, at Sedalia, Missouri.

Surfus, Emanuel, died at Camp Franklin, November 6, 1862.

Sheffer, James M., died July 8, 1864, at Memphis, Tennessee.

Smith, Isaae A., died March 10, 1865, at Spirit Lake.

Stoekdale William, died March 4, 1864, at Mound City, Illinois.

Smith, James, died July 24, 1863, at Columbus, Kentucky.

Sperry, James U., died February 8, 1864, at Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Swim, John B., killed April 9, 1864, at Pleasant Hill, Louisiana.

Sturtz, Solomon, died June 6, 1864, at Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Sturtz, Michael, died November 3, 1864, at Little Rock, Arkansas.

Sturtz, Adam, died May 22, 1864, at Pleasant Hill, Louisiana.

Sturdevant, Harvey B., died August 30, 1864, at Keokuk.

Thomas, Henry, died March 4, 1863, at Fort Pillow, Tennessee.

Winchell, Lyford, died at Shell Rock, Butler county, Iowa, November 12, 1863.

Wilson Ezra S., died May 19, 1863, at Fort Pillow, Tennessee.

Waters, Julius A., killed April 9, 1864, at Pleasant Hill, Louisiana.

Wamsley, Martin V., died June 26, 1864, at Tyler, Texas, while prisoner of war.

CHAPTER XVI

REMINISCENT

A very few settlers of the fifties are now living in Butler county; most of them have gone to their final rest. To meet the men and women who came here when the land was given over to wild beasts and scarcely less wild red men, and hear them by word of mouth describe the new country and detail their varied and remarkable experiences, is an event out of the usual course and one that never fails of interest to the historian. Of the small remnant of this band of hardy pioneers still remaining are Thomas Hunt and wife, of Clarksville, H. C. Brown, of Dumont, who came in 1867, and Mrs. Charlotte E. Levis and her sister, Miss Caroline Monroe, now living in Allison. These men and women were here when Butler county was in its infancy and have lived to witness the metamorphosis of the wild prairies into highly cultivated fields of grain, dotted hither and yon with beautiful residences and spacious outbuildings. They have lived to see busy little villages and towns grow up as if by magic, and the building of the first railroad in the county comes within the period of their residence here. They have told a part of the great story of the birth and growth of Butler county and the details are submitted to the reader of this volume.

THOMAS HUNT'S REMEMBRANCES

I came to Butler county from my old home in Trumbull county, Ohio, in 1854, locating on a quarter section of land in section 32, Butler township, which I had entered. I boarded with the Farlow family, which had located on section 17, and two years after my arrival I led to the altar Nancy, the daughter of Abner and Nancy Farlow, with whom I had made my home. I at once built a one-story frame house on my quarter section and began house-keeping with my bride, who is still at my side.

The Farlows arrived in Butler township soon after I came and began their prairie life in a cabin already built on the land, which they purchased of John Ray. In this log house we were married.

When I located in the township already established in their humble and primitive homes were Alfred Elam and family, who came from Indiana in 1853. Also Harlan Beard an old time friend from Kentucky and unmarried; he rose to the rank of colonel in the Civil war. There were also Malon and William Wamsley, of Ohio, Samuel McCreery, Walker Bishop and John Modlin from Indiana. About this time also located in the township Thomas Clark, Jeremiah Clark, Seth Hilton, Peter Spoor, John Armstrong, John Hicks and G. W. Poisal, all of whom had families. My brother, H. D. Hunt, also came in 1853 and I very much desired to come with him, but I didn't have enough money. When my brother returned to Ohio and then back to Iowa in 1854, I came with him. I should say here, however, that Morrison, William and Roby Taylor and Clement Burton were in the township and located as early as 1852.

There were only a few settlers who located in Butler township in 1855 and many of those who were here left through fear of the Indians.

John Heery, whom I knew well, entered the first land in Butler township. This was a quarter section on the edge of Clarksville and was taken up by Heery in 1852. John Heery was a native of Ireland and on coming to the United States first located in Wisconsin. He subsequently found himself in Dubuque, from which place he walked to this locality, carrying provisions on his back. He first stopped at Newells, who gave him so glowing a description of the country that he staked out a claim and a year thereafter, upon going to the land office at Dubuque, he found his patent already made out for him. On this land he built a log cabin and lived there four or five years. He then put up a more pretentious residence, which was his home until he passed away twenty or twenty-five years ago. Two sons still live on the old homestead; John, the eldest son, is a resident of Clarksville.

The Indian scare is treated in a rather facetious manner by Mr. Hunt. Of that widespread alarm, which culminated as a frontier will o' the wisp, he says:

I was working in Shell Rock at the time of the Indian scare in 1854. One evening my friend, Henry Sweitzer, and myself were spending the time with a couple of village belles, when a

man came to the door of the room in which we were sitting and caused a fearful commotion among the women, by exclaiming that the Indians had broken out at Clear Lake, were torturing and butchering every pale face they could find and were coming our way thirsting for more scalps. At the time there were three trappers at Clear Lake with families and they sent in a cry for help. Sweitzer and I volunteered our services with some eighteen or twenty others. Bullets were moulded and with our squirrel rifles we marched as far as Nora Junction, where we found an old trapper, Dan Whetsel, in his cabin. Here we stayed all night, most of which was passed in dancing. The next day the band of Indian slayers reached Clear Lake. Here the motley band was augmented by the arrival of men from Clarksville, Shell Rock and along the road. Superintendent of Schools Eads was made colonel of the Indian fighters, M. M. Trumbull, captain, and I was given the responsible duties of sergeant. The day was July 4th. Eads made a speech and the men fired the national salute. There being plenty of whisky in the crowd, some of the men got drunk and fired indiscriminately into the crowd. They had to be squelched.

The night of July 4th, guards were placed where most needed. Along toward morning a terrible thunder storm came on and the lightning was extremely vivid. This wakened everybody, and when the lightning flashed particularly brilliant, many imagined they could distinguish the "red devils" skulking behind trees and bushes. This made us all vigilant and kept us on the alert until morning. But daylight showed no sign of the expected savages and after we had taken a swim in the lake the troops were marched to Clarksville, and upon our arrival, we found the men of the village busily and frantically engaged in building a fort. They wanted myself and others to assist but I told them I was a warrior, and that warriors did not work.

The fort was never finished. It stood on the second block east of Main street and was made of logs. At this time there were only two or three families in Clarksville. One of them belonged to G. W. Poisal, who lived in a log cabin covered with sod. However, the great Indian scare, while it resulted from a canard, has lived all these years in the history of Butler and other counties, and no detailed story of the county is considered complete without some mention of the incident. Knowing the present historian will not neglect his duty in this regard, it is superfluous for me to continue any farther.

CHARLOTTE E. LEVIS AND SISTER, CAROLINE MONROE

The Monroe sisters were both little girls when their parents came to Butler county. Since the year 1883, they have been residents of the county seat and the pioneer milliners of that place. Both are now advanced in years, but their memories of the early days of this western country are clear and vivid, fortunately for the present and coming generations who will have been edified and benefited by the preservation of their story in this volume. At times in the interview graciously accorded the writer by them, first one and then the other of these intelligent and charming ladies, was the relator. Hence, as a convenient mode of transposing their recital of events to these pages, the personal pronoun in the first person will be observed in these remembrances.

My father, George W. Monroe, was a native of the State of New York. He was a manufacturer of woolen cloth and having confined himself too closely to his business affairs, his health gave way. An outdoor life was prescribed for him. He at once got the Western fever. Getting together household goods and other necessaries, which were packed in a big wagon and with a load of woolen cloth in another wagon, father with his family and chattels headed for Rock Island, Illinois. But one night while on our way to what was to us an unknown country, inhabited by murderous Indians and wild beasts, we fell in with a traveler, who in the midst of his conversation told father he had relatives in Butler county, Iowa, who had entered land there. His description of the country was a glowing one and this decided my father to go to this fertile spot and build him a prairie home. He knew nothing about farming, but he was willing and eager to try his hand at that noble industry. So we reached Willoughby. The night was dark and the prairie grass having been burned intensified the impenetrable blackness of the sky. There was no road, no timber, nothing but the open prairie like a vast inland sea, and on its unknown surface we began to realize that we were lost. There in the darkness of the night we wandered around on the prairie and at last, when almost ready to despair of relief from our quandary, we noticed sparks of fire flying ahead of us. These became our beacon light, and following them, we were led to a cabin. Hearing our "halloo" the door of the cabin was opened and the hospitable host, who proved to be Dan Peterson, took us in and gave us every comfort his humble home afforded. This pioneer

family we soon learned was composed of seven persons: the husband and wife and five children. The structure in which they lived was built of logs. It was 11x14 feet in dimensions. The absence of a floor was at once noticeable. The door and roof were made of "shakes." In this diminutive habitation, the Peterson family of seven, and the Monroe family of five, twelve human beings in all, dwelt together in mutual helpfulness and harmony five long weeks. In the meanwhile, father went to Dubuque to file his claim and under his instructions Peterson and Nathan Linn cut out logs for our cabin and laid them. While they were doing this, upon his return from Dubuque, father went to Cedar Falls and brought back a stove which he set up in the unfinished cabin, on which he melted frozen earth to make plaster with which to close up the interstices between the logs. Before the cabin was finished, we moved into it, late in November. This was quite a change from our eastern home—a three-story brick house.

The nearest strip of timber was three miles from our home in Monroe township, and on this we depended for firewood. From the sawmill twelve miles distant, father hauled lumber, made from logs he had cut, with which he laid a floor in our home. In this respect we were ahead of our neighbors, for ours was the only family in the township having a floor in the house.

I well remember that there was an abundance of wild fruit near the present village of Kesley, particularly plums, grapes, crabapples and berries. The locality was known in early days as Bear Grove, or Island Grove, and abounded with these primitive luxuries of the table. Soon after we had become established in our cabin home, father plowed a furrow around his claim, and in the following spring traded his horses for five yoke of oxen, with which he broke forty acres of the prairie, which yielded a good crop of sod corn, potatoes, and the finest watermelons I think I ever ate. About this time two Hopley families located in the settlement. The Petersons and Linns sold their claims to one Criswell and "Doc" Loveland, and moved away. Loveland remained a short time and then removed to Janesville, in Bremer county.

The first school we girls attended in Monroe township was taught by Thomas Conn in the bedroom of his home, which stood on the southeast quarter of section 1. As pupils he had four of the Criswell children—Robert, James, Nettie and John; Louise Perry and brother, Caroline Monroe, Stanley Conn, a grandson

of the teacher. The next summer a schoolhouse was built on the section west of us and the building was boarded up and down. Loose boards were laid on the roof and on the floor at the rear of the room, for the teacher's table and chair. Rough hewn boards were used for benches and there was a standing desk made by fastening a board on posts. There were no doors or windows and when it rained I tell you we caught it! Any old book was used and we were taught readin', 'ritin' and 'rithmetic.

The winter of 1857 was a very severe one and there was more or less suffering, both by man and beast. The snow drifted as high as a horse's back and on the level the snow froze over and formed a crust, thick and strong enough to bear the stock. However, deer would break through in places and become helpless. While in this condition they were easy prey to the severe cold and the settler who came upon them, so that they were almost exterminated before the weather moderated.

The first sermon preached to the settlers in this neighborhood was delivered at the home of Joe Embody by Preacher Brown, an exhorter, who lived at the time at Horse Neck, later known as New Albion.

It was in the month of October, 1855, that we arrived in Butler county, and located on a claim in the southwest quarter of section 1. In this humble home the family lived for five years and then we moved to Ripley township and made our home there for another five years, having traded the quarter section in Monroe township for a tract of two hundred and forty acres in Ripley. Father built a log house on this latter place, which borders on the West Fork and later he erected a comfortable frame house. In 1865 we again packed up our chattels and set out for Illinois, retaining the Ripley township farm, however. After a short stay in the "Sucker" state, father decided to return to Butler county. This time he located on a farm in Jackson township, one and one-half miles southeast of Allison, where Thomas Curtis now lives. We remained there until 1883, when we became residents of Allison.

The Monroe family besides my parents consisted of two girls, Caroline and Charlotte, both little lassies in short dresses at the time of our arrival here, and a boy, George W., Jr., who died when quite young. While we lived in Monroe township our nearest postoffice was Cedar Falls, twenty-five miles away; and it was here we got our groceries, for part of which we bartered butter

and eggs. For the butter we were paid 3 cents a pound, and in return got salt that cost us 5 cents a pound. At the time of our settlement here there were only three other families in the township—Joe Embody's, Nathan Linn's and Dan Peterson's.

The only family we found in Ripley township at the time of our location there were the James Hunters, Joe Embodys, who had moved from Monroe, and George McConnell, an old bachelor. Two miles up the river was Daniel Considine; John Moorehead lived one and one-half miles northwest. The place where we built our cabin in Ripley had been an Indian camping ground for fifty years and at the time wigwams were still standing on the farm. Here my brother gathered many stone utensils and weapons of the aborigines. Of a morning we often saw deer running across the prairies and many a time they would come close to our cabin door.

As I have before said, we moved to Allison in 1883, at which time there were about one hundred and fifty inhabitants. George Martin's livery stable, the first in Allison, had been built; he retired from the business several years ago in favor of his son, Bert, who is running the business at the original barn, the first building erected in Allison. The first Allison House stood on the site of the present Arnold store building and was destroyed by fire a few years ago. The first landlord of the hostelry was Charles Corwin. The structure was a three-story frame. James Winsett's hardware store was in the building now occupied by Hill's clothing establishment. The first grocer was Fletcher Moore. His place of business was in a building that stood on the site of the sash factory. Mike Weire's blacksmith shop was in operation at the time and is still under the management of that pioneer artisan at the old stand. A man by the name of Bishop had a furniture store, and our millinery shop was in the building now occupied by Walt Diekman. The building stood on the site of Missman's law and abstract offices. C. W. Williams catered to the general trade; Dr. Riggs was the druggist and was established in a building he had erected, now the home of the Racket store. Next door was Turner Birkbeek's building in which he had a store. Levi Baker had a restaurant in Mawby's store room. In a building erected by Dr. Burbank was a drug store and Herbert & Anderson's dry-goods emporium. The present postoffice building was first occupied by the Ray Bank and then by the Citizens Bank. North of this was Anna Myer's millinery store and

adjoining was Combellick's meat market. Aside the track the town site company put up an elevator and not far away was Barlow's lumberyard. The barber shop building was occupied by a saloon. In 1883 Frank Dodge was editor of the Tribune. The plant was in the second story of a building, the first floor of which was occupied by George Stockwell's general store. This house stood on the corner south of the telephone exchange. Next to this was W. A. Lathrop's law office, which was on the ground floor. His family was installed in the second story.

HENRY C. BROWN

Henry C. Brown has lived at Dumont since the year 1867 and has seen Pittsford township grow from a sparsely settled community to one now generously peopled and containing many farms not to be surpassed by any other section of northern Iowa. Mr. Brown is a man of education and discernment. Well informed in local affairs he takes a great interest in the history of Butler county and while this work was in preparation very kindly consented to contribute his recollections of the salient events which have come under his notice since residing here. He says:

I came to Iowa from New Hampshire in the year 1856, shortly after my discharge from the army, and first stopped at Waterloo, where I remained about three weeks and while there I ran across a man by the name of Burr, who had a farm in Pittsford township, on the southwest quarter of section 27, and about three-fourths of a mile east of Dumont. From his descriptions of this part of the country I was induced to come here and on the 13th day of March, 1867, I arrived with my family.

I found living in Pittsford township in 1867 William P. Jamison, on section 29; just west of him, on section 30, was James J. Harlan, and Nathan Harlan, with their widowed mother and her daughter, now Mrs. Samuel De Armon, who has been a widow many years and is now in the eighty-fifth year of her age. James Woods lived a little west. John Jamison, a son of William R. Jamison, lived on section 29; east of Dumont were W. R. Nichols and J. M. Nichols, on section 26; and just south of them, on section 35, were Elias Frick and family; all settled near the timber.

From Frick's, as we came a little east of north, we reached S. W. Ferris' place, but he had not built at that time; near him was O. C. Smith's. Arriving at what was one time known as "Pill-

town", there was one Linebach, who had located there; just west of him was James Boylan; west of Boylan lived a man whose place I purchased, but his name has escaped me. North of this land lived Silas Needham and a little northwest of him lived his brother, C. B. Needham. On the township line, but in Pittsford, there was a Titus family, who lived in a little log house.

About Boylan's grove was quite a settlement. Just at the outskirts of the grove on the northwest, was a Civil war veteran, Bennie Anderson. From thence north was Alexander Cline, on section 1; between this section and Bristow, lived Joseph Merrill, on section 13; and west of him was James McKinney, also on section 13; his daughter became Mrs. Joseph Merrill.

A little south of McKinney's on section 13, James Logan located with his family. Where Bristow now stands and south of Merrill's, on section 13, lived George Trindle. Ephraim McKinney settled on section 14; also one Parmenter.

When I came into Pittsford township the Boylans lived around the grove of their name; the Jamisons had been residents sixteen years; Dr. Tiehenor lived at "Pilltown" and probably was responsible for the name; James Boylan lived on section 23; on the west side of the road, going farther west to Boylan's grove, Levi Hewitt was to be found. H. A. Early, father of "Mace" Early, of Allison, lived close to Hewitt in the grove; on section 12 resided a widow named Mrs. Rush, the mother of J. M. Nichols. The old lady practiced medicine and was quite noted for her cures among the settlers of her day.

South of Early's and Hewitt's was the home of W. R. Nichols, a brother of J. M. Nichols; on section 35 T. M. Early, a son of H. A. Early, made his residence.

In the days soon after the war, or rather, when I came, the county was still young and the settlers were all "hard up." Public improvements had been abated during the years of rebellion and traveling was not only tedious, but at times dangerous. There were no bridges and when the streams were swollen by rains or quick thaws I often had to get out of my wagon and get things across the West Fork as best I could. Frick had a little boat, which often was brought into play when transporting our things over the stream to our team and wagon on the other side. At one time the Methodists were holding quarterly meeting. The pastor supplying the pulpit at Dumont lived at Aplington and stayed at my house. That night came a big thaw, which caused the

streams to fill and overflow their banks. The bottoms were covered with water. Suddenly, the weather changed to bitter cold and it began to freeze. The Reverend Hall and Elder Lee started for home behind a pair of colts, which, breaking through the ice, became unmanageable. Fearing for their lives and safety of the horses, the good men of the church were reluctantly persuaded by the situation to get out into the water, and make back to the cheery home of their host. Upon entering my sitting room the men presented a sorry appearance and were almost frozen. I at once supplied Elder Lee with dry clothes, but the clergyman would have none of them, preferring to sit by the hot stove and let them dry on his body. The Dumonts came over to my house before the night was over, and it seems the minister and the elder vied with each other to see who could best tell the story of their mishap to my callers.

There was no village or town in Butler county in 1867, the year of my arrival. S. B. Dumont lived on the hill at the end of the street going north, and had been there about three or four years. His son, Dr. T. A. Dumont, now a druggist in Dumont, was then fourteen years of age. When the town was incorporated I think there were about two hundred inhabitants. I lived on section 27, just east of town, sixteen years, and then moved on section 29, inside the corporation limits. The founder of the town, S. B. Dumont, has been gone to his reward a number of years; his good wife preceded him to the grave some five or six years.

CHAPTER XVII

TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION

After the organization of the county no steps were immediately taken for its division into townships. As the number of settlers in various parts of the county increased it became evident that some further provision must be made for local subdivision of government. Accordingly, on Feb. 6, 1855, County Judge John Pahner made the following division of the county into four townships:

“The township of Butler, to consist of congressional townships 92 and 93, range 15, and township 92 and the east half of 93, range 16; the township of Coldwater, of congressional township 93, range 17, and the east half of township 93, range 16; the township of Ripley, to consist of congressional townships 90, 91 and 92, range 17, and townships 90, 91, 92 and 93, range 18; the township of Beaver, to consist of congressional townships 90 and 91, range 15, and townships 90 and 91, range 16.”

By this division the four townships comprised territory now organized as follows:

Butler township then included all of Fremont, Butler and Jackson townships, and the east half of Dayton. Coldwater included in addition to its present area, the west half of Dayton. Ripley township consisted of what are now the townships of Bennezette, Pittsford, Madison, Washington, Monroe, Ripley and West Point. Beaver township included Jefferson, Shell Rock and Albion, in addition to what is now known as Beaver township.

On the 15th of February of the same year Lyman Norton was authorized by warrant to organize the township of Beaver. On February 26th, W. R. Jamison was appointed to organize Ripley township, and Aaron Hardman, Coldwater township.

On the 3d of March, 1856, the second division of the county into townships was made. By order of the county court seven

townships were now formed as follows: Butler township, with the same boundaries as before; Coldwater township to constitute its present limits with the addition of what is now Bemezette township and the west half of Dayton township; West Point township to include with its present limits that of Pittsford as well; Ripley township was reduced to include only its present limits and what is now Madison township. Shell Rock township was formed and included Shell Rock and Jefferson. Beaver township was cut in half and the township of Monroe formed of the two congressional townships on the west, now Monroe and Washington.

There is no record of the persons appointed to organize these new townships. The names of the township officers elected at the first election held within the new limits prescribed by this order of the county court are given so far as they are able to be found in connection with the separate histories of the townships.

At the March term of the county court in 1857, A. Van Dorn, county judge, on the petition of George A. Richmond and other citizens of Shell Rock township, ordered that congressional township 91 north, range 16 west, be separated from Shell Rock township and organized as a judicial township under the name of Jefferson. George A. Richmond was commissioned to organize this township. At the same time on petition of Nathan Olmstead and other citizens of Beaver township, this township was divided and the township of Albion formed from its western half. Alonzo Olmstead was authorized to organize the judicial township.

Bemezette township was separated from Coldwater and given a separate organization in accordance with an order of the county court, dated March 14, 1858. At this time a warrant was issued to Samuel Overturf to call the first election in this township to be held on Monday, April 5, 1858, at the dwelling house of Samuel Overturf.

On the 11th of March, 1858, Judge Converse authorized the organization of the township of Jackson, consisting of congressional township 92 north, range 16 west. A warrant was issued to E. D. Marquand directing him to call the first election in the township, April 5, 1858, at the dwelling house of John H. Van Dyke.

The organization of Pittsford township was ordered by the county court on March 13, 1858, with its present boundaries. A. C. Needham was directed by warrant to call an election in the township for the 5th of April, 1858, at the home of Silas T. Need-

ham, at which time the official organization of the township was to be completed. By this act West Point was reduced to its present limits and John Lash was ordered to call an election on the same date as above for the final organization of the township in its present form.

On the 5th day of September, 1859, the township of Fremont was organized by the county court of Butler county, comprising congressional township 93 north, range 15 west. This township had hitherto been attached to Butler. A warrant was issued to William R. Phillips to call the first election to be held at his house on the 11th of October.

No further change was made in the township organization until the September term of the county court in 1860. On the 3d day of September, 1860, W. H. Long presented a petition asking that congressional township No. 90 north, range 18 west, be organized into a township for civil purposes. It was therefore ordered by the county court that this township be organized under the name of Washington, and William H. Long was directed to call the first election in this township on Tuesday, the 6th day of November, 1860, at the home of R. R. Parriott, for the purpose of electing said county and township officers. On the same day C. Forney presented a petition asking that the township of Dayton be organized with its present boundaries. C. Forney was directed by the county court to call the first election on Nov. 6, 1860, at the house of Richard Challew.

Madison township at the same time was set off from Ripley on petition of Peter Coyle and others and a warrant was issued to the said Coyle to call the first election in the township, November 1st, at the house of Jacob Yost. This completed the final organization of Butler county into sixteen townships with the present boundaries.

CHAPTER XVIII

ALBION TOWNSHIP AND PARKERSBURG

The civil township of Albion coincides in its limits with the congressional township numbered 90 north and range 16 west of the fifth principal meridian. It is in the southern tier of townships of the county contiguous to Grundy county on the south, Monroe township on the west, Jefferson on the north and Beaver on the east.

The major portion of the township is drained by Beaver creek which flows through it from west to east, traversing the south central portion. The west fork of the Cedar passes through a portion of section 1 near the northeast corner of the township. In an early day the Beaver was bordered by a belt of natural timber of considerable width. Some of this still remains but the major portion was burned out and killed by a prairie fire, which has been mentioned in an earlier chapter.

The surface is somewhat more irregular and broken than that of the townships in the central part of the county and in some parts the soil has a larger proportion of sand in its make-up. However, the entire township is so constituted as to be capable of intensive cultivation. All the staple cereal crops are successfully raised here, and dairying and the raising of both cattle and hogs and all the other incidental products of the farms are carried on with success and profit.

Two lines of railroad traverse the southern and southwestern portions of the township, the Illinois Central passing through it from west to east, and the Northwestern entering from the south in section 33 and turning westward through Parkersburg.

The Hawkeye Highway, a dragged road across Iowa from Dubuque to Sioux City passes through the township, entering along the line of the Illinois Central from the east and following this line of road to the section line between sections 27 and 34. From this point on, it follows the section lines until it reaches

the limits of Parkersburg. This highway is in charge of a commissioner known as the Hawkeye Highway Commissioner and owes its origin to the enthusiastic efforts of W. F. Parrott of the Waterloo Reporter, to secure a satisfactory automobile road through the state from east to west in northern Iowa.

The railroad crossing at the point where the Hawkeye Highway crosses the line of the Northwestern, about a half mile west of the Sinclair school, has achieved an unenviable notoriety, from the fact that within the limit of about six weeks in the summer of 1913, three persons were killed on this crossing. These deaths may in part, at least, be attributable to the fact that the approach of a railway train from the south is concealed by a cut and by cornfields on either side of the track. It is to be hoped that such tragic events as those occurring here in 1913 may not be further necessary to call the attention of the people and the legislators to the necessity of providing ample means for safeguarding the lives of people who traverse our country highways.

EARLY SETTLEMENT

The earliest settlers in Albion township pushed up along the valley of the Beaver, hence the date of its first settlement is later by several years than that of Beaver township to the east. In common with other sections of the county, there were a number of transient or nomadic inhabitants in the period, which, for the purposes of this history, may be termed pre-historic—earlier than 1850. No record has been or need be made of the sojourns of these persons, as they affected in no way whatsoever the subsequent history of the township or county.

The first man to locate in Albion township with the intention of making it his permanent home, was one Walter Clayton, who in the spring of 1853 staked out a claim on the southeast quarter of section 30, just east of the corporate limits of what is now the town of Parkersburg. Clayton came from Wisconsin, driving through with an ox team. After about three weeks travel he reached Butler county and finding a location to his liking, proceeded to erect a log cabin thereon. Here he lived alone for six months, his family having remained behind him in Wisconsin. Not understanding the law governing the formal entry of land claims, he failed to comply with its provisions. In the meantime, a man in Cedar Falls, named Thomas Mullarky, made for-

mal entry of this land in the Government land office and notified Clayton that he would be compelled to surrender possession of the premises. He paid Clayton \$150 for his cabin and the other improvements which he had made on the claim, and in April, 1854, Clayton moved on to the west and located in Monroe township, where also he was the first settler. He will be noted in connection with the history of that township.

In the fall of 1853 Pircell S. Turner and his son Abel settled in Albion township, locating a claim on section 14. It is learned from the records of the land office that the elder Turner at least had made an earlier visit to this locality, for on the 22d of March, 1853, he made the first formal entry of land in Albion township, the entry being for a claim in section 14, upon which they located in the fall following. Pircell C. Turner was a native of England. He lived here with his son for a time and was later killed by the cars while on his way to Ohio, the place of his former residence. Abel Turner, the son, continued his residence on the farm where they had located, for a number of years. Portions of this claim are still in possession of the family.

The second entry of land in the township was made by J. J. Bicknell, on April 27, 1853, and was also on section 14. The third entry by George Greene, on July 1, 1853, was for land on section 24.

The fourth entry in the township was made July 6, 1853, by W. S. Peck, in section 25.

On the 6th of October, 1853, W. J. Barney, a Dubuque capitalist, whose name appears very frequently in the early records of land entries in Butler county, made the fifth entry—two claims on sections 30 and 14.

The claim of Thomas Mullarky to the land upon which Walter Clayton had settled, as referred to above, was recorded on the 12th of November, 1853.

It would appear that the entries made by Turner and Bicknell in section 14 were the first original entries of land in any of the older settled townships to be made away from the timber or a stream of running water. Whether or not these men were farther sighted than many of their contemporaries and saw the magnificent possibilities of the future in this open prairie country, or whether this was merely an incidental circumstance, must forever remain unknown.

Although this relatively large number of land entries was made in 1853, there were no further settlements in the township

that year; 1854 saw the arrival of a number of settlers. In the spring of this year Wilmont Wilbur, the third settler in the township, arrived from Canada and settled upon the old Clayton place on section 30, apparently a peculiarly attractive location. He made no attempt to contest the prior rights of Mullarky to this land but lived here about six months and then left for St. Louis. Some time later while his wife was on her way to St. Louis to join him, she heard in some way that her husband had been murdered, whereupon she became insane and committed suicide by jumping from the car window.

In June, 1854, George Younker, W. F. Younker and Jacob Kemmerer took up claims in Albion township. The Younkens were brothers and were natives of Pennsylvania. Mrs. George Younker was a daughter of Henry B. Wemple, who also located in the township in 1854. Mr. Wemple settled on section 28. Jacob Kemmerer's first home in the township was on section 33—land which still remains in possession of the family.

Richard Daniels, Pascal P. Parker, Samuel Cramer, Michael Niece, Orlin Royce, Jacob Hall, Charles W. McEwen, Joseph Codner, August Coon, Isaac Waters and Jacob Brown were among the pioneers of 1854 in Albion township. P. P. Parker is the pioneer for whom the town of Parkersburg was named. Joseph Codner located on section 27, bringing his family from Wisconsin, with an ox team. Later several other members of the Codner family settled in the same neighborhood, where some members of the family still reside. Among these was H. P. Codner, whose son Walter is at present a prominent resident of Allison.

Most of the settlers mentioned above located in the southern part of the township. Jacob Brown was the first settler in the northern part of Albion. He came from Illinois with his family and purchased over one thousand acres lying in Beaver and Albion townships. Mr. Brown was a Methodist preacher and after living on his original holdings for about a year he sold a part of it to Elder Bicknell, a Baptist preacher.

Henry Owen is another pioneer settler of the northern part of the township, locating on section 8. L. D. Owen, an uncle of Henry Owen, came to the township at the same time and settled on an adjoining farm.

Moses J. Conn came from Canada in 1855 with his family and located in the northern part of the township. He later moved to

Monroe township, with the history of which his family has been connected from the earliest days to the present time.

Nathaniel Chesley, John Parker, Marshall Kelley, Asa Overacker, E. W. Babcock, Mrs. Anna Jaquis, Solomon Lashbrook, William Waters, Peter Riley, Lorenzo Perry, Adam Leffler, Edward Dawson and Elijah Brown are remembered as among the settlers of 1855 and 1856. Edward Dawson was the father of William and E. A. Dawson, the former of whom has in recent years been supervisor of the county from the southern district, and the latter a leading attorney in Waverly.

Another prominent settler in the township in 1856 was Daniel Downey, who purchased his first land of Edward Dawson in section 9, Albion township. He eventually became one of the largest landowners in the township. His son Daniel is at the present time a prominent landowner and capitalist, with large interests in various parts of the county.

From 1855 on settlement in the township was very rapid, the record of entries and transfers of land within the limits of Albion in these and the succeeding years being too numerous to make it possible to make any detailed mention of the various settlers who located here at that time. In recent years large numbers of families of German nationality have settled upon farms in the township, especially in the northwestern portion. At the present time C. A. Wolf, of Parkersburg, is probably the largest landowner in the township. Among the prominent residents of the township in later years may be mentioned Harm and Okke Van Hauen, L. F. Hersey, the Reints and DeVries families, the Tammens and the Leerhoffs.

OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION

By the order of the county court, Feb. 5, 1855, which first divided Butler county into civil townships, the territory now comprised within the limits of Albion township was made a part of Beaver, which then consisted of four congressional townships. In 1856 this township was divided, Beaver thereafter being restricted to the southern half, or the two congressional townships, numbered 15 and 16 west and 90 north. On March 2, 1857, Albion was organized with its present boundaries. P. P. Parker was authorized to call the first election which was held at the house of Stephen Morse, a little over one mile east of the present site of Parkers-

burg. The first officers elected were: Stephen Morse and Jesse Owen, justices of the peace; J. L. Kemmerer, E. H. Babcock and Asa Overacker, trustees; P. P. Parker, clerk; Joseph Codner, constable; Abel Turner, assessor.

PROCTOR'S POND

This small body of water, situated in Beaver township, is without especial historic interest other than the occasion which gave it its name.

The people of Albion township were a union loving, law-abiding class, yet in 1864 there were a few who preferred the success of rebel arms and were outspoken in their denunciation of "Lincoln hirelings." A number of these "brave boys in blue" chanced to be at home on a furlough—and these expressions of dislike towards the Union cause came to their ears. They soon traced out the source, and repairing to a wheat field, found Jonas Proctor, the man they had business with, and demanded at once that he "hurrah for Lincoln and the Union." He positively refused, whereupon he was taken and given free transportation on a rail to this pond near New Hartford. On the way, a man by the name of Smith, of like tendency, was persuaded to join the interesting procession. Upon arriving at the water, Smith not desiring a bath, shouted lustily for the Union. Proctor, however, remained sullen and silent, and was ducked. Still refusing to comply, the ducking was continued until he was unable to express himself otherwise than by grunts, which he did, indicating also by motion of the hand his willingness. After thus expressing himself he was released. This body of water has been known from that day to this as "Proctor's Pond."

GENERAL ITEMS

The first mail route through the township was established in 1855. Mail was carried on horseback from Cedar Falls to Iowa Falls and Fort Dodge until 1857, when a stage line under the control of Fink & Walker was established. P. P. Parker's house was a regular stopping place on this stage route and remained such until the construction of the line of railroad.

The first birth in the township occurred in August, 1854, when twin babies christened Alonzo and Melissa were born to Augustus and Catherine Coon.

The first marriage of residents of Albion township took place on the 7th of January, 1856, the contracting parties being P. P. Parker and Miss Martha McEwen. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Samuel Wright at the home of Adna Thomas, in Beaver township.

The first marriage within the limits of the township joined Abel Turner and Harriet Waters in the bonds of matrimony. This marriage was celebrated at the home of William S. Waters by the Rev. John Connell in 1857.

The first death was that of a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilmont Wilbur, in July, 1854.

The first religious services in the township were held by Rev. Mr. Burleigh at the home of W. F. Younker, in December, 1854.

EDUCATIONAL

The first school in Albion township was taught by John Bicknell in the winter of 1855-56, in a log schoolhouse at New Albion. The building in which this school was held was the first erected for school purposes in the township. It had been constructed in the fall of 1855. In the summer of 1856 the first frame schoolhouse was erected in district No. 1. For school purposes, Albion is organized as a district township, there being at present eight sub-districts.

No. 1 is known as the Sinclair school and the building stands at the southeast corner of section 28, a little over a quarter of a mile south of the railroad station at Sinclair. Miss Clarice Savage, a teacher in this school, was killed by a Northwestern railway train at the crossing west of the schoolhouse on Sept. 12, 1913.

District No. 2, the New Albion school, has its schoolhouse on the township line at the northeast corner of section 4. For school purposes section 34, in Jefferson township, and the eastern half of section 33, south of the West Fork, are included within the New Albion district.

The schoolhouse in district No. 3 is located midway on the western side of section 8. It is known as the Fleschner school.

No. 4 is less than a mile east of the corporate limits of Parkersburg on the Hawkeye Highway.

The DeGroote schoolhouse, in sub-district No. 5, is located on the western side of section 24.

Schoolhouse No. 6 is the center school of the township, located a quarter of a mile from the southeastern corner of section 16.

Swanton school No. 7 stands on the eastern side of section 11.

School No. 8 is in the extreme southeastern portion of the township on the Grundy county line. Considerable difficulty was experienced for some years in regard to the collection of tuition from Grundy county pupils who attended this school. Recently this has been adjusted satisfactorily. There are usually a larger number of Grundy county pupils than those from Albion township in attendance here.

POPULATION

1860, 339; 1863, 419; 1865, 465; 1867, 615; 1869, 769; 1870, 1,039; 1873, 961; 1875, 1,014; 1880, 1,349; 1890, 1,440; 1900, 1,689; 1910, 1,433.

NEW ALBION

A village by the name of New Albion was platted about 1856. It was situated in the north central portion of the township, lying partly in sections 3 and 4, Albion, and 33 and 34, of Jefferson. The parties interested in the project were Jacob Brown, Clifford Dawson, N. Chesley, John Barker, Dr. Wright and others. At one time it had a number of residences, with a sawmill, store, postoffice and other business enterprises. The postoffice was established as early as 1857, when Mrs. Lorenzo Perry returned from Cedar Falls with the official documents establishing a postoffice at New Albion under the name of Swanton, and a commission for Jacob Brown as postmaster. This office was continued until the establishment of the rural mail routes in this section of the county. A complete list of the postmasters is not available.

VILLAGE OF PARKERSBURG

Parkersburg lies in the Beaver valley and is located on section 30, in Albion township, and section 25, in Monroe. The greater portion, however, lies in Albion township and the corporation is mainly treated as properly belonging to the latter. The town is one of the most important and enterprising trading points in Butler county and its growth is steady and substantial.

The site upon which Parkersburg stands, while in its primitive state, was covered with a heavy growth of brush, that was almost impenetrable to man or beast, and this condition led the pioneers of the locality to call it "the brush bed of the Beaver." But these impedimenta soon disappeared, after the surveyors had laid out a town upon the land and platted it. This land was purchased from the United States by a speculator in 1854, who gave it no further attention other than to dispose of the property in 1857 to John Connell and his son, William H. Connell, who erected a small cabin a short distance south of the future village.

In making its preliminary survey in the early '60s, the Dubuque & Sioux City Railroad Company had overlooked the importance of the coming town of Parkersburg and while New Hartford and Aplington had been considered, the line was so run to those points as to leave Parkersburg "out in the cold." But the builders of the road changed their plans, to the lasting benefit of Parkersburg; made of it a station and, in 1866, together with Augustus S. Smith, caused two hundred and forty acres to be surveyed and platted by one of their engineers, and named the place Parkersburg in honor of P. P. Parker, an early settler of the locality. The plat was filed for record February 5, 1866, by Platt Smith, vice president of the Dubuque & Sioux City Railroad Company; Louis Boisot, its secretary, and Augustus S. Smith, into whose hands the land had been diverted.

Before the year 1865 had closed the railroad was operating its trains through the new town and had completed a depot. Thomas Williams had erected a house by that time, opened it as a tavern and named the hostelry the Williams House. The Williams House later became known as the Commercial, which had many landlords.

Benjamin Needham built the first store building and was the first merchant in Parkersburg. In the summer of 1865 he put up near the depot a large frame building, 30x40 feet, in which he placed a stock of general merchandise and served his patrons until the time of his death. For many years after the building was used as a tenement house.

One R. T. Jackson, late in 1865 or early in the following year, put up a store building in the place, a frame structure, two stories in height, with ground dimensions of 20x30 feet. In this building Jackson placed a stock of general merchandise, but before the building was finished he began selling goods temporarily in

the Williams House. About the time Jackson got his store running N. T. Manley & Son put up a building on Depot street and installed the most complete line of general merchandise attempted up to that period. The building was years after moved to Main street.

The depot was completed in 1865 and Joseph Demmick occupied an office here as agent for the railroad company. He was commissioned postmaster and, erecting a little building across the track from the depot, he put in a small stock of goods, kept a meat market, sold paints and several other things; at the same time he bought grain and attended to his duties as postmaster and railroad agent. The reader of the present day might imagine that Demmick had a pretty strenuous time of it. But in the '60s the population of the county was small, Parkersburg was in her swaddling clothes, mail was received at infrequent intervals, money was scarce; the Civil war was on and the country new. The present agent or postmaster of Parkersburg has more duties to perform in one day than Mr. Demmick, with his multifarious lines of business, had in a week. In the grain trade B. F. White was a close second to Demmick.

Jacob Young and Frank Shaffer put up the second hotel building here, a structure 28x30 feet. Mr. Stone opened the building as the Eagle Hotel and continued as the landlord for many years, giving great satisfaction to his guests. Jacob Young erected a small building near the hotel soon after, where he kept a restaurant and saloon. In 1868, Edward Bigalow bought the building and moved it on to Depot street.

Jonathan Goodale, who located in Parkersburg in 1868, put up a store building in the spring of 1869 and became one of the local merchants. Some time afterwards he built a home adjoining the store and both his properties were destroyed by fire in 1878, by which he sustained a loss of \$10,000. Mr. Goodale was not discouraged, but rebuilt store and residence. He became one of the prosperous, substantial and influential citizens of the place.

The first lumberyard in Parkersburg was started in 1869 by Charles Charnock and M. Howenstein. Retiring soon after, Mr. Howenstein and Dr. M. I. Powers opened a drug store. Charnock sold the lumberyard to E. W. Babcock in 1880, who sold to John Voogd about a year later.

The first hardware store was established in 1866 by James Parker, who put up a frame building for the purpose on Depot street. Mr. Parker had as a business associate in this enterprise Melvin Dees.

The firm of J. Kennedy & Olmstead established a hardware and shoe business here in the late '60s and sold their interests to Joseph Kellogg. The latter disposed of the stock to the firm of Parris Brothers in 1875; George and Fred Parris had located in Parkersburg in 1872 and engaged in the grocery trade. In 1881 they sold the grocery to Samuel Norris. Henry Parris, another brother, located on a farm in Monroe township in 1875.

The hardware firm of Mott & Foote was formed in 1878. C. L. Mott located in the town in 1869 and S. A. Foote came in 1877, taking up the live stock business as a vocation.

Charles Gleason opened the first shoe store, in 1865, and was the town's first cobbler. He began operations in a little building near the Commercial House. From there he moved to Main street and continued in the trade until 1876, when he sold out to Henry Perry. W. N. Perry was the next shoe dealer. He became prominent in this line of business and for years had one of the largest establishments in the place. Henry Ballhausen was also early in the field with a shoe store, commencing business in 1877.

Henry Franke was Parkersburg's first harness maker, opening a shop in 1867, with Val. Labr as an employe. In 1868 the latter started a shop in competition with Franke.

The Babcock furniture store was the first in Parkersburg, but was not a success. The successor to this was the store of A. S. Burnham, who began selling furniture in 1868. Another general mercantile establishment was started by Clark Mott in 1870.

The first blacksmith shop in the town was opened by Charles Dunham in the '60s and ran about two years, when Dunham removed to Illinois. His immediate successor was named Rollo. He soon left.

A stationery store was opened in 1869 by a Mr. Benedict, which lasted but a short time. Then W. W. Cartner opened a stock of confectionery in the store room.

William Wallace, in 1869, had a meat market in a building he erected for the purpose. He finally sold the market to Martin Cartner.

Charles Reynolds was the first person to engage in the livery business, opening a stable near the Eagle House in 1867. Max-

well & Downs was the next and both concerns were in existence but a short while. The most successful of the early liverymen was J. T. Burt, who opened a large stable in 1869. Otis Baker bought Frank Shaver's livery stable in 1870 and became successful.

John Beemer came to Parkersburg from Floyd county in 1868 and engaged in the practice of law. He remained a member of the Butler county bar until his death, which occurred in 1878.

Of the medical profession Dr. M. I. Powers was the first to establish an office here. Other early practitioners were Drs. Strout, Parker and Ensign.

R. G. Renken and Fritz Tammen, under the firm name of Renken & Tammen, established a general store here in 1878. In 1882 the members of the firm erected one of the leading brick business houses on Main street and both were men of fine business sagacity and rectitude.

John D. Cramer, a native of Canada, located on section 33, Albion township, in 1869, where he kept a hotel for some time. He moved into Parkersburg in 1867 and opened the first meat market in the town.

In 1879 E. Hiller erected the Parkersburg Mills on the bank of the Beaver river, where good water power was secured. The building's ground dimensions are 50x60 feet; it was originally equipped with one set of rollers and three run of stone, giving a capacity of seventy-five barrels per day. The mill is still in operation, grinding meal and feed for the farmers and dealers.

INCORPORATED TOWN OF PARKERSBURG

By the year 1874 Parkersburg had become one of the leading trading points in Butler county and her citizens were anxious to have a separate government from the township. To further this desire preliminary steps were taken, a petition was signed by a large list of the electors, which was presented to the district court and in the year 1874 Parkersburg was granted a charter as an incorporated town.

Soon after the town received authority to act as a municipality an election was held and the following officers were the choice of a majority of the voters: Mayor, C. S. Lobdell; recorder, M. T. Johnson; treasurer, J. F. Parker; marshal, W. I. McLean; street commissioner, D. W. Schoolcraft; trustees, N. T. Manley, Joseph



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND PARSONAGE, PARKERSBURG



SCENE ON MAIN STREET, PARKERSBURG

Kellogg, Jurgen Renken and F. L. Dodge. From that time until the present, the following named persons have filled the offices of mayor and clerk:

Mayors—C. S. Lobdell, 1874-7; N. T. Johnson, 1877-80; C. S. Lobdell, 1880-1; William H. Burdick, 1881-2; C. S. Lobdell, 1882-9; W. H. Owens, 1889-92; J. W. Arbuckle, 1892-4; M. F. Edwards, 1894-7; W. H. Owens, 1897-8; M. F. Edwards, 1898-1900; Robert F. Camp, 1900-02; C. J. Fitzpatrick, 1902-03; F. F. Voeltz, appointed to fill vacancy by reason of resignation of Fitzpatrick; F. F. Voeltz, 1903-08; R. S. Blair, 1908-14.

Clerks—N. T. Johnson, 1874-7; F. H. Rix, 1877-8; M. J. Downey, 1878-80; Wilke A. Smith, 1880-1; A. N. Ferris, 1881-2; R. G. Renken, 1882-90; M. F. Edwards, 1890-94; J. W. Arbuckle, 1894-7; S. C. Mangans, 1897-8; C. F. Franke, 1898-1900; S. R. Bird, 1900-01; J. G. Irwin, 1901-02; W. T. Evans, 1902-14.

CITY HALL

Prior to the year 1913 the mayor and city council held official meetings in various places. But in the year named a handsome one-story, vitrified brick building was erected on the main street, at a cost of \$5,000, on a lot which cost the town \$633. The interior arrangements make the city hall convenient for the council, voting booths and apparatus of the fire department.

POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT

The character and proclivities of Parkersburg's own people are of that excellence as not to require espionage or regulation by the police department. The tramp, burglar, sneak thief and housebreaker are given little countenance here, and one police officer—the city marshal—can very well look after and maintain the peace and quietude of the town. So, little, if anything, is to be said of the police department, which is a one-man bureau of the city's government. The marshal's duties are to police the streets during the later hours of the day and patrol the business district up to midnight.

Since the establishment of waterworks the citizens rest comparatively fearless of conflagrations. Fire plugs are within convenient distances of the business and residence districts. A volunteer fire company has a supply of apparatus, consisting of

1,200 feet of hose, a hose cart, hose wagon, and a hook and ladde wagon, and with every able-bodied man ready to respond to an emergency call, the town's property is comparatively safe.

WATERWORKS SYSTEM

Since the year 1894 Parkersburg and her citizens have enjoyed the blessings of a good and efficient waterworks system. In the year mentioned the question of building waterworks and issuing \$6,500 in bonds was submitted to a vote of the citizens at a special election. The approval of a large majority of the voters in the undertaking was made manifest when the poll was counted; in the autumn of that year the improvement was completed and in operation. A sufficient supply of pure water is obtained from a well 80 feet in depth and 6 inches in diameter. The water is pumped into a tank twenty-four feet in height, having a capacity of 40,000 gallons. The tank rests upon a steel tower sixty feet in height, which assures ample pressure for ordinary purposes. A power house and two and one-half miles of mains add to the cost of the improvement, the total amount of which was about ten thousand dollars.

SEWERAGE SYSTEM

A sewerage system was inaugurated in the year 1908. The main drains are laid with vitrified pipe, 18-inch, 12-inch and 8-inch in diameter. Something over three miles of mains and laterals have been laid and the refuse finds an outlet at Beaver creek. Up to the year 1914 about fifteen thousand dollars had been spent on this work.

ELECTRIC LIGHTS

Parkersburg is the best lighted town in Butler county, having during the holidays of 1913-14 installed a series of five-globe electroliers, fourteen in number. This system illuminates the business district so that it is as light as day. The lamps were placed and paid for by the merchants. Electric light and power are furnished by the Parkersburg Electric Light & Power Company, composed of local capitalists, who built a plant in 1898, at

a cost of \$10,000. The chief promoter of the industry was W. S. Meade. Continuous service is furnished.

POSTOFFICE

A postoffice was established here in August, 1855, and P. P. Parker, after whom the town was named, was placed in charge by the Washington authorities. Mr. Parker distributed the mail from his residence on section 13, which at first was not an onerous task, as he received scarcely a dozen letters a week, which came to him by carrier on horseback by way of Cedar Falls and Fort Dodge. Mr. Parker was the postmaster until some time during the Civil war, when he resigned, and was succeeded by Stephen Morse, who removed the office to his log cabin, one-half mile east of the Parker residence. This was inconvenient for those living in Parkersburg and rather than move into town, Mr. Morse resigned his position. Thomas Russell was then appointed and failed to improve matters when he established the office at his home a half mile still farther east. P. P. Parker again took the office to ease the situation. After a few years his son, James Parker, received the appointment and kept his office in the Beaver Valley Bank building until 1883. The names of his successors follow: W. J. Baker, O. B. Courtright, John Knapp, John Bird and the present incumbent, E. E. Schrack.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

In 1904 C. C. Wolf, one of Parkersburg's wealthy, influential and generous-hearted citizens, donated a large sum of money toward a fund for the building of a new Methodist Episcopal church edifice. To this beneficence he added the sum of \$2,000, the same to be applied to a library fund, on condition that the library be permanently established in rooms to be specially arranged for its reception in the proposed church building. The wishes of Mr. Wolf were fully carried out in the premises and when the magnificent house of worship was planned, the north half of the ground floor was set apart for the library. Here spacious rooms, shelves and other appurtenances were prepared and when the building was finished the library, now containing some three thousand volumes, was installed by the Parkersburg Library Association, organized in November, 1905. The library

is under the supervision and management of a board of trustees, consisting of nine members selected by the citizens of the town. Mrs. Lulu Slight is the librarian. The institution is supported by popular subscriptions and is open two days in the week. The headquarters of the library cost nothing for rent; heat and light are furnished by the church authorities at a nominal price.

FINANCIAL

The first effort at banking in Parkersburg was by the firm of Gibbs Brothers, who opened a private bank in 1868. In 1869 the interests of the Gibbs Brothers were turned over to J. B. and M. I. Powers, who did a general banking business until 1873, when Aaron Wolf and sons became their associates. In 1892 Aaron Wolf, C. C. Wolf and others incorporated the institution under the state banking laws, assuming the name of the State Exchange Bank. The capital stock was \$50,000 and surplus \$50,000. Aaron Wolf was the first president; S. A. Foote, vice president; C. C. Wolf, cashier. In 1899 Aaron Wolf died and by reason thereof S. A. Foote succeeded to the presidency. Several years later, upon the resignation of Mr. Foote, his place was filled by the election of R. G. Renken. The present officials are: President, R. G. Renken; vice president, George Frey; cashier, C. C. Wolf. Several years ago the capital was increased to \$100,000. The last official report showed deposits amounting to \$400,000.

The home of the State Exchange Bank was first in a little frame building that stood on the site of a one-story brick building that took its place, and where the bank continued in business until 1895. Since then this building has been in use by the post-office department. In the year last mentioned a new bank building was erected on the opposite side of the street from the old one. The structure is built of brown stone and brick and cost \$15,000. As being worthy of note the statement may be here added that C. C. Wolf has been cashier of this bank for forty years. He is one of the substantial and most generous citizens of this splendid little city.

Citizens of Parkersburg refer to their banks with considerable pride, for they are upon a sound basis and hold the full confidence of the people. The Beaver Valley Bank is especially strong in the sterling character of its officials, its resources and the confidence of a host of friends and patrons. It was organized

in 1882, with a paid-up capital of \$50,000. B. B. Richards, of Dubuque, was the first president, and James F. Parker, cashier. The bank was the outgrowth of a private bank, started by Richards & Parker in 1877.

In December, 1892, upon the resignation of James F. Parker, S. S. Striker was elected to fill the vacancy. Striker remained two years and then made way for John Voogd, who retained the position until Jan. 10, 1899, when he was succeeded by H. W. Wilhelms. Upon the latter's elevation to the presidency in 1907 T. R. Tammen became cashier.

B. B. Richards continued in the office of president from the establishment of the bank until 1899. From that year until January, 1907, H. J. Merlien held the responsible position. From the latter date to the present time H. W. Wilhelms has been chief executive officer of the bank.

The parent bank of Parker & Richards was kept in a small frame building that stood on the site of the handsome new Temple building and was destroyed by fire about 1904. After the fire the present home of the bank, a large, two-story brick building, was erected on one of the most prominent corners of the business center. Capital, \$50,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$67,504; deposits, \$524,204.

The First National Bank was organized in 1910 by C. F. Franke, E. V. Franke, G. N. Clark, Sander Ludeman and others, with a capital of \$50,000, and is the outgrowth of the Farmers & Merchants State Bank, established and incorporated by H. J. Merlien, G. Ludeman, A. K. Smith, Mrs. H. J. Merlien and others. The First National's initial officers were: Sander Ludeman, president; C. F. Franke, vice president; H. E. W. Kaiser, cashier. Kaiser resigned in October, 1912, and was succeeded by R. A. Ludeman. The bank is doing business on the main street of the town in a brick building and recently increased its capital stock. The last statement showed the following figures: Capital, \$60,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$4,300; deposits, \$90,000.

THE SCHOOLS

Parkersburg became an independent school district in the spring of 1871. M. I. Powers was selected as president of the school board, R. L. Chase, secretary, and William Howenstein, treasurer. The other members of the board were J. Goodale, W.

A. Allen and L. D. Davis. In 1872 the question of expending \$2,500 was voted upon favorably and a frame building 24x24 feet and two stories in height was erected on the south side. Pupils increasing made the addition of a wing necessary in the year 1878. This building disappeared in flames in 1893 and in the following year a modern, three-story brick structure, costing \$16,000, arose under the hands of skilful workmen, and is a structure convenient in arrangement and imposing in appearance. It contains nine or ten rooms, including the superintendent's office and high school assembly room, and has a corps of eight instructors, including the city superintendent.

CATHOLIC CHURCH

In the early days of Albion township there were quite a number of families whose religious tenets were those of the Roman Catholic church. To them were first offered the sacrament of the mass, at the pioneer homes of Daniel Downey and James Kennedy in 1861, and at other places in the future parish. Father John Shields was the first priest to minister to this people; in fact, he traveled hundreds of miles in those early days laboring for his church and its members. He remained about six years and then gave way to Father T. E. Gumm, whose pastorate covered a period of four years. Following him was Rev. Peter O'Dowd. Father Mahoney came next and was followed by Father Lynch who, while living in the old priest's house, built the present residence, in 1897, which stands on the hill near the church. Father Molloy was next to be placed in charge and stayed two years. His successor was Father Baxter, whose administration covered a period of two years. The next pastor, Father Quinn, was here six years. The present priest is Father O. Leary, who took charge late in 1913 shortly after his arrival from his native country, Ireland. The church edifice was built in 1874.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The history of the Methodist church of Parkersburg was prepared for the dedication exercises of the new church edifice and published, together with a description of the beautiful building, in the Eclipse. The article cannot in any way be improved upon, hence it is reproduced here *verbatim et literatim*:

The pioneer Methodist preacher found his way occasionally to the scattered neighborhood of what is now the city of Parkersburg as early as the year 1851 or 1852, preaching in the log cabin of a Methodist family, the first of which we now have record being held in the log house, the dimensions of which were 14x16 feet, belonging to W. F. Younker, who resided four miles east and one mile south of Parkersburg.

The first services were conducted by Rev. Elijah Kendall in in the fall of 1854. The Methodist class was organized, consisting of the following persons: Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Kemmerer, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Daniels, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Younker and Michael Niece.

The Methodist Sunday school was soon after organized. About a year later, in the fall of 1855, J. L. Kemmerer, having built a log house somewhat larger than that owned by Mr. Younker, the preaching service and Sabbath school was carried on at his place, where they were continued until the schoolhouse was erected near by.

According to the Beaver valley circuit record, Rev. John Connell seems to have been one of the first regular preachers on the charge. In the winter of 1855 and 1856, Father Connell, as he was familiarly called, held a revival meeting in the home of Richard Daniels, which proved to be a great blessing. Rev. George Murphy, a local preacher who lived at Swanton, often preached in various homes and schoolhouses in that early day. In 1857 Richard Daniels was ordained as a local deacon in the Methodist church and from that time until near the close of his life frequently preached the gospel. Rev. John Dawson is remembered as one of the pioneer local preachers in Beaver valley circuit.

For some years this was a three weeks circuit and extended from West Union, Fayette county, to Hampton and Maysville, Franklin county. This was the beginning of the work of God among the people called Methodists, and many a season of rejoicing can be remembered by the few still living, who attended those early services.

THE EARLY PASTORS

According to the quarterly conference record found at New Hartford, recorded by C. Spicer, recording steward for several years, the regularly appointed pastors of Beaver valley circuit in

their order are: Rev. J. Connell, who served two years, then Rev. William Sibley, followed by Rev. B. F. Taylor, who served one year; Rev. George Murphy, one year. In the fall of 1862 came Elijah Kendall and during the fall of the following year the name of the circuit was changed to the New Hartford circuit and the territory was enlarged to include the country about Parkersburg. Elijah Kendall was continued as preacher in charge for another year. In 1864 Rev. William Fawcett came on the charge and remained two years. Then came Rev. J. G. Wilkinson.

CHANGE IN CIRCUIT

About this time, Oct. 13, 1866, it was planned to have the New Hartford circuit include Parkersburg as one of the regular preaching places. They had Methodist preaching once in four weeks. This plan was continued in the Illinois Central railroad depot and in the schoolhouse until the church was built in 1870. Rev. J. G. Wilkinson was pastor one year.

CHURCH IS INCORPORATED

On the 3d day of December, 1866, articles of incorporation of the First Methodist Episcopal church of Parkersburg, Iowa, were duly made, and the following persons were elected as first trustees: of the society: J. L. Johnson, J. Dimmick, Cyrus Spicer, Joseph Hopley and J. L. Kemmerer. At this time there were eight appointments on the New Hartford circuit with preaching by the regular pastor only once in four weeks, but the local preacher often preached in these various places.

According to official records, the first quarterly conference of the Methodist Episcopal church ever held in Parkersburg was on June 8, 1868. Rev. E. Smith acted as chairman of the meeting. At that time Rev. E. Skinner, of Waterloo, was then presiding elder of the Cedar Falls district.

In the fall of 1868 Rev. W. A. Glassner was appointed to the charge, and the county history records show that in March, 1869, he organized the Methodist Episcopal class of Parkersburg, with the following members: J. L. Johnson, James Gillard, D. Jay, Cyrus Spicer, O. O. Spicer, E. B. Lamb, R. Daniels, C. Kemmerer, B. Bentley, F. C. Burdick, Jesse Owens, J. Goodale and others.

The first officers were F. C. Burdick, James Gillard, J. L. Johnson, C. Spicer and J. Goodale.

At the annual conference of the fall of 1869, which was held at Independence, Parkersburg and Aplington were constituted a separate charge, with Buck Grove and Daniels schoolhouse appointments. Rev. J. A. Kerr was appointed as pastor. At the beginning of the year the membership of the circuit numbered eighty-four.

FIRST CHURCH BUILT

The first Methodist Episcopal church was built in Parkersburg during the summer of 1870 at a cost of \$3,000. It was a good substantial frame building 56 feet in length and 36 feet wide. The Methodist Sunday school was organized in the summer of 1870 with J. Goodale as superintendent.

FULL LIST OF PASTORS

The pastors who served the Parkersburg charge from the time of building the first church until the present in regular succession are: J. A. Kerr, one year; J. N. Platte, one year; W. J. Mitchell, one year; H. S. Bargelt, one year; George Elliott, one year; S. Sherrin, one year; A. H. Sproul, one year; J. G. Wilkinson, two years; J. M. Hedger, two years; W. F. Barclay, two years; G. W. Ballou, one year; J. S. McIntyre, two years; H. B. Long, two years; W. H. Doner, three years; J. H. Hoskin, one year; J. G. Eberhart, one year; Walter Piper, three years; W. M. Lemen, four years; S. R. Ferguson, three years; N. F. Norton, three years; E. G. Hunt, 1906-11; Dr. A. M. McIntosh, 1911 to the present time.

During these thirty-five years since the erection of the first church building, the Methodist society has had a reasonable degree of prosperity. In 1871 Parkersburg was made a station with only one out appointment at Daniels' schoolhouse, since which time there has been regular preaching morning and evening. After two years the Aplington appointment was again added to the charge as an afternoon appointment and continued in this way until 1899, when it was dropped. Since that time Parkersburg has been a single station. In 1875 a small frame parsonage was built at a cost of about four hundred dollars, which with improvements continued to be the pastor's home until 1894.

ERECT OTHER BUILDINGS

While Rev. W. M. Lemen was pastor the old parsonage was sold and a new one built at a cost of about two thousand dollars. The church building was repaired and remodeled from time to time, but although it was made of good material and very well built, the society felt the need of a new church. During the pastorate of W. S. Piper, from 1896 to 1899, an effort was made toward the erection of a new church. It failed because of the lack of funds. Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Wolf in 1901 realized that Parkersburg was greatly in need of a new Methodist church, as well as a public library. They were especially friendly to the Methodist church from the fact that Mr. Wolf was the son of a Methodist preacher. Accordingly, Mr. Wolf made the following proposition to the pastor and congregation:

WOLF'S MUNIFICENT OFFER

“We, C. C. Wolf and Mary Wolf, agree to pay to the Methodist Episcopal church of Parkersburg, Iowa, through its trustees the sum of \$8,500 when the citizens of Iowa shall have subscribed and paid to the said trustees a like amount for the purpose of building a church and library as herein set forth, and further conditioned that no mortgage or encumbrance of any kind shall ever be placed on said property, and when site is selected and deed given, the said deed is to contain the said mortgage and encumbrance clause named above.

“(Signed) C. C. Wolf and Mary Wolf.”

REV. N. F. NORTON'S GOOD WORK

Rev. S. R. Ferguson met with some encouragement, but on account of ill health and for other reasons the project was abandoned. In the fall of 1902 Rev. N. F. Norton was appointed to the Parkersburg charge with the expectation on the part of the presiding elder and conference that a new church would be built. Soon after the arrival of the new preacher a new church building was talked by some of the members, but for several months the pastor said but little. It was felt by all, however, that something must be done soon. The old church was cold and leaked badly. It was evident that the old building must be repaired at considerable cost or a new one erected.

Upon consultation with Mr. Wolf it was learned that his proposition held good for another year. In March, 1903, a meeting of the trustees was called at the parsonage and by unanimous vote it was decided to accept the generous offer made by Mr. and Mrs. Wolf. A committee composed of the pastor, J. Knipe, and M. F. Edwards was appointed to secure the necessary subscriptions on the part of the church. The work was commenced at once, although the weather was inclement and the roads muddy. At the end of two months it was found that the amount subscribed exceeded \$8,500, and steps were taken at once to secure plans and specifications for the building, including \$2,000 for books and reading matter for the library.

PLANS ARE SELECTED

Several architects submitted plans and finally the ones presented by J. H. Prescott, of Marshalltown, Iowa, met with the approval of the building committee, consisting of Jacob Knipe, S. A. Foote, C. C. Wolf, M. F. Edwards and the pastor, N. F. Norton.

A notice for bids was published and on the 23d of September, 1903, the contract was awarded to Charles W. Skemp & Son, of Dubuque, to construct the building for \$12,720. The work of excavation was commenced in October, 1903. About the 15th of that month workmen began tearing down the old temple, much to the sorrow of the many who had long worshipped there.

The foundation walls of the new church were laid during the fall of 1903 and in March, 1904, work was resumed and the building nearly completed December 14th of that year. About this time the building committee were informed that the church was to have a fine pipe organ and in January, 1905, this was put in place. The cost of the building, including the furniture, is about twenty-three thousand dollars, and about two thousand dollars was expended for books for the free public library connected with the church. This makes a complete cost in round figures of \$25,000. Thousands of people attended the dedicatory services which took place April 16, 1905.

DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING

The church building is a fine modern, up-to-date temple and probably is not excelled in beauty or convenience in this section

of the state. The outside dimensions are 68x93 feet. The first floor contains a library, consisting of one large reading room and two private reading rooms, with stack room for books back of the library office. The first floor also has large prayer meeting rooms, ladies' parlor, dining room, kitchen, boiler and coal rooms. The second floor has an auditorium, lecture or Sunday school room, several class rooms, hallways, choir and organ rooms, pastor's study and a gallery. The seating capacity in sight of the pulpit is about seven hundred. Music is furnished from a fine pipe organ worth \$2,500, which was donated to the church.

Nearly all the floors above are of white maple with white pine in the library. The frescoing decorations are very fine and were made by Mr. Peters, of Chicago. The art glass was furnished by Giles & Company, of Minneapolis, and cannot be surpassed in beauty. One needs to see this beautiful building to fully realize its grandeur.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The Congregational church of Parkersburg was organized in 1869 by Rev. I. N. Williams. Its first religious services were held at the depot of the Illinois Central Railroad, and subsequently in the old schoolhouse. In 1870 the present church edifice was erected at cost of \$3,500. The building has since been remodeled. The church was organized by Rev. I. N. Williams, who became the temporary pastor.

The first regular pastor, Rev. R. S. D. Boynton, accepted a call April 25, 1870. The following ministers successively accepted calls to the pastorate: H. H. Robins, H. M. Amsden, Alexander Parker, G. W. Dorsey, John Gray, H. M. Sly, J. P. Richards, W. B. Sanford, J. P. Clyde, C. A. Chambers, J. J. Jones, A. S. Hock, W. P. Begg, W. B. Pardun, and Rev. J. W. Bonnell, the present pastor, accepted a call November 1, 1911.

The first officers of the church were: Deacons, Edwin Fisher, Ensign Baker; trustees, N. T. Manly, J. Beemer, E. Fisher, C. K. Tanner, R. R. Horr; clerk, N. T. Manly.

The church is free from debt and in a prosperous condition. The membership is fifty; Sunday school attendance, fifty.

BAPTIST CHURCH

The Baptist people of this community organized a church on the 27th of October, 1870, with the following members: A. Prigry

and wife, M. S. Miller and wife, Samuel Conn and wife, James Hall and wife, John Hall, H. Twining, George M. Cooper and wife, Ruth Cooper, Mrs. S. Lynn, Mary Coryell, W. L. Laurence. The first pastor was Rev. T. H. Hudson, who remained one year, and was succeeded by Revs. E. P. Baker, C. Spragg, F. H. Judson, A. E. Simons, J. B. Edmonson and others. Services were first held in the Congregational church, in a hall near the depot and schoolhouse. Then Union hall was used until the completion of the church building in October, 1880. A Sunday school was organized in 1870 and for a number of years the church prospered, but for the past several years the society has not been in evidence and has practically ceased to exist.

GERMAN BAPTIST CHURCH

On the 27th day of April, 1895, John Muntinga and wife, John Arends and wife, John A. Smith and wife, Kort Smith and wife, William Reichenburg and wife, Ibling Iblings and wife, Mrs. O. Voogd, Okke Van Hauen and wife, Mr. Vosburg, M. G. Brungers, Pete DeNene and wife, and Junke Polderboer and wife met at one of their homes and organized the German Baptist church. Unfortunately the name of the first minister could not be obtained for this article. Meetings were first held at the schoolhouse and finally, in 1901, a church building was erected, at a cost of \$4,000. About two years later a parsonage was built, costing \$2,000. The names of pastors since and including 1901 follow: Reverend Johnson, 1901; Reverend Engelman, 1901-03; Rev. Jacob Pfeffer, 1903-07; Rev. John Miller, 1907-11; Rev. G. R. Mayhaek, 1911-13. The church now has a membership of fifty-seven, but at present it is without a pastor.

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Among the Germans a Christian Reformed church was organized April 6, 1891, with fourteen families, among whom were Fritz Tammen, Geert Orends, Haite Roelfs and Harm Sap. The members of this society first met in their homes and for some time held services in the Methodist church. In 1892 a house of worship was erected and in the following year a parsonage close by. Both buildings are substantial frame structures. The membership had increased to thirty-six families by the month of

February, 1914. Pastors who have served this charge: Rev. H. Portgeer, October, 1892 to May, 1896; Rev. H. C. Bgote, candidate, June, 1896 to March, 1897; J. Plesseher, July, 1897 to May, 1912; Rev. H. Ahins, November, 1913.

FRATERNAL ORDERS

The Masonic Lodge began its first work under a dispensation from the Grand Lodge, May 26, 1868, and during the year Harley Day was worshipful master. June 2, 1869, Compass Lodge, No. 239, A. F. & A. M., received its charter, and at the first meeting the permanent organization was completed, and Harley Day was chosen worthy master; M. I. Powers, senior warden; G. W. Eastman, junior warden. There were eight other charter members. The lodge is now one of the best in the county and in November, 1913, moved into beautiful quarters, specially arranged and prepared, in the pretentious new Temple building. The lodge has a membership of sixty.

Compass Chapter, No. 159, Order of the Eastern Star, was organized Oct. 3, 1894. There are now sixty members. Those whose names appear on the charter are: Lillie Scherling, C. May, Rose Archer, Hattie Byerly, N. G. Baker, Clara Courtright, S. Foote, Jennie G. Heartl, C. Howenstein, May Morgan, Sarah Meade, M. Parker, Essie Parker, Carrie Poreupile, Julia Striker, Wealthy Strout, M. Smith and Brothers, A. O. Strout, Charles Archer, C. B. Byerly, O. B. Courtright, George Meade, James Ray and John Scherling.

JOHN BRADEN POST, NO. 242, G. A. R.

John Braden Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, was organized at Parkersburg, November 28, 1894, and at one time had a large membership. Death has menaced the old veterans of the Civil war and decimated their ranks yearly, until now they are becoming conspicuous by their inability, in many places to muster a quorum at their meetings. Many of the posts throughout the United States have gone out of existence and yearly charters are being surrendered by reason of diminishing numbers in membership. This is the condition of Braden Post. No longer do the old soldiers here meet in regular muster. There are not enough of them to make it interesting and those who remain are daily and

hourly being reminded of Time's passing and the results of hardships endured while in the service of their country. Names of the charter members are here given: J. M. Groat, Phil Wemple, F. M. Perkins, N. Goodale, Alex Christie, R. Wood, L. Stevens, S. W. Shipman, L. E. Crosby, Thomas Hauck, J. M. Kennedy, H. W. Babcock, E. A. Gilman, W. W. Parker, I. W. Camp, G. W. Billings, W. H. Coggins, P. S. Bass, W. N. Hund, G. G. Codner, G. L. Barnard, John Knapp, Joseph Burroughs, G. W. Archer, Oscar Lawrence, J. H. Porcupile, Thomas Wendby, F. F. Voeltz.

John Braden Relief Corps, G. A. R., No. 14, was organized December 2, 1884, with the following charter members: Phoebe A. Wade, Leila Owen, Emma Younker, Hattie Byerly, Barbara Kemmerer, Nora Knapp, Nellie Parker, Lena Kennedy, Josephine Barnes, Matilda Charles, Mary Franke, Carrie Porcupile, Wealthy A. Strout, Nellie Wood, Maggie Wilson, Mary Truesdale, Melissa E. Lawrence, Sarah Perkins, Annie M. Filer and Mercy Bass.

Lodge of Yeomen, Beaver Homestead, No. 214, was organized October 25, 1899, with forty-one charter members.

CHAPTER XIX

BEAVER TOWNSHIP, BUTLER RAPIDS, WILLOUGHBY AND NEW HARTFORD

BEAVER TOWNSHIP

Beaver township is located at the southeastern corner of the county. It is bounded on the east by Blackhawk county, on the south by Grundy, on the west and north by Albion and Shell Rock townships.

Its surface is considerably more uneven than that of most of the other townships of the county, due to the fact in part, at least, that it is traversed by two streams—the West Fork and the Beaver creek—both of which have by the time they reach the borders of this township attained respectable size. The West Fork traverses the northern portion of the township, entering on the western side of section 6 and flowing eastward to the point where it passes into Blackhawk county on the eastern side of section 12. Its valley is a broad, alluvial plain, with sandy loam. In the spring of the year this portion of the township is subject to frequent overflows, making it difficult to cross the West Fork valley. The Beaver creek flows through the southern portion of the township from east to west, paralleling in its main course that of the West Fork to the northward. This stream received its name from the fact that in early days its waters were the home of large numbers of beavers.

The timbered area of Beaver township probably exceeds that of any other township in the county, both streams being bordered by tracts of standing timber, and in addition there being a large grove known as Beaver grove, which extends from section 28 westward into Albion township. This grove follows in the main the rise of land known as Beaver ridge, which rises more or less abruptly on the northern side of the Beaver valley and stretches in a westerly direction for three or four miles. The land to the

north and east of Beaver ridge is extremely hilly. Practically all of it, however, is at the present time either under actual cultivation or being utilized for grazing purposes.

The Illinois Central Railroad crosses the township from east to west, its entire course being within less than a mile of the southern line of the township. The "Hawkeye Highway," an interstate automobile road, passes through the township, entering from Grundy county on the south side of section 35 and passing through New Hartford and thence along the line of the Illinois Central Railroad west to Parkersburg. The territory north of the West Fork is largely tributary to Shell Rock in a commercial and industrial way. The rest of the township is served as a market center by the town of New Hartford, which is the only town or village within its limits.

EARLY SETTLEMENT

The earliest settlements in Beaver township antedate by several years those in any other township of the county except Shell Rock and Butler. As in the case of the latter townships, hunters and trappers at a very early date pushed up along the creek from the Cedar valley and established themselves temporarily at points along its banks. Its proximity to the settlements established at an earlier date in Blackhawk county account for the fact that as early as 1851 permanent settlement of this section of the county began.

In 1850, on December 21st, George Kittle made an entry on a claim in section 31, of Beaver township, in the general land office at Dubuque. In point of time this is second only to the entry made by John Heery in November of the same year. It ranks therefore as the second entry of land in Butler county.

The third man in the county to make a Government entry also located his claim in Beaver township. This was Jesse Morgan, who on April 10, 1851, recorded his location of a claim on section 36. Neither Kittle nor Morgan, however, appear to have located permanently within the township limits.

The honor of being the first permanent settler in Beaver township is by common consent ascribed to Barnett Grandon. Mr. Grandon came to Butler county from Linn county in the fall of 1851. He settled on a farm in section 30, which remained in possession of his family about forty years. His entry of this

land was made on the 4th of October, 1851, and was the third to be made in Beaver township.

On the 19th of December, 1851, Adna Thomas recorded a claim on section 29. In the spring of 1852, Clinton Thomas came and also settled on section 29. Adna Thomas made a permanent settlement on his claim in the fall of 1852.

In 1853, Nicholas Hartgraves, who is mentioned as a pioneer settler of Madison township, located on section 30, where he remained for several years.

Rev. Nathan Ohmstead was another settler in the year 1853. Mr. Ohmstead came from DeKalb county, Ill., and settled on section 18, Beaver township, in 1853. He had acted as a local preacher of the Methodist Episcopal church before leaving Illinois and had also been ordained a deacon. In 1858 he was ordained an elder. He preached the first sermon in Beaver township on the Sunday following his arrival, and soon afterward organized a church.

The year 1854 saw the arrival of a number of men who were thenceforward leaders in the activities of the township. Among these were S. Hazleton, Aaron Ohmstead, Peter Rude and J. F. Bolton. Other settlers came in rapidly, among them the following: James Collar, George E. Fitch, Charles Knight, John Hartgraves, Titus Ensign, Charles Ensign, Samuel Feters, T. G. Copeland, C. R. Harmon, E. S. Maxwell, Baldwin D. Lewis, Jacob M. Knight, L. L. Smith, Nelson H. Whipple, S. S. Courtright and August Critzman.

Among other early settlers were Alonzo Converse, Patrick Flinn, Daniel Martin, David Twohig, Michael Rude, H. T. Morris, William Rosebrough, L. B. Corwin, Peter Gunnison, Cassell Churchill, C. S. Root, J. B. Hare, Ash Cornwall, Lorin Cornwall, H. H. Weaver, Nelson Dowd, George Daniels, Robert Stanley and James Williams.

GENERAL ITEMS

The first marriage ceremony performed in the township was between William Dodd and a Miss Dowd, which occurred in 1857.

The first death was that of the wife of Joseph Casto, in 1856.

The first postmaster was S. B. Ensign, the office being located on the present site of New Hartford. Shortly thereafter another postoffice was established at Taylor's Hill, in Grundy county.

about a mile and a quarter south, and for a time the New Hartford postoffice was discontinued and its citizens were compelled to go to Taylor's Hill for their mail, or provide for its transportation from Cedar Falls by private conveyance.

The first religious services were held at the house of Adna Thomas, May 29, 1859, by Nathan Olmstead. An organization of the Protestant Methodist church was effected at this time, the first members being Jacob Brown, Mrs. Adna Thomas and Alonzo Olmstead. Services were continued at the house of Mr. Thomas until the establishment of a church of the same denomination at New Hartford, when this organization was merged with the New Hartford church.

The first manufacturing plant in Beaver township was put up in 1855 by a man named Marslin. This mill occupied a site on section 29. It was finally torn down. The second sawmill was erected by the Ensign brothers on section 28. A steam sawmill was erected in an early day on section 30, by Alonzo Norris. Another steam sawmill was erected on section 29 by James Williams. It was moved a number of times to different points in the township and finally was transported to Webster City.

OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION

The term Beaver township at first included within its limits what are now Shell Rock, Jefferson, Albion and Beaver townships. At the first election held in April, 1855, Lyman Norton was appointed judge. At this election John H. Smith and M. Hollenbeck were chosen justices of the peace; Marshall Kelley and Asa Chance, constables; George Dewey, assessor.

In March, 1856, the upper half of what constituted Beaver township was organized as Shell Rock township and thereafter Beaver included the present township of Albion within its limits until the 5th of October, 1857, when it was again subdivided and Albion and Beaver townships both given their present limits. The first election in the township with its present boundaries was held in the village of Willoughby. At this election Charles Ensign, James B. Hare and Lewis Hammond were chosen trustees; Alonzo Converse, clerk.

POPULATION OF THE TOWNSHIP

1856, 430; 1860, 546; 1863, 606; 1865, 754; 1867, 868; 1869, 934; 1870, 1084; 1873, 989; 1875, 1017; 1880, 975; 1890, 1074; 1900, 1349; 1910, 1223.

EDUCATIONAL

The first school in the township was taught in the summer of 1855 in a log house belonging to Baldwin Lewis, on section 38. The teacher was Miss America Taylor.

The second school was taught by Charles Ensign in New Hartford, in the winter of 1856-7.

The first schoolhouse was erected in New Hartford and used for both school and church purposes. Its erection occurred in 1859.

At present the school affairs are in the hands of nine directors, one elected from each sub-district. Sub-districts Nos. 6 and 10 include most of the territory north of the West Fork and east of the central part of section 4. Sub-districts Nos. 4 and 9 include the territory in the northwestern part of the township. District No. 7 includes the major portion of the Beaver Grove territory. It is the largest school in attendance in the township. District No. 2 is known as the Grady district. Sub-district No. 3 is the largest in extent, containing nearly six sections. The schoolhouse stands on section 15. District No. 5, the "Corwin district," consists of five sections in the extreme southeastern portion of the township, and No. 8 the southwestern portion. The independent district of New Hartford occupies a central position on the south side of the township. A project is being agitated looking toward the consolidation of the districts whose territory lies between the rivers. It is probable that such action will be taken at an early date, as the conditions for the establishment of such a district seem unusually favorable.

BUTLER RAPIDS

On April 7, 1858, a plat of the town called Butler Rapids was filed with the county judge, A. Converse, and placed upon record. This projected town was located on what is now called Jerusalem Hill situated in section 7, Beaver township, just east of the West Fork. The land is now known as the Bolton place. The

land on which Butler Rapids stood was entered by Thomas Marslin and transferred by him to Moses Chapman, or Chapin, of Blackhawk county, by whom Butler Rapids was platted. A dam was constructed across the West Fork just west of the town site and a sawmill built on the western bank. This town was first known as New Jerusalem. It made a very promising beginning and at one time contained a store and a number of residences. The establishment of Willoughby, about a half mile west across the river, sapped the vitality of Butler Rapids and eventually brought about its extinction. The greater part of its population removed to Willoughby or elsewhere, its houses were torn down or moved away, or left to rot on their sites. Twenty-five years ago, as the writer is informed by an old resident of the county, nothing remained to mark the site of Butler Rapids but the empty cellar excavations garnished by an assortment of old tin cans to mark the site of this village. At this time cottonwood trees eighteen and twenty inches in thickness were growing from the cellars, showing that the decay of the town dated back a number of years. The very fact of its existence has been forgotten or is unknown to the vast majority of the citizens of Butler county.

WILLOUGHBY

The village of Willoughby was laid out in the spring of 1855. Its plat occupied the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 9. This plat was recorded on the minute book of the county court, September 9, 1856. The proprietors were two men named Cameron and McClure.

The first house in Willoughby was built by Cameron and McClure in 1855 and was occupied as a dwelling by G. W. Daniels. This building stood until 1862, when it was torn down.

In the fall of 1855 a store was opened in Willoughby by Cornwell Brothers, who carried a stock of general merchandise. They remained here until 1864, when they sold the stock of goods to a man in Clear Lake, who moved it to that place. The building was divided and part of it sold to O. W. McIntosh, who used it for a hotel, and the remainder to B. Haskins, who occupied it for some time as a residence. This portion was afterward burned. Cornwell Brothers also started a blacksmith shop here in 1856.

The first school in Willoughby was taught by Miss Hannah Ensign in the winter of 1857-8 at the residence of Mr. King. The

first school building was erected in 1861 and continued to be used for about a quarter of a century.

In the fall of 1870 an organization of the Methodist church was effected. Two years later this church was disbanded.

In the summer of 1856 a hotel was built by the Cornwell Brothers, which continued under their control until 1860, when it passed into the hands of J. B. Gordon. Subsequent to this date it was managed in turn by Robert Ohmstead, O. W. McIntosh and H. D. Burnett. The latter gentleman continued its management until 1872, when it was finally closed. This hotel was a regular stopping place on the route from Cedar Falls to Algona and enjoyed a liberal patronage in the years before the railroads penetrated the county.

A postoffice at Willoughby was established in 1855. The list of postmasters include the names G. W. Daniels, A. Cornwell, B. Haskins, O. D. Ohmstead, R. Stanley, George Burnett, David Diltz, Samuel Fetters and H. D. Burnett. In its later years the office received mail twice a week from Butler Center. It was discontinued some years before the establishment of the rural mail routes.

There is one house still standing on the Willoughby town site, a portion of a store building, which was the last place of business here. A schoolhouse also stands on the village site but it is now a sub-district schoolhouse. It is called the Willoughby schoolhouse, thus perpetuating the name of the town that once stood here.

NEW HARTFORD

The village of New Hartford is located on section 33. Beaver township. Beaver creek wends its sinuous way on the north. The country surrounding this bustling little town is peopled by well-to-do, energetic farmers, who have become prosperous, by cultivating some of the most fertile land in the state and contributing to the world's production of live stock no inconsiderable portion. The town has witnessed a steady and substantial growth and holds a place of prominence in the county.

The land upon which New Hartford is so pleasantly located was preempted by a Mr. Chapman, in the spring of 1854, and in the early autumn of the year he built a log cabin on a spot now within the corporate limits. Titus Ensign and S. B. Ensign came on from the state of New York and upon looking over the imme-

diate country, were greatly impressed with the beauty of the landscape, fertility of soil and healthful climate. They made arrangements to build a mill here, and before returning to their eastern home bought the east half of section 33 and received permission from Chapman to make entry of their purchase, which gave them precedence and ultimate title to that part of Chapman's claim. In January, 1855, the Ensigns returned to Butler county, and in conformity with their previous plans, built a mill on the bank of Beaver creek; near the present school building they also put up a log house for a habitation. That same summer Titus Ensign caused the land on section 33 to be surveyed into town lots, composing twelve blocks including a public square, and on the 4th day of June, 1856, the plat of New Hartford was filed for record.

The Ensigns built the first house in the village of New Hartford in the autumn of 1855. This was a log cabin, already mentioned. It was occupied by the pioneers as a bachelors' hall until early in the following year, when Titus Ensign brought his family from Waverly and installed the members thereof in their new prairie home. The following spring S. B. Ensign erected a residence on lots 1 and 3, block 11. G. W. Ensign came with Titus and S. B. Ensign and in the spring of 1857 put up a building on block 6. Here he installed machinery and ran a shingle mill five or six years. The building was then moved to lot 8, block 12, and converted into a stable for Dr. W. H. H. Hagey.

R. Shaw arrived in the village in 1857 and built a house on lots 2 and 4, block 11. About the same time, E. L. Shaw built on lots 2 and 4, block 10; E. M. Shaw on lots 6 and 8, block 10; Nelson Childs on lots 5 and 7, block 8; Dr. Joseph Casto on lots 2 and 4, block 8. E. M. Shaw also put up a blacksmith shop on lot 7, block 11. E. O. Stevens bought the S. B. Ensign house and moved into it. Shortly after William Jones occupied the property. Early in the fall he erected a building, in which he conducted a saloon for a while.

The first store in New Hartford was established in August, 1856, by Martin Bailey, who came from Cedar Falls and had a new building ready for occupancy at the time above mentioned. Mr. Bailey and family were prominent in business and social circles of the place until 1860, when they removed to a farm near Butler Center.

D. N. Root and Elijah Root, of New York state, located here in 1856. They purchased the west half of the northeast quarter of

section 33 of Solomon Lashbrook, which was surveyed and platted as Root's addition to New Hartford. Having purchased the building erected by E. L. Shaw, on lots 2 and 4, block 10, D. N. Root enlarged and arranged the structure suitably to a hotel, and he conducted the first "stopping place" for travelers in the township.

The advent of the Root brothers proved a great benefit to the town. They were energetic, enterprising citizens. After giving the town an addition in territory, D. N. Root spent some time in the east, where he disposed of a considerable number of lots, and it is presumed, directed some immigration to this locality.

E. Bourquin, of Dubuque, located in New Hartford in August, 1860, and opened a general store. He was the only merchant in the place at that time, Martin Bailey, the pioneer storekeeper, having closed his business in the spring and taken up farming. Bourquin became the first permanent merchant in New Hartford, although he almost lost the distinction by selling his store to a Mr. Welsh in 1861. But the new man became dissatisfied and in the fall of the year Bourquin was again back of the counter, selling goods at the old stand. He became one of the most prominent business men in the southern part of Butler county and the splendid Bourquin brick business building, on the main thoroughfare, is a monument to his industry and thrift. He was the local postmaster for a period of eighteen years.

Several attempts have been made to permanently establish the liquor traffic at this place, but the sentiment of the community was not, collectively, sufficiently strong to encourage the traffic. H. S. Burch was rudely awakened from his dream of an easy life as a saloon man, when he was disturbed by a deputy sheriff in 1857. He destroyed his stock of liquor and left the town. So did M. J. Coon, who was an ostensible guest of the Root hotel in 1859. He was discovered "boot legging" and his arrest followed. Had he been left to the frenzied citizens, most likely his career would have been prematurely brought to an abrupt ending. He was practically run out of town. It is needless to add that New Hartford is still a "dry" town.

A creamery was started in New Hartford in 1877, by a stock company. In the spring of 1880 Eugene Bourquin purchased the property.

A grain elevator was built on the line of the Illinois Central Railroad in 1876, and was managed by the grain dealers, J. Paulger & Son. Previous to this the grain firm of Root & Beckwith

had erected a grain warehouse and after running it about six years, sold out the business to Eugene Bourquin. Eventually it drifted into the hands of E. Paulger & Son.

The Wick Brothers' firm established the first drug store at New Hartford in the fall of 1880; the lumber firm and hardware business of J. Paulger & Son were established in 1882; and J. R. Field's furniture store was first opened in 1873. Early in the '60s L. L. Smith became proprietor and landlord of the Exchange Hotel and in January, 1868, was inducted into the office of sheriff.

THE POSTOFFICE

The first postoffice established here was named Beaver Grove, in 1855. S. B. Ensign was appointed postmaster. About this time an office was established at Taylor's Hill, a little over a mile south of the village and in view of this fact, supplies were discontinued and the Beaver Grove office was practically abandoned by the authorities. Mail was then brought to the office from Cedar Falls by private conveyance.

The New Hartford office was established in 1858. Dr. Joseph Casto was the first commissioned postmaster, but the office was left in charge of a deputy, D. N. Root, who kept the office at his hotel. This was made a money order office August 15, 1881. The first money order was issued to David Diltz, and the one cashed had been issued in favor of Dr. William H. H. Hagey. The names of postmasters succeeding Dr. Casto are here given: C. H. Chamberlin, Dr. J. A. Guthrie, J. P. Wood, E. Bourquin, J. S. McElwain, Thomas Houlihan, H. G. King, Lee Caulfield, H. G. King and Clarence Sprague.

NEW HARTFORD INCORPORATED

The town of New Hartford was incorporated and became a separate organization from the township in 1884. An election was held and officials elected, but the minute book of the recorder is missing and no detailed account can be given by the writer of the early proceedings of the town trustees. It is known, however, that John Paulger was mayor in 1884, and M. J. Pierce, recorder. The names of successors to these offices follow: Mayor—L. L. Smith, 1891-2; F. W. Paulger, 1892-5; J. W. Plummer, 1895-6; G. M. Bronson, 1896-9; L. L. Smith, 1899-1904; L. E.

Bourquin, 1904-12; E. H. Will, 1912-13; by appointment to fill vacancy, Dr. J. G. Evans, February, 1913-14. Clerks—M. J. Pierce, 1884-99; Charles L. Booton, 1899-1904; N. P. Elwell, 1904-12; C R. Harmon, 1912-14.

WATERWORKS SYSTEM

The little city of New Hartford owns a system of waterworks that meets all the requirements of her citizens. The water is of a splendid quality, there is plenty of it and the pressure through the mains is amply sufficient to throw a stream of water over any building in the town. The question of building waterworks and issuing \$3,000 in bonds, was submitted to the decision of the electorate and was most favorably passed upon by that ruling body in 1896. In the same year the works were built and completed. Driven wells furnish an almost inexhaustible supply of water, which is pumped into a tank elevated on a steel tower 80 feet in height. This reservoir has a capacity of about 40,000 gallons.

ELECTRIC LIGHTS

In the fall of the year 1913 Ray Dodd and George Courtright, two energetic and progressive citizens, built a small electric light plant, more as an experiment and for their own convenience than as a business venture. They builded better than they knew and as a consequence are receiving numerous applications for service. Several of the business houses and residences are using the electric lights and it is now anticipated that the plant will be enlarged in the spring of 1914.

NEW HARTFORD STATE BANK

About the year 1889, Eugene Bourquin, F. W. Paulger, E. C. Bellows, J. A. Cousins and A. E. Bourquin organized a private banking company, taking the name of the New Hartford Bank, and began business in a brick building which they had previously erected for the purpose. In 1900 the bank was incorporated as the New Hartford State Bank, with a capital of \$35,000, by the original owners. The first officers of the State Bank were: Eugene Bourquin, president; J. A. Cousins, vice president; F. W. Paulger, cashier. F. W. Paulger resigned his position in 1906 and L.

E. Bourquin assumed the duties of the office left vacant; at the same time A. F. Perrin was elected vice president. Eugene Bourquin died in 1908. This brought about other changes. A. F. Perrin became president and August Critzman, vice president. L. E. Bourquin left the office of cashier vacant in 1911 and R. L. Farnsworth since then has filled the position very acceptably. The bank's last official statement shows the following: Capital, \$35,000; undivided profits, \$17,500; deposits, \$187,500.

In 1911 F. B. Miller, Roger Leavitt and H. S. Gilky incorporated the Farmers' Savings Bank, with a capital stock of \$25,000. The officers were: F. B. Miller, president; R. E. Wick, vice president; G. M. Bronson, vice president; R. A. Gage, cashier. The institution ran along for two years with indifferent success and little encouragement for its continuance, so that in the fall of 1913, all the stock was secured by the New Hartford State Bank and the two banks combined are much stronger and give more efficient service than two could render in a town the size of New Hartford, whose population is now about 500.

THE SCHOOLS

Charles Ensign, one of the pioneer settlers at New Hartford, taught the first school in the place. This was held at his home in January, 1857. Being unable to finish the term planned, Mr. Ensign turned over his pupils to Mrs. Sarah Dean, who taught the little class of boys and girls at her humble home.

Before the close of the year 1857 a modest schoolhouse was erected and answered all purposes measurably well until 1867, when a two-story frame structure was built, to meet the increasing demands for more room. Later, a one-story frame schoolhouse was built, to accommodate children in the first four grades. The larger building remained in use until 1897, when it was moved on to another lot and recently converted into an automobile garage. On the old site a modern two-story brick school building was erected the same year, at a cost of \$4,000. In this latter building are four teachers; in the little frame, two instructors are employed.

RELIGIOUS

The first religious service held in New Hartford was by Rev. Nathan Olmstead and Harvey Smith, at the home of Charles En-

sign, who at the time had also converted his home into a school-house. The settlers who at this time formed a class, were of the Protestant Methodist faith and chose for their class leader Nelson Childs. The class was a small one, composed of E. M. and Robert Shaw, with their wives, Nelson Childs and wife and Charles Ensign and wife. The society existed until 1870, but never erected a house of worship.

BAPTIST CHURCH

The Baptist church was organized in 1857 and among the names of the first members the following are remembered: Joseph Collins and wife, E. H. Collins and wife, Eber Dunham, Lois Dunham, Joseph Casto, Norman Devoe, S. B. Ensign and wife, Lewis Hammond and wife and Daniel Pickett. The first minister was Rev. I. R. Dean.

In May, 1857, the Sunday school was established in the school room at the home of Charles Ensign and the premier school teacher was chosen superintendent. A church building was erected in 1866, at a cost of \$5,500, and was the most pretentious building belonging to any church society in Butler county. It stood the Baptist people in good stead for many years, but eventually became inadequate and was superseded in the year 1903, by a handsome buff pressed brick structure, erected at a cost of \$8,000. The society is prosperous, has one hundred members and an average attendance at the Sunday school. The names of all the pastors follow: Revs. I. R. Dean, Gibbs, A. Orentt, William Wood, E. G. O. Gront, D. P. Maryatt, Rev. Cox, Judson, H. D. Weaver, L. D. Lamkin, William M. Simmons, William C. Pratt, 1882-5; Arthur F. Howell, 1887-94; W. E. Adams, 1894-7; C. W. Heady, 1897-1904; J. F. Wood, 1904-06; C. H. H. Moore, 1907-09; Harry A. Essex, 1909-14.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

There being deemed a sufficient number of the Methodist faith to associate themselves formally into a class, an organization was effected in 1857, by E. S. Maxwell, as class leader, and his wife, Robert Shaw and wife, and a Mr. Childs and wife. Meetings were held every two weeks in an old log schoolhouse, but the first sermon heard in the town was delivered by an itinerant preacher,

at the home of Charles Ensign in 1856. In 1871 a neat and commodious church building was erected at a cost of \$3,000 and in 1907-8 the building was remodeled to comply with present day demands. The first regular pastor was Rev. Taylor and those who have followed him are herein mentioned, namely: Revs. George Murphy, Glassner, Ward, McGee, Burgett, McKim, McGee, W. Ward Smith, J. R. Cameron, 1885-87; E. R. Leamen, 1887-89; B. H. Flemming, 1889-90; Horace Foote, 1890-93; W. N. Brown, 1893-95; W. E. Ross, 1895-98; J. D. Perry, 1898-1900; J. H. Hayward, 1900-02; Stuart C. Bretnall, 1903-05; Jesse Smith, 1905-06; F. X. Miller, 1906-07; H. W. Halter, three months; E. E. Clements, 1908-09; Thomas Maxwell, 1909-10; Henry Allshouse, 1910-11; J. C. Davis, 1911-12; W. A. Faris, 1912-14.

The membership now numbers one hundred and thirteen.

ROMAN CATHOLIC MISSION

For some time previous to the year 1897 the ordinance of mass was formally observed in New Hartford, by visiting priests in a non-sectarian building. But in the year mentioned Father Lynch built a church edifice for the mission established here and since that time this people have been attended by clergymen of the church resident at Parkersburg. Father O. Leary is the present pastor; a young man but lately arrived from Ireland.

FRATERNAL ORDERS

The fraternal bodies established in New Hartford have afforded the good people an outlet for their surplus energies and afforded a means of whiling away many pleasant and profitable hours of an evening. Oswegatchie Lodge, No. 20, I. O. O. F. was the first one organized, coming into existence October 23, 1884. The woman's auxiliary, Banquet Lodge, No. 343, Daughters of Rebekah, was organized October 23, 1896.

Beaver Lodge, No. 472, A. F. & A. M., was organized June 2, 1886, by F. B. Bolton, August Critzman and L. L. Smith. The membership now numbers ninety-three.

New Hartford Camp, No. 838, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized February 16, 1889, with eleven members. Robinson Camp, No. 3786, Royal Neighbors, was organized some years later, with twenty-four charter members.

Some time in the '80s the veterans of New Hartford and vicinity organized a post of the Grand Army of the Republic, but owing to the rapid passing away of their comrades the surviving members have become too few in numbers to give them any further interest in holding stated meetings. The Woman's Relief Corps, No. 228, organized February 18, 1891, still keeps up its organization and regular meetings.

CHAPTER XX

BENNEZETTE TOWNSHIP AND VILLAGE OF AREDALE

The township of Bennezette occupies a position in the northwestern corner of the county. It is bounded on the north by Floyd county, on the west by Franklin county and corners on the northwest with Cerro Gordo county. According to the congressional survey it is township 93 north, range 18 west of the fifth principal meridian. The land in general is more level than in many other sections of the county. There are fewer marked elevations of land and less natural drainage. As a result, the soil is a rich black loam. Originally a considerable portion of the township was so lacking in facilities for natural drainage as at times to be too wet for cultivation. Of recent years the establishment of several drainage districts and the construction of a number of large drainage ditches, together with the tiling of the land by individual owners, has rendered this one of the most fertile and productive portions of Butler county.

Coldwater creek enters the township from the north in section 5 and flows eastward through the northern tier of sections. The extreme southwest portion is drained by the North Branch of the West Fork, and another small stream has its origin in the south central portion of the township. None of these streams are of any size and during the dry seasons they practically cease to flow.

For a number of years after the organization of the township it had no town within its borders. In 1900, however, the construction of the line of the Northwestern Railroad through the western portion of the township led to the establishment of the town of Aredale, an unincorporated village, situated at the center of sections 29, 30, 31 and 32. Dougherty, a village in Cerro Gordo county, is the trading point for farmers of the northwestern portion of the township, and Greene for those of the northeastern section. The southeastern portion is served as a trading point by

the town of Bristow. The township is now thickly settled by a progressive class of farmers whose industry and energy are second to none in the state. The township takes its name from the town of Bennezette, Pennsylvania, the native home of William P. Woodworth and Samuel Overturf, who were pioneers here.

EARLY SETTLEMENT

In common with other western townships of the county the early settlement in Bennezette did not take place until several years following the settlement of the eastern townships of the county. The first settler is said to have been William A. Keister, who in 1854 settled on a claim in section 1. In the following year John J. Chase came from Waverly and located a claim on section 4. He is said to have remained here but a short time. The names of these two settlers are the only ones recorded for the years 1854 and 1855.

The records of the land office showing the original entries of land in this township reveal the fact that the first entry of land was made by one David Miller, on April 17, 1854, in section 12. On January 15, 1855, the second entry was made by J. S. Easley, in section 2. The third entry was made by W. H. Ennis, on section 1, on June 28, 1855. As the names of none of these gentlemen appear in the lists of early settlers, it may be concluded that these claims were simply taken up to be sold later.

In 1856 William Kingery, a native of Indiana, purchased the claim which had been taken up by W. A. Keister, in section 1, and lived upon it until 1865, when he moved to section 13, in Coldwater township. About the same time, two other settlers named Hamlin and Murphy located in the township. Hamlin came from Ohio and took up a claim on the southeast quarter of section 30, where he lived until 1863. He then removed to Butler Center and his later history is unknown. Murphy was from New York and settled on the northwest quarter of section 1. He later removed to Osage.

One of the most prominent of the early settlers was Milton Wilson, who was born in New York, in 1826. With his family he came west in the spring of 1857, taking passage from Buffalo to Milwaukee by boat. From the latter point they traveled overland to Butler county and located a claim on section 15, Bennezette township. Mr. Wilson was prominently identified with the

history of the county from the time of his arrival. He was one of the county supervisors, elected first under the old system, representing Bennezette township on the county board in the years 1859 and 1860. He was later a member of the board of supervisors under the present law, serving during the years 1879, 1880, 1881, 1891, 1892 and 1893. At the time Mr. Wilson raised his first crop of wheat, Cedar Rapids was the nearest market—one hundred and ten miles distant. To this town Mr. Wilson hauled his first crop and received for it the sum of sixty cents a bushel.

The year 1857 saw a large increase in the number of settlers in the township. Among these were Ira A. and Cyrus D. Chamberlin, brothers, who came from Vermont and located claims in section 34; Oliver Evans, who settled on the southwest quarter of section 17; W. P. Woodworth and Samuel Overturf, later residents of Pittsford township, settled in section 35; Orrin C. Smith and John A. Smith, natives of Michigan, who settled in sections 27 and 34; George O'Brien and three McKinney brothers, Philip, John and Michael, John and Patrick Kelly, John P. Mills, James S. Morris, Augustus Clukey, Peter Galipo, Warren Caswell and a man named Ward. This so far as is known is a complete list of the settlers in the township for 1857.

In the years immediately following 1857 the number of settlers is so great as to render a detailed list almost impossible. Among the later settlers without regard to the date of their settlement may be mentioned Benjamin H. Barnett, William Lovell, Francis and John Maxwell, John E. Downing, Adam Kyle and Michael Wade.

The Maxwells purchased land in sections 3, 10 and 11, together owning something over one thousand acres in this section of the township. They are survived by several sons and daughters who are still residents of the township and county.

John E. Downing located on section 26 and later became the owner of the northwest quarter of section 25. The family is still represented in the county, the present members of the family being located principally in Coldwater township.

John H. Kyle, the present treasurer of the school township of Bennezette, is a son of Adam Kyle, mentioned above.

No family in the history of the county has been more prominently identified with affairs state and national than that of Michael Wade. Detailed mention of his son, John F., is given below.

Another son, Martin J. Wade, was born in Burlington, Vt., October 20, 1861. He came to Iowa with his father and settled in Bennezzette township in 1871, the family home being located on section 7. He received his education in the rural schools of Butler county, St. Joseph's College in Dubuque and the Iowa State University. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1886. From the first he was eminently successful as a practitioner and his knowledge of the law led to his selection in 1892 as professor of the law department of the State University. In 1889 he was elected president of the State Bar Association. From 1893 until 1902 Mr. Wade presided as judge over the courts of the eighth judicial district. In the latter year he was elected Representative in Congress for the second district on the democratic ticket. Since the expiration of this term he has been a member of the democratic national committee and has been one of the most prominent leaders in the councils of this party. He has been mentioned a number of times as a possible candidate for national honors.

John F. Wade served the county as a member of the board of supervisors from 1897 to 1903. He was state senator from the district including Butler and Bremer counties, during the sessions of the Thirtieth, Thirty-first and Thirty-second General Assemblies. In October, 1909, he was appointed to a position on the Board of Control of State Institutions, which he held to the date of his death, in 1913. Mr. Wade was a democrat in politics and no testimony to the degree of trust which he possessed in the minds of the citizens of Butler county is more convincing than the fact that although different in political faith from the great majority of the voters of Butler county, he was so long and so signally honored with positions at their gift.

EDUCATIONAL

Bennezzette township is organized as a district township for school purposes and maintains nine schools.

The first schoolhouse was built in the northeast part of section 1, in 1861. Mrs. Mary A. Briggs taught the first term of school in the township, in a frame building built for this purpose. The wages were \$14 a month and she was to board herself.

In 1873, a second schoolhouse to take the place of this one was erected on section 11. Later the present school building, situated in the southeast quarter of section 2, was built.

In 1864, a second school district was set off for No. 2 and a schoolhouse erected on section 9. In 1882 this schoolhouse was sold at auction, and for a time the district was without a building. At the present time a schoolhouse is located in section 4.

Miss Eliza J. Logan, who taught in district No. 2 during the winter of 1864-5, was one of the first teachers, if not the first teacher, in this district.

District No. 3 was set off in 1872 and a school building was located in the southeast corner of section 6. The first teacher was Arvilla Niece.

District No. 4 was formed soon after but was for a time without a schoolhouse. The children of this district are now accommodated in a building located on the northeast corner of section 19.

The Center school, district No. 5, erected its first building in 1882 in the northeast part of section 21. Dave McKinney was the first teacher.

The first schoolhouse in district No. 6, erected in 1874, at the northeast corner of section 23, was destroyed by the tornado of 1878. The building was immediately replaced and still stands upon the same location. Miss Annie Ward was the first teacher in this district.

Miss Florence White taught the first school in district No. 7, in a schoolhouse erected in 1882, on section 35. Later the site of this schoolhouse was moved to the northwest corner of section 36.

In 1863 a schoolhouse for what is now district No. 8 was located on section 34. The first school in this building was taught by Addie B. Fay. This was used until 1882, when it was abandoned. For some years pupils attended school in other districts. Later, however, the present building in section 34 was erected.

In 1868 a school building for district No. 9 was located on section 32. In 1873 the building was moved to section 29. The first school in this district, however, was taught in the house of Sylvanus Hamlin, in 1862, by a Mrs. Mary Smith. The schoolhouse in district No. 9 continued to serve the pupils of the town of Aredale. Soon thereafter the number of pupils became too large to be accommodated in any one building. Temporary quarters were secured for a part of the children in a room over the bank and an additional teacher secured for the instruction of these children comprising the primary department.

In 1911 the township voted to raise the sum of \$5,000, through two annual tax levies to be used for the construction of a modern schoolhouse for the children of Aredale. At the time of the present writing the plans and specifications for this building have been agreed upon and advertisements for bids for its construction have been made. Within the course of less than a year it is probable that Aredale will be the possessor of a modern school building, adequate for the needs of the community for some years to come. This action on the part of the people of Bennezette township is indicative of their progressive spirit in educational affairs.

POSTOFFICES

Inasmuch as the township was situated so far from any market point in the days before free rural mail delivery, it was necessary in order to accommodate the people of this section of the county that several local postoffices be established for their benefit. The first of these was moved from Franklin county to the house of John H. Lockwood, on section 6, about 1875. Mail arrived here twice each week from Sheffield, in Franklin county, and Marble Rock, in Floyd county. This office remained in existence for a number of years.

Another postoffice was established in April, 1878, at Wilson's Grove, on section 15. Milton Wilson was the postmaster and received mail here once a week from Greene during the first year, and after that, twice a week from Sheffield. This office was discontinued in the fall of 1880. The postoffice at Aredale was established in 1901, and is at present the only postoffice in the township. Rural mail routes from Aredale, Dougherty, Bristow and Greene now accommodate the people of this township.

OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION

The first division of the county into townships came in February, 1855. Bennezette was then made a part of the township of Ripley. On the 3d of March, 1856, another division occurred by which Bennezette was made a part of Coldwater. It was finally set off from Coldwater and given separate organization on the 4th of March, 1858, Samuel Overturf being authorized to call the first election. This gentleman has been mentioned

above as having named the township for his own home town in Elk county, Pennsylvania.

The first election held under the orders of Judge Converse was held at Samuel Overturf's house on the 5th day of April, 1858. The following officers were elected: William P. Woodworth, clerk; Ira A. Chamberlin, Milton Wilson, Samuel Overturf, trustees; Cyrus D. Chamberlin, road supervisor; Thomas Overturf and Orrin C. Smith, constables. The first assessor was William A. Keister, elected in October, 1858.

The records of the township in the early days are relatively unimportant. It may be interesting to note, however, the attitude of the people of Bennezette township on the removal of the county seat, which has been treated elsewhere. In the election of April 5, 1858, for the removal from Clarksville to Georgetown, twelve votes were cast, all in favor of the removal. At the election April 4, 1859, for the removal from Clarksville to Butler Center, thirteen votes were cast, twelve for removal and one against. On the 2d day of November, 1880, when the question of removal of the county seat from Butler Center to Allison came up, of the seventy-eight ballots cast, seventy-two were for Allison and six for Butler Center.

The population of the township as shown by the various census reports, state and national, is as follows: 1860, 54; 1863, 72; 1865, 61; 1867, 110; 1869, 156; 1870, 206; 1873, 220; 1875, 302; 1880, 527; 1890, 580; 1900, 689; 1905, 708; 1910, 681.

GENERAL ITEMS

The first birth known to have occurred in Bennezette township was that of a daughter of William A. and Mary Keister, named Louisa, born December 29, 1855.

The first marriage in the township was that of John Bartlett Moffat and Adelia Mufley, which occurred in 1859, at the home of the bride's parents. Elder Philip Moss, of Coldwater township, was the officiating clergyman.

The first deaths occurred in the fall of 1857, when a son and daughter of William Kingery died and were buried in the German cemetery in Coldwater township. Elder Philip Moss officiated at the funeral.

The first religious services in Bennezette township were held by the same Rev. Philip Moss, in 1858, in the home of William

Kingery, on section 1. Rev. Mr. Moss was of the German Baptist or Dunkard church. He is mentioned more at length in connection with the history of Coldwater township.

The first Sunday school in the township was organized in the schoolhouse in district No. 1, in 1868, with William Keister as the superintendent.

VILLAGE OF AREDALE

The village of Aredale is located on sections 29 and 32, in the southwest part of Bennezette township, and is a station on the Chicago & Northwestern railroad. It was laid out and platted by the Iowa & Minnesota Town Site Company, of Mason City, Iowa, in 1900, and the plat was recorded June 28, 1900, by W. E. Brice, president. In the few years of its existence the village has grown until it now has a population of about 150. There is a township schoolhouse, in which is employed one teacher. To take care of the overflow of school children a room is occupied over the Aredale Savings Bank, by an instructor and her pupils. The business interests consist of general stores, shops, a grain elevator and bank.

The Aredale Savings Bank was organized in 1901, with the following officers: C. H. McNider, president; W. J. Christians, vice president; H. J. Ehlers, cashier. The present officers are: R. L. Miller, president; W. J. Christians, cashier; E. R. Worley, assistant cashier. Capital, \$10,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$4,700; deposits, \$141,718.

GRACE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

In 1899 before the town of Aredale was started or even the C. N. W. Railroad had gone through this section of the country, Rev. B. R. Wiener and Rev. L. F. Smith of the Evangelical Church began to preach in a schoolhouse which now stands on the edge of the town of Aredale. Their efforts were crowned with success and in 1901 a commodious modern church was erected and dedicated to the worship of God free from debt.

Rev. J. H. Engel and Rev. C. F. Hillman in turn served this field in connection with Dumont until 1910, when Aredale was made a separate mission and Rev. J. V. Knoll was appointed as pastor. The project of building a parsonage was taken up that



GRACE EVANGELICAL CHURCH, AREDALE



MAIN STREET, AREDALE

year and the next year witnessed the completion of a fine modern building which is a credit to the congregation and community.

In 1912 Rev. O. M. Yaggy was appointed as pastor and during his pastorate the church has continued to enjoy continued prosperity under the signal blessing of God. The communicants now number eighty-one with a live Sunday school which has an enrollment of 175. During the past year many new methods and some modern equipment have been introduced putting the church and Sunday school work on a par with that of much larger towns.

The most important achievement of the past year, however, is the action of the official board in putting the field on a self-supporting basis, a step which reflects great credit on the progressive spirit and loyalty of the congregation.

CHAPTER XXI

BUTLER TOWNSHIP AND TOWN OF CLARKSVILLE

BUTLER TOWNSHIP

Butler township coincides with the geographical limits of township 92 north, range 15 west of the fifth principal meridian. It is on the eastern side of the county and contains 23,040 acres, the greater part of which is tillable farm land. The Shell Rock river flows through this township, entering about the middle of the western side and merging into Shell Rock township near the line between sections 34 and 35. The land bordering the river is more or less heavily timbered and some of it is too rough to be utilized for farming purposes. However, there is practically no waste land within the township. Two lines of railroad parallel the course of the river, the Chicago Great Western traversing the territory to the northeast, and the Cedar Rapids & Minnesota division of the Rock Island, that to the southwest of the river valley. There are two bridges across the Shell Rock in the township—a wagon bridge and railway bridge for the Rock Island, both south of Clarksville. Except in the river valley, the surface is rolling and well adapted to all purposes of farming. The soil is for the most part a black loam, with clay sub-soil. Along the river the soil is lighter and in places rather sandy. The farms are occupied for the most part by actual owners. The homes and farm buildings are modern, well kept and convenient. The population according to the census of 1910, including Clarksville, was 1,471. Many nationalities are represented in the population of this township. There are, however, perhaps fewer persons of foreign birth than in any other township in the county, with the possible exception of Shell Rock.

As has been noted earlier in this work, this section of the county was the site of the first settlements. The Hicks and the Wamsley families, who have been mentioned as the earliest set-

tlers, however, located their first homes just across the township line in what is now Jackson township, although they were identified from the beginning with the history of the town of Clarksville and Butler township in general.

Jeremiah Perrin, Morrison A. Taylor and E. Ensley were probably the first permanent settlers of the township. These gentlemen settled on land located in sections 16 and 17, of Butler township, during the summer of 1851.

Seth Hilton, Sr., first came to Butler township in December, 1851, from his home in southern Illinois, where he had also been a pioneer settler. He erected a small log cabin on a spot about fifty rods southwest of the Rock Island depot, in which he moved his family in March, 1852. In the following year he built another cabin on what afterwards became the town site of Clarksville. It is said that he never saw a locomotive or train of cars until the first train along the line of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern, now the Rock Island, was run across his farm. In his later years he was a resident of Jackson township, surviving and continuing his activities as a farmer until he had passed his eightieth milestone. He died many years ago.

In the spring of 1852 John Heery, who has been mentioned before as having made the first entry of land in Butler county, brought his family and located upon the claim which he had taken in November, 1850. He died some twenty or twenty-five years ago. Two of his sons still reside on the home farm near Clarksville, while the oldest son, John, lives in Clarksville.

Alfred Elam, Hiram Beard, John Armstrong and C. N. Burton are also named among the settlers who located on farms in the western part of Butler township in the years before 1852. Alfred Elam was one of the earliest justices of the peace in the township and is remembered as having celebrated the first marriage ceremonies in the county. Hiram Beard was a veteran of the Mexican war. His claim afterward formed a part of the Mix estate. John Armstrong settled on section 29 and C. N. Burton on section 8. The exact dates of these settlements are unknown. It is difficult to establish definitely the time when these various early settlers became finally identified with Butler township.

As has been noted before, most of the early claims in this county were entered for speculative purposes by men who had no intention of settling upon them. The date of filing upon these claims was often several years later than the actual location of

the claim, and in many instances, even where these claims were purchased by actual settlers, the transfer was not recorded for some years thereafter.

The second claim to be taken in Butler township was entered by W. H. Knapp, on September 1, 1851, and consisted of one hundred and sixty acres of land in sections 8 and 17. On the same date W. M. Fulton entered a claim to a similar amount of land in sections 17 and 20, and A. C. Gale made an entry on section 21. J. F. Ballier, on October 21, 1851, entered claims on sections 21 and 28.

On July 5, 1852, George W. Poisal, with his wife and four children, Thomas Clark and family, Jeremiah Clark and family, and Mrs. Cynthia Clark and family, arrived in Butler township. They all came from the same part of Indiana. Mr. Poisal and the Clarks entered land in section 18, erected log cabins and commenced their pioneer life. As the supply of provisions which they brought with them was insufficient to carry them through the rest of the season, Mr. Poisal, in August, drove overland to the vicinity of Cedar Rapids and purchased a load of corn, paying 25 cents a bushel. On his way home he busied himself shelling the corn and when he arrived at Cedar Falls he had it ground. This with a crop of potatoes, which they succeeded in raising, and game and fish, which they were able to secure during the winter, supplied them with the necessary food. Mr. Poisal later sold this first claim to Daniel Mather and purchased the north-east quarter of section 18, which in 1855 he laid out as an addition to the village of Clarksville. Here he resided until the date of his death. He always occupied a high place in the esteem of his friends and associates and was honored with election to the office of county judge of Butler county in the first election held. He did not qualify for the office for the reason that he would have had to go to Independence to do so and he considered the distance too great for this purpose. He continued throughout his active life to take a prominent part in local affairs. His wife was a sister of Thomas and Jeremiah Clark, for whom the town of Clarksville was named.

Thomas and Jeremiah Clark were among the original owners of the town site of Clarksville and after its formal platting, the entry of which was made on the records of the county on October 27, 1854, they were honored by the naming of the village for them. Abner G. Clark, who had been appointed postmaster at Coon's

Grove, just west of Clarksville, in 1853, was the first merchant of the new town. He was a brother of Thomas and Jeremiah Clark.

Daniel Mather, another of the original proprietors of the land upon which Clarksville is situated, arrived in Butler county in October, 1854, and purchased the land in section 18, which had been owned by G. W. Poisal. Mr. Mather was a carpenter by trade and later was the contractor for the wood work in the new courthouse. Mr. Mather left a family of several children, of whom Charles is still a resident of the county. A daughter, Mary, later married Captain C. A. Roszell, and is still living in Clarksville.

D. C. Hilton, the other of the proprietors of the town site mentioned in the record, was a son of Seth Hilton. He was afterward one of the first treasurers of Butler county.

During 1854-55 settlers came in rapid succession. The limits of this work make it impossible to give detailed mention of all these but among those who are remembered as belonging to this group of settlers are: O. A. Strong, John H. Morton, John Palmer, David Blakely, Aaron Van Dorn, J. J. Eichar, T. T. Rawson, M. M. Trumbull, William Brandon, R. Hardy, Abner Farlow, J. M. Vincent, R. W. Butler, W. E. Burton, John Ray and R. T. Crowell. Of these Aaron Van Dorn is noted in connection with the county officers, having been elected county judge in 1855. M. M. Trumbull is mentioned at length in connection with the chapter on the history of Butler county in the Civil war. William Brandon is said to have been a genuine backwoodsman, "reared on the rifle, ax, deer and 'bar's' meat."

Henry Atkinson settled at Clarksville in 1855, entering the employ first of Daniel Mather and later R. T. Crowell. He is noticed at length in the biographical chapter of this work, as are also John Hickle, W. A. Riden, Thomas Hunt and W. H. Moore.

OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION

The first election in Butler township was held in a log cabin owned by George W. Poisal, situated on the corner where the Butler County Bank now stands. The first township officers elected were: trustee, Jeremiah Perrin; justice of the peace, Alfred Elam. At this time Butler township was practically coextensive in its boundaries with the county, no definite sub-division of the townships in the county having been made. In 1855 County Judge

John Palmer divided the county into four townships and set the limits and bounds of Butler township as consisting of congressional townships 92 and 93, range 15, and township 92 and east half of 93, range 16. Butler township by this act comprised the territory later forming Fremont, Butler, Jackson and the east half of Dayton township. This territory remained a part of Butler township until 1858, Jackson township having first been set off on the 11th of March, and the others soon after that date. The first constable whose name is found on the records is Joseph V. Hicks, and the first township clerk, Benjamin H. Shafer.

EDUCATIONAL

The first school in the township and in the county was taught in a little log cabin in Clarksville, in 1855, by Miss Malinda Searles.

As the township became more thickly populated provision was made for the education of the children by the organization of the district township of Butler. No records are available showing the date of the establishment of the different schools. However, by 1865 the township was divided into seven sub-districts.

Provision was made at the annual meeting for electors of the district township of Butler in 1860 for the sale of the schoolhouse in sub-district No. 4, now the Lowell district, to the highest bidder and the board of directors were empowered to dispose of the property within six months from date. This motion was later rescinded and it was voted to repair the schoolhouse in this district.

In the meeting of 1867 it was voted to build a schoolhouse in sub-district No. 3, now the Riden district. It was voted to hold eight months' school in the entire township—four months' summer term and four months' winter term.

Provision was made in 1869 for building a schoolhouse in district No. 7, now known as the Shell Rock Valley district.

In 1870 an appropriation was made for the erection of a schoolhouse in district No. 5, directly north of Clarksville. This contract was let to J. R. Jones, and specifications are given in full in the records of the district township. This was built of stone 22x28 feet in dimensions, walls one foot thick and nine feet high between floor and ceiling, with six windows and one door. Blackboard 10 feet long, extending from the top of the windows to a point three feet from the floor, to be placed in one end. It was to be seated with walnut double seats and desks securely fastened to

the floor. The seats were to have two coats of ochre colored paint. These specifications are carefully drawn and indicate the electors of Butler township at that time desired to give their children the benefits of the best possible instruction. This building, if constructed according to specifications, would form a better school-house structure than many in which the children of Butler county are still in attendance.

The school building in district No. 2, now the Union district, south of Clarksville, was first provided for at the annual meeting in March, 1870. This, however, was not built immediately, as at the November meeting of 1871 a committee was appointed to locate a site for this building and erect a building on said site. Henry Atkinson and W. J. Gregg were appointed as a committee. In the end it was found necessary to resort to condemnation proceedings in order to secure the site for this school. The records contain the formal notice of condemnation and assessment damage at \$15 as compensation for the acre of land taken for this purpose. Provision made at this meeting for repairs and repainting in districts No. 4 and No. 6 indicate that the buildings in these districts had been in use for some time. The contract for the building of the schoolhouse in sub-district No. 2 was let to W. S. Smith, who is still a resident of the district and has served as its secretary for a number of years.

Another entry of interest in these early records is as follows: "On motion, the books recommended by the county convention for general use in the district schools were adopted towit: Independent Series Readers and Speller, Monteith and McNally Geography, Ray's Arithmetic, Burt's Grammar, Swinton's U. S. History."

Among the names of teachers in these schools of the township of the early days appear those of H. F. L. Burton, I. E. Lucas, Eliza Fasset, W. H. Moore, Thomas F. Heery and S. E. Bement.

The change of the boundaries of the sub-districts of the township was made November 16, 1872, by which the boundaries of the independent district of Clarksville were determined as at present and a section and a half of land lying directly north of this was set over for school purposes into Jackson township, to which it has been attached ever since. The boundaries of the other districts were at this time fixed as at present with the exception of the districts on the east side of the township at that time divided

between sub-districts Nos. 6 and 7 instead of in three districts as at present.

These sub-districts were divided and a new district, No. 9, created in 1873. A contract for building a schoolhouse was let in the same year. The schoolhouse site in district No. 7 was moved to its present location at the same time.

The school buildings in this township so far as the records show, were erected at a uniform cost of \$700.

At a meeting held in the schoolhouse in district No. 8, now the Central school, on September 21, 1874, the affairs of the district township were closed up, the funds of the district distributed and school property equalized and divided so far as possible among the eight independent districts, which had been formed in accordance with the vote of the people of the township at a previous election. Having transacted this business the board adjourned *sine die* and the district township of Butler ceased to be a corporate body.

The independent districts formed at this time had substantially the same boundaries and names as at present with the exception of No. 7, which is now called Shell Rock Valley school and was then called the Leavens district. Since this date new school buildings have been constructed in Prairie Valley district and the school site has been changed and a new building constructed in Burr Oak district. The other buildings remain substantially as they were at that time, among the few remaining relics of the departed generation.

In the list of officers of the district township of Butler there are a number of names frequently met with in the history of Butler county. Among the presidents may be noted Jeremiah Perrin, J. R. Jones, W. A. Riden; among the secretaries, Asa Lowe, W. E. Burton and Henry Atkinson. Thomas Hunt served as treasurer throughout the greater part of this period.

POPULATION

1856, 722; 1860, 963; 1863, 996; 1865, 871; 1867, 941; 1869, 1,274; 1870, 1,329; 1873, 1,387; 1875, 1,506; 1880, 1,532; 1890, 1,496; 1900, 1,527; 1910, 1,471.

TOWN OF CLARKSVILLE

As before related, Thomas and Jeremiah Clark, with others, were the original owners of the land upon which Clarksville now

stands. That portion of the land on section 18 selected for the town site was surveyed and platted in the month of August, 1853, and soon thereafter additions were laid out, one on the east by Daniel Mather and one on the south by Seth Hilton. All in all, the plat consisted of seventeen blocks. As originally laid out and with the additions it was filed for record with the county recorder.

Clarksville is the premier town of Butler county and the only one in the township. As a trading point it probably has no superior in the bailiwick, being set down upon a beautiful prairie, with a scope of farm lands encircling it for many miles, all drawn upon by the busy and enterprising merchants, who make the place a vantage point for their business activities. Two railroads add very much to the natural advantages of Clarksville, giving the surrounding farms a ready market for their large contributions of cereals and live stock, and the merchants access to the great marts of the world, thus enabling them to procure merchandise readily and at a minimum cost for transportation. It is needless to add that these two lines of railroad, one belonging to the great Rock Island system and the other a trunk line known as the Chicago Great Western, afford quite satisfactory accommodations to the traveling public, to which Clarksville contributes no insignificant share.

To Seth Hilton, one of the original owners of the town of Clarksville, is given the distinction of being the first person to start things moving in the embryo town. He it was who built the first structure, a log affair, and it is presumed the first house was put up in 1853, although no record is extant giving authority for the statement.

On the site of the Tremont House Abner Clark erected a building in 1853, in which he placed a stock of general merchandise. Here Abner Clark, the first merchant of Clarksville, held forth in barter and trade the next two years, and then sold his stock of goods to John Palmer, who removed his purchase into another building on the west side of the courthouse square, where the second store opened its doors under the management and proprietorship of Palmer & Moneton. The Clark store building was converted by the proprietor into a hotel and for some years gave shelter and bodily comfort to many a traveler. Then one "Billy" Brandon was "mine host," and was followed by his son, Henry, who, in the year 1874, tore down the old structure and in its stead erected the present Tremont House, a square frame building,



MAIN STREET LOOKING NORTH, CLARKSVILLE



MAIN STREET, LOOKING SOUTH, CLARKSVILLE

almost, if not quite, ready for the scrap pile. In this building Henry Brandon remained as landlord one year and at its expiration turned it over to a renter, one Ravenscroft, who finally purchased the property and rented it to a Mr. Younger. But why give in detail the various managers of this old hostelry? Let it suffice to say that the building has stood still, while the town has been making steady, onward strides, so that a more modern caravansary is justly due a trading point having the size and importance of Clarksville.

The third business house in Clarksville was that of the firm of Eichar & Dollison, located on Main street. This firm was in existence about six years and then disposed of its stock of goods in the lump. In the building vacated by Eichar & Dollison the firm of Davis & Griffin opened the first hardware store in the town.

The first blacksmith was John Hardy, who opened a shop in a log house, which stood on the corner formerly occupied by the old Peet House and now the site of the handsome Auditorium building. Mr. Hardy, being of an enterprising turn of mind, also kept a hotel on the same lot.

Clarksville has the distinction of being the home of the first newspaper established in Butler county. This happy consummation took place in 1858 and the paper was named the Butler Transcript by its founders, Messrs. Palmer & James.

On the corner opposite Hardy's blacksmith shop J. Gilbert opened a drug store in 1858 in a one-story frame building. He remained in the trade a long term of years.

The first physician to locate in Clarksville was Jeremiah Clark, coming to the place in 1853. He was followed in 1854 by Dr. James E. Walker.

One of the most energetic and progressive business men of the early days was Henry Newman. He came here in 1856, opened a very pretentious general store and remained in the business many years. He also dealt extensively as a cattle buyer and before removing to the state of Oregon built several houses in the town. His removal was considered a serious public loss.

James Hazlet was another settler in Clarksville of an early day, who for a number of years ran a large grocery establishment. He subsequently took up his residence in Boone.

The Central House was a landmark in Clarksville for many years. The building superseded the Peet House, already mentioned, and was presided over by George Riley Peet, who came

here in 1856, purchased the Peet House and eventually tore it down and erected the Central House. Mr. Peet became a leading man in the community and was the popular landlord of the Central until 1879, when he met an untimely death in a railroad accident.

John Bartlett started the first lumberyard here in 1870 and conducted the business three years, when he sold his stock to Samuel McRoberts and C. H. Ilgenfritz. The enterprise was continued two years under the firm name of McRoberts & Company, when McRoberts withdrew and A. J. Ilgenfritz became a member of the firm, which took the title of Ilgenfritz Brothers.

Among other early business men of Clarksville may be mentioned Charles Bulcken, who started a creamery in 1881; Henry Ilgenfritz, furniture, in the '60s; T. E. and J. E. Kephart, blacksmiths, 1875; John Hartness, carpenter, 1857; M. B. Wamsley, live stock, 1878; Jeremiah Perrin, capitalist, settled near Clarksville in section 17, in 1851; M. M. Trumbull, attorney at law, early in the '50s; W. A. Riden, blacksmith, 1855; C. G. Schellinger, hardware, 1868; Wamsley & Horton, merchants, 1877; Jerome Shadbolt, carpenter, 1855; J. M. Houston, grocer, 1861; Elias Walter, mason, 1853.

POSTOFFICE

The Clarksville postoffice was established in 1853 and was kept by A. G. Clark, the first postmaster, in a small log cabin that stood just south of the public square. At that time mail was received irregularly from Clear Lake by carrier, who made his trips back and forth by horseback. The second postmaster was A. J. Lewellen, who gave way to J. R. Fletcher. His successor was A. J. Thompkins; then came C. W. Wheelock, Webster Bartlett, and in 1872, Mrs. C. M. Mitchell, widow of Wellington Mitchell, who lost his life while serving his country in the Civil war. She continued in the position under several administrations. The present incumbent is Ed Madigan, a former editor and proprietor of the Clarksville Star.

SCHOOLS

Clarksville always has had good schools and today the Clarksville school building is one of the finest and most commodious in



HIGH SCHOOL, CLARKSVILLE

the county. Miss Malinda Searles taught the first school in the town, beginning her duties in the spring of 1855 in a little log cabin. Her immediate successor was Miss Jane Clark. The log house was used for school purposes four or five years and then abandoned for a more modern and convenient building, which was constructed of concrete and stood north of the Dubuque & Dakota (Chicago Great Western) railroad track. When the county seat was taken from Clarksville the courthouse was prepared for pupils and teachers and used as a school building until the present handsome structure was built on the spot, which confidently had been expected would always be the site of the county's capitol. But the old courthouse was torn down in 1903 and in its place a modern brick building was erected at a cost of \$12,500.

Since the opening of the big farms in the northwest section of this great country and the establishment of immense elevators and flouring mills in the cities contiguous thereto, the mills of the Middle West gradually have been going into, to use the expression of Grover Cleveland, innocuous desuetude. Untold numbers of them are standing idle, their machinery rusted and worthless, and their foundations and walls decaying. But in the pioneer days a local mill was a stern necessity. The settler was in absolute need of corn and flour for the household and it was the rule to set up a mill of some description in a new community as soon as possible. This condition and consummation obtained in Clarksville as early as 1856. It was in that year that J. J. Eichar and George Dollison, pioneer merchants heretofore mentioned, formed a copartnership with C. A. Strong under the firm name of Eichar, Dollison & Strong, and erected what was long known as the Clarksville Mill, the first industrial concern of its kind in Butler county. The mill was built for three run of stone, which were run by water power. The building, a frame 42x32 feet and three stories in height excluding the basement, stood on the east bank of the Shell Rock river, in section 19.

CLARKSVILLE INCORPORATED

The village of Clarksville continued to grow slowly, but in a measure, satisfactorily, to all concerned, and upon the approach of the year 1875 had approximately seven hundred in population. In 1874 the long nurtured hope of her citizens reached a gracious fruition, when the district court acted favorably upon a petition

for incorporation and on the 21st day of September, 1874, the first municipal election was held, which completed the organization of Clarksville as an incorporated town. The offices filled at this initial election and names of incumbents follow: Mayor, John Palmer; clerk, E. A. Glenn; trustees, S. M. Townsend, H. Ilgenfritz, H. F. L. Burton, T. Shafer and Edwin Fowle. The council met in the private office of Mayor Palmer and qualified, with the exception of E. A. Glenn, who had declined to accept the office of recorder. Thereupon the council appointed H. F. L. Burton recorder pro tem. Hiram Newman was appointed marshal, but failing to qualify, E. F. Duncan was chosen for the position.

TOWN HALL

The building erected here for town purposes is not an imposing affair and it is highly probable that not many years will be permitted to pass before a modern city hall takes its place. Possibly three decades ago the town hall was built, a two-story frame, and this has been the meeting place of the council. The ground floor has been devoted to the fire department and its apparatus.

WATERWORKS SYSTEM

In 1896 the question of constructing a system of waterworks and issuing \$7,000 in bonds to cover the cost of the proposed improvement was submitted to a vote of the citizens, and was carried by a substantial majority. Before the expiration of the year the work of drilling wells, erecting a tower and tank and laying mains was completed, the outlay overreaching the bond issue only by \$500. Since then probably \$20,000 additional has been expended, in the extension of mains, building of a steel tower and tank and repairs. Power for pumping is furnished by the electric light plant. Clarksville is now blessed with a good supply of pure water and the citizens feel comparatively safe from any serious conflagrations.

ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER PLANT

The town of Clarksville does not own or control the lighting plant established there. This is a private concern, built in 1895 by William Buchholz and later sold to H. S. Boutin. In the

year 1913 the utility went into the hands of local capitalists, chief among whom is A. D. Van Meter. The industry gives a fair measure of satisfaction, although the service is not continuous.

FINANCIAL

The oldest financial institution in Clarksville is the Butler County State Bank which, from its inception, has had the confidence and support of the community and contiguous country to the present time. The bank was started in 1871 as a private concern by M. B. Wamsley, Jeremiah Perrin, James Butler, A. Slimmer, N. B. Ridgeway and Samuel McRoberts as principal stockholders, having a capital of \$50,000. The first officials were: Malon B. Wamsley, president; Jeremiah Perrin, vice president; Louis Slimmer, cashier. This new departure in Clarksville's make-up began business under the name of the Butler County Bank and so continued until 1881, when Louis and A. Slimmer secured full control of the stock and for a number of years the Butler County Bank of Louis Slimmer & Company was the depository for funds of the community. In 1891 a building was erected on the corner of Main and Poisal streets, which was the home of the bank until 1882, when the present headquarters, a two-story brick, was erected and occupied on the corner of Main and Superior streets. On the first day of November, 1909, under a charter secured according to the Iowa banking laws, this financial concern was reorganized and took the name and title of the Butler County State Bank, being capitalized at \$40,000. The incorporators were Louis Slimmer, Bascom Wamsley, C. G. Burling, W. F. Ray, O. C. Perrin, A. L. Asher, C. H. Ilgenfritz, A. J. Ilgenfritz, Fred Seitz and others. First officials: Louis Slimmer, president; C. H. Ilgenfritz, vice president; O. C. Perrin, vice president; Fred Seitz, cashier; W. L. Asher, assistant cashier. Directors: Louis Slimmer, C. H. Ilgenfritz, B. Wamsley, Fred Seitz, C. G. Burling, W. L. Asher, W. F. Ray, O. C. Perrin. The last report, at the close of business on January 28, 1914, shows a capital stock of \$40,000; undivided profits, \$3,324; deposits, \$395,834.

Believing Clarksville a good point for a second bank, J. H. Hickle, George A. Stewart and others incorporated the State Savings Bank July 6, 1908, with a capital stock of \$25,000. A one-story brick building was erected the same year, in which the bank is now conducting its affairs. The first officials were: J. H.

Hickle, president; F. H. Brockmann, vice president; George A. Stewart, cashier. Mr. Hickle retired from the presidency in January, 1914, and to fill the vacancy F. H. Brockmann was elected by the directorate. In December, 1912, by reason of Mr. Stewart's retirement, William M. Roberts was elected cashier. Capital, \$25,000; deposits, \$50,000.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

In the same year that Butler county became an integral part of the state as a separate organization, or in other words, in 1853, Thomas Clark and wife, George Poisal and wife and Jeremiah Clark and wife assembled in the comfortable home of Thomas Clark and formed a Methodist Episcopal society. Before this diminutive gathering of the faithful, Reverend Ingham preached the first sermon in the town of Clarksville. Thereafter services were held at the homes of members and the organization grew apace. With prosperity and strength in membership came the need and desire for a suitable house of worship, so in the year 1864 a church edifice was erected, a frame 24x48 feet, at a cost of \$2,000. In connection with the society a Sunday school was organized soon after the church was established, which has grown to no little importance with the passage of time. The attendance has now reached an average of seventy, while the membership of the church is 160.

Recognizing the need of a more modern and commodious building, the board of trustees caused to be built in 1905 a new house of worship. This is a frame structure and was dedicated December 17, 1905. On the lot adjoining the church stands the parsonage. The names of pastors serving this charge is hereto appended:

Reverends Ross, Ingham, Gough, Burleigh, Holbrook, Swearingen, Henderson, Thompson, Larkin, Waterbury Smith, Moore, Gould, Sherman, Murphy, Webster, Smedley, Littler, W. W. Smith, Wolf, Shumaker, McKee, John W. Hancher, 1883-84; A. S. Cochran, 1884-87; J. R. Cameron, 1887-89; E. R. Leamon, 1889-90; J. K. Shiffer, 1890-91; T. O. Kent, 1891-93; B. C. Barnes, 1893-95; Daniel Sheffer, 1895-97; W. N. Brown, 1897-99; E. B. Downs, 1899-1900; F. T. Heatly, 1900-02; T. A. Trimble, 1902-05; H. H. Barton, 1905-07; W. E. Ross, 1907-12; A. W. Smith, 1912—.



Christian Church



Presbyterian Church



Methodist Episcopal Church



German Lutheran Church

CHURCHES OF CLARKSVILLE

Reverend Smith also preaches every Sunday afternoon at the Methodist church at Packard, where there is but a small membership, although they own a church building.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Presbyterian church of Clarksville was organized at the home of David Blakely, who was the first pastor, in September, 1854, the initial members being Samuel McCreery and wife, Mrs. Emily A. Strong and David Blakely and wife. Soon thereafter additions were made to the society in the persons of William Pringle and wife, John M. Moulton and wife, James Ford, Matilda Hilton, W. H. Van Dyke, John Stevenson and Samuel McRoberts. Services were held in the schoolhouse until 1867, when under the pastorate of Rev. George Graham, a house of worship was erected. The building was a frame, 28x44 feet, had a seating capacity of 160 and cost \$2,500. The same year witnessed the establishment of a Sunday school. Reverend Graham's pastorate here was a remarkable one, extending throughout a period of thirty-three years. Honored by years of faithful service and the love and veneration of his people, this noble character was called to his final reward October 28, 1900, and five years later the partner of his joys and sorrows followed him. The Graham children are still residents of Clarksville and members of the church, which has prospered with the years and now has a handsome house of worship, which took the place of the old one in 1911. The new temple was dedicated July 28, 1912. The cost was \$9,000. The manse was built in 1903, at a cost of \$2,000. Present membership, 130; attendance at Sunday school, sixty-five. Successors to Reverend Graham in the pulpit: James T. Wiley, several years; Charles Ticknor, two years; E. O. Ticknor, a brother of the former pastor, four or five years; H. W. French, eleven months; the present incumbent, W. H. Sinclair, since 1907.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Christian church of Clarksville, organized in the late '80s, is an outgrowth of the church established at Antioch on the 5th day of July, 1857. At the time of the organization of the society at Antioch William Barnard, P. Barnard, James Hodgson, Elizabeth Hodgson, Hannah P. Davis, Clement N. Burton, T. A.

Taylor, Sarah Taylor, Mary Kinsley and Mary P. Burton became members. Many of these people moved to town. To these names were added during the first year the following: John Kimmins, Cynthia Kimmins, Francis Probasco, Malinda Hodgson, Christopher Billhimer, Barbara Billhimer, Mary Barnard, Lydia G. Barnard, Alex March, Charles S. Martin, Samuel March, Abram March, Eliza March, Thomas Honek, Elizabeth Houck, Sarah P. March, Rachel Burton, James M. Burton, Esther A. Taylor, John Farlow, Elizabeth Brown, Mary H. Brown, James R. Taylor, George H. Burton, Alfred Brown, William R. Taylor, Nancy M. Taylor, Mary Rothrock. The organizing minister was T. R. Hansberry, who remained in charge one year. For some time following the church was supplied and among those who occupied this pulpit may be mentioned John Kane, N. E. Corey and N. A. McConnell. J. W. Moore came in 1865 as the regular pastor and remained four and one-half years. Then U. H. Watson accepted a call and worked in his field until 1870; during this time he also attended the churches at Shell Rock, Coldwater and Finchford. The year 1870 found J. W. Moore again presiding over this charge. This time his pastorate extended up to 1881, with the exception of one year spent in the cause in Linn county. During the interval Doctor Hunt had charge. A church building in Clarksville became necessary in the course of time, so many of the members having moved to town, and in 1889 the present house of worship was completed and occupied. Since then the building has undergone alteration and to the west end of it an additional room has been attached. In this building Rev. George DevoI was the first to preach as resident pastor. The names of his successors follow: Reverends Hodgkinson, Platt, Rich, Rama, Johnson, Adams, Hollett, Nicols, America Sea (now Mrs. Holzschuh) and the present minister, T. H. Smithers, who came in the fall of 1913. All these clergymen have administered to large congregations at this place. At one time the church was one of the strongest in the county, having at times from four hundred to five hundred members. Even now the membership is in the neighborhood of three hundred.

UNITED BRETHERN

The United Brethren church was organized at Clarksville in 1887 by H. M. Galer, Mrs. William Warner and others, and was

the outgrowth of a society formed in the country, which held services in the Excelsior schoolhouse, six miles north of Clarksville. Some time after the church was organized here the society bought the old Christian Union church, a frame building, where the members, now numbering twenty-six, have since attended services. Rev. H. M. Galer was the first pastor and ended his ministration in one year. The names of his successors follow: Reverends Branson, one year; Job Baskerville, one year; A. King, two years. The first year of Reverend King's ministrations is notable from the fact that during a series of revival meetings held in the church, forty-seven members were added to the rolls. M. A. Moffett followed Reverend King as pastor, who remained two years. Then came Reverends Benson, one year; S. T. Beatty, one year; S. E. Long, one year; Blackburn, one year; W. M. Bundy, two years; W. M. Stice, two years; Rev. Mrs. Talbott, six months; Rev. Mrs. Nudigate; Varse, six months; Jennings, one year; F. J. Zike, one and one-half years; W. M. Hutchins; and A. F. Polk, in the fall of 1913.

GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

The data necessary to prepare a sketch of the Lutheran church could not be secured in time for preparation for this work. However, it is known that the members are of the best citizens in Clarksville and some years ago erected a handsome house of worship. At this time there is no regular pastor and the spiritual needs are being ministered to by a clergyman of the faith from Waverly.

LYNWOOD CEMETERY

A beautiful burial spot is that of Lynwood cemetery, situate just over the line in Jackson township. The lots and drives are laid out on a plan consistent with uniformity and the grounds are kept up in a manner satisfactory to the community at large. This sacred, silent city was dedicated for cemetery purposes according to an ordinance made and provided by the town council, which is recorded in its archives. The first body to be interred here was that of Daniel, a son of Dr. A. F. Tichnor, April 3, 1878. Lynwood cemetery covers a space of forty-three acres and was purchased of Louis Slimmer for the nominal sum of \$1,000.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

The library now patronized by the people of Clarksville came into existence in a small way many years ago and was taken over by the Library Association of Clarksville, organized in 1877. The first officials were: President, J. R. Jones; vice president, Mrs. C. M. Mitchell; secretary, J. P. Reed; financial secretary, Mrs. E. A. Glenn; treasurer, Hettie Laus. At first the books were only accessible to members, who paid a certain initiation fee and annual dues. The institution is now conducted on a more liberal basis and maintains a large collection of standard and popular books. The patronage is gratifyingly large, which means that the people of Clarksville have inclinations for literary pabulum that must be liberally served.

FRATERNAL ORDERS

Butler Lodge, No. 94, A. F. & A. M., was organized June 3, 1857, and is the oldest association of men in the county. The lodge has held together all these years and its history would make interesting reading if given in detail, as many of the prominent men of Clarksville have been initiated into the mysteries of its tenets and work. Names of the charter members and first officials follow: A. J. Lewellen, W. M.; Thomas Clark, S. W.; Robert T. Criswell, J. W.; J. F. Newhard, Treas.; John Palmer, Sec.; G. W. Poisal, S. D.; J. R. Taylor, J. D.; A. Brown, steward; A. G. Clark, tyler.

In the history of Butler county published in 1883 mention is made of an Order of the Eastern Star having been organized December 27, 1873, and gave the following initial officers: John Palmer, W. P.; Mrs. Sue R. Caswell, W. M.; Mrs. E. C. Newman, A. M.; Mrs. Margaret S. Butler, treasurer; Mrs. M. E. Burton, secretary; Mrs. M. S. Glenn conductress; Mrs. A. B. Jones, associate conductress; Mrs. L. E. Roberts, warden; E. A. Glenn, sentinel; Mrs. Anna A. Ilgenfritz, Adah; Mrs. M. J. Burress, Ruth; Mrs. True J. Neal, Esther; Mrs. Estha Baker, Martha; Mrs. Charlotte T. Baker, Electa. However, on the lodge room walls hangs a charter, which indicates that the chapter must have lapsed at a certain period and was compelled to secure a new charter in order to revive its activities. The new lodge is Clarksville Chapter, No.

144, and was organized October 3, 1894, by Mrs. H. Newman, Mrs. Nellie Shaw, Mrs. Hattie Copeland, F. J. Carr, Mrs. G. W. DeGraw, Lydia A. Hickle, J. P. Martin, Rosa Rhoades, L. Schellinger, E. E. Tennyson, Ada B. Warren; Messrs. A. Newman, H. E. Copeland, Clark Carr, G. W. DeGraw, Thomas J. Hickle, J. P. Martin, C. G. Schellinger, J. W. Shaw, William Tennyson, Fred W. Warren.

Clarksville Lodge, No. 351, Independent Order of Odd Fellowship, was organized October 19, 1876, and is one of the strongest fraternal bodies in Butler county. The charter members were: J. P. Reed, Thomas Hunt, Charles Fitch, Dan McDonald, Albert Burtch, Peter Poisal and John Palmer. The first officers were: Charles Fitch, N. G.; Thomas Hunt, V. G.; J. P. Reed, P. S.; Albert Burtch, secretary; John Palmer, treasurer; Peter Poisal, warden; Dan McDonald, conductor. The lodge is prosperous and has a membership of eighty. An auxiliary code, the Daughters of Rebekah, was organized in February, 1914, with thirty charter members.

Clarksville Camp, No. 1976, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized May 8, 1893, and at one time was one of the largest and most progressive fraternal bodies in Butler county. But dissensions have arisen, mainly caused by the policy of the grand lodge, and at this time the Modern Woodmen of America stand upon uncertain ground as an organization. Names of the charter members follow: Hugh A. Boyd, George H. Clark, Charles S. Ford, R. Poisal, Byron L. Poisal, Charles E. Phillips, Willis E. Riden, William C. Smith, Allen G. Smith, Cyrus S. Vance.

Some time in the '80s a post of the Grand Army of the Republic was organized in Clarksville, with a healthy list of members. But death has thinned the ranks of the Civil war veterans until they now can barely muster a corporal's guard. Their number has dwindled away to that extent, that for some years past the post has ceased to meet as a body. The Woman's Relief Corps, however, meets regularly at stated intervals in the lodge room of the Masons, and its members are quite active in looking after the interests of the surviving members of the post.

CHAPTER XXII

COLDWATER TOWNSHIP AND TOWN OF GREENE

COLDWATER TOWNSHIP

Coldwater township is in the northern tier of townships in Butler county, bordering on Floyd county on the north. It is township 93 north, range 17 west, under the congressional survey.

It is drained by Coldwater creek, which flows through the township from west to east, and by the Shell Rock river, which crosses the extreme northeastern corner. Both Coldwater creek and Shell Rock river are bordered by timber and there are several other natural groves within the limits of the township.

Outcroppings of lime rock in the northern and eastern parts of the township give the soil a somewhat different character from that of other sections of the county. There is, however, practically no waste land within its limits. Its farms are in a high state of cultivation and its production of crops is second to none.

From a scenic point of view the portion of the Shell Rock valley, which is included within the limits of Coldwater and Dayton townships, is the most strikingly beautiful of any portion of the county. The river is in some places bordered by ledges of rock and heavily wooded bluffs, giving to it a natural beauty that is unknown at other portions of its course where it flows through comparatively level prairie country. In the western part of Coldwater township there is a range of hills, the highest point of which is called Mount Nebo. This rises rather abruptly above the surrounding country and although not the highest point in the county, is the most striking elevation of land within its borders. Tradition tells of the existence of a cave underneath Mount Nebo, of which a local writer has given a rather circumstantial description. The attempt to explore this cave is said to have been made in 1875. The account is as follows:

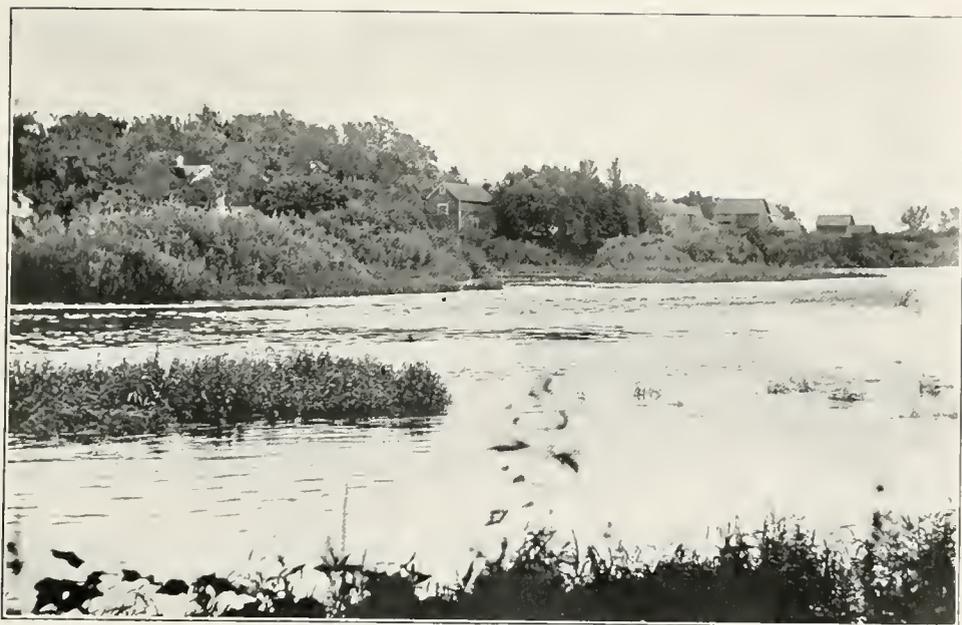
“This cave has been known for several years, and there are some legends connected with it. One is that it was once used as a place of habitation; another is that a mysterious well of great depth exists somewhere within its bounds. A few days ago a party went down to explore it, but all backed out but J. Dexter and Mr. Barker, whose curiosity was greater than their caution. The place of entrance was small, but they soon found rooms in which they could stand erect, and some from eight to twelve feet high. Passages from one room to another were usually small, some so small that the explorers found difficulty in passing from one to another. After visiting numerous rooms in search of the well and proceeding three or four hundred feet from the entrance, they returned without finding it. In several places there were supporting pillars, and along the walls resemblances to stalactites. The limits were not reached, and there is still room for adventurers to gratify their curiosity.”

The only line of railroad penetrating Coldwater township is the Rock Island, which passes through the city of Greene, running almost exactly diagonally through section 1 from southeast to northwest. The southern portion of the township is reached by rural mail routes from Bristow and Allison. For the rest of the township Greene is the only market and commercial outlet.

EARLY SETTLEMENT

For the accounts of the earliest settlements made in Coldwater township the historian is almost wholly dependent upon pure tradition. It is said that in the fall of 1852 two brothers-in-law named Lacon, or Laken, and Bennett settled on the banks of Coldwater creek, on section 13. Like many other nomadic pioneers, these men remained in this location for only a year or so. All of them sold their claims to John Hardman and J. H. Miller and moved on to regions unknown.

In the spring of 1852 John Fox and his brother-in-law, Lum Coleston, located with their families in the vicinity of section 12. These claims were later sold to John M. Hart and John V. Boggs. John M. Hart was the first permanent settler of the township, locating on a farm in section 11, in 1853. On July 1st, 1854, Mr. Hart made the first entry of land in the township. On the same day John V. Boggs made an entry of land adjoining the farm of Mr. Hart which he held until January, 1856, when he sold it for



SCENE ON THE SHELL ROCK RIVER, GREENE

what was then the remarkable price of \$16 an acre. Mr. Boggs purchased a farm in Dayton township, upon which he resided for a number of years.

James Griffith came to this section of the county in 1852, settling on claims in section 13, Coldwater, and 18, of Dayton. His cabin, however, was built just across the township line in Dayton township, so he missed by a few rods the privilege of being accounted the first permanent settler of Coldwater township. Mr. Griffith was the first county school fund commissioner. His son, W. A. Griffith, was a well known newspaper man in the early history of the county. The latter has given the following account of the Indian scare of 1854 in this section of the county:

INDIAN SCARE OF 1854

“One stormy night in the month of June, 1854, when the rain was pouring in torrents and the thunder shaking the very earth, James Griffith, in Coldwater township, was aroused by a cry of distress, warning himself and family to flee for their lives, as the cruel Sioux were rushing on toward him, massacring and scalping his neighbors as they advanced. William Choate, his informant, told him that he had no time to lose or his scalp, with those of his family, would soon be dangling from the belt of the savage warrior. Mr. Griffith, having no team by which to save his family, concluded to take them to the cabin of John H. Miller, who, being absent from home that night, had left his folks in Mr. Griffith's charge. On getting to Mrs. Miller's he found his neighbors all gathered there, preparatory to fleeing the country; but Mr. Griffith, having two families on his hands, persuaded them to halt, and there those brave men decided to face death, defend their wives and little ones, and sell their lives as dearly as possible.

“They stood guard all night, hourly expecting to hear the hideous yells of the unmerciful demons and the breaking in upon them, until at length, after a night of deathly terror, the welcome dawn appeared, when, still as the silent grave, the men gathered their loved ones, ready to flee a country where every bush appeared to hide a lurking enemy, to a place of safety. John M. Hart, John V. Boggs and James Griffith decided to stand their ground and not run, but their neighbors told them if they wanted to expose themselves to certain death, they did not, and the greater part of the residents of Coldwater left—some of them.

never stopping this side of the Mississippi line, and some of them, I fear, are running yet, for they never came back. In the morning John H. Miller, having returned home in the meantime, and James Griffith determined to risk their lives, ascertain the danger and see to what extent the savages had devastated the country. They went up the river as far as 'Beelar's grove'—now Marble Rock—and found the citizens still in bed, unconscious of their danger; so they came back home and went down the river as far as 'Coon's grove'—now the village of Clarksville—for the purpose of organizing a band for self-protection, and just as they were about to return home M. M. Trumbull, now Colonel Trumbull, of Dubuque, arrived from the frontier, greatly excited, and on being interrogated about the locality of the Indians he could not tell the exact locality, but that they were not far off. Some one asked, 'Are they at Rock grove?' His reply was, 'Nearer than that.' 'At Beelar's grove?' 'Nearer than that!' 'At Coldwater?' And his reply was, 'Gentlemen, I was on an Indian trail and saw their fires this side of there!' Horror! Think of our Coldwater friends! What agony arose in their breasts, to think that their homes were destroyed and all they held near and dear cruelly butchered or carried away captive. They accordingly mounted their horses and ran them home. When north of Flood creek they discovered the fires and marched straight to them; they proved to have been built by Mrs. Levi Burress and girls, who were washing on the banks of the Shell Rock river. They then came home and found everybody alive and well, which greatly relieved our heroes.

"The basis of the scare proved to be that a couple of Sioux and Winnebago Indians had got into a quarrel, which terminated in one of them being sent to the 'happy hunting grounds,' and the whites had no part whatever in the fight. Such was the great Indian scare of 1854."

OTHER EARLY SETTLERS

John H. Miller and Aaron Hardman, with their families, settled in the township in 1853. Mr. Miller's death in 1856 was one of the first in the township. William Choate, who is mentioned in the account of the Indian scare above, and David W. Miller were also settlers in the township about this time. Elias G. Miller was another pioneer of this period. His name is mentioned among the soldier martyrs of the rebellion.

Solomon Sturtz and Rev. Philip Moss came in the year 1855. The latter was a Baptist minister. A son of his, Capt. Aaron Moss, is noticed in the biographical volume of this work.

Felix Landis came with his family in 1856 and located on section 14. Following this date the land began to be taken up very rapidly. It is impossible to give in detail the names of all these settlers, but among the pioneers who helped settle this township and to whose efforts is due its present position may be mentioned the following: Joseph Miller, Samuel McRoberts, Emanuel Leidig, William Hesalroad and E. S. Tracy.

ELM SPRINGS

The first town platted in the township was laid out, surveyed and recorded just south of the present location of Greene. T. T. Rawson was the owner of this town site and it was called Elm Springs. A postoffice was established there under that name, at which point the residents of this section of the county received their mail until its location was changed to Greene.

OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION

The township takes its name from Coldwater creek which flows through it. It was one of the four original townships into which the county was divided in 1855, comprising at that time in addition to its present area the west half of Dayton. A warrant was issued on the 15th of February to Aaron Hardman to effect the organization of Coldwater township. The early official records of the township have been lost but it is fairly well established that at the first election held in April, 1855, at the house of John V. Boggs, on section 12, the following officers were elected: James Griffith, justice of the peace; A. Hardman and H. P. Balm, constables. Charles Wood was elected assessor but did not qualify. Coldwater township assumed its present limits in 1858 when Dayton township was organized on the east.

EDUCATIONAL

The records of the school township of Coldwater are more complete than those of many of the other townships of the county, so that it is possible to give somewhat in detail the educational

history of the township. Originally the township consisted of a single school district. About 1854, through the influence of James Griffith, the township was divided into two school districts, No. 1 comprising the eastern half of Coldwater and a portion of Dayton, and No. 2, the western half of Coldwater. The first schoolhouse was erected in district No. 1 on section 13, and built of logs by the patrons of the district. The first school in the township was taught in this building "as soon as it would hold water," by Edward Goheen. The attendance was about six. This log schoolhouse stood near the site of the present schoolhouse in said district No. 1. It was used for school purposes until the summer of 1865, when a frame building, 22x30 feet, was erected at a cost of \$700.

In 1855 a log house was built for school purposes on section 8 to accommodate the pupils of district No. 2. The first school here was taught by Joseph Miller. In 1868 this was dispensed with and a frame building erected to take its place.

In 1866 a third district was created in the southeastern part of the township. About the same time district No. 4, including within its limits the town of Greene, was set off and a log schoolhouse built. In 1871 a frame building, erected at a cost of \$800, took the place of this log schoolhouse, and this continued to be used until 1873, when the independent school district of Greene was organized. The first teacher in district No. 3 was Miss Mary Clark, and in district No. 4, Rudolph Landis.

District No. 5 was established in 1870 and a schoolhouse erected on the southeast corner of section 3. This building continued to be used for school purposes until the erection of the present schoolhouse which stands across the road from its former site. Miss Kate Ornherf taught the first school here.

District No. 6 was set off in 1874 and a schoolhouse built near the corner of section 22. Miss Ella Clark was the first teacher. The district now known as Mount Nebo district was first set off in 1877. A schoolhouse was erected in 1878 at a cost of \$600. John Wilson was the first teacher at this school, with an attendance of nine scholars.

In 1880 district No. 7 was established. A schoolhouse was built at the northeast corner of section 33, in which Miss Sarah Williams taught the first school.

Since that date two additional districts have been set off and schoolhouses erected. The school building which stands at the



GATES BRIDGE, GREENE



SCENE ON MAIN STREET, GREENE
Taken about 1904

southwest corner of section 29 is located in one of these. The other is what is known as Clark school, in section 23. The districts have also been renumbered from 1 to 9, inclusive.

Coldwater township now has three comparatively modern rural school buildings and there is little doubt but that in the course of a very few years all of the older buildings will be replaced by more modern structures. The interests of the children in this township are well looked after by an efficient board of directors. The township is accounted one of the most progressive of the county in all matters relating to the efficiency and welfare of the schools.

GENERAL ITEMS

The first recorded birth in Coldwater township was that of Margaret Hardman, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Hardman. This birth occurred in 1854.

The first wedding in the township was that of Frances J. Griffith to Martin Van Buren Wamsley. This was performed by County Judge Van Dorn on the 4th of September, 1856, at the residence of the bride's parents. Mr. Wamsley died in prison at Tyler, Texas, in 1864. Mrs. Wamsley later married Clark Carr, of Jackson township.

The first death in the township was that of John Hardman, Jr., who died of apoplexy in 1853, at the age of thirty years.

POPULATION

1856, 165; 1860, 264; 1863, 225; 1865, 240; 1867, 333; 1869, 376; 1870, 461; 1873, 796; 1875, 980; 1880, 1,325; 1890, 1,508; 1900, 1,967; 1910, 1,836.

VILLAGE OF GREENE

The present town of Greene stands upon land which was purchased in the summer of 1854 by John W. Miller, who died two years thereafter. After securing the property, Miller put up a small log cabin, near a group of springs, which gushed out from the bases of elm trees. The diminutive habitation was thrown open to the traveler and "mine host" gave to the hostelry the name of "Home for Travelers." This was the first hotel in

Greene. The pioneer was appointed postmaster of an office established under the name of "Elm Springs," the original name of Clarksville, and served the small community until his death, which occurred in 1856, both as postmaster and hotel keeper. Soon after Miller's death his land passed into the possession of Benjamin and J. E. Eikenberry, upon which Benjamin Eikenberry erected a farm house on the site of which was erected some years later the Ball hardware building. In the latter part of 1871, when the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Minnesota Railroad was completed through Greene, the proper authorities of the road purchased the interests of the Eikenberrys in one hundred and sixty acres of this land, which was laid out and platted into town lots by the railroad officials. The new trading point, in honor of Judge George Greene, of Dubuque, president of the road, was named Greene, and in September, 1871, the plat of Greene was filed with the recorder of the county for preservation. The railroad company also secured a large tract of land on the west side of the river, anticipating that some day the town would grow in that direction.

G. L. Mills purchased of the company the first lot sold in the embryo town and O. D. Barnum secured the second one. On the 22d day of September, 1871, G. L. Mills commenced excavating a cellar, preparatory to erecting a business house. The first building, however, that stood on the town site and was used for mercantile purposes, was a frame structure, which was moved from near district No. 1 schoolhouse in Lower grove. This was fitted up with shelves and counters and converted into a general store by the firm of Moss & Sturtz. Before all preliminaries had been completed by Moss & Sturtz, however, the firm of Thomas Brothers had gotten on display to patrons a stock of hardware, installed in an unfinished building, so that as a matter of fact the Thomas Brothers may be considered to have been the first merchants in Greene. The reader will have noticed that the distinction is finely drawn, as the interval between the opening of the two stores was a very short one.

The first store building erected for the purpose and finished was that of G. L. Mills, and shortly after the two initial stores had opened their doors, in fact, in the same month, a combined grocery and drug store was established here by the firm of Trimble & Spaulding. Also, on the first of the last month mentioned, a stock of groceries and dry goods was shipped from Waterloo to

Greene for the McClure Brothers and in a week thereafter this concern had its doors open to the public and was selling goods over its counters. So, as a matter of fact, the month after the town had been platted, Greene was amply supplied with business establishments, when one considers that there were not fifty souls in the place.

The lumber for a grain elevator was hauled from Clarksville and on the ground before the completion of the railroad, and as soon as the railroad was running trains, C. T. Sampson had the elevator ready for grain. While waiting for the warehouse, the firm of Barnum & Case had bought considerable grain and stored it in a barn purchased of J. E. Eikenberry and were the first to engage in the traffic.

The first woman resident of Greene was the wife of A. H. Bell. The latter bought the Eikenberry residence from the railroad and Mrs. Bell converted it into a boarding house.

The first lumberyard was established here by F. W. Smith in 1871 and that same year a wagon bridge was built over the Shell Rock river. This was a much needed improvement and was paid for by the county appropriating \$5,000. The railroad contributed an additional \$1,000 and the citizens \$1,000.

The Gault House was the successor to the "Travelers Home" and was ready for its guests about the time trains were running through the place. The doors of this hostelry were first opened by Bradley & Farrell. Later the name was changed to the DeGraw Hotel, which finally terminated its existence by going up in flames. At present Greene has two hotel buildings—the Commercial, a substantial frame, and the Kessler. To monopolize the traffic the proprietor of the Kessler secured the Commercial property and closed its doors, so that the traveling public is compelled to patronize the former, willy nilly.

Shortly after traffic on the railroad had commenced a branch of a bank at Cedar Falls, known as the Bank of Greene, was established and continued in operation until 1875, when its doors were summarily closed and the institution went into liquidation. The cashier, J. L. Spaulding, left for parts unknown.

The opening of a harness shop by J. H. Cooksey is reckoned by the coming of the railroad; also a grocery and fruit store by the Baughman brothers; a blacksmith shop by one Gould; a boot and shoe store by John Reed; and a saloon by a man named Roberts. The character of the settlers not being libatious or ribald,

soon disgusted the rum seller, and in a few short weeks Greene was purged of its infection and Roberts sought a more congenial sphere for his chosen vocation.

No town in Butler county grew so rapidly from the beginning as did Greene. The town hardly had been platted before material was on the ground for buildings and within thirty days after the town site was platted there were four business concerns selling goods to the farmers of the surrounding country, which has no superior, from an agricultural viewpoint, in the state of Iowa. And Greene continued to advance in its building operations, increase of mercantile establishments and population, until, in 1873, two years after its birth, the Butler County Press, established at Greene in the month of August of that year, was led to publish the following interesting facts: In 1873 Greene has a population of 500, one church, a good schoolhouse, one drug store, one shoe store, one planing mill, one wagon factory, four dry goods and grocery stores, two harness shops, two hotels, two millinery stores, two banks, two agricultural warehouses, two blacksmith shops, three grain warehouses, two lumberyards, two saloons and one restaurant, a town library. The Press apparently was well patronized in 1874, as the following advertisers indicate: Physicians, C. C. Huckins, V. C. Birney and W. H. Nichols; A. Hardman, drayman; R. F. Graupner, barber; John Collins, boots and shoes; J. L. Cole, druggist; Charles Northfoss, door and sash manufacturer; C. H. Baughman, architect; E. Wilson, county recorder; Theodore Coley, blacksmith; Henry Feyereisen, Dubnque Hotel; Mrs. M. Ball, millinery; William M. Foote, lawyer; J. W. Gilger, lawyer; George W. Long, New Hotel; A. Bradley, Gault House; S. W. Soesbe, real estate; J. M. Wegand, painter; E. W. Soesbe, machines; S. T. Hotchkiss, general merchandise; Morris Ball, hardware; Bank of Greene, J. L. Spaulding, cashier; Barnum, Case & Company, lumber; Young & Pope, furniture; A. W. Collins, architect; W. R. McClure, general merchandise; J. Pennock, boots and shoes; S. Thomas & Company, hardware; L. A. Boller & Brother, jewelry; N. W. Thomas & Company, agricultural warehouse; Johnston & Hill, wagon and carriage works; Trimble & Stranahan, drugs; D. E. Shook, machinery; C. Snyder, harness; F. D. Mabee, restaurant; Trimble & Barney, livery; Charles V. McClure, land office; E. Jordan, real estate; George L. Mills, general merchandise; T. F. Heery, lumber; F. M. Root & Company, general merchandise.

POSTOFFICE

The settlers of Coldwater township secured a distributing and receiving point for their mail in the year 1855, which was called Elm Springs postoffice and John Miller, who kept the office at his residence, just south of the town which was later named Greene, was appointed postmaster, and retained the position until in the '60s, when Samuel Earnest was made his successor; the office was then moved to Mr. Earnest's home, which stood south of the old roundhouse. There have been several worthy citizens incumbents of this office, but their names are not ready to hand. However, W. A. McClure is the present Federal official and the postoffice is in commodious rooms on Main street.

THE WANATAH MILL

In the autumn of 1874 the frame of the mill which stood on the east bank of the Shell Rock river at the entrance to the bridge was raised and in 1875 the structure was completed by the owner, E. Hiller, and the machinery started. The original building was 40x50 feet with an office 20x20. With the stone basement it was two stories in height. The mill was equipped with four run of stone and had a grinding capacity of 100 barrels a day. The cost was \$18,000. By repeated disasters, occasioned by continued washing away of the dam, Mr. Hiller lost the property. George W. Dellinger, of Ripon, Wisconsin, was the next owner. The dam was reinforced and the Dellingers—P. N. and Burt—sons of the purchaser, managed the industry for many years and up to the time it was destroyed by fire. In 1884 the property came into the hands of the Greene Water Power & Mill Company, composed of John Earnest, S. W. Soesbe, Henry Feyereisen, Dr. J. Nevius, R. Miner and others, who built the present mill. About 1890 the Greene Manufacturing Company became the owners and operated the mill until 1908, when it passed into the hands of the present owners, the Greene Electric Light & Power Company.

TOWN OF GREENE INCORPORATED

The town of Greene was incorporated in 1879 and had a population at the time of 700. The district court had granted articles of incorporation on a generously signed petition of the citizens.

and soon thereafter an election was held, at which the following municipal officers were chosen: Mayor, C. T. Lamson; trustees, J. L. Cole, S. W. Soesbe, G. L. Mills, Henry Feyereisen, W. H. Rupert, R. Miner. On the 20th of September, and immediately following the election, the officials met in their first regular session and qualified under oath administered by Justice Riner. Upon completion of the council's organization, on motion, O. D. Barnum was appointed recorder; C. Crocker, marshal and street commissioner. G. L. Mills acted as clerk and took the minutes of the proceedings. At the second meeting of council, William Soesbe was selected as treasurer and C. W. Gilger, solicitor.

At a meeting of council held in October, 1879, The Butler County Press volunteered to publish the proceedings of the council free of charge and all ordinances at fifty cents per square inch. The offer was accepted. In the same month Councilmen Riner, Mills and Feyereisen comprised a committee which built the city "lockup." The building was a frame and had two cells. A front room was used as the council chamber. This sufficed for a while and then another was built on the site of the present city hall.

A DIMINUTIVE FERRY

It may not be generally known that Greene at one time maintained a ferry, for the convenience of the citizens who desired to cross from one bank of the usually placid Shell Rock river to the other, while the bridge was in course of erection across that stream. It is true, however, that a committee of council was appointed January 8, 1880, composed of Mayor C. T. Lamson, and Councilmen Mills and Rupert, to build a ferry boat, to be used in crossing the river, and while the records are not explicit on the point, it is to be presumed that the ferry was built and operated during the emergency period herein mentioned. These improvements all took place under the administration of Mayor C. T. Lamson. The names of his successors in the office of chief executive, and that of the clerks follow in their order: Mayors—V. C. Birney, H. H. Barnett, C. T. Lamson, C. W. Soesbe, Andrew Glodery, Charles Gates, A. Glodery, Oliver McGee, L. K. Reid, Edwin Morrill, W. H. Buchholz, Edwin Morrill, Paul Deveraux, William F. Nolteriek, H. H. Barnett, E. W. Parno, John Hessalroad; clerks—O. C. Barnum, C. W. Lyford, M. Hartness, Dan Carney, C. E. Mabee, R. L. Doore, F. L. Stober, LeRoy Niles.



HIGH SCHOOL, GREENE



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF GREENE

THE SCHOOLS

The schools at Greene were identified and set apart in 1866 as comprising district No. 4, but in 1873 the territory was reorganized as an independent district. Prior to this, however, the district had two frame schoolhouses, which accommodated the one hundred and fifty pupils. But the number of children of school age increased quite rapidly and by 1877 outgrew the capacities of the buildings. Hence, in the year just mentioned, a large frame structure was erected on the hill overlooking the town and on the site of the present high school building. This was of frame, veneered with brick, two stories in height and cost \$6,000, and continued in use until 1896, when it was destroyed by fire. A new and more modern structure immediately took its place. It is of brick material, contains six rooms and an assembly room, the latter having a capacity of one hundred pupils. The grades number twelve, with a high school having an accredited rating. This school is presided over by six teachers, exclusive of the city superintendent, and all concerned are now provided with most of the conveniences to be found in the schools of modern times. The building and equipment cost about \$15,000 when first erected. In 1911 an addition to the building brought the cost up to \$20,000. On the west side of the town is another school building, a brick-veneered frame, having four rooms and erected at a cost of probably \$8,000. There are four teachers who preside over the elementary educational destinies of the children in that locality.

GREENE LIBRARY

Early in February, 1873, when Greene was still in short dresses, so to speak, a library association was formed by certain of the village's progressive men and women. The name and title of the organization is the "Library Association of Greene, Butler County, Iowa," and by means of contributions of books and receipts from entertainments a sum was gathered which formed a fund for the purchase of books, which became the nucleus of the present library. Further, through the beneficence of Judge George Greene, an endowment fund of \$1,200 was secured for the purchase of books, the interest from the fund only being available for that purpose. As the years have gone by the association has kept its course in a conservative manner and today has a

valuable and splendid collection of books which now numbers about 2,500 volumes, 500 volumes of which were selected for juvenile readers and their possible edification. The first president of the association was C. T. Lamson, and C. S. Stranahan assumed the duties of secretary. The personnel of the present official list follows: President, Benjamin Boardman; vice president, Mrs. F. D. Mabee; treasurer, O. C. Perrin; secretary, F. L. Stober; librarian, Miss Marion Hodgdon.

For years the library's headquarters were first in one law office and then in another. But when the new city hall was completed and occupied pressure was brought to bear upon the council and that body was prevailed upon to give the library a permanent home. Hence, since 1910, the library has been comfortably and conveniently located on the second floor of the city hall.

THE CITY HALL

While comparisons are more or less obnoxious, still it will not be going too far to say that Greene has the best and most pretentious municipal building in Butler county. This utility was made possible by an appropriation of council in 1910 and before the year had expired a handsome two-story brick structure was built on Second street, at a cost of \$3,600. The first floor is devoted to the fire department and apparatus; also the rear part of it contains the steel cages of the city bastile. The upper floor is given over to the council, mayor, city clerk and library.

WATERWORKS

Feeling the need of a sufficient supply of water for public and domestic uses, a movement gained headway in 1900, for the establishment of a system of municipal waterworks. The question of building waterworks and issuing \$9,500 in bonds for their construction, was submitted to the electorate of Greene on the 23d of July, 1900, and was carried by a generous majority. Work was at once commenced on the construction of the improvement. One well, five feet in diameter and twenty-five feet in depth, was drilled and an excellent quality of *aqua pura* obtained. Mains were laid throughout the main thoroughfares and a steel tower, upon which rests a wooden tank with a capacity of 50,000 gal-

lons, was erected, and today Greene has a splendid waterworks system, obtained at an original cost of \$12,000. By an arrangement with the electric light company, power for pumping the water was secured.

SEWERAGE SYSTEM

No town of the importance and size of Greene can consider itself safe, from a sanitary standpoint, and have a completed system of waterworks without sewerage. This proposition has been realized as being the only tenable one in the premises, by the leading minds of the place and at this writing preliminary proceedings of the town council have reached a stage which make it a certainty that in the spring of the present year a system of sewerage will be inaugurated.

POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS

There are no saloons in Butler county, consequently no nuisance of the kind has an abiding place in Greene. This prefatory remark serves to bolster the assertion that the people of this place are quiet and orderly in their daily walks and have but little use for a police force. The office of marshal is a creation of law, however, and the authorities following the mandates of the law, at regular intervals make provisions for the selection of a competent and eligible man to fill the position. Practically, he is a mere figurehead and his duties chiefly consist in parading the streets and drawing a monthly salary. The fire department is of the volunteer order. But when an alarm of fire shatters the normal placidity of the citizens every one becomes a member of the department and, if possible, will be found at the scene of conflagration, doing a neighborly turn, by working valiantly and oft-times furiously, in subduing and annihilating the fiery foe. The city is well equipped with 1,500 feet of hose, two hose carts, a hook and ladder wagon and twenty-one fire hydrants.

LIGHTING SYSTEM

The lighting system in Greene belongs to a private corporation, known as the Greene Electric Light & Power Company, whose officers are: President, W. H. Buchholz; vice president,

M. Blumer; secretary, R. Miner; treasurer, F. L. Stober. The company was incorporated July 1, 1906, and has two separate plants, one on the west side, the motive power of which is steam, and the other on the east side, which is run by water power. The first named plant was built by Charles Callender. Eventually, he sold the property to his father, John Callender, and T. B. Bowman, both deceased. The latter had disposed of their interests in the utility to F. J. Fiffner, who sold out to the present proprietors. This plant is used only in cases of emergency. The East Side plant was started in 1909, by the Greene Electric Light & Power Company, who also own the mill property and dam. South of and adjoining the mill the power house, constructed of concrete, was built, and equipped with machinery to serve a direct current to its patrons.

FINANCIAL

The early history of banking in Greene probably should remain untold, as the end of the first institution of the kind established here, was in the nature of a disaster. The Bank of Greene, a branch of a Cedar Falls concern, opened its doors for business in the latter part of 1871 or early in 1872. But in 1875 the bank collapsed; the cashier, J. L. Spaulding, left under a cloud.

The First State Bank was organized December 15, 1887, with a capital stock of \$50,000. This institution is the outgrowth of the Shell Rock Valley Bank, which began business the 20th day of January, 1875, with a capital stock of \$50,000. The promoters of the enterprise were N. B. Ridgeway, A. Slimmer, Joe Rosenbaum, M. B. Wamsley and Jeremiah Perrin. A reorganization took place December 11, 1883, and under a charter secured under the national banking act the institution continued operations as the First National Bank, capitalized at \$55,000. A. Slimmer, C. H. Wilcox, Jeremiah Perrin, Andrew Glodery, Lewis Fortnum, Samuel McRoberts, Sr. and N. B. Ridgeway were the incorporators. The management continued under the Federal jurisdiction three years and on November 8, 1886, reorganized as the State Bank, reducing the capital stock to \$50,000. December 15, 1887, the name and title were changed to the First State Bank, having for its list of officials the following named persons: President, Jeremiah Perrin; vice president, A. Glodery; cashier, M. Hartness. In January, 1892, upon the resignation of Mr. Hartness,

O. C. Perrin was elected to fill the vacancy, and retained the position until January 13, 1903. From that time to the present the following officers have served the bank: O. C. Perrin, president; M. J. Perrin, vice president; F. L. Stober, cashier; D. H. Ellis and G. R. Watterson, assistants. The home of the bank is in a two-story brick building, which it erected in 1887. Capital, \$50,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$100,000; deposits, \$544,000.

There is no record of any other bank in Greene until 1883, when E. W. Soesbe, S. W. Soesbe and J. B. Shepardson started a private banking house. In 1892, S. W. Soesbe died, but the business continued on under the direction of E. W. Soesbe and J. B. Shepardson until 1903. In the year last named, E. W. Soesbe, J. B. Shepardson, C. H. Williams, W. W. Thorpe and Edwin Morrill incorporated the Merchants National Bank, with a capital stock of \$50,000. The board of directors elected the following officers: President, E. W. Soesbe; vice president, J. B. Shepardson; cashier, C. W. Soesbe. In 1904, E. W. Soesbe passed away and J. B. Shepardson was elected his successor to the presidency. For two years Edwin Morrill filled the office of vice president and retired in 1908, C. W. Soesbe succeeding him. D. H. Ellis followed Soesbe in the cashier's office and remained in the position two years, when he was followed by B. N. Mead. Mr. Mead served in this capacity two years and then gave way to the present cashier, G. A. Carney. The home of the bank was built by the Soesbes in 1883. Capital, \$50,000; surplus, \$10,000; deposits \$225,000.

THE THEATRE

The town of Greene has a theatre building that is certainly no discredit to the community. The structure was erected on Traer street in 1913 by Frank Phillips, of Clarksville, at a cost of \$8,500. The front shows an arched entresol and the interior has a stage and opera chairs elevated from front to rear of the room. The place is given over to the "Movies," or picture shows, which are selected and conducted upon a high moral plane. The town also has an opera house, where a good class of traveling thespians often display their talents to admiring audiences.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Rev. S. W. Ingham, in the early territorial days of Iowa, was a Methodist circuit rider and while traversing his district of

something near four hundred miles, he arrived on horseback at the home of James Griffith, in Coldwater township, on the 18th day of June, 1853. He stopped over-night at the hospitable cabin home and for breakfast the next morning he feasted on deliciously cooked venison, corn cakes and coffee. The information that he was a clergyman gladdened the hearts of his hosts and immediately they called in a few neighbors and to them the man of God preached the Gospel, which was the first sermon ever heard in Coldwater township. The visit of Rev. Ingham and his sermon was an incentive to his auditor's to form a Methodist class and this might be considered the nucleus of the Methodist church in Greene. In 1854, Rev. William Gough was a preacher on this circuit. He was followed in 1855 by Rev. William P. Holbrook and meetings were held at irregular periods in the homes of the settlers and in schoolhouses until in the spring of 1872, when Rev. Philip W. Gould formally organized "the Class of Greene" with the following named members: James Griffith and wife, Mrs. Ella Soesbe, Mrs. Mary Spaulding and Mrs. Court-right and daughter. J. H. Cooksey, class leader; James Griffith, steward. The year succeeding Rev. Z. R. Ward was in charge. Rev. James H. Gilruth ministered to the spiritual needs commencing his labors in 1874. Since then men of worth and sound intellect have followed in the footsteps of the early pastors. Their names follow: Revs. Enoch Holland, 1875-6-7; George B. Shoemaker, 1878-9; David E. Skinner, who soon resigned on account of ill health and was succeeded by John A. Brown, who was followed by B. A. Wright, T. M. Anderson, W. A. Gibbons, P. J. Leonard, T. E. Taylor, C. R. Alderson, R. D. Black, George E. Shearer, C. S. Cole, F. Bindenberger, B. W. Soper, R. H. Puckett and L. S. Lockard, now in charge.

The Methodists built a church in 1877, which cost them \$3,000. It was dedicated by a son of the circuit rider, Rev. S. W. Ingham, twenty-four years after his father preached to a small gathering of pioneers in the humble cabin home of James Griffith. In 1897 a wing was added to each side of the church and with interior decorations the sum of \$1,500 was expended to cover the cost of improvements. Interior decorations in 1912 cost \$1,000. A Sunday school was established in 1877, with forty members; the attendance has grown to two hundred. The membership of the church is two hundred and ten.



LUTHERAN CHURCH, GREENE



BRETHREN CHURCH, GREENE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Richard Morrill organized the Presbyterian church in June, 1863, at the Hart schoolhouse on section 13. The charter members were Solomon Sturtz, Rebecca Sturtz, Henry McNabb, John Sturtz, Emanuel Leidig, Susan Sturtz, Elizabeth Sturtz, Anna E. McNabb, Rebecca Leidig, Sarah C. Sturtz and John McNabb. The society reorganized in 1872, as the First Presbyterian Church of Greene, through the offices of a committee from Waterloo, consisting of Revs. George Graham and W. R. Smith; Elders A. D. Barnum and Seman Armstrong. The charter members were Henry McNabb, Solomon Sturtz, Mrs. Rebecca Earnest, Mrs. Sarah C. Hart, Mrs. Ellen Paulsey, Emanuel Leidig, Mrs. Rebecca Leidig, Mrs. Jennie Bentley. The organization took place at the Moore schoolhouse and the first pastor was Rev. George Graham, of Clarksville, who presided at Greene alternate Sundays for five years. His successors follow: Revs. David James, September, 1877—September, 1878; C. Gaston, intervals from November, 1878—May, 1881; W. H. McKee, May, 1881—January, 1882; E. J. Marshall, May, 1882—August, 1882; J. F. Curtis, February, 1883—February, 1886; D. A. Murray, May, 1887—September, 1887; N. C. Green, March, 1888—February, 1890; Charles H. Wissner, May, 1890—November, 1890; Rev. McClade, April, 1891—April, 1892; U. G. Schell, May, 1892—October, 1892; J. M. Smith, January, 1893—February, 1895; J. S. Phillips, May, 1895—February, 1897; P. S. Davies, March, 1897—March, 1898; S. D. McFadden, May, 1898—October, 1904; R. S. Weinland, October, 1904—April, 1906; W. E. Fisher, August, 1906—May, 1913; John W. Chase, from June 20, 1913, as stated supply, and installed as pastor October 30, 1913.

The present membership of the church is one hundred and thirty-four.

A note of sadness entered the history of this church when, in the month of August, 1882, the pastor, Rev. E. J. Marshall, lost his life in the Shell Rock river, while bathing. He was a young Englishman and only had been in this country a year. His death caused a gloom to settle over the whole community and was greatly deplored by his parishioners.

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Elder Philip Moss with his family arrived in Coldwater township from Indiana in October, 1855, and located on a claim near

the present town of Greene. He began preaching at his home and the homes of his neighbors. As soon as schoolhouse No. 1 was completed services were held there and in June, 1857, a formal organization of the Brethren church was effected, with members whose names follow: John Hartman and wife, Jacob Reprogle and wife, Felix Landis and wife, Benjamin Eikenberry and wife, Jacob Harter and wife and a few others. Rev. Philip Moss was the pastor about five years. He was called to his final reward and his successor, Rev. John H. Fillmore, filled the pulpit for a period of three years. Others in charge were, namely: Revs. John F. Eikenberry, who at times was assisted by Revs. Benjamin Ellis, John E. Eikenberry, Humphrey Tallhelm, N. Trapp, E. Moore and J. B. Shank. In the regular pastorate Harvey Eikenberry followed J. F. Eikenberry. Next came William H. Hood, whose assistant ministers were W. H. Pyle and Edward Eikenberry. Hood's successor is the present pastor, Rev. J. F. Butler. The membership of the church is one hundred and eight; attendance at the Sunday school averages one hundred and forty.

A house of worship was built by this church in 1873, costing \$4,000, and at the time was the finest building of its kind in Butler county. It is built of stone and the ground dimensions are 40x60 feet.

UNITED BRETHERN IN CHRIST

This denomination effected an organization in Coldwater township in the year 1859, Revs. John Buckmaster and Israel Shafer assisting. The first services were held at the home of Widow Hall and the first pastor was Rev. James Murphy, who has had a number of successors.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

The members of the Roman Catholic faith living in and near Greene attended mass, held by Father Flavin, early in the beginning of the town, in a church south of the place, which had been erected before Greene came into existence. Father Coyle and others also preached to this congregation. The first resident pastor was Father S. McNulty, who was offered two lots for building purposes, by Judge George Greene, president of the local railroad. But the offer was not accepted. After the town began

to grow, Father McNulty's flock met for a time at Feyereisen's hall and soon they had a small church building of their own. This was succeeded by a large and more commodious structure, which is now in use. Rev. Father J. L. Kirby was the second pastor. He was succeeded by Father Patrick Smith and in 1898, the present resident priest, Father James Sheehy, was placed in charge of the parish. The church has grown vastly in strength and prosperity, having at the present time a membership of four hundred and property valued at \$25,000. This consists of a substantial frame church building, a priest's residence and a magnificent two-story school building trimmed with stone, which cost \$12,000. This henceforth will be known as St. Mary's Academy and will be in charge of Franciscan Sisters, whose residence is opposite the academy.

FRATERNAL ORDERS

The Masonic lodge at Greene has one of the finest and best equipped temples in northern Iowa, in a new building the upper story of which belongs to the organization. This body is strong in numbers and has a treasure chest well filled. Alpha Lodge, No. 326, A. F. & A. M. was organized June 5, 1873. The charter members were E. S. Thomas, G. L. Mills, C. S. Stranahan, E. S. Case, W. H. Nichols, E. Jordan, F. D. Mabee, Frank Beals, Charles Klobe, S. T. Hotchkiss, C. C. Huckins, W. H. Smith, A. Glodery, Hugh Johnson. First officers: E. S. Thomas, W. M.; G. L. Mills, S. W.; C. S. Stranahan, J. W.; W. H. Smith, Treas.; C. C. Huckins, Sec.; E. S. Case, S. D.; W. H. Nichols, J. D.; Hugh Johnson, Tyler.

May Day Chapter, No. 287, Order Eastern Star, an auxiliary of the Masonic lodge, was organized on the 24th day of October, 1900, with twenty-six charter members. The chapter is mainly composed of the wives and sisters of the main body.

Elm Springs Lodge, No. 318, I. O. O. F., was organized October 21, 1875, and now has a membership of one hundred and fifteen. The lodge is in good condition financially and joined the Masons and Knights of Pythias in building a handsome hall, where the three lodges meet. This hall is also the headquarters for other fraternal bodies.

There is also an auxiliary body, Greene Lodge, No. 381, Daughters of Rebekah, which was established October 22, 1897.

Butler Lodge, No. 155, Knights of Pythias, was established October 7, 1885, by C. H. Wilcox, J. W. Osier, Louis Hushburg, C. M. Greene, Charles W. Lyford, G. E. Delavan, F. B. Cheney, J. Nevins, O. D. Barnum, John Montgomery, G. W. Burbank, G. W. Wilson, S. A. Van Sann, J. E. Miller, A. M. Trent, Joseph T. Stokely, Fred Morrill, C. A. Witzel, E. J. Moyer, F. W. Huckins, H. W. Johnson, Will D. Grace, W. H. Morrill, G. C. Thomas. The lodge has a membership of one hundred and sixty.

The Pythian Sisters, Charlton Temple, No. 146, was organized October 9, 1902, by Allie Greene, Elsie Doore, Floy McRoberts, Emma Baker, Jennie M. Baker, Lulu Shaffer, Louise Yates, Aud Rosburg and Carrie Carney. They meet in Knights of Pythias hall.

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

Greene Post, No. 22, G. A. R., organized November 18, 1898, with the following charter members: Ed Morrill, W. W. West, Jacob Hoffman, F. G. Etter, C. B. Weston, W. H. Rupert, J. Blanden, J. J. Winterburn, W. J. Crouse, Levi Sheets, James Mettler, W. H. Fleak, C. Crabtree, James Deardorf, D. R. Freeman, Albert Boggs, J. Adams, W. A. Keister, A. E. Austin, Richard H. Brooks.

The Modern Woodmen of America and their auxiliary, the Royal Neighbors, have lodges here.

CHAPTER XXIII

DAYTON TOWNSHIP

Dayton township is bordered on the north by Floyd county, on the west by Coldwater, on the south by Jackson and on the east by Fremont township. Its surface is broken by three streams—the Shell Rock river, which traverses it from northwest to southeast; Coldwater creek, which flows diagonally through sections 19, 20 and 29 to its junction with the Shell Rock; and Flood creek, which flows south through sections 2, 3, 11, 14, 23, 26 and 27. The Minnesota branch of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad passes through the township, with a railway station at Packard, although the settlement there consists of but little more than a few houses. The land along the streams is more or less heavily timbered but in general the character of the surface of the township is such as to render it particularly adaptable for the purposes of agriculture.

The first settler in Dayton township of whom any record is left, was William Goheen, who on November 8, 1851, entered one hundred and twenty acres of land on section 19. In the spring of 1852, Mr. Goheen settled here with his family. On his claim he built a hewn log house, where with his family he lived until June, 1853. His death on this date was the first in the township. He was buried on the banks of Coldwater creek in section 19. Later his body was removed to the Hardman cemetery. A copy of the will by which his holdings in the township were disposed of to his sons has been given in an earlier chapter. These sons, E. R. and J. W. Goheen, are also mentioned somewhat in detail in connection with the early history of the county. They were hunters and do not seem to have remained in the county for many years after the death of their father.

James Griffith, who has been treated at length in the history of Coldwater township, settled on section 18, Dayton township, in 1852. He remained here only a short time before taking up his abode in the township to the west.

R. W. Butler was another early settler in this township.

Levi Burress came in 1852. He built a cabin on section 27, on the west bank of the Shell Rock river. Mr. Burress came from Kentucky and his cabin was always open to the traveler and became a stopping place for many of the emigrants on their way to new homes in the county. Mr. Butler achieved considerable fame as a hunter and was numbered by his contemporaries as a man of imposing presence and of hearty good will. He died on his home farm in the fall of 1882.

Other early settlers were James Blake, Philip J. Ebersold, William Gough, Hugh Thomas, Delano McCain and others.

John F. Eikenberry, pioneer preacher of the Baptist church, located here and is remembered as one of the early ministers of the gospel in this section of the county.

Tobias Miller, an associate of the Goheen brothers in their hunting operations, located in June, 1853, on section 20.

OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION

The territory now comprising Dayton township was originally divided equally between Butler and Coldwater townships. It was finally given separate organization in September, 1860. An election was ordered November 6, 1860, at the house of Richard Chellew. The first township officers were: Hugh Thomas and Levi Burress, justices of the peace; Richard Chellew, Reuben Strohecker, constables; Thomas Haggarty, supervisor; John F. Eikenberry, clerk; Phineas Clawson, assessor; John V. Boggs, Philip J. Ebersold and Lemuel Carter, trustees.

EDUCATIONAL

The early records of the district township of Dayton are apparently lost. It has retained this form of organization to the present time. There are now ten sub-districts in the township and its schools are maintained in a manner in keeping with the prosperity of the communities which they serve.

A proposition for the consolidation of the schools of the township and the establishment of the consolidated school at Packard was defeated by the electors in a school election held a few years ago. Inasmuch, however, as the township has no town within its limits, it would seem probable that within a comparatively few years such a step would ultimately be taken. There are a large

number of progressive school patrons of the township who favor some action of this kind. In the meantime, however, they are in favor of supporting the schools as they are and of raising them to the highest possible degree of efficiency.

The schools of the township are at present presided over by an exceptionally capable and earnest body of rural teachers. The board of directors is a representative body of the best citizens of the township. The affairs of the school may be left in their hands without fear that they will do anything but the best for the interests entrusted to them.

THE FARMERS' CLUB

The Clarksville Star, in its issue of the 20th of May, 1875, contains the following remarks from the pen of Van E. Butler:

“Among the educational institutions of Dayton township is the ‘Farmers’ Club,’ which was organized in 1864, the object being to increase the interest in agriculture, horticulture and floriculture. How much influence it has exerted within a period of ten years is seen by the superior thrift, the intelligence, improved style of farming, and the general neatness of the homesteads of its members. Mutual intercourse and interchange of ideas on farming and other topics have kept its members posted on the issues of the day; and if a stranger should step in when the club is in session he would no doubt conclude that the farmers kept their best stock at home and sent the poorer material to the Senate or Legislature, on the same principle that they select their best seeds for propagation and send the inferior article to market.”

POPULATION

1863, 239; 1865, 213; 1867, 275; 1869, 339; 1870, 383; 1873, 425; 1875, 513; 1880, 636; 1890, 667; 1900, 641; 1910, 633.

FREMONT TOWNSHIP

Fremont township lies in the extreme northeastern corner of Butler county, bordered on the east by Bremer county, on the north by Floyd county and cornering with Chickasaw county on the northeast. On the south and west lie Butler and Dayton townships. The surface is a gently undulating plain, broken by no

marked variations of contour. There are no streams of any size within the township limits. It is the only township of the county which has a road on every section line. Every point of the township is thus accessible and every foot of its soil is today in a high state of cultivation.

The character of the soil is somewhat different from that in the central portions of the county by being somewhat lighter, rather a sandy, than a clayey loam. Portions of the township are underlain by limestone which renders it peculiarly adaptable to the raising of cereal crops. The center of the township is traversed by a broad and shallow valley, known as Pleasant valley, which slopes to the southeastward toward Cedar river.

The township has no towns and no railroads. It is served for market and other commercial purposes by the towns of Nashua, in Chickasaw, Plainfield, in Bremer county, and Clarksville, in Butler county. The farms are in a high state of cultivation and the farm homes and buildings evidence the prosperity and energy of their owners.

The only natural timber in the township is a tract in the extreme northwestern portion, about five acres in extent, but the farm homes are so universally surrounded by large groves of artificial timber as to give it the appearance almost of a timbered country.

No farming section of the state may be considered superior in its general features to Fremont township for the purposes of diversified agriculture. The traveler through this township is impressed with the large number of silos, which have been built in recent years on the farms. No better evidence may be given than this of the progressive character of the residents of the township.

EARLY SETTLEMENT

Fremont township was one of the later regions of the county to be settled. As has been suggested, elsewhere, the first settlers all located as near the streams as possible, and inasmuch as Fremont township has no running water and comparatively few natural springs, it was not until the locations which were then considered more favorable had practically all been occupied that the attention of the early settlers of the county was turned to the fertile acres of this township. The first settlements within its

limits may be considered as extensions of the settlements previously made around Nashua, Plainfield and Clarksville. The first entries of land in Fremont township were made in 1854, and for the most part were made merely for commercial purposes.

In June, 1854, William Pringle, George Foster and W. J. Barney made entries of land in sections 31 and 32. Elwood Modlin and Jacob Schaffer also made entries of land in this year. All these entries were made in the southeast corner of the township.

The first actual settler in the township is believed to have been McCarty Bement, who came here in 1855 and located upon a farm in the eastern part of the township. In the same year Shadrach Bonwell, Samuel Lenhart, James Trobaugh and Jackson J. Cross settled in the township.

The year following this, Nelson Bement, a brother of McCarty Bement, the first settler mentioned above, James G. Temple and Robert Renfrew came. William Gilmore, William R. Phillips and John Saddler are also mentioned as among the early settlers.

J. J. Cross came to Butler county from Kane county, Illinois, in 1855, and in August of the same year settled upon one hundred and sixty acres in section 1. Frederiek W. Cross, a sketch of whom is given in the biographical volume of this work, is a son of J. J. Cross.

On the 27th of September, 1855, S. Bonwell and family took up their sojourn on a farm on section 19. In an early history of Butler county Mr. Bonwell relates a typical incident of pioneer life to illustrate some of the hardships which some of the early settlers of this county had to undergo. On the 6th day of January, 1856, he, with his family, attended the funeral of Eliza J. Newhard, at Clarksville. The weather was cold and the ground frozen so hard that the grave could hardly be dug. It was therefore almost dark before the services were over, and Mr. Bonwell prepared to start homeward. When he arrived at Mr. Lenhart's, a storm was raging furiously and the folks tried to persuade him to remain all night; but Mr. Bonwell thought it his duty to return and attend to his stock. It was only a half mile to his home but there being no road, he missed his house, and soon found that he was lost on the prairie. To remain all night would be death. He therefore turned his team about so as to drift with the wind, which was blowing from the northwest, and concluded that in this way he would reach the timber east of Clarksville, which he

succeeded in doing just as the storm passed over. After driving a short distance farther he found himself at the cabin of Daniel Kinsley, where he remained all night with his family, and in the morning again set out for home. After leaving Mr. Lenhart's the previous evening and finding that he had lost his course, he called for aid, which was heard by the neighbors and they replied by firing guns, etc.; but the wind was blowing such a gale that their answers could not be heard. The next morning the neighbors assembled, and not finding him at home, started in search, following his track over the entire circuit, and were glad to find upon arriving at Mr. Kinsley's that all were still alive, as they thought they certainly had perished, or, as one old fellow of the party remarked, "They have evidently struck one of the sink-holes on the prairie and all went to h— together."

Among other comparatively early settlers of Fremont township were John M. Wamsley, who, as already stated, came first to Iowa with his brother W. S. Wamsley and lived with Aaron Moore until 1853. Mr. Wamsley settled in Fremont township in 1865. The best evidence that the settlements of Fremont township were the outgrowths of previous settlements in the county is found in the fact that in a number of instances among the Fremont pioneers are numbered members of the second generation of Butler county families. Of these Charles N. Thomas, Alexander Forney and Frank L. Wamsley may be mentioned. Charles N. Thomas was a son of Hugh Thomas, a pioneer settler of Dayton township. Charles Thomas settled in Fremont in 1869. Alexander Forney, a son of Christian H. Forney, is another pioneer settler of Dayton township. After serving through the Civil war Mr. Forney married a daughter of James Blake and settled on a farm on section 16, Fremont township.

The southern and central parts of the township have in more recent years been largely settled by people of German parentage. A Lutheran church, situated on the southeastern corner of section 28, is the center of the religious life of this community. Among the prominent German families of this district may be mentioned the Wedekings, the Buschings and the Buehholtsz.

The choice of the name of the township was suggested by William R. Phillips, in honor of Gen. John C. Fremont, who was in 1856 the first candidate of the republican party for the presidency. A local writer in the Clarksville Star of 1875 said: "Fremont, free speech and free press, was what one would hear in the

days of 1856, when Horace Greeley, Charles Sumner and others were rolling the great stone that was eventually to crush out African slavery in the American states. So it was given to this territory of thirty-six square miles."

OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION

Originally Fremont township was a part of Butler. In 1858 it was given a separate organization. The first election was held October 11, 1859, at the house of William R. Phillips, which was then in process of erection. On the day of the election when the voters came to cast their ballots they found that Phillips had no part of his house completed except the cellar. The ballot box was accordingly lowered into the cellar and the voters dropped their ballots into it from above. This first election was held with no roof over their heads except the blue canopy of Heaven. The day, however, was a pleasant one and everything passed off quietly. The record of the officers chosen at this election has been lost even to memory, except for the fact that J. J. Cross was chosen township clerk. Sixteen votes were cast, the names of the voters being as follows: James G. Temple, John Boorum, James Trobaugh, William Pringle, M. Bennett, Robert Slaight, John H. Vosler, D. W. Tunsley, S. Bonwell, S. Lenhart, Henry Lenhart, John Lenhart, G. W. Ellis, Nelson Bement, S. J. Boorum and J. J. Cross.

EDUCATIONAL

The first school in Fremont township was taught by Miss Lucy Ballard at the home of James G. Temple.

The first schoolhouse was built at the northeast corner of section 11, where the Cedar schoolhouse now stands.

The township at present is divided into nine independent districts, each containing exactly four sections.

District No. 1, known as the Cedar district, is at the northeast corner of the township.

District No. 2, Excelsior district, lies just to the south of this. A portion of the Plainfield independent district in Bremer county extends over into the eastern part of section 24, thus somewhat reducing the size of Excelsior district.

The Pleasant Prairie district, No. 4, comprises sections 29, 30, 31 and 32 in the extreme southwestern portion of the township.

No. 5, Pleasant Valley Center is the central district of the township.

No. 6, Beaver creek, occupies a position on the north central portion of the township.

The Pleasant Valley district, No. 7, includes sections 27, 28, 33 and 34, in the south central portion of the township. The schoolhouse stands just adjoining the site of the German Lutheran church and cemetery.

No. 8, the Pleasant Grove district, is in the northwestern part of the township.

No. 9, Harmony school, is in the central western portion. The schoolhouse in each of these districts stands at the exact geographical center of the district.

POPULATION

1860, 90; 1863, 108; 1865, 164; 1867, 250; 1869, 379; 1870, 655; 1873, 650; 1875, 723; 1880, 791; 1890, 778; 1900, 757; 1910, 757.

JACKSON TOWNSHIP

Jackson township is surrounded by the townships of Dayton, Butler, Jefferson and West Point on the north, east, south and west respectively. Its surface is for the most part a gently undulating prairie, varied in the extreme northeastern part by the presence of the valley of the Shell Rock river, which crosses the township from northwest to southeast. Originally there was practically no natural timber in the township except that along this stream. Although the rest of the township has no running streams its natural drainage was sufficient to prevent the presence of any waste land. Dry Run which crosses the township from east to west about midway, serves to drain off the surplus storm water and empties into Shell Rock river a little southwest of Clarksville. At certain seasons of the year this stream has a constant flow but in mid-summer it is almost always dry.

The township is traversed from east to west by the main line of the Chicago Great Western railroad and in the extreme northeastern portion, by the Rock Island. It has no town within its limits, although both Clarksville and Allison include a portion

of the township within their boundaries. These two towns furnish the trading points for the entire township. The soil is of a quality second to none in fertility and productiveness and the farms are at the present time in the hands of a progressive class of agriculturists who utilize the natural fertility of the soil to its fullest extent.

EARLY SETTLEMENT

As has been indicated in connection with the history of Butler township, the first permanent settlements within the limits of Butler county were made near the east bank of the Shell Rock river, within the borders of what was later set off as Jackson township. These settlements and the early settlers were so closely identified with the early history of Butler township as to have been named in the separate history of that township, many of them at a comparatively early day having actually moved either to the village of Clarksville or to farms in Butler township. However, as they belong properly to the history of Jackson township, a repetition of some names may be pardoned.

The first actual settler in the township was Joseph B. Hicks, who located a claim on section 12, in the spring of 1850. He was followed soon after by his father, Henry J. Hicks, and his brother John. Joseph Hicks remained a resident of the township until 1867, when he went to Kansas, remaining there a few years and then returned to his former home in Butler county. Later still he moved to Kansas and took up his permanent abode there.

His father, Henry J. Hicks, made the second entry of land in this township as shown by the records of the Dubuque land office. The date of this entry is June 24, 1851, and the land thus entered was located in sections 12 and 13.

This entry is preceded in date by one made by John Heery, who at the same time that he entered land, which has been previously mentioned in Butler township, also made an entry of claims in sections 13 and 24 of Jackson. This is dated November 22, 1850, the earliest date of land entry in Butler county. John Heery, however, was never a resident of Jackson township so far as is known.

The next settlers after the Hicks family were the Wamsleys—Malon B. and W. S.—a full account of whose settlement is found in the history of Butler township.

The third entry of land in Jackson township was made in the name of Melissa J. Wamsley on September 6, 1851, on section 1, and on the same date a claim in section 12 was entered by W. S. Wamsley.

Martin Van Buren Wamsley was also an early settler of Jackson township, and made a claim on section 12 in 1851, which was not entered at the land office, however, until several years later. "Van" Wamsley, as he was generally known, first came to the county with his brother, W. S., but remained here only a short time. Several years afterward he returned, and in 1857 married Miss Frances Griffith, daughter of James Griffith, a pioneer settler of Coldwater township. In 1861 he enlisted in the Thirty-second Iowa, was wounded at Pleasant Hill, captured and imprisoned at Tyler, Texas, where he died.

In the year 1852 Seth Hilton and John Baughman came from Illinois and located on section 13, just west of the town of Clarksville. Hilton has been mentioned in connection with the history of Clarksville as having built the first log house on the present site of the town.

John Stephenson, John Boyd and Ed Marquand arrived in the year 1853, all of them coming from the state of Ohio. Stephenson and Boyd, his son-in-law, settled on section 36, and Marquand on section 25.

Other settlers of this early period in the township were Elisha Doty, John Klinetob, Eli Bebee, John H. Van Dyke, Henry Newman, George Allen, A. E. Ensley, Richard Keller, George Harkness and John Bonwell.

Among other early settlers without regard to the date of settlement were Benjamin Priest, S. W. Cheever, Clark Carr, E. E. Mott, C. P. Klinetob, William Temyson, Cyrus Doty, J. B. Hickman and A. C. Wilcox.

Benjamin Priest was one of the first to build a home in the western part of the township, where he at one time owned about six hundred acres of land.

S. W. Cheever was the father of Frank M. Cheever, at the present time president of the district township of Jackson. Frank Cheever still lives on the home place on the southwest quarter of section 8.

John Mott, for a number of years a member of the county board of supervisors, is a son of E. E. Mott, mentioned above.

C. W. Klinetob, for more than twenty years secretary of school

township of Jackson, is a son of C. P. Klinetob, and has resided in the township since 1866. Cyrus Doty, a son of Elisha Doty, settled on the southwest quarter of section 11 in Jackson township in 1860. His natural qualities of leadership and his long life in the county have given him a prominence that is recognized by all his associates. A full account of his life is given in the biographical volume of this work.

OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION

Jackson township was at first organized as a part of the township of Butler and so continued until given separate organization on the 4th of March, 1858. E. D. Marguand was commissioned to call the first election for the organization of the township, which election was held at the house of John H. Van Dyke, on the 5th of April, 1858. The first officers elected were: John Klinetob, John H. Van Dyke and John Stephenson, trustees; John Boyd, clerk; Josiah Stephenson and Henry Newman, constables; Samuel Lister, supervisor of roads; John Klinetob, assessor; E. D. Marquand and John Klinetob, justices of the peace.

On the 22d day of March, 1858, the county court made an alteration in the boundaries of Jackson township by attaching that part of congressional township northeast of the Shell Rock river to Butler township. This is the portion of the township to which reference was made above as having been the site of the earliest settlement and belonged by nature to Butler township. At a later date, June 4, 1861, the boundaries of Jackson township were again rectified to include the full limits of the congressional township.

EDUCATIONAL

The records of the district township of Jackson are very incomplete. Detailed information regarding the educational history of the township therefore cannot be given. It is known that the first schoolhouse in the township was a log house, located on section 1, with U. G. Lawrence as the first teacher. After serving its purpose for a number of years this structure was torn down and the materials from which it had been built were cut up in fire wood.

The first frame schoolhouse in the township was built in 1855 on section 14. George McClellan was the first teacher. This stood on the site of the present Doty schoolhouse.

The second frame schoolhouse in the township was built in 1855 on section 25, near where the Wilcox school now stands. It was afterwards sold and the present building erected in its place.

As the township became more and more thickly settled, new school districts were created and new schoolhouses built. There are at present eleven school buildings within the limits of the township: No. 1, known as the Woodward school, situated in the southeast quarter of section 23; No. 2, the Wilcox school, on the southwest quarter of section 25.

No. 3 has been for the last few years unoccupied. It stands just east of the Rock Island railroad tracks near the township line between Jackson and Butler, on section 12. All of section 6 and the north half of section 7, Butler township, were for school purposes set over into Jackson and form a part of this sub-district. However, the proximity of the town of Clarksville, with its superior school facilities, has in recent years led to the sending of the children of this district to school in Clarksville and the payment of their tuition by the township of Jackson.

School No. 4 is situated in section 22; No. 5, known as the Dry Run school, is located on the east side of section 18; No. 6 is in section 3; No. 7, formerly called the Priest school, is at the northeast corner of section 7; No. 8, the Doty school, is on the main road from Clarksville to Allison, in the north part of section 14; No. 9, the Poor Farm school, is located about a quarter of a mile south of the county farm, on section 34; No. 10, the Curtis school, is located on the southwest corner of section 29.

At a comparatively recent date a new sub-district, No. 11, was set off near the center of the township and a schoolhouse built across the road from the Cheever farm. This school is known as the Cheever school and its building is the most modern and commodious of the rural schools of Jackson township.

Most of the schoolhouses of the township have at present been standing on their sites for a number of years. It is recognized that within a comparatively short time some further provision for the housing of the school children of the township must be made. Whatever provision is made for this purpose will doubt-

less be made after due consideration and in accordance with the needs and rights of the children.

GENERAL ITEMS

The first marriage in the township is said to have been that of John Rains and Elizabeth Allen.

The first birth was a son born to Mr. and Mrs. Malon B. Wamsley, July 30, 1852.

The first death was that of a man named Joseph Kirker, who died at the house of W. S. Wamsley, in the fall of 1851. He was buried on section 12, without services of any character.

The first religious service was held in the cabin of Malon B. Wamsley, in the fall of 1851, by Rev. S. W. Ingham, of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1852 a Baptist clergyman held services in the cabin of Seth Hilton. No religious organizations are known to have existed in the early history of the township.

POPULATION

1860, 78; 1863, 184; 1865, 240; 1867, 330; 1869, 435; 1870, 569; 1873, 566; 1875, 594; 1880, 746; 1890, 704; 1900, 811; 1910, 781.

COUNTY FARM

The minute book of the board of supervisors during the period of the Civil war contains frequent reference to provision for the care of such persons as had by reason of poverty or other cause become county charges. Bids were regularly received for the board and keep of these persons. In other words, the system of farming out the poor was followed.

This system of care for the indigent and unfortunate citizens of the county continued until 1876, when provision was made for the establishment of a county home for these dependents. The northeast quarter of section 34, in Jackson township, was purchased by the county and plans laid for the erection of suitable buildings.

Sealed proposals for the erection of a county poor house were received until June 29, 1876, in the office of county auditor. The contract was let to Wilkinson & Harvey for the sum of \$4,000, and the building was completed the 1st of June, 1877. The main

building was 28x44 feet and the wing 28x32, two stories high. This house was opened to the poor on February 15, 1877, at which time one person appeared to make this his home. There were some forty county charges at this time but the remainder preferred evidently to care for themselves.

The number of occupants of the county home has varied at different periods. At present there is an average of about twenty-one.

This county building was burned in the winter of 1891-2. A contract for rebuilding was let to Vincent Franke, on April 18, 1892, for the sum of \$3,900. A number of improvements in the farm buildings and equipment have been made in recent years and it may today well be considered a model farm. The farm has been so managed under the care of capable, efficient stewards as to be self-supporting and yield a margin of income over the cost of maintenance.

The first superintendent of the county farm was Joseph Scofield. In January, 1914, Mr. Lafe Belden, who for a number of years had been managing the county farm offered his resignation and the present incumbent, Mr. J. C. Hammond was chosen to the position.

CHAPTER XXIV

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP, BUTLER CENTER AND COSTER

Township 91 north, range 16 west, in Butler county is known as the township of Jefferson. It is purely a rural township, having no town either wholly or in part within its borders. It is traversed by no lines of railroad and in this respect occupies a position similar to those of Fremont and Ripley townships in the county. Its territory is tributary commercially to four of the towns of the county, Shell Rock on the east, Clarksville on the northeast, Allison on the northwest, and Parkersburg on the south.

Of its topography no better account may be given than the one below from the pen of Van E. Butler, a former newspaper man of the county:

“This township corners with the center of the county. The land is rolling, sloping as a whole to the south and east. Only one stream of importance passes through it—the West Fork—entering on section 36. All the timber in this township lies along the stream, and this is not of much importance, except the many artificial groves that have sprung up about the pleasant farm houses that dot the uplands and valleys. Twenty years ago the major portion of Jefferson township was a splendid specimen of Iowa sloughs. Then a man would hardly have dared to cross it without first making his last will and testament and bidding a kind adieu to his family. How the first settlers ever conceived the idea of founding a city, and the manner of construction of the primitive abodes, will come to light when, like Herculaneum and Pompeii, future generations will exhume from their deep sepulchre all the evidence necessary to a correct conclusion. But what we looked upon as an almost irredeemable portion of the county has become one of the most productive. It takes a longer time to subdue the rich, dark, loam soil, but it makes returns for

the extra labor. Much of the land is now under subjection, and the Iowa slough sends its thousands of bushels of cereals to the market towns. No trouble is now experienced in traversing any portion of it. The township is well adapted to stock-raising, yet the rich, dark loam, when once subdued, is equal to any locality in the county in the production of cereals."

OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION

When Butler county was first divided into townships, the four congressional townships in the southeastern part of the county—Shell Rock, Jefferson, Albion and Beaver—were organized as one civil township under the name of Beaver. In March, 1856, this civil township was divided in half by the organization of Shell Rock township, which then included the present limits of Shell Rock and Jefferson. On the 2d of March, 1857, Shell Rock township as it then existed, was divided and the two townships of Shell Rock and Jefferson were given their present limits.

EARLY SETTLEMENT

Jefferson township had been settled from the east following the settlement of Shell Rock township. No land in the township was entered before 1853. In that year Hugh Mullarky, of Cedar Falls, made a claim on section 19, on the 5th of October. The Mullarkys were among the pioneer settlers in Blackhawk county. Andrew Mullarky having opened a store in his log cabin, known as the Black Hawk store, in 1851. This was the first store in Blackhawk county and was the beginning of the settlement of the town of Cedar Falls. Hugh Mullarky was a brother of this Andrew Mullarky. As will be noted in the course of the history of this township, the members of this family occupied a prominent place in its early history and down through its formative period.

On the 30th of November, 1853, five entries of land in Jefferson township were made. These were made by the following persons: Frederic Feddeke, sections 32 and 35; Frederiek and Louis Kothe, section 33; August Meyer, section 34; and William Powestorf. Several of these men later became prominent settlers and farmers in the township. Of others nothing is known

but the fact of the entry of land referred to and its subsequent transfer by sale to other parties.

John H. Nagle and Frederic Berlin entered land in sections 35 and 36 on December 9, 1853. It will be noted by reference to the map that all of these claims above were situated in reasonably close proximity to the West Fork river. The land to the north of the river in the township was at that time considered too wet to be available for agricultural purposes.

Dr. John Scoby, the pioneer physician of Shell Rock, in a reminiscent article covering the early days of his practice in Butler county, gives several vivid descriptions of prairie scenery, which are directly applicable and which probably referred in part at least to Jefferson township. He says in part: "The undulating plains were dressed in Nature's gay attire of living green. There were but few, if any, laid out or worked roads or bridges in this county. I traveled as best I could, avoiding the sloughs which were very miry. Log cabins were occasionally to be seen, generally near to the groves or timber land, where a few acres were plowed and a few domestic animals to be seen. But the most of those rich alluvial prairies were then performing their diurnal and revolutionary movements without a human inhabitant.

"For seven years my profession called me over these wild prairies, frequently in midnight darkness. Often the dwellings were miles apart, with naught but a dim trail to follow. Sometimes I was sloughed down and the wolves howling not far distant and the rattlesnakes hissing. During these seven years the march of improvement in this county was slow. The wild prairie every season produced a vast amount of grass which was interspersed with several species of gay roses, pinks and violets which crowded their footholds among the roots of the high grass and waved their shining flowered plumes on the zephyr's breeze to the passer-by, filling the air with sweet perfume and arresting the monotony of loneliness."

It was some years after the beginning of the settlement of the township before the value of the open prairie lands was realized and before settlement began to be made in the northern and central sections of the township. The first settler in the township was H. C. Dawson, who in the fall of 1854 located on section 33. About the same time James D. Taylor settled on section 31. Dawson later moved to Marshalltown: Taylor lived on his farm until

the outbreak of the war, when, being strongly opposed to the war and suspicious of the ultimate redemption of the paper currency of the period, he sold his property, converted his possessions so far as possible into gold, and moved to Illinois. Nothing further is known of him.

In October, 1854, William Hays settled on section 36. He was accompanied by his wife and four children, Nathan Olmstead and family, Marshall Kelley and family, James Hair and family, Myron Hair and Gilbert Knights. This party, with the exception of Knights, who joined them at Cedar Falls, all came from Illinois, principally from La Salle county. All of them located in Butler county.

In 1855 William Mason, A. J. Case, Robert Armstrong, Samuel Williams and a Mr. Whitehead all settled in the township. William Mason located on section 28, where he remained six years, finally removing to Charles City. A. J. Case settled on section 30 near the river and Whitehead near the location of the projected town of New Albion, on the township line between Albion and Jefferson. New Albion was located on sections 33 and 34 of Jefferson, and 3 and 4 of Albion. The town plat was located chiefly in the latter township and will be mentioned at length in connection with the history of Albion.

The year 1856 saw a large increase in the number of settlers. It is probable that the list of these is incomplete. However, all names are given of whom mention has been found in connection with the settlement at this time. Joe Santee, afterward a resident of Ripley township, settled in Jefferson in 1856. He assisted in building the first schoolhouse in Butler Center. O. S. Levis, H. H. Marsh, Hugh Mullarky, H. H. Margretz and a Mr. Pennock were included in the settlers of this year, but as they were later residents of the village of Butler Center, they will be noted in connection with the sketch of that community.

John Braden located in the spring of 1856 on a farm near Butler Center. He was one of the soldier martyrs of Butler county in the Civil war. His body was brought back and buried in the grove west of the house on the farm where he had lived.

P. E. Dunson, one of the best known of the early settlers, came to the county February 7, 1856, and took up one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 29.

Among the settlers of a later date other than those in Butler Center were James Hall, D. A. McGregor, Frederick Toll, John

Coster, Thomas Thompson, N. C. Thompson and Noble C. Thompson; the last three named natives of Ireland, all settled in the township at various dates from 1855 to 1863. Others were Albert Cook, Henry Trotter and James Trotter, his son; S. M. Baldwin, M. B. Speedy and William Van Vlack.

GENERAL ITEMS

The first house on the road between Butler Center and Shell Rock was erected in 1856 on section 14 by Henry Trotter. In 1857 the only settlers between Butler Center and Shell Rock were N. A. Thompson and Henry Trotter.

The first marriage celebrated in the township was that of Noble A. Thompson to Christina McGregor. The ceremony was performed by Justice M. Bailey, and the couple settled on section 13.

The first township officers in Jefferson were: Hugh Mullarky and Albert Cook, trustees; H. A. Shaw, clerk; H. H. Margretz, justice of the peace.

In the biographical volume of this work will be found the sketches of a number of these men and others who were identified with the history of Jefferson township in later days.

EDUCATIONAL

For school purposes Jefferson township was at an early date organized on the district township basis, divided into seven sub-districts. No. 1, known as the South Butler Center school, is situated in the southeastern corner of section 18. No. 2, the Wilson school, is in the southwest quarter of section 22. The Hall school, No. 3, is on land belonging to Charles Hall on the east side of section 26.

School No. 4 stands on the township line near the southeast quarter of section 31. The school population has in recent years been so small that this school has been closed and the few pupils in the district have been accommodated in the schools of Albion and Monroe townships. It is the only school in the township south of the river.

School No. 5, the McGregor school, is located in section 11; No. 6, in section 9; and No. 7, the North Butler Center school, in section 6. The school affairs of the township are in the hands of

a board consisting of a body of progressive citizens, and the schools rank with the best in the county.

POPULATION

1860, 241; 1863, 262; 1865, 339; 1867, 454; 1869, 516; 1870, 613; 1873, 629; 1875, 677; 1880, 774; 1890, 642; 1900, 657; 1910, 642.

BUTLER CENTER

A person driving across country at the present time from Allison to Parkersburg will note some five or six miles south of Allison a number of rather abrupt turns in the road, and the fact that there are an unusually large number of farm homes rather close together along the road. A little closer observation would reveal the presence of several squares grown up to weeds and rank grass, in the midst of which perhaps might be seen a few rotting timbers and a stone or two that might once have formed part of a foundation of a house. Not far away you might discern a little cemetery. These facts would probably suggest to even the casual passer-by that this was once the site of a village. This is all that remains today to mark the site of Butler Center, at one time the county seat of Butler county and one of its most progressive and promising communities.

Reference has been made elsewhere to the fact that there was considerable dissatisfaction, after the county began to be settled in the central and western portions, with the location of the county seat so far to the east of the topographical center of the county. In another chapter the various phases of the county seat struggle are traced in detail. Mention is made there of the attempt to secure the location of the county seat at Georgetown, a town platted in the exact topographical center of the county at the junction of Jefferson, Ripley, West Point and Jackson townships. Although the attempt reached the point of being submitted to the voters of the county, the result struck a death blow to the hopes of the Georgetown supporters. Clarksville was reindorsed as the location of the county seat by a substantial majority.

Previous to the initiative of the Georgetown project, Andrew Mullarky and Colonel Thomas platted a town located in the north half of section 18, of Jefferson township, just two miles south of the proposed location of Georgetown. This plat was made in

the year 1855. It was recorded on the minute book of the county court, June 20, 1856.

In an election called for the purpose, on April 4, 1859, to determine the question of the relocation of the county seat at Butler Center instead of Clarksville, the former village secured a majority of twenty one. Before the actual transfer of the county seat could be effected, however, the people of Clarksville secured an injunction preventing the removal of the county seat until certain irregularities in the election might be passed upon by the district court. In July following this court adjudged the election void and on April 4, 1860, another election on the same question resulted in a victory for Butler Center by a majority of eighty votes. Butler Center was thereupon declared to be the official county seat of Butler county, and all the county offices and officers as soon as practicable were moved to the new town and took up quarters in a frame building, which, with the two acres of land surrounding it, was donated to the county for this purpose by Mr. Mullarky.

As noted elsewhere, the county judge failed to make the removal of his office and the records pertaining thereto as soon as was deemed fitting by the board of supervisors. He was thereupon ordered to make the move at the earliest possible date. His compliance with this order completed the removal of the county seat from Clarksville to Butler Center.

An early county historian says: "Attracted by the probable permanency of the county seat, and the flattering prospects for the future, lawyers, doctors, editors, dentists, representatives of the different professions, exponents of various religious creeds, and other necessary elements of civilization, came together and formed a settlement and it seemed for a time that Butler Center was certainly destined to become the 'future great' of Butler county, but now (1883) how changed. The deserted streets, empty houses, vacant lots, dilapidated fences, signs of dissolution and decay, present themselves on every hand, speaking of things that were, suggesting things that 'might have been.'" Today, as suggested above, few even of these signs of its departed greatness remain.

For more than twenty years, from 1860 to 1881, Butler Center remained the seat of justice of Butler county.

The first store in Butler Center was built by O. S. Levis, who on the 4th of July, 1856, opened his doors to the public, presenting

for their approval a stock of general merchandise. Mr. Levis managed his business alone for a few years and then took in a partner, Dan Mason, to whom he afterward sold.

In 1857 Thomas Bird arrived, built a store and opened up a stock of general merchandise.

The first hotel in Butler Center was built by H. H. Margretz in 1856. Mr. Margretz conducted this hotel until the date of his enlistment in the army. He was killed in battle, and the building in which his hotel had been conducted was later torn down.

The second hotel was built by George A. Richmond and was first used as a residence. Mr. Richmond was the first lawyer in the town of Butler Center. He arrived in 1857 and purchased a half interest in the town site. He was for a number of years an influential citizen of the town and county. He later removed to Dubuque.

The third hotel was built by F. Digman, who first settled in the town in 1857. He purchased a building from Joe Santee and opened a shoe shop. To this he afterwards made additions and put in a general assortment of dry goods and groceries. The hotel which he built later, a substantial, two-story frame structure, was conducted for the accommodation of the general public until the county seat was moved to Allison, when the building was moved with it. It still stands on Main street in Allison and was until the erection of the present fine hostelry used as a hotel, under the name of the Digman House. Mr. Digman died in Butler Center in 1879 and thereafter the hotel was conducted both in Butler Center and later in Allison by his worthy wife.

The first practicing physician in Butler Center was Doctor Shaw, who arrived in 1857.

Joe Santee and Enoch George were carpenters and builders who were located in the town.

The first dentist was H. H. Marsh, who arrived in 1856, his residence being the third built in the place. Mr. Marsh later removed to Cedar Falls.

The first house was built by Joe Santee, the second by a Mr. Penmock.

Hugh Mullarky, who has been mentioned in connection with the township history as one of the pioneer settlers, located in Butler Center in January, 1855. The Mullarkys were the first owners of the town site.

Thomas Thompson came to Butler Center in 1857, opening a shoemaker's shop. One of his daughters became Mrs. Henry Trotter, and another Mrs. James Trotter. Noble A. Thompson, mentioned elsewhere, was a son of Thomas Thompson.

Orson Rice was the first lawyer to locate in Butler Center. He is mentioned at some length in connection with the history of the bar.

Julius Hale, later county treasurer, also located in Butler Center early in its history.

After the establishment of the county seat at Butler Center there was naturally a large increase in the population, a number of county officers and professional men settling there. Most of these were identified with other sections of the county and receive detailed mention in connection with these localities.

In its palmy days Butler Center had several saloons. Before the removal of the county seat, however, the township and the town abolished the saloon and none has been opened there since that time.

The first blacksmith in the town was one William Wright.

The Butler Center steam sawmill was erected by Charles Stewart in 1856. Andrew Mullarky was the proprietor. The mill was managed for a number of years by Mr. Stewart, who later sold it to some parties who moved the machinery to Cerro Gordo county. The building was later used by Sam Williams for a stable and eventually sold for taxes, I. W. Camp being the purchaser.

POSTOFFICE

Butler Center postoffice was established in 1856, mail being received by carrier from Cedar Falls, once each week. The first postmaster was H. H. Margretz. He was followed in order by Hugh Mullarky, W. A. Lathrop, J. H. Playter and H. N. Walker, who continued in office until Butler Center ceased to have a postoffice. Mr. Walker purchased the stock of goods owned by H. C. Playter in 1871 and was appointed postmaster in the same year. He continued to conduct his store for some years after the county seat was moved to Allison. Later his family moved to Dubuque, where they still live.

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

Religious services by ministers of different denominations were held in Butler Center from the beginning. Among these Rev. Richard Merrill, who is mentioned elsewhere, was an active and earnest worker. Mr. Merrill served for some time as county superintendent of schools during the period while Butler Center was the county seat. He is more nearly identified, however, with the history of Pittsford township.

About 1864 the first organized Sabbath school was established in Butler Center. The first superintendent was George M. Craig. This Sabbath school continued for several years after the town had begun to decay.

The first church organized was that of the Presbyterian denomination and was formed in 1873 by the Rev. William Smith. The first members of this church were James Barlow and wife, James Hunter and wife, W. C. Thompson and wife, Mrs. D. J. Merrill, Miss Emma Thompkins, James Robbins and wife, Duncan McGregor and wife and Duncan Stewart and wife. In 1875 Rev. John Gourley succeeded to the pastorate. The society never had a church building, meetings being held in the court room. At the period of its largest membership the number of members was about twenty-five.

The Methodist society held meetings in Butler Center at intervals for a number of years before they secured a regular appointment. Later a regular resident pastor was assigned to Butler Center and additional services were also held at Hopley school-house. The records of the Methodist society in Butler Center are not obtainable at the present time but among the resident pastors may be mentioned Reverends Faucett, Cooley, Robinson and Rowan. Presiding Elder Ingham also is mentioned among the Butler Center pastors of the Methodist church.

EDUCATIONAL

The first school in Butler Center was taught by Alzina Waters in the Levis building. Later Martha Niece taught in the house built by Enoch George, who boarded round among his patrons. After Butler Center became the county seat a two-story frame school building was erected with two rooms. The average enrollment in this school during the period of the town's pros-

perity was about sixty. This schoolhouse was one of the last buildings to be demolished in Butler Center. It was finally torn down and removed from its site a few years ago.

GENERAL ITEMS

The first sermon was delivered in Butler Center by Nathan Olmstead in the sawmill in 1856.

The first birth was a son to Martin Bailey.

The first death was a daughter of Charles Stewart, who died and was buried in the cemetery a mile east of town in the summer of 1857. This was the first interment in the Butler Center cemetery.

COSTER

For a number of years mail was regularly received at Coster, where Isaac Hall conducted a store in connection with his residence. Mr. Hall was postmaster. This office was abolished on the establishment of the rural mail routes. Coster at the present time has a creamery and general store conducted by O. F. Courbat. There are also two church buildings in the vicinity, one belonging to the Methodist denomination and the other to the German Evangelical. The latter is situated a little over a mile north.

CHAPTER XXV

MADISON TOWNSHIP AND VILLAGE OF KESLEY

Madison is one of the four townships forming the western tier of Butler county. It is bordered by Franklin county on the west and by Pittsford, Ripley and Washington townships on the north, east and south, respectively. The West Fork passes through the extreme northeastern portion of the township. Mayne's creek flows through its central portion from west to east.

The soil in the valleys of these streams and for some distance on either side has a tendency to be sandy. The surface of the rest of the township is a rolling plain, with a rich, dark, loamy soil, which is especially adapted to the raising of the cereal crops that make this section of Iowa one of the richest agricultural regions of the world.

The only extensive timbered tract in the township is what is known as Bear grove, which has been referred to in an earlier chapter. This grove covered originally a tract of land about two miles in length from east to west and a mile in width from north to south. It is situated chiefly in sections 26 and 27 and portions of 34 and 35 north of the creek, which drains the southern portion of the township.

Kesley is the only village within the limits of the township. Until 1900, when the line of the Northwestern Railroad was constructed through the eastern portion of the township, it had been entirely without railroad facilities. Kesley forms the market point for the southeastern portion of the township. Dumont on the north, Ackley on the southwest, and Austinville also constitute commercial outlets for the products of the township.

EARLY SETTLEMENT

The settlement of Madison township began in 1854. The first entry of land was made by Adam H. Sarber on October 2, 1854.

consisting of claims in sections 1 and 2. On October 27th James M. Caldwell and Thomas Nash entered a claim on section 26. These were the only entries of land made in 1854.

In this same year occurred the earliest settlements in Madison township, which was made, according to the best information obtainable, by Nicholas Hartgraves, a native of North Carolina, who came to Iowa from Indiana in 1844. His settlement in Butler county dates from 1852, when he located at Beaver grove. Two years later he pushed his way farther westward and settled on section 17, of what is now Madison township. In the following year his brother, Noah Hartgraves, arrived in Madison and located a claim on section 18. These claims were not entered in the government land office until some time later.

Several other pioneer settlers located in the township in 1855. Among them were Ephraim Hizenton and his son William, from Illinois. They located on sections 14 and 15. The son died in 1858 of hydrophobia. The father did not prove up on his claim. He lived on his son's place for a few years and then moved out of the township after his son's death.

William Mason and Fred Moffatt, natives of England, settled in the township in the same year. Abijah Stacy, a native of Indiana, located here in the spring of 1855. He died in the following November, his death being the first recorded in the township.

In 1856 James Wilkerson, an Englishman, settled upon a farm in section 16. He remained here for about two years and then moved to Hancock county.

Jacob Yost first settled in Madison township in 1857, his claim being located on section 16. He lived here for a few years and then moved across the line into Ripley township, with the history of which township he and his family were prominently identified.

Peter Coyle, for a number of years a member of the board of supervisors from Madison township and its chairman for the most of the period of his service, settled in the township in 1858, coming from Illinois. He was accompanied by Thomas Gallagher and wife. Mrs. Gallagher was a daughter of Mr. Coyle. They made the journey from Illinois with ox teams, taking about two weeks for the trip. Peter Coyle lived on a farm in section 10 until 1875, when he moved to Ackley. His repeated election as supervisor from the township and the honor conferred upon him by his choice as chairman of the board indicate better than

any mere words of praise could do the character and ability of the man. His son, Edward Coyle, succeeded him in the management of the home place.

Elisha Scott is also mentioned as a settler of the township at an early date. Detailed information regarding the date or location of his settlement is lacking.

The distance of Madison township in early days from market prevented its rapid settlement. In the years immediately preceding the Civil war, and during its progress, few additions were made to the list of settlers. After the war the township filled up rapidly.

Among the settlers subsequent to the Civil war were Amos E. Hartson, Samuel B. Gordon, Solomon Harvey and Walcott Watson. The Watsons are among the most prominent citizens of the township and are still identified with its progress and development.

Kesley Green, for a number of years the largest land owner in the township, settled here in 1865. The village of Kesley was platted on his land and is named for him.

Thomas Faint, a native of England, settled in Bear grove in the early '70s. Mr. Faint's family of four daughters and three sons were all raised in the township. The daughters have all been prominent in educational work in this and other parts of the state, Mary A. Faint having served two terms as county superintendent of schools.

The settlement of the township was finally completed very largely by people of the German nationality, who came in the late '70s and early '80s and took up by purchase unoccupied land in the western and southern part. Among these may be mentioned Charles Borneman, John Rewerts, Arend and J. S. Essman, Paul J. Gerdes. The Ludermann, Baumgartner, Rademacher and Stock families also are numbered in this list.

W. S. Austin, of the family of Austins, prominently connected with the early history of Washington township, purchased land in section 10, Madison township, in recent years, where he now conducts the Oak Glen Stock Farm.

James P. Bannon is a native son of Madison township, his father, James Bannon, having settled upon the farm where James P. now lives, in 1866.

George Lupkes and G. D. R. Kramer are also large landowners in the township at the present time.

OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION

Madison township was originally a part of the township of Ripley, being so organized February 5, 1855. It continued to constitute a part of the civil township of Ripley through the series of changes that took place in the township organization down to September 3, 1860, when by order of the county court it was given a separate organization. The name Madison was proposed by Peter Coyle and was ratified by a meeting of the board of supervisors.

The first election was held at the house of Jacob Yost on section 16. The following officers were chosen: Dr. George Sprague, Peter Coyle, trustees; Peter Coyle, justice of the peace; and Peter Coyle, assessor. Jacob Yost was elected to some office but exactly what it was is not recorded.

Madison township is the only township in the county which has a town hall, in which its elections and official meetings of the board and other official business are carried on. Its town hall is located on the schoolhouse grounds in sub-district No. 5, at the geographical center of the township, on the northwest corner of section 22.

GENERAL ITEMS

The first birth in Madison township occurred March 1, 1855, when a son, Marvin, was born to Nicholas and Sophia Hartgraves.

The first death was that of Abijah Stacy in November, 1855. He was buried without any funeral service.

The first marriage ceremony in the township after its separate organization was celebrated at the house of Peter Coyle, at which time Elisha Scott and Miss Sallie Taylor were united in marriage. It is said that the wedding had been arranged and dinner prepared, guests arrived and everything in order for a good time. When the hour for the ceremony arrived, however, the bride did not put in an appearance. The guests who were present, together with the minister, proceeded to make way with the feast which had been provided and the party then dispersed. It later developed that the sister of the bride, who was opposed to the marriage, had persuaded her not to go to the wedding. One of the friends of the contracting parties visited the bride and succeeded in getting her to change her mind again. The next afternoon, with the prospective bridegroom, she proceeded to Justice Coyle's, where

a ceremony was finally performed. Mrs. Scott was drowned nine years later in West Fork, while attempting to cross it at the time of high water. Her husband was with her, but escaped. This was undoubtedly the first marriage ceremony performed in Madison township. The records of the office of county clerk, however, record an earlier marriage between residents of this township when it was a part of Ripley. The contracting parties were Jacob Yost and Evaline Scott. The date of this marriage was February 28, 1857.

The first religious services of the township were held at the house of Peter Coyle, and presided over by a Catholic clergyman, Father Shields, of Waverly. A child, John Cunningham, was baptized at this time.

The Methodists held services in the township as early as 1867 in the schoolhouse in district No. 4. A Rev. Mr. Williams, of Ackley, was the first clergyman of this denomination to hold service in the township. So far as is known, no definite organization was effected.

The first blacksmith shop was started in a building which had formerly been used as a schoolhouse. Albert Schmitz purchased this building and moved it and started a blacksmith shop which he conducted for about a year. Later he moved to Dumont.

EDUCATIONAL

The first schoolhouse in the township was erected in 1860 on section 14. This was used for school purposes until 1870, when it was moved away. In 1872 a board shanty was erected and used for several terms for school purposes and its place was taken by a schoolhouse built in 1873 in the southeast corner of section 13. This district was then known as No. 1. A Miss Carpenter was the first teacher in the township.

A second sub-district was organized in 1868. Helen Slaid was one of the first teachers in this district.

The second schoolhouse in the township was erected in the southeast part of the township in the early '60s. In 1881 this building was sold to K. S. Green and was thereafter used by him as a tenant house. Its place was taken by a school building erected on section 26, in 1881.

In 1875 another district was created. A schoolhouse was erected on section 8, in 1876, for the pupils of this district. Mary

Johnson, Alice Hurley and George Palmer were among the first teachers in this schoolhouse.

The third schoolhouse erected in the township was constructed in 1865 on section 16. In 1868 this building was moved to the southwest corner of section 17—its present location—and a new building was erected on the southeast corner of section 16. The latter school site was changed at a later date to the northwest corner of section 22.

Thomas W. Smith was the first teacher in the Clutterville schoolhouse. In 1870 a frame schoolhouse was erected on section 32. Thomas Butler was one of the first teachers.

Since that date three additional schoolhouses have been erected in the township, which now has nine school buildings within its limits.

When the Northwestern Railroad was constructed through the township it was surveyed through the schoolhouse site in school district No. 1, necessitating its removal. Considerable difficulty was experienced in securing a satisfactory site for this school building and some litigation resulted. In the end the schoolhouse was located about a mile north of its first site. In recent years the population of this sub-district has been so small that no school has been held there. The district still owns the former schoolhouse site.

The schoolhouse in sub-district No. 2, known as the Eisen-trager school, stands on the northwest corner of section 10, just two miles south of Dumont. Borneman school, in district No. 3, is located in the southeastern corner of section 6. Sub-districts Nos. 4 and 5 are known as the West and East Clutterville schools respectively. No. 5 is the central school of the township. Sub-district No. 6 is located about a mile and a half north of Kesley. The schoolhouse in district No. 7 stands in Bear grove and is known as the Bear Grove school. Schoolhouse No. 8 is in the northeastern corner of section 33 and that in No. 9 in the southwestern corner of section 29.

POSTOFFICE

The first postoffice established in the township was called the Island Grove postoffice and was located at the residence of Dr. George Sprague, on section 35. This postoffice was continued from 1858 until 1868. It was on the mail route between Cedar

Falls and Hampton first and later on the route from Aplington. A postoffice was also located at Clutterville near the southwestern corner of section 17 at an early date. The exact dates of its establishment and discontinuance as well as the names of the postmasters are unknown at present.

POPULATION

1863, 66; 1865, 55; 1867, 157; 1869, 211; 1870, 293; 1873, 386; 1875, 401; 1880, 475; 1890, 604; 1900, 679; 1910, 755.

TOWN OF KESLEY

In the '50s a stock company was formed in Ohio, known as the Ohio Stock Breeding Association, the members of the association being John K. Green, of Cincinnati; R. W. Musgrave and Luther A. Hall, of Tiffin city; Doctor Sprague and others. Through Doctor Sprague, the originator of the plan, the company purchased some six thousand acres of land, mostly in Madison and Ripley townships. Doctor Sprague was made the manager of the farm and came to Butler county about 1858, bringing a splendid herd of shorthorn cattle with him. He located on section 35, in Madison township, and commenced the construction of buildings for the accommodation of the stock and a house for the men connected with the enterprise. For various reasons the attempt was unsuccessful.

After several years Doctor Sprague gave up the struggle, the company was dissolved and the land divided among the stockholders. Doctor Sprague obtained some of the land, which remained in possession of his family for a good many years. John K. Green secured the largest part of the real-estate holdings—some three thousand seven hundred acres.

Subsequent to this time Doctor Sprague went to Des Moines and started the Iowa Homestead, a farm journal of wide reputation and success, which he continued with the help of his sons for a number of years.

Kesley S. Green, a son of John K. Green, came to Madison township in 1865 to take charge of his father's land there. From that time to the present he has been the largest landowner in that section of the country. Of late years he has retired from active participation in business affairs and his son, John K. Green, has taken his place.

When in 1900 the line of the Northwestern Railroad was projected through this section of the county, a plat of land was secured by the Iowa & Minnesota Town Site Company, upon which a town was platted and named Kesley for Mr. Green. Although still unincorporated, the village at present is an important trading center for the farmers of this section of Butler county.

The plat of the town of Kesley was filed for record on June 15, 1900, by W. E. Brice, representing the Iowa & Minnesota Town Site Company. This was just before the completion of the line of railroad which was then being built from Belle Plaine, Iowa, to Fox Lake, Minnesota. The name of the railway line during construction was the Iowa, Minnesota & Northwestern. The promoters were the same men who were interested in the Town Site Company. This railroad was later sold to the Chicago & Northwestern Railway Company.

Before the town was organized a postoffice had been maintained for a number of years at Hitesville, several miles to the east. After the town of Kesley came into being this was discontinued and a postoffice was established at Kesley. The postmasters here have been as follows: John Bode, Henry De Vries and John Wessels.

Soon after the platting of the town an auction was held by the Town Site Company, at which a sale of lots in Kesley was made. The opening of a lumberyard by Reints & De Buhr, who later organized the Bank of Kesley, marked the beginning of the actual transaction of business in Kesley. Bode Brothers of Austinville, and F. Traisman of Aplington, immediately opened general stores and the Northern Grain Company and the Nye-Schneider-Fowler Company built elevators along the right of way. H. E. Perry, of Swanton, opened a blacksmith shop; Bode Brothers, of Parkersburg, a drug store, and Ludeman and De Vries a hardware and furniture store. J. H. Brandenburg built a two-story brick hotel, which he operated for some time. A creamery had been in operation about a half mile north of the site of Kesley for some time previous to its founding. This may now be considered one of the industries of the town of Kesley. Mr. H. Patterson succeeded James P. Johnston in the creamery business here.

Kesley now has about one hundred and twenty inhabitants, has two general stores, drug store, a hardware and furniture store, an

implement establishment, lumberyard, bank, two elevators, meat market, hotel, barber shop and pool hall, harness shop, milk depot and two blacksmith shops.

An independent school district was formed by Kesley and the immediate contiguous territory some years ago. There are at present two departments in the school, with an attendance of about forty children. The school building is a substantial two-story frame structure.

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

The German Baptists organized a church here through G. C. Engelmann. This society was later disbanded.

The Monroe Reformed Church was organized June 14, 1885, with a membership of thirty-four families, and built a neat church building which is used by this organization. This church is located three miles south and a half mile east of Kesley. The first pastor called to the charge was Rev. Fr. Schaefer, who after a service covering twenty-three years abandoned his work here, August 2, 1908. Since November, 1909, Rev. E. K. Russmann has had charge and the congregation now numbers seventy-three families.

This denomination has a church building in Kesley, in which regular services are held. A Union Christian Endeavor Society also holds its meetings here.

FINANCIAL

The Bank of Kesley is managed by Herman N. Reints, cashier, and is owned by Reints & De Buhr, of Aplington. Its capital stock is \$20,000; surplus, \$7,500. Its location in an excellent farming and dairying country makes this financial institution an important one, as the community which it represents in a financial way enjoys a splendid trade from the surrounding territory and has come to be one of the most important shipping points for hogs and poultry in the county.

CHAPTER XXVI

MONROE TOWNSHIP AND TOWN OF APLINGTON

Monroe township lies in the southern tier of the townships of Butler county, just west of Albion. It is bounded on the north by Ripley, on the west by Washington, and on the south by Grundy county. In its general characteristics it is very similar to the townships to the west and east. It is drained by the same stream, Beaver creek, and several minor branches. The surface in general is rolling with a rich, loamy soil which is highly productive.

There is comparatively little natural timber and this is chiefly along the Beaver. At an early date the water power of this stream was sufficient to be utilized for manufacturing purposes. Of recent years, however, the flow of the stream has been so reduced and the cost of steam power has become so essentially cheaper and more satisfactory as to render the use of this stream for commercial purposes needless. The Illinois Central Railroad furnishes the only means of transportation of persons and commodities of the township.

The town of Aplington is situated wholly within the limits of the township and a portion of Parkersburg also. These two towns are the central trading points, trade extending well beyond the limits of the township in every direction. The Hawkeye Highway, which has been mentioned previously, connects Parkersburg and Aplington, furnishing a satisfactory route for automobiles and other wheeled vehicles.

In an early day wheat was the principal product of this township, the yield often reaching forty bushels per acre. This wheat was principally marketed at Cedar Falls, at that time the nearest milling point. Comparatively little wheat is raised at the present time, corn, oats and hay constituting the chief crops. The township is particularly adapted to dairying and the growing of beef cattle and hogs. The farms are well improved and many of them are occupied and farmed by their owners—a

condition which operates to maintain the natural fertility of the soil and develop its resources to the fullest extent.

The central portion of the township was formerly considered too wet to be of value for farming purposes. The undoubted change in climatic conditions as well as the introduction of tile draining and a greater absorption of moisture by the tilled lands, all have resulted in removing to a large extent this condition. At present there is practically no waste land in Monroe township.

EARLY SETTLEMENT

Walter Clayton, who has been mentioned as the first settler in Albion township, also has the honor of being enrolled as the pioneer of Monroe. Mr. Clayton was a native of New York, coming to Albion township from Wisconsin. The claim which he took up there was, to use the language of the period, "jumped" by Thomas Mullarky of Cedar Falls, owing to Mr. Clayton's ignorance of or neglect to comply with the provisions governing the formal entry of land in the western states.

In April, 1854, Mr. Clayton moved west across the Albion line and located a new home on sections 21 and 28, Monroe township, about a mile east of where Aplington now stands. Here he erected a log house in the northwest quarter of section 28, covering the roof with shakes. These shakes were made from hewn oak timbers, about sixteen inches long, from which shakes, in form somewhat similar to the modern shingle, were split with a tool designed for this purpose. They were very frequently used in the construction of buildings in pioneer days. The floor was laid with basswood boards hewn from the native logs.

In this cabin the first white child in Monroe township was born. It was also the first hotel in this part of the county. It was called the Half-Way House, being so named because of its location midway between Cedar Falls and Iowa Falls. A basswood board, with the name Half-Way House written upon it with red chalk was nailed to a stake in front of the house. It is said that often as many as twenty travelers were accommodated in the one room of this little shanty, where on account of the low ceiling the guests were obliged to kneel while dressing.

In 1856 he built another log house with two rooms on the ground floor and two above. The same year a stage route was established past his hotel and this became a regular station on the

route. It was known thereafter as Elk Horn Tavern, from an elk horn which he had procured and suspended over the approach at the entrance. This tavern was in continuous use until after the railway was constructed through the township.

Clayton made considerable money in the management of this hotel. In 1868 he built a large frame house where he lived until his death in 1870.

It is said that the money which he received for the improvements on his Albion township claim, amounting to about one hundred and fifty dollars, he entrusted to the care of a young man to take to Des Moines to secure the entry to his new claim in Monroe township. The man, however, ran away with the money. Mr. Clayton then managed to save up the sum of \$353 by keeping travelers and this was stolen from him. He still persevered, however, and in the end achieved a high degree of prosperity.

No entries of land in Monroe township were made until 1854. The first of these is dated July 29, 1854, when J. V. Hogaboom entered a claim on section 19. L. L. Pease the same year entered a claim on section 23, and on the 11th of October Walter Clayton, mentioned above, entered his claim on section 21. During this year of 1854 claims were also entered by P. M. Casady and R. L. Tidrick, on sections 19 and 29, respectively.

The year 1854 is marked by the addition of Solomon Cinnamon to the settlers of Monroe township. Cinnamon took a claim on section 36 but lived there only a few years and later removed to Nebraska. J. M. Caldwell and Thomas Nash also belonged to the list of settlers in the township this year. Mr. Caldwell was a native of Georgia. He came to Iowa from Illinois in September, 1854, and located a claim in section 30, Monroe township. Thomas Nash took up portions of sections 19, 29 and 30.

In October Messrs. Caldwell and Nash returned to Illinois, disposed of their real estate there, bought stock and in 1855 returned to Butler county with their families. With them came quite a colony of pioneers, among them Anthony Howard and his son Robert, J. G. and George W. Caldwell, Silas Beebe and Jonathan Gee. The party made the journey with three horses and five ox teams. The trip took about sixteen days. These all settled in Monroe and Washington townships.

The number of pioneer settlers was largely increased in the year 1855. Among the first of these was Nathan Linn. He

located first at what was then called Carpenter's grove, in Shell Rock township, in the fall of 1854, where he spent the winter. The following spring he pushed his way westward into Ripley township, whence, after a brief sojourn, he came to Monroe, locating on section 2. In 1879 he sold his farm in Monroe township and removed to Jefferson township, where he resided for a number of years. Daniel Peterson, like Nathan Linn a native of Maryland, located a short time afterward on section 1.

Peter McMahan, who settled in the township this year, came from Pennsylvania. From Chicago they came overland by team. When they reached the vicinity of Butler Center they endeavored to find a place where they could be accommodated over night. They were at first unable to find a place to stay until they by chance heard that Nathan Linn, at that time hardly settled in the township, sometimes kept travelers. Pushing on from Butler Center they arrived at Linn's claim, where they found the family living in a little log house without a floor. In the absence of a door, a blanket was hung to keep out the wolves. Here they were heartily welcomed. Mr. McMahan located a claim on section 4, and rented a cabin in Butler Center where his family lived until he was able to complete a cabin on his own farm. Among other arrivals about this time were Lyeurgus Hazen, R. R. Horr, Wells A. Curtis, Joseph Embody, M. S. Wrightman and James Gillard.

This year also is marked by the settlement of Thomas Conn and his three sons, Joseph, Moses and Samuel, together with Joseph, William and Alexander Hopley. Thomas Conn located a claim on the southwest quarter of section 1, which he later sold to his son Joseph. Samuel located on section 12 and Joseph and William Hopley on sections 2 and 3. Moses Conn is mentioned in connection with the history of Albion township.

Among the settlers in the township in 1856 were Benjamin Inman, Samuel Gillard and J. H. Kerns. In the years subsequent to the Civil war the township was rapidly settled. As is the case with most of the other townships of the county, Monroe township in the early '80s became the home of large numbers of German emigrants who themselves and their children today are found among the leading citizens of their communities.

GENERAL ITEMS

The first birth in the township was Winfield Scott Clayton, a son of Walter and Rachel Clayton, who was born June 10, 1855.

The first marriage was that of Richard Parriott and Lilly M. Caldwell, who on the 10th day of July, 1856, plighted their faith. The bridegroom was later killed in the battle of Murfreesboro in 1863.

Two deaths occurred on the 14th of October, 1859—Catherine, the wife of Samuel Bisbee, aged twenty-two; and Sarah, the wife of Anthony Howard, aged seventy-two. They were both buried on the same day in Aplington cemetery.

OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION

Monroe township was at first a portion of the township of Ripley, being so assigned by order of the county court, February 5, 1855. On March 3, 1856, Monroe township was organized of the two congressional townships, now Monroe and Washington. Washington township was separated from Monroe on the 3d of September, 1860, since which date both townships have had their present boundaries. The township name was suggested by J. M. Caldwell, whose middle initial stands for Monroe. Whether he had his own name or that of the president of the United States is unknown.

The first election in the township was held at the home of J. M. Caldwell in April, 1856. At this election an oyster can was used for a ballot box, and the following officers were elected: Thomas Nash and J. M. Caldwell, trustees; Jonathan Gee, clerk; L. P. Hazen, assessor; Daniel Peterson, constable; and Joseph Embody, justice of the peace.

EDUCATIONAL

Monroe is one of the eleven townships of Butler county enjoying township district organization for school purposes. It was so organized from the beginning in 1856.

The first school was held during the winter of 1856-7 in a log shanty belonging to J. M. Caldwell, on section 19, with L. P. Hazen as teacher.

The second school, held in the following winter at the residence of Walter Clayton, was taught by Morris F. Whitney.

In 1859 there were two schoolhouses erected, one in Parriott's grove on section 30, and the other in the eastern part of the village of Aplington. The latter was not completed until about 1861. W. C. Garrison was the first teacher here.

By 1883 the township had been divided into six sub-districts. The first school in district No. 1 was taught in Joseph Conn's house on section 1, Thomas Conn being the teacher. A schoolhouse was erected about 1863 on section 2. In 1865 a schoolhouse was erected at the northwest corner of section 15, at what was then known as sub-district No. 2. This schoolhouse stood on the present station of Eleanor. A schoolhouse was erected in 1872 in the western part of section 8 for district No. 3. About 1872 a schoolhouse was erected near the southwest corner of section 27. School was first held in this part of the township in section 34. The first school in the southeastern portion of the township was taught by Wells A. Curtis at his house on section 25, in the winter of 1858-9. The following winter the school was taught at M. S. Wrightman's house by George Russell. In 1861 a schoolhouse was located in the northeastern part of section 26, where M. F. Whitney taught the first school.

At the present time the township is divided into seven sub-districts. In educational matters the township is one of the most progressive and enlightened in Butler county. They have adopted a definite plan of rebuilding their rural schoolhouses, constructing one each year, beginning in 1911. In this year a new building was erected in sub-district No. 1. In 1912 a new school building was erected on the southwest corner of section 5 for sub-district No. 3. This building is the first rural school in Butler county to be furnished with a basement and a furnace for heating purposes.

In 1913 a school building was erected in district No. 7, a mile and a half east of Aplington, which in all respects is the finest rural school building in the county. A new site for the school was purchased at the southeast corner of section 28. The building is heated by a basement furnace, is unilaterally lighted and has an adequate system of ventilation. It is seated with the best desks obtainable, is provided with slate blackboards and has practically every essential of modern schoolhouse construction. The cost of this building was in the neighborhood of \$2,100. It is planned to continue the rebuilding of the schools of the township in the future, one being constructed each year. If this plan is adhered to, within a comparatively short time Monroe township will be equipped with a set of rural school buildings that will be second to none in the state of Iowa.

EARLY RELIGIOUS SERVICES

The early religious services were held in a building put up for a stable. The quarterly meetings were held in Mr. Caldwell's barn. The first, or one of the first sermons ever delivered in the neighborhood is a reminder of the old dissenters who posted their sentinels among the rocks. The good women of the neighborhood, having long been denied the privilege of hearing the word of God, proposed to their husbands to have a sermon from some source. The religious enthusiasm of the men had been overcome by a pressing necessity for active physical labor. A minister to perform regular service every Sabbath could not be supported, consequently a discourse from a minister from Hardin county, who could come no other time than through the week, was agreed upon. Mr. Parriott mounted a horse and bled himself off for Rev. Mr. Crippin. The signal for his return on the following day was to be a blast from the dinner horn of Mrs. Parriott's, in order to call in the hands, busy at work in the fields. The sound of the horn on the following afternoon apprised the settlers that their messenger had appeared in sight. Oxen and horses were turned to graze and rest, while the barefooted, ragged and dusty yeomanry assembled to hear the word of the Holy One expounded. Such a luxury could not often be indulged in, consequently the more appreciated. It is merely a single instance among thousands of a similar character which occur in the first settlement of a country.

POPULATION

1856, 135; 1860, 203; 1863, 151; 1865, 190; 1867, 407; 1869, 516; 1870, 644; 1873, 645; 1875, 692; 1880, 891; 1890, 1,088; 1900, 1,388; 1910, 1,362.

APLINGTON

In the summer of 1857 the village of Aplington was laid out and platted by the proprietors, Thomas Nash, R. R. Parriott, Zenas Aplington and Theodore A. Wilson, on section 29. At the time one house stood on the tract of land, which had been erected and occupied by Charles Savage, a New Englander, a settler of short duration. The town was incorporated in the '80s and has

grown to be a lively and thriving trading point of five hundred people. No better soil or finer farms lie out of doors than those contributing to the wealth of this community and with the Iowa division of the Illinois Central Railroad good transportation facilities appreciably add to the desirability of Aplington as a place for business activity and easy communication with the outside world. The town was named by its promoters in honor of one of their number, Zenas Aplington, a resident of Illinois, who never lived here. He owned part of the land, however, and took a lively interest in the town's welfare until his death, which occurred while serving his country in the War of the Rebellion.

The first building erected in Aplington was built by Zenas Aplington in 1856. He also furnished a stock of general merchandise. The building stood on the south side of Parriott street, and the first Aplington merchant, George W. Hunter, sold goods over the counters here about one year for Mr. Aplington. He was succeeded by Chester Stilson, who ran the store eighteen months; then it closed its doors. However, in 1864, Isaac Hall opened a general store in this building. He sold his stock to C. S. Price, who a year later closed out at auction.

The father of Charles Savage was an early settler in this part of the county and set up a blacksmith forge in a roofless sod house. This was the first smithy in the southern part of Butler county. William Bisbee came here in 1857 and opened a blacksmith shop for Zenas Aplington and managed it one year for that enterprising non-resident. He then engaged in the trade for himself and continued therein for many years.

Mrs. Rachel Quimm built and presided over the first hotel in 1858. E. Y. Royce bought the property in 1866 and sold it to Edward Bourns in 1867, who continued the hotel a few years. The building was then purchased by Henry Kerns and used as a residence. The present hotel is an old frame structure showing the wear and tear of the elements. Yet the traveler is well taken care of and given a good, generous meal by the proprietor.

The first grain elevator in Aplington was built by Alonzo McKey, at the time of the coming of the Illinois Central Railroad in 1865. Among the several managers was C. M. Mead. The next was built by the firm of Wright Brothers and run by the firm until 1877. Several persons have been in charge of the business since then. The third elevator was built by S. L. Kemmerer in 1872. He sold the property to A. M. Whaley in 1876. In 1879,

a fourth elevator was built. The firm of Chrystie & Princee, proprietors, disposed of their interests to Mr. Willis.

Aplington was early noted for its mills and creamery. Edward Hiller would have built a mill in the '60s, but being unable to secure on reasonable terms the right of way for a tail race, he gave up the project. However, John Matthews & Son, of Jackson county formed a stock company, with a capital of \$14,000, in 1872. A mill was built, but before its completion certain of the stockholders refused to meet their obligations on stock issued them, which retarded the industry for a while. The Matthews finally turned over their interests to William Dobbins and the latter disposed of a controlling amount of the stock to A. L. Morris & Son, who had the mill running in September, 1877. After this the mill had several owners.

Spring Hill Creamery began operations in the spring of 1881, on section 20. The proprietors at that time, Markley & Dodswell gave employment to a number of men and consumed vast quantities of milk, which were delivered from the surrounding farms. One of the largest and most lucrative industries of this section of the county is dairying.

POSTOFFICE

The Aplington postoffice was established in 1858 and the first postmaster was Chester Stilson, who kept the office at his store. Harvey Quimm was the next appointee. He removed the office to his hotel and while in the army his sister, Maria Quimm, distributed the mail. Others who have held the position of postmaster here are: Alexander Chrystie, E. A. Gihnan, C. J. Fitzpatrick, A. M. Whaley, C. G. Whaley, Dick Voogd.

Charles S. Prince located in Aplington in 1865, where he engaged in mercantile pursuits of a varied nature.

Mention has been made of the building of the Illinois Central Railroad through Aplington in 1865; it also should be added that a depot was not built until two years later. In the meantime A. McKey, agent for the railroad company, maintained an office in his store room.

A. McKey, the first station agent, came to Aplington in 1865. He not only opened a general store, but also erected a warehouse and bought grain.

Alexander Chrystie was early in the field of business at this point. In 1868 he opened a general store, his stock consisting of groceries, dry goods, boots, shoes, etc. Mr. Chrystie became one of the prosperous and influential men of the place.

The firm of Lynd & Wright started a general mercantile business in 1868, having for headquarters a building on Parriott street. In 1869 these busy men built a business house on Tenth street where they installed a stock of goods, which was sold out in a lump within a year and moved away.

Doctor Whitfield opened the first drug store in 1868. Within a few months thereafter he sold out to Charles Prince and formed a partnership with Doctor Waterbury, which lasted but a short time. Lynd & Wright were the next proprietors of the stock of goods, then A. M. Whaley got hold of it and in 1873 disposed of his bargain to L. M. Swan.

In 1869 A. S. Burnham entered the furniture trade and at the expiration of a year's time took into partnership his brother, J. J. Burnham.

A wagon shop was established in Aplington in 1877, by George Lefever; Joseph Kellogg had a hardware store in 1875; E. Y. Royce opened a real-estate agency in 1868. Arends & Rans, hardware, 1878; H. Reints & Company, groceries, 1880; Dreyer Brothers opened up a grain and lumber business.

APLINGTON INCORPORATED

Aplington long has been an incorporated town, but the exact date of its separation from the township was not obtainable for this article. After diligent search among the records in the courthouse nothing was found pertaining to the court proceedings necessary and antecedent to incorporation. Further, the early minute books of the recorder of Aplington are missing, so that, with these handicaps a connected history of the municipality is not possible at this time. However, the town held its initial election, the officials were properly inducted into office and the business of Aplington as an incorporated town has gone steadily onward without any serious interruptions. It is true the central part of the town was practically wiped out by fire in 1891. But the community survived the heavy loss entailed and the business part was rebuilt in a more substantial and expensive manner than ever. As a matter of fact, the business houses of Aplington rank

well with other Butler county towns and as a trading point there is none better, when size and facilities are considered. The community is one of the wealthiest in the county as the highly improved farms and town residences plainly attest.

MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT

Aplington stands well forward in the ranks of incorporated towns of its class, and is gradually acquiring the utilities found in her larger competitors. On the 26th day of July, 1913, the question of building an electric light plant and issuing \$7,000 in bonds for the purpose was presented to the electorate at a special election, and was carried by a very generous majority of all the votes cast; in fact, the local sentiment was almost unanimous for the improvement. By the end of the year, this useful and convenient utility was completed. A cement power house was erected, in which were installed a kerosene engine and large alternating-current dynamos. The merchants erected ten five-globe electroliers and now the business houses and many of the residences are supplied with the modern and mysterious lights produced by electricity. This plant also supplies the current for the public and private lights at Austinville, about five miles west of Aplington, in Washington township, a village named in honor of Henry Austin, a pioneer of Butler county. Henry Austin and his brother located in Washington township in 1867, where from time to time they purchased tracts of land, until their holdings amounted to two thousand acres. Henry, while driving his automobile on the 22d day of February, 1912, sustained injuries which caused his death. William is now retired and makes his home with a daughter, Mrs. Dick Voogd. He is now in his sixty-eighth year.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

The forerunner of the Exchange Bank was a private banking concern, established by A. M. Whaley in 1878. This pioneer merchant was one of Aplington's busy and energetic town builders, engaging in several lines of industry, notably a flax elevator, which he often filled to its capacity of seven thousand bushels. In 1896, Mr. Whaley sold his bank to N. H. Reints and H. J. De Bulr, who still conduct the business and have a large clien-

tele. In 1902, they opened a bank in Kesley and placed Herman N. Reints, a son of N. H. Reints, in charge. The firm of Reints & De Buhr also maintain lumberyards at Aplington and Kesley and the homes of both banks are substantial brick structures of modern designs. The Aplington building was erected by Mr. Reints in 1900 and the Kesley building in 1909.

The Farmers Savings Bank was organized under the laws of Iowa in 1906. The incorporators were Fred Weiss, A. Ontges, J. Jerdens, John Spicker, C. Primus, H. H. Dreyer and William Klingenberg. Capital stock, \$15,000. First officials: A. Ontges, president; C. Primus, vice president; Dick Spicker, cashier. The latter resigned his position in 1909 and was succeeded by Albert Dreyer. The last statement of the bank shows the capital is \$15,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$7,500; deposits, \$125,000. The bank's home is in the east half of a large modern brick building recently purchased, which was erected for P. Arends' hardware store.

CHURCHES THAT HAVE BEEN

The oldest church building in Aplington belonged to the Methodist society, the first religious organization to be established in the town. The forerunner of this society was a series of meetings held at the home of R. R. Parriott in 1855 by Reverend Mr. Crippin, a circuit rider. Later meetings were held at the home of Thomas Nash on section 30. The society was formally organized at the Parriott home and in 1860 the schoolhouse at Aplington was secured for holding regular services, Father John Connell presiding. In 1870 a church building was erected on lots donated by E. Y. Royce and dedicated by Elder Kendig, December 18, 1870. Reverend Platt was the first regular pastor. For many years this congregation held together, but in later years the German element became predominant in the community, acquiring the land and establishing churches of their own. As the Germans increased those of American birth decreased, the latter giving way to the newcomers and removing to other parts of the country. This militated against the Methodist organization to the extent that it was finally disbanded and the church property was sold.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The settlers affiliating with the Presbyterian church effected an organization at Aplington July 25, 1869, and held their first



NEW GERMAN BAPTIST CHURCH, APLINGTON



TILE FACTORY, APLINGTON

meetings at the schoolhouse and the Methodist church. Rev. R. Boag was the organizing minister and the first members were: George B. Smith, Eliza Smith, Lydia F. Smith, Margaret Stockdale, James Stockdale, James S. Montgomery, Jane Montgomery, Mrs. T. Johnson, Mrs. Rachel Quinn, Alfred Burnham, Joseph Montgomery, Alexander McMullen.

In 1889 the church edifice was erected and on the last Sabbath day in December of that year the dedicatory exercises and sermon were discussed by a large assemblage of members and visitors. The parsonage was built during the administration of Reverend Beebe and since the beginning the church has prospered and now has a membership of sixty. Names of its pastors are given below:

Miles Smith, J. W. Van Emman, C. H. Gravenstein, W. A. McMinn, G. M. Tourtellot, David F. Williams, George Earhart, Wilson Ardale, L. M. Beebe, T. N. Buchanan, Elmer Ankerman, H. W. Stillman, S. F. Rederus, George Ballinger and T. N. Buchanan.

GERMAN BAPTIST CHURCH

The membership of the Baptist faith of German nationality organized the German Baptist church at the schoolhouse in district No. 3, Washington township, in 1874, under the guidance of Elder Schroeder. In a little while the society began attending the church at Pleasant valley, but in the year 1884, or thereabouts, a church building was erected in Aplington by the society, which prospered and grew so rapidly that in 1904 a larger building became necessary. To this end a handsome structure was built in the last mentioned year at a cost of \$7,000, which was destroyed by fire in 1912. This was replaced by a larger and handsomer edifice which cost \$9,000.

The first members of the local German Baptist church were H. Dreyer, Sr., and family, Henry Dallman, David Meyer, Lubert Luberts, Garbrand Roos, Amos Beckhoff, Herman Reints, O. Althoff, J. Muntinga and several others. Rev. J. Engelmann was the first pastor. He was succeeded by William Paul, C. Tietge, William Pheiffer, Louis Wiesle and the present pastor, Detmar Koester. The membership is one hundred and seventy.

THE GERMAN REFORMED CHURCH

The Reformed church was organized at Aplington April 23, 1908, with the following charter members: Mr. and Mrs. K.

Brouwer, Mr. and Mrs. A. Bengen, Mr. and Mrs. J. Haan, Mrs. H. O. Muller, C. Groninga, Mr. and Mrs. T. Busemann, Miss R. Busemann, Mrs. R. Busemann, Mr. and Mrs. H. Ebens, Jacob Busemann, Mr. and Mrs. J. Gersema, C. M. Janssen, Miss F. Janssen, J. Tjabrings, Mr. and Mrs. Klingenberg, Eeko Memmen, Mrs. E. Memmen, Rieke Busemann, Mrs. R. Busemann, Mrs. A. Jurgena.

The first services were held in the Methodist Episcopal church and in October, 1910, this society bought the property and placed some needed improvements. There has been but one pastor, Rev. G. Zindler, who is still attending to the spiritual needs of a prosperous and worthy congregation.

CHAPTER XXVII

PITTSFORD TOWNSHIP AND TOWN OF DUMONT

Pittsford township consists of what is known as township 92 north, range 18 west. It is situated in the west central part of the county, being bordered on the west by Franklin county. Its surface is rolling prairie, varied by the presence of the valleys of several streams, most of which are bordered by some natural timber. The valleys of these streams are none of them of great width but are of sufficient depth to render the surface of some portions of the township rather irregular. The main branch of the West Fork traverses the township from northwest to southeast, entering on the west near the line between sections 17 and 18 and flowing out into Madison township near the southern end of the line joining sections 34 and 35. Boylan's creek flows through the township from north to south, principally in the eastern part of the township. This stream west of Bristow is bordered by lime stone bluffs which were formerly quarried and the stone burned for lime in several kilns which have now been abandoned.

Two lines of railroad pass through the township—the Chicago Great Western and the Minnesota division of the Northwestern. These roads cross at Dumont, which is the most important trading point of the township. Bristow is situated on the border between Pittsford and West Point townships.

The farm land of the township is all in a high state of cultivation. The farms for the most part are occupied by resident land-owners and the improvements are such as to make this township rank as one of the best farming regions of the state.

EARLY SETTLEMENTS

The township was first settled in the fall of 1852 when the families of John Boylan and James M. Parks came from Bureau county, Illinois, and settled on portions of sections 13 and 24.

The next settler was Samuel Moots, who came with his family and settled in the eastern part of the township, some time in the winter of 1852-3.

No entries of government land were made at this time in the township, as the land here was under the control of the Des Moines land office and most of the settlers had come from the eastern states and considered a journey to Des Moines too difficult to make at that time. Instead, most of them took up what was called "settlers' claims," which were made generally by laying the foundation for a cabin, constructed of four logs, with sometimes an addition of the claimant's name cut in a tree. A number of such claims were made soon after the arrival of Boylan and Parks but they were made by men who were merely transients and who made no later attempt to render the basis of their claims permanent by entry in the government land office.

Reference has been made elsewhere to the large number of buffalo, deer and elk that were found in the township at the time of this first settlement and also to the conditions which led to the practical extermination of wild game.

These three families—the Boylans, Parks and Moots—were all of them interrelated by marriage, James M. Parks being married to Eliza Boylan, a sister of John Boylan, and a daughter of Samuel Moots having married James W. Boylan. Another of the Boylan family, Isaac, came with his family and settled in the township in the summer of 1853. This family was prominently identified with the history of the eastern portion of this township throughout the early period and a number of descendants are still residing in the township. The first settlement to be given a name was Boylan's Grove, later known by the unephonious name of Pilltown, situated in the center of sections 14 and 23, about a mile and a half west of Bristow. A schoolhouse and cemetery still mark the site of this village.

W. R. Jamison and family came to the township in the summer of 1853, seeking a location for a home. They came first to Boylan's grove, a tract of timber land containing at that time about a thousand acres. Mr. Jamison was anxious to secure some of this timber land and knew that inasmuch as no legal entries of land had been made he was privileged to select any site which he chose. However, he recognized the fact that the settlers already on the ground would consider it a decided intrusion if he should fail to recognize the validity of their settlers' claims.

Being anxious to avoid any trouble with his future neighbors, Mr. Jamison took Mr. Boylan's advice, and under his guidance set out to look at a grove of timber near by. This grove, which was later known as Jamison's grove, was situated in sections 19 and 20. Being satisfied with the location and the quality of the land which he found, Mr. Jamison selected three hundred and twenty acres, one hundred and twenty in section 19, and two hundred acres in section 20. On the 11th day of August, 1853, Mr. Jamison made entry of this half section of land in the land office at Des Moines, Iowa, thus making the first original entry of land in the township, and so far as the records show, the first in the western half of the county.

To this new home Mr. Jamison brought his family in September, 1853, bringing them from Buchanan county, where they had been living. Mr. Jamison brought into the township the first span of horses and covered carriage that was known in the township. He also brought with him a fine herd of Berkshire hogs. The other early settlers were rather inclined to ridicule him for taking the trouble to bring hogs into this new country on the ground that meat was so much more easily procured from the wild game, which was still plentiful. However, during the winter of 1853-4 the deer and elk began to be less numerous than they had been and it was not long before the wisdom of Mr. Jamison, in providing a somewhat more stable supply of meat for the future, became very evident. This first year Mr. Jamison sold his carriage and traded his span of horses for several yoke of oxen and in the following spring he broke the first prairie sod for a crop.

The other settlers followed Mr. Jamison's example in making proper entry of their land. On May 2, 1854, Alexander Frazer, John Boylan, H. A. Early and Seth Strong are recorded as having made entries on claims which they had previously taken up, and on the 11th day of May, 1854, James and Ephraim McKinney also entered land in this township. These constitute the first land entries as shown by the records of the general land office.

Other settlers who located in the township in 1854 were the Rev. Richard Merrill and his brother, Joseph; James Woods, two Germans by the name of Kniphals and Peterson, Comfort Williams, James W., William H. and Asa Boylan and Thomas Dumont.

Rev. Richard Merrill, a Presbyterian minister, preached the first sermon in the township at the house of John Boylan.

A German, Kniphals, was the first blacksmith in the township. Comfort Williams has been mentioned in connection with one of the earliest marriage ceremonies celebrated in the county. The marriage of his daughter to Greenbury Luck is the first in order recorded on the records of the county court, although two other marriage licenses bear earlier dates than this.

At the time of the Indian scare, in the summer of 1854, the panic caused by fear of an Indian outbreak reached the settlers of this township, and all of them, except the families of W. R. Jamison and James Wood, fled for refuge to Janesville, in Bremer county, where a fort was erected for the protection of the settlers. When it was learned that there was no cause for alarm, the refugees gradually returned to their homes. They were delayed, however, for some days from the fact that the water in Shell Rock river had risen to such a height that it could not be forded. As there were no bridges in this section of the country at that time, these people had to wait until the waters had subsided sufficiently to enable them to cross the stream and return to their abandoned homes.

With these settlers, as they returned to the township, came Orson Rice, who made several entries of land in the township, on one of which he built a cabin and lived for a short time before going to Clarksville and taking up the profession of law. Mr. Rice was a native of Ohio. He was very illiterate and at the time he commenced to practice had absolutely no knowledge whatsoever of the law. He depended entirely upon his energy and a rude sort of eloquence, which consisted chiefly of verbosity. It is said that his murdering of "the King's English," his utter disregard of the rules of grammar and his total ignorance of the correct forms of speech often made him a laughing stock. However, in spite of these handicaps, he remained in the county as a practicing lawyer for ten or twelve years, later removing to Spirit Lake, where he practiced his profession, served one term as district attorney and came very near being selected as district judge. A number of rather laughable incidents connected with Mr. Rice are told by those who were conversant with his actions before the early county courts.

The McKinney brothers came to the county from Indiana. They were natives of the state of Ohio. They located land in

sections 11, 13 and 14, some of which still remains in possession of the family. The family is of Irish descent. The grandfather of the brothers is said to have assisted in building the first house where Cincinnati, Ohio, now stands. He was a soldier in the War of 1812.

The Boylaus and De Mosses were related by marriage and all of them settled in the vicinity of Boylan's Grove.

Henry A. Early was a native of Kentucky, who located on land near where the village of Bristow now stands. A son, T. M. Early, who came to the county at that time, has served as county sheriff and county auditor and is still a resident of the county, now living in the town of Allison.

Other settlers who came in the latter part of 1854 and early part of 1855 are David Rush, Thomas Jackson, a Mr. Calkins, and Hiram Brotherton. In 1855 George W. Parker and family, Lester and Abisha Wickham, Charles L. Kleever, John M. Nichols, B. C. Needham, John Harlan, Sr., and S. R. De Armoun are given as among those who settled in the township. Among the more prominent settlers who came in 1855 were Ancel Durand and M. D. L. Niece. Both of these gentlemen held county offices, Mr. Durand having been elected to the office of county judge, and Mr. Niece that of county superintendent and county surveyor.

Other settlers who came in during an early day were Silas Needham, Henry Ahrens, James Logan, Albert Austin, S. W. Ferris, Samuel Overturf and William P. Woodworth, mentioned in connection with Bennezette township; S. B. Dumont, H. C. Brown and Philip Pfaltzgraff. These latter three gentlemen are noted more at length in connection with the history of Dumont.

OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION

Pittsford township was a part of Ripley according to the first division of the county into townships made by Judge Palmer in February, 1855. W. R. Jamison was appointed to call an election to organize Ripley township. This was done in April of that year, the election being held at the house of Henry A. Early. In 1858 the township was finally given a separate organization of the name of Pittsford by order of Judge Converse, the name being suggested by Azariah Needham and other Vermonters, in commemoration of a town of the same name in their native state. A complete list of the township officers chosen at this election is

not available at the present time but it is known that Henry R. Early and W. R. Jamison were the first justices of the peace of this township, and Isaac Boylan, constable.

EDUCATIONAL

The first schools in Pittsford township were provided for by the formation of two sub-districts, made through the provision of the school fund commissioner of Butler and Franklin counties, and consisting of the east half of Pittsford township and the west half of West Point township, called sub-district No. 1; and the east half of Ingham township in Franklin county, and the west half of Pittsford township in Butler county, called sub-district No. 2. Log schoolhouses were erected in these sub-districts in the spring of 1856. Martha J. Niece was the first teacher in No. 1 and Melissa M. Overturf in district No. 2. The exact location of these schoolhouses is at present unknown.

After the organization of the township several sub-districts were formed in accordance with the changing needs of the people, and in September, 1866, P. O. Needham and W. R. Jamison were appointed a committee to report a plat and plan for redistricting the township, which they did, and the board immediately confirmed and adopted the report. By this report they divided the township into five sub-districts. This form of organization remained in effect with only one change for approximately twenty years. One change made was the formation of a sub-district known as No. 6, out of territory formerly attached to No. 2. In March of 1875 the board voted to form two new sub-districts, to be known as Nos. 7 and 8; No. 8 to be formed from sub-districts 2, 3 and 5, and No. 7 from territory taken from 1, 2, 4 and 6.

W. R. Jamison filed formal protest against this action of the board with the county superintendent, John W. Stewart, who, after due consideration, made his decision reversing the action of the board. This decision of the county superintendent was based in part upon the fact that the formation of these new sub-districts would leave certain of the older districts without a sufficient school population to maintain a good school. In part, also, his decision was based upon the facts contained in the following quotation from the record of appeal:

“The evidence also shows that a considerable portion of the lands in said sub-districts are what is known as wet lands, and for

that reason cannot become very densely populated. But it is claimed by the appellees that there is a town platted on section 28, within the boundaries of said sub-district No. 7 on the line of the Iowa Pacific Railroad, which road is now graded and ready for the ties and iron, and for that reason said sub-district should be formed. But as the building up of said town depends on the completion of said railroad and as a number of the pupils, taken to form the fifteen pupils in said district No. 7, can as well be, if not better, accommodated in the sub-districts from which they were taken, we are forced to the conclusion that the board erred in forming said sub-district No. 7 at the present time. It is exceedingly unpleasant for us to set aside the action of the board, but in this case the law requires it to be done. Therefore, the decision of the board in changing the sub-district boundaries and in forming sub-districts Nos. 7 and 8 in the district township of Pittsford is hereby reversed. Dated March 23, 1875. John W. Stewart, County Superintendent."

A further notation on the case is as follows: "The above case was taken on appeal to the state superintendent, who affirmed the decision."

The latter basis of this decision, that of the probability that there would never be a very dense population on the "wet lands" of these proposed sub-districts, is rather interesting at the present time, as these lands referred to now form some of the best farming land in the township. At a later date the change contemplated by this action of the board was actually made and the township was redistricted in nine school districts, district No. 1 having a school house located near the southeast corner of section 1; No. 2 in section 9; No. 3 in section 5; No. 4 in section 20; No. 5 in section 16; No. 6 in section 14; No. 7 in section 26; No. 8, now the independent district of Dumont; and No. 9 on section 31.

EARLY POSTOFFICES

At the time of the first settlement of Pittsford township most of the settlers received their mail in Janesville, in Bremer county. Later, as the settlers had more business at Cedar Falls than at Janesville, most of them had their mail sent to Cedar Falls, which was about thirty-five or thirty-six miles distant. Even after the establishment of a postoffice at Coon's Grove, later Clarksville, the settlers at Pittsford township continued to receive their mail

from Cedar Falls, as the mail at Clarksville was only received once a week, when received at all—and there were two streams to cross in order to get there—a consideration which was decidedly disadvantageous in those days of no bridges and no roads.

About 1856, through the influence of George A. Richmond, of Butler Center, who had some influence with the postoffice department at Washington, Henry A. Early was appointed the first postmaster in Pittsford township. Mr. Early resided, as has already been stated, in the extreme eastern part of the township near Bristow, which was then called West Point. As there was already one postoffice in the state called West Point, W. R. Jamison suggested that the new postoffice be called Boylan's Grove. This was agreed to and Mr. Early acted as postmaster here for some time. Later the location of this postoffice was changed to Bristow.

Shortly after the appointment of Mr. Early as postmaster in the eastern part of the township, Isaac Stover, a resident of the eastern edge of Franklin county, applied through the same George A. Richmond to the postoffice department and succeeded in securing the establishment of a postoffice at a town named Union Ridge. This was located about four miles northwest of Dumont. The Union Ridge postoffice was not located on any mail route, so the postmaster was obliged to carry the mail himself, sometimes on foot, and other times the patrons of the office would hire some one to carry the mail once a week. The Union Ridge office was supplied from the village of Geneva, in Franklin county.

A few years later Mr. Stover informed the postoffice department that he desired to remove to some other place and requested the appointment of another postmaster. He was directed to inform the patrons of the office to select a postmaster by ballot. An election was called and held at the house of Mr. Stover. There were two candidates, James Harlan and W. R. Jamison. The contest was quite an exciting one and would have resulted in a tie had it not been that Mrs. Stover decided the matter by casting a ballot for Mr. Jamison, who was declared duly elected postmaster at Union Ridge. This may be considered the first instance of woman's suffrage in Butler county. Mr. Jamison held the position of postmaster at Union Ridge for some time, carrying the mail, or having it done, at his own expense. Later Samuel Jamison, Isaac Stover and James Harlan were in turn postmasters at Union Ridge. James Harlan was appointed in 1862 and

held the office until 1868. At that time a regular mail route had been established and mail was delivered at Union Ridge twice each week.

In 1868 a general store was established by J. H. Playter at Jamison's Grove, in section 20. Mr. Harlan resigned the postmastership and secured the appointment of Mr. Playter, who held the office until about 1870. Ross Jamison was then appointed postmaster and held the position until April 28, 1875, when he was succeeded by W. R. Jamison, who served his second term as postmaster until some time in 1877, when he resigned in favor of James Harlan. There were other aspirants for the office, however, and A. L. Bickford was appointed postmaster and removed the postoffice to the town of Dumont, about four miles to the southeast of Union Ridge.

The population of the township, as shown by the records of the census, is as follows: 1860, 246; 1863, 272; 1865, 341; 1867, 349; 1869, 385; 1870, 512; 1873, 479; 1875, 528; 1880, 730; 1890, 782; 1900, 1,202; 1905, 1,183; 1910, 1,286.

GENERAL ITEMS

Hannah Boylan, a daughter of Isaac Boylan, was the first child born in Pittsford township. This birth occurred in the fall of 1853.

The first death was that of a man by the name of Calkins.

The first sermon in the township was preached by Rev. Richard Merrill, a Presbyterian minister.

VILLAGE OF DUMONT

In the southern part of Pittsford township, on section 28, a village was laid out and platted in 1879 for Samuel Beekman Dumont, a prosperous business man of Dubuque who had with his family come here in 1864. The land originally had been entered by a man named Young, in 1856, but no effort had been made to improve it. Mr. Dumont, upon taking up his residence on the property at once began putting the soil in order for planting and employed his time and that of his son, T. A. Dumont, in farming until 1879, when he engaged in handling lumber in the town which he had established.

The plat of Dumont contained eighty acres of land, lying upon a beautiful knoll, between the West Fork of the Cedar river and a tributary. The outlying country, blessed with soil of the highest fertility, presaged a flattering future for the new trading point which, in a measure, has been realized by its pioneer citizens. The new city was named in honor of its founder, Samuel B. Dumont, who became its leading citizen, always to be remembered as a man of the utmost probity and of sterling virtues.

Shortly after his arrival on section 28, Mr. Dumont built a pretentious residence on a spot which now faces the northern terminus of the town's main thoroughfare and here he passed a life of activity and enterprise. About the year 1899, all that remained of the founder of Dumont was taken to the local burial ground for interment. Some six or eight years later his wife's body was laid in a grave beside him.

It was in the year 1879 that the Dubuque & Dakota Railroad, now the Chicago Great Western, reached the town site of Dumont, and no little credit must be given Mr. Dumont for making this happy consummation possible. He also was first in the local field as a business man, building that fall an elevator and making the initial move in buying and storing grain. This first elevator was sold to A. A. Robertson, of Iowa Falls, in 1882, who managed its affairs for many years and then handed the property down to several successors.

Samuel B. Dumont, it seems, was determined that his infant town should grow and secure a place on the map, even though it became necessary that he should engage in a multifarious line of industries. To further his purpose, he also secured a stock of lumber and in the fall of 1879 sold one hundred carloads of the material to his neighbors, who were constantly accumulating in numbers.

At the close of the year that brought Dumont into existence the village consisted of a group of thirteen buildings, the founder having furnished a major portion of the means and material for their construction. Among them was one in which a stock of drugs was installed by young Dumont, now Dr. T. A. Dumont, a practicing physician of the place.

In the late fall of 1879 or early in the year following, the firm of Smith Brothers opened the first store with a stock of general merchandise.

The earliest hardware establishment was opened for business by Samuel B. Dumont, in a building erected by Martin Griffith.

S. McMannes built a small store room in the fall of 1879, and here O. A. Chambers had the first grocery in Dumont. That same autumn Mr. Chambers put up for himself and family a dwelling house. Later, he removed to his farm in Franklin county.

Others who were active in town building in the fall of 1879 were William Schulenburg, a carpenter; John Ryan, J. Kruse, A. N. Arnold and James Stewart, all of whom erected residences for themselves.

One Nicholas Huss put up a building for saloon purposes, and A. L. Bickford, son-in-law of S. B. Dumont, erected a house to be used as a store.

The year 1880 was a notable one for the growing town, the advance being very gratifying to all concerned. In the early spring, William Francher moved to the place from Waterloo an elevator and presided over its destinies several years. S. McMannes opened a furniture store. S. B. Dumont erected the first brick building, two stories in height and having a frontage on the main street of eighty feet. This he arranged for a hotel and public hall and it is still known and designated as the Dumont block. All during the year carpenters and masons were busy and the establishment of another important trading point in Butler county was assured.

By the year 1882 there were permanently engaged in business the following: Patterson & Cole; Dr. T. A. Dumont, drugs; Smith Brothers, general merchandise; S. B. Dumont, lumber; S. McMannes, furniture; W. T. Scott, meat market; A. A. Robertson, grain and live stock; D. W. Williamson and Philip Pfaltzgraff, hardware; I. M. Nichols, farm implements; A. L. Bickford, live stock; D. Richmond, shoes; Moses Barnes and S. E. Allen, blacksmiths; Charles Coryell, livery; Robert Schmitz, collection agent and justice of the peace; M. S. Needham, hotel; Nicholas Huss and William Schulenburg, saloons.

The first lawyer to locate in Dumont was W. R. Jamison, but when he came to the town the records do not show. That is not the case of the first physician, T. A. Dumont, for he made his entry with his father, founder of Dumont, in 1864, and was then a lad of fourteen years.

The first birth to occur in Dumont was that of a child, of which Nick Huss, the saloon keeper, was the father. This addition to the population was in the year 1880.

The first death in the village took place January 3, 1880. On the day mentioned, Mrs. Sarah F. Townsend passed away, at the age of eighty-nine years.

DUMONT INCORPORATED

While the onward move of Dumont was not in any way rapid or sensational, the growth was steady and substantial, so that by the year 1891 the population was estimated to have reached 350. Then it was that certain of the leading citizens determined on a movement to separate the village from the township organization and to further the new departure circulated a petition, to be presented to the district court, asking for articles of incorporation of the town of Dumont. The petition was quite generously signed and in the year 1896 the prayer of the petitioners was granted. An election for municipal officers thereupon was held and John Barlow chosen by the electors as the first mayor, and Richard Pecht, clerk. However, doubts soon arose as to the legality of the incorporation of the town and in order to avoid uncertainty and troublous litigation the matter was taken to the State Legislature, which august tribunal passed the following act:

CHAPTER 187. H. F. 227.—An Act to legalize the incorporation of the Town of Dumont, Butler County, Iowa; the election of its officers and all acts done, and Ordinances passed, by the Council of said Town, from March 27, 1896, to January 1st, 1898.

Whereas, Doubts have arisen as to the legality of the incorporation of the Town of Dumont, Butler County, Iowa, the election of its officers and the Ordinances passed by the said Council of said Town; therefore

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

SECTION 1.—Valid and binding.—That the incorporation of the Town of Dumont, Butler County, Iowa; the election of its officers, and all official acts done, and Ordinances passed by the council of said Town up to January 1st, 1898, are hereby legalized, and are hereby declared to be valid and binding, the same as though the law had in all respects been strictly complied with in the incorporation of said Town, and in the election of its officers;

provided that nothing in this act shall in any manner affect pending litigation.

SEC. 2.—In effect.—This act, being deemed of immediate importance, shall be in force and take effect from and after its publication in the Iowa State Register, and the Butler County Tribune, newspapers published respectively at DesMoines, and Allison, Iowa, without expense to the state.

Approved March 19, 1898.

I hereby certify that the foregoing act was published in the Iowa State Register March 22, 1898, and the Butler County Tribune March 24, 1898.

G. L. DOBSON,
Secretary of State.

Unfortunately, for the town of Dumont and the continuity of its corporate history, the ordinances which the above legislative measure purported to legalize, were destroyed by fire in 1901, together with the first minute book recording the official acts of the council and the several elections held up to that period of time. However, a list of the mayors and clerks since the year 1901 is available and is as follows:

1901-02, mayor, C. R. Martin; clerk, A. L. Gillett; 1902-03, mayor, M. St. Peter; clerk, D. Pecht; 1903-04, mayor, M. St. Peter; clerk, D. Pecht; 1904-05, mayor, D. W. Williamson; clerk, D. Pecht; 1905-06, mayor, C. R. Martin; clerk, F. J. McGreevy; 1906-07, mayor, H. Z. Babcock; clerk, F. J. McGreevy; 1908-09, mayor, F. P. Fium; clerk, W. E. Thomas; 1910-11, mayor, Fred Linde; clerk, J. A. Barlow; 1912-13, mayor, Fred Linde; clerk, J. A. Barlow.

The town of Dumont does not, as yet, own what is usually called a city hall. It has, however, a good waterworks building where the council holds its meetings. The fire department is of the volunteer order and practically every able-bodied man in the place is a member and as a rule there is no shirking of duty when an emergency call is sounded. One police officer, termed the city marshal, is sufficient, for the people are of an orderly class and law-abiding.

WATERWORKS SYSTEM

Recognizing the virtues of pure water and plenty of it, from a standpoint of sanitation and convenience, the council made pro-

visions for a special election, which was held October 12, 1911, when the electors decided, by a large majority, that a system of waterworks should be built. To meet the cost of the improvement the legislative body was also granted authority to issue bonds in the sum of \$7,000. To be more exact the vote for waterworks was 147; against, 25. Before the year expired the citizens of Dumont were being served with a splendid quality of water, pumped from a group of six wells having an average depth of twenty-two feet. These wells have six-inch casings and are practically inexhaustible. The water is conveyed to two underground tanks, whence it is forced through the mains by an air pressure system. The pumping station is constructed of cement blocks and here is installed a double-stroke Union pump. The suction pipe is 4 inches; discharge pipe, 3 inches in diameter. Two tanks as reservoirs have been constructed, each 8 feet in diameter and 36 feet in length. One is used for domestic purposes and the other in cases of emergency. Their combined capacity is 22,000 gallons; 7,000 feet of 4-inch street mains, 13 double fire hydrants, complete the system. The domestic pressure is 60 pounds; fire pressure, 80 pounds. It might be well to state in this connection that a very disastrous fire overtook Dumont in 1901, which wiped out almost every business house in the place. The fire started in a livery stable in the night time and by morning the main street was a scene of ruins and confusion. Nothing damnted, every man who had lost his business place and stock of goods—grocery man, hardware, dry-goods merchant, druggist, lumber dealer, banker and others—began at once removing debris left by the conflagration and it was but a short time until Dumont arose, phoenix-like, from its ashes and presented a newer and thrice better town than before. The loss by the fire was probably \$60,000; more than that amount of money was expended in new buildings alone. Today Dumont is a well set up little trading point, with a whole block of new and modern brick buildings and several frame business houses that have some claim to pretentiousness. Transportation facilities are excellent, as there are two lines of railroad, the Chicago Great Western and the Chicago & Northwestern.

The hotel, or Dumont building, escaped the ravages of the big fire. Its south room on the ground floor was remodeled in February, 1914, and became the home of the Farmers Trust & Savings Bank, but recently organized.

THE SCHOOLS

The school building, a frame affair, was built early in the history of Dumont and within its walls many children have been taught by able and conscientious instructors. In 1905 the building was enlarged by the addition of a high school room and another room, which necessitated the employment of two additional teachers, making the corps number six. The structure was also remodeled and the entire improvement brought the expense account up to the sum of \$7,000.

FINANCIAL

The farming district contributing to the business activity and prosperity of Dumont is not surpassed by any in Butler county, and the bank reports support this statement. The State Bank of Dumont was established in 1896 as a private institution, by John Barlow and Ion Atkinson, and during a period of five years gained the confidence and support of a large and widely distributed clientele. About the year 1901, Mr. Barlow secured the Atkinson interest and alone managed the business until 1905, when E. O. and D. C. Slaid entered the firm as associate partners. In the year 1908 John Barlow, E. O. Slaid, A. Austin, A. E. Hartson, H. C. Brown and W. W. Ahrens incorporated the State Bank of Dumont, with a capital stock of \$30,000. A board of directors was selected and that body elected the following officers of the bank: President, E. O. Slaid; vice president, A. E. Hartson; cashier, John Barlow. The directors were: W. W. Ahrens, E. O. Slaid, A. Austin, A. E. Hartson and H. C. Brown.

In 1901 Mr. Barlow erected a handsome two-story brick home for the bank, on the main street, joining six others, who all conformed to plans drawn for a continuous row or block of buildings having the same design, to take the place of the business houses destroyed by the big fire. In this building the bank has its counting rooms, modern vault, safes and other appointments demanded by patrons of the present day. The original capital of \$30,000 is still maintained, and in its last statement, called for by the state banking laws, deposits to the amount of \$293,983 were reported.

The Farmers Trust & Savings Bank is a new financial concern that has yet to prove its worth and the necessity of its being in the field of local finance. This establishment was organized

January 15, 1914, and capitalized at \$20,000. The incorporators are O. J. Irwin, of Omaha, and Dr. J. W. Cunningham, of Dumont. Charles Borneman, a well known farmer and large landowner of the vicinity, is the president; Dr. J. W. Cunningham, vice president; O. J. Irwin, cashier; Fred Arnburst, assistant cashier. The bank commenced business in March, 1914, in a room specially fitted and arranged for its purposes in the Dumont building, now owned by a member of the concern, and started out into the financial world under very favorable auspices.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The first services of the Methodist society of this place were held in a little schoolhouse by "the Willows," back of the German Evangelical church, by Rev. Sproul, in the winter of 1871-2. This minister was employed by Samuel B. Dumont and J. N. McMannes on their own motion, who paid him \$50 for his services. The first pastor sent by the conference to this charge was Rev. W. A. Pottle. At one time this appointment and Allison were yoked together and Rev. F. E. Day presided over its spiritual needs and desires. Prior to the erection of the church building, about the year 1892, Rev. James A. Clulow, then pastor, called the congregation together for services in the German Evangelical Association church. At this time the appointment consisted of four societies—Union Ridge, Hansell, Four Mile Grove and Dumont. The parsonage was at Hansell, but becoming unfit as a habitation, the residence of the pastor was changed to Dumont, where a comfortable rectory was built in the fall of 1898, at a cost of \$1,200, and paid for by subscriptions of members residing in the various places mentioned. As has been stated, the church edifice was built during the pastorate of Rev. Clulow, a frame structure costing \$3,000. The plans for the building were designed by Mrs. Caroline F. Dumont and her son, Dr. T. A. Dumont, and the site was a gift from the Minnesota Loan & Debenture Company, Charles Nichols, president; Robert Wright, secretary. There were then forty members; now the membership has reached one hundred and forty. In the Sunday school an average attendance of seventy-five is reported. A list of pastors of this church follows:

Revs. J. R. A. Hanner, October, 1883-October, 1884; S. M. Davis, October, 1884-October, 1885; William E. Ross, October,



EVANGELICAL CHURCH, DUMONT



PUBLIC SCHOOL, DUMONT

1885-October, 1886; Edward Lee, October, 1886-October, 1887; Horace Foote, October, 1887-October, 1890; James Clulow, October, 1890-October, 1892; O. W. Weeks, October, 1892-October, 1893; W. W. Robinson, October, 1893-October, 1895; R. M. Ackerman, October, 1895-October, 1897; J. G. S. Meyers, October, 1897-December, 1898; F. T. Heatly, January, 1899-October, 1900; E. B. Downs, October, 1900-June, 1901; W. C. Keeler, June, 1901-October, 1903; W. F. Albright, October, 1903-October, 1904; M. A. Goodell, October, 1904-October, 1906; W. N. Chaffee, October, 1906-October, 1908; W. A. Gibbons, October, 1908-October, 1911; J. B. Metcalf, October, 1911-October, 1913; M. L. Hill, October, 1913-

EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION CHURCH

The history of this church is reproduced from a sketch appearing in the report of the Iowa Conference, April 7, 1910:

In the early '70s several of our members, H. Ahrens, J. J. Baumgartner and others, settled in the neighborhood of Dumont. Brother H. Kleinsorgn commenced to preach at the home of the first named in 1876, but soon transferred the appointment to a schoolhouse south of town. In 1878 Brother Kleinsorgn organized a class. He was followed by Rev. F. Berner, whom Rev. O. Ball succeeded. In 1882 this class was added to Hampton circuit. Then came Rev. W. Kolb, who was followed by Rev. L. Scheurer, who commenced his labors at Dumont in 1884. A revival resulted in more than twenty conversions, among which were many of the church's present leaders. This established the north class, and in 1886 Rev. V. Griese found it possible to build a spacious house of worship and consolidate the two classes. The following clergymen continued the work: Revs. H. Butz, H. Sassman, F. Benz, L. F. Smith, H. Schmidt, G. P. Cawelti, J. H. Engel, C. Hillman, and in 1911, the present pastor took charge. The church is in a very prosperous condition, both physically and spiritually. A membership of one hundred and twenty communicants composes its present strength in numbers and an average attendance of sixty in the Sunday school is the gratifying report. The church building, a frame structure, cost \$2,500; the parsonage, \$2,000.

UNITED BRETHERN IN CHRIST

In the year 1893 John Boots, Lyman Hall, J. H. Marken, William Titus and W. R. Straight, gathered together and organized

the Church of the United Brethren in Christ and had for their first pastor Rev. A. King. The first meetings were held in the Evangelical church.

In the fall of 1895—on September 7th—the board of trustees met and let the contract to William Schulenburg for the construction of a church building, which was finished late in the year and dedicated January 13, 1869, at a cost of \$3,000. The parsonage was built in 1900, the outlay being \$1,400. The church society is in good shape financially and in point of membership, having on its rolls at the present time eighty names. Attendance at the Sunday school will average sixty. The pastors who have served this church follow by name: Revs. A. King, W. Fawcett, W. P. Taylor, William Stice, W. A. Smith, Sweezy, D. F. Dickensheets, M. L. Tibbetts, G. W. Emerson, Eugene Richardson, Harper Krieser, I. E. Hartman, H. S. Cooper, Ernest L. Shaffer.

ST. FRANCIS CHURCH

St. Francis Catholic church was built during the pastorate of Father Kelley, then stationed at Parkersburg, and had for its earliest communicants the Bannons, Doyles, Augstmans and others, whose names are not obtainable at this time. For many years prior to the erection of the church building in 1890, the people here were attended from Ackley, mass being said at intervals in the prairie homes of staunch defenders of the faith, many of whom hailed from Canada, some from the banks of the Rhine, and others from the land of destiny, the beautiful green isle of the sea, "auld Erin." Two of the most worthy members have passed to a well merited reward—James Bannon and Joseph Augstman. The names of the priests from Ackley who came here to hold mass were Revs. Fathers O. Doud, Murphy (deceased), Burns, McCormack and Meagher. For some time past the church has been served by pastors from Hampton; for the past six years by Father J. C. Wieneke, or his assistant, Frederick W. McKinley.

THE DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH

There is quite a sprinkling of the natives of Holland and of what is known as "platt Deutsch" in Dumont and vicinity and

they determined to have a church of their own. To this end the Dutch Reformed church was organized in 1912 and the society now has a membership of thirty-five. A fine piece of property was secured, including a residence, which is now the pastor's home. On a lot to the rear of the parsonage and facing the south, a fine church building was immediately erected and dedicated in 1913.

FRATERNAL ORDERS

Dumont Lodge, No. 52, I. O. O. F., was organized in 1885, and now has a membership of seventy-five. The lodge has a tastefully furnished hall and appropriate paraphernalia. An auxiliary body, the Daughters of Rebekah, organized October 18, 1893, taking the name of Columbus Lodge, No. 178.

West Fork Camp, Modern Woodmen of America, No. 1416, was established some years ago, with the following named charter members: W. H. Bannon, Len Baudy, John Hogan, Herbert J. Horner, William Jamison, J. D. Leroy, Norman Long, M. H. Perry, George B. Sutton, Moses St. Peter, Jr.

A lodge of Mystic Workers of the World was organized at Dumont September 2, 1903. It is known as Dumont Lodge, No. 551.

The Fraternal Bankers Reserve Society came into existence at this place as a local lodge, December 21, 1901.

CHAPTER XXVIII

RIPLEY TOWNSHIP

The township of Ripley is one of the four central townships of Butler county, situated south of West Point. It is bounded on the east by Jefferson, south by Albion, on the west by Madison township. The township is divided almost equally from east to west by the West Fork river, which enters in section 7 and flows in a southeasterly direction across the township, emerging on the east side of section 24 and then doubling back and reentering the township and emerging again near the northeastern corner of section 25. This portion of the West Fork is bordered by a belt of natural timber, varying in width from a few rods to a mile or more. The valley is bordered on the north side by steep bluffs. On the south side, however, the banks of the stream are comparatively low and there is some land which is still liable to annual inundation. The two branches of the West Fork also flow through the township; Mayne's creek flows into the West Fork almost in the center of section 7 and Kilson's creek in section 23. The land is sandy in the neighborhood of the river but the rest of the township has the same rich alluvial soil that is characteristic of the best farming land of this section of the state.

The township is without any town or village. Allison, Bristow, Kesley and Parkersburg are the market points which serve the interests of the people of the township. Rural mail routes from these points reach practically every farm home.

Thirty years ago a considerable portion of farming land of the township was held by non-resident owners and remained in its wild state without any improvements whatsoever. At the present time, however, practically all of the land is farmed by resident owners. The township plat shows a number of these lands of relatively small acreage along the West Fork, especially in sections 23 and 24.

EARLY SETTLEMENTS

The first land entry in Ripley township was made by Hugh Mullarky, October 13, 1853. He made entries to sections 23 and 24 adjacent to his holdings in Jefferson township, already mentioned. The second entry on the records of the government land office of Ripley township indicate that on May 12, 1854, Richard Merrill entered land in sections 15, 23 and 24. D. H. McCormack, June 26, 1854, also made an entry of land in section 15. - All these entries were within the timbered area. Other entries in 1854 were made by Samuel Harsh, May 13; George McConnell, October 2; Henry Gray, J. C. and F. G. Walker, November 3; and James Hunter, November 21. These entries likewise were located in close proximity to the river.

The honor of the first settlement in the township belongs to George McConnell, who in the May previous to the entry mentioned above staked out a claim on section 15. After living on his claim for some years he removed temporarily from the county but returned later. He died in 1862 or 1863 at the home of Nathan Linn, in Monroe township. The land which he entered was later a part of the Henry C. Mead estate. Mr. McConnell was unmarried and was known among his associates as the "old bach." His house was a sort of wayside inn, as it always furnished shelter for the traveler or the land seeker.

James Hunter, whose name is mentioned in the land entries above, was the second settler in the township, coming in November, 1854. He spent the first winter with Mr. McConnell. In the following spring he took up his residence upon the land which he had previously entered.

J. C. and Christian Hites settled in the township in July, 1855, J. C. Hites making a claim on section 20, and Christian on section 28. These brothers were the founders of families that are still residents of Ripley township and have occupied a prominent place in its history and development. Other farms were chiefly located in the southwestern portion of the township around what afterwards came to be known as Hitesville.

Nathan Linn preceded the Hites by a short time and was the third settler in the township. He located on section 14 but later removed to Monroe township and still later to Jefferson township.

Andrew Hesse came in August, 1855, and settled on section 20. About the same time Michael Considine with his family came from Nova Scotia and settled in section 9. In the same year a Mr. Ulery came from Illinois and settled in the township. George W. Stoner also settled in the township in 1855.

Among the settlers of 1855 were John G. Moorhead, who settled on section 4, and George Monroe, Sr. About the same time Mr. Elmore sent a brother-in-law, Mr. Fortner, to develop a tract of land in the township. Fortner was the pioneer manufacturer of the township, engaged in the production of a limited amount of limburger cheese. The factory did not prove to be wholly successful, whether due to the inferior strength of the product or not is unknown. However, Fortner proved to be a financier of some ability, as he sold his brother-in-law's team and pocketing the proceeds, departed for the far west.

In the following years the township settled up with comparative rapidity. Daniel Haynes, Edwin Kincaid, Henry Trotter, Joseph L. Santee, Jacob Yost and J. S. Margretz may be mentioned as among the later settlers who by their ability and influence helped the township to take its place among the corporate sub-divisions of Butler county.

OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION

As originally constituted, Ripley township was organized on the 5th of February, 1855, and included what is now comprised in Madison, Monroe, Washington, West Point, Pittsford and Bennezzette townships—almost one-half of the county. In March, 1856, these limits were restricted by the formation from this territory of the townships of West Point and Monroe. At the same time Bennezzette township was added to Coldwater. Ripley thereafter included only what is now Madison township in addition to its own present limits. Madison was given separate organization in September, 1860, thus reducing the civil township of Ripley to the limits of the congressional township numbered 91 north, range 17 west of the fifth principal meridian.

A complete list of the first township officers cannot be given. In the April election of 1855, John Lash was elected clerk; Isaac Boylan, constable; and H. A. Early, justice of the peace. These men were all of them residents of the portion of the then township in the neighborhood of Boylan's grove.

Of the township with its present limits John Hites was the first clerk. The first election was held in a sod house owned and built by Moffatt and Mason, two factory men from New York. It is said that at the time of this election there were not enough settlers to fill all the offices and one man was required to bear the honors of two or three.

HITESVILLE

In 1871 a postoffice was established at Hitesville, with J. S. Margretz as the first postmaster, the office being located at his house on section 19. This office was served by a mail carrier on the route from Aplington to Bristow. Later the route was changed to run from Aplington to Hitesville. This office was later superseded by the office at Kesley.

GENERAL ITEMS

The first birth in the township was that of a son, Allen, to Mr. and Mrs. James Hunter, on the 2d of August, 1856.

The first death was a child of Samuel Kimmel, in the fall of 1855. The burial took place in a cemetery located on the northwest corner of the northeast quarter of section 29, being the first interment in this cemetery.

The first marriage was that of Richard Davenport and Miss Susanna Kimmel at the home of the bride's parents, the ceremony being performed by Justice J. J. Criswell. The marriage took place in the fall of 1859.

EDUCATIONAL

The first school in the township was taught by Miss Susanna Kimmel, in the summer of 1858, in a building erected for the purpose on section 20. The second school taught in the following summer by Miss Charlotte Levis was in a building located on section 15. James Hunter donated an acre of land for this school site.

After the township became more thickly settled it was organized as a district township and divided into seven sub-districts. At that time district No. 1 included six sections, Nos. 1, 2, 11 and 12, and 13 and 14, with schoolhouse in the eastern part of section

11; district No. 2, composed of sections 3, 4, 9 and 10, 15 and 16, with its school building on the north side of section 10; district No. 3 consisted of section 5 and a portion of sections 6, 7 and 8, north of the river; No. 4 comprised sections 29, 30, 31 and 32 and the south half of sections 19 and 20; No. 5 comprised six sections, Nos. 21, 22, 27, 28, 33 and 34. The schoolhouse is located on section 28. No. 6 contained sections 23, 24, 25 and 26, 35 and 36, with its schoolhouse on section 36; district No. 7 embraced those portions of sections 7 and 8 south of the river and sections 17 and 18, and the north half of sections 19 and 20.

This form of organization was retained for some years. In 1874 the system was changed and the township was divided into independent districts, with the same boundaries as those prescribed for the sub-districts above, except that district No. 3 was made to include all of sections 7 and 8. District No. 1 was thereafter known as the McEachron district; No. 2, Fairview; No. 3, Fort Sumpter; No. 4, Melrose; No. 5, Glendale; No. 6, Excelsior; No. 7, Spring Garden.

In 1911 a new district in the center of the township comprised of sections 15, 16, 21 and 22, known as the Mead independent district, was formed, and a new schoolhouse erected on the south side of section 15. The McEachron, Excelsior and Fairview districts all have erected new school buildings within the past few years.

POPULATION

1856, 86; 1860, 151; 1863, 121; 1865, 148; 1867, 200; 1869, 255; 1870, 299; 1873, 376; 1875, 377; 1880, 453; 1890, 493; 1900, 621; 1910, 602.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

The township of Washington occupies a position at the extreme southwestern corner of the county. Its general characteristics are different in no essential respects from the neighboring townships in Butler county, its surface being rolling prairie, broken in the southern part by the valley of Beaver creek. The northern branch of Beaver creek flows through the central portion of the township, entering into the main stream near the east line of section 23. The Beaver in its course through this township has a considerably smaller flow than in its course further to the east.

Except in extremely dry weather, however, its flow is constant. It is bordered by timber, much of which has been cut away. In the eastern part of the township there is a large natural grove, which originally covered an extent of approximately one thousand acres. Another grove in the southeastern part of sections 31 and 32 is called Island grove.

There are a number of natural springs in the township, the largest of these, known as Big Spring, in an early day being a favorite camping ground for emigrants in their way westward.

The settlement of Washington township, although it began at a date approximately as early as that of other townships similarly located in the county, progressed very slowly until some years after the war. This is explained chiefly by the fact that much of the land was taken up by speculators and was not put upon the market until a comparatively late date.

The real development of the township did not begin until after 1870. For fifteen years thereafter much of the land of the township remained wild, unbroken prairie. Today, however, the land is all occupied by farmers and much of it is farmed by residents.

The quality of the soil is second to none in the county and the products of the farms are equal both in quality and in quantity to those of other farms in this garden spot of the great agricultural west. A study of the list of landowners in Washington township reveals the fact that by far the greater part of the farms of this township are owned by Germans. This to any one who is familiar with the history of rural communities which have been settled by the German people, indicates without necessity of further comment, that the land is being cultivated intensively and rapidly being brought to the highest degree of productiveness. Land values in Washington township reach practically the highest limit received for farming land in Butler county. Rental prices, too, are higher here than in most other sections of the county. These facts also indicate the progressive character of the farming population in this section.

The Illinois Central Railroad traverses the township from east to west in its southern portion, having been constructed in 1865. For a quarter of a century thereafter, however, there was neither store, postoffice or railway station within the limits of the township. Since then a railway station and postoffice have been established at Austinville, which now is the only village within the township limits. Kesley to the northeast, Aplington to the south-

east and Ackley to the southwest, form the trading points for the farmers of Washington township.

EARLY SETTLEMENT

The first settlement in Washington township was made in the spring of 1853 by R. M. and E. Purcell, two brothers, who made a business of keeping just ahead of the line of settlement and selecting the most valuable claims in the new territory. When the pioneers in search of permanent homes reached them, they would sell these claims at a good figure and move on again to repeat the venture in other localities farther west. R. E. Purcell located a claim on section 24 and his brother Ellery on section 25. The latter erected a log house and broke about eight acres of prairie sod, on which he raised a first crop of corn. This was in the year 1853 and may be taken as the beginning of the agricultural development of Washington township.

In the spring of 1854 R. R. Parriott located in the township and purchased Ellery Purcell's land in section 25. Mr. Parriott's first visit to the township must have been not later than the fall of 1853, as on the 2d of January, 1854, he made entry in the general land office of two claims in Washington township, located on sections 14 and 32. Reuben Purcell made the second entry on the 22d of April, 1854. The early history of Washington township would be like Hamlet with Hamlet left out, if an attempt were to be made to write it without mention of R. R. Parriott.

Mr. Parriott was a native of Virginia and came to Washington township from Stephenson county, Illinois. He returned in June, 1854, to Illinois, and on the 4th of July started back for his new home, accompanied by his family. They came overland with seven yoke of oxen, three horses, three wagons and a carriage, and were one month on the way.

On his arrival he found that the log house previously built by Ellery Purell was too small to accommodate his family, which numbered thirteen. He therefore erected another log house 16x24 feet, with a lean-to 12x24 feet in dimensions. This was the first house in the township to be used as a hotel. After the establishment of the stage line from Cedar Falls to Fort Dodge, the Parriott house became a regular stopping place for the stage.

Mr. Parriott was the first postmaster in this part of the county. He was the owner of the present site of the city of Ackley in

Hardin county and conveyed to the Dubuque & Sioux City Railroad Company one-half of the town site, or every alternate town lot. The company conveyed their interest in turn to William J. Ackley, of Waterloo, from whom the town derived its name.

Mr. Parriott was at one time the owner of more than twenty-five hundred acres of land in this part of the county. He gave the Dubuque & Sioux City railroad a right of way through his tract of land and worked for its establishment. He was also liberal in contributing to the Illinois Central Company, which constructed a line north of Ackley through Hampton about this time. Of his family of nine sons and two daughters, six sons served their country in the Union army during the Civil war. Two of these were killed in battle. Mr. Parriott lived on his land here until his death in 1871.

On the same date as the entry of land by Mr. Parriott, Sarah E. Crow entered a claim on the same section, 24, and on July 29, 1854, Lewis Crow entered a claim on section 25. "Doc" Crow, as he was generally called, sold the improvements on his claim in 1855 to Robert Howard, one of the company of settlers who came from Hardin county to Iowa in company with J. M. Caldwell, of Monroe township. Land was also entered in 1854 by Nathan Pussy on October 2d, in section 24, and J. M. Caldwell, who is noticed at length in connection with the history of Monroe township, in section 22. These were all of the land entries in the township in the year 1854.

In 1855 William Stockdale built a log house, which he had taken up on section 23. In 1862 he enlisted in the army and died in the service. His remains were brought back and buried in Aplington cemetery. His father, Charles Stockdale, came to the township in 1856 and made his home with his son William until the time of his death, which occurred in December, 1859. Several other children were at various times residents of the township.

Jonathan Gee, one of the early township officers of Monroe township, when it included Washington within its limits, came also in the spring of 1855 from Henderson county, Illinois, with a company, most of whom settled in Monroe township. He located on sections 23 and 24 and erected a log house and made other improvements. A year or so later he sold his claim and returned to Illinois.

Morris F. Whitney was another settler of 1855. He has been mentioned as an early school teacher in the old township of Mon-

roe. His farm was on section 24. He divided his time between teaching and farming.

Wesley H. Long, a native of Ohio, settled on section 23. He was the man to whom was entrusted the organization of the township when Washington was given a separate corporate existence. Long later enlisted in the volunteer army and died in the service in New Orleans, Louisiana, in April, 1864. Previous to the date of his enlistment he had served as a member of the board of supervisors of Washington township.

James Gray in 1856 came from Illinois and purchased the farm of Jonathan Gee. Mrs. Rachel Quinn settled in the township in 1856. Her husband, John Quinn, died of cholera while on his way to California during the gold fever of 1850. He was buried on the plains. In 1856 Mrs. Quinn took her family of ten children and started west to seek a new home, purchasing land in Washington township, where she lived until 1858, when she moved to Aplington and built the first hotel.

Alfred Munson, a southerner, came to Washington township in 1858 and boarded for a time with R. R. Parriott. He purchased a large tract of land in the western part of the township and built a house on section 31. When the war broke out he returned to his old home and enlisted in the southern army. He never returned for residence to Washington township. This is the only record known at present of an enlistment from Butler county in the army of the Confederate states.

This practically completes the list of settlers in the township before the close of the Civil war. Among the representative settlers in the years immediately succeeding the war may be mentioned Patrick Kenefiek, Henry and William Austin and Hugh G. Scallon.

Patrick Kenefiek settled in the township in 1868, coming from Wisconsin. His home was on section 19, where in 1869 he built a house. Mr. Kenefiek was supervisor from Washington township during the latter period of the county government by a board of sixteen supervisors.

The Austin brothers, Henry and William, were natives of England. They emigrated to America with their parents when very young and settled in Michigan. Later they moved to Wisconsin. In 1868 they came to Iowa and purchased land in Washington township. Henry Austin located on section 21. In the spring of 1869 he broke ninety acres of land and planted his first crop. His

brother William located on sections 21 and 22. Henry Austin was killed in 1912 in an automobile accident in Waterloo. William is still a resident of Washington township. A number of children of the two families are resident landowners of Butler county. As a family, the Austins unquestionably rank among the most extensive landowners in Butler county. The town of Austinville is named for these brothers.

Hugh C. Scallon was born in the Province of Quebec, Canada, came to the United States in 1855 with his parents, and settled in Wisconsin. Here he made his home until 1869, when he came to Washington township and settled on section 20.

Other settlers in the period following the Civil war, without regard to the date of settlement, were: Elisha Tobey, Thomas Clark, James Keenan, Daniel Beninga, J. Winne, Patrick Parker, J. J. Burnham, Samuel Croot, E. Wiechman, P. De Vries, Frank Parker, M. D. Eustis, Lafayette Le Valley, Harrison Combs and Robert Martin.

GENERAL ITEMS

Probably the first birth in the township was that of Geneva, a daughter of Anthony and Melinda Parriott, May 19, 1857.

The first marriage in the township was Anthony J. Parriott and Melinda Spangler, August 7, 1856.

The first death in the township was in 1853, when an infant child of Ellery Purcell died and was buried on his farm.

The first religious services in the township were held at the hotel of R. R. Parriott, in the winter of 1854-5, Elder Crippin, of Hardin county, being the presiding clergyman.

A Methodist Episcopal Society was organized in 1855 by Elder Stewart, of Hazel Green, Hardin county. Robert Howard was class leader. They afterward held meetings in Anthony Howard's log stable. Later this organization was moved to Aplington.

The first postoffice established in the township was called Algonquin. R. R. Parriott was appointed postmaster here in 1855. The office was kept at his hotel until 1857, when it was moved to Aplington. In recent years an office was established at Austinville, now the only postoffice in the township. The residents of the township are now served by rural routes from Ackley and Aplington in addition to Austinville.

The first blacksmith shop in the township was opened by a man by the name of Shaw from Waterloo, in 1857. R. R. Parriott fur-

nished him the logs with which to build a shop and he erected it on the northwestern part of section 25. Mr. Shaw did not long remain. After his departure the building was used for school purposes.

OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION

Washington township was originally part of the civil township of Ripley according to the organization of the county into townships in 1855. In 1857 the county court redistricted the county into townships, making Washington township a part of the civil township of Monroe. The records of the county court during the September term of 1860 contain the following entry which is self-explanatory:

“September 3, 1860.

“Now on this 3d day of September, 1860, W. H. Long presented a petition asking that congressional township No. 90 N., of range 18 West, be organized into a township for civil purposes. It is therefore ordered by the court that Washington township be and hereby is organized and bounded as follows, to-wit: By congressional lines of township 90 North, range 18 West of the fifth principal meridian, in Butler county, Iowa, and a warrant issued permitting Wm. H. Long to call the first election in said township on Tuesday, the 6th day of November, A. D., 1860, to be holden at the house of R. R. Parriott in said township for the purpose of electing the county and several township officers to be chosen at the election in 1860.

“Attest.

“A. CONVERSE, County Judge
JAMES W. DAVIS, County Clerk.”

Among the first officers elected at this election were Robert Howard, justice of the peace, and Silas Beebe, constable.

EDUCATIONAL

The first school in the township was taught by Mrs. Chichester, at Morris Whitney's house, in the summer of 1857. It was a select school. In the winter of 1857-8 school was kept in Anthony Parriott's log stable. S. B. Decker was the teacher. After the departure of a blacksmith named Shaw, who is mentioned above, the building which he used for a shop was used for school purposes, and Samuel Burke and August Arnold, of Iowa

Falls, were among the first teachers in it. The first schoolhouse erected in the township was built in 1863 at the northwest corner of section 25. David Washburn was the first teacher in this schoolhouse.

In 1868 a board shanty was erected on section 7, which was used for school purposes until 1873. This stood on section 4 in what is now sub-district No. 2. The first school in the southwestern portion of the township was held in a private house on section 31. In 1869 a schoolhouse was erected in the same section. Mary McGill was the first teacher in this schoolhouse. In this same year the citizens of the northeastern part of the township built a small board shanty on the line of sections 11 and 12, where Miss Martha Clark taught the first term of school. In 1870 a school was organized in William Kenefick's granary, with his daughter Nellie as the first teacher.

A schoolhouse was erected on section 19, in 1872, with Miss Cynthia Bird as the first teacher. In 1876 a schoolhouse was erected on section 27, with Miss Emma Wright as the first instructor. In 1878 a board shanty was erected on the hill just south of the present location of the schoolhouse in district No. 2. Miss Anna Ford was the first teacher. A schoolhouse was erected on section 36 in 1880, with Bertha Brace as the first instructor.

At the present time the township is organized into nine sub-districts, numbered consecutively from the northeastern part. The schoolhouse in district No. 1 stands in the northwestern corner of section 11. No. 2 is similarly located in section 9, and No. 3 in section 7. The residents of the western and central portions of the township are accommodated by school No. 4, situated on the south line of section 19, and No. 5 at the southwestern corner of section 15. Schoolhouse No. 6 is at the southwest corner of section 13; No. 1, the northwest corner of section 36.

The school in sub-district No. 8 is known as Austinville school and stands a half mile south of the station. This building is the same one that was erected in 1876 and has outlived its usefulness. There is considerable agitation toward the establishment of a township high school at Austinville. Certainly some more satisfactory and adequate provision must be made for the accommodation of the school children of Austinville and vicinity.

A new school building has been erected in sub-district No. 9 known as the Island Grove school, which stands almost exactly

in the middle of section 32, at the southern edge of Island grove. The building, although small, is neat and satisfactorily serves the interests of the community to which it belongs. There is also a movement on foot looking seriously toward the consolidation of the schools of Washington township. Its situation as a purely rural township, with the larger towns of Ackley and Aplington on either side and at some distance, renders it peculiarly adapted for such a step. The friends of educational progress in the county will watch with interest the further development of this movement.

POPULATION

1863, 67; 1865, 134; 1867, 146; 1869, 296; 1870, 402; 1873, 456; 1875, 486; 1880, 765; 1890, 735; 1900, 925; 1910, 756.

CHAPTER XXIX

TOWNSHIP AND TOWN OF SHELL ROCK

Shell Rock was the scene of the earliest known settlements in the township. Here, as has been earlier recounted, about 1850 or 1851, a temporary settlement was made by Harrison and Volney Carpenter and D. C. Finch. These men were hunters and trappers and made their first sojourn in a log cabin which they erected near the banks of the Shell Rock on the present site of the town of Shell Rock. Later Volney Carpenter, who was a married man, brought his family to his new home and staked out a claim on section 1 of this township. This claim was later sold to Alexander Glenn, by whom the original entry was made in 1852.

The township constitutes No. 91 north, range 15 west. It is for the most part rolling prairie land but is traversed in the extreme northeastern part by the Shell Rock river, which follows a winding course from northwest to southeast through sections 2, 11, 12 and 13. The central portion of the township is drained by a creek known as Dry Run, which empties into the West Fork just a little below the southern line of the township. In the northeastern portion of the township and the strip along Dry Run in sections 32 and 33, it is covered with natural timber. The rest of the township, however, was originally open prairie land. The Chicago Great Western & Rock Island railroads traverse the northeastern part of the township.

Originally the greater part of the farms of the township were occupied by the owners. Of recent years, however, many of these have retired from their farms and moved to town, and as a result at the present time there is a large portion of land which is being farmed by renters. For this reason perhaps there are fewer modern farm homes in Shell Rock township than in some of the other townships where there is a larger portion of farm owners living upon their own land. There are, however, a large number of beautiful farm homes in this township, some of which are now

occupied by a third generation. The soil of the township away from the river bottoms is a rich loam and produces crops of all the staple cereals that are surpassed by no section of this distinctly agricultural county.

EARLY SETTLEMENT

The first entry of land in Shell Rock township was made by Michael Curry, on October 18, 1851, in section 2. The other earliest entries in order of date were Willoughby Flanagan, December 1, 1851, section 11; Letitia Wilkins, December 1, 1851, section 12; Jonathan Hook and John Reynolds, January 26, 1852, in section 2.

Other entries in 1852 were made by Frederick E. Bissell, Alexander Glenn, Joseph Thornsbrue, Henry P. Moore, George C. Moon, Asbury Leverich and W. J. Barney.

Among the early settlers of this township was Aaron Moore, known to all his friends and neighbors as "Uncle Aaron." It does not appear that Aaron Moore obtained any land by original entry nor has it been possible to establish definitely the date of his settlement in the township. There is little doubt, however, that he is to be numbered among the earliest actual settlers, as he is mentioned incidentally in connection with the accounts of a number of the pioneers, some of whom came to the county because of his glowing descriptions of the fertility of its soil and many of whom made his home their first stopping place. Among these may be mentioned the Wamsley brothers, who were pioneer settlers of Butler and Jackson townships. Aaron Moore early became, by the purchase of the claims of other settlers, one of the largest landowners in the county. He was a resident of the township for a number of years and died in the late '70s. Before passing away, Mr. Moore disposed of most of his property by distribution among his heirs.

Alexander Glenn became a resident of the township in 1852. He, too, purchased a considerable amount of land in the northeastern part of the township. Another settler during this period was Daniel Myers, who in 1852 purchased Harrison Carpenter's claim on section 1. Myers remained a resident of the township for a number of years. He is mentioned in connection with the first lawsuit in Butler county, a writ of injunction having been issued against him by one Solomon W. Ingham, restraining him

from selling a portion of his holdings in section 2, Shell Rock township. A full account of this is given in connection with the county court.

In the spring of 1853 George W. Adair, founder of the town of Shell Rock, and one of the most prominent of the early citizens of the county, purchased Alexander Glenn's forty acres in section 11, through which the river runs diagonally. This tract of land at that time was heavily timbered. As soon as possible, Mr. Adair brought his family to his new home, moving into their log cabin on the east side of the river the 1st day of June, 1853, thus becoming the first permanent settlers of the town site of Shell Rock. Here, soon after, Mr. Adair began the erection of a sawmill and in 1854 he laid out the village of Shell Rock upon the land which he had purchased. This town plat was not filed for record until the 29th of March, 1855. In the entry on the minute book of the county court, George W. Adair and Elizabeth Adair, his wife, are given as the sole owners of the town site. Mr. Adair was one of those pioneers who clearly foresaw the magnificent possibilities of the future and he labored to lay the foundations broadly and deeply for a community which would be an honor to him and to the state and county. In this he was successful. He lived to see the town of Shell Rock thoroughly established as one of the leading communities of the county. He died on the 4th day of September, 1879, leaving a large family of children, of whom George Adair is noted at length in the biographical volume of this work.

In the fall of 1853 Heman D. Hunt came to Shell Rock and commenced working in the Adair sawmill. Later Mr. Hunt purchased several hundred acres of land in Butler township, upon which he lived until his death in 1912. Several of Mr. Hunt's children have been prominent citizens of the county, William J. being at present editor of the Butler County Tribune at Allison; John H., former county recorder and postmaster at Allison; and Charles, a resident of Clarksville.

About the same time with other settlers there arrived Messrs. Walters, Hawker, Compton, Dewey and Smith, and two brothers, Charles and Henry Sweitzer. In 1854 Hiram Ross, who is still a resident of Shell Rock, came and began work in the planing mill. In 1855 the Newcomb brothers came. All these gentlemen settled in and around Shell Rock. During the same years the country to the west and south gradually filled up. Among the

pioneers in this part of the township were Michael Hollenbeck, D. White, R. L. Town, D. Shannon, T. Marslin and Lyman Norton. Shannon became converted to Mormonism through the efforts of a Mormon preacher who stopped for some time at his house. He proposed to build a Mormon tabernacle in the county but before his plans were completed his wife eloped with the preacher to Salt Lake City and it is supposed that he was awakened rather rudely from his delusion.

Among the representative settlers of the township without particular regard to the order of their settlement, the following may be mentioned: Amos Ressler, who came to Butler county in 1856, first working in the steam mill at Butler Center and later purchasing a farm in Shell Rock township, upon which he lived for a number of years; Sylvester Rice, who was for many years a resident of Shell Rock, coming to this place from Waverly, in the spring of 1861; L. W. Howard, who settled on a farm in section 14, Shell Rock township in 1865, and who was the father of Frank E. Howard, former county superintendent of schools of Butler county, and Samuel W. Howard, now a resident farmer of the township. Mr. Howard died at an advanced age in 1912.

John Bowen located in the township in 1866. Col. Huston Green settled in the township in 1873. Washington Tharp came to Iowa in 1853, locating first in Bremer county. After serving with honor as a member of the Eighth Iowa Cavalry in the Civil war, he settled in the fall of 1866 on a farm in section 13, Shell Rock township. John Christy became a resident of Butler county, settling on section 7, in Shell Rock township, in 1868. John H. Mead, in May, 1870, came to Butler county, first settling on section 18 and later moving to section 8. Several of his children are still residents of the county.

Among other later residents of the township may be mentioned A. P. Dilger, W. H. Dryer, W. R. and G. E. Stanley, Judson Lake, J. F. Auner, F. B. Miner, G. P. Soash and J. W. Wheat.

OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION

When the county was first divided into townships Shell Rock township was included in the township of Beaver, which was then made up of the four congressional townships in the southeastern quarter of the county. In March, 1856, Shell Rock town-

ship was set off from Beaver and made to include together with its present limits the township of Jefferson as well. In March, 1857, Jefferson township was given a separate organization and set off from Shell Rock. Thereafter the township had the same limits as at present.

THE MILLS

In the summer of 1853, George W. Adair erected a sawmill and built the first dam at Shell Rock. Hiram Ross was his millwright. The sawmill was kept busy by the settlers for many years and served its purposes faithfully and well until the year 1878, when it was torn down, being unfit for further use. The dam was partially washed out by a freshet in 1855, when a new and better dam took its place, built by George W. and William Adair.

George W. Adair erected the first grist mill, on the west side of the river, in 1856, and had it running early in 1857. This became known as the Shell Rock mill and is still in operation, although it has long since ceased to make flour, only corn meal and ground feed for cattle now being the product. This structure was built at a cost of \$10,000. Its original dimensions were 30x40 feet, and three stories in height. The property was transferred to John F. Wright in 1857 through purchase and shortly thereafter Mr. Wright sold a one-third interest to the Overman brothers; another one-third was bought by Sheldon Fox. Several changes later took place in the ownership of the mill, Mr. Wright always retaining his interest until 1891, when W. F. Brown, the present owner and a nephew of Wright, came into full possession.

The Rockland, or east side mill, was built by George W. Adair and Emanuel Metzger in the winter of 1867-8, at a cost of \$18,000. This originally was a two-run mill, four stories in height and propelled by water power. The property was sold to Robert McDonald in 1872 and in 1879 Haynes brothers were the owners. In 1903, W. F. Brown bought the mill of T. W. McInroy and is now running both industrial concerns, being steadily and profitably employed grinding feed for the farmers living within a wide and contiguous territory.

EDUCATIONAL

In common with other townships of the county, the schools of Shell Rock township were originally organized as sub-districts of the school township. There were in the beginning eight of these sub-districts, corresponding in general in their boundaries to the present sub-divisions. As the town of Shell Rock developed, it was set off as an independent district, maintaining for a number of years two schools—one on either side of the river. The rest of the township continued the sub-district organization until late in the '70s, when by vote of the electors the sub-district plan was abandoned and an independent district form of organization adopted. There are at present seven independent districts in the township—Norton's Corners, Dryer, Salem, Central Valley, Excelsior, Prairie Mound and Christy. For the most part the school buildings in these districts are somewhat above the average in character and equipment. Probably the best of the rural school buildings is that in the Dryer school district. The Norton's Corners school has the largest enrollment of any school in the township and has for a number of years been in the hands of exceptionally well equipped and well trained teachers. There is considerable agitation toward the erection of a new building to accommodate the children of this district and doubtless within a comparatively short time this step will be taken and the Norton's Corners district will be equipped with a school building which will correspond in its appointments with the excellence of the school in other ways.

The patrons and taxpayers of the schools in Shell Rock township have never been niggardly in their expenditures for school purposes. As a result they have a corps of teachers whose ability and efficiency is of a high degree. The records of the school township of Shell Rock have disappeared and the limits of this work do not allow us to go into detail as to the history of the individual districts. There is no doubt that if the people of this township continue to maintain their schools upon the same plane that they have in the past and to show the same progressive spirit in dealing with the problems that have confronted them, the future of the schools in this township will assuredly be a brilliant one.

POPULATION

1856, 373; 1860, 438; 1863, 523; 1865, 626; 1867, 952; 1869, 1,063; 1870, 1,142; 1873, 1,358; 1875, 1,408; 1880, 1,524; 1890, 1,482; 1900, 1,547; 1910, 1,461.

TOWN OF SHELL ROCK

The land originally platted for the town of Shell Rock consisted of forty acres, which was purchased of Alexander Glenn by George W. Adair in the spring of 1853. Early in the year 1855 Adair caused the land to be platted into town lots, which made up twelve blocks. The plat was filed in the recorder's office and reads as follows, to-wit:

“March 29, A. D., 1855.

“On this day George W. Adair and Elizabeth Adair presented the plat of the town of Shell Rock, in the county of Butler, situated on the northwest quarter of section 11, in township 91, range 15, west of the fifth principal meridian, and having acknowledged the same as required by law, it was ordered that the whole be recorded as the law directs.

“JOHN PALMER, County Judge.”

When George W. Adair set up his little log cabin on the “Forty” now comprising the principal part of the town of Shell Rock, the land was covered by an almost impenetrable growth of timber and underbrush. But the irrepressible pioneer and home-seeker with axe and torch made all this disappear in a comparatively short space of time and as the years passed rapidly by, where once stood the giant oak, a settler's residence or merchant's store building took its place, and gave evidence of the march of civilization, that was inevitable in a country magnificently endowed with fertile soil, abundance of clear, running water and other resources, the gift of kind Nature, ready for the many seeking them.

The first settlers in this beautiful locality were Harrison and Volney Carpenter, as already mentioned. They came in 1851. The following year Alexander Glenn appeared, also Daniel Myers. George W. Adair, founder of the town of Shell Rock, arrived in the settlement in the spring of 1853. Not long thereafter came the Newcombs, the Sweitzers, Cram, Eastman, Hitehoek, Hiram Ross, John Leveridge and John L. Stewart. The latter was an

Illinoisan by birth and removed with his parents to Iowa in 1839, finally locating in Johnson county. Mr. Stewart remained here until 1848, when he removed to Linn county. The year 1853 found him in Shell Rock, working in the Adair sawmill, where he continued employed until 1870. In the latter year Mr. Stewart opened a wagon shop, in which his activities continued for many years.

O. L. Eastman, above referred to, was born in the State of New York and moved with his parents to Will county, Illinois, in 1838, where he became apprenticed to a blacksmith. In October, 1855, he removed to Cedar Falls, Iowa, and in the spring of 1856 to Shell Rock. Here Mr. Eastman as soon as possible took up the tools of his trade and probably opened the first blacksmith shop in the ambitious and growing little town. In 1867 he added a stock of farm implements to his growing business and became one of the prosperous and influential men of the community.

The first hotel erected in Shell Rock was put up by a man named R. D. Cram, who not only entertained the traveler, but also kept a stock of merchandise. He should, therefore, be considered as the first merchant in Shell Rock.

It is highly probable that O. S. Newcomb was the next settler who elected to go into business at Shell Rock. He in an early day had on display a stock of goods in a building on the east side of the river which he erected in October, 1855. Mr. Newcomb conducted a general store in this building until the spring of 1859, when he removed to the west side of the river and opened a general store in a log schoolhouse. In the fall of the same year he moved into more commodious quarters and had for a partner T. G. Copeland until 1860, when J. H. Carter purchased the Copeland interests and the business was then and for many years afterward conducted under the firm name of Newcomb & Carter.

EARLY EVENTS

George W. Adair built the first house—a log cabin—the first dam and the first mill in Shell Rock. Elias Walter erected the first frame building in the town.

R. D. Cram was Shell Rock's first merchant, opening a general store in the fall of 1855. Frank Walter, son of Elias Walter, was the first white child born in Shell Rock. The event took place in January, 1855.



PORTION OF MAIN STREET, SHELL ROCK

The first marriage was that of Elias Walter and Miss Rachel Billheimer.

John L. Stewart was the first wagon maker. He opened a shop in 1854.

John S. Robbins located in Shell Rock in the fall of 1854 and opened the first blacksmith shop. He sold out to George Hawker in 1855. The latter died in 1863. T. G. Copeland is given credit for being Shell Rock's premier shoemaker. He commenced work at his trade in Newcomb & Copeland's store in 1859, remaining one year. Mr. Copeland then removed to Willoughby, a hamlet in Butler county.

L. F. Bristow established the first furniture store in Shell Rock and the first drug store was opened by Dr. E. L. Thorp. The first hardware store in Shell Rock was opened by Philip Bemler. Mr. Bemler remained here two years and then removed to Cedar Falls.

The growing town was without a photograph gallery until 1875, when Henry Apfel set up a gallery here and established a good business. He became an important personage in the town's list of citizens.

O. L. Eastman, one of the early blacksmiths, established an agricultural implement concern in 1867. A harness shop was opened here in 1868 by T. S. Walter. Fairfield & Phillips opened a lumber yard in 1871, and the same year erected an elevator, with a capacity of 10,000 bushels of grain. In 1872 J. P. Bement went into the market and bought grain. W. E. Eastman opened a boot and shoe shop in 1872 and soon became one of the leading merchants of the town. D. J. Gould commenced making and repairing shoes in a little shop in September, 1874. That same year J. R. Clawson entered the hardware trade and his business soon grew to large dimensions. A drug store was opened in 1875 by E. H. Dudley and A. G. Sheaker under the firm name of Dudley & Sheaker. In 1876 J. H. Carson opened a general store and eventually became one of the town's leading merchants. C. W. Bishop's jewelry store came into existence in 1876, and in the spring of 1878 Mrs. H. Apfel opened a millinery store. J. H. Paley's boot and shoe store was opened in 1878, and in 1880 J. E. Patten began making harness for the trade. That same year Graham and Jerolaman formed a partnership and began buying live stock. In 1881 E. J. Young's furniture store was opened, also J. B. Kelsey's grocery store. The following year J. M. Longfellow had a hard-

ware store here and Graham & Jones a general merchandise establishment, also W. F. Stoddard.

The Hawkeye Creamery was built and began operations in the winter of 1878 by W. W. Murray and Charles Austin, under the firm name of Murray & Austin. In July, 1881, Austin retired from the firm but came back in November of the same year, having secured W. W. Murray's interests therein. In April, 1882, Samuel Kennedy purchased a half interest and the firm became Austin & Kennedy. This creamery was run for many years, then came a new one in its place, which was built in 1896 by a stock company, of which George Adair is president, Robert Hunter vice president, Ed Holland, secretary, and Frank Rice, treasurer. The capital stock is \$3,000. This concern manufactures butter alone and during the year ending December 21, 1913, 4,017,478 pounds of milk, and 10,000 pounds of cream were received. The concern is on a paying basis and absorbs the dairy products of the farmers of a territory comprising several miles.

Shell Rock has had several hotels. The first was built by R. D. Cram in the spring of 1856 and conducted by him in connection with his store. The property later went into the hands of W. R. Cotton, who called the hostelry the Butler House. George W. Adair opened the second hotel in 1867 and named it the Shell Rock House. He was the host to many travelers for about thirteen years, when health failing him, he went to Kansas, where he died in the early '80s.

The Central House was erected in 1878 by Boomer Brothers & J. W. Phillips. Phillips finally became sole owner, and sold to John Speaker. The latter was the landlord for many years.

The Wabeek, a low two-story brick, standing on a prominent corner of Main street on the east side, has gained considerable favorable notoriety in the past two years through its excellent cuisine and luxurious beds. The landlord is a Swiss, John Hohl by name.

Shell Rock as early as 1855 had its lawyer in the person of Orson Rice, who remained about five years. Soon after his departure came William Norville, and since his advent there have been intermittently lawyers who have located in the town. For a number of years past George A. McIntyre has been a member of the Butler county bar located here. Mr. McIntyre is the present chief executive of Shell Rock.



THE WABEEK, SHELL ROCK



PUBLIC SCHOOL, SHELL ROCK

Dr. John Seoby is the first person mentioned in the History of Butler County, published in 1883, as having located in Shell Rock. According to that publication he came in May, 1856, and practiced here until 1875, when he retired from all business activities. He has had a number of successors in the field of medicine.

THE SCHOOLS

The town of Shell Rock has always had good schools. The first was taught by Mrs. Nancy McAllister, in a room at the home of Ebenezer Walter, in the summer of 1855. The children to receive instruction afterwards assembled in the Methodist church, where Ozro R. Newcomb taught them the elements of an education. In 1899 a new and modern school building of brick and stone material was erected, at a cost of \$15,000. The structure is three stories and basement, and has every appointment to be found in a modern building of this character. The high school and grammar rooms are on the third floor. On the fourth are the laboratory, domestic science and manual training rooms. On the second floor are located the primary and intermediate departments and on the first, the primary department and toilet rooms.

POSTOFFICE

A postoffice was established in the town of Shell Rock in the summer of 1855, with George Hawker as the first appointee by the Government as postmaster. He kept the office in a building later owned and occupied by J. W. Stewart as a residence. At that time mail matter was not received regularly; probably at first about every two weeks, then weekly, and later semi-weekly, and when the railroad began operations mail came daily. The first mail was brought overland by carrier, who made his trips on horseback from Jamesville. Afterwards it was received at Cedar Falls and brought overland to Shell Rock. Postage stamps were then not in vogue and the recipients of letters were compelled to pay as high as twenty-five cents in advance before letters were placed in their hands. O. S. Newcomb was appointed postmaster in 1856 and some of his successors follow by name: John Smith, James Leverich, William C. Cotton, J. H. Carter, William Mullen, James Leverich, E. L. Thorp, A. G. Stonebreaker, James W. Stewart, James Jerolaman, L. E. Sherwood. Following the death of Mr.

Sherwood, his widow, Mrs. Belle Sherwood was appointed. She was succeeded by the present incumbent, Frank L. Witt. This office began to issue money orders July 2, 1877. The first order was drawn July 2, 1877, for Dr. E. H. Dudley and the first order paid was to Minerva Wellman.

SHELL ROCK IS INCORPORATED

The municipality of Shell Rock became separate from the township of like name and was incorporated as a town under the special laws of Iowa of 1873. The first election under the new dispensation was held in 1875, when the following officers were elected: Mayor, Ephraim Town; recorder, R. D. Prescott; treasurer, J. W. Phillips; trustees, R. McDonald, J. G. Rockwell, C. Sweitzer, Orville Jones and A. G. Stonebreaker. As this manuscript is being prepared for the press, the intelligence has reached the writer of the death of Mr. Town, the first chief executive of Shell Rock. His death occurred February 2, 1914. A complete sketch of this old pioneer will be found in the second volume of this work. In 1880, five years after Shell Rock was incorporated, the census for that decade gave the population as 719. The census of 1910, thirty years later, shows but a small growth. The figures for that year are 741. However, the community has progressed in other respects to a most gratifying degree. The character of the buildings has changed for the better, many beautiful residences have sprung up here and there in different sections of the town. Brick business structures have taken the place of primitive frame affairs. Steel bridges now span the streams where formerly old wooden structures crossed them. The main business thoroughfares have been vastly improved and several miles of cement sidewalks have taken the place of the old board walks. A beautiful city hall adorns the main street and adds very much to the convenience of the city's legislators and officials. It also adds largely to the safety of public records. A good hotel entertains and provides for the comfort of the traveling public, and a handsome modern brick school building adorns the east side of the town. All in all, Shell Rock takes a place in the front rank of Butler's many little municipalities.

CITY HALL

Shell Rock's city building is a two-story structure, built of concrete blocks, and was erected in the fall of 1910. The first floor is devoted to offices for the mayor and as a council chamber, also for the use of the fire department. The second story was paid for and is owned by the Masonic lodge. This building stands on the main street of the town and is an important addition to the general make-up of that thoroughfare.

Shell Rock has a municipal system of waterworks, which was built in the summer of 1898. The question of issuing \$5,000 in bonds for the purpose of building waterworks was presented to the voters of the town in 1908 and was carried by a generous majority. The water is secured from the Shell Rock river and is pumped into a tank which stands upon a steel tower, 100 feet in height. This tank has a capacity of 50,000 gallons of water. The pumps are operated by power secured from the electric light company, and the water flows through about one and one-half miles of mains, and is used only for emergency purposes. None of it goes into the homes of the residents for domestic uses. The plant, however, cannot be surpassed by any other of similar size in the State of Iowa and answers its purposes to the utmost satisfaction of all. The cost was about eight thousand dollars.

SEWERAGE

There is also a system of sewerage in this well put up little trading community consisting of eight-inch and six-inch sewer pipes. The outlet is below the intake of the waterworks, or in other words, below the dam. The sewers were built about the same time as the waterworks and make for complete sanitation in the territory drained.

ELECTRIC LIGHTS

An electric light plant was built here in 1901 by W. C. Wilson, and in 1902 the utility was in complete operation. The power house was built on the site of the old woolen mill at the rear of the west side mill. This improvement with the water rights cost about fifteen thousand dollars. Mr. Wilson operated the plant for some time and then sold it to William Toll and Ray

Betts in 1910. The firm of Toll & Betts disposed of the property to Uri and W. W. Richards, March 1, 1912. Uri Richards, father of W. W. Richards, died in the fall of 1913. Since then W. W. Richards has been in charge of the utility and is giving his patrons good service, which, by the way, is not continuous.

FINANCIAL CONCERNS

Shell Rock has two strong banks, which are conservative in their methods and give to the patrons ample security of their funds. The Shell Rock Banking Company is the oldest institution of its kind in the town. It was established in 1888 by F. M. Mansfield, J. H. Carter and O. S. Newcomb, with a capital of \$15,000. Jim Carter was also one of the initial members of the concern and first filled the position of assistant cashier. This concern does a general banking business and now is capitalized at \$25,000. Its president is Jim Carter; cashier, R. S. Stoddard; assistant cashiers, Carl Hummel and Carl Mansfield. The three senior members of this bank have died since it was first organized, and O. S. Newcomb retired as an official. The present owners are Jim Carter, Mrs. Carrie Mansfield, Mrs. Kate J. Carter and R. S. Stoddard.

The Farmers State Bank was organized in 1907, capitalized at \$25,000. The promoters of the enterprise were J. A. Graham, O. L. Mead, A. F. Yareho, and J. B. Kelsey. The first officials were: J. A. Graham, president; J. H. Hutchins, vice president; M. F. Green, cashier. Mr. Hutchins died in the winter of 1912-13 and was succeeded in the vice presidency by O. L. Mead. In 1909 Mr. Green resigned as first cashier and was succeeded by F. C. Harmon. In the winter of 1909 the bank erected its present home—a two-story brick structure. It does a general commercial banking business and is strong in the confidence of its patrons. The capital stock is \$25,000; deposits, \$105,000.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

As soon as three or four families could be gathered together at Shell Rock, religious meetings were held at the homes of the settlers. The first services were administered at the home of G. W. Adair, in the fall of 1854, by Reverend Mr. Burley. A second religious meeting was attended by the pioneers of this local-

ity at the home of Hiram Ross in 1855. Reverend Mr. Burley delivered an interesting discourse on this occasion.

The Methodists organized the first religious society in Butler county, filing articles of incorporation June 26, 1855. This society held its first meeting at the home of Hiram Ross in 1855, and in February of that year Reverend Burley conducted a series of revival meetings, assisted by Reverends Kendall and Abram Myers, which resulted in the society acquiring thirty more members. A church building was erected in 1856 on the east side of the river on the site of the present structure. Meetings were held by the people of this faith as a class until 1871, when the society was reorganized.

Rev. J. W. Gould, who came in 1869 and remained two years, was the first regular pastor. He was succeeded in 1871 by Rev. L. S. Cooley, whose term of service covered two years. His successors in the pastorate were: Revs. Eugene Sherman, one year; Timothy Anderson, six months; A. Critchfield, one year; W. S. Skinner, two years; S. Knickerbocker, one year; G. L. Garrison, two years; S. Sharon; J. O. Dobson, 1883-85; C. H. Taylor, 1885-89; J. H. Davis, 1889-92; G. H. Brindell, 1892-95; W. H. Slingerland, 1895-98; Daniel Sheffer, 1898-99; Walter Piper, 1899-1904; D. S. Stabler and J. E. Johnson, 1904-06; George B. Shoemaker, 1906-10; John Dawson, 1910-13; and Thomas Carson, the present pastor, who took charge in 1913.

The old church building was destroyed by fire in June, 1898. Immediately thereafter work on a new edifice was begun, and the same was dedicated in the following November by Rev. J. C. Magee, presiding elder, assisted by the pastor of the church, Rev. Daniel Sheffer. The church building is valued at \$10,000. The present membership is three hundred and seventy-five, while the enrollment in the Sunday school is three hundred and fifty.

BAPTIST CHURCH

The Baptist Church was organized in Shell Rock, January 18, 1864, by Rev. Samuel Sill, assisted by Rev. William Wood. The first members were Mary E. Sill, Menzo Best, Emily L. Best, Roxy Couch, Minerva Couch, James Chaffin, Deborah Chaffin, J. W. Whittaker, Nancy Whittaker, Serepta Copeland and Fannie Helason. The first regular pastor of the local Baptist church was Rev. Samuel Sill and services were first held in the stone

building on Main street, now the property of O. L. Eastman, by Rev. I. R. Dean, who was the second county superintendent of schools for Butler county. Mr. Dean came from Kalamazoo, Michigan, and went from here to Pike's Peak, and while on his way back lost his life. The successor to Reverend Sill as regular pastor was Dr. J. Hall, founder of the Kalamazoo Baptist College, and afterwards president of Granville (Ohio) College.

After the society had been fully organized and during the winter of 1868-9, very interesting and enthusiastic revival meetings were held, which meant forty-two additions to the church enrollment. The lots upon which the church stands and most of the labor for its construction were secured by the Ladies' Mite Society, in the numerous ways they had of obtaining money for church purposes. A church edifice was built at a cost of \$5,500, a frame structure, 35x60 feet in dimensions. The present membership of the church is one hundred and thirteen, with an enrollment in the Sunday school of one hundred.

Those who have served in the pastorate from 1882 to the present time are as follows:

Revs. J. J. McIntire, November, 1882—May, 1884; J. B. Edmonson, April, 1884—February, 1886; A. Whitman, December, 1886—November, 1889; D. L. Clouse, November, 1890—July, 1892; C. H. Hands, July, 1892—July, 1893; N. E. Chapman, December, 1893—March, 1895; J. G. Johnson, June, 1895—October, 1897; O. P. Somner, October, 1897—October, 1898; Fletcher E. Hudson, December, 1898—May, 1903; George Frederick Reinking, July, 1903—September, 1904; C. H. H. Moore, December, 1904—September, 1905; Russell D. Robertson, December, 1905—December, 1906; A. B. Bush, September, 1907—June, 1910; N. H. Daily, September, 1910, until his death, November 22, 1912; D. E. Killoren, August, 1913.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The Congregational Society was organized in the spring of 1892 and before the close of the year a good substantial frame church building had been erected and dedicated. Among the first members of this society are remembered H. K. Porter and wife and W. H. Dryer, Charles Austin and wife, S. J. Gould and wife and Mrs. F. W. Remington. In all there were about forty charter members. At first services were held in the opera house

and the first pastor was Rev. J. D. Wells, who remained three years. It was Reverend Wells who planned and assisted largely in building the house of worship. The Congregational church now has about sixty communicants and a good attendance in the Sunday school. The present pastor is Rev. P. H. Fisk.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

In the territories contiguous to the town of Shell Rock there has been for many years quite a sprinkling of people of the Roman Catholic faith. In 1891, through the instrumentality of Father Coyle, a church was established here and a building erected for the convenience of its members. Among those who first assisted in the formation of St. Mary's parish were Mr. and Mrs. James Heery, the John Drumm, Michael McCormicks, Patrick Drumm, Peter Heery, John Heery, Albert Heerys, Dennis Hollands, William Leary, Martin Gleason, Thomas McCarty, Joseph Walker, William Rafferty, Patrick McNamara, Nicholas Pray, John Flynn, Joseph Cantwell and Dennis Evans.

Father Shields held the first mass in the home of Michael McCormick, and for some time thereafter the members were unable to secure the services of a priest but about once a year. This was during and immediately after the Civil war. Then came Father Flavin, who held mass at the homes of his parishioners until 1891, when a priest was supplied regularly from Waverly. Since 1891 the following priests have attended this church: Fathers Murphy, Scanon, McMahon, Smith, Ryan, O'Farrell, Comerford, Murphy, Coyle, O'Reilly, Sullivan, McCauley, Gilchrist, Grady, Doherty, Fitzpatrick, Mulligan and Dennis Lundon. Services are held here about once a month and there are about twenty-three families in the parish.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

In January, 1914, a Young Men's Christian Association was organized at Shell Rock by Vernon Neal and Earl Johnson. The new society has secured rooms in the old News block and later on will complete its organization by the election of officers.

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

Shell Rock Post, No. 262, Grand Army of the Republic, was organized at Shell Rock in 1883, with twenty-eight charter members. The old veterans held meetings for some years but, by reason of death in the rank and file, removals and other causes the membership dwindled away until scarcely a corporal's guard could be gathered together. This led to the disintegration of the society and about twenty years ago regular meetings were discontinued. The first officers of the society were: J. F. Wright, commander; E. M. Dudley, vice commander; J. W. Walter, Jr., V. C.; W. W. Murray, Surg.; B. Pierce, Chap.; L. H. Meade, Q. M.; W. J. Re, Officer of the Day; George Adair, Officer of the Guard; J. R. Gibson, Serg. Maj.; J. A. Morrison, Q. M. S.; L. T. Bristol, Adjt.

MASONIC

Escallop Lodge, No. 261, A. F. & A. M., was organized April 22, 1869. The first officers were: Asa Lowe, W. M.; Julius Preston, S. W.; G. C. Hawley, J. W.; E. W. Metzger, Treas.; J. G. Scoby, Sec.; O. S. Eastman, S. D.; Charles Hitchcock, J. D.; Alonzo Coastes, Tyler. This is one of the strong lodges of the town and has a good working membership. Its hall is nicely located and well appointed and the paraphernalia is quite an expensive one.

ODD FELLOWS

Shell Rock Lodge, No. 270, I. O. O. F., was organized January 26, 1874, with the following officers: F. Mason, N. G.; R. D. Prescott, V. G.; L. F. Bristol, Sec.; J. D. Powers, Treas.; J. Mullen, O. G.; J. H. Meade, I. G. This lodge is also in good condition as to its finances and membership.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS

Imperial Lodge, No. 283, Knights of Pythias, was organized August 13, 1891, with the following charter members: F. O. Newcomb, William Ross, William H. McGregor, George E. Tabor, Will F. Brown, Jim Carter, F. M. Mansfield, E. L. Jones, H. E.

Fourtner, O. C. Miner, all of whom were the first officials: T. L. Williams, E. J. Moyer, George A. McIntyre, I. W. Morris, F. E. Thorp, W. H. Smith, George E. Hammonds, William H. Jenks, T. S. DeWitt, W. C. Thompson, J. H. Carter, Phil Pray, George E. Meade, J. W. Wheat, V. L. Olney, Robert Richardson.

Harmony Temple, No. 30, Pythian Sisters, was organized August 10, 1893. The first officials were: Carrie Mansfield, Hattie Tabor, Ella Smith, Sadie Nelson, Parthena Hammonds, Lillian Carson, Kate Jenks, Mary Bement, Kate J. Carter, and in addition to these, other charter members were: Minnie Jones, Mimie Wilcox, Celesta Carson, Julia Cain, Lillian Wheat, Nettie Meade, Emma Miner, Baldwin Cain, C. M. Carson, J. H. Carter, W. F. Brown, W. H. Jenks, George W. Jones, C. P. Bement, George Hammonds, E. D. Wilcox, Jim Carter, F. M. Mansfield, George Meade, William Wheat, W. H. McGregor, W. H. Smith, W. L. Nelson.

MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA

White Oak Camp, No. 2418, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized July 28, 1894, with the following charter members: Robert S. Connor, Mayrand R. Farr, Abb Medders, Pat McCoy, Francis K. McCague, John H. Poorman, Emil Sebastian, William A. Willis, De Witt C. Fyler, Wilhelm Vosburg, William C. Wilson, Charles Winchell.

CHAPTER XXX

WEST POINT TOWNSHIP AND BRISTOW

West Point township is one of the four central townships of the county and contains the present county seat. From an agricultural point of view, it is one of the most desirable portions of the county, there being no marked differences in the elevation of land. Its surface is rolling and there is practically not a foot of soil that is not available for cultivation. A small stream known as Kilson's creek, rises just a little north of the center of the township and flows south into the West Fork. Another small creek rises in section 23 and drains the extreme southeastern part of the township.

Near the southern line of section 36 in this township along the banks of this creek there are several mineral springs, situated in a sort of peat bog. The water of these springs has been analyzed and is said by experts to be of a quality equal to that of the famous Colfax springs. The land on which these springs is located was formerly a part of the Iowa Central Stock Farm and at one time the Messrs. Stout, of Dubuque, owners of this farm, seriously considered the advisability of developing the resources of these mineral springs. Nothing, however, came of that project. These springs were discovered by accident through the miring down of a horse, ridden by an employe of the stock farm. Later these springs were boxed in and the water was piped to several large tanks, which were used for watering cattle in the pasture in which they were located. Since that time no further effort has been made to utilize the water of these springs and at the present time nothing remains to mark their location, except the rotted tanks and enclosures of the springs. They are easily located, however, by the sulphurate deposits which are found in the stream near at hand. It is possible that at some time advantage will be taken of the presence of these mineral springs.

The soil of West Point township is a rich black loam, with a clay sub-soil. Originally there was no native timber within the limits of the township. At present, however, the township is dotted with artificial groves in such numbers and profusion as to make it appear almost like a naturally timbered country. Reference has already been made to the grove of artificial timber on the Iowa Central Stock Farm. There is also a fine artificial grove known as Walnut grove on sections 21 and 22.

A person traveling through West Point township will be impressed by the large number of magnificent farm homes, evidencing better than anything else could the excellent quality of the soil of this section of the county. The towns of Allison and Bristow are both situated partly within the limits of this township. They are connected by the Chicago Great Western railroad, which furnishes a commercial outlet for the products of the township. The western side of the township approaches within a short distance of what was formerly known as Boylan's grove. This was, as has already been stated, the location of the first settlement in this part of the county. As a result, the earliest settlement of West Point township commenced in this district in the western part.

EARLY SETTLEMENT

The first entry of land in the township was made by H. P. Early, on May 2, 1854. Other early entries were as follows: Samuel Moots, August 21, 1854; W. W. Willingham, August 21, 1854; W. H. Sarber and Adam H. Sarber, October 2, 1854; and Elizabeth Rush, November 1, 1854. All these entries were made in sections 18 and 19.

Philip Miller and George Lash were the earliest settlers of West Point township. They were brothers-in-law and came to the county in the fall of 1854. Mr. Miller preempted eighty acres of land on section 20. He is the father of W. P. Miller, at present a resident of Allison, and owner of the Pilot Rock Stock Farm, in section 22.

Samuel Moots first located on section 19. Later he became a resident of Pittsford township. John Lash, William and Adam Sarber, mentioned above, and Seth Strong were among the settlers in the township in the year 1854.

In 1855 Lewis Kilson and John Hewitt located in the township. Mr. Kilson was a native of Norway and came to America in

1838, landing in New York city on the first day of September. He came west by way of the Hudson river to Albany, Erie canal to Buffalo and by boat across Lake Erie to Cleveland, by the Ohio canal to Portsmouth, and on the Ohio river thence to Cincinnati on a flatboat. From Cincinnati he went after some months to Quincy, Illinois, by water and settled in Adams county, Illinois, where he remained for about twelve years. After a short residence in Wisconsin, he returned to Illinois and in 1855 came to Butler county. He entered two hundred and forty acres of land in West Point township, upon which he lived to the time of his death. Several children, among them Frank S. and Charles G., are still residents of the county.

John Hewitt settled on section 19. He had several children and was related by marriage with the Moots, Boylan and Early families, all of them early settlers.

In 1856 Charles V. Surfus came to the township from Indiana. He first settled on section 18 and later removed to section 30, on a farm which still remains in possession of the family.

Among other early settlers were Robert Smith, William Gough, George Trindle, Hiram Bell, Charles Thompson and Joseph N. Neal.

William Gough first settled on a farm in Dayton township in 1853. Later he removed to a farm on section 4, in West Point township. Mr. Gough was a native of England and was well known as an early preacher of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Two sons, Joseph J. and Thomas A., are still residents of the township and are noted at length in the biographical volume.

Hiram Bell is the father of Walter S., John A. and George H. Bell, all of them still residents of the township.

Charles Thompson, a native of England, was for several years the superintendent of the Iowa Central Stock Farm. Later he purchased a farm on section 33, where he resided to the time of his death. His sons, Charles H. and R. E., are at present residents of Allison. Another son, Will, resides on a farm in the township.

Joseph N. Neal was at one time the owner of over one thousand acres of land situated on and near section 16.

TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION

West Point township was originally a part of Ripley, which at the time of its formation included the greater part of the western

half of the county. In 1856 West Point township was organized including at first the present boundary of Pittsford township. In 1858 Pittsford was given separate organization and West Point assumed its present limits. John Lash was duly authorized to call an election in West Point township, as now bounded, on the 5th day of April, 1858. The name of Seth Strong appears as judge of election at this time. John Hewitt was elected township clerk, C. L. Jones, constable, and Seth Strong, justice of the peace.

GENERAL ITEMS

The first birth recorded in the township was that of Orrin Lash, son of George and Mary Lash, born in November, 1855.

The first marriage occurred in January, 1856, between Seth Strong and Miss Mary Cannon. Justice of the Peace W. R. Jamison officiated on this occasion. The death of Mrs. Strong was the first recorded in the township.

The first hotel was kept by John Lash, in a log house built by him in 1854. This was near the present site of Bristow.

IOWA CENTRAL STOCK FARM

This stock farm, which at one time comprised more than two thousand acres of land and was one of the best known farms in the state, was originally owned by R. A. Babbage, of Dubuque. It included all of sections 35 and 36, West Point township, and section 1, Ripley, and portions of a number of adjoining sections. This land was purchased originally as a matter of speculation by Mr. Babbage, who sent Charles Thompson out to open it up and put the land on the market. Later Mr. Babbage decided to make a stock farm of it.

Mr. Thompson remained as superintendent of the farm until 1871, when he was succeeded by Ira Stimson. About this time a village called Maudville, in honor of a daughter of Mr. Babbage, was platted on sections 35 and 36. A store and blacksmith shop were built here and sold to M. B. Hendricks, of Butler Center, who commenced building on it but never finished. The building was later removed to Butler Center and finally to Allison. A newspaper, the Maudville Times, was published here for about a year, having been moved to this location from Parkersburg,

where it was conducted under the name of the Butler County Times.

Later Mr. Babbage failed in business and the Iowa Central Stock Farm passed into the hands of H. L. Stout, a Dubuque capitalist and lumberman. Mr. Stout, in January, 1875, secured the services of Irving M. Fisher as superintendent. Mr. Fisher remained as superintendent of this farm until it was finally sold in 1891, at which time he purchased the half section, upon which most of the farm buildings were located. Mr. Fisher is still residing upon this farm.

During the period of the ownership of the farm by H. L. Stout and his son Frank D., who was associated with his father in business, the farm became famous as the home of the finest strains of blooded stock. It has sometimes been termed the "Lexington of the Northwest," for upon this farm there were developed a number of famous trotting horses that were known throughout the country.

For many years before the establishment of the town of Allison this farm furnished a market for much of the grain that was raised by surrounding farmers. One of the most interesting features of the farm was a deer park, consisting of a number of acres of artificial woodland, in which a number of deer were kept. This was for a number of years a favorite resort for sightseeing parties and picnics. This herd of deer was sold after the disposal of the farm to Austin Corbin, a New York banker, and by him transported to his preserve in Vermont.

EDUCATION

Originally the western half of West Point township was united with the eastern half of Pittsford township in a single school district. The schoolhouse was located in Boylan's grove. There were at that time no settlers in the eastern part of the township and no necessity of providing school facilities. Later when the township was given separate organization the whole township constituted a school district. The first school in the township was taught during the winter of 1859-60 at the house of Thomas Hewitt, by Miss Mary A. Rich, with an attendance of about fifteen scholars. The schoolhouse at that time stood about a mile east of what is now Bristow.

The first division of the township was made on September 16, 1867, when it was resolved by the board to divide the township east and west into three equal parts, making them two miles wide and the whole length of the township and numbering them in order from north to south. During the succeeding winter, however, only one school was maintained—that in district No. 2 in the building already in use for that purpose. The proposition to appropriate \$800 for building a schoolhouse in district No. 3 was defeated by the board in March, 1868. In May, 1868, the first term of school in district No. 1 was held, with M. A. Park as teacher. The sum of \$16 a month was paid for teacher's service. This school was held in a rented room for the purpose.

In March, 1869, the electors voted at the annual meeting to tax the township for the purpose of building a schoolhouse in district No. 1. A schoolhouse for district No. 3 had previously been provided by action of the board in September, 1868. The contract was let to Isaac Boylan and the building was constructed on one-fourth of an acre secured from C. L. Jones, on section 30. The first school in this district was taught in January, 1869, by Ed F. Jones. In February, 1869, sub-district No. 3 was divided and a new district known as sub-district No. 4 was formed from sections 25, 26, 27, 34, 35 and 36. This action was taken in accordance with a petition signed by Charles Thompson and others. The first school in this sub-district No. 4 was taught by Richard Gonzales, in the winter of 1870-71.

In September, 1869, a site for a schoolhouse in sub-district No. 1 was obtained from Robert Smith on section 7. At the same time sub-district No. 2 was divided and a new sub-district, No. 5, formed of the eight sections of the eastern end of the former district. The annual meeting, however, in the spring of 1870, defeated the proposition to build a schoolhouse in sub-district No. 5. They, however, appropriated the sum of \$600 for erecting a schoolhouse in district No. 4, previously formed.

In April, 1870, a contract for erecting a schoolhouse in district No. 1 was let to Ansel Durand for the sum of \$530. This building was completed and accepted August 22, 1870.

In September, 1870, sub-district No. 1 was divided by setting off the four sections on the west to be known as No. 1 and the balance—eight sections—forming a new sub-district known as No. 6. The first school in district No. 6 was opened on the 24th of April, 1871, with Carrie A. Gough as teacher.

The records of the annual meetings would seem to indicate that the electors were loath to tax themselves for school building purposes. As a result no school was held in sub-district No. 5 until November, 1872, when H. R. Burtch was employed as teacher. District No. 4, being without a school building, was without a session of school from July, 1871, to December, 1874.

On September 16, 1872, a new sub-district known as No. 7 was formed between districts Nos. 3 and 4, consisting of four sections. The first school in this district was taught by Susie Trindle, in the winter of 1874-5.

On September 21, 1874, the four sections of the eastern end of sub-district No. 5—sections 13, 14, 23 and 24—were set off and numbered as sub-district No. 8. The first teacher in district No. 8 was Frank A. Turner.

A final sub-division of the township into nine districts, each consisting of four townships, was made on the 20th of September, 1875. At that time the sub-districts were renumbered in order, beginning with No. 1 in the northwestern part of the township, and numbering south. According to this former district No. 7 became No. 4; No. 4 became No. 9; and a new district formed of sections 1 and 2, and 11 and 12, was numbered 7. The name of the first teacher in the new sub-district No. 7 is not given. The organization of the township into independent sub-districts was continued until 1877, when by vote of the electors of the township the sub-district system was abandoned and nine independent districts, with the same boundaries as the sub-districts, were formed under the following names: District No. 1, Pleasant View; No. 2, Bristow; No. 3, Pleasant Grove; No. 4, Pleasant Valley; No. 5, Walnut Grove; No. 6, Brushy Mound; No. 7, German; No. 8, Richland; No. 9, Maudville.

The last entries in the record book of the secretary of the district township were made on the 17th of February, 1877, at which time he reported the final distribution of the funds of the school township among the independent districts into which it had been divided.

At a later date the Bristow district was expanded to include a portion of Pittsford township. After the establishment of the town of Allison, the Maudville district was incorporated in the independent district of Allison. The other independent districts of the township remained without change in their boundaries to the present time.

POPULATION

1856, 230; 1860, 111; 1863, 131; 1865, 155; 1867, 155; 1869, 235; 1870, 320; 1873, 437; 1875, 516; 1880, 800; 1890, 1,033; 1900, 1,506; 1910, 1,439.

BRISTOW

A tract of land containing ten acres was laid out and platted in 1855 by Henry Early and George Lash. The name chosen for the coming village was West Point. The name was subsequently changed to Bristow.

Bristow is located on the south part of section 18 and the north part of section 19. The town is very pleasantly situated, being in the midst of a fertile farming section and has two railroads, the Chicago Great Western and the Chicago & Northwestern. The population is 550, about sixty of whom live in that part (small) of the town lying in Pittsford township.

Julius Huffman erected a small frame and log building in the new town in the year 1860, in which he placed a small stock of general merchandise. He was Bristow's pioneer merchant. Mr. Huffman, after a two years' experience, concluded the place was too slow in a business way, which led him to pack up his chattels and move to Cedar Falls.

James Butler was the successor to Julius Huffman in the business activities of Bristow, embarking in the sale of groceries, dry goods and other necessities which he displayed in a small residence building purchased in 1866. He also remained but a short time, selling his stock of goods to H. J. Playter in June, 1868. Playter conducted the store until 1871 and then removed to Butler Center, at one time the county seat, a town planned and platted for a metropolis, but now extinct. After his hopes failed of fruition at Butler Center and at Aplington, Mr. Playter returned to Bristow in 1875 and again engaged in business. But the fates seemed to be antagonistic, for in 1877 he made a final deal which terminated for all time his business career at this point. Eventually, H. J. Playter became station agent for the Dubuque & Dakota (now Chicago Great Western) railroad, and continued as such several years.

The firm of Colvin & Arnold opened a general store in 1872. Mr. Colvin withdrew his interests in the venture in 1874 and

started a similar establishment for himself. He sold out in 1880 and removed to Plainfield, in Bremer county. His former partner became associated with L. L. Hatch and the firm of Arnold & Hatch soon acquired a large and remunerative trade from the surrounding country, which was then becoming quite thickly settled.

Doboys Brothers was the name of a general merchandising firm which began business in 1878, but could not make arrangements with its creditors. The stock of goods was placed in the hands of an assignee and sold to satisfy a moiety of debts incurred.

E. M. Havens opened a store with a variegated stock of goods and made a success of the undertaking. He remained in business many years and became an important factor in the affairs of Bristow; so did H. A. Wheeler, in 1882. He was for a long while engaged here as a general merchant and attained a fair degree of success in the business.

The first persons to engage in the manufacture and sale of harness comprised the firm of Kocher & Lichty. The business was started in 1878, when Mr. Lichty retired and Mr. Holz took his place as a member of the firm; another harness and saddlery concern about this time was that of Hoffman & Laster, which came from Waverly and remained two years; then the firm of Hultz & Connelly was formed in 1880, which carried on a harness shop until C. L. Jones superseded Hultz, when the firm name was changed to Jones & Connelly.

The hardware firm of Kocher & Kocher, father and son, came into existence in 1879; D. F. Ellsworth opened a drug store in 1880; a Mr. Hepner opened the first blacksmith shop and remained until 1865, being followed by Barnett Neal, who remained one year; one Wagoner was here a short time; then came James Connelly from Canada in 1869, who plyed his forge until 1882, when he sold his shop to G. G. Coonley, who had been kept busy in another shop since 1876; Henry Underkafer opened a shop in 1879. The two last named artisans became permanent fixtures.

W. P. Smith was the pioneer lumber dealer here. He sold his stock of lumber to the firm of Dubois & Kenison in the fall of 1881. Horace A. Wheeler was a general merchant of 1882.

The "Farmers Home" was opened in the fall of 1863 and the host, George Trindle, entertained the traveler until 1870, selling

his property that year to Joseph Merrill and removing to a building on section 31.

John Weeks opened a tavern in 1865, in a log building erected by George Lash in 1856. Weeks disposed of the property to F. A. Jones in 1869, who catered to his patrons until 1878. In the latter year Jones put up a better and more commodious building, which took the name of the Jones House. The hostelry was rented to F. A. Newberry, who was its landlord for many years.

The Eagle House was built and opened by E. J. Stoddard in the autumn of 1878. In 1880 William Refsnider became proprietor. Stoddard took back the hotel in 1880 and in 1882 closed its doors to the public.

BRISTOW INCORPORATED

The district court issued an order on the 16th day of November, 1881, appointing and directing a commission composed of H. J. Playter, S. B. Wyrick, R. B. Lockwood, James Connelly and L. L. Hatch, to call an election in which the voters of the village of Bristow should decide by their ballots the question of incorporation. Pursuant to instructions the commissioner called the election for December 15, 1881, at which time a majority of the local electorate cast their ballots for the innovation. On the 10th day of January the first regular municipal election was held for the selection of officers of the new legal government and the choice of the voters fell upon the following named persons: T. E. Newberry, mayor; W. F. Early, recorder; J. N. Kocher, treasurer; S. Kenison, marshal; John Boston, street commissioner; William Arnold, J. W. Kocher, James Connelly, A. W. Hitchcock and S. Gibson, trustees. It is said a tie developed in the vote for mayor, the contestants being Mr. Newberry and Mr. Durand. The unusual problem was solved by a mutual agreement between the interested persons in the following manner: An unknown number of apples was placed in a box and, as decided upon, the last apple remaining and taken therefrom settled the matter; so it may be said that an apple decided the election of Bristow's first chief executive.

When Bristow was incorporated it had a population of 200 and in 1910 the number of inhabitants was given in the census returns as 291. These figures show a slow and not very important or encouraging growth. The reason for this condition may justly

be ascribed to its contiguity to Dumont on the west and Allison on the east, both of which are but a few miles away; however, Bristow is a busy little trading point, has a number of well built business houses, churches, a school building and many fine residences. But it has not reached the stage, in the estimation of the leading citizens, that demands a town hall, waterworks, sewerage, electric lights and paving. These utilities will come in time, it is anticipated by those optimistically inclined, and an effort is now in a formative state, to secure an electric current from Hampton for an electric light system.

THE SCHOOLS

Bristow was included in the territory comprising West Point township when the system of school districts was adopted. But in June, 1876, it became an independent district, which took in four sections of land—17, 18, 19, 20. To this were annexed in the winter of 1881-2 section 13 and the northeast quarter of section 24, in Pittsford township. A small frame school building was erected on section 19 in West Point township, on land owned by F. E. Newberry and on section 14 in Pittsford. Here the children of the town and vicinity received instruction for some years; the school on section 19 was abandoned about six years ago.

In 1880, a two-story frame schoolhouse was erected in Bristow, containing four rooms, at a cost of \$2,200. The first teacher was O. H. Scott; his assistant was Mrs. Ella Gibson. For some years past this school has given employment to five instructors, a principal, an assistant principal and three grade teachers. But the building itself has become inadequate, insanitary and inconvenient. This condition was realized by many of the advocates for a new structure, and by their efforts they caused a special election to be called in the year 1913, for the purpose of submitting the question of building a new schoolhouse, and issuing bonds in the sum of \$15,000 for the purpose. Unfortunately for the project, the innovation failed by the narrow majority against it of four votes. The project will again be brought to the attention of the electorate in March, 1914.

THE POSTOFFICE

The first postoffice established in this vicinity was located on section 24, Pittsford township and named Boylan's Grove. H.

A. Early was the first appointee of the office and received his commission about 1856. In a few years the office was moved to West Point, now Bristow, and Julius Hoffman was placed in charge. He was succeeded by C. L. Jones, October 10, 1862, and A. Durand followed as postmaster in 1862, when the office was removed back into Pittsford township and there remained until the appointment of James Butler; when the office again became a part of West Point. Mr. Butler was the postmaster until 1868, in which year he was succeeded by H. J. Playter. The last named was in office but a few months, when J. C. Underwood was appointed and took charge of the mails. In 1876 the name of the office was changed from West Point to Bristow. Before his death, which occurred in 1912, C. L. Jones was the postmaster at Bristow about twenty successive years. A daughter, Miss Anna Jones, has been the incumbent since then.

THE CITIZENS STATE BANK

By a glance at the deposit of the Citizens State Bank, the reader will appreciate the fact that this financial concern is one of no little importance to the community and that it flourishes by reason of a grounded confidence of a large list of patrons in its integrity and stanchness. This bank was organized under the laws of Iowa, April 11, 1907, and was the outgrowth of the private banking house of J. W. Ray and H. A. Foote, established in 1897. The present bank was capitalized at \$25,000 and had for its first officers J. W. Ray, president; W. F. Ray, vice president; and H. A. Foote, cashier. Mr. Foote died in the year 1908 and since then J. F. Jungking has been cashier. The present staff of officers is composed of W. F. Ray, president; F. T. Wells, vice president; F. J. Ray, vice president; J. F. Jungking, cashier. Capital, \$25,000; deposits, \$180,000. The bank's home is a fine two-story brick building, erected in 1903.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Methodist Episcopal Society was organized at Bristow in the summer of 1855, by Rev. Swearingen, of Clarksville, who came into the neighborhood for the occasion, and remained as the pastor until 1857. Among the first members were John Lash and wife, P. Miller and wife and Mrs. George Lash. A church

building was soon erected and a parsonage, where Rev. Alva Freeman, who came in 1857, was the first pastor to reside. This church continued on with resident pastors at uncertain intervals, but for many years past the church was attended from Allison. Since 1913 the pastor at Dunont has been in charge of the Bristow church, which now has a membership of probably sixty souls. The church was erected in the summer of 1896, at a cost of \$2,500, and dedicated free of debt July 12, 1896.

The United Brethren Church has been established at Bristow for many years and the writer was promised the necessary data relating to its history, which has failed to materialize. Consequently all that can be said of it in this work already has been said.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Presbyterians at one time had a strong organization at this place. The church was established at Jamison's Grove, October 31, 1857, taking the name of the Pisgah Church. On this occasion Rev. Williston Jones officiated. The names of the original members follow: Samuel Armstrong and wife, John A. Staley and wife, Mrs. Susannah Harlan, Henry Meyer, wife and two sons, Henry and Frederick; Mrs. Brotherton, Mrs. Hannah Moore, Mrs. Isabella Jamison and Mrs. Diantha Wickham. In June, 1872, the Pisgah and Butler Center churches consolidated and were incorporated as the Pisgah Presbyterian Church. The following year a house of worship was erected, 42x60 feet, at a cost of \$2,400, for which the people of Bristow donated a bell. About this time there were seventy members, but in the '80s the number had dwindled to one-half and eventually the members became so few that regular meetings ceased. For years past there has been no resident minister.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Episcopal Church established a society of that faith in Bristow a number of years ago, and built a tastefully designed and comfortable little chamber, where the members held regular services under the ministrations of a resident pastor. But his people were so weakened in numbers that many years ago the church was abandoned and the building converted into a hall for the various fraternal lodges of the town.

FRATERNAL ORDERS

Garfield Lodge, No. 436, I. O. O. F., was organized November 17, 1881, with the following charter members: Peter Ebling, Jacob Krebbs, C. H. Wilbur, C. W. Smith, John C. Kline. First officials: Peter Ebling, N. G.; C. H. Wilbur, V. G.; J. Krebbs, recording secretary; W. R. Nichols, treasurer; T. M. Early, permanent secretary.

Snowball Lodge, No. 299, Daughters of Rebekah, was organized in October, 1895, with the following charter members: Frank S. Kilson, Francis E. Newberry, Charles T. Coonley, William Arnold, D. C. Graham, John W. Koehler, M. H. Barnes, A. E. Barnes, George G. Smith, Sarah Kilson, Sophia Newberry, Emma F. Coonley, Sarah E. Arnold, Bertha J. Graham, Ida Koehler, Eva R. Barnes, Cornelia B. Barnes and Alfred Meese.

Vulcan Lodge, No. 498, A. F. & A. M., was organized June 4, 1889, with fifteen charter members. A. F. Hobson was inducted into the office of W. M.; C. C. Shattuck, S. W.; and C. L. Jones, J. W.

Bristow Camp, No. 825, M. W. A., was organized February 4, 1889, with the following members: D. M. Anderson, George L. Arnold, E. H. Best, Henry C. Bentreth, O. J. Early, D. C. Graham, E. L. Hewitt, T. J. Hart, C. G. Kilson, William McAdoo, F. K. Spaulding, N. W. True, Amos Vogt. The lodge meets in the old Episcopal church.

CHAPTER XXXI

ALLISON, THE COUNTY SEAT

The town of Allison, the present county seat of Butler county, is situated on the east half of section 25 of West Point township, about one and one-half miles north of the geographical center of the county. The plat was drawn with the idea of providing for the location of the county seat here, hence it centers around a Court House Square ten acres in extent with broad streets leading out from this center in all directions. The growth of the town has been chiefly to the west and south. It comprises at the present time an area of approximately fifty city blocks north of the railroad, most of which are improved by the construction of substantial residences and business buildings. The principal business street extends from the railway station to the Court House Square a distance of five blocks which are bordered on either side by buildings occupied by the various firms engaged in commerce and trade in the town. These comprise at the date of present writing one bank, one hotel, two restaurants, three general stores, two drug stores, two hardware stores, two millinery establishments, one furniture store, one meat market, one clothing store, one photograph gallery, two harness and shoe repairing shops, two blacksmith shops, one livery stable, one printing office, two barber shops and pool halls combined, one sash and door factory, one steel evener factory, two lumber yards, two elevators, one cooperative creamery, and several other buildings used for telephone, law and abstract, physician's and dentist's offices. There are two automobile garages and one auto livery.

Allison lies in the heart of one of the best and most prosperous farming sections of this rich agricultural county. Its prosperity is based upon the most stable of foundations, that of the necessity of the surrounding community for an outlet for their surplus products and a trading place where they may obtain the necessities and luxuries of life. Land values in country and town show

a steady increase that bespeaks a continuance of the present prosperous conditions.

EARLY HISTORY

This town is the youngest incorporated town in the county, having been laid out and platted on the land belonging to the Iowa Central Stock Farm in 1879. Previous to this time, this farm had passed from the hands of its first owner, Mr. R. A. Babage, into those of Mr. H. L. Stout of the Knapp, Stout Lumber Company of Dubuque. As early as 1875 a line of railroad, first known as the Iowa & Pacific railroad, had been surveyed through the county from east to west passing through the present site of Allison. Before this in 1871 on the 11th of February, West Point township had by a majority of nine votes refused to vote a special tax for the benefit of this road. The road was, however, actually graded before the project was abandoned. H. L. Stout was one of the backers of this project and was active in securing the reorganization of the company for the construction of this line of road under the name of the Dubuque & Dakota.

In 1877, the rails were laid as far as Shell Rock. Later construction was completed to Clarksville. In the spring of 1879 a special election was held in West Point township and a five mill tax was voted for the aid of the new railroad on condition that the road be completed through the township by the following fall. The company fully lived up to its agreement and the first train of cars was run into Allison on July 4, 1879, and into Bristow on July 12.

On April 11th, 1879, Messrs. F. D. Stout, John R. Waller, and Mr. Knowlton of Dubuque surveyed the town plat of Allison. On August 19th, Harry Daggett, the first station agent arrived and took charge of the interests of the railroad and the traveling and shipping public at this point. In the fall of this same year, a three-story frame hotel was completed by the town company, the members of which were John R. Waller, Gen. C. H. Booth, R. E. Graves, Frank D. Stout and James Stout, all of Dubuque. The hotel building was constructed by M. M. Flick of Dubuque in accordance with plans and specifications prepared by F. D. Hyde of the same city. Its size was originally 32x36 feet, three stories high and cost approximately five thousand dollars. On the 2nd day of January, 1880, the new hostelry opened its doors



The Hotel
Main Street, looking north

Scene on Main Street

A Residence Street

to the public by Manager C. W. Corwin. In August, 1881, an addition 32x50 feet in extent and three stories high was constructed, thus more than doubling the capacity of the building. At the same time a kitchen 20x28 one and one-half stories high was built on the rear. The total cost of the building and equipment was in excess of thirteen thousand dollars. When completed it gave Allison the most commodious and best equipped hotel between Dubuque and the western terminus of this line of railroad. This building stood and under various managements continued to serve the traveling public until the winter of 1909-10 when it was burned to the ground. At the time this disaster was considered as almost a death blow to the prospects of the town. Later, however, through the enterprise of the Ray brothers, W. F. and F. J., the present magnificent structure was erected for hotel purposes, modernly equipped throughout and again Allison enjoyed the distinction of possessing the finest hotel on the line of the Great Western railroad between Dubuque and Fort Dodge.

The town company also erected an elevator in 1879 which commenced operations in January, 1880, under the management of George Woodward, who came for the purpose from Minnesota.

The first settler in the new town was George E. Martin, who had been living on a farm in the vicinity. In September, 1879, he moved his family into a house which he had built on the new town site and opened a livery business which he continued to carry on until his retirement in favor of his son, A. T. Martin, some years ago. Mr. Martin is still a resident of Allison, serving at the present time as deputy sheriff.

The second settler was Charles Waters who opened the first lumber yard and erected a number of the first buildings in the town.

Frank Elliott, J. J. Cleaver and L. E. Lincoln, respectively a mason, a painter and a carpenter and builder were the other arrivals in the town during the remaining months of 1879.

In 1880 the settlement continued with a reasonable degree of rapidity. C. B. Bishop, J. K. Winsett, Michael Wieres, Louis Pharo, James Gillan and Sweeley being among the settlers at this time.

As noted fully elsewhere in the fall of 1880 by decisive vote of the people of the county the county seat was located here. This naturally was the cause of a marked business boom and eventu-

ally resulted in the practical movement of all the population and the most of the buildings from Butler Center, the former county seat, to Allison. Among those who came here from Butler Center were G. M. Craig, W. A. Lathrop, James W. Davis, John Barlow and Mrs. F. Digman. George M. Dopking came from Shell Rock to Allison in 1880 to engage in the livery business with George E. Martin. He is still a resident of the town although for several years the state of his health has been such that he has not been able to engage actively in affairs.

Fletcher Moore opened the first mercantile establishment in Allison in January, 1880. J. K. Winsett, J. A. Riggs & Company, C. D. Williams and Birkbeck Brothers were other pioneer merchants. Dr. J. S. Riggs was the first physician here. He later sold his interest in the drug store conducted by his brother John A. Riggs to Dr. S. E. Burroughs, whose period of active practice in this community closed only a few months ago with his removal to Holland, Iowa. Dr. Jerome Burbank was the second physician to locate in the village and opened the second drug store on the corner where the Allison Furniture Company is now located.

The first blacksmith in the town, Michael Wieres, is still at work with forge and anvil. Of recent years he has been chiefly engaged in the manufacture of the Wieres Steel Safety Evener, an article of his own invention and patenting. A stock company composed of Allison citizens are associated with Mr. Wieres in this enterprise.

In the fall of 1881, the Digman Hotel was moved from its former location in Butler Center to Allison and was relocated on its present site of Main street. For many years it continued to be used for hotel purposes, ceasing to serve the public in this capacity only after the opening of the New Hotel Allison in February, 1912.

INCORPORATION AND OFFICIAL RECORDS

The town of Allison was incorporated in 1881, the first election being held on August 13, 1881, when the following officers were elected to manage the affairs of the community: W. A. Lathrop, mayor; George A. McIntyre, recorder, and W. W. Pattee, George E. Woodward, Louis Pharo, J. K. Winsett, G. M. Craig, and D. K. Harbert, trustees. Fifty-seven votes were cast in this first election. W. A. Lathrop received forty-nine votes

and I. E. Lucas eight votes for mayor. George A. McIntyre received an unanimous vote for the office of recorder. Twenty-one candidates received from one to forty-four votes for trustee, G. M. Craig receiving the highest number.

I. E. Lucas was appointed the first town treasurer, S. S. Burroughs, street commissioner, and James W. Davis, assessor.

The first case in the mayor's court was that of John Huss, who was fined the sum of \$10 on January 2, 1882, for violating the ordinance on saloon licenses by keeping his saloon open and selling beer on Sunday.

The first telephone line into Allison was constructed by the Iowa and Minnesota Telephone Company in accordance with permission from the town council in June, 1882.

The matter of fire protection engaged the attention of the mayor and council from an early date. In the summer of 1883 three wells were dug on Main street for the purposes of supplying water for fire protection. In May, 1884, a hand fire engine was purchased together with 400 feet of fire hose at an agreed cost of \$900. At a meeting of the volunteer fire company this engine was named "W. B. Allison" and the hose cart "Mambrino Boy."

In May, 1884, Dr. S. E. Burroughs was appointed the first health physician.

Plans and specifications for an engine house were drawn up in the summer of 1884, and the contract for its construction let to L. E. Lincoln for the sum of \$439. The building was erected on a lot leased free of charge by M. Wieres for ten years just west of his shop. The building was completed and accepted on September 1. The first fire alarm was a piece of railroad iron which was used as a gong. M. Wieres was the first fire chief.

In April, 1885, the present Allison cemetery site was purchased from E. W. Kester for \$325 cash and other considerations.

The town possessed at its outset no adequate highways leading out into the surrounding country. On June 1, 1885, H. L. Stout deeded to the town a highway leading south from Main street to the southern line of section 25. In the following year the road leading west from the courthouse square was secured from the town company, and Elm street was extended north to the north line of the section. This gave the town its present excellent system of highway avenues of transportation.

The minutes of the meeting of the council on December 6, 1886, contain resolutions of respect in memory of the life and services of James W. Davis. Mr. Davis has been noticed at length in connection with the history of the county which he served long and faithfully in various capacities. His death was felt as a personal loss to every citizen of the town with which his later years had been identified.

WATERWORKS

The question of a city water system began to be agitated as early as 1887. No definite steps were taken to secure such a system, however, until December 5, 1898, when a petition signed by ninety-eight citizens was presented to the council calling for a special election to decide the question of issuing waterworks bonds. This election was held on January 9, 1899, and resulted in seventy-one votes for and five votes against the issuance of these bonds. In February an agreement was arranged with the county board of supervisors whereby they were to allow the pumping station to be located on the courthouse square, were to sink the well and pay the cost of the pump from the county funds on condition of being allowed the use of the water in and around the courthouse. The contract for the construction of the system of waterworks was let to Fremont Turner for the sum of \$3,911.50. Michael Wieres was the first superintendent of the waterworks.

The work was completed with dispatch, accepted and put into operation at once. It was found, however, that a mistake had been made in the quality of mains used. After an infinite amount of tinkering and repairing and trouble of various sorts a contract for the laying of new mains was made with the National Construction Company of South Bend, Indiana. This contract was ratified by the voters in a special election in April, 1904, when by a vote of sixty-four to four, bonds in the sum of \$2,500 were voted to be issued by the town for this purpose.

Since that date the well has been redrilled and at present the system is giving satisfactory service both for purposes of ordinary use and fire protection.

STREET LIGHTING

The first provision for lighting the streets of Allison was made by the purchase and erection of a number of kerosene lamps on

posts in 1891. In 1896 fifteen gasoline street lamps were purchased from Albert Lea, Minnesota. These failed to give satisfactory service and, after several other experiments, the present lights were installed. They in turn are about to give way to a modern system of municipal electric lighting, the installation of which will place Allison on a par with any town of its size in the state in the matter of conveniences.

In 1892 a lot was purchased on Main street and the engine house moved to its present location. At the same time the contract for the erection of a calaboose was let to L. E. Lincoln.

In the spring of 1900 the community suffered the loss of one of its most prominent citizens in the person of W. A. Lathrop. Mr. Lathrop was one of the first citizens to move to Allison from Butler Center, was its first mayor and continued to occupy this office with honor for a number of years. The town council honored itself and the community which they represented by causing resolutions of respect to be entered on their minutes in commemoration of the services which Mr. Lathrop had rendered this town and the surrounding community.

Permanent cement sidewalks were provided for by act of the council in 1904. Since that date practically every foot of sidewalk in the town has been reconstructed on a permanent basis. Today these sidewalks form one of the chief evidences of the progressive spirit of this community.

In 1904 G. Hazlet, who was then serving as mayor, resigned his office. The town council filled the vacancy by the choice of S. W. Burroughs to the position. At the same time they filled several vacancies existing in the council itself. It having appeared that the action of the council was somewhat irregular and in excess of its powers, action was brought in the district court for the removal of the officers so appointed. By decision of the court in the May term of 1905 these offices were declared vacant and N. W. Scovel was appointed mayor in the place of Mr. Burroughs. Some little feeling was engendered over the occurrence at the time, but it soon died away.

At different times projects looking toward the construction of a north and south railroad through Allison have been put forward. Most of them have never progressed beyond the stage of discussion. In December, 1903, though, a franchise was granted to a corporation known as the Marshalltown Street and Interurban Railway Company for the construction of its lines through this

town. The road was not constructed, however. It is altogether probable that such a line of road will eventually be constructed through this section. It would undoubtedly greatly facilitate the means of reaching Allison at present rather inconvenient for many residents of the outlying parts of the county.

Allison has no public system of sewers. However, the construction of several private lines with the privilege of allowing other property owners to make connections therewith has provided so far for the needs of the community in this line. There are a number of these private lines now in operation.

MATERIAL GROWTH

Allison has witnessed a remarkable growth in a material way in the last five years. In this time two fires destroyed the Allison House, a three-story frame building, built by the town company for hotel purposes in 1879, and the west side elevator. On the sites of these buildings new structures have been erected, the new elevator amply filling the place actually and commercially occupied by its predecessor, and that of the old hotel having been taken by the commodious two-story double brick block erected by Arnold Brothers to house their large stock of general merchandise. In addition to these there have recently been built a new modern schoolhouse, costing \$15,000; a new hotel building, erected at a cost of approximately ten thousand dollars; a sash and door factory; a brick drug store, and a new church building for the German Lutheran denomination. These with a large number of private residences, ranging in cost from fifteen hundred to twenty-five thousand dollars, aggregate an amount of investment in permanent improvements that in proportion to the actual value of real estate in the town is a remarkable and most convincing evidence of the firm basis of prosperity underlying the business of this community.

The list of the mayors of Allison from 1881 to date is as follows: W. A. Lathrop, 1881-1886; G. M. Craig, 1886-1890; W. A. Lathrop, 1890-1895; W. F. Ray, 1895-1899, resigned; G. M. Craig, to fill vacancy; G. M. Craig, 1900-1904; G. Hazlet, 1904, resigned; S. W. Burroughs, to fill vacancy, removed by order of district court; N. W. Scovel, to fill vacancy, 1905-1906; W. C. Shepard, 1906-1908, resigned; N. W. Scovel, to fill vacancy, 1908-1910; E. C. Trager, 1910-1912; Z. Elliott, 1912, resigned; O. F. Missman, to fill vacancy, 1912-.



Methodist Episcopal Church
New Public School

Old Public School
High School

A CHURCH AND GROUP OF SCHOOLS OF ALLISON

EDUCATIONAL

When Allison was incorporated the nearest school was that in the Maudville district of West Point township with a school building located about one mile southwest of the corporate limits of the town. Here the children of the town were accommodated for several years until the growth in population made it necessary to make some more convenient provision for their education. Accordingly in 1883, what was then a commodious brick veneered building two stories in height, was erected in the western part of town, which continued to be used for school purposes until 1912.

At first only two departments were maintained, the upper story being left unfinished. Later a third department was established and the upper floor fitted up for school purposes. The educational ideals of the community grew with its growth and while the increase in population was inconsiderable, new and better facilities for the training of the children were constantly added. A high school department was organized with an assistant, and later a new grade room provided by partitioning off a portion of the high school assembly room.

With these rather inconvenient conditions the school was carried on for a number of years until in 1912 the people of the district by a decisive vote decided to tear down the old structure and erect a modern building in its place. The contract was let to R. Burbridge, who removed the old building and built the present one in the summer and fall of 1912. During the period of construction, school was held in the old Digman House and in the Congregational church.

The new building was first occupied and used for school purposes immediately after Thanksgiving in 1912. The structure is two stories in height with a full basement. It is constructed of brick with slate roof. The basement contains manual training and domestic science rooms, together with furnace and fuel rooms and toilets. The first floor contains three grade rooms and the upper floor one grade room, high school assembly room, recitation room, library and superintendent's office. The building is unilaterally lighted, is heated by steam and ventilated by the gravity system. It is unquestionably the finest building erected for school purposes to date in Butler county.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Methodists of Allison and vicinity met at McCleod's Hall on the 15th of August, 1880, and organized a class under the leadership of Rev. Laban Winsett. The members at this time were D. Bruce, Flora Bruce, F. Moore, C. B. Bishop, Hattie Bishop, Catherine McCleod, Christian McWilliams and Mary Cleaver. For some time services were held at McCleod's Hall by Reverend Mr. Winsett, who was followed after a period of three months by Rev. W. H. Records. The latter remained one year. Then came Rev. J. M. Hedes. During the administration of Reverend Mr. Hedes in 1881 the present church building was erected by the people of the community without regard to church affiliation at a cost of \$2,200.

At a later date the building was remodeled and an addition built on the south to furnish an extra room for the Sunday school. The Methodist Sunday school was the first organization of this character in the town, having been established in May, 1880, with C. B. Bishop as superintendent.

The church building was originally dedicated on May 14, 1882, Rev. L. D. Parsons officiating.

A complete list of the early pastors of this church is not available for publication. Since 1890 the following have served this church in the capacity of pastor: J. M. Hartley, W. Ward Smith, L. D. Stubbs, C. A. Peddicord, J. W. Bacheller, Edward A. Lang, C. A. Thompson, J. A. Dearing, J. D. Perry, Will A. Piper, A. A. Hallett, C. R. Disney, E. H. Free.

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The church with the above name was established in Allison in June, 1884, Father Bernard Coyle officiating at the first ordinance of mass, which was celebrated in the dining room of the Digman House. Services continued to be held until the year 1891 and were attended by the Digman, Mullarky, McManus, Doyle, McGee, Marlow, Wieres, Franke, Hyde, Huss and Lee families.

The first resident priest was Father Shields, who came in 1891. Under his administration the church edifice was built. The dedication took place December 8, 1891, Dean McGrath delivering the address. Mass was held for the first time in this building by Father Lewis Kirby of Greene, now of Sioux City. About this

period of its existence the church had a membership of about thirty families. Through removals, deaths and other unforeseen causes, this number has dwindled to about fifteen families.

Father Shields remained here about one year and was followed by Father James Ryan, whose pastorate covered a period of eight years, during which time the parsonage was built. This house was sold by Father Ryan against the protests of some of his parishoners, which caused some ill feeling to arise. Father Ryan retired from the service of this parish and took up the work at Hampton, from which place the church has been supplied since 1902. The present priest at Hampton, Father J. C. Wieneke, holds mass in the Allison church every alternate Sunday.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

In the spring of 1884, Rev. A. D. Keinzer, pastor of the Congregational church at Hampton, was invited to spend a Sabbath here and occupy the pulpit of the Methodist church, as their minister did not have services every Sabbath. Reverend Mr. Keinzer accepted the invitation and preached the first sermon delivered in Allison by a Congregational minister on April 24, 1884. In the summer of 1885, Rev. T. O. Douglass, state home missionary, sent Mr. W. H. Dumm, a student in Yale Theological Seminary, to preach for the summer here and at Parkersburg. Mr. Dumm's first sermon was on June 7 and his farewell on August 30, 1885.

After this there were no more Congregational services held here until the fall of 1886 when Rev. John Gray came to take charge of the church at Parkersburg and arranged to preach at Allison once every four weeks. He urged the organization of a church and on July 21, 1887, Rev. T. O. Douglass and other pastors of neighboring towns joined with the few Congregationalists in a council for the organization of the church. Seventeen persons were enrolled on the list of charter members.

The Methodists deciding that they desired to use their building every Sabbath, the Congregational Society found it necessary to find another place for their meetings. A hall was rented over the Dodge building, which was thenceforward used as a meeting place for Sunday school and preaching services. A church choir was organized with W. A. Lathrop as leader and Mrs. Ethel A. Levis as organist.

In various ways, by managing an eating tent at the county fair and by holding an old fashioned "Deestriect Skule" money was raised to purchase an organ and provide the beginning of a fund for a church building. The gentlemen of the Allison Town Company donated a desirable lot for the site of the church on Main street. By the spring of 1889 enough had been raised and pledged to justify the building of a church edifice. The men of the society hauled the stone for the foundation and the contracts for mason work and carpentry were let to Messrs. Frank Elliott and Vince Franke.

On December 8, 1889, dedicatory services were held by Rev. T. O. Douglass. At the same time the load of indebtedness resting upon the organization was largely lifted through the munificence of certain of its members who pledged large sums for the payment of the cost of construction still unpaid.

Later it was decided to purchase the lots adjoining the church property on the south and erect a parsonage thereon. The lots were purchased through the instrumentality and partly with the assistance of I. M. Fisher. The present parsonage was built in 1900 at a cost of something over one thousand dollars. The several pastors who have occupied this charge are: Revs. John Gray, C. H. Calhoun, J. S. Norris, W. B. Sandford, H. C. Brown, W. G. Little, W. D. King, F. A. Slyfield, V. B. Hill, W. H. Hotze, W. H. Walcott, and W. U. Parks. The last named has served the congregation as pastor since 1909 in a manner so entirely acceptable to the people that in 1912 they extended him an indefinite call.

In 1911-12 the church was raised and a basement constructed beneath it to furnish rooms for Sunday school and other purposes. These improvements in all aggregated an expense of about two thousand dollars.

ST. JACOBUS LUTHERAN CHURCH AT ALLISON

St. Jacobus Lutheran congregation was organized in 1892. The organizing pastor was C. Weltner of Vilmar, who has since served this church. The first members were: Chr. Hilmer, Paul De Bower, L. Hunnael, H. Pleis, John Buerkle, John Droege-mueller. For over twenty years the congregation held their services every two weeks in the Methodist Episcopal church. In the summer of 1913, the congregation built their own church—a fine



ST. JACOBUS LUTHERAN CHURCH, ALLISON

frame building on the main street. The dimensions are 34x60x16 with a steeple 12x12x86 and a basement for a heating plant. In the steeple is a well-sounding bell. The interior of the church is furnished with a Gothic altar, pulpit, reed organ and very comfortable pews. The value of the church is about \$6,000. The congregation at present numbers twenty-three members or ninety-seven souls.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AT VILMAR

The St. John's Lutheran congregation was organized in 1876. The organizing pastor was the Rev. H. Schlutz, an old missionary-pioneer of Iowa. The names of the first members were: H. Maass, William Martzahn, William Heuer, Fr. Kramer, Fr. Debner, Fr. Edeker, Fr. Kroemer, H. Voigts, William Kammerer, Fr. Niehaus, H. Vahlsing, H. Reinking, William Folkers, D. Kramer, G. Harms, William Koellmann, H. Busse. During the first six years the services were held in a district schoolhouse. In the summer of 1883, the congregation bought five acres of land and built their first church and parsonage on it, both frame buildings—the church 30x48x18 with a small steeple upon it, and the parsonage 16x24x14 and 16x20x10. At the same time the congregation resolved to call a pastor, and when Rev. H. Schlutz, the organizing pastor refused the call, they sent it to C. Weltner, a young pastor at Glenville, Minnesota, who accepted it. On the third Sunday of Advent, 1883, he was installed in the congregation of Vilmar and has since worked in their midst. The new pastor, when he entered into his duties, recognized immediately that a good parochial school was a necessity for his growing congregation. So he taught, beside his pastoral duties, about forty children for nine years, five days weekly, from fall to Easter, in a small schoolroom 16x20x10—a task that later was an impossibility. Consequently the congregation erected in 1892, a new schoolhouse 20x36x16—again a step in the right direction, for a good parochial school is the nursery of an active congregational life. Ten years later, when the church was too small, the congregation enlarged their original church edifice with an addition of 30x48, an apsis of 12x30 and a steeple of 10x10x86. In the steeple was placed a bell, weighing 2,000 pounds. The interior of the church was furnished with a Gothic altar, pulpit and pipe

organ. In 1906, the parsonage was enlarged and the latest improvement is a roomy basement under the church for a heating plant.

Besides the church property the congregation owns two cemeteries. The whole property of the congregation represents a value of \$14,000. At present the congregation of Vilmar numbers one hundred eighteen members and six hundred souls.

FRATERNAL BODIES

Opal Lodge, No. 417, A. F. & A. M., was instituted under dispensation September 1, 1881. The charter members comprised H. Farnum, James Scofield, A. I. Smith, A. G. Fellows, I. E. Lucas, J. W. Spencer, G. M. Craig, together with the following officers: W. W. Pattee, W. M.; E. S. Thomas, S. W.; J. W. Ray, J. W.; C. H. Ilgenfritz, treasurer; J. M. Daggett, secretary; Levi Baker, S. D.; J. W. Davis, J. D.; G. M. Dopking, tyler.

At the first regular meeting held October 6, 1881, the following became members: J. K. Winsett, J. S. Riggs, George A. McIntyre, John A. Riggs, G. E. Franklin, W. A. Lathrop, Frank Baker, C. W. Levis and E. Burnham. In June, 1882, the lodge received its charter and the members were called together by A. I. Smith who was appointed by the Grand Lodge D. G. M. July 6, 1882. This meeting completed the organization and the following named officers were elected: W. W. Pattee, W. M.; E. S. Thomas, S. W.; J. W. Ray, J. W.; C. H. Ilgenfritz, treasurer; J. M. Daggett, secretary; L. Baker, S. D.; J. A. Riggs, J. D.; J. K. Winsett and C. W. Levis, stewards; Frank Baker, tyler.

This lodge has had a continuous existence from that date to the present. Its lodge room is still in the Lathrop building where its meetings are held at regular intervals.

LIEUTENANT BRADEN POST, NO. 356, G. A. R.

A post of the Grand Army of the Republic was organized in Allison in the late '80s and was named in honor of Lieut. John Braden. The post has kept up its organization and its membership in the state department to the present time although in recent years so many of the members have answered to the last roll call as finally to make it impossible to muster a sufficient number at the post headquarters to enable them to hold regular



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, VILMAR

meetings. No regular meetings have been held for a number of years past. The present membership is about ten. The commander is George M. Dopking; adjutant, L. J. Rogers.

VALLEY KING CAMP, NO. 2419, M. W. A.

The only other active fraternal organization in Allison is that of the Modern Woodmen. This organization was first formed in June, 1894, and has since that date maintained a continuous existence.

The present officers are: Geo. A. Buerkle, V. C.; F. J. Ray, secretary.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

The first bank in Allison was a private concern, organized by N. B. Ridgeway, Jeremiah Perrin and A. Slimmer, in 1881. Isaae E. Lucas was the first cashier, and continued in this position until the spring of 1882. At that time W. A. Lathrop and John W. Ray, whose term as county treasurer had just expired, became associated with the institution. The firm name was changed to Lathrop, Perrin & Company. R. E. Lucas retired as cashier and J. W. Ray took up the duties of that position. The Bank of Allison, when it first started in business, was capitalized at \$15,000. Under the change last mentioned the capitalization was \$25,000.

This partnership continued until the death of N. B. Ridgeway, at which time his interests were acquired from the estate by the surviving partner. A few years later W. A. Lathrop withdrew from the firm and started a private bank in the building now occupied by Lincoln's barber shop. Later the home of the bank was removed to the building now occupied by the postoffice. This was in 1892. Associated with Mr. Lathrop were S. N. Goodhue, George W. Wild and I. M. Fisher, who assumed the name of the Citizens Bank for the institution, and the firm name of Lathrop, Goodhue & Company. This concern continued in operation about three years, when it was sold to the Ray Banking Company. It should here be mentioned that during the existence of the Citizens Bank Herman F. Wild was its cashier.

After the retirement of Mr. Lathrop from the Bank of Allison, the firm name became Slimmer, Perrin & Company. J. W. Ray

remained as cashier and active manager until new arrangements became necessary by the dissolution of the partnership, when the firm name was changed to that of J. W. Ray & Sons. This partnership continued until the year 1901, when the members of the firm incorporated as the State Bank of Allison, with a paid-up capital of \$50,000 and a surplus of \$10,000. The first officials were: J. W. Ray, president; W. F. Ray, vice president; F. J. Ray, cashier; H. F. Wild, assistant cashier. Upon the death of J. W. Ray, on September 7, 1907, W. F. Ray was elected his successor as president; H. F. Wild, vice president; and F. J. Ray, cashier. This is the present personnel of the official staff, with the exception of the addition to it of Ernest Speedy, who was appointed assistant cashier in November, 1912. The capital stock is \$50,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$12,000; deposits as shown by the last statement, \$450,000.

When the parent bank first began doing business in Allison it made its home in a little frame building, afterwards used by the Citizens Bank, and now occupied by the postoffice. From this building the bank moved into another little frame structure, which stands immediately north of the New Allison Hotel. This was the home of the institution until 1892, when the present bank building, a two-story brick structure, was built and occupied.

The Farmers Savings Bank was organized in 1902, with a paid-up capital of \$25,000. It had for its first officials: N. B. Baldwin, president; J. C. Carter, vice president; L. E. Bourquin, cashier; A. L. Peterson, assistant cashier. The latter retired in 1904, and was succeeded by H. Folken. Mr. Baldwin was superseded in the summer of 1904 in the presidency by J. C. Carter, at which time W. R. Jamison was elected vice president. Mr. Bourquin continued as cashier until the spring of 1906, when H. Folken assumed the duties of that position and Edward Marlow became his assistant. Marlow was succeeded by Ernest Speedy in 1907. In October, 1912, the stockholders voted in favor of going into voluntary liquidation. The assets of the bank, including a modern, two-story, brick building, were taken over by the State Bank of Allison. Subsequently, the building was sold to Leo A. Spengler, who now occupies the business room as a drug store.

POSTOFFICE

The postoffice was established here in the winter of 1879-80, and was kept at the depot. J. M. Daggett, father of the station agent, Harry Daggett, was the postmaster. The office was removed to the Williams building, diagonally opposite to Burbank's corner building, in May, 1881. On the 1st of November, of that year, E. S. Thomas was appointed to preside over the office and removed it into the old office of the clerk of the court.

With the advent of a democratic administration, in 1885, S. W. Burroughs was appointed postmaster and the office moved to his drug store on the east side of Main street. Mr. Burroughs also served as postmaster during Cleveland's second term. W. J. Burbank was postmaster during the Harrison administration. At the conclusion of S. W. Burroughs' second term of office, G. Hazlet succeeded him. His successors in order are: L. J. Rogers, J. H. Hunt and the present incumbent, Andrew Mullarky, who was appointed by President Woodrow Wilson, and is the second democrat to hold this office in Allison. Since the appointment of L. J. Rogers the postoffice has been located in the old bank building on the east side of Main street.

