

6, 1833, that Barton H. Randall, a pioneer Methodist preacher from the conference of Illinois, paddled across the "Father of Waters" in an Indian canoe and in the evening of that day preached in the tavern of J. M. Harrington, the first Methodist sermon in what is now the state of Iowa.

On the 18th day of the following May, Randall organized what was then known as the "Methodist Society" and on June 1st following the first Methodist "class meeting" was held there, with Randall as the first leader.

The surrounding territory was embraced within the Illinois conference and was known as the Dubuque circuit, and on November 14th of the same year the first quarterly conference of the new circuit was held at Dubuque in a log church, with Alfred Brunson acting as presiding elder. The district over which he presided then comprised the northern parts of Illinois and Iowa without any other definite ideas as to where the boundaries were.

At the Illinois conference held in Bloomington in 1839 a new district was formed on the west of the Mississippi river, extending from the Turkey river on the north to the Missouri line on the south and as far west as any settlers had ventured to go; this was called the Iowa district and at the Illinois conference held in 1840 the district was subdivided into the Dubuque and Burlington districts, with Bartholomew Weed, presiding elder of the Dubuque district, which comprised the northern part of the state.

At the general Methodist conference held in 1844, it was ordained that the Iowa conference should be organized and to include all of Iowa territory; this was done and the Iowa conference was organized at Iowa City on August 14, 1844, with Bishop Thomas A. Morris presiding. This conference was divided into three districts, namely: Dubuque, Burlington and Des Moines districts, with what is now Fayette county being included in the Dubuque district.

The next eleven years saw quite a rapid growth in the membership and number of organizations formed, and at the conference held in Keokuk in 1855 a resolution was passed, proposing to divide the Iowa conference, and in May, 1856, the northern part of the state was set off and the Upper Iowa conference thus formed; this conference was then divided into seven districts, with Fayette county included in the Upper Iowa district, and Rev. H. S. Brunson, presiding elder.

Fayette county has since remained in the Upper Iowa conference and is divided between the Dubuque and Decorah districts of the conference; Arlington, Clermont, Maynard, Oelwein, Randalia and West Union being in the

former district, and Fayette, Hawkeye, Lima and Waucoma being in the latter. The first Methodist sermon heard in what is now Fayette county was probably preached by Simeon Clark, the pioneer Methodist preacher of Delaware county, who for a livelihood hunted bees in the timber growing along the wooded valleys in Fayette county as early as 1839.

According to the best information to be obtained, Elder Clark held religious services and preached at the "Wilcox House" about two miles southwest of the present town of Fayette, during January and February of 1844.

The first quarterly meeting held under the auspices of the Methodist organization was in a cabin on Otter creek about three miles east of West Union, during the summer of 1850, with Rev. G. B. Bowman acting as presiding elder. This meeting place was styled the "Otter Creek Mission" and the members present at this first meeting were H. S. Brunson, John Hindman, Eli Elrod, Benjamin Iliff, J. W. Foster, James Robinson and G. P. Slayton.

The first sermon preached in the county by a regularly ordained Methodist minister was delivered by Rev. John Hindman at the house of James E. Robertson near the present town of Fayette on January 9, 1850, at which time a class was organized with James E. Robertson as the class leader, a position he occupied continually for a period of over fifty years. This meeting was attended by James E. Robertson, Jane Robertson, Elizabeth Desire and Hannah Alexander, who continued to be the life of the membership until the fall of 1854 when the enrollment had grown to nineteen members.

During the summer of 1850 Rev. H. S. Brunson held services and organized a Methodist class in the old log school-house in West Union; this class consisted of Mrs. Elizabeth Cook, Mrs. Lucinda Stafford, J. W. Foster and wife, Mrs. Ellen Cruzan and G. P. Slayton. Rev. J. B. Hollingshead and Rev. Elisha Hartsough were named as the first local preachers. Rev. Hindman organized a class at Eldorado during the spring of 1850 which continued to thrive until a church was built in 1869 under the guidance of James George, Richard Dewey, James Young, George K. Eckert and Thomas Kincaid; the organization has since lapsed and the building has been abandoned.

Rev. Brunson organized a class in the school-house in Auburn during the fall of 1850 which ripened into a church organization sufficient to build a church in 1866 with Rev. Mr. Smith as pastor; this church has since been abandoned. Rev. J. R. Cameron organized a church at Elgin in 1853 with Elder Newton, Eli Elrod, C. W. Cooley and Mr. Hosmer, the first members. Samuel Connor donated a town lot and the building was completed and dedi-

cated in 1857 with F. C. Mather as pastor; this building was sold to the German Lutheran people in 1878.

Rev. Brooks went into Bethel township in 1857 and held a revival which resulted in the conversion of one hundred and ten persons; these converts, however, became separated and no church organization grew from it. Rev. H. W. Zimmerman held meetings in Fremont township and organized a church in 1857, the members being N. W. Spears and wife, James Chichester and wife and Mrs. Angeline Morehouse. After building a church in 1878, the organization has since become extinct.

It is impossible in the length of this article to give the names of all the men and women who have labored and sacrificed for the welfare of the Methodist church in Fayette county. The scope covered hereby is necessarily limited to the names of the few who blazed the pathway and laid the foundations. in an early day, and its county history is so entwined with the growth and development of the various communities and the county as a whole, and the spirit of Methodism has so permeated every effort to advance the best interests of the people in their social, moral, educational and religious march through the years, that it is almost impossible to distinguish between the two, and a comprehensive history of the one might well be a thorough record of the other.

As a rule, the first classes organized and the first services were held in the cabins of the settlers and were conducted according to the primitive surroundings of the early days, but as the log school-houses were built, the meetings were usually transferred to those places, where meetings were held each Sunday. As soon as the settlers grew in numbers and were prosperous enough to warrant it, the more enthusiastic ones in the community undertook the task of erecting church buildings and practically every settled community in the county, at one time or another, built a Methodist church.

The first one of these churches was built in West Union in 1853 under the leadership of Dr. Levi Fuller, C. R. Bent, J. S. Brewer and Rev. J. R. Cameron; a parsonage was erected in West Union in 1855, but was burned in 1859. A more elaborate church building was completed in 1868, at a cost of eight thousand dollars, which stood until 1901 when the present magnificent brick building was dedicated, at a cost of fifteen thousand dollars. The first church at Lima was dedicated in 1857, but has since been sold. The church at Fayette was dedicated January 7, 1877, at a cost of seven thousand eight hundred dollars. During the same year a two-thousand-dollar church was dedicated at Maynard, which still stands. Brush Creek (now Arlington)

dedicated a two-thousand-dollar building during the same year, which was destroyed by a cyclone in 1884. Another building was erected at once and a large addition built on it in 1902, making the cost of the present church amount to about six thousand dollars. In 1891 a church was built at Oelwein costing five thousand dollars, but the rapid growth of the city and the increase in the number and needs of the members made it necessary to seek larger quarters, and in 1908 a magnificent brick edifice costing thirty-five thousand dollars was completed and dedicated.

The following is a list of the present active churches in the county with salaries paid ministers, value of church property, membership and Sunday school enrollment, to-wit:

Church.	Salary.	Member-	Value Church	Sunday School
Arlington .....	\$ 840	201	\$10,500	175
Clermont .....	700	101	4,000	90
Fayette .....	1,500	400	13,000	200
Hawkeye .....	650	93	4,800	82
Lima .....	200	35	.....	...
Maynard .....	800	147	6,200	150
Oelwein .....	1,200	334	38,000	250
Randalia .....	490	95	3,500	75
Waucoma .....	750	85	3,800	100
West Union .....	1,200	319	21,000	176

The names of the ministers occupying the pulpits in the various churches during the year beginning with September, 1910, are as follows: Arlington, W. W. Soule; Clermont, J. H. Graham; Fayette, G. H. Kennedy; Hawkeye, E. R. Leach; Lima, O. J. Felter; Maynard, E. R. Leaman; Randalia, A. E. Kerneham; Waucoma, R. W. Luce; West Union, L. A. Swisher.

## PRESBYTERIANISM IN FAYETTE COUNTY.

By Hon. Carl Evans.

The story of Presbyterianism in Fayette county may very appropriately be introduced with a brief history of the church in general.

The name Presbyterian is given to those churches the members of which believe that the government of the church by means of presbyters is founded on and agreeable to the word of God. They hold that presbyter (elder) and bishop are different names for the same ecclesiastical functionary; that, consequently, every presbyter is a bishop, and on a footing of equality with his other brethren in the eldership. Presbyters are divided into two classes—teaching and ruling elders. The former are popularly called “ministers,” the latter “elders,” but, theoretically, both hold spiritual office. The government is by means of four courts of judicature, rising consecutively in dignity and authority. The lowest, called the session, rules over the congregation in all spiritual matters, while finance, being deemed more secular, is relegated to deacons. Above the session is the presbytery. Above this again is the synod for a certain district. Highest of all is the general assembly. A Presbyterian denomination stands to an Episcopal one nearly in the same relation as a republic to a monarchy.

The Waldensian church was constituted on an essentially presbyterian model. The system was partially introduced into Switzerland in 1541, and its discipline was subsequently carried out by Calvin with iron firmness at Geneva. The first French synod met at Paris in 1559 and the first Dutch synod at Dort in 1574. The Hungarian and various other continental Protestant churches are also Presbyterian. The system thoroughly rooted itself in Scotland, the first general assembly being held there in 1560. The same year a presbytery was formed in Ireland, at Carrickfergus, and in 1572 one in England, at Wandsworth. In 1646-7 the church of England was reconstituted on a presbyterian basis, but in 1660 was again made episcopal. The clergymen who had to leave the English church because of the Act of Uniformity were mainly Presbyterians. Some of the congregations which they founded, though retaining the name Presbyterian, abandoned that form of government. The great mass of the British and American Presbyterians are strongly Trinitarian. They hold the Bible to be the sole rule of belief, and the Confession of Faith their chief, or their only, human standard.

Presbyterianism in the United States is a reproduction and further development of Presbyterianism in Europe. The earliest Presbyterian emigra-

tion consisted of French Huguenots who came to the Carolinas and Florida in 1562 and 1565. The Huguenots also settled in Nova Scotia in 1604 and the same sect later mingled with the Dutch in New York and the British Presbyterians and Episcopalians of New England.

From 1620 on, English Puritanism colonized New England, and this was of the two types which developed from the discussions of the Westminster Assembly into Presbyterianism and Congregationalism. A few years later Presbyterians from Ireland also appeared, and from that time on the growth of the church was rapid.

During the war of the Revolution the Presbyterian churches suffered heavily. The ministers and people, with scarcely an exception, entered upon the struggle of constitutional liberty with all their souls. The Presbyterians exerted great influence in the construction of the Constitution of the United States, and the government of the church was assimilated in no slight degree to the civil government of the country.

The church made steady growth through the years, though differences crept in as to polity and government. A great and widespread revival marked the opening years of the century, resulting in marvelous increase of zeal and numbers. A curious feature of this same revival spirit was the fact that over it there were brought into existence two factions, the revivalists and the anti-revivalists. During the years prior to the Civil war various other questions arose which caused dissension and separation, and eventually the three great divisions, Presbyterian, Southern Presbyterian and Cumberland Presbyterian, were formed.

The Cumberland Presbyterian church was formed from the Cumberland presbytery of Kentucky and Tennessee in 1810, and is moderately Calvinistic in its doctrines. The Presbyterian church in America was constituted doctrinally in 1729, by the adoption of the Westminster Catechisms and Confession. In 1838 the New School branch seceded in consequence of its opposition to the strict construction of the standards, the abrogation of the Plan of Union, and the employment of church boards instead of voluntary societies in carrying on benevolent and mission work. In 1860 the Southern Presbyterian church withdrew as a consequence of the secession of the Southern states. By the reunion of the Old School and the New School branches, in 1870, on the "standards pure and simple," the "Presbyterian Church in the United States of America" was constituted as it now exists.

Presbyterianism is both a faith and a form, for each of which it claims scriptural precedent and sanction. The apostolic churches were served by three classes, elders, deacons and evangelists, or missionaries, the latter be-

coming later settled ministers. With this fact in view, it maintains the parity of the gospel ministry in opposition to every form of prelacy, and discards the doctrine of "apostolic succession." That the ministers are all simply brethren, and Christ alone their Master.

Presbyterianism teaches that any number of Christian people, meeting statedly for public worship and the orderly celebration of the Christian sacraments, and covenanting together for these ends, is a particular church, and dependent on no specific order of men above it for leave to be and to do. But, in the constitution and care of these churches, Presbyterianism avails itself of the advantages of a representative form of government, and, recognizing the church as a great commonwealth, it aims, by means of approved formulas of faith and order, to bring its detached parts into an organized union. Its faith is based simply and solely on the word of God, and is a broad yet firm stand for those things which they believe are most nearly in harmony with the Gospels.

The system claims for itself, and rightfully, a large-hearted catholicity. It extends the right hand of fellowship to all communions that profess the faith, and hold to the headship, of Christ, and most cordially does it co-operate with Christian people of every name in giving the Bible to the world and in every good work for the purification and elevation of our common humanity.

The American Presbyterian churches have always been characterized by a zeal for missions, and wherever the gospel is preached in foreign lands, there are found earnest and faithful missionaries sent out by the great Presbyterian church.

In educational matters the church has always stood in the front ranks and some of the strongest and most influential educational institutions in this country are supported and controlled by the Presbyterian church. With the great idea in view that "all knowledge leads to truth and all truth leads to God," the church has put forth great expenditures of time and money in founding and fostering schools, of every grade from academy to university, which have been, and are still instruments of inestimable influence in elevating the human race, through correct education. The church has maintained the position that collegiate education, while it should be broad and liberal, should at the same time be filled with Christian idea and the Christian spirit, recognizing thus the prime fact that all truth, natural as well as revealed, has its source and end in God. The great educational institutions of the church stand indeed as bulwarks against the winds and tides which are blowing and drifting men from truth and life to the shores of error and death, and they stand, on broad and deep foundations, fitting temples of literature and science,

conceived of in their highest forms and widest reach, and ennobled and glorified by the pervading presence and power of religion.

The church is today, more than ever, thoroughly organized for effective work, having its boards and commissions, through which it operates in advancing the work of missions at home and abroad, in the building of churches, in the publication and diffusing of church and denominational literature, in providing for the relief of its aged and infirm ministry, and in promoting the work of educating its children, and in training a godly and scholarly ministry for its pulpits and missions. The church has co-operated freely with all the prominent reforms of the age and is rightfully numbered today among the great religious denominations of the world, and as a part of the visible body of Christ it steadily holds on its way, and is grandly contributing to the great work of winning the world for Christ.

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For many years the Presbyterian element in and around West Union had no church of their order. The first attempt to plant a Presbyterian church was made by the United Presbyterians; but this failed. Some time after this, a petition to the presbytery of Dubuque, in connection with the general assembly of the Presbyterian church in the United States of America, was presented, asking for the organization of a church in West Union. The following extract is made from the records of the presbytery of Dubuque, at a meeting held at Littleton, Iowa, April 25, 1867:

"A petition signed by twenty-five persons, of whom nineteen are church members, was presented, asking for the organization of a church of our order at West Union, in Fayette county, Iowa. Jesse Philips, of that place, was heard by the presbytery in behalf of the petitioners. It was therefore resolved that the request be granted, and that a committee of three be appointed to organize a church at West Union, if the way be clear, at their earliest convenience. Revs. J. McKean, J. D. Caldwell and Elder S. F. Glenn were appointed said committee."

This committee met in West Union, June 19, 1867. A sermon was preached by Rev. Caldwell, and was followed immediately by the organization of the church. Only eleven persons joined at this meeting. These original members were the following: Nathan Shaw, Eleanor Shaw, Lovica J. Bell, Elizabeth H. Shaw, Rebecca H. Shaw, Wm. Selder, Jesse Philips, Nancy A. Philips, E. M. Campbell and Mary J. Irvin. Nathan Shaw and Jesse Philips were elected as ruling elders, and immediately ordained and installed with appropriate ceremonies.

But the church was yet without a house to worship in or a pastor to direct their devotions. In the autumn, however, the latter want was supplied. Rev. J. W. Dickey was called from Ohio, to take charge of the newly formed church, and this proved the beginning of a long pastorate. Mr. Dickey was not, however, installed until November 5, 1868.

From the spring of 1868 to the fall of 1869 the old Methodist Episcopal church was used. This was purchased by the Presbyterian society and occupied for three months, but was finally deserted, and services were held in the court house till January, 1871. In the meantime the society had been busy building a church edifice worthy of the worship of God. The building committee was composed of Messrs. E. B. Shaw and L. Fuller, M. D., who superintended the work. The result was a very good brick structure, with commodious and comfortable appointments. It was well suited in every way for the purpose designed, and exceedingly neat and tasteful in appearance. The cost of this house was only four thousand five hundred dollars. The building was dedicated with appropriate services, in January, 1871. The sermon was preached by Rev. D. Russell, of Manchester. From that time, the church has had a name to live. It has had a home, and around that home have gathered many pleasant memories.

The pastoral relations of the Rev. J. W. Dickey with this people, which had been so long maintained, were finally severed April 18, 1876, at a meeting of the presbytery held in Dubuque. Thus the critical period of the church's history—the formation and moulding of its character—was in the hands of this servant of God. For nine years he held the reins and guided the church successfully, as long experience had taught him. The church owes much to the faithful labors of this, its first and, so far, only pastor duly installed.

Rev. Mr. Dickey was succeeded by Rev. D. Russell, who had charge for one year, but was never installed. He served from May, 1876, to May, 1877. The prosperity of the church still continued and many were attracted to the preaching of Mr. Russell. He was followed by Rev. W. O. Ruston, immediately, who served the church as its pastor for more than eight years. During his ministry special attention was given to the benevolent work of the church, more than one hundred and twenty-five dollars having been sent to the support of our boards in one year. Dr. Ruston having accepted a call to the First Presbyterian church of Dubuque, Rev. J. F. Hinkhouse served the church as stated supply for three years. In April, 1889, a call was placed in his hands, which he declined. Mr. Hinkhouse was an enthusiast in the cause

of missions, and he put forth many efforts along that line while here. To Mrs. Hinkhouse's ability as an organizer is due the Mission Band of Willing Workers. Rev. Samuel Hodge, D. D., succeeded Rev. Hinkhouse, beginning his work with Bethel church September 1, 1889. He entered this field with enthusiasm and a fervent desire for the upbuilding of Zion in this little "city set on a hill." Dr. Hodge's ministry was cut short in a little more than two years. "Home" was the theme of the last sermon he preached to his people. He was nearer home than he thought. Eight days afterwards, on January 4, 1892, he passed through the gates and found rest at "Home."

The church, bereft of its minister, and struggling with its burdens, remained for more than a year without a pastor. During that time the Sunday school and Mission Band met regularly, and a Christian Endeavor society was organized by Dr. W. H. Simmons.

Rev. W. W. Lewis came February 1, 1893, from the Congregational church. For the upbuilding of Presbyterianism in West Union at that time, no better plan could have been devised than that proposed and carried out by Mr. Lewis. The old church building was remodeled and a dining room and kitchen added at an expense of about six thousand dollars, the congregation meeting in Zeigler Hall during the repairs. November 19, 1893, when the beautiful new church was dedicated, was a glad day in the history of Bethel church.

Rev. J. Dyk succeeded Mr. Lewis as stated supply, remaining until March 1, 1896. During that year occurred the death of the two first elders of the church, Messrs. Nathan Shaw and Jesse Philips.

The installation of Rev. Noel occurred May 19, 1896.

#### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF OELWEIN.

This church grew out of the old disbanded United Presbyterian church organized in 1875. Dubuque presbytery being petitioned in the spring of 1885, the field was investigated, and a commission appointed, consisting of Rev. W. M. Robinson, of Coggon, Rev. W. O. Ruston, of West Union, and Elder J. E. Cook, of Independence, to organize the church. Tuesday, December 1, 1885, this commission met in the parlor of C. E. Redfield, at seven o'clock P. M. Edward A. McDonald presented a letter of dismission from St. Andrew's Presbyterian church, Toronto, Ontario, and Mrs. E. A. McDonald one from the Presbyterian church of Allison, Ontario. C. E. Redfield was then received by letter from the United Presbyterian church of Oelwein. Mrs. Redfield came from First Presbyterian church of Fairbank, Iowa. Mr.

and Mrs. George Jamison and Mrs. Sarah E. White were received on profession of their faith, Mrs. White also receiving baptism. The organization was then perfected and given the name of the First Presbyterian church of Oelwein, Iowa. Messrs. E. A. McDonald and Charles E. Redfield were elected elders. The old United Presbyterian church building, which stood where the Central high school stood, was secured and moved to the present site.

For the first ten years the church was ministered to by stated supplies, as follows: Rev. Daniel Russell, Rev. Meyer, Rev. H. C. Herring, Rev. Krotzer, Rev. Noel and Rev. Lewis serving the young church in a most acceptable manner. Growing in members, the church in 1895 extended a call to Rev. Samuel Conybear, who ministered until December, 1900. Rev. James M. Wilson was called March, 1901, and served until February, 1905. In April, 1905, a call was extended to Rev. Arnold Moody, who accepted and ministered most acceptably until March, 1909. Rev. Nichol was called in April, 1909, and installed during May. He now serves this field.

#### CLERMONT.

The Presbyterian church was organized February 28, 1859. Its first deacons were Alexander Fay, Ebenezer Hyde and A. G. Collins; first trustees, F. Stedman, E. D. Button and A. J. Collins. These trustees purchased lots and built the church, which was dedicated October 11, 1863, by Rev. Charles R. French, who remained about ten years. Rev. Dickey preached for a short time, but the society, by death and removal, became so small, that no more services were held for a time.

#### MAYNARD.

The First Presbyterian church of Maynard was organized August 12, 1877, by Rev. A. K. Baird, from Wyoming, Iowa. The first pastor was Rev. McMullen. The corner stone of the Presbyterian church at Maynard was laid on Saturday, September 29, 1877. The edifice cost about two thousand dollars.

The Presbyterian churches of Fayette county have always occupied an important place in the communities, and they have had through the years a definite and potential influence for the uplifting of the people and the maintaining of a high moral standard. Its pulpits have been filled by men of abil-

ity and zeal, who have honored the several communities of their residence. The church has kept in the vanguard of progress and keeps pace in all good work with the other religious denominations of the county.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### FREEMASONRY IN FAYETTE COUNTY.

By D. W. Clements, Grand Master of Masons in Iowa.

Many of the early settlers in the territory of Iowa belonged to the fraternity of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, but the sparsely settled condition of the country was not favorable to the early formation of lodges.

Des Moines Lodge, located at Burlington, was the first lodge organized within the territory. It received its dispensation from the grand master of Masons in Missouri, on November 20, 1840. Iowa Lodge was next organized at Bloomington (now Muscatine) under a like dispensation, on February 4, 1841. The third lodge was Dubuque, located at Dubuque, and received its dispensation October 10, 1842. The fourth and last lodge organized under dispensation from the grand master of Missouri was Iowa City Lodge, located at Iowa City, which received its dispensation October 10, 1842.

These four lodges joined in organizing the grand lodge of Iowa, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, at Iowa City, on January 2, 1844, and from that time all the lodges organized in Iowa received their first authority from the grand master of Masons in Iowa, and, at the present time, there are five hundred and twenty active working lodges within the commonwealth.

In Fayette county a lodge was organized soon after the first settlement was established. Its early settlers felt the need of a closer bond of brotherhood and organized a lodge as soon as there was a settlement sufficiently large to warrant an effort in that direction.

#### WEST UNION LODGE NO. 69.

West Union Lodge No. 69, of West Union, Iowa, is the pioneer lodge of the county and has been in existence for more than fifty-five years, a period so long that there are not at the present time any of the charter members living. It was established at West Union on March 3, 1855, by the dispensation of George Acheson, right worshipful deputy grand master of Masons in Iowa, during the active formative period of Masonry in the new state. Twenty-three dispensations for new lodges were granted during that Masonic year and was followed by a like number of dispensations during the following year.

The grand lodge then met on the first Tuesday in June and the dispensation to West Union Lodge, U. D., was granted so late in the Masonic year that no returns were made by it to the succeeding grand lodge communication. From the returns made in June, 1856, we learn that the first officers of the lodge were as follows: C. A. Cotrell, worshipful master; J. B. Hollingshead, senior warden; John Dorland, junior warden; William McClintock, treasurer; L. C. Noble, secretary; L. Fuller, senior deacon; J. T. Goodlove, junior deacon; James Ritchie, tyler. It then had a total membership of twenty-two. The charter was granted to it on June 4, 1856.

During the Civil war, Masonry by its principles and teachings cemented a closer bond of brotherhood between its members in the Union service, and also aided in mitigating some of the rigors and barbarism of warfare. These facts added to its inculcation of benevolence, greatly increased the popularity of the institution and brought postulants to its altars, and thereby enabled the Masonic lodges to continue their existence, notwithstanding the great depreciation in active membership, caused by absence of the soldiers at the front and the great mortality there. West Union Lodge during this period continued to keep up its organization and held its meetings. On December 31, 1908 (the date of last report), it had one hundred and eleven members in good standing. The present officers are: R. F. Dewey, worshipful master; G. G. Archer, senior warden; C. J. McLaughlin, junior warden; W. J. Rogers, treasurer; J. O. Elwing, secretary; C. B. Hughes, senior deacon; A. R. Burrett, junior deacon; T. J. Wonneberg, senior steward; H. M. Stafford, junior steward; A. Titus, tyler.

#### CLERMONT LODGE NO. 160.

Clermont Lodge No. 160, Clermont, Iowa, was formed under a dispensation from James R. Hartsock, grand master of Masons in Iowa, given April 18, 1860. The lodge then had a total membership of nine, and the officers were as follows: Charles Sawyer, worshipful master; R. B. Appleman, senior warden; P. G. Wright, junior warden; Orrin Hough, treasurer; A. D. Miller, secretary; J. B. Hough, senior deacon; William Alvey, junior deacon; Thomas Alvey, tyler.

It received its charter June 4, 1861. It began its career at the beginning of the Civil war, with but two members more than enough for a quorum, and the value of its precepts were tested in the trying times that followed and were not found wanting.

This lodge has just passed its semi-centennial anniversary, having been

in existence for more than fifty years. The writer had a personal acquaintance with many of the old settlers who were pioneer workers in this lodge. In it he was initiated, passed and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason.

This lodge has experienced many changes of fortune. On December 31, 1908, its total membership was reduced to thirteen members in good standing. Its present officers are: William Larrabee, Jr., worshipful master; Fred Heckel, senior warden; Frank Shipton, junior warden; B. C. Gruver, treasurer; Frank Frisbie, secretary; L. R. Walker, senior deacon; C. F. Weck, junior deacon; C. G. Houg, senior steward; H. M. Knodt, junior steward; E. P. Erickson, tyler.

#### YORK LODGE NO. 202.

York Lodge No. 202, Fairfield (Taylorsville), now located at Arlington, Fairfield township, Iowa, received its dispensation on December 18, 1866, from Reuben Mickel, grand master. It began with a membership of fourteen and the first officers were: S. P. White, worshipful master; Hiram German, senior warden; Charles Herriman, junior warden; S. R. Rice, treasurer; Peter White, secretary; Peter Kuny, senior deacon; Stephen Seward, junior deacon; Charles Glidden, tyler.

The lodge was chartered on June 5, 1867, and with the local community prospered for many years. Recently, because of deaths and removals, the membership was somewhat reduced, but during the past year there has been a revival of interest. On December 31, 1908, it had twenty-eight members in good standing. The present officers are: E. S. Taylor, worshipful master; B. B. Walrath, senior warden; George M. Simpson, junior warden; J. A. Blanchard, treasurer; Floyd Finney, secretary; D. J. Gallaher, senior deacon; G. M. Brown, junior deacon; W. F. Lake, senior steward; O. R. Hutchison, junior steward; O. A. Phillips, tyler.

#### PLEIADES LODGE NO. 248.

Pleiades Lodge No. 248, Fayette, Iowa, was organized the year following the organization of York Lodge. It received its dispensation October 10, 1868, from Reuben Mickel, grand master. Its first report, made in June, 1869, shows a total membership of twenty-nine. The first officers were: Thomas Fowells, worshipful master; William Morras, senior warden; M. C. Sperry, junior warden; J. Rhoades, treasurer; John Sanborn, secretary;

S. Hendrickson, senior deacon; John Hawn, junior deacon; Joseph L. Granis, senior steward; D. C. Crittenden, junior steward; Job L. White, tyler.

The lodge received its charter on June 2, 1869. While the membership of this lodge has never been large, it has not suffered the periods of fluctuation that has come to other lodges during the changeable times of the last half century. The leading men of Fayette and its vicinity, including some of the most talented men connected with the university located there, have been enrolled among its members.

On December 31, 1908, it had sixty-three members in good standing. The present officers are: E. C. Hill, worshipful master; E. N. Humiston, senior warden; Charles Scobey, junior warden; F. S. Walker, senior deacon; George Bronn, junior deacon; G. B. Hill, treasurer; E. N. Hartman, secretary; C. M. Swartley, senior steward; A. Fox, junior steward; J. G. Crubaugh, tyler.

#### STANDARD LODGE NO. 351.

Standard Lodge No. 351, Waucoma, Iowa, was given a dispensation April 6, 1875, by Joseph Chapman, grand master. It then had ten members and its first officers were: A. P. Fowler, worshipful master; W. E. Bender, senior warden; Linus Fox, junior warden; James Miller, treasurer; Henry Felker, secretary; O. B. Dodd, senior deacon; William Miller, junior deacon; Robert Patterson, senior steward; Voltaire Johnson, junior steward; John Lawrence, tyler.

This lodge has prospered with the community in which it is located; it has attracted to itself the leading men of the vicinity and at last report had sixty members in good standing. Its present officers are: Charles Cochran, worshipful master; F. B. Reed, senior warden; E. H. Mumby, junior warden; L. C. Stone, senior deacon; James Torvell, junior deacon; O. B. Dodd, treasurer; J. M. Burnside, secretary; B. I. Bright, senior steward; E. E. Hobby, junior steward; Chris Willman, tyler.

#### HEBRON LODGE NO. 374.

Hebron Lodge No. 374, Oelwein, Iowa, was organized soon after the town was established. On March 4, 1876, it received its dispensation from Henry W. Rothert, grand master, who is now the superintendent of the Iowa School for the Deaf, located at Council Bluffs, Iowa. It began with a membership of ten and its first officers were: S. C. Kenyon, worshipful master; B. Davis, senior warden; W. V. Irvine, junior warden; D. O. Hill, treasurer;

W. E. Davis, secretary; L. Traas, senior deacon; W. I. Miller, junior deacon; W. I. Potter, senior steward; N. James, junior steward; A. J. Miller, tyler.

The lodge received its charter June 5, 1877. At the time the lodge was organized, Oelwein was a small village, merely a station on the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Minnesota railway (now a part of the Rock Island system). Since that time the Chicago Great Western railway has been constructed, with its four divisions centering at Oelwein. The shops have been constructed, many men have been employed and Oelwein has grown to be a city of about seven thousand inhabitants, the metropolis of Fayette county, and the membership of the lodge has kept pace with the increased prosperity of the locality. It is now the largest lodge in the county and in December, 1908, had one hundred and twenty-nine members in good standing. Its present officers are: A. E. Cooley, worshipful master; H. D. Simons, senior warden; G. L. Thompson, junior warden; G. W. Jamison, treasurer; R. B. Jamison, secretary; E. E. Krider, senior deacon; J. K. Shields, junior deacon; R. J. Young, senior steward; J. T. Ridler, junior steward; Peter Frost, tyler.

#### SUNNYSIDE LODGE NO. 510.

Sunnyside Lodge No. 510, located at Maynard, Iowa, received its dispensation June 16, 1890, from James DeKalb Gamble, grand master, then and now a resident of Knoxville and one of the able district judges of the state. The total membership was sixteen and its officers were: H. S. Hadsel, worshipful master; T. M. White, senior warden; Orrin Barnes, junior warden; R. R. Pember, treasurer; Emery Frost, secretary; W. S. Brown, senior deacon; A. Van Atta, junior deacon; W. S. Smarzo, senior steward; J. W. Rathbone, junior steward; J. E. Smith, tyler.

The growth of this lodge has been steady. In December, 1908, it had fifty-two members, a large number for a town the size of Maynard, but it is an active business point. The present officers are: W. H. Seeley, worshipful master; A. L. Evans, senior warden; Dr. A. E. Conrad, junior warden; J. C. Mears, treasurer; K. W. Buell, secretary; M. V. White, senior deacon; C. B. Bracey, junior deacon; Chas. Miehle, tyler.

#### SILVER LEAF LODGE NO. 518.

Silver Leaf Lodge No. 518, Elgin, Iowa, began its existence under a dispensation issued to it September 23, 1891, by Ralph Gurley Phelps, grand master. Its membership then was seventeen, nearly all of them former mem-

bers of Clermont Lodge No. 160, that lodge being only about three miles distant. The fact that a dispensation was given for a lodge so close to a lodge already chartered is proof of the activity and Masonic standing of the brethren who secured the dispensation for this lodge and bears testimony to the increased importance of the village of Elgin. The first officers were: C. Theo Schmid, worshipful master; Joseph Butler, senior warden; August Benson, junior warden; S. Thoma, treasurer; August A. Stoechr, secretary; L. B. Mattoon, senior deacon; A. Ely, junior deacon; P. Nicklaus, senior steward; R. W. Helms, junior steward; H. Holzer, tyler.

The lodge has steadily increased in membership and on December 31, 1908, had fifty members in good standing. The Masonic activity of the members of this lodge is also attested by the fact that Unity Chapter No. 62, Royal Arch Masons, is located here. Its present officers are: C. J. Harrington, worshipful master; J. H. Williams, senior warden; Jos. Burianek, junior warden; C. Lehman, treasurer; C. Theo. Schmidt, secretary; C. F. Becker, senior deacon; F. E. Kohler, junior deacon; J. C. Schmidt, senior steward; Alf A. Holzer, junior steward; N. Schori, tyler.

#### WINDSOR LODGE NO. 542.

Windsor Lodge No. 542, located at Hawkeye, Iowa, is the youngest lodge in the county. It was granted its dispensation on July 17, 1895, by George Washington Ball, of Iowa City, grand master, and the first report shows a total membership of twenty-six. The first officers were: P. R. Ketchum, worshipful master; J. D. Dooley, senior warden; G. W. Chamberlain, junior warden; N. Jacobs, treasurer; John Shales, secretary; E. L. Wallace, senior deacon; W. H. Jacobs, junior deacon; L. A. Fisher, senior steward; J. C. Foote, junior steward; A. D. Brahman, tyler.

The lodge was chartered June 3, 1896. Hawkeye is a thriving town and the lodge membership has steadily increased so that at last report, December 31, 1908, it was thirty-eight. The present officers are: L. R. Campbell, worshipful master; R. H. Hecht, senior warden; H. P. Clark, junior warden; J. D. Dooley, treasurer; Carl Krueger, secretary; F. G. Lee, senior deacon; D. W. Hughes, junior deacon; R. W. Rogers, senior steward; C. A. Munson, junior steward; D. W. Wilbur, tyler.

#### UNITY CHAPTER NO. 62, ROYAL ARCH MASONS.

Unity Chapter No. 62, Elgin, Iowa, was organized as Clermont Chapter No. 62 and located at Clermont, Iowa. It was given its dispensation March 10, 1871, by Zephaniah C. Luce, most excellent grand high priest. It then had eleven members and the officers were: B. H. Hinkley, high priest; J. P.

Blackett, king; R. B. Appleman, scribe; C. W. D. Lathrop, principal sojourner and royal arch captain; Peter Nicklaus, grand master first veil; H. G. Clark, grand master second veil; R. S. Barclay, grand master third veil; C. F. Weck, sentinel.

It was granted its charter October 18, 1871. On July 22, 1897, at the annual convocation of the grand chapter, Royal Arch Masons, of Iowa, held at Templar Park, Spirit Lake, Clermont Chapter, on its own petition therefor, was removed to Elgin, Iowa. It then had fifty-seven members but five of whom resided at Clermont and fourteen members then resided at Elgin. At the next annual convocation of the grand chapter, held at Burlington, on its request the name was changed to Unity Chapter, the name Clermont, on account of the removal, being no longer applicable.

The present officers are: C. Theo. Schmidt, high priest; C. F. Becker, king; N. Schori, scribe; Aug. Benson, treasurer; Gus. A. Stoehr, secretary; H. S. Hadsel, captain of host; K. S. Houg, principal sojourner; Ed. Hanson, royal arch captain; Aug. Benson, master third veil; John Falb, master second veil; Jos. Burianek, master first veil; C. L. Lehman, guard.

#### ANSEL HUMPHREYS CHAPTER NO. 80, ROYAL ARCH MASONS.

Ansel Humphreys was a resident of Bloomington (now Muscatine), Iowa, and at the time of the organization of the grand lodge of Iowa. Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, was the district deputy grand master of the grand lodge of Missouri, then having jurisdiction over Iowa. He was a delegate from Iowa Lodge No. 42 (under Missouri, now No. 2, under Iowa). Bloomington, to the convention that organized the grand lodge of Iowa in January, 1844, presided over its deliberations, prepared and presented the grand lodge constitution, installed the first officers of the grand lodge and was grand master of Masons in Iowa from 1847 to 1850. It was for him Ansel Humphreys Chapter No. 80, Fayette, was named. It was given its dispensation on January 22, 1876, by Horace S. Winslow, grand high priest. It began with a membership of ten. The first officers were: J. G. Anderson, high priest; M. O. Barnes, king; D. P. A. Burgess, scribe; Daniel Davis, secretary; A. W. Crans, captain of host; Thomas Fowells, principal sojourner; S. Hendrickson, royal arch captain; George Comstock, grand master first veil; E. Gregory, grand master third veil; C. C. Kelly, sentinel.

It was given its charter October 4, 1876. The present officers are: W. E. Hunt, high priest; George McCann, king; R. F. Shirley, scribe; G. B. Hill, treasurer; E. N. Hartman, secretary; G. B. Servoss, captain of host; F. S.

Walker, principal sojourner; W. M. Rickert, royal arch captain; W. W. Comstock, grand master third veil; E. C. Hill, grand master second veil; C. D. McGoon, grand master first veil.

LANGRIDGE COMMANDERY NO. 47, KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

W. B. Langridge was the first grand recorder of the grand commandery of Iowa and held that office for more than eighteen years, a record exceeding that of any other in that body. For this reason, and at the request of the grand commander who gave the dispensation, the name Langridge was given the new commandery.

On July 26, 1884, on the petition of eleven Sir Knights, Abel W. Daugherty, right eminent grand commander, gave a dispensation to form Langridge Commandery No. 47, West Union, Iowa. Most of the petitioners had been knighted in Beauseant Commandery No. 12, Decorah, Iowa, and it gave them the necessary recommendation.

The first officers were: D. W. Clements, eminent commander; S. E. Robinson; generalissimo; A. N. Hobson, captain general; George D. Darnall, prelate; Charles F. Weck, treasurer; Samuel B. Zeigler, recorder; L. L. Ainsworth, senior warden; Harvey S. Sheldon, junior warden; J. J. Berkey, standard bearer; Voltaire W. Johnson, sword bearer; Cornelius W. Lathrop, sentinel.

It was chartered October 10, 1884, and constituted under its charter November 28, 1884. This commandery has prospered and has ranked as one of the good working commanderies of the state. Three of its members have been officers of the grand commandery of Iowa.

D. W. Clements was elected grand senior warden in 1890 and held successively the ranking offices, and was grand commander in 1894-5. E. B. Shaw, another member of this commandery, was elected grand treasurer in 1895 and 1896, and Dr. S. E. Robinson was the grand standard bearer in 1899.

On December 31, 1908, the date of the last report, it had one hundred and thirty-seven members in good standing. Its present officers are: C. F. Chambers, eminent commander; C. W. Dykins, generalissimo; William Kinsey, captain general; Fred W. Schneider, senior warden; E. A. McIlree, junior warden; R. O. Woodard, treasurer; C. B. Hughes, recorder; Karl D. Fisk, prelate; Carter Manly, standard bearer; W. W. Wright, sword bearer; W. J. Rogers, warder; A. R. Burrett, sentinel.

## ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR.

This order is not a part of the Masonic institution, but as no one is eligible to become a member unless, if a woman, she is the wife, widow, mother, sister or daughter of a Master Mason; or, if a man, he is a Master Mason in good standing, therefore, the order is closely allied to Masonry, and the following synopsis is added to the history of Masonry:

In Fayette county there are now five chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star and all in a good prosperous condition. They are active aids to the Masonic lodges of their respective localities and greatly enhance the social and benevolent features of the fraternity.

The chapters in the county are: Oelwein Chapter No. 45, at Oelwein, having a membership of one hundred and sixty-one; Maynard Chapter No. 103, at Maynard, with a membership of seventy-three; West Union Chapter No. 110, at West Union, with one hundred and twenty-one members; Elgin Chapter No. 162, at Elgin, which has forty-nine members; and Waucoma Chapter No. 186, at Waucoma, with eighty-seven members. The latter is the youngest, but not the least, of the five. It has the honor of having as a member Ida Webster, the grand treasurer of the grand chapter, Order of the Eastern Star of Iowa, which office she has held for several years. Mary A. Clements, a member of West Union Chapter No. 110, was one of the five trustees that located and built the Order of the Eastern Star Masonic Home of the State, located at Boone, and she is still a trustee of that institution.

## CHAPTER XVII.

### THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND STOCK RAISING.

By Col. J. W. Bopp.

The development of agriculture and stock raising in Fayette county is so closely connected with the subject throughout the state and nation that it is difficult to treat it as a local matter. Both these great industries were developed and interwoven with so many other lines of effort that it is difficult to treat them independently. The subject will necessarily have to be considered somewhat in the way it grew up—an independent idea at one time, an independent experiment at another time, an unlooked-for success or failure at still another time, all made part of the settlement of the county. It is necessary to take it up from the time when the covered wagon and the log cabin took the place of the tent of the Indian, and the furrow turned by the plow of the white man covered forever the path of the elk and the deer, and the sound of the white man's axe in the timber, and the plow in the field, gave warning to the wild animals that a new civilization, of which they were not to be a part, was at hand. It meant a wonderful change from the native grass, with its vast variety of flowers and shrubs, and the native timber, with its stately trees and lovely vines, to the fields of grain and meadows, and planted groves and of a new kind of habitation and new methods by those who were to occupy the land. There is scarcely a foot of land in Fayette county which is in all respects as it was in the day when the first settler moved in. A large portion of native plants and flowers and shrubs have completely disappeared under the work of the white man. At the time of the first settler the methods for opening up and improving a new country were different from those of this time, and their methods and habits, long since discarded for those of greater efficiency, seem very crude to the new generation. There was much timidity and a great deal of uncertainty for those who were the pioneers. They were almost all poor, with possibly an ox team and a cow or two, and much later a few hogs and sheep. The ox team was nearly universal, probably as much on account of the ability of the ox to get his own living from the native grass, as from the fact that an ox team was much cheaper than a horse team. Many of the early

settlers depended for their subsistence largely on the killing of game, and the cultivation of the land was only attempted in a small way. A very few acres, for the first few years, was enough for the farmer to prepare for crops, but it has gradually increased, though it was many years after log cabins had been built and small clearings made in the timber near water and other necessities, before they could adapt themselves to the changing conditions. Nearly all the first settlers built their cabins near springs, where they could get wood and water, and where their log cabins could be built without much effort. At that time they thought the prairies would probably never be cultivated, on account of the lack of fuel and material for fences. No one dreamed of coal and barbed wire, and such an increase in the population as would make good roads and towns and homes out on the open prairies. Many of these improvements could not be foreseen, and it is a fact that a large proportion of the claims were taken and houses built in parts of the county which are now regarded as the most undesirable. Entirely different factors controlled the selection of a homestead at that time than would be thought of now; but through all the years from that time to the present, agriculture has been the principal occupation of the people of the county, the source of practically all its material advancement, and the base of all its industries and occupations. Advancement was very slow for many years, with little change in methods and, in the light of later events, with but little actual improvement.

Among the pioneers were many foreigners, entirely unacquainted with the development of a new county and not familiar with the methods of farming in use by those from older sections of the country. Many of them could not speak the English language, and many others came from occupations in the East which had not developed their ability as farmers to any great extent.

However, there was one good result from this mixing of the foreigner and the native, and that was the melting together of the many strange elements into one solid community with similar hopes, facing similar hardships and risking similar dangers. There was always enough of the native American to map out and establish schools and churches, and to take an active leadership in the establishment of civil government, in harmony with the general aim of the state and nation. There has never been any part of the county in which these laws and customs were not readily taken up and adopted, and there has never been very much built upon foreign ideals and customs. The pioneers were all, of necessity, friendly with each other, and soon grew to be one community; and while they did not all try to work at similar problems in a similar way, there was a gradual elimination of that which was found unsuited and unprofitable, and the success of one was taken as a guide by the others in the

adoption of new methods and new machinery. The early machinery was nearly all home-made, and most of the early crops were put in with the old three-cornered wooden harrow, with wooden teeth. Plows were largely the product of the local blacksmith, and most of the wagons were made by some of the pioneers themselves. There was an entire absence of all the vast supply of improved machinery (as we know it now), and to this was due much of the slowness with which the pioneers seemed to develop their farms. Many of them did not break up more than ten or fifteen acres for the first ten years of their settlement, and all this was fenced with the old-style rail fence, laid up from the ground, which meant a great deal of work. The early crops consisted largely of wheat and a little oats, and later some corn. The same elements in the soil which produced wonderful crops of wheat and oats were against the successful raising of corn and the cultivated grasses and clover. It was not until after farmers had raised wheat for a number of years that corn and tame grass began to do fairly well. For quite a number of years all the grain and all the hay were cut with the cradle and the scythe, and the little corn that was raised was plowed with a single-shovel plow. The double-shovel plow and the reaper came in about the same time and were looked upon as wonderful inventions. It is probably no exaggeration to say, that the double-shovel plow increased the number of acres planted to corn and that the introduction of the hand-rake reaper increased the amount of small grain sown several times over. Before the introduction of the reaper, the pioneer settler did not sow a very large acreage of small grain and did not plant a very large acreage of corn or potatoes. There was not so much of the disadvantage of not keeping everlastingly at the farm work as developed in later years. Farmers were much more given to visiting among themselves, and often took their whole families to visit with their neighbor for the day. The habit of visiting by the pioneers also did a great deal toward making the neighbors harmonious and agreeable. It was not so much a question of becoming rapidly rich, as it was a question of having something to eat and a place to live. For the first few years the little surplus in the crops raised was disposed of to the new neighbors, and after the country had so far settled up that there was an additional surplus beyond the local needs, it was hauled by team to McGregor or Dubuque. A trip at that time occupied from three to four days, sometimes more, and the wife and children often kept a lonely cabin, while the stock or the grain was taken to mill or to the market. At that time the wolves were plentiful and aggressive, and were not afraid to come up to the buildings. Many of the early settlers had moved from villages and cities in the older countries and were not accustomed to staying in the old log cabin through the

storms of winter, and the absence of the men folks in the summer days certainly was no pleasing matter for the pioneer women with their families of small children. They were often several miles from any other habitation, and alone in their cabins while their husbands went to mill or to market. Sacrifices like these were part of the price paid for the development of agriculture and stock raising in this county.

After the introduction of the harvester and mower, and a few other pieces of machinery, such as improved corn plows and seeders, the great question was the fencing of the land. All the stock at that time was fenced out, and all the fields had to be fenced in. That made the timber land unusually valuable, and many pieces were held with the idea that it would soon be worth one hundred dollars per acre, and possibly much more. Fortunately for those who did not live in or near the timber at that time, barbed wire was invented, and gradually came into general use. But the smooth wire fence preceded barbed wire by many years. The first wire fencing of this variety which was sold in the county for fencing purposes was sold at eighteen cents per pound, but notwithstanding the high price, it was at once recognized as being far superior to the smooth wire, rails and posts, and the other old-style fences, and most of the new fence was built of that material. The barbed wire gradually took the place of the old wooden fences and plain wire, and now it is being superseded by woven wire and wooden posts. When cement posts have taken the place of the wooden posts, as they undoubtedly will in the near future, the ideal fence conditions will have been achieved. Many people tried willow hedges, and a few tried the Osage orange, none of which has been a success for general fencing purposes. The fence problem was now largely improved, and the reaper and mower made the prairie lands profitable and helped settle up the country, which added very largely to the population and the wealth of the county. A great factor in the development of the prairie farms was the invention of the self-rake reaper, and shortly after that the Marsh harvester, on which two men could do the same work that five had done after the old hand rake, and after a few years the invention of the wire self binder, which was shortly after succeeded by the present twine binder. This also did a vast amount toward developing the county.

It was only a few years after the invention of the twine binder, that wheat, which had been the principal crop, was no longer found profitable, and the failure of wheat made a very decided impression on the agriculture of the county. A large proportion of the farmers had built up everything about their places with the view to raising wheat and oats, and when these failed they were unable to adapt themselves to the changed conditions. Hundreds

of farmers lost their places and moved on to Kansas and Nebraska and other portions of the newer west, to try the same experience the second time. Those who held their places, and those who stayed here were compelled to change their entire system of farming, and seeded down large portions of their farms to clover and timothy; raised cattle and horses, increased their corn fields, raised hogs and developed the dairy industry, and abandoned the wheat field, with its numerous disappointments. These changes gradually came in about 1870, and the vast stretches of land which formerly produced nothing but wheat are not producing a bushel for local milling purposes today. The change from wheat to live stock, in a great many cases, was ruinous, on account of the large number of farmers who were unable to adopt the new method. They were grain farmers only, and had never paid any attention to stock and dairying.

About this time the Grange movement was introduced into the county, and for a time was a large factor in its social, political and business affairs.

It was in the nature of a hard-time movement, and when farming had been re-adjusted on the new basis, the Grange gradually died out. But it had brought about a mingling of farmers at Grange meetings, and with it the discussion of methods of farming and stock raising which had a large influence for good in teaching newer and better methods. About this time a few pioneer dairymen conceived the idea of a co-operative plan for handling their butter and milk. This dragged along for a few years, not giving very good success or results, largely from a lack of knowledge of the best methods for handling dairy products and of the machinery for handling milk and butter. These gradually developed into profitable enterprises, and new creameries were constantly built, until this county was one of the leading counties in the state in the production and shipment of butter and cheese. The cream checks made a secure source of income for current expenses, and the former method of running store bills and other accounts, until the single wheat crop was sold at the end of the year, was gradually abandoned, much to the advantage of the merchants and the farmers alike. The introduction of dairying and stock raising gradually restored the fertility of the soil and divided the work on the farm, so that it was much more evenly distributed throughout the year. With the introduction of dairying and stock raising, the farmers were much more prosperous, and gradually put up better buildings and from time to time added better machinery, which cut out a great deal of the drudgery on the farm. With the gradual development of the dairy industry came the cream separator, and later the hand separator, which minimized the great task of hauling the milk to the creameries, and back again to the farms, until now all the cream-

eries in the county gather only cream, and the hauling of milk is a thing of the past. With the development of the creamery and the hand separator, there was a large reduction in the work for the women in the care of the milk and the butter; and with the lessening of these cares and responsibilities on the part of the farmers' wives, there was a gradual increase in the attention to poultry. For many years during the early settlement of the county, farmers only kept small flocks of poultry, which largely looked after themselves. The eggs and butter were sold at about the same price—of five or six cents per pound, for the butter, and about the same per dozen for eggs—when there was a market for them at all. After the establishment of the creamery, the increase in the amount of poultry and eggs produced on the farm was very rapid, until at this time it is one of the important industries and one of the regular sources of income. With the increase of poultry there was a gradual improvement in the kinds of fowls kept on the farm, and the desire for more and better poultry grew very rapidly. The early pioneers, when they had only small flocks, were very rarely troubled with the many pests against which the poultry raiser, at this time, has to contend. There was but little trouble from mites, lice, roup, cholera and rats, and many other troubles incident to large flocks, and possibly to the more tender kinds of fowls now kept.

With the advancement from grain to other methods, there was a large improvement in the kinds of cattle kept, and a few of the more enterprising stock men built up improved herds: First a small herd of Short-horns and Herefords; later a few Devons, followed shortly after by a small herd of Holsteins; these followed by Jerseys, Brown Swiss, Polled Angus and a few other breeds. Each of these strains have their good qualities, and the native cattle were gradually improved by the introduction of better blood and better methods of care for the stock, until today Fayette county is one of the great stock-raising counties of the state, with many herds of fine thoroughbred cattle. When cattle were few, and were neglected for the raising of grain, many died every year from exposure and lack of proper care, a loss which has been practically eliminated by the introduction of better cattle and better facilities for their care, until at this time the loss of an animal from exposure and neglect is very rare. With the increase of the stock industry, came the custom of dehorning, which at first was regarded as very cruel, but which soon came to be recognized as much more humane than the former method of keeping large numbers of cattle together with their horns on, for defense and mutual abuse. It took about ten years to introduce this custom generally, and now it is a rare thing to find cattle of any description with their horns on. Neither milch cows nor stock cattle are kept more than half as long as they formerly were.

For the first fifteen years after the settlement of the county began it was not at all uncommon for stock cattle to be kept until they were five or six years old, before they were ready for the market, and some even reached a riper age. All of this has been changed with improved stock and improved methods, much to the advantage of the farmers.

Along with the improvement in the cattle and poultry, there was a like improvement in horses. For the first twenty years in the settlement of the county, the ordinary work horse weighed from nine to eleven hundred pounds, with the exceptional team that weighed as much as twelve hundred each. After the building of better barns, and the introduction of tame grasses, there begun to be a recognition of the fact that there was a better market and better service in the heavier horses. In an early day a good deal of attention had been paid to racing and similar sports, and a horse that could run was prized above the horse that could only work. After the running horses, came the trotting horse fever, which was a large factor in the raising of that class of horses for quite a number of years. But the draft horse gradually came into favor, and with the importation of heavier horses from other countries, there was a decided improvement. This improvement has been continuous, until the draft horse is the ordinary horse produced on the farm, and the weight has increased in the county from about ten hundred and fifty to sixteen or eighteen hundred pounds, with a good many that weigh a ton. This has given the farmers better teams for farm work, and a better class of horses for sale, to supply the demand in the cities for heavy freighting. This improvement in the kind and number of horses raised has gone on gradually until at this time it is one of the important industries among the farmers of the county. The growing of sheep has never been so much an industry as some other kinds of stock. There have always been some good herds in the county, however, some of them of very fine breeding; and during the war times there was quite a number of large herds of the Merino breed. But these were nearly all disposed of as unprofitable during the low price for wool, shortly after the war. But there has been a gradual growth in the number of small flocks of good sheep, in recent years, and they have been profitable for some time, but Fayette county has never been what might be termed an extensive sheep-growing county. The farmers of the county have given more attention to the raising of hogs, which came in, largely, with the development of the dairy. Before the failure of wheat, hogs were not raised very extensively, except by a few farmers; but after the change to stock, and the increase in the amount of corn planted, the number of hogs was increased very much and their quality improved. The grade and uniformity of the hogs raised in the county is un-

doubtedly ahead of any other kind of stock, and has been a source of very great profit. This part of the state has never been seriously troubled with hog cholera, like the southern part of Iowa and many other states, so that the net returns have been very satisfactory. Nearly all the well-bred hogs have about the same conformation and habits of growth, and there is very little difference in the breeds, outside of the color, as they are produced at this time. The time for maturing hogs, like the time for maturing cattle, has also been very greatly reduced.

Along with the improvement of different kinds of stock has been a very great improvement in the facilities for providing water and shade, in which the planted groves and the wind mills and engines have taken the place of the spring and its willow shade, and the old dug well is scarcely to be found. The soil of the county has proven to be fully as well adapted to stock raising and dairying as it ever was to wheat, and the excellence of its limestone water and the grasses growing on the limestone soil, have produced some of the best butter and cheese in the world. The county is well drained, has fine water, exceptionally good soil, and an abundance of building stone, sand, and clay for brick, and was fairly well supplied with a good quality of timber in an early day. Vast numbers of beautiful groves have been planted and grown on the prairies, and there are now probably fully as many trees growing in the county as were here when it was first settled.

Along with the other industries, farmers have not been neglectful of the planting of orchards and other fruits. For many years it seemed that fruit could never be grown successfully in the county. This resulted, largely, from the fact that the early fruit trees were brought from eastern states, from a different soil and different surroundings, and did not seem to do well in this county. But the principal mistakes were due to the want of adaptation of certain prolific eastern varieties to our soil and climate. These have been eliminated, in great measure, by intelligent experiments. Some persons with more persistence than their neighbors, and willing to give a little more attention and care to the raising of fruit, succeeded in saving now and then a tree and some particular kinds of small fruit. From these beginnings there has been a gradual increase in the number and variety of the fruit trees, which have been made to grow, and even do well in the county, and small fruit is raised in great abundance with very moderate effort. The fruit industry was very much improved by a few enterprising parties who established nurseries; and by saving the best, which were distributed throughout the county, it came to be a fairly good fruit county, with not much more failure than is found in other sections of the country. It is likely that with the increase of population,

more and more attention will be paid to fruit of all kinds, until the county will fully supply, not only its own needs, but will have a surplus.

It would be a great pleasure to mention the many enterprising citizens who have given of their time and money, and have shown special enterprise in the improvement of stock, grain and fruits, but the list would be too long for an article of this description. No doubt most of them will be properly credited with their efforts in the biographical portion of this work. They have contributed largely to the upbuilding and success of agriculture and horticulture in the county, and deserve great credit therefor. Every fine herd of cattle; every fine horse, and other animal; every beautiful grove, and every fine orchard, is the result of their pioneering; and very much of the prosperity which has covered the county with lovely farm homes and splendid buildings, is due to their leadership. It is men like these who have kept up the county fairs and farmers' institutes, and have led in all that goes to make a prosperous and happy people in a great, rich and well developed county. Along with all the prosperity and greatness of the county, there has been a parallel development of its schools, its churches, its newspapers, its highways and towns, equal to that of any county in the state, and it has developed a large number of young men and women, many of whom have taken large part in the affairs of their state and nation, while others have gone out to assist in the development of other states and newer communities. This has always been a county with a very high order of citizenship, ready to take an active part, and give active assistance to any enterprise or movement for the public good and for the general uplift of its citizens. It sent a very large percentage of its pioneer citizens into the Union army at the time of the Rebellion, and has been proud to honor its veteran soldiers from that time to this. Most of its pioneer settlers have gone to their rest, but they are succeeded by sons and daughters and those who have joined them with the same high ideals; the same industry and enterprise; the same respect for law and order, and all that contributes to good citizenship, which was so characteristic of those who took its native timber, and its native prairie from the hand of nature, and made it a great and prosperous community.

This being almost entirely an agricultural county, whatever of success has attended its development, is based on the labor, economy and industry of those who have tilled the soil. Every town; every highway, with its bridges and grades; every public building; its splendid farm homes, with fine houses, barns and groves; its herds of cattle and growing crops, are the direct result of the development of agriculture in the county. It would be hard to find an equal population anywhere which was more abundantly supplied with the ma-

terial wealth that should lead to happiness and contentment; and all this has been brought about within the life-time of many of those who were among its first few pioneers. All honor to those pioneers who laid the foundation of prosperity broad and deep, and who have been the guiding influence in building up a rich and prosperous people, in a great county, glad to be a part of a great state in the most advanced nation of the world.

FAYETTE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY AND MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

Discussion as to the wisdom of organizing an association with the above title took tangible shape during the winter of 1854-5. Among the active promoters of the enterprise were Sylvester Underwood, late of Clermont, P. L. Hinkley, J. W. Rogers and William McClintock, of West Union (all dead), and the first meeting to ascertain public sentiment on the question was held at the Baptist church in West Union. Hon. R. A. Richardson, then of Illyria township, but since deceased, was called to preside, and Oliver Somers was appointed secretary.

The committee on constitution and by-laws consisted of P. L. Hinkley, George Murphy and John Gharky, and these gentlemen presented their report at once, and the documents presented were adopted by the waiting audience without the change of a word. It was evident that the time was at hand when the people felt able and willing to sustain a county fair. March 5, 1855, is the date from which the society has existed, and from that far-away day to the present there has not been a year that an effort was not made to hold a county fair. Some of them were not as successful as the state of the treasury demanded, for debts had to be incurred and annual expenses were constantly multiplying; but with the increase of population, and the removal of depressions prior to and during the Civil war, the society began to prosper, and but for the expenditures necessary to keep abreast of increasing requirements, it would long since have been out of debt. But the grounds have been twice enlarged since the first purchase, and there are but few fair grounds in the state that are better equipped with exhibition buildings, commodious and modern barns for horses and cattle, and swine, sheep and poultry buildings. A new office building has been added to the equipment within recent years, two large barns erected, and smaller buildings constructed along sanitary lines, which are not usually so constructed on county fair grounds. The half-mile track has been kept in perfect condition, not only during the fair, but at all times when it can be used for training purposes, or for the accommodation of automobile owners desiring to test their machines. The grounds are electric-

lighted throughout during the fair week, and have an ample supply of pure water furnished, conveniently, by the city water plant, while the telephone in the principal buildings brings the visitor or fair official in close touch with home or business.

These, and many other features of convenience and comfort, have been established at large expense, and the society is practically out of debt, and is recognized as one of the most successful agricultural societies in the state. It has always been well managed by capable and honest officials, who have had not only the interests of the society in view but the people at large as well. The fair of 1910 was one of the most successful in the history of the Fayette County Agricultural Society.

#### OTHER FAIRS.

There have been exhibitions of stock and farm and garden products from very early times, under color of "fair associations." The first of these, we believe, was held in Illyria township, if we except the county organization previously mentioned. This meeting, known as the Illyria Township Fair, was held on the 28th of September, 1859, on which occasion numerous addresses were made by local men, among whom were Hon. S. B. Zeigler, Col. R. A. Richardson and Judge Newcomb. The exhibitors who received premiums were Henry Wyckoff, John Herriman, Joseph Gibson, Jehiel Abernathy, William Pritchard, Dexter Follensbee, Samuel Holton, Walter Humphrey, Dr. Jonathan Cruzan, Rev. George Watrous, S. R. Eaton, William Morras, J. W. Fisher, Joseph Gibbon, John Sargent, William Welsh, F. H. Chapman, Thomas Kinsey, R. A. Richardson, Charles Evans, Joseph Holsworth, Thomas Smith, Lester Graves, Mrs. Sargent, Mrs. S. R. Eaton, Mrs. Humphrey, Miss C. Eaton, Miss Cassie Kinsey, Mrs. C. M. Eaton, Miss Dora Eaton. Eighty-one premiums were awarded. Of the foregoing list of names, representing most of the early pioneers of Illyria township, twenty-two of the thirty-five are known to be dead.

This fair association did not survive the first effort, but was merged with the county association, in which most of the members took an active interest during their lives.

The town of Brush Creek, now known as Arlington, established a fair association in the eighties, called the "Tri-County Association," the patronage coming from Clayton, Buchanan and Fayette counties. This organization was quite successful for a number of years, though the ambition of its promoters was never fully realized. The management was always zealous in

giving its patrons the kind of entertainment which they seemed to demand, and the Brush Creek fair was always popular with the people. But with the phenomenal development of the city of Oelwein, and the establishment of a fair association in that town, the Brush Creek fair association was absorbed by it. Both these towns being in the south part of the county, and not far distant, it seemed that the one could serve the purposes of both, and the Oelwein association maintains a successful organization and gives an exhibition each year.

#### FINE STOCK BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION.

An organization with the above title was organized on the 15th of March, 1876, as an auxillary to the state association. The meeting was held at the office of C. R. Bent, in West Union, with G. W. Brown, late of Oelwein, in the chair. Mr. Bent was secretary of the meeting. This organization flourished for many years, and was probably one of the most effective agencies at that time necessary to the improvement of live stock on the farms. This matter is presented elsewhere in this article and needs but a casual mention here. We find in the list of names of officers and members of this association the men whose timely efforts brought about a revolution in stock raising in Fayette county, particularly in horses, cattle and hogs. But we are pained to notice that out of a list of twenty-five organizing members, fifteen are dead and several others are removed from the state.

We notice that there was a disposition to criticise the Fayette County Agricultural Society for the liberality displayed by that society in promoting horse-racing for large purses, while the premiums offered for winning live-stock were not such as to justify the expense of entering it. During one or two seasons, resolutions were passed by stock owners declining to exhibit their stock, and one was adopted wherein it was declared that "horse-racing at agricultural fairs is detrimental to the interests of agricultural societies, and drains their treasury." It is believed that this timely agitation had its effect in modifying and equalizing the purses and premiums, and also in securing recognition of meritorious articles not previously considered among those worthy of awards. It is gratifying to note the improvement along this line in the recognition of educational work, and the encouragement thereby given to teachers and students of all grades.

#### FAYETTE COUNTY FARMERS' MUTUAL FIRE ASSOCIATION.

This, one of the earliest mutuals organized in Iowa, and now ranking fourth in strength, was established March 24, 1874, with headquarters at the town of Fayette. The charter officers were: Andrew Ainsworth, president; J.

M. Lewis, secretary, and P. L. Champlin, treasurer. In order to comply with the insurance laws of the state, in 1894 it was reincorporated. The present officers are: James Conrad, president (Maynard); John Jamison, vice-president (Oelwein); J. E. Holmes, secretary (Randalia); William H. Stone, treasurer (Waucoma). The board of directors includes the officers (save vice-president), and Chauncy J. Briggs, of Oelwein, D. W. Wilbur, of Hawkeye, Fred Sorg, of Hawkeye, F. Hahn, Oelwein, C. Miller, Clermont, James H. Wilson, Arlington, A. Kent, West Union, Q. C. Babcock, Fayette, and A. Garnier, Maynard.

There are agents appointed from each township within this county, to which territory the business of the company is solely confined. All kinds of farm property is insured by this mutual plan, and during its thirty-six years of existence its rate has never but one year exceeded the sum of twelve dollars and fifty cents per thousand for a five-year term of insurance. The company has never had any litigation; pays no salary to its officers, and only one dollar commission for the agent who writes the policy. The adjusting is usually done by the township local agents, thus saving great expense. The company has a semi-annual meeting. It makes a two-mill assessment each year with which the losses and other expenses are met. The success of this mutual insurance company is phenomenal, and has been patterned after by hundreds of like institutions throughout this country.

The Iowa state insurance reports show that January 1, 1908, this company had in force four million, five hundred and fifty-four thousand two hundred and seventy-nine dollars worth of risks. For the same year, the total expenses of the company were (including all losses) eight thousand five hundred thirty-three dollars. The cash on hand was six thousand thirty-one dollars.

The following figures are taken from the books of the secretary and make a great showing for the company, which numbers among its policy-holders the rank and file of the best farmers in Fayette county, Iowa. Total number of losses paid since organization of company, one hundred fifty thousand dollars; total assets of the company, four million seven hundred fifty thousand dollars.

In this connection it may be added that the State Mutual Tornado Association was first organized in Fayette county, in 1884, and in 1890 was removed to Des Moines. Its present secretary is a Fayette county man, J. B. Herriman. This has grown to be a wonder to the insurance world. It now carries one hundred forty million dollars in risks.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### AUBURN TOWNSHIP.

This was one of the original township organizations in the northern part of the county, and was noted in early days because of the location of grist mills at the town of Auburn and the close proximity of the territory to the Indian Reservation, just across the line in Winneshiek county. At the beginning of the settlement of Auburn township, the territory now embraced in Fayette county was attached to Hewitt township, Clayton county. The boundaries of Auburn township were somewhat indefinite prior to the reorganization of several of the northern townships (Auburn among them), October 8, 1850. It then was made to include all of the present township of Auburn and all of Windsor. It is not known that this township ever held an election while attached to Hewitt township, of Clayton county; but the reorganization proceeding established the voting place at the house of Morris B. Earll, who, with Oliver Brown and James Austin, were designated as judges of the election.

### THE TOWN OF AUBURN.

The first dwelling erected in the township was the home of James B. Earll, who, in 1849, began the erection of a saw-mill at the mouth of Little Turkey, and two years later he and his sons erected a flouring-mill, which began business in September, 1851. The latter proved to be of great benefit to the people, in that the question of "going to mill" at Elkader or Dubuque had previously been a serious matter. The mill was liberally patronized by people from our own county, as well as from Winneshiek, and even from southern Minnesota. The success of this enterprise doubtless stimulated the building of a second mill in the town of Auburn, and both these industries were operated with success for many years. In fact, it is probable that the early founding of the mills had much to do with building up the town, and making it for years one of the principal trading points in the county. The town of Auburn was once a formidable candidate for the county-seat, as appears elsewhere in this volume. There were few industries known to the pioneers that were not soon introduced into the town of Auburn, and it possessed an air of

business thrift in keeping with the intelligence and high standing of the promoters. Saloons and a brewery were a part of the town's varied industries, and they and the Iowa House did a thriving business during the years that the settlers from distant points were attracted to the place by the mills. But mercantile establishments and mechanical industries were early introduced and such names as Hull and Hiram Hoagland, John A. Griffith, Samuel Hull, James Boale, Rev. S. D. Helms, Z. McJunkin, I. S. Lane, the Irving family, F. G. Carter, J. S. Pence, A. L. Dunn, Torode and Eastman, Augustus Turner (who was killed while undermining a bank of earth), the Billmeyers, McCleerys, the Belknaps and others, all remind us of pioneer days when beautiful Auburn was in her glory. But of the once prosperous and populous town, little remains save the beautiful natural scenery. The postoffice is still retained, known as Douglas postoffice, and there are two small stores there; but the hotel was long since abandoned, and later the building was burned; the mechanics have found more profitable employment elsewhere, and most of the village residents have returned to their farms or removed to other towns.

The first school in Auburn was taught by J. S. Pence during the winter of 1852-3. In 1854 the people of the town erected the most pretentious school house then existing in the county. For many years this served also as a house of worship, and was used, jointly, by the Methodist Episcopal and United Brethren congregations.

The people of Auburn have always been a patriotic people. They began to demonstrate this fact on the 4th of July, 1854, when they celebrated Independence Day in most becoming style, this being one of the first celebrations of this character in the county. During the Civil war they furnished to the Union army some of their best and most prominent citizens, in numbers as great as any similar locality. A rather humorous Indian scare is reported as occurring in 1855, and from which it would seem that there was then a military organization in Auburn. It seems that an outbreak was threatened, and Governor Hempstead ordered Captain Neff, of Auburn, to get his company in readiness to march to Clear Lake to repel a threatened attack. After testing the mettle of the "boys," as to their readiness to go, the order was countermanded, and it is safe to assert that those who offered such plausible excuses why they should not die on the gory field have had ample time in which to modify them!

The Turkey river, as it passes through Auburn, is a treacherous and dangerous stream, and has been the scene of serious accidents in every township which it traverses. It has been a deadly menace to the mills constructed along its margin; but in April, 1866, both mills at Auburn were seriously

crippled by a freshet exceeding in volume anything of the kind previously known there. The bridges were also washed away, and great damage was done to roads and lowlands along the stream. In August, of the same year, four persons were drowned at West Auburn in an attempt to cross the stream in a skiff. These were Charles Hathaway, Mrs. Elizabeth Lane and her two children.

#### CHURCHES AND LODGES.

There have been two church organizations at Auburn in past years, but with the removal of many of the inhabitants of the place, and the practical abandonment of village organization, the churches have suffered correspondingly. In 1866 the Methodist Episcopal church there was formally dedicated, and was prosperous for a number of years. We believe the building was finally sold for other purposes. In 1877 the United Brethren, under the pastoral charge of Rev. A. W. Drury, erected a church in Auburn, and this was dedicated by Rev. E. B. Kephart, of Western College, on the 30th of September, 1877, being then free from debt. The pastors of the United Brethren church at West Union supply this class and maintain the organization.

Auburn has a large and flourishing lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. It was instituted on the 29th of November, 1854, and has maintained its organization unbroken for fifty-six years. During its long period of existence its members have been radically changed by deaths, removals, withdrawals, etc., but the underlying principles of Friendship, Love and Truth still prevail in the councils of Odd Fellowship. The organization is known as Fayette Lodge No. 60, and the first officers were Dr. W. A. Chase, noble grand; J. A. Griffith, vice-grand; James Boale, recording secretary; H. W. Earll, permanent secretary, and M. B. Earll, treasurer. The lodge owns its own two-story lodge room, the first floor of which is used by the order for banquet purposes and public meetings of the town, while the upper story is fitted up as a cozy lodge room.

A Good Templar lodge was organized in Auburn on the 28th of March, 1860, which organization was suffered to go down, and it was reorganized as River View Lodge No. 342, in January, 1878, by Rev. D. Sheffer, then pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church at West Union. But this organization is also defunct.

#### ST. LUCAS.

The handsome little village now known as Saint Lucas was, in early days, known as Stottle Town, so named in honor of one of the early settlers

in that locality. "Old Mission" was another pioneer village, intimately associated with the Winnebago Reservation near by. But this interesting point was across the line in Winneshiek county, and is spoken of in the department devoted to state history. Aside from being located in one of the richest farming sections in Fayette county, St. Lucas has but little history outside of the Catholic church and parochial school which make the village famous. The origin of the name is mentioned in the article on the Catholic church in Fayette county, by Mr. and Mrs. John Owens.

Every resident of the territory tributary to St. Lucas is a German Catholic, whose children receive instruction in the public school of the village during a few months of the year, and the balance of their school life is spent under the tuition of the excellent teachers at the parochial school. There they are taught the language of the fatherland, church history, the elements of Catholicism, and also receive some industrial training. This school is under the direct supervision of Rev. Father Boeding, the pastor of the church, and the assumption is that they receive only such instruction as will be beneficial to them as the men and women of the future. Instruction in morals and manners, while a necessity in any school, receives more attention in private schools under church domination than is possible in the ordinary public school. The church at St. Lucas is one of the largest and most valuable edifices in Fayette county, a full description of which appears in the article to which reference has been made. There are two or three fine stores in St. Lucas, devoted to the sale of such goods as the community demands, including farm machinery, vehicles, dry goods, groceries and provisions. A very extensive business is carried on, and the stocks of mercantile goods would compare favorably with those in stores in much larger towns. There is one hotel, kept by "mine host" Joseph Blong, where the hungry traveler may rest and refresh himself. This little village is surrounded by a class of thrifty German farmers who came here in early days, or are native born, and whose fine homes and splendid farms are largely the result of their own industry and frugality. For a fuller discussion of "German-American Citizenship," consult the topic just mentioned, which appears elsewhere in this work.

St. Lucas was incorporated as a town on the 6th day of March, 1900, and has since made rapid progress in building and in assuming "city airs." The people being all of the same nationality, of the same religious and political faith, an air of peace and tranquility prevails which is not usually found in villages of a mixed population. The location is naturally beautiful, and the surrounding country one of the most fertile farming districts in the

county, and of which advantages the frugal Germans have not been slow in showing their appreciation. While the German language is prevalent in every home, and is spoken in preference to any other, nearly all the elderly people can speak very good English, and all their children are educated in both German and English.

Auburn township was traversed in early days by one of the first public highways which connected Fayette county with the outside world. It was a main thoroughfare between Dubuque, Fort Atkinson and Minnesota points, and was early an incentive to settlement along its course. The township is mostly rolling land and was originally covered with an excellent quality of timber, much of which still remains, though the best has been sacrificed to accommodate the needs of the near-by prairie farmers. The rugged hills bordering on the Turkey river add a degree of permanence to the natural beauty of the locality which the home-sick wanderer longs to see, even after years of world wandering.

#### SCHOOLS.

This township is organized for school purposes under the district township system, which embraces one sub-director for each school district, who, when properly organized, transact most of the business of the district township. With the exception of voting school-house taxes, we believe the power of the boards of directors is absolute, within the limitations of the state school law. This authority is vested in the township electors; but if they neglect or decline to act in the matter of providing a school-house fund, the board of directors may then act; but ordinarily the directors are satisfied with the action of the electors in such matters and seldom interfere with their authority. Twelve of the twenty townships are organized under this system, the remaining eight townships being organized for school purposes under a system known as rural independent districts. This system was abolished some years ago, but districts then organized were not disturbed by the change of law relating to such organizations. Under either the district township system or the rural independent organization, the boards of directors are organized by electing from their own number a president, and from the district at large a secretary and treasurer. These are the executive officers of the board and are endowed with considerable official authority. In the independent districts three directors are elected—one each year, for a term of three years. They determine the duration of the school, the wages to be paid teachers and the secretary and treasurer of the board, etc., without regard to these conditions in adjoining districts in the same township. But

in sub-districts under the district township organization, the duration of the school year and the teachers' wages are fixed on a uniform scale, and are not changed except in exceptional cases. Many objections were entered against the rural independent organization, some of which were well taken; and this led to the change in the law in reference to their organization, and, perhaps, had something to do in eliminating existing evils in the districts that were not disturbed by the change in the law. But it would seem that the people residing in the independent districts were fully satisfied with that system of school organization, in that the law prohibiting further organizations of that kind also provided means whereby such districts could return to the district township system, and none of them, in this county, at least, have ever taken advantage of this provision of law. We speak of this matter thus fully at this time, and shall hereafter mention the school organization in other townships as "sub-districts" or "rural independent districts," without further explanation.

Auburn township has seven sub-districts, besides the independent districts of Auburn and St. Lucas. The latter are organized under the provisions of law authorizing the formation of independent districts in towns and villages having the required population (two hundred now, but formerly three hundred were the minimum population required for such organization). There are fifteen independent town districts in Fayette county, all of which, except Fairbanks, are located wholly within the county. A few sections in Oran township contribute to the support of the Fairbanks school, which is located just across the line in Buchanan county. Of course the children residing upon the land so contributing have access to the Fairbanks schools.

For the year 1909, the latest official report, the seven rural districts in Auburn township employed eight female teachers, at an average compensation of thirty-six dollars and ninety-two cents per month. The average duration of school was five and one-half months, with a total average daily attendance of fifty-five. The total enrollment was eighty-one, from a school population of ninety-three males and ninety-two females, between the ages of five and twenty-one years. The average cost of tuition per month for each pupil was three dollars and ninety-seven cents. The financial condition of the district township at the present time is first-class, there being on hand, of all funds, about two thousand dollars in the district treasury. There are two hundred and fifty volumes in the school libraries of the township

## INDEPENDENT DISTRICTS OF AUBURN AND ST. LUCAS.

As intimated at the beginning of this article, the village of Auburn opened her first school during the winter of 1852-3, and a year later had the most valuable school building then to be found in Fayette county. For many years the little town took a special interest in maintaining its high standing in educational affairs, and had an excellent school of two departments, employing the best talent to be secured. But for a number of years past the school has been reduced to one department, and its curriculum is only on a par with country schools in adjoining territory. During the year ending with July 1, 1909, there were seven and one-half months of school in the district, taught by three female teachers, at an average monthly salary of thirty-seven dollars. The number of persons of school age (five to twenty-one years) now in the district are: Males, twenty-four, and females, seventeen. Of these an average daily attendance of twenty-two was attained for the school year, at an average cost of tuition per month for each pupil, of two dollars and eighty-five cents.

## ST. LUCAS PUBLIC SCHOOL.

By a combination of circumstances this village was enabled to sustain a school of ten months' duration during the past year. The total enrollment was forty-three, with an average daily attendance of thirty. The school was taught by one female teacher at an average compensation of forty-four dollars per month. Since the assessment value of the property in the proposed new independent district is greater than that of any other sub-district in the township, it is a fair presumption to assume that the board of directors of the district township of Auburn willingly paid for the excess of time taught and the increase of salary in the St. Lucas district. Having no official report on this subject, we are obliged to dispose of the subject in the manner here stated.

## NATURAL FEATURES.

The Turkey valley in Auburn township, with its adjacent commanding bluffs, is picturesquely beautiful, and a source of admiration with all who visit the locality. Falling Springs, situated near the line between this township and Windsor, is one of the natural features of adornment to which the ingenuity of man has added with a view to making it a resort for those seeking rest and recreation during the summer time. The place has been fitted

up by the owner, Martin Felz, with electric lights, proper seating, etc., until it is even more attractive by night than by day. See personal sketch of Mr. Felz for fuller description.

McCreary's Cave, a short distance east of Falling Springs, is another of nature's curious adornments, and which draws its share of sightseers who desire to witness this unadorned and undisturbed freak of nature.

## CHAPTER XIX.

### BANKS TOWNSHIP.

This is one of the new townships, so far as settlement and improvement of the land are concerned. Until within comparatively recent years a large portion of the territory was "wild prairie," over-run by herds of cattle driven for herding purposes, from the more thickly settled portions of the county. Quite a good business was built up by Benjamin Cowan, an early settler in Banks, who for a number of years devoted his time almost entirely to gathering up cattle, driving them to the open prairies in Banks township, and herding them there during the pasturing season. To facilitate his work, he had built a large stockade or corrall on his own land, where the cattle were kept from wandering away during the night, and from which they started out on their wandering in the morning. The herd was quite a menace to growing crops on adjacent lands, as the writer can assert from experience. The smooth wire fences then in vogue were no protection against the depredations of unruly cattle, and many of them were sent to the herd because they were lawless at home. The "barbarism" (?) of dehorning had not then taken its place among the "modern improvements" in stock-raising, and all the stock came in full equipment for warfare. But as pieces of land here and there over the prairie began to be occupied by actual settlers, and the best fence that could then be made was no protection against the encroachments of unruly stock, the herding business became unpopular, as well as unprofitable, and was gradually driven out.

But it must not be assumed from the foregoing recital that there were no early settlers in Banks, for such is not the case. The vicinity of Wilson's Grove, on the boundary between Fayette and Bremer counties, was occupied by actual settlers nearly as early as any other portion of the county north of the center. Theodore Wilson is credited with being the first settler in that locality. He entered all the land then embraced within the limits of the "Grove," a strip a mile and a half wide, east and west, by about three miles long, the greater portion of which was in Fayette county, but it also extended over the line into Bremer county. Wilson's Grove was named in honor of this pioneer, who located in the county in 1851, and entered the land from the

Dubuque land office soon after. Robert Armstrong came to the township in 1852, and the year following Oliver T. Fox purchased a part of Wilson's holdings at the north end of the Grove, and soon located his family upon it. George Linn and William and Peter Robertson located in the vicinity of Wilson's Grove during the year 1853. In May, 1854, William T. Wade and Levi Williams came from New Jersey to visit the Fox family and view the country. They found but four families in the township (not then organized), and all about them was the treeless, trackless prairie. There were but two or three houses between Wilson's Grove and West Union, some twenty miles. They were somewhat discouraged with the apparent barrenness of the country and returned to their eastern home. Mr. Wade returned to the township in May, 1855, and became one of the useful pioneers of the county. He lived to a ripe old age, and always maintained his home near Wilson's Grove. Two churches were organized at his house, the Free-Will Baptist church, in 1856, and a Presbyterian organization in 1859. His home was also a preaching point for all the early pioneer ministers, and he was elected justice of the peace at the first township election, and held that office for many years. He was also the first postmaster at Wilson's Grove, the office being established in 1861, and held that office until it was abandoned. Mr. Wade was the last survivor of the six voters who cast their ballots at the first election held in the township. These were David Linn, Sr., and David Linn, Jr., George Linn, Oliver T. Fox, Levi Williams and William T. Wade. It required all the electors of the township to fill the offices, and Mr. Wade was elected to two offices, those of justice of the peace and township clerk. David Linn, Sr., Levi Williams and Oliver T. Fox were elected township trustees, and George Linn was chosen township assessor. This election was held at the house of George Linn, April 7, 1856, two months after the creation of the civil township of Banks by order of the county court. The township was named in honor of the distinguished statesman of Massachusetts, Hon. N. P. Banks.

#### CHURCHES.

There have been five church organizations in Banks township, the Methodist Episcopal, United Brethren and German Evangelical, in addition to those mentioned as organized at the home of William T. Wade. The last named organization built a church edifice near the southeast corner of the township, on section 35, where it accommodates people of that faith in the adjacent territory of Fremont, Harlan and Center townships, as well as the populous German settlement in southern Banks. This is the only religious

body having a church building in the township, but the near-by towns of Sumner, on the west, Hawkeye, on the northeast, and Randalia, to the eastward, accommodate the people without serious inconvenience. These are also the market towns most conveniently accessible, though Westgate, in Fremont, and Maynard, in Harlan, draw considerable trade from Banks township. As may be inferred from the above recital, this is distinctively an agricultural township, and does not at present have a postoffice or "cross-roads store" within its boundaries.

About 1876 the speculators' lands began to be absorbed by actual settlers, largely of the German nationality, many of whom own large tracts of this fine prairie land, and have improved it almost to the point of perfection. An unfenced piece of land in Banks township is now a rare exception, and school houses and beautiful homes dot the prairie everywhere.

#### EDUCATION.

The first school in Banks township was taught by Jane Spears, in the house of David Linn, Jr., in the summer of 1857. George Linn was also an early teacher in the township. The first school house was erected in 1865, and this was the nucleus to the present well-organized system of public schools. This is a district township organization, and there are nine sub-districts and nine school houses in the township. Schools were taught in these by sixteen female teachers, at an average monthly salary of thirty-five dollars during the past year. Of two hundred and fifty-seven pupils of school age, two hundred and forty were enrolled in the schools, with a total average daily attendance of two hundred and six. The average cost of tuition per month for each pupil was one dollar and fifty-three cents. The school property is valued at five thousand one hundred and twenty-five dollars. Value of school apparatus, three hundred and eighty dollars; and there are eight hundred and ten volumes in the school libraries. Banks township expends annually over three thousand dollars in support of schools, which, of course, does not include the home sacrifices on the same account.

The Saint Paul branch of the Chicago Great Western Railroad passes diagonally through the southwest corner of Banks township, having two and one-third miles of track accessible in that township. In the early seventies the Iowa & Pacific Railroad Company graded through this township from east to west, but the project was abandoned, and no railroad touches the township except as mentioned.

In the early days when thousands of acres of tall prairie grass died on the ground where it grew, there was great danger to the inhabitants on account of prairie fires, and a number of the early settlers were burned out, losing not only their houses and stabling, but gathered feed for their stock, and in some instances people were seriously burned in trying to save their property or lives from this ruthless destroyer. Great suffering was also endured in crossing the trackless prairies in the blinding snow storms which were more prevalent in early days than now. A night on the open prairie when lost in a blizzard is not a comforting reflection, even at this distance!

## CHAPTER XX.

### BETHEL TOWNSHIP.

This is one of the prairie townships, which, like its neighbor, Banks, on the south, was slow in its early settlement and development. The congressional system of surveys being followed in this county, and there being no river boundaries, all the townships are complete, with thirty-six sections of land, numbered consecutively from the northeast corner to the southeast, section 6 being in the northwest corner and section 7 adjoining on the south, etc. These are sub-divided into quarter sections and "forties," hence the terms "quarters" and "forties" are very generally understood in this locality, though it is not so in other districts where private surveys were in vogue during the settlement period. With the exception of land bordering on township and county boundaries, all quarter sections contain exactly one hundred and sixty acres, but certain of the boundary lines over-run, or fall short, according to the variation of the electric needle of the surveyor's compass and the distance from base lines and correction lines. These remarks apply to all townships in the county, and though irrelevant to the matter under consideration, may not be considered inappropriate in this connection.

The settlement of Bethel township began along Crane creek, in the northern part of the township, that section being supplied with some timber, and it must not be forgotten that all the early settlers used wood for fuel and fencing purposes and nearly all houses were built of logs. Mrs. Samantha Finch is credited with being the first settler in Bethel township, though others came the same year (1852), and established homes in both Bethel and Eden townships, in some cases on adjoining farms. The township was first named "Richland," in recognition of the fertility of the soil, this name being bestowed by Mr. McCall, one of the early settlers, and whose posterity still live in the vicinity of the old pioneer home of the family. There was a "Richland" postoffice established in the west-central part of the township, and continued for many years. It was finally abandoned and Bethel postoffice established, but this has given place to the rural free delivery system, and was consolidated with the postoffice at the village of Alpha. The township name was changed to Bethel January 3, 1870, about the time the Bethel postoffice was established.

P. G. Abbott, one of the very early settlers, organized a union Sunday school in Bethel during the summer of 1856, and his marriage to Emily Palmer, the same year, was the first wedding solemnized in the township.

During the fall of 1855 a disastrous prairie fire destroyed much property and was the cause of the death of two persons, Rev. Mr. Thompson and his son. Mr. Abbott, mentioned above, is one of the few survivors of the pioneer period in Bethel township. He still lives on his farm, and seems to be hale and hearty. The Finch family is also another of the prominent pioneer families who still remain in the township and elsewhere throughout the county. In early days a controversy arose between Eden and "Richland" townships as to the possession of the northern tier of sections in the latter. This strife was evidently engendered before the completion of the government survey, else there could have been no such contest. It seems that the county judge was endowed with authority to decide such matters, and it is said that the judge acted favorably upon petitions from both sides of the controversy, thus transferring the territory several times.

Many prominent families settled in the northern part of Bethel township before the general development of the southern part of the township was commenced. Some of those whose residences were north of, or near, the center were, in addition to those previously mentioned: J. T. and C. M. Gager, brothers, who still own their early acquired property in the township; A. M. Pitts, J. Burbank, A. Ives, Henry Y. Smith, the Bursees, the Innis family, A. and R. F. Rogers, Eph. Rogers, Ben. Woodard, E. M. Aiken, Henry Saulsbury, Stephen Gardner, N. B. Searles, R. Hathaway, G. W. Chamberlain, Orson Ward, Elijah Ober, H. A. Bender and others.

Bethel township was surveyed by Guy H. Carlton in August, 1848, but the south, west and north township lines were established by John Ball a month later. The sub-dividing lines were established by John Parker, in November, 1848. James Austin entered the north half of the northwest quarter of section 2, of this township, on the 27th of January, 1851, and this was the first land entry in the township appearing of record.

The southern part of Bethel township has made wonderful development in the last quarter of a century, for, instead of being a part of "Cowan's herding ground," associated with Banks township, without distinction as to township lines, it is now fully developed as a farming community. Handsome homes and splendid barns dot the prairie, and there is no open or unimproved land in the township. This development has been gradual and the improvements have been made by actual settlers who came to make permanent homes. The bleak prairies are now beautified with artificial groves, some of which

have been planted with a view to increasing the timber supply, as well as for protection from the unobstructed winds. In subduing the wild prairie grass, which was very strong and prolific, many of the early farmers resorted to growing flax on their new ground, a measure which was successful, both as a revenue-producer and "civilizer." The seed, only, was marketed, the fiber being discarded. The level prairie lands were also quite wet, and in many instances "sloughy," and it was found that flax would grow and mature with reasonable certainty, while other cereals would not. But the introduction of flax into the prairie townships also introduced some noxious weeds not previously known here, and which were a source of considerable annoyance for a number of years after the cultivation of flax was abandoned. Much of the first seed used was transported from other states, and even from other countries, and some of it was sold by dealers and contractors at fabulous prices. But this industry was the beginning of success with some of the poorer class of renters and "land-poor" farmers. With years of cultivation, the wet lands have been brought under subjection, and in many instances are the most fertile on the farms.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

The record of early schools in this township is somewhat obscure and it is not possible at this date to state when or where the first school was taught. There were three schools in the township in the spring of 1859, and the teachers were Anna Bursee, Mary Alexander and Helen Ward. The Bethel school house came into prominence in an early day, and so continues, in lesser degree, at the present. It was the rendezvous for itinerant preachers of all denominations for many years, as well as the location of all business meetings pertaining to township affairs. Later the Gager school house (being more central) was designated as the place for holding township meetings, elections, etc., and so continues to the present.

In the establishment of the earliest schools in the township, little attention was given to district boundaries, and the school houses were located where they would accommodate the most pupils. But as the settlements extended to the southward, this was found to be an error, and nearly every school house in the township had to be moved, entailing quite an expense.

There are now nine school houses in the township, organized under the district township system. During the last year (1909) there were two male teachers employed, at an average salary of thirty-five dollars and sixteen cents per month, and fourteen female teachers whose salary averaged thirty-four dollars and nine cents per month. Of two hundred eight pupils of school age,

two hundred one were enrolled in the schools, with an average daily attendance of one hundred thirteen. The average cost of tuition per month for each pupil was two dollars and seventy-five cents. The school houses of the township are valued at four thousand five hundred and fifty dollars; value of school apparatus, three hundred eighty dollars, and number of volumes in the school libraries, four hundred forty-seven. The schools were taught seven and eight-tenths months during the year.

In 1857 a very successful religious revival was conducted in this township (presumably at the Bethel school house) by Rev. Mr. Brooks, of the Methodist denomination. This resulted in the conversion of more than a hundred persons, who, in accordance with their belief, as propounded by the Primitive Methodists, discarded all fine clothing, jewelry and superfluous effects, and followed the "simple life" as taught by the Savior and His disciples.

There is no church building in this township, but the Union church at Alpha, just across the north line, supplies the needs of the worshipers near by, while the several churches in Hawkeye afford reasonable facilities for those in the eastern half of the township. Religious services are still held occasionally in the school houses of the township.

## CHAPTER XXI.

### CENTER TOWNSHIP.

This township was organized on the 13th day of February, 1858, by proclamation of the county judge, Hon. J. W. Rogers. The organizing election was announced at the same time and by the same authority, to occur on the first Monday in April, following. The officers elected at that time held only until the next succeeding general election, which occurred in October. There were seventeen voters at the organizing election, and Elijah Hartsough, David Baer and John M. Proctor were chosen judges and James Orr and John Dunham, clerks of the election. They were sworn by C. A. Haywood, deputy sheriff of the county. Elijah Hartsough, David Baer and Thomas J. Llewellyn were elected trustees; James Orr, clerk; Harvey S. Brunson, justice of the peace, and J. F. Lyman and S. Snyder, constables. These were the organizing officers, some of whom were re-elected at the general election in October. Eli Mulnix succeeded H. S. Brunson as justice of the peace, and was also elected township clerk, vice James Orr. A second justice of the peace was also chosen in the person of Harrison Augir. Elijah Hartsough, J. M. Proctor and David E. Snyder were elected township trustees. These were really the first officers of the township who served the full term of one year.

The settlement of this township began in 1850, but Thomas Woodle (later county judge) selected a location at Gamble's Grove in 1849. He was accompanied by Thomas Douglass and Thomas B. Sturgis, who located near him. Woodle entered his land in section 13, on the 13th of January, 1850, and located on it the following spring. Philip Herzog entered land in this township soon after Woodle's entry was made. Thomas D. Robertson entered land here in 1851; J. C. Higginson, Robert Alexander and Harrison Augir, in 1852; John Miller, John T. Webb, David S. Wilson, Addison F. Stillwell, George S. Murray, William S. Murray, Reuben C. Hale, Jacob Snyder, Lyman Morgan, Allen Sparks, Hezekiah B. Bussey, George Clouse, Laurena E. Barber, Jacob D. Folmer, Owen Sykes, and a few others entered land in this township in 1853; Abraham Baer, Thomas J. Llewellyn, Caleb Potwin, James H. Proctor, Stephen D. Helms, Otis Baker, Alarson Hamlin,

Robert S. Adams, William L. Coleman, Elijah Hartsough and some whose names cannot be secured, came in 1854; John and Christopher Baer, Cornelius Frye, Clark Roberts and Benjamin Sykes, were among those who took up residences here in 1855.

Thomas Woodle did not remain long in the township, though he secured the establishment of the postoffice at Gamble's Grove, and was the first postmaster there. The office was established in September, 1851, and discontinued in May, 1852. At about the last named date, Mr. Woodle sold his home to Frederick Dunham, and removed from the township, never to return.

John D. Dooley, who was township clerk and justice of the peace in Center township for many years, is authority for some of the following statements: "The first white child born in the township was D. Marion Hartsough, born October 28, 1854. The first wedding was that of Eli Mulnix and Desdemonia Dunham, in 1853. The first death was Mary, daughter of Martin Dunham, in 1852. The first school house was built in District No. 1, about 1859, and has always been known as the Dunham's Grove School House." The first and only church outside of the village of Randalia was built by the Methodists in the south part of the township, and is known as the Fairview church. It was built in 1877, and though it was erected to accommodate the members of the Methodist Episcopal faith, it has never been restricted entirely to their use. All religious denominations have access to it, and it has been one of the few long-continuing country churches. Rev. H. S. Brunson delivered the first gospel sermon in the township.

This township is traversed by two railroads, the Decorah branch of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific passing through it north and south, and the Davenport and St. Paul branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul passes diagonally across the northeast corner. The first mentioned takes a due north and south course, cutting off the east two sections until it reaches Randalia, where the line assumes a northeasterly direction, passing out of the township on section 2. These railroads (built in the seventies) had much to do with the early development of Center township. Previous to their coming there was much unimproved land in the township, portions of which was considered as unavailable for general farming purposes. The prairie land is quite level, and was wet and sloughy, and, though affording excellent pasturage, there was not then enough demand for such to render it profitable. But since the advent of the railroads and their stimulating influence, Center township has taken an upward trend, vacant lands have been settled upon and improved, and farms then partially improved and cultivated have been brought to a high state of improvement. The sloughs have dried up, and the once boggy wet land has

been reclaimed and rendered the most fertile of corn land, and that, too, without adopting a general system of tiling or ditching, but through gradual encroachment as the adjacent fields were cultivated. There are many fine farms in Center township which equal in value, acre for acre and situation considered, any farms in the county.

This "prairie" township, like all the others, is not entirely devoid of timber, though it could not boast of the quality. Four sections along the Volga, and a few scattering natural groves at other points, comprise the timber land of the township. The southeastern corner, extending over into Westfield township, has some good timber, but the greater part of it is scrubby and not of the best varieties.

#### COUNTY-SEAT MATTERS.

In early times there was much controversy over the location of the county-seat, West Union being always successful in the contests with other towns. But the defeated candidates, after giving up their own contests, decided that in fairness to all, the seat of justice should be located at the geographical center of the county. This point being in Center township, or to be exact, on the line between Center and Westfield townships, an effort was made in 1852 to locate the county-seat at "the geographical center," and legislative assistance was sought to bring the matter to a focus. But owing to the very strong opposition to this procedure, the original purpose had to be abandoned, and the General Assembly appointed three commissioners from as many different adjoining counties, who located the county-seat on the southwest quarter of section 17, Westfield township, subject to the approval of the voters at the next general election. The proposition was rejected by a majority of ninety-five, hence the aspirations of the "Center" were not realized.

#### THE SCHOOLS.

The schools of Center township are organized on the rural independent district plan, that is, each school is a corporate body and the board of three directors has entire control of all school matters within their districts. There are eight schools thus organized in the township, and one independent town district at Randalia. Of the eight districts, four had nine months' school during the last year, two had eight and a half months and one had eight. Teachers' wages ranged from thirty-two dollars and twenty-two cents (the lowest) to forty dollars per month. One male teacher was employed at

thirty-five dollars per month, the balance of the teaching force being females. Of two hundred twenty-four pupils of school age in the eight districts, one hundred fifty-four were enrolled in the schools, with an average attendance of nearly thirteen in each district. The smallest school in the township is No. 4, with eight pupils between the ages of five and twenty-one years. No. 2 is the largest, with a school population of forty-six, and an average daily attendance of twenty-four. The school houses in these districts are valued at four thousand six hundred ninety dollars, with school apparatus valued at four hundred fifty-eight dollars, and five hundred twenty-two volumes in the district libraries.

#### RANDALIA AND DONNAN.

These prosperous villages are the outgrowth of the coming of the railroads, the former being situated on the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, and the latter at the junction of this road with the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul.

Randalia is located on the east half of the southeast quarter of section 15, which was entered by Frederick Boyes April 12, 1855. It became the property of J. N. B. Elliott in 1868, and on the 6th of June, 1872, he deeded the right-of-way to the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Minnesota Railroad Company, and sold the remainder to Randall Brothers in the fall of 1873. The village plat was surveyed by P. F. Randall, and was filed for record December 9, 1874. A. J. F. Randall commenced the erection of a two-story building in July, 1874, this being designed as a business place and dwelling on second floor. This was the first building erected on the town plat, and it has been continuously occupied as a store building and postoffice since the latter was established. The first stock of goods placed in this building was owned by C. Hurlbut of Fayette, opened in the spring of 1875. But the name of Randall is inseparably connected with the town, and A. J. F. Randall has been a continuous business man there longer than any other person. The second building was the Randalia Hotel, erected by N. B. Underwood, who was also a merchant in the town. This was opened as a hotel in the late fall of 1874. It has had a continuous existence as such, under several different proprietors.

In the days of almost universal wheat growing among the farmers, Randalia was an excellent market place, as being intermediate between the larger towns, and also because of having several buyers there who believed that "competition is the life of trade." There were at one time four warehouses operated by different firms of produce dealers, and their traffic extended to almost everything raised on the farms. The town is still a good market

point, and some good stores of general merchandise, stocks of farm machinery, mechanical shops, etc., are maintained by progressive business men. Everything usually found in towns of this size can be found in the thriving village of Randalia. The railroad was completed to this point, from the north, in August, 1873. The postoffice was established in October, 1874, with A. J. F. Randall as the first postmaster, a position which he held for many years.

#### RANDALIA CHURCHES.

The first religious services in the new town were conducted at the school house, by Rev. Moulton, in 1876, the school house having just been completed. This building served for a public meeting house for some years. The Methodist Episcopal church, which had been dormant for some time, was re-organized in the autumn of 1877, with seventeen members, and services were conducted for a number of years by Rev. Lyman Hull, who met the people once in two weeks at the school house. This organization has been maintained and quite regular services are held, often under the preaching of students from the Upper Iowa University, but in later years by regular pastors appointed to the circuit. The history of this church and its membership appears more fully in the history of the Methodist Episcopal church of Fayette county, by Hon. C. B. Hughes, elsewhere in this work.

A Baptist church was incorporated February 1, 1878, and an effort was made to build a house of worship the same year. The membership was quite strong for a few years, being served by the pastor of the church at West Union. This also is more fully treated in the article on the Baptist church of Fayette county, by F. Y. Whitmore.

#### RANDALIA SCHOOL.

When the town was incorporated the limits of its school district coincided with the corporate limits, thus creating a small independent town district upon which the burdens of proper school facilities were liable to exceed the limit of taxation established by law. But the adjacent territory belonged in rural independent districts, the taxpayers in which guarded their territory with jealous eyes. The patrons of these adjacent schools also objected to distorting their districts into irregular shapes to accommodate the town, and considerable controversy arose, the matter being finally settled in the courts, and the boundaries of the Randalia district enlarged and established as at present. The record of the final proceedings in this matter, and the final

establishment of the school district, was filed with the county auditor on the 18th of December, 1897. A school of ten grades was established, and an additional room provided for the teaching of the sixty-three children in the district. The school house is valued at one thousand five hundred dollars; the average compensation of the two female teachers during the last year was forty-seven dollars and fifty cents, and the duration of the school, nine months. A regular system of graduation is installed, and the school is fully on a par with other schools of like conditions.

Randalia has one bank, an Odd Fellows lodge, Grand Army of the Republic post and Women's Relief Corps, besides several fraternal insurance organizations, and is the present headquarters of the Fayette County Farmers' Mutual Fire Association, that being the home of the secretary, J. E. Holmes.

The business men of the town are progressive, public-spirited citizens who have an abiding faith in the future of the town.

#### DONNAN JUNCTION.

With the building of the Davenport and St. Paul branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad to the crossing of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern at this point, a depot and transfer switch was established, and a man placed in charge. This was in 1878, and the depot was the only house in "Donnan" for several years, if we except one or two near-by farm houses. But within comparatively recent years there has been quite a building boom at this ideal location, and several residences, stores and a hotel are the outgrowth, and the little hamlet has found a prominent place on the map of Fayette county. Some well-to-do retired farmers have taken an interest in the development of the town, with gratifying results. The future of Donnan, at the crossing of the two railroads which traverse the county from southeast to northwest, and from southwest to northeast, may easily be predicted; and it is not too much to say that it will eventually outstrip its near-by rivals in the race for trade and transportation. The village is situated in a splendid farming community, with no rival town, except Randalia, nearer than six or seven miles.

## CHAPTER XXII.

### CLERMONT TOWNSHIP.

This township was established by the county commissioners in 1850, though there had been quite a settlement within its boundaries for two years previously, and the name of the township was fixed by them, though the spelling was then "Claremont."

Tradition establishes Andrew Moats as the first settler of the territory now embraced in Clermont township, though the time of his coming and what he accomplished is somewhat obscure. It is understood, however, that a man named Delaplaine laid a claim to lands where the town of Clermont now stands, in 1848, and built a cabin thereon. A year later a firm of mill operators came from Elkader and purchased the claim of Delaplaine and let the contract to have a saw-mill erected. C. D. Carlton (one of the owners) and Charles Sawyer took the contract, and moved to Clermont in June, 1849. Sawyer brought his family, but Carlton delayed the removal until later. These parties built two log houses in what is now the town of Clermont, these, except the rude cabin of Delaplaine, being the first houses in the township. John Thompson, whose name is inseparable from the early history of this locality, was the partner of Mr. Carlton. The building and operation of the mill, and the later developments in that line, necessitated the presence of mechanical shops, and these came as needed. This was the principal industry in Clermont until the failure of the spring wheat product rendered the business less profitable, and the property was gradually merged into other lines.

A large and well manned cooper shop was one of the principal industries in Clermont for many years. This supplied the flour-barrels to the mill, and to other mills less favored, along the Turkey and Otter creek. It also turned out pork barrels and butter tubs, until the industry was crippled by the introduction of the machine-made products. The Clermont mill proper (the flouring mills, with which so many of the present-day citizens and pioneers are acquainted) was put in operation by John Thompson, who came and commenced his work in 1853, and in 1854 laid the foundation and corner stone for the present brick structure, the brick being burned by Christian Miller's father. Grinding at this flouring mill was commenced in the autumn of 1855.

At first there were three run of stones. In 1856 Mr. Thompson sold a share in his milling property to William Larrabee. Later Mr. Larrabee had two partners, whom he bought out in 1859, and operated the mill alone until 1872. He then sold to S. M. Leach, and he in turn to J. G. Botsford, who finally let the property go back to Mr. Larrabee, and he operated it until he sold to Christian Miller in 1901, who, since the purchase, has conducted it in company with his sons, and is at this writing converting it into a combined electric power plant and mill. (See biography of Mr. Miller for full details regarding this industry.) Mr. Larrabee doubled the capacity of his mill, and was able to grind fifteen hundred barrels of flour per week. The dam washed out in 1860 or 1861, and again in 1902. In all the years of this mill's history there has never been any serious accidents happening about the property, such as loss of life or limb. These mills are now styled the Brick City Mills and Electric Power Plant, owned and operated by Hon. Christian Miller & Sons. They furnish the power to operate their mammoth brick and tile factories at Clermont, and electric lights for that town, and Elgin, four miles south. This feature of their work is to be enlarged to include towns at more distant points.

Edwin Stedman, John Hendershott, Chauncey Leverich, with their families, and J. B. Hough and Andrew Martin, settled in the vicinity of Clermont in 1850. Rev. H. S. Brunson commenced to build a hotel in Clermont in this year, but sold out before completing it, and the Clermont House, later known as Brown's Hotel, was completed by the mill company and opened and operated by C. D. Carlton in 1851. Mr. Carlton also opened the first general store in the township in 1849. Soon after the arrival of the Stedman family in 1850, Mrs. Stedman taught the first term of school in the township, a log workshop being vacated and converted into a school-room. This improvised school house also served as a public meeting place, and in it Rev. Brunson delivered the first gospel sermon, in 1851. The first death in the township was the young daughter of Mr. Nutting, who settled two miles above the village of Clermont in the spring of 1850. She was poisoned from eating wild parsnip. In the summer of 1851 occurred the first drowning, when Washington Sawyer was dragged from his boat by an over-hanging tree and floated over the dam. His brother, Aaron, saved himself by swimming. The Turkey river has been the burial place of many people, and the scene of many disasters with teams, etc., both in Clermont township and elsewhere along its course, as the writer can state from sad experience.

The saw-mill at Clermont was a source of revenue to the pioneers within reach of it, since they cut and hauled logs to it for sale, as well as for other

purposes, and thus was commenced a market place for farm products at a very early day, and which was continued and expanded as the years went by. Many present-day residents well remember when Clermont was one of the best wheat markets in Fayette county, and it was a matter of little importance whether a farmer sold his load of wheat at Clermont or drove thirty miles farther to the river market at McGregor. During the active operation of the Brick City mills, any farmer who had business at McGregor could get good pay for his trip by hauling a load of flour from the mill and returning with a load of merchandise for some merchant. In fact, there were many teamsters who made a good living by hauling mill products and returning with lumber or other goods.

The name "Brick City" has stuck to Clermont from early days, probably, at first, because brick was made there in pioneer times, and continued without intermission throughout all the intervening years. The product has always been of a superior quality and for many years "Clermont White Brick" was in demand, far beyond the output. At first the crude appliances of the time were used, the hand-mould and wheel-barrow being about the only "machinery." But more recently improved machinery was installed, thus increasing the possibilities of the output and minimizing the amount of human muscle required. During the year 1909 Christian Miller marketed more than seven million bricks, and he has greatly increased the capacity of the plant and added electrical power for present and future use. Another feature which renders Clermont a "brick city," is the fact that a much larger proportion of ordinary dwelling houses in this town are built of brick than in any other town of like size in the county.

The first justice of the peace in this township was Charles Sawyer, who was elected while the territory was under jurisdiction of Pleasant Valley township, which included townships 94 and 95, north range 7, in 1850.

There were nine voters at the first election held in Clermont township, at the house of Charles Sawyer, in November, 1850. Of these the names of six are remembered, which were, besides Charles Sawyer, C. D. Carlton, Edwin Stedman, John Hendershott, Andrew Martin and J. B. Hough. They used Sawyer's coffee-pot for a ballot-box, which favor may have paved the way to Sawyer's election as township clerk! Edwin Stedman and J. B. Hough were elected justices of the peace. It is probable that no election records were preserved in the early history of this precinct—or assuredly none can be found.

Clermont being the only town in this township, and the first settlements being made at or near the town, it is impossible to separate their history, since

most of it centers about the village from pioneer days to the present. Much of Clermont township is rough and hilly land which was not generally occupied by actual settlers in early pioneer days. Originally there was much timber in this township, some of which was of excellent quality, while a large amount of what is now good farming land was covered with scrubby oak trees, of little value except for fuel. Nearly all of the farms were what is known as "hazel-brush land," and the grubbing and subduing of the underbrush involved much labor and tardy development. But the land proved to be excellent for the growing of wheat, which was the principal industry among the farmers until in the seventies, when the chinch bugs rendered its cultivation uncertain, as well as generally unprofitable. Large numbers of hogs and cattle and many horses are now the product of Clermont township farms, and but little grain or hay are raised for sale, these products being fed on the farms.

The population of this township, outside of Clermont, is largely foreign, the Irish nationality predominating, though there are some Germans and a good many Scandinavians. They are all excellent citizens whose posterity are the active men and women of today. Among them are many of our successful public school teachers, and they are found in many other useful avenues of life.

#### CLERMONT.

The town of Clermont was laid out by John Thompson and C. D. Carlton, proprietors, in 1851, but the plat was not recorded until 1855. In this year Mr. Thompson purchased his partner's interest, and decided to call the town "Norway," and filed the plat for record. But the name was objectionable to the people, who desired to continue the old name of Clermont. After considerable discussion on the subject, Mr. Thompson decided to abandon the objectionable name, and it was changed to Clermont by action of the Legislature, approved July 15, 1856. The town was re-surveyed by Andris Brandt, civil engineer, and the town plat of Clermont was recorded February 16, 1859, by John Thompson, proprietor. On the 4th of July, following, a grand celebration was held, probably as much in commemoration of the event just recorded as in memory of the achievements of our forefathers. Clermont was incorporated as a town on the 16th of August, 1875. The first mayor was S. G. Clark, and the trustees, or councilmen, were C. W. D. Lathrop, Edwin Stedman, Alex. McKinley, John Crowe and J. P. Blackett. W. M. Newell was recorder, and Edwin Stedman, treasurer.

It would be extremely interesting to record in this connection the names

of all the early settlers, but such is now impossible. We recall the Larrabee family, the Applemans, the Bakers, Drs. Hinkley and Lewis, J. P. Calvin, C. F. Weck, the Dibbles, the Botsfords and Underwoods, the Warners, the Schaeffers, the Stolls, the Pringles, the Paynes, and many others who have left their impress upon the town and community; and yet we know that the list is incomplete, and that some of the earliest established families may be omitted from it, while others of later coming may be mentioned.

It is not the purpose in preparing this work to include the names of municipal, lodge and church officers, since these positions are of short duration, and what is correct today may be wrong tomorrow. Neither is there any historical value in such a record, except as the parties may have been identified with other interests, in which case they are mentioned in other departments of the work.

#### SCHOOLS OF THE TOWN AND TOWNSHIP.

Reference has been made to the first school and teacher in the town of Clermont, and that is unquestionably the first school in the township. But it progressed from this small and humble beginning, until, within a few years, the town was blessed with an excellent school, and this has been the pride of her citizenship throughout all the intervening years. In 1854 a brick school house was erected on the site of the present one, which met the requirements of the district for fourteen years, or until 1868, when the old building was superseded by a larger and better one. This had room for five grades, soon after established, and one of the first graded schools in the county was founded. The principals have usually been men of brains and ability, some of whom grew to manhood under the environments of the Clermont schools. Under later laws and regulations, the principal has been succeeded by a superintendent, and the schools classified to meet the requirements of a curriculum of study embracing a definite number of years' work. This places the town schools of the county on practically the same basis during the years required to complete the approved course of study. In Clermont, this includes a period of twelve years, with a graduating system entitling the graduates to admission in the higher institutions of learning of the state, without examination. The independent school district of Clermont was formed in 1860, and that is the date from which to reckon the crowning success of the public school in the "Brick City."

#### LODGES AND CHURCHES.

The Masonic fraternity in Clermont, with much minutiae relating to this historic lodge, is ably presented in the article on Freemasonry in Fayette

county, by Hon. D. W. Clements, grand master of the fraternity in Iowa. The annals of the Roman Catholic church, about which centers so much early history, is presented in the article on that church, by Mr. and Mrs. John Owens, while the history of the Baptist church is ably and fully presented by F. Y. Whitmore. Hon. C. B. Hughes prepares the history of the Methodist Episcopal church in the county, while Carl Evans, an old Clermont boy, writes the history of the Presbyterian church in the county.

The Protestant Episcopal church in Clermont, known as Church of the Savior, was incorporated April 2, 1866. The vestrymen were as follows: J. P. Blackett, D. D. Sanders, J. N. Dennis, C. W. D. Lathrop and R. B. Appleman. A church edifice was erected in 1866-7, and was dedicated by Bishop Lee, of Davenport. It was a pretentious structure for the time, being one of the prominent land-marks of Clermont at the present day. Little change has been made, save in the internal decorations, and the solid stone structure has stood the test of years without appreciable loss. For some years after this church was organized it was the principal Protestant church in the village; but in later years, due to deaths and removal of members, it has been less prosperous than formerly. In fact, while there is a nominal church organization maintained, the services are irregular and often far-between. The Norwegian Lutheran congregation occupies the building as a place of worship. The widow of Dr. W. C. Lewis bequeathed to this church a handsome annuity, but interested heirs precipitated the matter into the courts, with disastrous results as far as the church is concerned.

#### INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS.

Clermont Lodge No. 134, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized January 11, 1876. The names of the organizing members add materially to the list of early settlers and former business and professional men of the town. They are as follows: H. A. Windom, W. C. Lewis, George D. Beaton, John J. Hopper, E. T. Smith, Henry Wilmott, B. W. Branch and W. A. Wickham. The first officers were Dr. W. C. Lewis, noble grand; Henry Wilmott, vice-grand; H. A. Windom, recording secretary; C. W. Ehrlich, permanent secretary, and W. A. Wickham, treasurer.

As the years passed, nearly all of the prominent young men of the town and community became members of this "triple-link fraternity," some to remain and become thoroughly identified with the order, while many lapsed their membership, transferred to other lodges, etc., thus keeping the active membership comparatively weak. This lodge is one of the continuing institutions of Clermont.

There are several fraternal insurance organizations represented in Clermont, the strongest and most prominent of which is the Ancient Order of United Workmen. Brick City Lodge No. 81, of this order, was organized in August, 1876, with sixteen charter members. As this list includes some new names of early settlers and business people of their day, we present it here as follows: H. C. Warner, C. B. Nichols, Paul Ellings, V. K. Gass, G. F. Mitchell, C. W. D. Lathrop, F. P. Harold, M. C. Payne, W. A. Wickham, Amos Longfield, T. H. Whiting, C. F. Weck, John J. Hopper, J. P. Calvin, William Putnam, H. A. Windom and D. E. Baker. Many of these are dead or removed and but few still have an abiding place in the Brick City.

#### CLERMONT SCHOOLS.

For the year 1909 there were two hundred twenty-four pupils of school age in the independent district of Clermont. Five teachers were employed,—one male and four females. The average compensation of the former during a school year of nine months was seventy-seven dollars and ninety-two cents, and of the latter, forty-two dollars and fifty cents. The number of pupils enrolled was one hundred forty-six, and the average daily attendance was one hundred nineteen, at an average cost of tuition per month for each pupil, of two dollars and eight cents. The school house is valued at seven thousand dollars, and the school apparatus, at two hundred fifty dollars. There are four hundred nineteen volumes in the school library.

Clermont township schools are organized under the rural independent district system, there being eight districts so organized. One of these districts had three months' school during the last year and two had four months each; one district had nine months school, two had seven months, and two had eight months. Twelve female teachers were employed at salaries ranging from thirty-two to thirty-nine dollars per month. The school houses of the township are valued at four thousand seven hundred dollars, with two hundred ten dollars invested in school apparatus, and three hundred two volumes in the district libraries.

#### CLERMONT'S PATRIOTISM—ITS MONUMENTS AND STATUES.

No town within the borders of the state of Iowa has exhibited more true patriotism and loyalty to the nation, its flag and its brave defenders, than the little hamlet of Clermont—ex-Governor William Larrabee's home. During the Civil war, Mr. Larrabee twice tendered his services to the country as a

soldier, but, on account of his loss of one eye, was both times rejected, but he went right along doing all within his power in support of the country, the soldiers, and their families in Fayette county. When the war had ended, no man had more faithfully performed his duty than Mr. Larrabee. As the decades went by, and after he had twice been honored by serving the state as its governor, he still manifested a disposition to do something to perpetuate the memory of the gallant and brave soldiery of his state and nation. Through his untiring zeal, together with that of his wife, as leaders of the movement, the citizens of the township met and devised plans by which funds were to be raised for the erection of a soldier's monument in Clermont. Nearly every man, woman and child in the township joined in the good work, suggested by the worthy Mr. and Mrs. William Larrabee. Lots were secured across from the Rock Island railway tracks, at the Clermont depot, and Governor Larrabee and wife selected the figure of Abraham Lincoln, one they had chanced to see in Edinburgh, while traveling abroad, as the most befitting one from which to cast a bronze statute of the martyred President. They were indeed fortunate in getting the services of its original sculptor, Mr. Bissell, who made a similar one. This enterprise proved a success, and it will ever stand as a monument to Lincoln, and at the same time a lasting memorial to the loyalty and liberty-loving spirit of Mr. and Mrs. William Larrabee, aided by the many citizens who joined with them in providing the same. Indeed, it has long since become the pride of the state, and is the only memorial of its kind and purpose in Fayette county.

On the pedestal of this monument, there are four tablets on its base, made of costly bronze, and these were designed and sculptured under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Larrabee. Two are of local and two are of national interest. In one is represented in bas-relief "Tom" Henderson, bidding his wife and children farewell on the eve of his departure with Company C, of the Twelfth Iowa Regiment; a second shows the Clermont soldiers in the thick of the fight at Shiloh, Captain Warner leading the charge and Doctor Lewis, of Clermont, caring for the wounded; in the third panel Farragut is seen strapped to the rigging of his flag-ship in the advance of the fleet on Mobile Bay and Dewey standing on the deck below, in command of a gun squad; the fourth panel depicts the scene of Lee's surrender to Grant at Appomattox court house. Grant and Lee are seated at the table in the foreground, with their staff officers grouped behind them. In the granite base of the monument is this inscription: "Erected in 1902 in memory of Soldiers and Sailors of the Civil War, 1861-1865."

There are four Civil war cannon guarding the four corners of the neatly

kept and properly fenced park in which this monument is located. Also many relics, such as shells and cannon balls are seen..

This superb monument and bronze statue—the best of Lincoln in this country—was formally dedicated June 19, 1902, with impressive ceremonies.

#### THE HENDERSON MONUMENT.

On the same day that the Lincoln monument was unveiled at Clermont, there was another unveiling and dedication of an Iowa monument which will always attract much attention to the passer-by in the years to come. This is the beautiful life-size statue and monument erected by ex-Governor William Larrabee to the memory of Col. David B. Henderson, late speaker of the House of Representatives. This is a square shaft planted in the center of the main street of Clermont, near the park where stands the Lincoln monument. It is surmounted by a fine bronze statue of the popular and efficient Speaker, who in the days of the Civil war had lost a limb in the defense of the flag of his adopted country. The figure shows him standing dressed in the style of clothes he was wont to wear while in Congress, with his official gavel held in his right hand, while his left is clutching his crutch, which rests beneath his arm for support. The base of this monument carries on its sides appropriate inscriptions, designed by Mr. and Mrs. William Larrabee.

#### LARRABEE'S PRIVATE COLLECTION OF STATUES.

“Montauk,” the home of Mr. Larrabee, is situated on a very prominent bluff overlooking the village of Clermont and the meanderings of the picturesque Turkey river. On the hill top, near the residence of the Governor, and by the side of a winding roadway, among beautiful shade trees, may be seen a rare collection of statuary—the largest and finest collection, in any one private place, in the United States. Here one sees four costly bronze statues—Grant, Sherman, Farragut and General Dodge of Iowa. These were all designed and cast under the direction of Mr. Larrabee. And in the cases of Grant, Sherman and Farragut, a son of each of these great chieftains furnished the portraits and military dress to the sculptors, J. Massey Rhind and Mr. Bissell. The one for Grant was first completed, and the others later—at the date of the dedication of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, at St. Louis, to which city they were sent and placed on exhibition in front of the Iowa build-

Perhaps the most striking of all four of these monuments is that of Gen. ing.

Grenville Dodge, of Iowa. In this bronze cast, General Dodge is represented in his full military uniform, while at his side rests the emblem of his distinguished services as a civilian since the war. It is a surveyor's transit that bears eloquent testimony to those days when he had charge of the construction of the Union Pacific railroad line over the western plains; and, on foot and on horseback, traversed this section of the country nineteen times between Omaha and San Francisco.

In the decades, and possibly centuries to come, the group of statues above described will stand as landmarks and monuments to the greatness of some of America's greatest men, both in military and civil life; and with all this, the generous giver, Mr. Larrabee, will, it is believed, never be forgotten while the deeds of loyal Iowans are sought for by future historians. Of such men the world has none too many.

## CHAPTER XXIII.

### DOVER TOWNSHIP.

The first permanent settler in this township was Lewis Kerr, who came with his family in 1848. His mother, one sister and two brothers, John and Thomas, accompanied him. They erected the first log cabin in the township, immediately after the removal of the Indians. Eliff Johnson came the same year, but John Downey broke the first land in the township and soon after sold his claim to Jacob Rosier, who, with his brothers, George N. and William M., located on sections 7, 29 and 32. Benjamin Iliff came in 1849, and built a log house on section 7. George Morrison, who lived across the line in Auburn township, claimed a portion of this section. John Turner, E. Pence, D. F. Soward and Eli Elrod came in 1849, and the little colony was soon joined by Rev. H. S. Brunson, Elisha Hartsough and Lookings Clark. In 1850 R. B. Kincaid, Lemuel Iliff, Nelson Graham and Jacob K. Rosier settled with their families, on section 7, at or near the present site of Eldorado. D. Elrod and James Iliff came during this year. Jacob Hoover settled on section 29, where his life was spent.

Dover township was organized by the county commissioners in October, 1850, and the organizing election ordered for the third Monday in November, following. The judges appointed to hold this election were Jacob Hoover, Benjamin Iliff and Eli Elrod, the voting place being at the house of the latter. Benjamin Iliff was elected justice of the peace, Lookings Clark, township clerk, and Alexander Musselman, constable. In the spring of 1850 Eli Elrod and J. L. Carson built a saw-mill on the Turkey river at the present site of Eldorado, and in 1851 Mr. Elrod, who was then sole owner, built a flouring-mill, which was the beginning of Eldorado's later prominence as a pioneer village. The town was laid out in November, 1852, by Eli Elrod, James Anderson and Thomas Woodle, with their wives, and the plat was filed for record January 6, 1853, and again filed for record on the 5th of May, 1865. Eldorado is located on the northwest quarter of section 18, which was originally owned by Eli Elrod.

With the organization of the township and the establishment of its only village, settlers began to come more rapidly, and among those who came in

the early fifties we mention Thomas Kincaid, Rev. John Webb, William Edgar, James George, James Anderson, Bertel Osselson, Rev. Greenup, William H. Scott, A. J. Sherman, R. R. Nutting, David Thompson, John Barnes, B. H. and C. B. Ropes, William Kent, Ashur Simar, Vincent Anderson, William Andress, James Holmes, C. T. Saboe, Holver Paulson, Hiram B. Hoyt, William Robinson, C. B. Howe, Samuel Rich. These earliest settlers had the choice of lands, and most of them chose the Turkey river bottom lands, or the heavily timbered sections bordering on the river, and to the south of it. These sections were especially desirable, in that they possessed the double virtue of being fertile and at the same time having sufficient timber for buildings, fences, etc., which were then items of great importance. Fully three-fourths of Dover township was originally timber land, some of which was of excellent quality, embracing both hard and soft wood varieties, including considerable black walnut, a little pine and an abundance of basswood, or linden. But the different species of oak, hickory, maple, ash and elm predominated. The Turkey river meanders through this township, from northwest to southeast, its course through the township being some fifteen miles long. The importance of this section of the county as a farming community is best told by stating that the present value of land in the township, listed for assessment purposes, is two hundred ten thousand three hundred and three dollars, while the value of its personal property, seventy-two thousand one hundred fifty-seven dollars, is only exceeded by the cities of Oelwein and West Union. No other township approaches it in the value of personal property listed for taxation.

J. N. Iliff, now of Webster City, Iowa, and son of Benjamin Iliff, who was among the earliest settlers of this township, claims that his father was the first white settler at the "forks of the Turkey;" that Lewis Kerr did not come with his family until the summer of 1850; that Eli and Dempsey Elrod came together in 1850; that the flouring mill at Eldorado was built before the saw-mill, which was erected soon after, etc. These are not material points, except the matter of "first settler." It is probable that Lewis Kerr did not bring his family to the new settlement until 1850, but well-confirmed tradition places him there as a house-holder in 1848; "immediately after the removal of the Indians." But the same authority says that he brought his family, and was "accompanied by his mother, one sister and two brothers."

Mr. Iliff mentions the first "callers" entertained at his parental home, and we can imagine the impression they made on the mind of a lad four years old. He says, "They were queer looking fishermen, wearing long red blankets thrown loosely over their shoulders, with buckskin moccasins and feathery

head gear. They carried long flint-lock rifles, a big knife and a tomahawk. They seemed highly elated and overly curious." His father was called from his work near by, and soon had the Indians smoking, jabbering and grunting with great satisfaction. Soon they began to leave without saying good-bye, but it is not probable that the boy noticed this lack of courtesy! The visitors were Winnebagoes from Fort Atkinson, where they had been cared for by the government, but were now supposed to be on their new reservation in Minnesota. But there were straggling bands of Indians who frequently visited the early settlements for several years after the removal in 1848, but they were peaceable and generally harmless, except as they sometimes imbibed too much of the white man's "fire-water." Their favorite hunting grounds were in the heavy timber which skirted the Turkey river, and they were loth to leave the habitation of their fathers.

In the fall of 1850 the first Methodist minister made his appearance in the new settlement in the person of Elder John Webb. He put up at the home of Benjamin Iliff, and again the critical eye of the young son, Jasper N., "took notes." He noticed that the preacher was tall and angular, and that he had to stoop to get in at the cabin door. Elder Webb and Mr. Greenup, previously mentioned among the early settlers, conducted a two days' meeting in the unfinished flouring mill, loose boards being laid down for a floor. Both these men, with their families, became residents of Eldorado, as soon as lumber could be sawed with which to build their houses. Elder Brunson soon removed from the township.

Another authority gives Rev. John Hindman credit with holding the first religious services in the town and township, and gives the date, October 29, 1849, at the home of Benjamin Iliff. Mr. Hindman was a Methodist. These conflicts of dates, however immaterial, tend to show the treachery of the memory, and that none are infallible.

But it is generally conceded that James A. Iliff, now of West Union, was the first white child born in Dover township, that event occurring on the 13th of April, 1850. His mother, Mrs. Alvina, wife of Benjamin Iliff, died November 15th of the same year, and this was the first death in the new colony. Benjamin Iliff opened the first store in Eldorado, and was also the first postmaster in the place.

The first school in the township was opened in the summer of 1851, in a log cabin in section 31. One authority says Sarah Stafford was the teacher, and another says Arabella Nutting was entitled to the honor. Both statements emanate from early pioneer authority.

The first bridge to span the Turkey at Eldorado was built by subscrip-

tion in 1855. It was succeeded by an iron structure in 1870, at the expense of the county, and this has been replaced or repaired as occasion demanded, the road which it connects being one of the early thoroughfares between West Union and Calmer, and other points north and south.

#### CHURCHES.

The first school house in Eldorado was erected in 1854, the school previously mentioned serving the people of the village until this time, though at some inconvenience and danger, especially when the river was high. A United Brethren church was erected in the village in 1859. Subsequently it was taken apart and moved to Auburn, and the continuing members allied themselves with the church elsewhere. A Methodist Episcopal church was organized in Eldorado during the winter of 1849-50, presumably by Rev. John Hindman, who preached the first sermon in the township, though this statement is disputed in the interest of Rev. John Webb, whom the narrator himself says, "came in the fall of this year," meaning in 1850. The Methodist church was built in 1869, but was not dedicated until January 2, 1871. The building committee was James George, Richard Dewey, James Young, George K. Eckert and Thomas Kincaid, familiar names in Dover township early history. In later years William Oberdorf, Samuel Dewey and Andrew Reed became prominently associated with this church in official capacities, and so continued until their removal from the township. Nearly all the early members of this church are dead. For fuller history of this church, and for the record of the German Lutheran church, see the special articles on these subjects. A Sunday school was organized at the house of Benjamin Iliff, by Eli Elrod and others, in 1850, and this has been a continuing institution, with seldom a break in its weekly meetings.

Special mention should be made of the work of Rev. G. Blessin, pastor of the German Lutheran church at Eldorado. Nearly thirty-five years of his life have been devoted to the service of the church and its people in this county, his present pastorate extending over nearly all of this time. In addition to his pastoral duties, he has taken an active part in social and educational affairs in the village, particularly as a teacher of his self-constituted parochial school, and as a teacher of music in the village and elsewhere. No man could have been more useful in the upbuilding of the moral and intellectual status of the community. We refer with a great deal of pride to his special articles in this work on "German-American Citizenship" and the "German Lutheran Church in Fayette county."

## THE MILLING INDUSTRY.

Several saw-mills and grist-mills were erected along the banks of the Turkey in early times, some of which continued in active operation until within comparatively recent years, but most of them gave way to floods and fire. A steam saw-mill was erected in 1853 by Newton, Walcott & Towner, on section 32, at a place locally known as "Bloomertown," which was continued in operation for many years. Latterly it was owned and operated by Abram Geil, who sold it to John Sphar, who now operates it when its services are demanded. But the portable saw-mill has taken the place of the permanent ones, thus substituting the hauling of the mill for the old custom of hauling the logs. There is yet a large traffic in this line of work in the timbered sections of the county. Alexander Musselman built a saw-mill in early days about a mile below the Eldorado bridge which still has a nominal existence. That place was known for many years as "Slabtown."

The Dover mills, owned and operated in early days by Burnham & Granger, was one of the leading industries of the township during the time when it was customary to do grinding for "toll." But this property gave way to the ravages of the raging Turkey, as did many other industries along its course. The Eldorado mills are still in operation, and have been improved to meet the requirements of the times, though the volume of business done is much less than in earlier days.

Eldorado is a flourishing village with two stores, mechanical shops and minor industries. Its natural surroundings are extremely beautiful.

This township, with its sheltering river bluffs and timber, seems to be specially adapted to fruit-growing, comparing favorably in this respect with any township in the county. Some excellent orchards, and a great diversity of products, are found in this township and good prizes have been awarded Dover township fruits at both county and state fairs. Some small nurseries are also profitably conducted by men schooled in such work. Without disparagement to the work of others, we mention the farms of William A. Anderson, Henry George and Adam Johnson as being specially well equipped for the growing of prize-taking fruits and grains. Others excel in the production of heavy hogs, while still others give special attention to the rearing of horses and cattle.

It is said that a "Know-Nothing" lodge existed in Eldorado in very early times, the garret of Elrod's flouring mill being used as a lodge room. This was reached by means of an outside ladder. "Black-balled" candidates for initiation, who had the presumption to climb the ladder in search of

that which had been denied them, were treated to a bucketful of batter made from mill-sweepings, and this usually dissuaded further efforts in seeking the "mysteries of the order!"

A Good Templars lodge also had an existence in the village in early days, but this has long since ceased to exist.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

There are nine rural independent school districts in Dover township in which were enrolled two hundred and fifty-nine of the three hundred and fifty-one pupils of school age, with a total average attendance of one hundred and sixty-five during the year ending July 1, 1909. One male teacher was employed in the township at a salary of forty dollars per month, and the female teachers received salaries ranging from thirty-three dollars to forty dollars per month. Average duration of schools in the entire township, seven and three-tenths months. Average cost of tuition per month for each pupil two dollars and thirty-nine cents. Value of school houses, five thousand seven hundred and ten dollars; value of school apparatus, nine hundred and five dollars; number of volumes in school libraries, four hundred and three.

Wild game, especially deer, was plentiful in Dover township from the time the white settlers began to locate there until the winter of 1856-7. That winter was exceptionally severe, with deep snow from early winter until late in the spring. The snow was crusted to such an extent that it was difficult for the deer to get away from the hunters and their dogs, and nearly all were slaughtered—many of them wantonly, we believe. This was equally true of other localities in the county, and but few deer have been found here since the eventful winter of 1856-7.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

### EDEN TOWNSHIP.

This township, formerly a part of Auburn, was organized in 1852, with a voting population of nine. It is generally believed that James Austin, who built a cabin on section 11, in 1849, was the first actual settler, but he soon sold his claim to Baldwin Kirkpatrick, and is thereafter better known among the pioneers of Windsor township.

Eden is one of the best agricultural townships in the county, its soil being specially adapted to diversified farming and general stock raising, elements which together contributed to the success of the pioneers during their first efforts at home-making. The land is generally rolling prairie, except along the Turkey river and Crane creek, where there was considerable timber in early days. The banks of these streams are comparatively low as they pass through this township, and the typical "Turkey river bluffs," as found elsewhere in the county, are mostly lacking in Eden township. Besides the two principal streams already mentioned, there are many smaller creeks and spring branches which drain the land and render it ideal for stock-raising.

Unlike most of the other townships of the county, the first settlers in Eden did not at once establish a village, but located on their farm homes and were content to do their trading at towns established in other sections, or even in adjoining counties. The northwest quarter of Eden township was settled almost exclusively by Irish people, some of them direct from the Emerald Isle, but mostly from other sections of our own country. The descendants of these early families still occupy the old homesteads or have drifted into other lines of business, but most of them are in some way identified with the original homesteads. Some of our most efficient county officers have come from the early farm homes in northwestern Eden.

The first school in this township was taught in a private house in the spring of 1854, by Hannah Tiff. In the same year a log school house was built on section 24 (at the later village of Eden), and Miss Murray was the first teacher there.

St. Rose's church, established in the northwest corner of the township, was the first religious organization in Eden, if we except the work of the

traveling pioneer ministers who occasionally held services at the cabins of the people. This church was built in 1857, and was dedicated by Bishop Loras, as appears more fully in the article on the Catholic church in Fayette county. For the history of St. Mary's Catholic church in Waucoma, the reader is referred to the same article.

The schools of Eden township are organized under the district township system, there being eight sub-districts, controlled by a board of eight sub-directors, each endowed with legal authority to manage his own school (under certain restrictions). There are eight school houses in the district township, valued at three thousand five hundred dollars, with school apparatus valued at one hundred twenty-two dollars, and five hundred ten volumes in the school libraries. At the taking of the last enumeration there were one hundred ninety pupils between the ages of five and twenty-one years, of whom one hundred fifty-four were enrolled in the schools, with an average daily attendance of ninety-nine. The average cost of tuition per month for each pupil was two dollars and eighty-two cents. Duration of schools, eight months. Teachers employed, two males and nine females, at an average compensation of thirty-five dollars per month.

#### WAUCOMA.

Waucoma is the principal town in Eden township, and dates its existence from 1855, when Baldwin Kirkpatrick built the first house on the town plat. The land upon which this town is located was entered by J. P. Webster in 1854, and Mr. Webster laid out the town in the same year. At first, and for many years, the town had a tardy growth, but the advent of the Davenport and St. Paul branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway, in 1879, gave the village a new lease of life, and it has since had a steady and prosperous growth. It has always been the principal town in Eden township, and is today fully abreast of all the trading points in the county, and is a progressive and flourishing town, peopled with a class of public-spirited citizens whose influence, money and enterprise have made Waucoma an up-to-date and prosperous town.

This town was incorporated in July, 1883, and J. P. Webster was elected first mayor. This venerable pioneer has served in that capacity about twenty of the twenty-seven years of the corporate existence of the town, though not continuously. Other mayors elected in the town were Dr. O. B. Dodd, Ace Webster, G. W. Bowers, W. H. Stone and L. A. Miller, with J. P. Webster, the present incumbent.

The postoffice was established soon after the town was laid out, and Milo Goodell was the first postmaster. He was succeeded by J. P. Webster. Other postmasters, in order of appointment, were L. J. Smith, K. M. Burnside, J. J. Kieron, J. M. Burnside, A. F. Gressler, and J. W. Reed, the present incumbent. In early days this office was on the "star route" between Osage and West Union, and mails were delivered but twice a week. It is now a third class office, having several daily mails.

The Waucoma *Sentinel* is the only newspaper in the town, it having been established in the seventies (see article on the Public Press). E. B. Stillman, an experienced newspaper man, was at the head of the *Sentinel* for a number of years in its early history. It has always been a spicy and readable weekly paper.

The Waucoma mill was one of the earliest industries established in the town, and one which did more than anything else to bring trade and develop business. It was at first equipped with the old-fashioned stone buhrs, but with the progress of the times it became a full roller system and turned out as fine a quality of products as any of its competitors. At present this mill is operated exclusively for the grinding of feed, buckwheat, etc., and has abandoned flour-making since the failure in the spring wheat crops.

The first hotel in Waucoma was operated by Milo Goodell and was known as the Empire House. A little later it passed into the hands of "Uncle Bill" Scovil, who operated it after a manner peculiarly his own, for many years. The Commercial House and the Palace Hotel were later additions; the latter, and the best hotel Waucoma has ever had, was burned in January, 1907, and the Commercial suffered a similar fate in the autumn of 1908. In each case other property was destroyed, these being the greatest fire losses the town has ever sustained.

#### CHURCHES.

Numerous church organizations have existed in Waucoma from time to time, but some of them have not sustained their early organizations, while others have come and superseded them. Of the former, we mention the Christian denomination, who were among the early occupants of the field, but their organization went down.

In 1874 both the Congregational and United Brethren people effected organizations in the town and held their services in the school house. But the church organization of the Congregationalists was effected in the country, and later removed to Waucoma, where they built the first church edifice. In 1894 this congregation built their present house of worship, and this is the principal Protestant organization in the town.

A revival meeting was held in 1874 by Rev. M. S. Drury and his son, Rev. M. R. Drury, of the United Brethren denomination, the latter being then the pastor of the church at West Union. Excellent results were attained and a strong class was organized which flourished for a number of years. They built a church and maintained a successful organization, until a change in the church curriculum divided the members on doctrinal points into two organizations, known as "Radicals" and "Liberals," neither of which was financially able to sustain their weakened organizations, and the Waucoma church lost its identity, and the building was sold to the Methodists. The last named society still maintains its organization, as appears more fully in the history of the Methodist Episcopal church in Fayette county elsewhere in this work.

From the earliest days of Waucoma history, a considerable portion of the population have been people of the Roman Catholic faith, and these were somewhat inconvenienced by being compelled to attend services, if at all, at St. Rose church, some three or four miles distant. The question of moving the church to the town had long been considered, and yet the settlers around the old church objected to its removal. It was finally decided, however, to establish a new church for the accommodation of those who could attend services more conveniently in the town, and leave the old church undisturbed. This was finally done, and St. Mary's church, in Waucoma, was organized in 1899, under the pastorate of Rev. Father Hogan, the present pastor of the church in Waucoma. A neat and commodious church edifice was erected, at a cost of thirteen thousand five hundred dollars, besides a comfortable and modern parish house.

#### WAUCOMA SCHOOL.

The first school house within the present limits of Waucoma was erected in 1860, and three years later a new frame school building was built to accommodate the increasing population. A graded school was established in early days, and it has always been one of the material points in municipal affairs to procure the best teaching talent to be found, and Waucoma has been justly proud of her schools, even when only a straggling village. The independent district of Waucoma came into existence prior to the incorporation of the town, and in 1882 the district built the first part of the present brick school house, to which an extensive addition was made in 1891, at a total cost of five thousand dollars. There are four rooms in the building, employing four teachers, one male and three females, the former at seventy-five dollars per month, and the latter at an average compensation of thirty-six dollars and sixty-seven cents; duration of school year, nine months. During the last

year, sixteen non-resident pupils received instruction in the high school department, for which the district realized from tuition, one hundred seventy-nine dollars and seventy-five cents. There are one hundred sixty-three pupils of school age in the district, of whom one hundred thirty were enrolled in the schools, with an average daily attendance of one hundred two. The average cost of tuition per month for each pupil was one dollar and eighty-one cents. There are three hundred seventy volumes in the district library, and the school apparatus is valued at one hundred and fifty dollars.

#### EDEN.

The village of Eden is a little hamlet located on section 24 which has had a nominal existence since 1856. In the year last written Oliver Stone erected a saw-mill on the Little Turkey, which passes through the village, and around this centered quite a number of early pioneer homes. Being located in a rich farming district, the small amount of business which the village stimulated was of that substantial kind which encourages the merchant and enables him to continue. During the days when the Patrons of Husbandry wielded a strong influence in this county, a Grange store was established at Eden, and conducted successfully for a number of years by George L. Noble, manager. But that feature was abandoned many years ago, and there is now one small store there, owned and operated by R. F. Rogers, an early settler and prominent citizen in the township.

#### BANKING.

The first banking accommodations here was the private bank of S. B. Zeigler & Company which concern had a chain of banks in this county. Its date was November, 1882. W. H. Stone was its cashier. He bought the bank out and established the Bank of Waucoma in 1887, a private bank.

#### LODGES.

A lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows was organized in October, 1875, and now has a membership of sixty-six; meets over the Bank of Waucoma.

Standard Lodge No. 351, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, was organized May 14, 1875, with the following charter members and officers: A. P. Fowler, worshipful master; W. E. Bender, senior warden; Linus Fox, junior

warden; Henry Felker, secretary; James Miller, treasurer; O. B. Dodd, senior deacon; William Miller, junior deacon; John Lawrence, tyler; Robert Patterson, senior steward; Vol. Johnson, junior steward. The lodge now has a membership of sixty. It is the only lodge in the county owning its own hall, a fine brick with the postoffice on the first floor. This was erected in 1895.

A post of the Grand Army of the Republic was organized in 1879. Only twelve survivors of the Civil war are now members at this post.

The Modern Woodmen of America, Camp No. 4306, organized May 14, 1897, has seventy-five members at this date. Present officers are: L. J. Gibbs, venerable consul; J. B. Steel, worthy advisor; Jo. Mitchell, banker; F. B. Reed, clerk. Meets in Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall. The camp has a Royal Neighbor auxiliary.

#### BRIDGES.

At an early day the Turkey was spanned by two bridges near this point—one up stream about a quarter of a mile, and one at the lower end of town. Both were of the old type of Howe truss wooden bridges. As time and floods swept by, many repairs and new structures had to be built, and finally in 1872 a new and more modern one was built on the site of the present bridge. That served until 1890, when the Chicago Bridge Company erected the present steel structure, costing Fayette county three thousand five hundred dollars.

In 1876, D. P. Moody established a creamery at Waucoma and later sold to Webster & Webb, who operated the same until it was burned, after which the Farmers Creamery Company was organized and incorporated in 1889 and re-incorporated for twenty years more in 1909. They gather cream over regular routes.

#### PRESENT BUSINESS INTERESTS.

Drugs—Burnside & Knight.

Hardware—George King & Son, Blong & Kolbert.

Implement Dealers—James McEnaney.

General Merchandise—Fred McKay, Bright & Webster.

Grocers—Servoss & Sperry, Fred Reed, Mrs. Anna Beebe.

Furniture—Blong & Colbert, John Reed.

Jeweler—C. A. Kohout.

Grain Dealers—Webster Brothers and James McEnaney.

Bank—The Bank of Waucoma.

Harness Shop—M. B. Wilson.  
 Lumber Dealers—Webster Brothers.  
 Livery Stables—L. Young and Robert Scott.  
 Meat Market—Bert Stribling.  
 Newspaper—The *Sentinel*.  
 Blacksmith shops—Will Kent, M. Stribling.  
 Restaurants—F. B. Reed and Mrs. A. Beebe.  
 Feed Mill—Will Twambley.  
 Creamery—Farmers Creamery Company.  
 Opera House—Mrs. J. J. Kieron.  
 Photograph Gallery—J. P. Eskildsen.  
 Physicians and Surgeons—Drs. O. B. Dodd (retired), Fox & Hobby,  
 E. S. Kaufman (homeopathic) and Dr. Smittel.  
 Hotel—Mrs. Anna B. Beebe.  
 Wagon shop—William Barbour.  
 Millinery—Mrs. M. Husband.  
 Attorney-at-law—A. C. Boylan.

Dr. J. B. Norris came from Illinois to Chickasaw county, ten miles north of Waucoma, in the fifties, and to Waucoma in 1860, and practiced here until his death, in 1865. Then came Dr. Olmstead, who remained only a short time. The third doctor at Waucoma was Dr. O. B. Dodd, who still resides there, but has practically retired from the practice, though he is called in extreme cases and as counsel. (See medical chapter).

#### ALPHA.

By Mrs. Anna Holton and Almon Davis.

The village of Alpha is located on Crane creek, section 32, Eden township, and was originally a part of the farm owned by Philander Davis. It was surveyed and platted about 1870, by E. D. Gazley, as it was necessary that the town should be named before the plat could be recorded, Mr. Davis said his wife should name it. She said as it would be the first town on Crane creek, they would call it Alpha, as that meant the "beginning." But for several years the town was more generally known as Johnson's Mill. The first house was built during the fall of 1869, by Samuel Johnson, who, with his son Volney N., had bought the water power the preceding winter or spring. During the winter of 1869-70, timber was hauled from the Auburn woods, and lumber from Lawler, and work was begun both on the mill and dam early

in the spring of 1870. The work on the mill was carried on so expeditiously under the supervision of a millwright by the name of Taft, that the people in the vicinity held a 4th of July picnic in it, that being the first 4th of July demonstration held in Alpha. The mill was completed and in operation early in the autumn. Harley Wade was the first miller. Flour was made and shipped quite extensively for several years, but at present only buckwheat and feed grinding is done. After numerous changes in ownership, this property is now owned and operated by A. A. Finch. The first blacksmithing was done by Tyler and Perkins, in a board shanty on the east side of the road, at the north end of the bridge. In the fall of 1870, Mr. Perkins built the stone shop, and sold it to Thomas Bartie in 1871. Some of those who have either owned or worked in the old shop for some considerable length of time are Thomas Bartie, Chauncey Bronson, Thompson and Tabor, George Broadbent, Albert Broadbent, Frank Fisk, and others. The building was owned for some years by C. C. Dykins, who sold it to the Davis brothers. The "old stone shop," which for thirty-eight years was a landmark in Alpha, was torn down by Almon Davis, in 1908, and a two-story brick building erected on the site. The first story of this building is used by Mr. Davis as a hardware store, and the upper story is used by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Brotherhood of American Yeomen as a lodge room.

The first wagon shop was built by the Davis brothers, who did wagon making and general repair work. This building was sold to F. D. Talcott, who moved and enlarged it, and put in a blacksmithing outfit. This property has changed hands several times, Fred Thelman owning it and working there quite a number of years. It is now owned by Almon Davis and son, D. D. Davis, who have rebuilt it, and put in a gasoline engine, saw, lathes and other machinery, making it a first-class blacksmith and wagon shop.

In the summer of 1871 C. C. Dykins built the first store building, and put in a stock of general merchandise. This building has been used continuously as a store, and is now occupied by Gager Brothers, with general merchandise and postoffice. The Bethel postoffice was moved to Alpha about 1879, and the name changed to Alpha. Philander Davis was the first postmaster, and George Bowers, deputy. Mr. Davis soon resigned in favor of Mr. Bowers. The office was turned over to R. S. Brayton in 1883, and after his death in 1890, his wife, Mrs. M. A. Brayton, was appointed postmistress, which office she filled until June, 1907, when she resigned in favor of E. E. Gager. About 1887, the Day Brothers put up a small building for creamery purposes, the machinery being operated by horse tread-power. The building was burned in September, 1888, and the Farmers Co-operative Creamery Association was

formed the same fall. A new building was erected, equipped and in operation by the following January. After twenty years use, the building was torn down and a brick structure was erected in 1908 and equipped with all modern conveniences; and now Alpha has a creamery to be proud of. The report for the year ending October, 1909, was one hundred seventy thousand one hundred and fifty-seven pounds of butter manufactured, and actual cash receipts, forty-four thousand two hundred nineteen dollars and twenty-four cents. During the spring or summer of 1880 the building now occupied by E. F. Sheldon, as restaurant and grocery, was built by Doctor Stearns, and a stock of drugs was placed in it. After a few months the Doctor left, and the drugs were moved away, since which time Alpha has had no resident physician.

M. B. Wilson put in the first harness shop in 1887, and continued here in the business five years. Frank West is the present harnessmaker, and is doing a good business. The tonsorial chair has for years been looked after by William Patterson. In 1883, L. W. Drake put up a new building, and filled it with a stock of goods. The building is now occupied by Richmond & Chapman, with general merchandise.

The following gentlemen have been at some time in the mercantile business in Alpha: C. C. Dykins, George Bowers, L. W. Drake, A. L. Davis, J. B. Hathaway, James Patterson, C. F. Carr, F. J. McIntyre, and C. Brayton, general merchandise; Herman Schmudluck, J. A. Hathaway, Eugene Finch, and Almon Davis, hardware.

The first school house in the district was built by S. H. Stine, in the fall of 1867, and the first term of school was taught by Henry A. Bender. The first marriage in the town was A. E. Davis to Record Jewett, in November, 1870. It is believed the first child born was Mamie Bartie, daughter of Thomas Bartie. The first death, Sammy Bronson, little son of Chauncey Bronson.

The only serious accident that has occurred in the town was on December 9, 1902, when a shadow of gloom was cast over the entire community by the death of Robert Patterson (miller), who was caught in the machinery, and instantly killed.

Alpha is a town of some note abroad, as it is quite a summer resort. It has its beautiful little park, on the south side of the river, owned and cared for by J. T. Gager, who has also a gasoline launch, and several row boats, and a commodious boat house for the use of pleasure-seekers. No saloon has ever smirched the fair record of our town. It was once attempted, but was boycotted, and soon was moved away.

## RELIGIOUS AND CIVIC SOCIETIES.

Religious meetings were held in the room over L. W. Drake's store some time during the eighties, conducted by a Congregational minister, Rev. Robert Mumby. A Sunday school was also organized in the same place, Charles A. Husband acting as superintendent.

The Ladies' Aid Society was organized by Rev. Emmett Hunt in 1888, since which time the ladies have realized over three thousand dollars by their efforts.

The church was built in 1889, and dedicated by the Methodist Episcopal denomination, with Rev. Emmet Hunt, as first pastor.

## SOCIETIES.

An Independent Order Good Templars was organized in July, 1889, by Mrs. Anna M. Tyng, state deputy, and still holds weekly meetings. A. L. Davis was the first chief templar. In connection with this order, a Juvenile Templars organization was instituted by Mrs. Mary E. Lloyd, and continued its meetings for twenty years.

Alpha Camp, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized on February 24, 1898, with Ed. Ostrander as first venerable consul, and J. B. Hathaway, clerk.

Bethel Homestead, Brotherhood of American Yeomen, was instituted in September, 1898 with John Waterworth as first foreman.

Alpha Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted January 25, 1908, by L. W. White, grand master of the grand lodge of Iowa, with forty-three charter members. Almon Davis was first noble grand.

## ALPHA TELEPHONE COMPANY.

This company was organized in October, 1905, the object at first being for local convenience, but the system spread, until now it covers ninety miles of line, has three hundred and one shareholders, owning their own phones, and the company owns ninety rented phones. Towns reached by even exchange are as follows: Waucoma, Lawler, New Hampton, Jackson Junction, St. Lucas, Eden, Hawkeye, Randalia, Maynard, Fredericksburg, Calmar, Ft. Atkinson, and Festina. It is incorporated as the Alpha Telephone Company, headquarters at Alpha, where the central office is located, with Mrs. A. A. Finch tending the switchboard, to the entire satisfaction of the public.

## CHAPTER XXV.

### FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP.

Strangely enough, the early history of this township centers about Taylorsville, a village long since obliterated from the map of Fayette county and which survives only in the memory of the early settlers. Its formal organization as an election precinct, which included the present township of Fairfield and the south half of Illyria, was provided for by the board of county commissioners, October 8, 1850, and the first election was held at the house of Jared Taylor, with Daniel Finney, Henry Baker and David King as judges of the election. But Fairfield was one of the first four townships surveyed in this county, as appears more fully in the chapter on "County Organization." The same chapter gives names of some of the earliest settlers in the township, as well as the establishment of the first road, thus showing the importance of Taylorsville as an early town and trading place. The opening of a public highway from the county line east of Taylorsville, through that town, and on to West Union, was one of the first official acts of the county commissioners, elected in 1850. Reference is also made to the article, elsewhere in this chapter, "Recollections of Arlington and Vicinity," by Hon. James Cooney, ex-county attorney, and a resident of Brush Creek for many years.

It is believed that "Major" Mumford's was the first white family to locate within the present boundaries of Fairfield township. But little is known of this family except some traditional history. Some authorities give them credit with having born to them the first white child in Fayette county. The circumstances surrounding this case are somewhat unique. It seems that the child was born while the parents were temporarily out of the county—in the brush by the road-side, in Delaware county. But as their only home at the time was near Brush Creek, where they had made a claim and built a house, it would seem to be fair to give them the "benefit of the doubt!" The Mumfords laid their claim early in 1840. But little was known of township boundaries in those days, and it is probable that the Mumfords were associated with all the early settlers in that section of the county. Some of these were the Gamble family, who came in the fall of 1840 and moved away in 1842.

## TEAGARDEN MASSACRE.

In the autumn of 1842 two men came to the locality from Dubuque who figured conspicuously in the local history of the country. These were Atwood and Teagarden, the latter buying out the Gamble claim. Teagarden brought his family of wife and three children and moved into the Gamble house, Atwood, a bachelor, going to live with them. It seems that their principal business was selling whiskey to the Indians, and this led to interminable trouble and finally the murder of both Teagarden and Atwood. This atrocious crime was the result of a dispute over the possession of a gun which an Indian had pawned to Atwood, probably for whiskey. During the night of March 25, 1843, Atwood returned from Dubuque with a barrel of whiskey, and found three Indians at the cabin waiting for him. The Indian's gun had been sold or bartered away, and the red man insisted upon having his property. The entire company of five proceeded to get drunk, but it seems that Atwood and Teagarden were more susceptible to the influences of the "fire water" than the Indians, in that they got helplessly drunk, while the Indians were not; and after Atwood and Teagarden were laid out on the floor, it was an easy matter for the Indians to tie them, hand and foot, which they proceeded to do. They then leisurely chopped Atwood to pieces with their tomahawks, but were more considerate in disposing of Teagarden, whom they shot and instantly killed. They also killed a small boy, son of Teagarden's, and seriously wounded another boy and a girl of some nine or ten years, leaving them all for dead. Fearing trouble before the drunken quarrel was over, Mrs. Teagarden had gone to the Wilcox home, and was away when the other members of the family were murdered. The boy, Isaac, and his sister, Marie, survived their injuries and grew to maturity, married and removed from the state many years ago. After completing their ghastly work, the Indians set fire to the house, stole a horse from the stable, and, after taking possession of everything of value to them, made good their escape. But they were captured some time afterwards, indicted by the grand jury of Clayton county, tried and convicted, but none of them ever suffered the penalty of their crimes. One was killed by his fellows in a fight in the jail, another died, and the other escaped, but was killed by members of his tribe. The unpronounceable names of these worthless savages is not a material point in the recital of this, the first murder in Fayette county. The widow of Teagarden married Zopher Perkins, who lived near Taylorsville. A strange coincidence is the fact that an older son of Teagarden, who lived at Dubuque at the time of the massacre, came to the identical locality and built another house and sold liquor to the Indians. He

was indicted by the Clayton county grand jury and fined one hundred dollars for this transgression of the law. This occurred on the 14th of June, 1847. Another of the Teagarden boys was indicted for the same offense the next year.

The commission of such a crime as above narrated, in the sparsely settled community, naturally created great excitement and an Indian outbreak was thought to be imminent. A courier was dispatched to Dubuque to inform the authorities and preparations were at once made to receive the dusky foe, which then outnumbered the whites a hundred to one. But the Winnebagoes were for the most part a peaceful, inoffensive race, and were seldom in trouble except under provocation, or when fired with liquor, as in the case here mentioned.

Wilcox, Orrear and Beatty were the first to visit the scene of this terrible disaster, and they buried the dead in the ruins of the cabin where the deed had been committed. Mrs. Teagarden remained at the Wilcox house for some weeks after the death of her husband, when she was taken by Wilcox to Dubuque where some of her family still remained. We next hear of her as the wife of Perkins, and living near Taylorsville, as previously related.

The Wilcox cabin, after it was abandoned by that family for a home nearer his land, was the temporary home of a number of the early families in that locality. Among those who lived in it were William Van Dorn, the Hensleys, P. F. Newton, James and Samuel Robertson. The Van Dorn child, which was probably the first white child born in this county, first saw the light in the Wilcox cabin.

Orrear and Beatty were partners for a time in their land holdings, but the former bought the interests of Beatty in the fall of 1843, and Beatty selected another location near by. Orrear was married to Angelina Wilcox, February 25, 1844, and they carried on an extensive dairy business for a number of years, selling their products at Fort Atkinson. Thus early was developed the profits and wisdom of dairying in Fayette county.

In the fall of 1843 the Oatman family located on the prairie northwest of the present site of Arlington and built a house of considerable pretensions for that early day. But their holdings were soon sold to St. John, and seven of the nine members of the Oatman family were murdered by Indians during their attempt to emigrate to California.

M. C. Sperry came to Fairfield township in 1846, but had made a prospecting tour to the county three years previously. He was one of the first justices of the peace elected in Hewitt township, while this county was still

under the domination of Clayton county. Mr. Sperry was a prominent and useful citizen of Fairfield township during the balance of his life time.

Taylorsville, of the "long ago," would be an unimportant factor in the history of Fairfield township but for the life-work of a few very early pioneers there whose families are now nearly or quite extinct. In this connection we mention Jared Taylor, who laid out the town; M. C. Sperry, who did the first breaking of land in the vicinity; William Stevenson, who built the saw-mill in 1854; Mr. Bassett, who opened the first store in 1852, and Robert Powers and Nathan Putnam, who started in mercantile business a year or two later; Joshua Mead, who was the "architect" and builder of the saw-mill; George L. Ransom, who entertained the traveling public at his private home, and Jacob Hartman who opened a hotel in 1856; Peter Kuney and family were early hotel keepers there, as they were, also, at Brush Creek; William White was an early merchant at Taylorsville.

It would hardly be proper to mention the names of the sporting fraternity who resided at Taylorsville, or were frequenters of the place, since some scenes were enacted in early days which would not reflect credit upon the citizenship of those times. Suffice to say that Taylorsville was a medley of contradictions, in that it was once the wickedest place in Fayette county, and at the same time one of the most religious. Horse-racing, gambling, drinking, public dances and general carousing were in order at all times, even when religious meetings were in progress in the town.

Jacob S. Guin located near Taylorsville in the fall of 1850, and he and members of his family became prominent in the county's later history. Dr. Silas Taylor and his brother Jared were among the earliest settlers and figured prominently in the county organization period. Samuel Taylor (another brother ?) built and operated the first blacksmith shop, but the building soon burned and Taylor was succeeded in the business by Giles Miller, who was also an early justice of the peace, and who was a resident of the county for more than forty years. His last residence, however, was at Hazelton, in Buchanan county.

The steam saw-mill erected by William Stevenson soon passed into the hands of Philander Rawson, who, with his son, Walter, later controlled nearly the entire sawing business in the south part of the county. Mr. Rawson purchased a water mill on Brush creek, erected by Jacob Kauffman in early days, and in time merged it into a large and well-equipped steam mill, which for many years did a very large business. Walter Rawson subsequently built a steam mill at Arlington, which he operated in connection with an extensive lumber business at the time of his death a few years ago.

The "paper" town of Centerville was brought to the attention of the early settlers in Fairfield through a trifling misunderstanding between Doctor Taylor and William Stevenson. The latter platted a portion of his land and attempted to establish a new town, practically adjoining the old. But Taylorsville had come to stay, and the effort at supplanting it in name proved abortive. Stevenson operated a small store before the opening of the Bassett store (which is credited with being the first mercantile establishment), but Bassett's was the first complete stock of goods displayed in the town. Stevenson was also the first postmaster in the place, though the office was established through the agency and influence of the Taylors. Previously to this, the mail for Taylorsville was carried, irregularly, from Elkader, and later from Volga City. Until after the close of the Civil war, the terminus of the Wadena mail route was at Taylorsville, except as it had one weekly delivery at government expense, and if wanted oftener, it was sent for at private expense.

The old tavern at Taylorsville, erected in 1856, was kept by M. D. Covell for many years, though he was not the first landlord, as has been stated elsewhere. Peter Kuney succeeded to a monopoly of the hotel business in later years, and operated it, undisturbed, until the town was moved to Brush Creek, when he hitched to the old hotel and moved it over to the other town and operated it there until his death. He was quite successful, both as a hotel-keeper and in the accumulation of wealth. Another pioneer in the vicinity of Taylorsville was Hon. W. R. Morley, better known as "Deacon" Morley. His was a character worthy of emulation. The Deacon was a native of Massachusetts, though he came to Iowa from Illinois. He was poor, but by industry and economy, virtues which he possessed beyond that of the average man, he became quite wealthy. And yet with all his "pinching" economy, he was a very liberal man in the distribution of his wealth to worthy applicants. Being childless, he and his wife reared and educated several orphan children and left them well provided for in later life. Mr. Morley was liberal in donating to the building and support of churches, though he never connected himself with any religious denomination. But for his liberality in this direction it is doubtful if the United Brethren church at Brush Creek ever could have been built and sustained. This was the religious home of his wife, and though he was liberal in donating to other religious organizations, it is probable that his contributions to the United Brethren were larger and more regular than to the others.

Deacon Morley was a man of sound judgment, but lacking in education. His inherent goodness and unquestioned integrity placed him in places of

trust and honor for which he was not otherwise qualified. But his record as a member of the Iowa Legislature would compare favorably with that of many others elected to the same position during the last sixty years.

#### SCHOOLS.

A log school house was built in Taylorsville in 1850, this being the first school house erected in the township. Charles Jones, who came to the county with Lorenzo Dutton and others, was the first teacher, and the winter of 1850-1 witnessed the opening of the educational process in the southern part of the county. But schools were opened at Lima, Fayette and West Union about this time, though it is not certain as to which of the four mentioned was the first.

Some of the patrons of this school, besides those previously mentioned, were David German, Elder Lowe, George McKinney, the Lonsberry, Cook, King, Adams and Glidden families.

Mrs. Henry Wilcox, who now lives near the old parental home, was one of the pupils in the first school taught in Taylorsville. She is a daughter of Jacob S. Guin, who died on the overland trip to California. Clarissa Seeley was the successor of Charles Jones. She became the wife of John Moine, who made the first land entry in the county. During the existence of the log school house, it also served the people for a place of worship, for town meetings of all kinds, shows, etc. Some of the pioneer ministers who served the people at this time are mentioned in "Recollections of Arlington and Vicinity," by James Cooney. Taylorsville never had a church building, though religious services were conducted in the town from early pioneer days, mostly by the United Brethren denomination. Rev. William Moore who began preaching on the Taylorsville circuit in the early fifties, received for two years' pastoral work the sum of thirty dollars in cash and two bed quilts!

The schools of this township are operated under the rural independent district system, there being seven independent districts, besides the independent district of Arlington. The latter is presented in Mr. Cooney's article, to which we add in this connection, the following: Number of teachers employed, six; duration of school, nine months; compensation of teachers, one male, ninety dollars per month, and five females at an average compensation of forty-three dollars and thirty-three cents per month. There are two hundred and forty-nine persons of school age in the district, of whom two hundred and thirty-nine were enrolled in the schools, with an average daily attendance of one hundred and eighty. The average cost of tuition per month

for each pupil was one dollar and ninety-four cents. There were twenty-four non-resident pupils enrolled in the schools during the last year, from whom was realized in tuition fees one hundred and twenty-four dollars and twenty cents. The school house is valued at six thousand five hundred dollars, the value of school apparatus is two hundred dollars, and there are nine hundred and forty-seven volumes in the school library.

The rural independent districts employed one male teacher and six females, at salaries ranging from thirty dollars per month in one district, to forty-two dollars and thirty-three cents in another, the average for the entire township being thirty-seven dollars and thirty cents. The schools were in session eight months in the year, and one hundred and forty-three of the two hundred and eighteen pupils of school age were enrolled in the schools. The seven school houses are valued at four thousand five hundred dollars, the school apparatus in them is valued at six hundred and seventy-five dollars, and there are four hundred and ninety-nine volumes in the school district libraries.

#### CHURCHES.

Arlington has three church edifices, representing the Christian, the Methodist Episcopal and the United Brethren denominations.

Mention is made of these in Mr. Cooney's article, and but little more need be said. The same is true of the social and fraternal societies of the place, though the Masonic history is worthy of more than passing notice, and the interested reader is referred to the history of Freemasonry in Fayette county, by Past Grand Master D. W. Clements.

The United Brethren church has not been in a prosperous condition for a number of years. This is due, in part, to the death or removal of some of the prominent members whose contributions and influence kept the organization together; but the principal cause was due to the division of the church throughout the country on certain disciplinary changes by the general conference some twenty-five years ago. Some churches accepted the change without question, while others revolted and continued to maintain the original organization, assuming that they were the United Brethren church in fact, and that the adherents to the new disciplinary doctrines were seceders. This brought litigation, weakened both branches of the church, and has resulted in the disorganization of many churches. The Arlington church still has services by the "Radical" branch, or what they term to be "the original United Brethren church," and a regular pastor of that faith is stationed there. It is claimed that this denomination was the first to enter the field, and that Rev.

John Brown preached the first gospel sermon at the Orrear cabin in 1847, and that continuous services were kept up by traveling ministers until the Brush Creek church was organized in 1876. The church was built and dedicated two years later. The building committee consisted of W. R. Morley, Jonas Gunn, Lucius Carey, Rev. O. R. Robbins (who was also the builder) and Dr. C. F. Waldron. The building is of brick, thirty-two by forty-eight feet, sixteen feet high, surmounted by a spire and belfry.

#### ARLINGTON.

By James Cooney.

A flourishing, incorporated town located in section 28 of Fairfield township, with a population of about eight hundred and fifty. This township has some of the richest and most valuable agricultural land in Iowa. The town was platted in 1856, on land owned by C. D. and T. E. Shambaugh, D. C. Finney, F. R. Hynes, Nelson Huckins and Isaac Walrath. The town was named Brush Creek and was known by this name until the railroad was built into the place.

When the name of the town was changed to Arlington, R. N. Hibbard, Esq., was mayor, and was the leader of the citizens favoring the change of name, which was objected to by some of the older residents and by the officers of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company. Hon. J. A. Thompson, being then a member of the Legislature for Fayette county, succeeded in having the law of the state amended so as to compel the railway company to change the name of the station to Arlington. The place for a time was known as Moetown, one Charles Moe being the first white land owner and settler there. Moe sold his land to C. D. and T. E. Shambaugh, December 20, 1856. The Shambaughs were the first business men in the town; they built a log house where they kept hotel and a general store.

York Lodge No. 202, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, was established at Taylorsville, January 26, 1867, but was removed to Brush Creek in 1873.

The township elections were held at Taylorsville until 1872, when a change of voting place was made to Brush Creek. Soon after the location of the present railway, at and through Brush Creek, several buildings, including the present hotel building, were removed from Taylorsville and with them nearly all the business of this hitherto prosperous village.

There is now a large, well-kept cemetery near the old town plat of Taylorsville, which is the most used burial ground for southeast part of the county.

• The first public school in Brush Creek was taught by Samuel Taylor in the school house known as Newton school house which was moved to the village. There is now a large two-story brick building which was built in 1877, and an addition thereto, afterwards built. The estimated value of Arlington public school property is six thousand five hundred dollars.

#### CHURCHES.

The Christian church (church of Christ) was organized in April, 1858, under ministration of Elder Brittel, and was the only denomination owning and maintaining a church building here until 1876, when the Methodist Episcopal church was organized, and a church building erected. In the year 1878 the United Brethren congregation built its present brick church. These three denominations now have good church buildings here and hold regular Sabbath services. A German Lutheran congregation holds services here at times, but has no church building.

Arlington enjoys a fine modern waterworks system put in at a first cost of about five thousand dollars, which has been improved and extended at an additional cost since. The waterworks is the property of the town. Arlington also has gas works (acetylene), owned by a private corporation, which gives a fine service and is well patronized.

The first bank established here was by Rawson & Rice, known as Brush Creek Bank. Rawson & Rice (A. Rawson and Ed. Rice) were also livestock buyers and energetic business men who did much to make the town prosper in a business way. There are now two banks at Arlington: First State Bank, of which D. B. Allen is cashier and Miss Fannie Bates bookkeeper. Chauncey Deming is president of this bank. The First National Bank was established in 1910, and T. J. Ainsworth is cashier. This new national bank is now erecting its bank building. Guy L. Rawson is president of the bank, and John Wilken vice-president. He is a prosperous business man of the town, and was the chief promoter of the new bank.

The town was visited by a cyclone in June, 1883, which wrecked the Methodist Episcopal church, and several dwelling houses. No person was fatally injured, but considerable property was wrecked and some narrow escapes were reported.

Arlington has a good opera house of two stories. The second story is used as lodge rooms by the Masons, Odd Fellows, Modern Woodmen of America, Royal Neighbors, Grand Army of the Republic and other societies of the town. There is a town hall owned by the city, where council meetings

and elections are held, and where the town keeps its fire extinguishing hose and other property. This hall was built at a cost of two thousand dollars, exclusive of value of lot.

The following is a partial list of the pioneers and former business men of the town and vicinity, now deceased, who were most active and contributed most to the building and prosperity of the town:

Andrew Ainsworth, farmer; William Ainsworth, farmer and carpenter; William Anglemyer, farmer; Vernon Arbuckle, retired farmer; Alex Anderson, machinist; P. G. Abbott, farmer; Adam Becker, merchant and farmer; Charles Bond, retired farmer; Chancy Brooks, retired farmer; Ira Calkins, retired farmer; James Crawford, retired farmer; James Cole, retired farmer; James Dempster, farmer; George L. Doane, farmer; Michael Eckert, retired farmer; Samuel Fereday, farmer; A. J. Fish, farmer; Charles Glime, retired farmer; Fred Glime, merchant, farmer, politician, etc.; D. B. Hoxton, retired farmer; George Hancock, farmer; Jacob Hill, farmer; W. H. Hoover, merchant; Mat Hammas, tinner and plumber; Charles Jaques, farmer; Albert Johnson, farmer; James Kennedy, farmer; Peter Kuney, hotel keeper and farmer; J. D. Kuney, livery and feed stable; L. C. Kuney, merchant; William King, retired farmer; W. F. Lackey, retired farmer; M. Lackey, wagon maker; Peter Leonheart, farmer; Charles K. Leonheart, druggist; W. D. Little, cooper; John W. Lickiss, retired farmer; Eugene Moine, farmer; William McAlavey, farmer; A. C. Manson, farmer; John Mead, retired farmer; Mathew McCrea, merchant; Joseph Menges, retired farmer; William R. Morley, farmer; Henry Moyer, farmer; J. P. Moine, farmer; Palmer F. Newton, farmer; O. H. Osborn, owner and editor "*News*"; S. T. Oviatt, proprietor furniture store; William Philips, attorney-at-law and farmer; Calvin Perkins, farmer; L. Page, farmer; Albert Probasco, farmer, ex-member county board supervisors; Philander Rawson, farmer; Walter Rawson, saw mill, lumber dealer; Edward Rice, banker, ex-member Legislature; George Rice, farmer; S. E. Rice, farmer; James Richards, farmer; O. R. Robbins, United Brethren preacher and mechanic; J. B. Squires, retired farmer; George Simpson, Sr., retired farmer; C. D. Shambaugh, merchant and farmer; T. E. Shambaugh, merchant and farmer; Ben Shambaugh, justice of the peace and farm owner; James Shambaugh, retired farmer; Monroe Shumway, druggist; W. H. Smith, drayman; William Spatcher, blacksmith; William Truesdell, retired farmer and carpenter; William F. Taylor, retired farmer; Killen M. Voshell, retired farmer; Alex. Wandell, merchant; Isaac Walrath, farmer and hardware; Jacob H. Walrath, farmer and hardware; Stephen Westcott, retired farmer; Loyd Westcott, farmer; G. Wheeland, physician; Chandler Wilcox, farmer; C. G. Wheeland,

farmer; Peter White, attorney-at-law and farmer; W. C. White, merchant; R. A. Wilcox, farmer; Heiman Wilson, retired farmer.

Among the pioneer settlers advanced in years not now actively engaged in business, now having good homes in the town and most of them well to do farmers, all highly respected citizens, are:

Hon. Andrew Addie, ex-clerk of district court and member of General Assembly, representative from Fayette county; Joseph Antwine, W. H. Benedict, J. A. Blanchard, James Carnall, Robert Ewing, J. A. Foster, W. C. Glime, J. T. Gable, John Howard, Lewis James, J. R. McDonald, Charles Roe.

The principal business firms now are as follows:

Attorneys at Law—John Hutchison, D. D. Palmer.

Blacksmiths—Jake Montz, Robert Rutherford, H. Roloff.

Banks—First State Bank, D. B. Allen, cashier; First National Bank, T. J. Ainsworth, cashier.

Barbers—G. A. Goodspeed, ———— Robbins.

Boots and Shoes—William Powell.

Billiard Hall—Emmet Taylor, proprietor.

Creamery—Farmers Co-operative Company.

Cement worker—Charles Cushion.

Cooper's Shop—J. H. Little.

Carpenters—Frank Ainsworth, M. Lackey, R. L. Newton, Robert Hunter, Henry L. Palmer, J. P. Wiltsie, Albert Wilson.

Clothing Store—T. L. Gleim, manager.

Draymen—Oliver Murphy and Andrew Perkins.

Drug stores—Walter M. Shumway, D. and B. B. Walrath.

Dentist—Dr. E. S. Taylor.

Furniture and Undertaking—W. H. Gleim & Sons.

Feed Mills—R. L. Newton, John Silha & Son.

Grocery Stores—E. D. Allen, G. C. Bates.

General Stores, Dry Goods and Groceries—J. M. Welch, Frank Kuney Company, George A. Lickiss, G. C. Bates (extensive grocery trade).

Hotel—St. Cloud, W. Kenyon, proprietor.

Harness Makers—William House, J. C. Wilken.

Hardware Stores, Harness Stock and Farm Implements—Jewell & Moyer, John C. Wilken.

Ice Business—Floyd Finney.

Jewelry Store—A. R. Bird.

Livery Stables—George Hyde, L. Rittenhouse.

Lumber Dealers—Keve Lumber Company, Guy L. Rawson.

Meat Market—H. Schoeppe.  
Millinery Store—Floy-Hallack.  
Newspaper—W. F. Lake, editor.  
Opera House—Kingsley, proprietor.  
Painters—Roy Newton, L. J. Palmer.  
Photograph Gallery—C. Stetter.  
Postmaster—O. Z. Wellman.  
Physicians and Surgeons—O. O. Ayer, C. E. Bower (homeopathic)  
Gates M. Brown.  
Racket Store—C. B. Woodson.  
Real Estate—A. Rittenhouse.  
Restaurant—Crothers.  
Saw Mill—Guy L. Rawson.  
Stock and Grain Buyer—George Simpson & Son.  
Teamsters—Paul Hendrickson, A. Hulderson, C. N. Finney.  
Tinner and Plumbers—E. D. Miller, John Cramer, both with Jewell & Moyer.  
Veterinarian—Dr. C. M. Allen.  
Wagon Shops—M. Lackey, H. Roloff.

## TAYLORSVILLE.

By James Cooney.

Taylorsville, a former town located on section 22 and 23 of Fairfield township, was laid out by Jarad Taylor, who settled here in 1851. A log school house was erected here in 1850 and school was taught in the building. The United Brethren church ministers held regular church services in this log school house, among whom were Revs. Israel Shaffer, John Dollarhide, William Moore, George Watrous, Enoch Fothergill, Willis Bunton, John Brown, the latter beginning his ministerial career in the county in 1847.

Killen Voshell and Hannah Taylor were married at Taylorsville in March, 1851, by Jarad Taylor, justice of the peace. Mr. Voshell resided near here on his large valuable farm until his death in 1909.

In 1856 Jacob Hartman opened a hotel at Taylorsville; Peter Kuney and his son, J. D. Kuney, kept the hotel when the town was at its best. This town at one time had a large trade. A. M. Childs conducted a general merchandise store as early as 1860. Becker and Kuney and William White had good stores here also.

## CHAPTER XXVI.

### FREMONT TOWNSHIP.

The township of Fremont was organized under authority of the county judge, November 4, 1856, and the organizing election was held on the 6th of April, 1857. The election was held at the home of A. Ritchie, and S. S. Leech, S. R. McClay and P. M. Corbly served as judges of the election and J. Curtis and N. W. Spears were the clerks. The officers elected at this time were: H. W. Zimmerman, justice of the peace; John Strong, S. R. McClay and J. Burch, trustees; L. C. Dudley, clerk; C. Cline and R. W. Lawrence, constables.

It is said that the name "Fremont" was chosen by N. W. Spears, in honor of the "Pathfinder of the Rockies," who aspired to be President, as well as the first leader of the Republican party.

The first school officers of the township were elected in December, 1856, P. M. Corbly being chosen president of the board, N. W. Spears, secretary, and P. M. Obenchain, treasurer. N. W. Spears was the first school teacher in the township, having a class of seventeen pupils, whom he taught in his own house during the winter of 1856-7, for a consideration of ten dollars per month. During extremely stormy weather he kept his pupils all night, and, of course, boarded them. Some of his pupils lived three miles from the school, and when it is remembered that there were no fenced roads at that time, the danger to children being caught out in a snow storm were greatly multiplied. It is said that P. M. Obenchain taught an evening school during the same winter. The first school house built in the township was a log structure, constructed from material contributed and hauled to the site by patrons of the proposed school. This house was erected in the fall of 1857.

The August, 1857, election was held at the house of N. W. Spears, and twenty-seven votes were polled, indicating a Democratic majority of nine. The first religious services in the township were conducted by Rev. James Burch, a Free-Will Baptist, at the home of E. Shipp, in the spring of 1856. Mr. Burch was a local celebrity who had learned to read after his marriage. He was exceptionally fond of hunting and usually traveled his circuit prepared

for either hunting or preaching, as circumstances justified. During the autumn of the same year Rev. Mr. Allen, a United Brethren minister from West Union, united with Rev. H. W. Zimmerman, a local minister of the Methodist faith, in holding a series of religious meetings, which resulted in much good and was the nucleus to church organizations the following spring. Churches of these denominations were erected and maintained for many years. The organizing members of the United Brethren church were P. M. Corbly and wife, John Strong and wife, Richard Lawrence, Oliver Kelly and wife and John Bessey and wife. The membership of this church during its existence, included the names of many of the prominent people of the township. The first members of the Methodist Episcopal church were Rev. H. W. Zimmerman and wife, N. W. Spears and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Chichester and Mrs. Angeline Morehouse. This organization also had a prosperous career, but is now absorbed by the church at Westgate. In the spring of 1859 Rev. Peter Colgrove located in Fremont township and proved a valuable acquisition to the religious affairs, but died in August of the following year. He reared a family of educators who have left their impress upon the school history of Fayette county. Mr. Colgrove built the brick school house on section 33, in the autumn of 1859, and James F. Babcock taught the school therein during the following winter.

In the early days it was customary to name the school houses or school districts, instead of numbering them, as now. The change to the present plan was brought about because of the inconvenience of writing long names in the county records, often on limited space. The White school house was erected in 1860, by H. L. Matthews, and the first teacher therein was S. C. Beck. The Red school house was built in the year last written, by Charles Goodrich, and N. M. Mallery was the first teacher. The McSweeney school building was erected in 1867, by E. T. Older, and Anna M. Older was the first teacher in that district. The Baker school was established in 1869, and Mrs. Augusta Baker taught the first term of school.

A Union Sabbath school was organized in 1864, with John Dickman as superintendent. The Dickmans, William, John and Henry, were among the early and prominent families who found homes in Fremont township.

Mill postoffice was established in this township in 1860, and Joseph Chichester was appointed postmaster. The office was continued until the introduction of the rural free delivery system, as appears more fully in the article on postoffices.

The first land entry of record in Fremont township was made by Thomas Rand, January 16, 1853. He located parts of sections 31 and 32. During

the winter of 1848-9 the settlers throughout the county organized a "Claim Society" for the purpose of mutual protection against claim jumpers. They took this precaution before the surveys were completed, and before the lands were generally on the market.

During the Civil war Fremont township organized a Soldiers' Aid Society, to co-operate with the county central committee both in the enlistment of volunteers and in caring for the families of those who responded to their country's call. Rev. H. W. Zimmerman was appointed a member of the county central committee, and Mrs. N. W. Spears was president of the Fremont Township Soldiers' Aid Society, the other officers being Mrs. L. C. Dudley, secretary, and Mrs. E. T. Older, treasurer. The society was ever vigilant in collecting and forwarding needed supplies to the front and in disbursing their bounties among the needy families of absent soldiers.

Fremont township is one of the best agricultural townships in the county. The land is mostly rolling prairie, with considerable timber in the central and southwestern portions of the township, along the Wapsipinicon river and its tributaries. The "Wapsie" is a stream of considerable volume, which, with its principal tributary, the Little Wapsie, the latter flowing southwesterly across the township until it forms a junction with the principal stream on section 19, affords an excellent drainage system. The Wapsipinicon river traverses the township in nearly a southern direction, passing out of the township into Oran, on section 32. Besides these principal water courses, there are numerous creeks and spring branches which render the land well adapted to stock-raising, as well as general farming.

For many years Fremont township was considered a kind of educational center among the rural schools. Perhaps no township in the county has turned out more college graduates than Fremont, or more persons who have attained prominence in educational circles. The schools are organized under the district township system, there being nine sub-districts in the township having school during the period covered by the latest official report (1909). The average duration of schools was seven and four-tenths months. Sixteen female teachers were employed during the year at an average compensation of thirty-four dollars and ninety cents per month. There are two hundred and ninety-two persons in the township district between the ages of five and twenty-one years, of whom one hundred and ninety-five were enrolled in the schools, with a total average daily attendance of one hundred and twelve. The average cost of tuition per month for each pupil was three dollars and seven cents. Value of school houses, three thousand three hundred fifty dollars. Value of school apparatus, three hundred and thirty dollars. Number of volumes in the school district libraries four hundred thirty-three.

## TOWN OF WESTGATE.

Until within comparatively recent years, Fremont was exclusively a rural township, having no town or village within its borders of greater importance than a country postoffice. The trading points were Maynard, four miles east of the east line of the township, Oelwein scarcely three miles southeast of the corner of the township, and Sumner, a few miles farther, in Bremer county. But the building of the St. Paul branch of the Chicago Great Western railroad, which traverses the township from southeast to northwest, stimulated the establishment of a station, midway between Oelwein and Sumner. This station is known as Westgate, and even before the completion of the railroad it began to show signs of activity and progress. Men of means and business acumen foresaw the possibilities of the place, and within a few years Westgate became a thriving town of considerable importance. It was laid out by Cass and Jamison, and was prosperous as a young town from the start. There are all of the industries usually found in small towns, with several mercantile establishments, a hotel, three churches, Methodist Episcopal, Catholic and Lutheran, a bank, good school, and various mechanical shops, besides being the home of a number of retired farmers from the adjacent country. For a history of the churches, the reader is referred to the general articles which treat of the denominations represented in the town.

There are several social and fraternal organizations represented in the place. An Odd Fellows lodge was once organized there and prospered for a time, but it has been merged with the lodge at Maynard. Westgate was incorporated May 9, 1896, its school district being co-extensive with the corporation limits. The school house of two rooms is valued at one thousand dollars. There are sixty-eight persons of school age in the district, of whom sixty-three were enrolled in the schools during the last year, the average daily attendance being forty-nine. One male teacher was employed at a salary of sixty dollars per month and one female whose salary was forty-seven dollars and fifty cents. The average cost of tuition per month for each pupil was two dollars and nineteen cents. Nine months' school was taught in this district during the year ending June 30, 1909, the latest official report.

## CHAPTER XXVII.

### HARLAN TOWNSHIP.

We are indebted to Mrs. S. T. Barnes, of Maynard, for the following sketch of Harlan township history:

The township of Harlan was organized in 1859; until then it was a part of the precinct comprising the now townships of Westfield, Center, Banks, Fremont, Harlan, Smithfield, Scott, Jefferson and Oran. The voting place was Lima. In 1855 Westfield was organized, and from that time up to the second Tuesday in October, 1859, the residents of this township voted at Fayette, in Westfield township. On that day the first election was held at the house of T. J. Dewey. The polls were opened at nine o'clock A. M. and closed at six P. M. The following officers were elected: Trustees, T. J. Dewey, William Taylor and W. B. Aylesworth; township clerk, F. M. Aylesworth; justices of the peace, J. B. Kingsbury and C. M. Shanklin; assessor, Brown Stewart. The first school record is of a meeting called for March 11, 1861, by William Taylor, president of the school board. The first teacher was Helen Norton, now Mrs. Jasper Dewey; the school was in a log house that was built in 1851, by Mills, and owned by T. J. Dewey, at that time in district No. 2, and commenced May 14, 1860. The salary was eleven dollars per month, without board. The first school house was erected in the fall of 1861. It was built of logs near the northeast corner of the original town plat of Maynard and the first teacher was Miss Amanda Stevenson. The first frame school house was erected in the summer of 1862, by William G. Barnes, and the first teacher of this school was Miss Hessie Crawford, now Mrs. Milton Taylor. In the fall of 1855 C. M. Shanklin built a log house, and in the spring of 1856 moved his family from Illinois. This house stood near the two oak trees on the corner of the land now owned by Frank Burdick, across the street from the old creamery. The first white child born in this township was born to Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Shy, in the year 1852, in a cabin on the site now occupied by the house owned by William Malvern. The first person buried in Long Grove Cemetery was Minerva Dewey, who died in November, 1863. At the time of organizing the township of Harlan there was a population of about sixty, and seventeen voters.

The first actual settlers in what is now Harlan township were the Shy, Mills and Myers families, who located on section 11 and commenced making improvements. Two of them soon sold their claims to H. Barnes, Sr., who raised a crop of wheat in 1853. T. J. Dewey purchased another of these claims and settled near Mr. Barnes. But Henry Maynard is entitled to the credit of making the first land entry in this township. He came from Illinois in 1851 and entered the southwest quarter of section 14, but returned to Illinois and did not take up his residence here until 1861. Andrew Walsh was another early pioneer, in addition to the names given elsewhere.

#### SCHOOLS.

There are eight sub-districts in the district township of Harlan, besides the independent district of Maynard. In the eight sub-districts there were nine female teachers employed during the last year, at an average salary of thirty-seven dollars and forty-six cents per month. Duration of the schools during the year was eight months. The school enumeration shows one hundred ninety-eight persons between five and twenty-one years of age in the district township, of whom one hundred forty-six were enrolled in the schools. The disparity between the number entitled to school advantages and the number enrolled is due, in most instances, to the absence of the older pupils in attendance at higher schools. This is true of all the rural districts in the county, and should not be construed as evidence that many pupils are not attending school. The average cost of tuition in Harlan township was three dollars and thirty-seven cents for each student attending. The school apparatus used in the eight schools is valued at one hundred ninety-five dollars, and there are four hundred seventy-two volumes in the school libraries of the township. The school houses are valued at three thousand nine hundred fifty dollars.

#### THE INCORPORATED TOWN OF MAYNARD.

This is the only village in the township. It is located on parts of four sections at the center of the township, east and west, and about two miles west of the east line. Portions of the town are now laid out on sections 14, 15, 22 and 23. C. M. Shanklin purchased a part of the land upon which the town was located, and built a house on it in 1864. But the town was not laid out until the construction of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Minnesota railroad was assured in the early seventies. Maynard was laid out in 1872-3 by J. J. Berkey, of West Union. The plat was recorded October 16, 1873. and the