

village was named in honor of Henry Maynard, at the suggestion of the president of the railroad company. The first residence on the town plat was erected and occupied by Joseph Hadden, but the first building was a grain warehouse.

The disappearance of Daniel Schuck, in October, 1877, was the first real sensation in the quiet little town. Schuck was a bachelor living alone, but during the season of 1877 he had a hired man named Christ Kraft, who lived with him. Schuck was last seen on the 17th of September and on the 19th Kraft began hauling grain to Maynard and sold it. He alleged that Schuck had sold him the farm, but had misrepresented financial conditions, stating that there was a five hundred dollar mortgage on the farm, when there was one thousand dollars against it. Kraft soon rented the place to another man and disappeared from the community. A legal proceeding was instituted, but no cause of action was developed, and neither party to the tragedy has ever been seen in the vicinity. The claim of Kraft that he had purchased the farm was not sustained in law, and an administrator settled the estate of Daniel Schuck, his continued absence being, in law, *prima facie* evidence of his death.

CHURCHES.

For a history of the Methodist Episcopal and Presbyterian churches in this township, the reader is referred to the special articles on those subjects. The same is true of the Catholic and Lutheran communicants, who are numerous throughout the township.

There are two country churches still holding organizations near the north line of the township, but over in Center township. One of these is a Methodist organization, while the other is owned and sustained by the United Brethren. The latter is the location of an annual camp-meeting usually held in the groves adjacent, and this has been the scene of many enthusiastic revivals, as well as of a summer outing for people of all religious faith, many attending from distant points in the county or elsewhere. This is known as the "Grub" church, because of its location in and near scrubby timber. It was organized in March, 1878, under the ministrations of Rev. R. D. McCormick, a pioneer minister in the United Brethren church and who is still living in the county. It was organized with fourteen members, some of whom lived in the town of Maynard, about three miles south of the church. Since the division of the church on disciplinary grounds, as mentioned elsewhere, this organization has allied itself with the "Liberals." Previous to the building of the church edifice, services were held in the school houses until the formation of a class was assured.

MAYNARD.

The village of Maynard was incorporated in June, 1887, and since that date it has developed into a good trading point, being always an excellent stock and grain market. The residence portion of the town is extremely handsome, being situated in beautiful natural groves. The site of the town is on level ground, which is a characteristic of the township throughout. There are about three sections of timber land from Maynard north to the township line, these sections being 3, 10 and 15, with a little scattering timber adjacent. The south branch of the Volga river flows north through the town of Maynard, through this timbered belt, and enters the main stream near Fayette, in Westfield township.

The Long Grove Dairymen's Association was incorporated at Maynard, in December, 1875, with Henry Maynard, president, Judson A. Stevens, vice-president, E. B. Snedigar, secretary and treasurer. The association erected a commodious building of two stories and basement eighteen by thirty feet, at a cost of one thousand six hundred dollars. This was the first creamery established in the community, and a thriving business was transacted. The first officers are all dead or removed from the county, and though there is still a prosperous creamery business conducted at Maynard, it is operated by private enterprise. There is also a feed mill, and other public enterprises in the town, besides several good stores, mechanical shops, machinery supplies, etc. The only hotel in the place was burned recently, and a larger and better one is now under construction. The Maynard Savings Bank is the monetary institution of the town. The officers are, W. B. Beatty, president, A. H. Meihe, vice-president, and E. F. Warnke, cashier.

EDUCATIONAL.

The Maynard school district, coincident with the boundaries of the corporation, has a new and modern school house with four rooms, employing one male teacher and four females, the former at a salary of seventy-five dollars per month and the latter at an average salary of forty-one dollars and sixty-six cents. Nine months' school is provided for during the year. Of one hundred fifty-one persons between five and twenty-one years, one hundred twenty-nine were enrolled in the schools, with an average daily attendance of one hundred fourteen. Besides these, there were eleven non-resident students attending who contributed one hundred thirty-six dollars and eighty cents to the school funds of the district. The average cost of tuition per month for

each pupil was one dollar and seventy-six cents. The school house is valued at five thousand seven hundred dollars, with six hundred dollars invested in school apparatus. There are one hundred sixty-nine volumes in the school district library.

Some of the old settlers of the town and near-by community were the Maynard and Pember families, J. A. Stevens, E. B. Snedigar, C. S. Older, C. B. Rich, Emory Frost, A. S. Payne, H. S. Hadsel, W. E. Davis, Isaiah Stansberry, Levi Smith, O. D. Bement, Harlow Giles, J. P. Prendergast, O. L. Farrand, Christ. First, S. H. Coon, Hiram Barnes, S. M. Goodall, J. S. Hutton, W. H. Syford, W. H. Potter, J. A. Vincent, F. M. Leach, George A. Sampson, Adam H. Weaver, S. S. Westgate, Joseph E. Beckner, S. P. Cushman, E. Packard, W. B. Beatty, M. C. Payne, S. T. Barnes, George Barkoff, John Cutler, George Rice, the Talcott families, Matthew Smith, E. E. Day, Josiah Davis, the Conrads, H. K. Hadsel, George Sykes, the Fosket and Hollister families. It is not assumed that this is a complete list of early settlers' names, and some may be omitted from the list who ought to be there; but this is the best that can be done at this late date.

SOCIAL AND FRATERNAL ORDERS.

In December, 1873, Long Grove Grange was organized in Maynard, and during its existence, which covered a period of many years, nearly every man and woman in the surrounding country was associated with it. Many of the early members are dead and others removed, while the younger generations have allied themselves with other societies.

The Ancient Order of United Workmen lodge has been one of the continuing institutions of the place, and much good has resulted from its existence. Diana Lodge No. 87 was organized on the 30th of November, 1876, and was for a number of years an exceptionally strong organization. It is purely an insurance society, though the ritualistic and social functions are a source of pleasure to the members.

Maynard Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized in 1891, and started out with a strong membership. It has always been an active and influential society in the town. A few years ago the Westgate lodge was consolidated with the Maynard organization, thus discontinuing the one and strengthening the other. This is now the most prominent and active social and beneficial fraternity in the place.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

ILLYRIA TOWNSHIP.

Close to the north bank of the Volga are still seen the holes where were the two fireplaces of the double log house known as the Culver Trading Post. This has been recognized as the first permanent white man's dwelling built in Fayette county, though undoubtedly an error, since the Wilcox brothers, at an earlier date, had erected a log house in the Volga valley near the line dividing Westfield from Smithfield township, as is remembered by A. J. Hensley.

George Culver was a banker in Ypsilanti, Michigan, who came to Iowa to trade with the Indians, having for a partner one Joseph Hewitt, a man somewhat notorious in the early history of the county. Culver removed to St. Paul about 1848 where he kept a wholesale establishment for supplying goods to his various Indian posts. Two or three logs are still lying near the old site, but nearly all of hewed rock elm are doing duty as a hog house for William D. Mattocks, who now owns the place. Formerly a spring broke forth at the foot of the bank on which the house stood, but no trace of that remains. A few rods northwest an Indian chief was put to rest on his way to the happy hunting grounds. A log inclosure was built in which the dead chief was seated with gun and tomahawk, and there remained till time and worms destroyed the body; but what became of gun and tomahawk is unknown. Scattered here and there in the vicinity are, or were, other Indian graves. Formerly human bones and implements of war and chase were turned up by the plow. Quite a large burying ground was discovered on the farm owned in early days by Milton Crow. The old man fenced it out and left it undisturbed while he lived on the farm.

Levi Cousins, an old and respected resident of Wadena, remembers seeing on the place now owned by James Corbin three poles about sixteen feet high, hewed eight-sided, which stood for many years bearing tomahawks, spearheads, and the scalp of a white woman. The trading post stood on section 26, about half a mile east of the creamery owned by F. J. Schroeder, on a portion of the five hundred thousand acre grant made April 4, 1841, by the United States government to the state of Iowa.

The first entry after Culver's, near Wadena, seems to have been made by

Samuel Stevens, in 1851, a forty-acre lot lying on both sides of the river which crossed it about mid-way, and included the mill site, and most of the land where Wadena now stands. Mr. Stevens sold to Horace Countryman and his father, both millwrights. They constructed a dam, and the elder Countryman built a house and sawmill in 1853-4, and four years later, in 1857-8, Horace built a gristmill in partnership with Major D. B. Herriman, the latter furnishing the funds, and the former the plans and much of the workmanship.

But the next entry of land in Illyria township, after Culver's (who entered on sections 22, 26 and 27, June 25, 1849) was made by Andrew J. Hensley, on section 19, in October, 1849. Hensley had lived in the county for five years previous to this. The land which he entered at that time, subsequently became a part of the David Fussell farm.

Many years ago the sawmill above referred to was dragged from its foundation by a tree catching in its timbers when floating down the river in a flood. The dam likewise was destroyed in 1903, and the grist-mill badly damaged. On the representation of Mr. Olmstead (Mr. Culver being short of funds) Maj. D. B. Herriman bought the section on which the trading post was located, without seeing it, and on visiting the place, was so well pleased that he bought also the forty acres entered by Stevens and added gradually to his domain till one thousand four hundred acres were his. He it was who gave the name Wadena to the place, in memory of a former chief, a friend of his. He built the largest house in the county at the time, and Thomas Fennell made the brick close by. Mr. Fennell still lives there.

In the spring of 1852 the county judge appointed Joshua Cousins, Thomas Markley and Asa Parks a committee to organize the township.

They met at the Culver trading post, and using some stumps standing just eastward, they placed a board on the tops for a table, and so in the open air completed the organization. The following persons were duly chosen for office: Township clerk, Thomas Markley; justice of the peace, Asa Parks; constable, Isaac Parks.

Being the eldest member of the community, Joshua Cousins was privileged to name the township. So the name Illyria was selected from the town of Elyria in Ohio, where he had formerly lived. The first election was held the following autumn, in a grove about half a mile north of the Robert A. Richardson place, now owned by Mrs. Ella Clothier, of Fayette, and near the site of the late William Pritchard's home.

The first fair was held the same year, near the same place—about one mile southeast. The attendance was large, something like a hundred persons

being present! (See Miscellaneous chapter for more complete history of the Illyria fair.)

Before a township could be organized, there must have been people to organize. Settlers had begun to arrive. First came the transitory population, composed mostly of mere squatters, whose names have disappeared. But others who were to remain for the rest of their lives came also. Possibly to some of them were born children on the soil of Illyria. But the first white child who saw the light of the sun in Illyria township, so far as is now known, was Hugh Lockard, born near the south center of the township, a few rods from the line.

For the benefit of those who have believed that Hugh Lockard was the first white male child born in the county, let it suffice to say that his birth occurred October 20, 1850, having been preceded eighteen days by Oscar W. Rogers, at West Union. But several other births in the county antedate these.

In the spring of 1849, a young man left Cornwall, England, and duly arrived in Wisconsin. In September, 1849, he chose a place in northern Illyria, followed the next month by his father, and some of his brothers and sisters. Walter Humphrey entered from the government the farm now owned by Fred Messerli. Mr. McLaughlin, the place now owned by James T. S. Humphrey, Samuel Holton, the place now owned by Thomas Kerr, while there were those who early came and soon went. Their places were taken by such well-known persons as Eaton, Speed, Foxwell, J. O. and W. K. Albright, William Moore, A. W. Kimball, Willard Robbins, R. H. May, C. W. Strong, D. D. D. Briggs, A. J. Patterson, Phil Lowers, Alex. Peters, Joseph Ogle, Daniel Mattocks, Ed. Elwell, O. L. Gilson, John McMillan, George Stansberry, R. A. Richardson, Joseph Holsworth, the Sargents, Thomas Kinsey, William Morras, William Pritchard, Peter Eller, Heinrich Hidinger, Thomas Fennell and others,—families well known. Some of their descendants grew to useful citizenship, and still live in the township (see personal sketches).

Very early in the settlement of the township children of the hardy pioneers were found gathered in schools. Very little of the apparatus now deemed essential was there. Log houses with open fire-places, with slabs for stools, with few or no desks. In such buildings children coned their lessons, and froze their backs, while they blistered their faces at the fire-places, in the freezing winters. But they learned, and some became scholars, while others failed, as they do now. But spelling flourished. There were giants in those days, and they fought in the spelling contests in the old fashioned "spelling schools." How they did enjoy those simple recreations! The spelling match,

the speaking, and at "recess," the wrestling matches and other pioneer amusements!

Wadena's "*first doctor*" was pronouncing words from memory—though looking at the spelling-book, to decide a hotly contested bout between the Wadena school and a neighboring one and put out the word "document." It was spelled correctly at the first trial, but the doctor's "mental picture" was wrong! We opine he would spell document "*docymnt*," to this day! He lives in Arlington, and the "pupil" who wasn't *downed* is writing this article!

The coming of the railroad up the beautiful Volga valley meant much to the progress of Wadena and Illyria township, not alone because of the steady advance in values, which followed, but also in the moral and intellectual advancement. With the railroad came fresh blood and business energy, and from 1877 Wadena took an upward trend. Previously the little hamlet seemed to be in a rut, and most of its citizens were indifferent to the emoluments of honest effort and economical habits. For many years the weekly horse-race in the Herriman lane, with its attendant saloon equipment and other features of gambling, furnished the principal amusements and revenue—to the fortunate. Nearly all of the inhabitants in early days were dependent upon daily labor for a livelihood and the Herriman estate, with the mills, and lumbering interests, furnished the employment. The people were all poor, hence Major Herriman was looked upon as a kind of benefactor and right well he realized his prominence and importance in this respect. He was not a bad taskmaster, in that he was not over-exacting in the amount of labor required, and was always ready to pay. Many of his employes received their pay, in whole or in part, in pork, flour and other products of the big farm, and usually at fair prices. But the Herriman influence predominated, and it was not by any means a saintly influence!

TOWN OF WADENA.

The existence of Wadena dates from the establishment of the Culver Trading Post, about a mile east of the present town, in the year 1841. But Culver came to near-by territory in Clayton county and was elected one of the county commissioners of that county in 1838. He was also assessor of Clayton county in 1839, and became associated with Joe Hewitt, in that county, in 1841. In that year he came to the vicinity of Brush creek, in this county, and assisted the Mumfords in building their house (the second one) and soon thereafter opened the trading post near the present town of Wadena. He continued his traffic with the Indians until their removal to Minnesota in 1848, and accompanied them on their northern migration. During the severe win-

ter of 1842-3, the Indians suffered greatly and were threatened with starvation. Culver came to their rescue and let them have the necessities of life on credit. Being unable to collect from the Indians during the succeeding three years, he and Hewitt went to Washington in 1846 and presented their claims to the government and received their pay from that source. This trading post then became the nucleus to the little village which came into existence in 1855, when Horace Countryman and his father built a saw-mill and established a home on the present town site; but it was not known as Wadena at that time. (The first postoffice name of the place was "Wardena.")

In 1857, Major David B. Herriman traded Minnesota property to Culver for the latter's possessions here without the formality of an examination. "The Major" was so well pleased with his bargain that he continued to add to his possessions in real estate until he had accumulated a large and valuable tract at the time of his death in the seventies. Major Herriman was Indian agent at Crow Wing, Minnesota—all Indian agents have military titles, usually that of "Major," and this answers a question often asked with reference to Major Herriman—and while so engaged, became acquainted with Mr. Culver. The latter had a contract for freighting goods from St. Paul, the head of steamboat navigation, to Indian agencies in Minnesota and elsewhere, and thus became acquainted with the agent at Crow Wing, which culminated in the exchange of "squatter rights" between himself and Major Herriman. But when the land came into market, a few years after the exchange was made, Culver returned and entered it, and it is presumed that Major Herriman performed the same service in Minnesota for Culver.

The home of the Herrimans was established in the double log house erected for a trading post, and continued there for several years, during which time the well-appointed three-story brick house was erected, which, for many years, was the admiration—and envy, too—of the poor pioneers who lived in houses not comparable in value and conveniences to the hewed-log building which the Herrimans had abandoned.

The town of Wadena was laid out by Horace and Elizabeth Countryman and David and Elizabeth Herriman, in July, 1857, and the plat was recorded May 11, 1859. For many years the village had a tardy growth and was as "backwoodsy" as any of its backwoods competitors. The first store was opened there by A. H. Blake, and he was followed by Webster, J. N. Hageman, D. A. Brown, who remained in business longest, and kept the most complete stock of goods prior to the coming of the railroad in 1878. Up to the

date last written there was never more than one store in the village, if we except the few knick-knacks always to be found in the ever-present saloon.

On the 2d of June, 1878, the first shipment of goods was made over the railroad from the station at Wadena. The village remained the western terminus of the Volga Valley railroad until the winter of 1881, when it was extended to West Union, which is now the terminus of the Volga Valley branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul. Almost seven miles of this road traverse Illyria township, while the corporation of Wadena has ninety one-hundredths miles. The assessed valuation of the road in this township is three thousand five hundred dollars per mile, or a total valuation for assessment purposes of twenty-four thousand one hundred eighty-five dollars. The United States Express Company operates seven and eighty-one hundredths miles of line in the town and township, with an assessment valuation of two hundred seventy-four dollars. The same mileage of the Western Union Telegraph Company has a valuation of six hundred twenty-five dollars. The Iowa Telephone Company has six miles of line in the township, valued at five hundred and seventy-one dollars, and the Interstate has three and one-fourth miles, valued at one hundred and seventy-five dollars.

THE WADENA SCHOOL.

With the coming of the first pioneers a log school house was built just north of the village site, and schools, religious services, shows, and all public meetings of the town and vicinity were conducted there for many years. The writer was engaged to teach the school there during the winter of 1865-6, but a religious meeting held about the time the school was to commence was the probable cause of the burning of the school house. (It will be remembered that in the days of which we are writing there was a good deal said about "fire and brimstone," and this might have been a case of "spontaneous combustion.") But the absence of the district school was compensated for, in a measure, by the would-be teacher organizing a commercial school, whereat all the young people of the town and community—and some older ones—were enrolled, and the capacity of "Hageman's Hall"—about sixteen feet square—was taxed in true pioneer style. Some learned to write and keep accounts, but more improved the art of "sparking," in which accomplishment none seemed to be deficient! This teacher was somewhat of a monopolist, in that he held the office of township clerk from 1869 to 1877, the office of township assessor six years of the time covered by the above dates, and the office of secretary of the township school board during the last four years of the above

"time limit," resigning all when he removed from the township in the spring of 1877.

The burned school house was succeeded by a stone structure of somewhat larger dimensions than the one destroyed, this one being eighteen by thirty-six feet, all in one room. It was an unsightly edifice, erected on contract with Major Herriman, for a consideration of eight hundred dollars. It immediately came into the same services required of the old one, for Wadena had not then even thought of a church, opera house or public hall. The first term was taught in this house by the "monopolist" above mentioned, who continued to hold the position during eight succeeding winter terms, with the exception of one winter. Ninety-four pupils, of all ages, from the trundle bed to young men older than the teacher, were enrolled during the first term in the "new school house." An assistant was provided, but it does not require a strong stretch of the imagination to discern how unsatisfactory would be the recitations of two classes at the same time, in opposite ends of the same room. Slab benches were provided, some of them actually having backs to them. These were loose, and could be moved around as needed, provided there was enough muscle applied. Wide planks were fastened around the walls on two sides, with stationary plank seats affixed. When the pupils were at study, they sat with their backs against the edge of this sloping plank "desk"; but when writing time came, they gracefully dismounted and faced the stone wall! A huge "box stove" filled the requirements for heating purposes, it being stationed well to the front, so that the heads of the pupils sitting under about ten yards of hot stove pipe might not get their ears frozen! The benches were high enough to prevent the little folks from beating a tattoo on the floor, and thus annoy the larger pupils who had their backs against the edge of the plank desk. The lighting was on a par with the other arrangements, and as for ventilation—well, such a thing had never been heard of! Neither had carbonic acid gas and the other "ingredients" found in the breath of ninety-four persons confined for six hours a day in the same room. Is it any wonder that children went home sick with headache? But this is only a feeble representation of the typical pioneer school in Illyria, as well as all other pioneer localities, except that few of them could boast of having *solid stone* school houses. But soon after the advent of the railroad, and the incoming of quite an addition to the population, conditions were revolutionized in the village of Wadena. Soon a brick school house of two rooms was erected down in the town, and pupils were "graded" according to their advancement. On the 22d of July, 1895, the town was incorporated, and an independent town district established. (Previously the school had been sustained by the district township.) During the year 1909,

an addition was built to the school house, which was otherwise improved, with the possibility of four rooms, three being now utilized, and three teachers employed. The value of the building at present is about three thousand five hundred dollars, and it is a credit to any town of the size. During the year 1909, two female teachers were employed during a period of eight months, at an average salary of forty-three dollars and fifty cents per month. There were one hundred nineteen persons of school age in the district, of whom ninety-four were enrolled in the school, with an average daily attendance of sixty-two. The average cost of tuition per month for each pupil was one dollar and twenty-three. The value of apparatus used in the school is one hundred eighty dollars, and there are two hundred two volumes in the school library.

In 1871 a Catholic church was erected, under the jurisdiction of Thomas Fennell, Sr., and this served the purposes of the large congregation of Catholics within reach of it, until a year or two ago, when it was torn down and a handsome structure erected on the site of the old building. See history of the Catholic church for further details. The abandoned school house, after being plastered outside and in, was turned into a church for the United Brethren, and served this purpose until the building of the handsome little union church down town. It has been merged into a dwelling house.

For many years after the building of the mills at Wadena they were the principal incentive to the farmers to visit the place. There was no hotel, and seldom a boarding house, in the town until after the railroad was completed to the place; hence men and boys not accustomed to visiting saloons were forced to patronize them in an endeavor to get something to eat as well as to drink.

But an entirely different moral tone pervades the locality at present, and there is a growing tendency to eliminate every feature of lawlessness, and this is supported by the best people in the town. Mention has been made of the three first merchants in the place, but these have been followed by many other excellent men. Prominent among them is George G. Scott, who came to the town with the railroad, and owned and operated a large mercantile business for about thirty years. Mr. Scott is a man of great industry, backed by keen business sagacity and an untarnished record as an honest and upright man. He probably did more for Wadena and surrounding country than any other merchant who ever lived there. He is now retired from active pursuits, enjoying the fruits of a well-earned competence.

It would be impossible to enumerate all the business people who have located in Wadena, but we will give the names of a few who maintained a continuous residence there from pioneer days until death claimed them.

Thomas Markley was the pioneer carpenter. He reared a large family, some of whom reside in the town at present; Joseph Nicol was the first shoemaker, or cobbler; Joseph Mitchell was the first blacksmith, followed by George Kiple. All are dead except the last named, who lives in West Union. After various changes in the operation of the grist mill, Alvin Sears leased it and located there in the early sixties. He died of cancer many years ago. The mill subsequently fell into the hands of B. N. Talcott and Porter Nye, who greatly improved it in the seventies, but found it unprofitable in later years, due to the expense of hauling wheat in and manufactured products out, in competition with mills more favorably situated. Mr. Talcott died and Mr. Nye removed to Minnesota. Eber White was one of the first saloon keepers, followed by Philip Lowers. Both are long since dead. John Hellerich was the first harness maker, and his industry and good workmanship have made him wealthy. He still conducts the only business in his line. Stephen Seward, Cal Crawford, Henry Cook, Heinrich Hidinger, Peter Eller, the three Fennell brothers, Martin Walters, were pioneer farmers. William Sargent was an early blacksmith in the village, though his parents were among the first settlers in northwestern Illyria, and William and his brother John did not locate in Wadena until in the early seventies. Together they operated a blacksmith and wagon shop for some years; but John removed from the county and William retired. He served several years as justice of the peace in Wadena.

Rev. William Moore, an early settler in northeastern Illyria, bought land in section 23, north of Wadena, in 1869, and opened up a new farm in the timber. He died in 1873, and the property was distributed among his heirs and is now owned by his son, Rev. Jasper S. Moore, who has developed it into a fine stock farm with good improvements and modern equipments. He has two hundred and fifty acres, acquired through the original homestead and several additions by purchase.

The township of Illyria is specially adapted to diversified farming. It was originally nearly all timber land, there being several sections of heavy timber, as good as any in the county. Most of this was held in early days by foreign speculators. It was tardy in development because of the high prices at which it was held, but is now all owned by residents of the township, and most of it has been cleared and turned into excellent farms. There was no prairie land of any consequence in Illyria township. It is rolling and in some localities quite hilly, but the acreage of waste land is small. It is well watered with never-failing streams and many fine springs. The Volga river and its numerous tributaries are the principal sources of water-supply, this river, at Wadena, furnishing one of the best water powers in the county.

EDUCATIONAL.

The schools of Illyria have always been the special pride of the people, and teachers have been well paid in the township, compared with the wages paid elsewhere, from the beginning of their career. As the settlement of the township progressed, schools were supplied by the district township board until there are now ten sub-districts with comfortable school houses, to supply the educational needs of two hundred and forty-two pupils of school age in the rural districts. Of these, one hundred and sixty-eight were enrolled during the last year, while several students were in attendance at higher institutions of learning. The average daily attendance in all the rural schools was one hundred and sixteen, and the average cost of tuition for each pupil, per month, was three dollars and five cents. Duration of the schools was seven and one-tenth months. Fourteen female teachers were employed at an average compensation of thirty-four dollars and eighty-seven cents per month. The value of the ten school houses is conservatively estimated by the school officers at five thousand three hundred dollars, the school apparatus at one hundred and eighty-seven dollars, and there are seven hundred and seventy-six volumes in the school libraries.

CHURCH AND CEMETERIES.

The Illyria Union church was erected some years ago for the accommodation of all Protestant denominations, and is a neat and convenient edifice. It is located near the entrance to the Illyria cemetery, where nearly all of the early pioneers, and many of succeeding generations, are buried. In early times this was called Leo cemetery, and both church and cemetery are located on section 2, on the Elkader and West Union road.

There is a handsome, well-kept cemetery at Wadena, established about the time of Major Herriman's death, and his was one of the first interments there. It is located just east of the old stone school house. The ground for this cemetery was donated by Major Herriman, who erected a fine granite monument for himself and wife, before the death of either. Many interments have been made in this cemetery since it was opened to the public, and a visit by an early settler to the two burial places just described would reveal to him the resting place of most of his early friends and acquaintances.

CHANGED CONDITIONS.

But a new generation of people has come upon the stage of action in Illyria township, and but very few of the original settlers are to be found there. In some instances the sons and daughters of the pioneers are still to

be found on the farms entered by their fathers, but the changes which time has wrought are indeed surprising when a candid thought is given to the subject. Perhaps a greater change is noticeable in the town of Wadena than elsewhere in the township, though many permanent and valuable improvements are noticeable everywhere.

Wadena has assumed the air of a prosperous and growing little town, with handsome, well kept homes, good streets and cement walks, with new additions opened as the expansion of the village requires. There is a good opera house, good hotel, several "up-to-date" mechanical shops, a progressive and wide-awake citizenship, and men at the bottom of things who have integrity, public spirit and business energy.

WADENA SAVINGS BANK.

Not the least of Wadena's business growth in recent years is the establishment of the Wadena Savings Bank, this being the only monetary institution in the town or township. It was organized, principally, with local capital, and is controlled by local men. Edward Fennell, an early pupil of the writer's, is president and one of the principal stockholders. The directorate of the bank is composed of substantial farmers in the township, and a splendid business has been done from the start. People have confidence in the institution and its management, which is sufficient guarantee of its future success. A general banking business is transacted, and this is a great convenience to the people who were formerly obliged to go to West Union or Fayette to do their banking. The institution owns a fine brick building, erected with special reference to its needs, and the equipment compares favorably with that of any bank in the county.

POLITICAL HISTORY.

The political history of Illyria township is somewhat unique. Major Herriman and his five sons were all uncompromising Democrats and, during the years of Herriman dominance, controlled the politics of the township. Employes on the Herriman estate were almost all Democrats. In fact, it was charged that "the Major" would not hire a man who was not of his own political views. Whether this was true or not was immaterial, in that the men employed were usually indifferent on political subjects and were easily swayed. For many years the Democrats always had a large plurality of votes cast, and seldom was a Republican elected to a township office if he had a Democrat competitor.

Wadena and vicinity was solidly Democratic, while the northern part of the township was as solidly Republican. But within recent years the parties have exchanged places as to their dominance, and now the Republicans are in the ascendancy.

The town and township has always had capable officers who had the interests of the people in view, and it mattered little as to the political complexion of the incumbents.

The early settlers of this township were largely of American birth, though there were a few Irish and Germans among the pioneers. A few English and Welsh families also found homes there in an early day. In later years the Scandinavians have found homes on the land held by speculators, or by purchase from actual settlers, and have become quite an important factor in the later history of the township.

In the seventies the Grangers were quite strong in Illyria, as they were throughout the state and nation, and lodges were organized at the school houses or private residences. Many of the people—men and women—were members of this organization.

There is an Odd Fellows' lodge and an organization of the Ancient Order United Workmen, at Wadena. The postoffice was established there in 1863, and for a time the "office" was at Herriman's. Zenus Hurd was the first postmaster.

Iowa has always been noted for her patriotism. That part of her domain known as Illyria township, Fayette county, Iowa, has been no exception. As the political struggle between North and South became more bitter, sectional feeling ran rife. Neighbors, otherwise friends, became furious enemies. This sometimes gave rise to ludicrous effects as the following shows: A short time previous to the outbreak of hostilities, a certain Mr. King, from "Ole Kaintuck," fell sick with cholera morbus; believing himself about to die he sent for a near neighbor, a preacher of the Gospel, to hasten to his bedside. The good man, supposing his neighbor desired his ministrations, made haste at dead of night to visit his afflicted fellow citizen. On reaching the house, the sick man said to him, "Elder (Rev. William Moore), I have one last request to make of you." "Very well, my friend," replied the preacher, "I shall do what I can for you, what would you have?" The reply was, "Do not bury me, when I die, in that d—d 'abolition' graveyard."

But the war having begun, sons whose forbears came from the South rallied around "Old Glory," and shoulder to shoulder marched with those of Pilgrim ancestry to maintain "one and inseparable" their common country. Loyalty to the flag was stronger after all than ancestral prejudice.

A curious token of this was once manifested at a township election held before the war. A certain man whose paternal fathers hailed from Virginia, while his mother's derivation was North Carolina, at that election voted for the first time with the Abolition party. As the votes were cast the members of each party formed in two lines or groups, and our friend looking first at the opposite line, and then at his own, was heard to remark, "Just look at the other crowd." But time has healed the wounds, and the ointment of loyalty poured out lavishly in those dreary days has eased the smart. And now one flag and one country is our heritage.

While brothers marched with muskets and banners, sisters stayed by the stuff. The farms were tilled by the women's hands.

"Brave boys were they,
"Gone at their country's call."

But equally brave and more resolute were those girls who, with anxious hearts and aching limbs, toiled and waited "news from the front." How fast fell the tears from longing eyes when the letters from the seat of war were read, and tidings came of the death of brother, lover, husband, son or father!

Some died of disease, some of wounds; some died of yearning for home and dear ones ne'er to be caressed again; others were shot in battle, and the filthy prisons of the South held some in their foul embrace till starvation slowly pressed out the light of life. No loving hand to minister to the dying. No woman's tender care to soothe the pain!

CHAPTER XXIX.

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP.

The organizing election for Jefferson township was held at the house of A. Eldridge, in August, 1854. Fourteen votes were cast, and the following named persons were elected to the township offices: A. Eldridge, James Burch and J. B. Morehouse, trustees; E. W. Clark, township clerk; Thomas Beckley and Frederick Oelwein, justices of the peace, and Lewis Burch, constable.

The name of the township was chosen at the same time, the name "Hoosier" being proposed by some, but the majority favored the more statesman-like appellation of "Jefferson," and that prevailed.

The first settler in this township was William Bunce, who filed his claim and did some breaking during the summer of 1848. He was alone in his occupancy until late in the year 1851, when William Pitkin and a Mr. Potter settled on a part of section 35, and built a cabin at or near the location of an old Indian camp. Daniel Greeley commenced to build a saw-mill in 1851, but did not finish it until the following year. His home was then in Buchanan county, where he married Almira Sayles, but moved to his mill as soon as a house was built. He died in 1855. Rev. James Burch, a Baptist clergyman, settled in the township in 1852. He was a typical pioneer, and reared a large family, who, with himself, have been prominent in the early history of the county. The settlement was increased in 1853 by the arrival of Aaron Belt, Asbury Belt, Malachi Clow, Thomas Beckley, Judson Jarrett and others. The year 1854 witnessed the organization of the township, as stated above, and the arrival of other settlers, among whom were John Burch, Walter Sparks, E. W. Clark, James Holroyd; and E. W. Wyckoff began the improvement of the land which he entered in 1851, but did not occupy as a home until 1856. He was a surveyor by occupation.

EARLY EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.

The first school house in the township was erected in the fall of 1854, the proposed patrons contributing the logs and volunteering their labor in hauling and building. It was on the order of the typical pioneer school house

—roofed with “shakes,” seated with slab benches which were upholstered with the jack-plane; bass-wood boards fastened to the walls around three sides for desks, and these were probably planed; a capacious fire-place, which supplied the only means of heating and ventilating (though there are modern devices not so good for the latter purpose). The “equipment” of apparatus comprised such school books (old or new) as the family may have treasured for a generation or two, and this “Temple of Minerva” was ready to be launched. The school curriculum of that day was limited, in the country schools, to the elements of the “three R’s,” with an occasional attempt at teaching United States history, grammar and geography.

But the rapid increase in population rendered other school houses a necessity, and they were added as needed, the first ones being usually of logs; but in 1867 five frame school houses were erected in the township; at an average cost of seven hundred dollars each.

The district township of Jefferson now has nine rural schools and school houses, valued at three thousand three hundred and twenty-five dollars, employing nine female teachers, nine months in the year. The average compensation of teachers is thirty-four dollars and thirty-three cents per month. The school population of the district is two hundred and eighty-nine, of whom one hundred and eighty-three were enrolled in the schools, with an average daily attendance of one hundred and fourteen. Seventeen pupils between the ages of seven and fourteen were not enrolled in school during the last year (1909). The school apparatus of the district township is valued at one hundred and twenty-eight dollars. There are five hundred and four volumes in the school libraries of the township. The average cost of tuition per month for each pupil was two dollars and seventy-one cents.

The township of Jefferson is one of the prairie townships of the county. It is mostly level, or gently undulating, and has excellent soil for the cultivation of all kinds of farm products. The timber of the township (except artificially grown) would not exceed three sections, this extending south from the present site of Oelwein, and a small body west of that place. The farmers are generally rich and prosperous, and many beautiful homes and splendid farm buildings are to be found in Jefferson township.

OTSEGO.

Otsego was one of the promising villages of Fayette county which died a natural death when missed by the railroad in near-by territory. This village was laid out in 1856, on the northwest corner of section 34. It became quite

a trading point, and so continued until a railroad depot was established at Oelwein, in sight of Otsego, but nearly two miles away. The business of the village was then gradually absorbed by its more fortunate rival, some buildings were moved to Oelwein, and finally, in 1873, Doctor Pattison, the pioneer physician of the southern part of the county, removed the postoffice to Oelwein, and soon the village was practically abandoned. The postoffice, at first named Jefferson, but soon changed to Otsego, was established soon after the village was laid out. Mr. Woods was the first merchant, and also the first postmaster. He died about 1860. Bennett & Chapman formed a mercantile partnership and conducted an extensive business, having a large patronage from the farming community in which no formidable rival towns existed within a radius of many miles. Mr. Bennett moved to Oelwein in 1873, where he was prominent in business circles.

THE CITY OF OELWEIN.

This, the largest town in northeastern Iowa, had its birth in 1872, stimulated by the building of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Minnesota railroad through the township. For a number of years there was nothing to distinguish Oelwein from other small villages along the line of the railroad, several of which had no existence until some time after the building of the road was assured.

But the business men of Oelwein seemed to have implicit confidence in its future even before there was a shadow of hope to stimulate such confidence. Fortunately for the town, the men who were at the bottom of things were strongly imaginative beings who were willing to back their conclusions with their money, and of such material are the men made who stimulate municipal growth and make prosperous towns. The Jamison brothers and George H. Phillips were among the first to sound the praises of Oelwein and invest their money in more than ordinary village enterprises. The Oelweins, for whom the town was named, were men of means, and though at first conservatively inclined, were not slow to recognize the future prospects of the village of two or three hundred people in the early seventies; and when once convinced, they did as much as any in stimulating its progress. Dr. Israel Pattison was a progressive, public-spirited citizen, and was the first physician in the town. It was he who moved the postoffice from Otsego, without awaiting the formality of a governmental order. He established a large practice in the town and surrounding country, and was successful, both in a professional way and in the accumulation of property. Since his death, a few years ago, his two sons have succeeded to his practice.

The land upon which the city of Oelwein is located was not the first to be entered and improved in Jefferson township. Oelwein is located, principally, on section 21, and the first entry on that section was made by a land speculator from Dubuque September 1, 1852. It was his custom to enter land for actual settlers who were not able to pay the necessary entrance fees, find a buyer, add a good rate of interest, and sell to the parties desiring to establish homes. In this way, four forty-acre tracts (three in the southeast quarter and one in the southwest quarter) were entered for J. B. Burch, one of the early pioneers in that locality. There were several of the Burch family identified with the early settlement of Jefferson township, but none of them ever realized from the development of their early possessions into a site for a city. In fact they did not hold their lands until the town was established, but sold, mostly to Frederick Oelwein and C. N. Martin, by whose heirs much of the real estate is still held.

Some of the early men of this place were King & Kenyon, who were the first to engage in the hardware business, and also the first business men in the town. N. O. Lawton opened a stock of dry goods soon after, and M. A. Campbell occupied a part of the same building with a stock of groceries. Mr. Von Ferber and the Applegate Brothers were in mercantile business before the beginning of the year 1874, and J. C. Miller moved his building and drug stock from Otsego, and was in trade at Oelwein for several years. He is now keeping hotel at Elgin. Irvine and Bennett erected a frame structure twenty-five by forty feet, which was used for the storage of agricultural implements.

All the early buildings in Oelwein were hastily constructed of wood, without the formality of consulting architects, and, as a rule, were neither handsome nor substantial. Sixteen buildings, fifteen of which were for business purposes, were erected in about as many weeks. Three or four grain warehouses were in readiness for the grain trade of 1874, one of these being erected by the members of Jefferson Grange, and operated by them for some years. The Jefferson House, the first hotel, was completed before the railroad depot, and was operated by Jesse Hough for many years. A newspaper, the *Oelwein Clipper*, was established in early days, but did not last until the season of prosperity and expansion struck the town. A cabin erected in 1852 by L. M. Burch, on what subsequently became the Frederick Oelwein property, has been a permanent landmark and a reminder of pioneer days.

But from the building of the main line of the Chicago Great Western railroad into Oelwein, in 1886, dates the beginning of the city's phenomenal growth. At that time it was a good town, in the sense of being progressive, a good trading point, and having all of the public institutions usually accorded

to a country town of a few hundred inhabitants. But even before the road reached the town, or township, business interests began to "look up," and far-seeing business men prophesied that Oelwein's time had come! Additions were laid out by land owners on all sides, streets were extended and improved, and business blocks and residences arose, Phoenix-like, everywhere. The establishment of the railroad shops in the town, and their gradual expansion, and the further fact that Oelwein soon became a division terminus, stimulated the growth of the town to several times its original size, within the space of a few months. Railroad men came with their families, for the shops employ many hundred skilled workmen, besides as many laborers. Mercantile business, hotels and boarding houses, churches and schools, professional men, all increased in keeping with the increasing demand; and within a few months Oelwein had taken on city airs, and could scarcely be recognized by those best acquainted with it a few months before. Then came the building of the diverging lines of the Great Western, and business and labor boomed. (For more extended notice concerning this railroad, see the article on Public Utilities.) Brick blocks for the various lines of expanding business, houses for rental to shelter the people, or handsome homes for those whom fortune had favored by the wonderful increase in property values, the building of school houses and churches, the paving of streets and the introduction of fire-protection machinery, water works and electric lights—all came within the space of a few years, and from a second-rate country town Oelwein has developed into the largest town in the four northeast corner counties in the state. But its possibilities are not exhausted, nor its business-pushers discouraged.

CHURCHES AND LODGES.

In the early days churches were established with prodigal liberality, considering the means of the people, and seven church societies, a Young Men's Christian Association and a Union Sabbath school were opened to the people of varying religious views. The continuing organizations, and those of later coming, are written up in the various church histories to be found in this volume.

Lodges and fraternal and beneficial societies have been represented in the place, almost from its founding, and these have multiplied with the increase in population and the coming of representatives from other places. The lodges of the city are Hebron Lodge No. 374, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (for history of which, see article on "Masonry in Fayette County," by Hon. D. W. Clements, past grand master of Iowa).

Columbia Lodge No. 83, Ancient Order United Workmen, has had an existence since August, 1876, when it was organized with twenty-nine charter members. This is largely a beneficial institution in which the members carry life insurance. But it also has interesting ritualistic work, and the social features of the society are prized by the members.

Oelwein Lodge No. 294, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized October 25, 1874, by District Deputy Grand Master W. A. Chase, with seven charter members. At times during its history this lodge has been flourishing, with a strong membership and general interest. Then it would falter for a few years, and finally recuperate. Within recent years it has taken a new lease of life and is active, prominent and influential in the fraternal annals of Oelwein. Probably it has initiated as many members as any fraternal organization in the town, and assuredly the principles of "Friendship, Love and Truth," when carried out in the lodge-room and in daily associations, are on a par with the underlying principles of any society in existence.

The Grand Army of the Republic is the only fraternity having a "time limit" to its duration, if we except kindred organizations of old soldiers. Griffith Post No. 134 was organized in the winter of 1881-2. A deputation of members of Abernathey Post at West Union went down to "assist at the banquet tables!" They had no trouble in getting to Oelwein, but, like all others who locate there, even temporarily, it seemed impossible to get away. The hindering cause, in this case, was an Iowa blizzard which blocked the railroad for two weeks. Finally a man with a team was hired, and between walking and breaking the road and riding in the bob sled, they covered the twenty-two miles on the return in thirteen hours. The remnant of Griffith Post still holds the organization, but the ranks are thinning, and soon the final roll-call will be reached.

The Modern Woodmen of America have an organization in Oelwein, having a fair membership who approve of that method of life insurance.

A lodge of the Good Templars once had an healthy existence in the town, at one time having about a hundred members.

Jefferson Grange No. 687 was another of the active organizations during the early days of Oelwein. It was organized in November, 1872, and at one time counted among its members nearly all the prominent farmers and others having agricultural interests in the town and surrounding country.

Company F, of the Fourth Regiment Iowa National Guards, was the only military organization that has had an existence in the town. It served the

state for three years after the 14th of May, 1878. It was a well drilled company. Some of its former members were in service during the Spanish-American war.

STATISTICS.

The population of the city of Oelwein is conservatively estimated at eight thousand. It has four fine school houses, valued at fifty-seven thousand dollars. There are twenty-nine rooms in the school buildings, employing two male teachers and thirty females. The duration of the school year is nine months. The average monthly compensation of male teachers in 1909 was one hundred and twenty-four dollars and sixty-six cents, and of female teachers fifty-two dollars and ninety-three cents. The school enumeration of the district shows one thousand six hundred and seventy-one persons between the ages of five and twenty-one years, of whom one thousand and fifty-two were enrolled in the schools, with a total average daily attendance of eight hundred and six. The average cost of tuition per month for each pupil was two dollars and twenty-one cents. Twenty-seven non-resident students were taught in the schools, from whom the district realized in tuition fees three hundred and ninety-seven dollars. The value of apparatus used in the schools is seven hundred and fifty dollars. The free students' library contains one thousand five hundred volumes.

Among the revenues of the city of Oelwein may be mentioned the following: For the year 1909, the Chicago Great Western railroad contributed in taxes paid one thousand nine hundred and twenty-one dollars and eighty cents, and to the township of Jefferson, two thousand three hundred and ninety-six dollars and twenty-six cents. The Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad paid in taxes for the same period, to Oelwein, six hundred and ninety dollars and seventy-seven cents, and to the township, four hundred and ninety-five dollars and ninety-seven cents.

Under the Iowa mulct law, which prevails in Oelwein, the liquor dealers paid in fines and assessments the sum of four thousand two hundred and three dollars and forty-five cents, contributed by twenty-eight persons during the year 1909. For the same period in the entire county, liquor taxes were assessed and levied to the amount of six thousand four hundred and fifty dollars.

There are six and eighteen-hundredths miles of line of the Western Union Telegraph Company in Jefferson township, valued for assessment purposes at eighty dollars per mile. The United States Express Company has the same mileage in the town and township, valued at thirty-five dollars per mile. The

Wells-Fargo Company has thirteen and four-tenths miles of line, assessed at thirty-five dollars per mile.

Fifty-two miles of telephone, of which the Corn Belt Telephone Company has twenty-eight miles, traverse the town and country and keep the people in touch with the markets, the neighborhood gossip and the doctors in emergencies. The four companies operating these lines are assessed an average of fifty-four dollars per mile.

The taxable valuation of the incorporated city of Oelwein is six hundred and seventy-five thousand two hundred and twenty dollars, and of Jefferson township, three hundred and sixty-four thousand four hundred and thirty-three dollars. The rate of general taxation for 1909 was eighteen and seven-tenths mills on the dollar, in addition to which there were some corporation taxes provided for in the cities and incorporated towns.

BANKS.

The banking interests at Oelwein were first represented by the private banking house of Hoagland & Jamison in 1875, at a time when the community had no bank nearer than Fayette, West Union or Independence. In 1887, they built for banking purposes the brick block in which the bank is still continued. The original firm carried on banking until 1881, when Hoagland retired and the business was conducted by S. B. Zeigler, Joseph Hobson, E. B. Shaw and John Jamison, the first three taking over the interest held by Mr. Hoagland. In 1887 G. W. Jamison purchased the interest held by Zeigler, Shaw and Hobson, since which date it has been the sole property of Jamison Brothers—John and G. W. Jamison. A general banking business is here transacted and during the various financial flurries of the country, this bank has always been able to pay out dollar for dollar on all demands made upon it. The Jamisons are conservative, prudent business men, who stand high in the county for their ability and financial integrity.

THE STURGIS PRIVATE BANK.

The second bank established at Oelwein was also a private concern, founded by H. C. Sturgis & Company (father and son), in 1888, and this was operated a few years and went out of business.

THE AETNA STATE BANK.

This bank was organized in the month of July, 1895, and the first officers were. A. J. Anders, president; Henry O'Neil, cashier, and W. R. Martin. Mr. O'Neil died, after which Mr. Martin became the cashier. A fine brick

bank block was erected on Frederick street, in which the bank is still operated, and in a most successful manner, as is shown by its statements.

The capital stock of this bank is fifty thousand dollars, while the deposits, the first of the year 1910 were three hundred and thirty-three thousand dollars, and surplus and undivided profits were eighteen thousand five hundred dollars. The growth of the Aetna and its present standing among the solid financial institutions of northeastern Iowa is but an evidence of the ability of the founders and present men in control.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

The First National Bank of Oelwein was organized in the month of October, 1899, as a savings bank, with a capital of fifty thousand dollars, by T. L. Hansen, as its president; E. C. Belt, vice-president; A. Hansen, cashier. After continuing as a savings bank successfully until April 17, 1901, it was chartered on that date as the First National Bank of Oelwein, with a capital of fifty thousand dollars. This bank has always been successful and stands high among the banks of Fayette county. Its present (1910) officers are as follows: T. L. Hansen, president; A. C. Wilson, vice-president; A. Hansen, cashier; C. B. Chambers, assistant cashier. The board of directors are, T. L. Hansen, A. Hansen, B. S. Glenn, J. B. Feltus, A. L. Hunter, A. M. Odell, A. C. Wilson, G. W. Teague and H. D. Wood.

The home of this bank is on West Charles street, its own large, modern brick building, which is equipped with excellent bank fixtures, safes, vaults and furniture.

The deposits of this bank, January 1, 1910, were three hundred thousand dollars, with a surplus and undivided profits of twenty thousand dollars. Four per cent is paid to depositors.

THE IOWA SAVINGS BANK.

This institution was organized January 4, 1908, with a capital of thirty thousand dollars. It now has deposits amounting to two hundred and eight thousand fifty dollars. Its officers are as follows: E. C. Belt, president; W. E. Robinson, vice-president; J. W. Kint, cashier; W. G. Walrath, assistant cashier. The board of directors are: C. R. Brown (died in the spring of 1910), S. J. Fox, R. J. Young, G. A. Starr, J. J. Golvin, Robert Connor, George Schneider, W. E. Robinson, and E. C. Belt.

According to the state auditor's call for November, 1909, the resources of this bank were as follows: Real estate, \$10,000; loans, \$174,134.51; furniture and fixtures \$2,910; cash and due from banks, \$38,196.18; overdrafts, \$296.83, a total of \$225,537.52. The liabilities of the bank are: Capital stock, \$30,000; undivided profits, \$3,465.67; deposits, \$192,071.85. This bank also owns its own building, which was erected for the purpose in 1907. It is located on East Charles street.

CHAPTER XXX.

ORAN TOWNSHIP.

This sub-division of Fayette county, located in the southwest corner, dates its political existence from the first Monday in April, 1855.

The organizing election was held at the house of E. C. Abbott, April 2, 1855. The first settlers were an Irish family whose name is not remembered. This location was on section 17, where some breaking was done in 1853. William Way, now of Fayette, occupied the cabin erected by this family. J. J. Roberts and Mr. Furtsch were the first successors to this "nameless" pioneer family. In 1854 the little colony was augmented by the arrival of Mr. Shippe, P. McCunniff, O. C. Kent, L. D. Wellman and a few others. R. J. Young, now of Oelwein, was a prominent and active early settler in Oran, where he served as township clerk, and in other official capacities, for many years. He has been identified, officially, with the Farmers' Mutual Insurance organization from its inception until the present, and is also extensively interested in other lines of insurance, rentals, banking, etc., in the city of Oelwein. Mr. Young has been one of the men who have made a success of life, though he began his career as a farmer in Oran, on a limited scale.

L. D. Wellman was another of the active and prominent residents of Oran township, as was also J. H. Ross. Mr. Wellman removed to Arlington, where he is postmaster. But it is impossible, at this late day, to record the names of all who wielded an influence in the development of this splendid township, especially as early records have not been preserved.

TIMBER AND DRAINAGE.

Oran would be classed as a "prairie township," though it was well supplied with timber, the belt being confined to about twelve sections along the Wapsipinnicon river. This stream traverses the township from north to south, and this, with its numerous tributaries, furnishes excellent drainage, as well as rendering the land well adapted to stock raising and dairying. The timber belt seems to be a continuation of Wilson's Grove which furnishes the timber supply for Fremont and Banks townships, to the north of Oran.

Until the building of the Chicago Great Western railroad, Oran township did not boast of the existence of a town within its boundaries. Oran post-office was a "cross-roads" village, and still retains its identity, being now a station on the Fort Dodge branch of the Chicago Great Western. This road passes through the township in nearly an east and west direction. Minkler, in Bremer county, is a small town and trading point for the northwest corner of Oran township. The Des Moines branch of the Great Western touches the southeast corner of this township, and passes out of the county at Fairbank, a prosperous town near the line between Fayette and Buchanan counties. In fact a portion of the independent school district of Fairbank lies within Fayette county, though the school house is in the town of Fairbank, which is a trading point for the people, in competition with Oelwein, a few miles farther away. Westgate, in Fremont township, is also an accessible trading point and market for the northern part of Oran. It is located on the main line, or St. Paul branch, of the Great Western.

EARLY CHURCHES.

Two country churches were organized in Oran township in early days. The first of these was a Baptist congregation, established in December, 1855. The first meeting was held at the house of Simon Schultz, and J. F. Reardon was chosen moderator and J. H. Ross, clerk. The next year the Methodist Protestants invaded the territory, and theirs was the first church building erected in the township. Charles Robinson did the carpenter work and Mr. Johnson laid the foundation and did the plastering. These religious organizations served the people for many years, or until the erection of churches in near-by towns and villages provided more convenient means for worship. There are a good many Catholics in Oran, and at first they attended services at Fairbank (and some still do), but the immense and costly cathedral at Oelwein, and the parochial school privileges there, have diverted others to that point. Some have retired and located there, while many others still drive in from the farms.

P. W. Hough built a saw-mill on section 28, Oran township, in 1856, and this probably supplied the first native boards in the township

FIRST EVENTS.

The first school in Oran was held at the house of Peter McCuniff, during the winter of 1855-6. Mr. McCuniff had a considerable family of his own, and set apart a portion of his house—at that time none too large

—to accommodate the children within reach of this pioneer school. But the McCunniffs have always been friends of the public school and for many years some of their names were found on the roster of school officers in Oran township. J. J. Roberts was the teacher in the school above mentioned. During the summer of 1856 a school house was built near the McCunniff home, and Charles Bennett was the first teacher therein.

The first marriage ceremony in Oran was that which united L. D. Wellman and Caroline Roberts, Lyman Curtis, justice of the peace, officiating. This occurred October 5, 1856. The second marriage in the township was solemnized in the winter of 1857, and John Minton and Betsy Kent were the contracting parties.

The first death of a white person was that of an emigrant passing through the township in 1852. He died in his wagon and was buried at his last camping place. The second death in the township, and the first of an actual resident, was Mrs. O. C. Kent, who died in 1857.

EDUCATIONAL.

The schools of Oran township are organized under the rural independent district system, and comprise nine schools, each having a comfortable school house and a school term of eight or more months in the year. The shortest term in the township was in district No. 9, where seven and five-tenths months comprised the school year. The average duration of the nine schools for the year 1909 was eight and two-tenths months (No. 7 had nine months school). One male teacher and thirteen females were employed during the year, the salaries varying from twenty-eight dollars and fifty-three cents, in No. 9, to thirty-five dollars and thirty-two cents in district No. 5. The average salary for the nine schools was twenty-nine dollars and forty-seven cents. The average cost of tuition, per pupil, for the township, was three dollars and five cents. The highest average cost of tuition in the township was four dollars and sixty-four cents in district No. 2, and the lowest was one dollar and forty-eight cents in district No. 6. The nine school houses have a value estimated by the district officers at seven thousand dollars. The school apparatus is valued at three hundred and thirty-five dollars. School libraries, three hundred and fifty volumes.

The taxable valuation of Oran township, for the year 1909, was three hundred and twenty-eight thousand six hundred and sixteen dollars, divided

as follows: Lands, two hundred and twenty-six thousand fifteen dollars; lots, two thousand three hundred and fifty dollars; personal, thirty-seven thousand three hundred and forty-five dollars; railroads, sixty thousand seven hundred and eighty dollars; telegraph, seven hundred and four dollars; telephone, one thousand and thirty-five dollars; and express companies, three hundred and seventy-eight dollars.

CHAPTER XXXI.

PLEASANT VALLEY TOWNSHIP.

This is one of the most historical townships in Fayette county. Some of its history has been presented in the article on County Organization, and many of the earliest settlers in Pleasant Valley have figured prominently in other localities. The settlement of this township was also commenced as early as any, and some of its first improvements were the first of the kind in the county.

In another chapter the story has been told of Edson and Grant, the two trespassers on the Indian reservation, who sought to build a mill at the mouth of Otter creek. This event is recorded as occurring in 1836, but there is no record available to determine whether the date should be 1836 or in the following year. At least eleven years elapsed after their departure before the coming of Samuel Connor and his party, in 1848. That was the year the Indians were removed from Fort Atkinson to Minnesota, and the white man was presumed to be thereafter in lawful possession of the Winnebago lands, the last in the county to be vacated by the aborigines. Accompanying Mr. Connor were Simeon B. Forbes, Thomas Smith and Jacob Ashby. But even these were not the first settlers, for when they arrived in the valley where the town of Elgin is now located, they found a man named A. E. Wanzer holding a claim at the mouth of Otter creek, including section 14. Wanzer proposed to sell this claim to Connor, who, being delighted with it, the purchase was promptly made. Mr. Connor immediately returned to Wisconsin to bring his effects to the new home; Forbes located on section 15, adjoining Connor on the west; Smith located in West Union township, and Ashby found a location in Clayton county. This disposition of the company left Connor and Forbes the sole residents of Pleasant Valley township "that was to be," and on the sixth of July, 1848, Mr. Connor returned from Wisconsin and immediately commenced the construction of a house, the first in the township. The same summer he and Forbes united their teams and broke land on section 22, and during the winter following, Mr. Connor cut and hauled timbers for the construction of a saw-mill at the mouth of Otter creek. This, though

changed and improved, has been one of the few continuing land-marks of Elgin and vicinity.

In May, 1849, Benjamin Dimond arrived with his family, and a partnership was formed between the two men which was hardly severed during the life of both the parties. Their first venture, however, was in the completion of the saw-mill, which was ready for use in August, 1849.

This was one of the first mills of any kind erected in Fayette county. The first log sawed was for a German from Clayton county who was unable to speak English, but got the sawyer to understand that he wanted the lumber for a "cow hov'l." Timbers and lumber was prepared here for the mill at Clermont, which was among the earliest to utilize the waters of the Turkey. There was great demand for the services of the Dimond & Connor mill, and lumber was hauled from it to the Yellow river country, in Allamakee county.

ORIGIN OF THE TERM "SHIN BONE VALLEY."

In early days nearly every locality had its euphonious name, and often these were more expressive than elegant. For many generations (probably) the Sac and Fox Indians had been in the habit of burying their dead in "Sac Bottom," as the vicinity of Elgin was known to the early traders. They were indifferent as to the depth of the grave, hence the erosion of many years had exposed the skeletons of some of their dead. When the Winnebagoes succeeded them, the custom was continued by the new owners with the same indifference, and when the first white settlers invaded the "sacred precincts," human bones were in evidence in great profusion. This undoubtedly led to the rather "shivery" title above mentioned. It seems that the mail carriers in early days recognized these peculiar names quite readily, for an interchange of letters between David Forbes and his brother-in-law, William Wells, at West Union, was readily made, the one being addressed to "Knob Prairie" and the other to "Shin Bone Valley."

For years after the whites first occupied the country, the Indians returned annually to "Sac Bottom" to visit the "graves of their fathers," and to hold some kind of memorial services there. On the west side of the river, opposite this aboriginal cemetery, the savages had a dancing ground, where they were wont to gather for their "pow-wows." In 1850-1, the Indians returned in large numbers and held their uncouth dances.

Some of the graves of the departed redskins were surrounded with rude palings. One in particular, said Mr. Connor, had a sort of a pole lodge erected over it, from the top of which floated a white flag, and which was frequently

visited by the Indians, who kept the rude structure in repair for several years. It had become noised about among the settlers that this was the grave of the Chief "Whirling Thunder," and it was supposed that many valuable articles were buried with him. Some irreverent person or persons attempted to do a little "grave snatching" on their own account, and began to dig for plunder, but were frightened off by a passer-by. When the settlers discovered what had been done, they repaired the injury as well as they could. Soon afterward, two Indians visited the spot and discovered the trespass, and went to the mill for an explanation. They were told of the rumor that prevailed, that "Whirling Thunder" was buried there, and that an attempt had been made by somebody to rob his grave; also that the settlers had endeavored to repair the injury. The Indians gravely replied that "Whirling Thunder" was reposing on the bank of the Volga, and the grave so ruthlessly disturbed was that of a very aged medicine woman, who had been held in great veneration by the tribe, and when she died, the squaws had built the enclosure as a mark of respect. "But," said the Indian, who appeared to be remarkably intelligent for his class, "I am ashamed that white men, Christians, should try to rob Indian graves."

INDIAN CITY.

Mr. Connor stated that in 1848, when he came to Sac Bottom, the bank of the Turkey, where Elgin now stands, was for a long distance lined with Indian wigwams as thick as they could stand, and near them large heaps of fish bones. The river teemed with fish, which the Indians caught in large numbers, and boiled in large kettles obtained from the traders. When done, the contents of the kettles would be poured into willow baskets to drain. When sufficiently cool, the numerous families feasted on these boiled fish, and, too lazy to remove the bones, heaped them up in the rear of their tepees.

ANCIENT MOUNDS.

But aside from these evidences of occupation by Indians prior to the advent of the pioneers of 1848-9, there are proofs that this beautiful spot was inhabited before the arrival of the Sacs and Foxes, Iowas, Sioux and other North American Indian tribes. Evidences of the occupation of the valley by pre-historic man appeared around Elgin in great profusion, as witnessed and reported by the early settlers. Numerous mounds were located in the vicinity of Elgin, some large and others small, but all recognized by the pioneers as the

work of the mound builders. The plow of the farmer has been leveling these mounds for more than half a century, and yet they are distinctly visible, rising several feet above the surrounding surface.

In 1849, the new settlement was increased by the arrival of Matthew Conner, John Conner, James B. Stephenson, George Rowley, Rev. Joseph Forbes and others. Mr. Dimond had a horse, and S. B. Forbes a cow, which were then the only animals of the kind in the township. Matthew Conner built a log cabin on the site of the future town of Elgin, and in it opened the first store. Log houses were also erected by John Conner, B. Dimond, Stephenson and Rowley.

The first crop of corn was raised this year, by John Conner.

During that year, Rev. Joseph Forbes held religious services in the house of John Conner, and organized a Sabbath school, which was probably the first Sabbath school in the county. Mr. Forbes was one of the orators at the 4th of July celebration at West Union that year.

In the spring of 1850, townships 94 and 95, range 7, were created a civil township by the commissioners of Clayton county, and an election was held immediately after the order, at the house of George Rowley. Charles Sawyer, Matthew Conner and George Rowley were judges of the election, and George Rowley was elected justice of the peace for the Pleasant Valley district, and Charles Sawyer for the Clermont district.

In October, 1850, Fayette county having been organized, Pleasant Valley township was created by the Fayette commissioners, composed of township 94, range 7, and the northeast quarter of township 93, range 7. Election was ordered on the third Monday of November, at the house of Joseph Forbes; and Joseph Forbes, John Conner and Simeon B. Forbes were appointed judges of election. Prior to this, at the election in July, when the county was organized, Pleasant Valley township was a part of West Union precinct. At the November election, John Conner was elected justice of the peace, and Simeon B. Forbes, Matthew Conner and J. B. Stephenson, trustees.

The first white child was Melvina Dimond, born July 22, 1850.

The first wedding was that of John Johnson and Miss Rowley in 1851; the hymenial knot was securely tied by John Conner, justice of the peace. Second marriage was Samuel Conner and Marrilla Howard, February 4, 1852, by Rev. Mr. Briggs, a Methodist preacher.

The first settler to cross the mysterious river was Matthew Conner, who died in April, 1852. The first death was an infant daughter of James Kinyon, in July, 1851.

The first Methodist circuit preacher to visit the little settlement at the mouth of Otter creek was Rev. Mr. Cameron, who preached in the house of Samuel Conner in 1851.

George Gay opened a store in the new settlement in 1851.

ELGIN LAID OUT.

In the fall and winter of 1851-52, a town was laid out on section 14 by Samuel Conner and others. M. V. Burdick was the surveyor. Mr. Burdick solicited the honor of christening the new town, which was granted, and he gave it the name of Elgin, in honor, it is said, of Elgin, Illinois, his native town. "Shin Bone Valley" was buried and nearly forgotten, only to be resurrected by the historian and recorded in its proper place among innumerable other "things of the past."

The town plat was not recorded until March, 1855. Samuel Conner, Marilla Conner, Benjamin Dimond, Mary J. Dimond, Thomas Armstrong and Oliva Armstrong appear of record as proprietors. M. V. Burdick, acting surveyor when they were laid out, certifies to blocks 1, 2, 3 and 4, and Winslow Stearns, county surveyor, certifies to blocks 5 and 6, July 4, 1854. This plat was filed for record February 20, 1855. The first or original plat, however, as made by Mr. Burdick, was filed for record March 9, 1854, by order of Thomas Woodle, judge. Samuel Conner was sole proprietor.

In April, 1852, Messrs. Dimond & Conner commenced building a grist-mill, in which the first corn was ground in December, 1853. The mill was completed in 1854. Soon afterward, the proprietors added to it a building for carding wool, which was put in operation by Eden E. Rhodes, who carded the first wool in Fayette county in 1854. This enterprise was abandoned, but in 1869, Hon. William Larrabee and Dr. B. H. Hinkley financed and operated a similar industry. It was located on the hill-side south of Elgin, and manufactured certain kinds of cloth, in addition to doing a large business in carding wool to be spun and woven in the homes of that day. The industry was discontinued many years ago. The flouring-mill was owned by P. Dowse & Company and operated by them for many years.

In 1852, Samuel Conner built the first large frame building, the first hotel, on southeast quarter of northeast quarter of section 14, lot 15, block 1, of the original survey of Elgin.

The postoffice was established in 1852. Benjamin Dimond was the first postmaster.

The first church was commenced in 1855; completed and dedicated in the fall of 1857.

Isaac Kline built a saw-mill on Otter creek, about two miles above Elgin, in 1854. It was afterward converted into a flouring-mill, and was owned by Mr. Pfahr and others. Thomas Alvey built a saw-mill in 1856, on Otter creek, in section 29. This was also converted into a flouring-mill, and was owned by W. M. Alvey, Higgins and others. None of these mills are now operated except for feed grinding, and most of them have passed out with time and floods.

LUTRA LAID OUT.

When the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Minnesota railroad was laid out, the engineers found it impracticable to reach Elgin, and established the line about half a mile west of the town. Here Mr. Conner donated depot grounds, and also the right of way for a mile, and a small town was surveyed in August, 1871, by F. S. Palmer, and by him named Lutra. The proprietors were Samuel Conner, Marilla Conner, B. Dimond, Mary J. Dimond, Joseph Baldwin and Betsey Baldwin; and the plat was filed for record November 10, 1871. Work on the railroad commenced in the fall of 1871, and was completed to Lutra from the north in September, 1872, but the depot was not built until 1875. Mr. Conner made an addition to Lutra in 1873. The first store on the town plat of Lutra was a small wooden building erected in 1871. The handsome brick block of stores was built by Borne & Conner, James Cook, Daniel Gates and others, in 1873-74. The railroad name of the two places is Elgin, and, practically, Elgin and Lutra are but one town.

A steam saw-mill and stave factory was built near the north end of the railroad bridge in 1873, by Peter Nicklaus, a very ingenious and energetic man. This plant was merged into a canning factory, and is controlled by a stock company, since the death of Mr. Nicklaus and his son Charles. R. O. Woodward, of West Union, is manager of the plant, which does a very large amount of business in season. The principal product is canned corn, but other products, especially tomatoes, are worked up, these raw materials being quite a source of revenue to near-by farmers and gardeners. The plant furnishes remunerative employment to several hundred employes, during active operations. Its products are in universal demand where best known.

In 1870, Messrs. Dimond, Conner & Company erected a new flouring mill on Otter creek, about three-fourths of a mile above the old saw-mill.

The towns of Elgin and Lutra are beautifully located in the valley of the Turkey river, near the mouth of Otter creek—a lovely spot, nestling among the timber-crowned bluffs, a perfect gem of beauty.

The geologist will find a rich field in this valley. In the bed of Otter creek, below the old saw-mill, the rock formations have been exposed, and are wonderfully rich in fossils, not only of shells, but of other forms of life that once flourished only to be preserved in stone.

SCHOOLS.

The first school in the township was taught by Mary A. Howard, in the house built by Matthew Conner, in 1851. In 1852, a school house was built on section 22, by John and Madison Phillips, in which, in the same year, Adelaide Simers taught the first school.

In 1855, a frame school house was built on the town plat of Elgin, by George Pratt, in which John Arbuckle was the first teacher. In 1860, this building was sold and removed, to give place to a brick school house, which was erected in that year by Lewis Thoma, and school was first taught in it by David Whitley. In 1875, for the purpose of providing educational privileges for the children of Elgin and Lutra under one roof, a large and commodious brick school house was erected on what was called the "half-way ground" between the two towns. The building was built by Mr. Thoma, and cost about eight thousand dollars. This "half-way" ground is all built up with residences, and there is now no "dividing line" between Elgin and Lutra.

The independent district of Elgin was stimulated by the building of the railroad, and when Lutra was added to the original dimensions, the district was correspondingly enlarged. With additions and improvements to the school property, the school house is now valued at eleven thousand dollars. Four teachers were employed during the school year of 1909, one male and three females, who taught nine months. The salary of the superintendent was eighty dollars per month and his assistants received an average of forty-three dollars and thirty-three cents, or, to be exact, each one received the same amount of salary. The number of persons in the district between the ages of five and twenty-one years—the school age—is one hundred and ninety-nine. Of these, one hundred and sixty-nine were enrolled in the school, with an average daily attendance of one hundred and thirty-eight. Ten non-resident students were enrolled, from whom the district realized in tuition fees, one hundred and twenty-five dollars and fifty cents. This is one of the classified

schools of the county, and its graduates are credited with high school attainments. The school apparatus is valued at one hundred and forty dollars, and the library contains one hundred and fourteen volumes.

There are ten sub-districts in Pleasant Valley township, each having a school house of one room. The schools were in session during the last year an average of seven and five-tenths months, and were taught by female teachers, at an average salary of thirty dollars and sixty-seven cents per month. The value of the ten school houses is five thousand three hundred and fifty dollars; of the apparatus used, four hundred dollars, and there are seven hundred and seventy-five volumes in the school libraries of the district township. The average cost of tuition per pupil for the year 1909 was two dollars and seventy-nine cents.

CHURCHES.

Numerous religious organizations have had an existence in Elgin, some of which have not been continuing institutions. The Wesleyan Methodists, Methodist Episcopal, United Brethren, Baptists and Lutherans are the organizations which have struggled for supremacy in the religious field. The three first mentioned built churches and still sustain them, but some have irregular services.

LODGES.

There is a Masonic lodge in Elgin, also a chapter of Royal Arch Masons; both moved from Clermont within recent years, as appears more fully in the article on Freemasonry in Fayette county, by Hon. D. W. Clements.

Elgin Lodge No. 290, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized September 18, 1874, by Dr. W. A. Chase, district deputy grand master. The names of some old time business men are recalled by the following list of names of charter members: D. W. Redfield, J. A. Gruver, S. R. Graham, O. P. Miller, E. R. Carpenter, M. C. Meade, Dr. J. P. Marsh, G. S. Klock, J. C. Cooley. The lodge was prosperous from the first and has initiated many members into the mysteries of Oddfellowship.

The Ancient Order of United Workmen is another of the early fraternal and beneficial institutions of Elgin. The original members of this lodge, which came into existence August 17, 1876, include most of the foregoing names, as well as some other prominent names of that day. They are as follows: Oscar P. Miller, G. S. Klock, Erastes Enos, H. C. Hammond, Dr. L. B. Mattoon, W. W. Gardner, W. R. Given, E. R. Carpenter, J. A. Hoag-

land, J. C. Cooley, A. A. Kumpf, J. G. Schaeffer, Phil. Dowse, Henry Klock, F. D. Lepper, C. T. Schmid, P. Nicklaus, G. A. Stoehr, Lewis Thoma, Ben Schori, J. W. Callender, D. Wattenpaugh. Several of these men of early days have died and others removed.

Among other early settlers of Elgin, none were more prominent and active than Fred. Wohlheter, John Neuenswander, the Lehman family, Philip Dowse, Sr., F. M. Garrison, L. M. Blakesley, Joseph Lyons, "Uncle Jimmie" Stephenson, Elder Martindale, the Waterworths.

The population of Elgin and vicinity is largely of German extraction, the Swiss being the predominating class. They are a frugal, honest and unassuming people whose energy and industry have made Pleasant Valley township noted for its thrift and prosperity. Elgin is the home of a considerable number of retired farmers whose earlier years were spent on the farms in Pleasant Valley, Illyria and adjacent territory in Clayton county. They are not of one nationality, nor the same political or religious views. They came together at Elgin as old friends and neighbors who have made Elgin their trading point for a generation or two, hence, in their estimation, no other town is quite as good a place to end their days as Elgin. And the natural beauty of the spot would seem to justify this conclusion. It would not be amiss to speak of two families of this class who were very early settlers over the line in Clayton county, who lived neighbors for forty years or more, and then retired and moved to Elgin. These are the F. K. Robbins and David Moats families. Both Mr. Robbins and his wife died in Elgin within the last two years; but Mr. and Mrs. Moats are living in advanced old age. Two other families who retired from adjoining farms in Clayton county are the Chapmans and MacKellars.

Pleasant Valley is one of the rough and broken townships of the county. The Turkey river and Otter creek, fringed with heavy timber and rugged bluffs, pass through the township and unite their waters at the county line just east of Elgin.

BRAINARD.

Brainard, near the west line of the township, is a little hamlet, up the Otter, hemmed in by rugged hills on all sides. It was the place chosen for a home by some of the earliest pioneers, and probably had more inhabitants in the fifties than it has ever had since. In very early days this place was called "Tinkertown," because nearly every man was some kind of a mechanic. They promptly built their log shops and prepared for business, but the patrons were

few, as the place was well-nigh inaccessible by reason of the hills and timber. When the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Minnesota railroad was built up the valley, a station was established at "Tinkertown," to catch the timber trade, and a man named Brainard was placed in charge of the station. This was probably the origin of the new name. Mr. Brainard was succeeded in the seventies by R. W. Helm, who became at once stock-buyer, station agent, postmaster and merchant. He purchased large tracts of timber land, cut off the timber and improved the land, combining this work with his other various enterprises, and became wealthy. He owns several good farms in territory adjacent to Brainard, mostly made from land which was cleared and improved under his personal supervision. More timber of various kinds, including cordwood, is shipped from Brainard than from any other shipping point in the county. It is also a good shipping point for stock, being tributary to the fine stock farms in northern Illyria, as well as considerable portions of Pleasant Valley and Union townships. For years Mr. Helm furnished employment for many men and teams, and thus became recognized as a kind of benefactor among the poor people with whom the Otter creek valley abounds. His general store (the only one in the place), with its postoffice attachment, is a rendezvous for the inhabitants for miles around. But Mr. Helm was not the only man who profited by the establishment of a railroad station at Brainard. Joseph Patterson, the Crafts, John Bracken and other well-to-do farmers in the community, took advantage of the opportunities, and shipped immense quantities of wood and other forest products from the station, and thus the hill sides and rocky glens have become denuded of their original covering of excellent timber, and, where the land was available, improved farms have resulted.

Pleasant Valley township (including Elgin incorporation) has eight and three-tenths miles of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad within its borders, assessed for taxation purposes at four thousand two hundred dollars per mile. There are seven and a half miles of the United States Express Company, assessed at thirty-five dollars per mile, and the same mileage of the Western Union Telegraph Company, valued at eighty dollars per mile. The town and township are traversed by thirty-five miles of telephone, which reach fully half of the farms occupied by the owners. The average assessed value of the four companies doing business in the township is fifty dollars per mile.

CHAPTER XXXII.

PUTNAM TOWNSHIP.

This was one of the four townships surveyed in 1837, as appears in the chapter on County Organization. The first land entry was made by John C. Folsom, on the 4th of November, 1850. But a man named Serving entered land the same year, sold his claim to a man named Harrows, who, like himself, soon removed from the township. The settlement of this township was tardy, considering the time the land became available, and this tardiness was probably due to the fact that the land is nearly all prairie, a class of soil and environment not alluring to the first settlers of the county. And this objection will be considered a sensible one, when it is remembered that timber was a staple commodity in early days, there being nothing then available to take its place for fuel, fencing, houses and stock sheds, and even as a protection against the destructive winds which traversed the prairies unmolested. Invariably the early settlers chose locations in or near the timber, even though much better land could have been found elsewhere.

J. Brun was the first actual settler, he having purchased the Harrows claim, and made a permanent home on section 24. Some of the first settlers in this township secured their land for seventy-five cents an acre, there being a special provision so providing for a limited time.

EARLY ELECTIONS.

The township was named in honor of the Revolutionary hero, Gen. Israel Putnam. An order was issued by the county judge calling the organizing election in April, 1855. Some informality in making the returns deferred the organization, however, and another election was held the following year. The electors who voted in April, 1855, were R. Aldrich, Sr., R. Aldrich, Jr., Mr. McNary, W. C. Hicks, J. Hallowell, J. B. Squires, J. L. Bruce and John C. Folsom. The election held in April, 1856 (at which time the township was organized), was held at the house of Samuel Joy, and resulted in the selection of officers as follows: J. B. Squires and Samuel Probasco, justices of the

peace; Samuel Westcott, Joseph Hallowell and W. S. Warner, trustees; Alvah Bush, township clerk; Samuel Westcott, assessor; J. Rowley and Mr. Canfield, constables, and Patrick Bears was chosen supervisor of roads. The election officers on this occasion were W. S. Warner, Joseph Hallowell and Alvah Bush, judges, and the two last named also officiated as clerks. The electors attending this election and not at the preceding one were C. G. Wheeland, W. Hicks, Jay and James Squires.

FIRST SCHOOLS.

The first consideration with the pioneers, after organizing the territory in which they live, is the establishment of schools and churches. Putnam township was no exception to this rule. The first board of directors (organized in 1858) was composed of Solomon Joy, J. B. Squires and L. H. Abbott. Mrs. Rowley, who taught the first school in the township, received a salary of one dollar per week!

Three sub-districts were organized by the board in 1858, and the first school house in the township was purchased from Orrville Wood for thirty dollars. The schools of the township were well organized under the district township system, and so continued until October 18, 1873, when eighty-two petitioners asked for a dissolution of the district township system and the establishment of rural independent districts. An election was held in December, 1873, and a majority of votes cast were in favor of the change to the independent district system. When the school property was divided and district boundaries established, the district township board went out of existence, since which time three directors in each district have controlled the school interests. The last of the eleven sub-districts was set off in 1871, and since December, 1873, each district has been self-sustaining. Each district in the township owns a school house of one room, that in No. 3 being the poorest (valued at two hundred dollars). In this district there was no school held during the year 1909, the latest official report. The other ten districts had school from seven to nine months of the year, the average being seven and three-fourths months. Two male teachers were employed (in districts 2 and 11), at a salary of forty dollars a month each. Female teachers were employed in the other districts at an average salary of thirty-five dollars and forty cents per month. There are but fourteen persons in district No. 3 between five and twenty-one years, and but five between seven and fourteen, the years of compulsory attendance; hence it is to be presumed that provisions could be

made for the attendance of these in adjoining districts at much less expense than in their own. Two hundred eighty-six is the school enumeration of the township (five to twenty-one years), of whom two hundred and twenty-six were enrolled in the schools, with an average daily attendance of one hundred and fifty. The average cost of tuition per month for each pupil was two dollars and sixty-four cents. The eleven school houses are valued at four thousand nine hundred and seventy-five dollars, and the school apparatus in them at six hundred and thirty-five dollars. The school libraries of the township contain six hundred and two volumes.

AGRICULTURAL.

For many years past Putnam township has taken high rank as a dairying and stock-raising community. Creameries were established there as early as anywhere in the county, and the product brought high prices in the Eastern markets, for which it was mostly made. This industry continues, though with the invention and general introduction of cream separators among the farmers, and the annual custom of putting up ice, much more home churning is done than formerly. Grain raising has fallen off greatly, and the farmers usually feed up the products of their farms to their growing stock. Wheat raising has ceased to be the money-getting industry, though such was the case in earlier days.

The Davenport & St. Paul branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad touches the northeast corner of this township, but there is no station within its boundaries. In fact, Putnam is purely an agricultural township, having neither town nor village. Arlington and Strawberry Point—the latter in Clayton county—are convenient trading places, while the city of Oelwein is within nine miles from the west line of the township.

Sabbath schools and religious services have been a feature of the religious life of the community from early pioneer days, but the near-by towns mentioned above, being but three miles distant from the northern and eastern boundaries, furnish conveniences not found at the country church or school house.

A number of the prominent early settlers in this township have retired from active labors, and several of them are located in Arlington. Among these we mention John Gladwin and J. R. McDonald, who were prominent in

the affairs of Putnam township for many years, particularly in educational affairs. Dr. C. G. Wheeland was also one of the earliest settlers in Putnam, now retired.

The taxable property of this township, as listed for taxation, is valued at two hundred and eighty thousand nine hundred and twenty dollars.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

SCOTT TOWNSHIP.

Scott township was organized by order of the county judge in 1858. This was one of the last townships to be organized in the county, on account of the fact that there was no timber in the township, and settlers for the first fifteen years after the land was open to public entry were very few indeed. The resolution ordering the establishment of the township was as follows:

“Ordered that congressional township 91 north, range 8 west, be and it is hereby formed into a new township for all purposes contemplated by law under the name of Scott township. And Prentiss M. Freeman is hereby appointed to discharge the duties, as required by law, necessary to organize said township. The first election in said township to be held at the house of Edward Kniseley in said township on the first Monday in April, 1858, at which election there will be elected three township trustees, one clerk, two constables, two justices of the peace, and a vote will also be taken for school fund commissioner.” This order was made February 5, 1858. The township was named after Gen. Winfield Scott, at that time lieutenant-general of the United States armies, and the leading figure in the war with Mexico.

Land values were quite low in Scott township for many years, as shown in the equalization of real estate for the year 1859, when values for Scott township were placed at three dollars per acre, but there was a rapid increase in the value of land from that time on, and at the equalization in June, 1910, the average value of all the land in the township was placed at about forty dollars per acre for purposes of taxation, which is probably not far from one-half of its actual selling value. The assessment valuation of the township, personal and real, for 1909, was two hundred and seventy-two thousand and fifteen dollars. In recent years the township has developed wonderfully, and now contains some of the best farms in the county. A very large number of groves have been planted, and many of the farm buildings are equal to the best. The township has one trading point, a large general store at Scott Center, where many of the people in the township do their trading. There is also a creamery, harness shop and a blacksmith shop there. There is no church building in the township, but there is one, a union church, just over the line of the

township, on the east, and another, a United Brethren church, just over the line of the township on the north; both are maintained very largely by the people of Scott township. There are eight schools in the township. In 1859, when there were probably but one or two schools, the number of pupils was thirty-seven; and in 1910 the number of pupils was one hundred and ninety-nine. There are no reliable school records showing when and where the first school was held, or who was the first school teacher, but Scott township is well to the front in educational matters. The population in 1859 was sixty-eight, and in 1905, according to the state census, it was five hundred and fifty-seven. In the presidential election of 1860 there were fourteen votes for Lincoln and five votes for Douglas, which represented the political complexion of the settlement at that time.

On June 7, 1861, the first board of supervisors, with one member from each township, assembled at the court house in West Union, with S. C. Crosby representing Scott township. This township was the farm home of Hon. Andrew Addie, who represented the county very creditably in two sessions of the General Assembly of Iowa. He was also clerk of the district court, being elected in 1879, as a Democrat. Mr. Addie is now retired and living in Arlington. For many years he was a prominent and well known resident of this township.

The first entry of government land in Scott township was made by Peter L. Moe, October 16, 1854, by a land warrant. He entered the south half of the northeast fractional quarter of section 1. The second entry was made by William Bailiff, November 7, 1854, for cash. He entered the fractional north half of the northeast quarter of section 1. These two entries form the first quarter section of land entered in Scott township. The first sale of Scott township land, after being entered, was made by Peter L. Moe, to William Bailiff, November 11, 1854, four days after Mr. Bailiff had entered the north eighty acres of the same quarter section. He purchased the eighty acres for sixty dollars, and paid one hundred dollars for his eighty acres, while the same land today would readily sell for one hundred dollars per acre.

Scott township has one and three hundred and fifty-four thousandths miles of the main line of the Chicago Great Western railway, and is within reach of stations on three sides, but has no station within its borders. The township is mostly settled by Americans, with probably as few people of foreign birth as any township in the county. A large amount of tile draining is now being done, and it is probable that within a few years Scott township, which in early times was regarded as the poorest township in the county, will turn out to be one of the most valuable. It has always been a township largely

devoted to stock raising, and has produced some very fine herds of thoroughbred cattle. Coincident with this industry, dairying is carried on extensively, and affords a steady and unfailing income to those engaged in it.

EARLY SETTLERS.

John Powers and his son, Henry Powers, were the earliest settlers at Scott Center, where the early development of the township began. James Carpenter located on section 23, Scott township, in 1855. He was a native of Orange county, New York. A. Ross was a Scotchman by birth and located in this township in 1863. Other pioneers in Scott were: L. W. and H. B. Brownell, Henry A. Burdick, John B. Doctor, C. B. Gardinier, J. W. Hazen, W. C. Hillman, Robert Hunter, James Kernahan, Solomon Knapp, O. Lincoln, J. C. Miller, John Morehouse, William C. Pond, John Shields, James Spensley, George Stebbins, William O. Sumner. These were among the pioneers who started the wheels of progress in this "prairie township." Its early development was tardy, owing to the absence of timber suitable for building and fencing. But the stranger passing through the township today would not realize how barren the territory was considered in early days. Stately groves, ornamental hedges and profitable orchards dot the landscape everywhere, while the handsome homes, commodious barns, and fattening herds, indicate the general prosperity of the people.

Scott township has thirty-nine and a half miles of telephone lines, represented by four different companies. The Corn Belt Telephone Company has twenty-eight miles; the Interstate, seven and a half miles; Scott Telephone Company, three miles, and the Iowa Telephone Company, one mile.

EDUCATIONAL.

The schools of the township are organized under the rural independent district system, there being eight districts, in seven of which schools were taught during the last year. No. 4 had no school, but the attendance of the eighteen pupils was provided for in other districts. Of the one hundred and ninety-nine pupils of school age in the township, one hundred and forty-seven were enrolled in the schools (seven), making a total average daily attendance of one hundred and six. The average cost of tuition for each pupil in the seven schools was two dollars and forty-eight cents. Four non-resident pupils were enrolled in district No. 3, and six were enrolled in district No. 6. These

contributed sixty-three dollars and fourteen cents to the respective district funds. The eight school houses are valued at four thousand and seventy-five dollars. The school apparatus in the eight schools is valued at four hundred and thirty dollars, and their school libraries represent three hundred and sixty-eight volumes.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP.

The territory which subsequently became Smithfield township was occupied in the early forties by several persons whose later history is not identified with the township. William Orrear and James Beatty located in Smithfield in 1838, and, being unmarried men, lived together and kept "bach." It was their cabin which sheltered the Teagarden children after the murder of their father and little brother, as mentioned elsewhere in this volume. Orrear married and became a successful farmer and dairyman.

William Van Dorn settled in this township in 1843, and three years later married Miss Messenger, the first wedding in Smithfield. Andrew Hensley became a resident of the township in 1844. The next year he hauled a portion of his crop of winter wheat to Dubuque and sold it for one dollar and forty-five cents per bushel. Dubuque was his trading point and postoffice until 1849, and when a store and postoffice was established at Yankee Settlement, twenty-five miles away, he felt that he was almost living in town. Mr. Hensley sent some of his children to school at Yankee Settlement before there was a school established in Fayette county. (He located his land on the line between Fairfield and Smithfield in 1842.)

Chauncey Brooks, a young man of twenty-one, brought his bride to Smithfield township in 1847, and in 1848 their daughter, Amanda, was born. This was the first birth in the township and a close rival for first birthday honors in the county.

Rev. John Brown held a religious meeting in the Orrear cabin in 1848—probably the first gospel sermon preached in the township.

The first land entry made in Fayette county was made in this township on the 17th of January, 1847, as appears of record. This was the William Orrear and James Beatty claim, which was entered by Horace Bemis. It was in the extreme northern limit of the surveyed lands in the county.

Smithfield was one of the four townships in this county acquired through the Black Hawk purchase, and was surveyed by Orson Lyon in the summer of 1837. The sub-dividing lines were established by James Videtto in the same year.

TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION.

While there were numerous settlers in Smithfield in the forties, gradually increasing with passing years, the formal organization of the township did not occur until 1858, as shown by the following order of the county court: "That township 92 north, range 8 west, be and the same is hereby formed in a new township, for all purposes, as contemplated by law. Said first election is ordered to be held at the house formerly occupied by Joseph Hobson, in said township; and that Alden Mitchell is hereby appointed to discharge the duties, as required by law, necessary to organize said township; said election to take place on the first Monday of April, 1858, at nine o'clock A. M.; and that there be elected three township trustees, one clerk, two justices of the peace, one constable, and a vote to be taken, also, for school fund commissioner. Said township to be called Smithfield."

The reader is referred to the article on early history in the Miscellaneous chapter for further discussion of events in this locality. The writer of that article was a participant in the history recorded, and tells it in his own quaint and interesting style.

Though lacking the formal organization to fully legalize their proceedings, the people of Smithfield had a nominal organization, and public affairs were carried forward for some years before the county court came to their rescue. A school house was established on section No. 1 in 1852, but a school had been taught in a settler's house the previous year. The school house above mentioned was to accommodate the patrons of the "farm-house" school. Iantha Hendrickson was the first teacher in the new school house.

EARLY SCHOOLS.

The first school election in Smithfield township was held at the house of William McNaul, May 3, 1858. The voters participating in this election were J. A. Hogue, L. M. Stranahan, F. Ball, F. Hodges, William Bonine, Ira Potter, George Guard, James Bonine, E. B. Nichols, T. W. B. Stevenson, Harrison Gage, A. T. Liggett and Charles Hoyt. The last named was elected president, Elisha De Mott, vice-president, L. M. Stranahan, secretary, and A. T. Liggett, treasurer. By this time there was a considerable settlement in the township and every neighborhood wanted a school house, or at least all wanted to be the first in the distribution of such favors. Applications were made apparently, without any consideration of results, should all be granted, and it

was fortunate for the people that they had elected a conservative and far-seeing board of directors. This restriction as to expenditures for school houses—which was hardly justifiable during all the years that it was kept up—finally led to the abandonment of the district township system and the adoption of the rural independent schools, as now in vogue in the township. But this change did not occur until 1876, at which time there were nine schools in the township. During the year ending July, 1909 (the latest official report), there was school taught in nine of the ten school houses in the township, an average of eight months, by female teachers, who received an average of thirty-five dollars and fifty-seven cents per month. District No. 10 had but two months' school, paying the teacher thirty-five dollars per month. (The average daily attendance in this school was six.) There are two hundred and forty-five pupils of school age in the township, of whom two hundred and two were enrolled in the schools, with a total average daily attendance of one hundred and twenty-two in the township. The estimated value of the ten school houses is four thousand six hundred and seventy-five dollars. (One of these is reported as worth twenty-five dollars.) The school libraries contain eight hundred and nine volumes, and the school apparatus is valued at five hundred and fifteen dollars.

CHURCHES.

Religious services were held in the homes of the people or in the school houses from the coming of the first pioneers until the building of churches in 1876. There were classes of the Methodist Episcopal and United Brethren denominations organized in early days, and they maintained their identity and religious zeal throughout the discouragements which met all pioneer enterprises. In 1876 each of these societies erected a comfortable church building and were usually supplied with pastors from near-by towns.

Among the early settlers of Smithfield, none were more prominent in the development of its agricultural resources than the family of James Smith. Mr. Smith came to Smithfield in the early fifties, locating on the bleak prairie with not a house or tree within the range of human vision. He entered a large tract of land, accumulating as the years passed, until he had over a thousand acres. He was one of the organizers of the township, which was named in his honor. His children, and especially his daughters, were successful teachers in their home township and elsewhere for many years.

Among other early pioneers who have been identified with this section

of the county, were J. W. Hobson, William Pangburn, William Price, the Babcock family at Bear Grove (of whom one son, Q. C. Babcock, is a prominent resident of Fayette), J. E. Budd, also of Fayette, Charles Hoyt, who was county surveyor for many years, and father of the late Judge W. A. Hoyt, G. W. Baker, D. P. Dawson, D. W. Chittenden, F. Snedigar, A. Mitchell, Lyman E. Mitchell, Richard Badger, John Bills, James Conrad who, with five brothers, served in the Union army, Andrew Harkin, Joseph Hahn, Finley Smith, William Thompson, D. Underwood. It is not assumed that the foregoing is a complete list of early settlers of Smithfield, as the preparation of such a list seems impossible at this late date.

There is no town or village within the boundaries of Smithfield township, the nearest market points being Arlington, three miles east, Maynard, two miles west, and Fayette, about the same distance north, these distances being calculated from the respective township boundaries. Seaton postoffice was once located in the southern part of the township, but this has given place to the rural free delivery system, now so universally in vogue throughout the country districts.

This is distinctively a prairie township in which there is little timber except that artificially grown. It is rolling prairie land, very fertile, and in a high state of improvement. Dairying and stock-raising is the principal business in which the prosperous farmers are engaged.

STATISTICS.

The resources of this township, and the value of its property for taxation purposes, are shown below :

Of the Davenport & St. Paul branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, there are four and eighty-two hundredths miles traversing the northeast corner, valued for assessment purposes at nineteen thousand two hundred dollars; the Western Union Telegraph Company has the same mileage, and is assessed on the basis of three hundred and eighty-six dollars in the township; there are three telephone companies in operation. The Iowa Telephone Company has ten miles of line, valued at nine hundred and fifty dollars; the Interstate has six miles, valued at three hundred and twenty-three dollars, and the Corn Belt Company operates twenty miles of line in Smithfield, valued at eight hundred and thirty-seven dollars.

The total assessed valuation of Smithfield township for the year 1909 was two hundred and eighty-one thousand one hundred and fifty dollars.

CHAPTER XXXV.

UNION TOWNSHIP AND THE CITY OF WEST UNION.

Within comparatively recent years this township has been subdivided, detaching the city boundaries from the original township and designating it as West Union township, and leaving the balance of the congressional township as originally organized and designated as Union township. This arrangement was made for political convenience, and to give the city control of adjacent territory without the necessity of conferring with township authorities.

The city of West Union, with its various additions, is laid out on parts of sections 8, 9, 16 and 17, the principal part, and the original town plat, being established on the last mentioned section. The school district boundaries are co-existent with the boundaries of West Union township as now established. Around this territory centers the general history of the northern part of Fayette county in the formative period, and, specifically, the history of West Union township as originally formed and maintained for many years.

The town of West Union, as laid out by William Wells, J. W. Rogers and Jacob LyBrand, in 1849, and re-surveyed in 1850, comprised four blocks north and south and three blocks east and west. Near the center of this original area is the public square, a plat of ground four hundred feet square, which Mr. Wells donated to the county conditioned on the county seat being established at West Union. The final disposition of this property, together with a recital of all transactions regarding the establishment of the county seat and retaining it; the building of the first court house, its destruction and rebuilding; the construction of the jails, and enlargement and modernizing of the court house, will be found fully presented in the chapter on County Organization, and need not be repeated here.

The additions which have been made to the original town plat of West Union are: Fuller's first, second and third additions on the south; Hoyt's addition east of Fuller's, and Upright's addition north of Hoyt's; Cook's addition north of the original town plat; Hinkley's first and second additions west of the original town; North Union, a small addition just south of Hinkley's, and Union addition and Wells' donation south of that; three additions were

made at the northwest corner of the town, known as Smithfield, Uniontown and Rickel's additions. The villages which sprang up in some of these additions, as Uniontown, Smithfield, etc., were merged into the town proper by action of those having jurisdiction of such matters.

The township of West Union, as originally established in 1849, was under the jurisdiction of Clayton county; but after the organization of Fayette county, in 1850, it included portions of Dover and Pleasant Valley townships, and, for election purposes, the northwest one-fourth of Illyria township was attached thereto.

EARLY SETTLERS.

The first settlers in this territory began to arrive and establish homes as soon as the Winnebago Reserve, from which it was organized, came into market as a part of the public domain. This was in 1848, when the Indians were removed to a new reservation in Minnesota, and the domination of the Winnebagoes ceased to be a menace to the progress of civilization. A favorite camping ground of the Indians was maintained by them, years after their nominal removal to Fort Atkinson, on the farm later known as the Jacob Cory, W. C. Ashby, D. W. Hall and J. Massingham place, and later known as the W. E. Fuller place, which is now owned and occupied by the Jacob Yearous family. Small hunting parties of Indians camped there at times for several years after the township was settled by the white people, and their lodge poles could be seen there for many years after their last visit in 1858.

The first actual settler in West Union (now Union) township was Lorenzo Dutton, who, with the Jones brothers (Henry and Charles M.), came in July, 1848.

Thomas J. Smith, who accompanied Samuel Conner to Pleasant Valley, located in West Union township about the same time as the above mentioned parties, and is credited with building the first cabin in the township, between the 15th and 20th of August, 1848. He located on the place later known as the Lippincott farm, and now owned by Gus. Reidel.

DUTTON'S CAVE.

The Dutton party built a temporary cabin in September, using hay, or green grass, for a roof and "banking." When this became dry, it also became inflammable, and was burned soon after its construction, burning most of their cooking utensils, clothing, supplies, etc. Mr. Dutton had but recently re-

turned from a trip to Illinois where he bought a team of oxen, breaking plow and other implements, and on his return through Elkader he had filled out his load with lumber, provisions, etc., hence the loss of this cabin meant a good deal to the owners. But Lorenzo Dutton is a man who has never yielded to discouragements, of which he had his share in early days, hence the damage was soon repaired, and his placid, even-tempered career resumed. Mr. Dutton's career as a pioneer, and some of his own sayings relating thereto, will be found in another chapter. But there is one event in his early history which has been reserved for this article, and that is the discovery of Dutton's cave, and the events leading up to it. Now Mr. Dutton has always been recognized as a temperate man, and right well has he maintained his record in this respect, as well as the record of good citizenship. It will not, therefore, be a reflection upon his sobriety to mention "snakes" in connection with his discovery of "the cave." As he and his neighbor, Mr. Bailey, were exploring the Dutton domain, they came in contact with more than the usual number of rattlesnakes, which were plentiful everywhere. In seeking to conceal themselves, the reptiles divulged their hiding place to be a hitherto unknown cavern, which, when explored, seemed to be of considerable dimensions. This was the discovery of the cave which has always been known as Dutton's Cave, and for many years a favorite resort for people seeking a day's outing wherewith they might combine a view of nature's freaks, with a pleasant time. Without entering into a description of this now famous place, we will say that it is beautifully located, as to environments, and the grounds have been fitted up with special reference to the accommodation of the large crowds of people who visit it during the summer seasons, some coming from Fayette, Clermont and other distant towns. Abundance of cold spring water gushes from the entrance to the cave, while the beautifully shaded grounds, with ample seating, tables, places for cooking the ever-present picnic dinner, and the quiet seclusion of the spot, render it ideally suited to the wants of those seeking rest and recreation.

Mr. Dutton broke some land in the fall of 1848, and this was probably the first breaking done in West Union township. He still owns the farm which was his first home in the West, but is now living in West Union, enjoying a well-earned respite from active labors.

Among the earliest settlers of the vicinity of West Union, are found the names of many who located in adjoining townships, and who are mentioned in the township histories where they settled. It would be a useless repetition to present the names here, unless they first settled in West Union. It is stated

in another chapter that seventy persons spent the winter of 1849-50 in West Union, and that but three of the number are now living. Among these are found the names of persons who became thoroughly identified with the early history of the locality, some of whom were prominent in county and state affairs. We submit the following as a partial list of early settlers' names, some of whom came to the town or township as late as 1853, but were located in other parts of the county prior to coming here. For example: Judge Woodle was living at Dunham's Grove when elected to the office of county judge. David Smith settled on section 17, in the fall of 1848, and Morris B. Earll and Jacob Cory on section 16. Henry F. Smith located near them, on section 9. Jacob F. and Henry Smith (sons of Henry F. Smith) spent the winter of 1848-9 here. Absalom Butler settled here in April, 1849; George Smith, April 22; William Wells, April 23; William Redfield, Franklin Bishop and Stephen Bailey in May; Solomon Bishop and Gabriel Long, July 4; Jacob W. Rogers, with his wife and daughter, Ada, and Jacob LyBrand, September 7; Humphrey Tibbetts, October 25; William Felch and his two sons, Cephas and Richard, probably in October or November, 1849; Matthew Wells, spring of 1850; Joseph W. Foster, July 4; John Phillips and Daniel Cook, September, 1850; David Wells, Dr. J. N. B. Elliott, 1850; William McClintock, Henry C. Lacy, Phineas F. Sturgis, Thomas Woodle, Dr. Joseph H. Stafford, David Stafford, Edwin Smith, Porter L. Hinkley, in the spring of 1851; J. G. Webb, September, 1851; John S. Brewer, Charles McDowell and others came in 1852; Isaac F. Clark, Myron Peck, John Gharky and others, 1853. Among other early settlers, the dates of whose settlement cannot now be ascertained, were James Carl, William Kilroy, Jonathan Ferrell, Jonathan Cruzan, Eli Root, William Root (1849 or 1850), Thomas Ritchie, George Stansbury, Elisha Van Dorn, Friend Dayton, Rev. H. S. Brunson, Joseph Deford, George W. Neff, Nicholas Butler, Willis T. Bunton, William Barnhouse, John Saltsgiver.

David Smith, having established a claim on section 17, covering the later town site of West Union, held the land and timber until he sold his rights to William Wells prior to the founding of the town. Mr. Wells built a log cabin near the present location of the brick house now owned by Harry G. Blunt, and which to this day is better known as the "old Wells property" than by any other description. For years this ancient brick house stood empty, and was well-nigh gone to decay when purchased and repaired by the present owner. Weird tales were told about it and believed by the school children of earlier days. This house stands just north of the site of the original home of William Wells and family, and neither it nor the log cabin were located on what

subsequently became the town plat. This Wells cabin also sheltered the family of the late Hon. J. W. Rogers, wife and daughter, when they arrived in West Union, in July, 1849. Accompanying Mr. Rogers and family was Jacob LyBrand, they all coming from Monroe, Wisconsin. Rogers and LyBrand opened a store in this primitive cabin, and were thus the first merchants in the township. Mr. Rogers commenced building a house on lot No. 17, now on Pine street, and which he occupied on Christmas day, 1849. He and Mr. LyBrand moved the remnant of their stock of goods from the Wells cabin soon after, and were the first to engage in mercantile business on the town plat, as well as on adjacent territory. But Daniel Cook was the first general merchant in West Union, as he put in a complete stock.

Mr. Rogers and wife joined with William Wells and wife, in laying out the town of West Union, as did also Jacob LyBrand. They were old acquaintances from Monroe, Wisconsin. Mr. LyBrand removed from the county many years ago, but the others remained in the town they had established until their days were ended. They purchased an interest in sixty acres from Mr. Wells upon which the town was laid out. Appearing in the foregoing list of names of fifty early settlers in West Union are the names of nearly all the county officers elected at the first general election held in Fayette county. Others of them were pioneer business men who established many of the first industries in the town, and continued until retired in the fulness of years.

These were residents of the town during its formative period, but were soon followed by others whose names are familiar among the early settlers as active business men, mechanics and farmers. We append the following incomplete list: J. A. Gruver, John, Daniel and James Dorland, brothers, Jeremiah House, George Blunt, Samuel Rickel, Dr. Levi Fuller, L. L. and S. S. Ainsworth, Hon. S. B. Zeigler, Curtis R. Bent, J. J. Welsh, Thomas Green, Sr., the Hoyer family, W. D. Parrott, T. D. Reeder, J. S. Sampson, the Cowle family consisting of three brothers, William, Daniel and James, H. B. Hoyt, William Kent, John Knox, Sr., Myron Stafford, James Holmes, James George, William Harper, F. J. Carter, the Loftus family, Henry Wonnensburg, the Shaffers, William Houck, Heisermans, Wimbers, Newcombs, Crosbys, Hales, Berkeys, Irvins, McMasters and Gilberts, Coles, Slyters, Conkeys, Hoovers, Shermans, Topes, Nels. Spencer, John Boale, Sr. These became residents of West Union or vicinity, between 1850 and 1856, several of them in the former year. Many of this list are numbered with the dead, but in most instances their children and grandchildren still represent the pioneer stock in the community.

Judge Thomas Woodle, Revs. John Webb and H. S. Brunson were among the pioneer merchants, establishing "The Arcade" in 1852, but this firm did not remain long in business. Their chief clerk and accountant was Mr. P. F. Sturgis, one of the most familiar characters in all of West Union's history, Mr. Sturgis formed a partnership with Daniel Cook which existed until the death of the latter in 1854, after which the stock was sold out to Charles A. Cottrell. P. F. Sturgis then established stores at Clear Lake and Mason City, but returned to West Union at the beginning of the Civil war and re-engaged in business. He was successful in all of his business ventures and retired in middle life.

Densmore & Company, the "Company" being Charles Chadwick, L. C. Noble and B. T. Reeves, and Henry C. Lacy & Company in the "Crystal Palace," were in mercantile business in 1854 or earlier. But we must not forget the "Nimble sixpence" store kept by F. D. W. Morse. In this year (1854), William Wells made a sale of town lots, realizing about forty-five dollars each for those sold. Dr. L. Fuller bought two for ninety dollars and Judge C. A. Newcomb purchased two for eighty-five dollars. The next year Friend Dayton sold sixteen lots at auction at prices ranging from thirty-three dollars to sixty-seven dollars each.

George H. Thomas and John Owens were early and successful merchants in the town, the former dead and the latter retired and still living in West Union. Mr. Thomas purchased the remnant of the Fox stock when that firm went out of business. A. H. and H. B. Fox, and Berkey & Winet, were also among the early merchants whose career in West Union is long since ended. There was a mercantile firm in the Stone block, erected in 1857 by the firm of Bell & Close, who were among the early business men, but have long since passed to other fields. W. A. Whitney was an early merchant, as were H. B. Hoyt and Samuel Holton, partners in hardware business. The latter was county assessor for a time before the abolition of that office. Dr. L. Fuller was in the hardware business for a brief period soon after he came to the county in April, 1853. He was also in medical practice for some years, but finally retired and devoted his time to real estate and brokerage business. He was a public-spirited citizen who did as much for the progress of early West Union as any one in the place. He was especially active in religious and educational work, and for years was the main pillar of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Hon. Jacob W. Rogers is worthy of more than passing notice in a history of West Union, because of his long residence and active life among the people

who revere his memory. As is stated elsewhere, he brought the first stock of goods to the town; built and occupied as a residence and store the first house in the town; he was one of the proprietors of the first town laid out in Fayette county, and manifested as much interest in its future as any man that ever lived in West Union; he assisted in building the first school house in the town, and examined the first teacher who taught in it, and he was the first county clerk of Fayette county. In 1854-5 he represented twelve counties (including Fayette) in the state Legislature, and was twice elected county judge. He resigned from his last election to this office to enter the army, raised a company in defense of the Union, and was commissioned captain of Company F, Thirty-eighth Iowa Infantry. Judge Rogers was a man of keen perception and determined will. Whatever he believed to be right received his unqualified support, even though the whole town be arrayed against him. He was a successful lawyer and a radical opponent of the liquor traffic, whether legalized (?) or otherwise. His positive and unequivocal career made for him many warm friends and some enemies. Judge Rogers died in West Union, which had been his home for over half a century. His estimable widow still resides there, enjoying the distinction of having spent more years in West Union than any other living person.

William Wells, like Judge Rogers, his early partner in the "real estate" business, should be memorialized in the annals of West Union and Fayette county. He was elected one of the three county commissioners at the first election of county officers, and had much to do in shaping the early affairs of the county. He transplanted to "Knob Prairie" the name of the county-seat town in his native county (Claremont), in Ohio. He assisted in building the first house erected in West Union township—that of Thomas J. Smith, previously mentioned, and spent a long and active lifetime in furthering the interests of the town and community to which he had transferred the endearing title of "home." Mr. Wells was liberal in donating to public enterprises calculated to enhance the interests of the town and county. For many years the Wells family was a prominent one in the social and business affairs of West Union; but the older members are nearly all dead and the younger generations have mostly transferred their allegiance to other localities. We believe it was due to Mr. Wells' patriotism that the first Fourth of July celebration was held on his land, now in the business center of West Union. This was not the first celebration in the county, but it was the first that brought together the people from remote districts. There is good authority for the statement that a celebration was held at the house of Daniel Finney, north of Arlington, in

1846, and another was held at the home of James Crawford, in the southern part of the county, on the same day of West Union's big celebration, on July 4, 1849. It will thus be seen that at least three celebrations of Independence day were held before the county was organized. The event engineered by Mr. Wells was presided over by Stephen Bailey; Simeon B. Forbes, a recent arrival in Pleasant Valley, read the Declaration of Independence, and Samuel Wilson and Rev. Joseph Forbes were the orators of the day. A fine hickory-elm liberty pole was erected on the public square, and from the top of this, "Old Glory," as popular then as now, displayed her folds to the view of those who approached from far and near, and in every conceivable conveyance then known. But the ox team was the principal propelling power.

IN MEMORIAM.

An unusual rate of mortality has existed in West Union among elderly people within comparatively recent years; and it seems that but few of the early business men and professionals now survive. Ignoring the order in which deaths occurred, we here present the names of some of the prominent and useful citizens of the town whose book of life has closed within the last fifteen or twenty years: Paul A. Nandall, John Scrivner, W. E. Talmadge, Dr. J. H. Stafford, John S. Brewer, Myron Peck, S. S. Ainsworth, L. L. Ainsworth, William Wade, Willard Wade, Henderson Clements, C. A. Dorland, C. M. Dorland, J. D. Neff, H. M. Neff, G. T. Descent, L. L. Farr, Johnson Dickey, O. E. Taylor, O. C. Taylor, J. W. Rogers, O. W. Rogers, Henry Wonnenberg, F. J. Carter, C. R. Bent, J. W. Gardner, Charles Woodward, John Rapp, William McClintock, James Graham, E. H. Berkey, John Detrich, Thomas Green, Sr., the Cowles brothers (William, Daniel and James), William Kent, H. B. Hoyt, Samuel Holton, Charles H. Talmadge, Ephraim B. Shaw, Samuel B. Zeigler, A. C. Gunsalus, Dr. S. E. Robinson, Dr. Alvaro Zoller, F. H. Chapman, Andrew Doty, Henry Rush, Edward C. Dorland, Benoni W. Finch, Bruce W. Branch, Aldrick R. Burrett, David Winrott, A. E. Rich, Andrew Dye, I. M. Weed, David Merritt, D. M. Hoyt, John Bower, Nason Hoyt, William Redfield, George Thompson, Alfred Crosby, William Oberdorf, Lookings Clark, James George, George James, Henry W. Ash, William Ash, George M. Gilson, George H. Thomas, Edward Thomas, John Kuehens, William Gruver, A. J. Archer. It is not assumed that the foregoing list is complete, since memory is treacherous; but it represents, almost without exception, the men who were carrying forward the business enterprises of the town when called to their reward. In most instances the wives are living.

EARLY GROWTH OF WEST UNION.

The development of the town of West Union seemed assured from the first. Men of business push and energy were at the head of affairs; and when the county-seat question was settled (even temporarily) it soon became the largest town in the county and so remained for many years. In very early days Auburn was its principal competitor for trade, as appears more fully in the history of Auburn township. "Lightville," now Lima, in Westfield township, was a close competitor for county-seat honors, tying West Union at one time, when a deciding vote had to be taken between the two places, the other competitors being thrown out. (See article on county organization.) Daniel Cook, father of John Cook, a present-day resident, built a store building and stocked it with goods in the summer of 1850. This was practically the first store in the place. Mr. Cook was a public-spirited and useful citizen among the pioneers. He died suddenly in 1854. He also commenced work on a hotel building, on the corner of Vine and Elm streets in the same year, but sold out to J. H. and D. Stafford, who completed it the next year, and the Stafford Hotel was opened to the public. In later years this was known as the West Union House, and as such was operated for years by S. W. Cole, J. J. Welsh, Hiram Ingersoll and others. In this building, as originally constructed, was established, by Doctor Stafford, the first drug store; by Henry Wonnenberg, the first tailor shop, and it is said that Eli Sherman opened the first harness shop in West Union, all of these various industries being carried on in the office of the old hotel, which was not as large then as in later years. Chauncey Leverich is credited with building the first hotel in West Union, completing it in 1850. There was considerable rivalry between his workmen and those employed on the Stafford house, as to which should be first completed. This was known as the Irvin house, which stood on the site of the Descent house, as constructed in 1875. But at the time of its removal by G. T. Descent, to make way for the new building, it was known, and operated by Descent, as the Farmers' Exchange. The United States House was erected in 1854 by Samuel Hale, and by him conducted in early days. This building stood on the site of the brick block erected in 1883-4, by James Riley, and which is now owned by C. B. Minchin. The hotel was burned in 1882. The old Stewart House came into existence as the Dayton House, and was so known for a number of years. We believe that all of these early hotels had saloon attachments, and some of them were the scene of "high carnival" at times during their existence; but all have been

burned or removed, to give place to more modern, and perhaps more useful, structures. The Descent House, spoken of above, was the most modern of them all, and was considered a good hotel during the earlier years of its existence. It was the first steam-heated house in West Union, and its proprietor and owner tried to keep it fully abreast of the times. After Mr. Descent's retirement the house was leased for a few years, during which time the name was changed to The Arlington. It was the property of Charles Woodward when burned a few years ago, and a feed yard and stabling now occupy the site.

James M. Lisher, who now owns and conducts the Commercial House, occupied the Arlington for several years under lease, but was rebuilding and enlarging his present property at the same time. The Commercial is the principal hotel in the place, and under the management of Mr. Lisher and wife it is very popular with the traveling public. It is a two-story and basement brick structure just east of the stone block, and in fact the east half of the stone block, as erected, is now included as a part of the hotel. There is a small brick hotel just south of the Bank block which is known as the Union House, and which has been in successful operation for several years. The Loftus restaurant is a popular resort for the hungry, and nobody goes away dissatisfied. The proprietor keeps a stock of groceries, fruits, bread, etc., for sale.

Philip Herzog was the first furniture dealer and manufacturer in West Union, his "old red shop" being located on lots now occupied by the residence of the late Charles Woodward. This business was established in 1852, but the proprietor had entered land in Center township in 1850. Blinn & White established the first hardware store; but in 1854 the Pioneer hardware store was established by Dr. Levi Fuller and H. Chandler. This was soon after sold to Doctor Hart & Company.

John A. Gruver was a close rival to Eli Sherman in establishing the first harness shop. William Gruver followed in the same line and continued until his death a few years ago. This was also true of A. J. Archer, this name being perpetuated by G. G. Archer, a nephew of A. J., who conducts a large business in harness and horse supplies at present. Among the early manufacturers, aside from those mentioned, were the Peck and Heiserman wagon shops, whereat the vehicles that largely supplied the county in early days were turned out. John S. Sampson was the pioneer boot and shoe manufacturer, and for many years conducted a large business, giving employment to twelve or more men. In later years his business in manufacturing dropped off because of the introduction of machine-made stock, and he then merged it into

the first exclusive shoe store in the place. This was sold out, and after a few years, discontinued; but the room is again occupied with another stock of foot-wear. Mr. Sampson's first location was in a building just south of the present "Sampson Block," a handsome store and office building on the corner of Vine and Elm streets. Other early wagon makers were D. O. Smith, Thomas Wright, Henry Wimber, Sr., T. L. and J. S. Green, the three first mentioned still continuing in business.

The early blacksmiths were Humphrey Tibbitts, Thomas Green, Sr., L. B. Dersham, Lew Tyrrell, John Rapp, and the smiths employed in the wagon manufacturing business, Alfred Crosby and his father, Frank Crosby—the latter being the first and only gunsmith in the place. We believe all these parties are dead, with the possible exception of Lew Tyrrell. William A. Crosby is continuing the business and shop left by his father; Charles McDougal and Henry T. Wimber have established new places of business, and these comprise the present mechanics in this line.

Some of the first carpenters were David Winrott, William Houck, Evans Camp, Norman Pierce, Henry Rush, A. R. Burrett, Benjamin Morse, J. S. Wright, John and Charles Detrich. None of these except Pierce are in West Union at present, and all are dead except three. This branch of mechanical science is ably represented in the town by a class of young men schooled in their profession. This also applies to painters and decorators, in which trade there are some skilled artists.

William D. Parrott was the first jeweler in West Union, having established his business here in 1854. At his death, a quarter of a century ago, the business descended to his son, James P., and to his daughter, Ella. James Parrott died, and Miss Ella has since owned and conducted the business. She has added a splendid stock of china-ware and novelties, and conducts an exclusive store in this respect. Oscar W. Heiserman, son of the pioneer wagon-maker, William Heiserman, graduated in a horological institute, and is recognized as an expert in anything pertaining to his profession. His fine stock of jewelry and optical goods, silver ware, etc., is one of the comparatively recent acquisitions to West Union trade.

Mention has been made of the first cabinet shop in West Union, but this was not of long duration. W. A. Whitney was early engaged in the furniture business, and the Haines brothers, Samuel and Joseph, were in business together in the stone block for several years in the early seventies and later. They dissolved partnership, Joseph going to Waukon in the grocery business and Samuel R. erected a small building on the site now occupied by the Baptist

church parsonage, and carried on the business of repairing, and at the same time kept a stock of furniture. Mr. Haines has removed to California, and that particular feature of the furniture business has ceased to exist in West Union. The firm of Roberts & Glass succeeded to the Haines location and stock in the stone block, but remained only a few years when the business went into the hands of Burnham & Son, and is now owned and operated by L. W. Burnham. A new location and stock was opened by the Phillips Brothers, on the west side of the public square and conducted by them for a few years when it was purchased by the Loomis Brothers, a large and complete stock put in, and one of West Union's most popular enterprises there launched.

The drug business in West Union has been in full sway since the establishment of the pioneer drug store in the first hotel, by Dr. J. H. Stafford. It is difficult to mention the names of all who have been in the business in West Union, as some were transitory; but among the earliest and most prominent were the Waterburys, Waterbury & White, C. R. Bent, Bent & Robinson, Bent & Scofield, Scofield & Merritt. The location of all these various firms was in the building now used as the postoffice. F. D. Merritt was the last to conduct a drug business there. A one-story brick building was constructed a few doors north of the old stand, and A. K. White opened a business there in the seventies. He had as a partner for a time Dr. S. H. Drake, who removed from the county in the early eighties, and F. W. White became a partner with his brother, the firm continuing business until the death of the senior member, when the business was closed out and F. W. White removed to the Pacific coast. After various changes in ownership, the present proprietor, Fred W. Schneider, opened a large and complete stock at this location and so continues in business.

A peculiar coincidence in the early history of West Union is the fact that almost invariably when the removal of an unsightly building was desired, Vulcan, the god of fire, came to the rescue. At least three mysterious fires have occurred in the business districts among the dilapidated old buildings, and new and modern buildings succeeded them.

In the case of the West Union House, we believe, it was necessary to remove the building before erecting a modern one, but this was the exception rather than the rule.

From early days until 1875 a dilapidated frame building stood on the corner directly south of the postoffice. This was occupied by C. T. Nefzgar and others as a store building. But it went up in smoke with all the buildings

on that side of the street for half a block, the Fayette County National Bank building furnishing a barrier to the further progress of the flames. From the ruins of this Nefzgar building arose, Phoenix-like, the handsomest building, then in West Union, and one of the best today. Dr. G. D. Darnall was the promoter, and has always been the owner since the building was erected. This is a two-story and basement brick, fronting on Vine street, with basement entrance from Elm street. It is handsomely trimmed in artificial stone, with large plate glass front and high side windows for better lighting the interior. The first floor has always been the location of a drug store, and in fact it was built and arranged for that purpose. P. D. Scofield was proprietor of the first store in this room. Darnalls & Fisher succeeded him, the firm being Dr. G. D. Darnall, his cousin, Dr. C. F. Darnall, and Lewis A. Fisher, a present-day grocer in the town. Dr. G. D.'s connection with the drug business did not end with the dissolution of this copartnership, which continued but a short time.

The basement of this building was the home of the *Fayette County Union* for a few years, but is now used for storage of goods connected with the extensive drug business of Tisdale & Barnes, under the title of the Union Drug Store. The entire upper floor, we believe, is now occupied by the commodious offices, library, apparatus, reception room, etc., connected with Dr. G. D. Darnall's extensive medical practice. Mention has been made of the early merchants in West Union, and it remains but to mention the present-day establishments in that line. It will be remembered that the early dealers in merchandise were obliged to keep general stocks, and no one pretended to sell dry goods who did not also have a stock of groceries. This may account for the absence of early grocers from the list of business enterprises. But in recent years the tendency has been to specialize, and dry goods, shoes, and manufactured clothing for ladies comprise the stock of one of the principal establishments in the town. Reference is here made to the W. A. Magner store—the old G. H. Thomas location. For more than fifty years there has been a stock of goods in this building.

Gilbert & McMasters (Mark Gilbert and W. C. McMasters) were once engaged in general merchandising, and later in the grocery and provision business. McMasters is dead and Gilbert is retired.

But the second dry goods store—and this completes the list—is owned by M. O. Musser. His predecessors at this location (three doors north of the postoffice) were: Minchin & Buell, Minchin alone, F. A. Sheldon, C. B. Minchin, Stam Brothers, T. R. Stam. Both Minchin and Stam are retired

with a competence, and Mr. Musser, a brother-in-law of Stam's, carries a large and well selected stock of dry goods, clothing, shoes, etc., and is doing a fine business.

The oldest grocery store now in the town is that owned by L. A. Fisher, in one of Doctor Darnall's buildings. It was opened by Armstrong & Buchanan who operated it a few years, when they sold to A. C. Gunsalus, Mr. Fisher's father-in-law, and he conducted a large and profitable business for nearly thirty years. Mr. Gunsalus was a man universally esteemed by all who knew him, and a business man of far more than average ability. He died at his post a couple of years ago, and was succeeded by Mr. Fisher, who was then in the drug business at Hawkeye.

Other grocers have been A. C. Jones, William Cox, Samuel Holton, R. A. Barr, Joseph Butler, B. W. Finch, J. H. Schricker, John Owens' general store, Christ Nefzgar, Butler & Dorland. The present business is represented by Mr. Fisher, as previously mentioned, George A. Wood, E. C. Chandler, E. G. Herrick and Harvey Smith, these having large and complete stocks of goods, while restaurants and lunch counters also sell some goods in this line. The present-day hardware business is represented by F. E. Hoyt, who is the successor of his father, the late H. B. Hoyt, who was identified with that line of mercantile life in West Union for forty years. H. B. Hoyt was a man of conservative ideas, but withal a successful business man who accumulated a large property. For many years he was a member of the city council, board of education, board of directors of the Fayette County National Bank and the county agricultural society. F. E. Hoyt succeeded to a well established business, to which he has added the impetus of youth coupled with business energy and superior knowledge of all details. Practically he grew up in the store and early evinced an interest and business sagacity seldom found in the youth of the present generation.

The Smith Brothers are the successors of another long established house, though its existence in the present building dates only from the construction of the Riley block in 1883-4. Previously it was located in the brick store room now occupied by Rev. T. P. Griffith and daughters as a musical instrument repository and millinery store. There the first hardware store in West Union was established by Blinn & White in 1853. Hoyt & Holton started in the hardware business some years later in this room, and W. A. Whitney and a Wisconsin man whose name is not recalled were the immediate predecessors of Nandall & Nye, who removed their goods to the Riley block when that was ready for occupancy. J. E. Nye continued the business for some

years after the death of Paul A. Nandall, and this is the store now occupied by the Smith Brothers. Both the hardware stores carry full lines of goods, do plumbing and spouting work, and put in heating apparatus. Carl A. Johnson, a skilled mechanic, also does work in these lines, and carries a small line of goods. He is located in one of Doctor Darnall's buildings in rear of the Union drug store.

W. W. Wright, once a partner with F. E. Hoyt before the death of the senior Hoyt, is a son of James S. Wright, an early pioneer and member of the first town council. J. S. Wright served four years as county treasurer, was mayor of West Union two terms, served two years as secretary of the Fayette County Agricultural Society and was otherwise prominently connected with West Union affairs from his coming in 1861 until his death. His son, and only child, W. W., is principal salesman in the Hoyt hardware store.

The livery business is one of the transitory enterprises of every town, and it is difficult to trace the various changes. It is probable that J. J. Welsh was among the first to engage in this line, in connection with hotel-keeping. Taylor Brothers, and Taylor & Farr, C. E. Chapman, Mr. Jacklin, Shiek Brothers, E. F. Seiberts, D. L. Dorland, Finch & Chandler, Finch & Ward, and later, Frank Ward, the Weatherbee Brothers—now James Weatherbee, Jr.—have been, or are now, in the business.

Taylor & Farr were probably the first to engage in the buying and shipping of horses as an exclusive business enterprise. After each had served six years in the sheriff's office, one being the deputy of the other, thus making a period of twelve years in constant daily contact with the people of the county, they were thoroughly acquainted and this acquaintance sometimes enabled them to make purchases which a stranger could not. But both are now dead, Mr. Taylor dying first, after which Mr. Farr was not in active business.

Finch & Chandler, younger men, and Mr. Finch, an ex-sheriff, are now the principal local dealers in horses. They have bought and shipped large numbers of horses to eastern and northern markets, their shipments often going as far as Boston, or Fitchburg, Massachusetts.

Aside from the two local meat markets, Fennell & O'Halleran are the general stock dealers, though the Blunt Brothers buy and sell largely in excess of the stock raised on their large farms.

For many years Owens & Cook were engaged very extensively in this line of business, and several others have been engaged in it temporarily.

The West Union Grain Company and Dan O'Halleran are the local grain buyers, the former having an elevator, while the latter uses a large warehouse for storage of grain, baled hay, straw, etc.

There are two tailor shops in West Union, conducted by first class workmen, namely Frank Schwestka and J. O. Helwing. Henry Wonnenberg, the pioneer in this line, survived and continued in business for a longer period than any other man among the pioneers.

The barbers are another class of transients, except as they establish a good paying business before the beginning "nest egg" is absorbed. It is not possible to give the name of the first barber in West Union—he may have been early established or a later comer—probably the latter, for the early pioneers had but little use for the "tonorial art." George H. Phillips and his father were early engaged in this business, and George Thompson came to West Union in 1857, probably to engage in the barber business, which was his life profession. Mr. Thompson occupied one shop (that recently owned by the late E. C. Dorland) for more than a quarter of a century, walking back and forth from his farm nearly a mile north of town. Being seriously crippled, this was quite an achievement during the many years that he was never missing when due at either end of the line. Ed. C. Dorland, lately deceased, stood at a chair as foreman and proprietor in this shop for over thirty years.

Collins H. Foster was early in the business here, as was Frank Schwestka, A. J. Bernau, Jay Wilson and others.

The present day business is represented by the old Thompson-Dorland shop, west of the public square, a shop in the basement of the Sampson block and one on Elm street, south of the square.

West Union has seldom had more than two meat markets, and that is the present number. Thomas Theobald has been the longest in business here, and he is the successor to such old timers as James Riley and Julius Schwierzke. O. G. Meyer succeeded to the old Conrad Froehlich stand, after many changes in ownership and modernizing appliances. Both shops are thoroughly equipped and modern in all important details. These furnish a reliable market for high-class butchers' stock at all times, and therein are formidable rivals to the local stock buyers.

There have been two creameries and a cheese factory within the corporate limits of West Union, but there is only one of these industries now in operation. The Farmers' Creamery, near the Rock Island depot, is owned and operated by Edwin O. Moore, and is turning out a large volume of business. Cream gatherers are hired to canvass the country within a radius of ten miles, and solicit patronage from the farming community, usually with satisfactory results. The product is sold to local dealers for retail trade, or shipped away when there is an excess over local demand.

The photograph business was established in West Union by David Wells (probably), and has passed through varying experiences. It is doubtful if any man ever made money in this business, though there was seldom more than one gallery. Of early workmen in this line, D. B. Hanan, Pfleger & Maxon, Hawkes & Maxon, M. E. Hawkes, E. B. Branch, B. M. Baumwart and one or two others whose names are not recalled, together with an occasional traveling car, have been the representatives of this art. The present operative is Mr. Ballard, who has inaugurated a system of view taking and post-card work which promises good results. His work is praiseworthy.

One of the modern industries in the city was the establishment of a brick and tile factory and pickling establishment by E. A. Whitney, who was one of the founders of the Fayette County National Bank and its first cashier. Mr. Whitney was a good banker, a progressive, public-spirited citizen, and possessed considerable means; but this venture in the manufacturing business proved abortive, and a source of considerable loss to him, but, in the end, benefited the town. The venture increased the population at the time, and was the means of establishing the little village around the old mill, locally known as "Whitneyville." Many houses were added to the town, some of which were hauled in from distant points, rebuilt and opened to tenants. Mr. Whitney left the county soon after this business disappointment, and gradually disposed of his property here. The plant was located at the old brick mill in the late seventies. The material used, especially in the brick and tile business, had to be hauled to the railroad, unloaded and hauled to the plant, and the finished product returned to the shipping point in the same way; hence it could not compete, successfully, with the similar enterprises located on the railroad.

In this connection it may not be inappropriate to mention another benefactor to West Union whose investments have beautified the town with profit to himself. Reference is here made to Col. J. W. Bopp, who has built or rebuilt and modernized some eight or more houses in the north part of town which command high rentals from the best of the class who rent their homes. He has also built the Bopp block, a handsome brick and stone structure, nearly opposite the National Bank, on South Vine street. This is used for an office building, in which is located Mr. Bopp's finely equipped offices, besides others.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

The town of West Union was incorporated as a city of the second class in 1866, and since that time, with scarcely an exception, has had a conservative, yet progressive, municipal government. Judge H. N. Hawkins was the first

mayor and it seems to have been the policy since to elect the best men in the place to that office, regardless of their political affiliations, and a co-operative city council has usually followed.

INDUSTRIES.

One of the earliest and most useful industries in West Union was the steam saw-mill, erected in 1851-2, by Gabriel Long and Joshua Wells. Prior to its construction the few boards used for flooring and doors in the pioneer cabins had to be hauled from Elkader, or from McGregor's Landing, on the Mississippi river. But in early days, and down to the building of the railroad in 1872, the market point for surplus grain was at Elkader, Clayton, or McGregor. Goods were shipped by merchants to river points, and some of the early settlers earned a living by hauling produce from West Union to these points and returning with loads of merchandise.

The building of the brick flouring-mill in 1855 was an innovation. This property was completed with all necessary equipments of steam power and machinery of that time, and started on a precarious career in 1857. William Redfield was the local promoter of this enterprise, his associates being Maxson & Company. It never was a profitable investment, the water-power mills which came into use about that time being formidable rivals much more cheaply operated. The use of the building as a flouring mill was discontinued many years ago and the machinery sold and removed. It is located near the site of the first saw mill—that erected and operated by Joshua Wells, on block 19. The old building has been used for many purposes aside from its original one. It was substantially constructed, of large dimensions, and three stories high, and served the purposes of other industries admirably. The Union Creamery Company once conducted an extensive business there for a number of years. Then a portion of it was utilized as a cigar factory, and we think it was used, in part, by the brick and tile factory, and the pickling plant.

Crosby & Hubbard once started a foundry and machine shop in the south part of town near the railroad tracks, but this enterprise was of short duration.

There has been a steam saw mill in operation in "Whitneyville" for several years past. It was first established in the old cooper shop brick building, but was later moved a block south and a building erected for a feed mill and sawing business, combined. The feed mill feature has been abandoned and a garage and repair shop substituted. The Clapp Brothers also are engaged in the manufacture of small gasoline engines, for farm use, in connection with

sawing lumber and storing and repairing automobiles. This is a busy establishment.

The railroad history of the county is written up in a special article on that subject and need not be repeated here further than to state that West Union figured more prominently in the promotion of early railroads than any other town in the county. From this point radiated through the county much of the "railroad energy," and it was largely through West Union's speakers and canvassers that the taxes were voted in other townships, in aid of railroad construction. This may be stated with equal justice in relation to the county-seat contests of earlier days, and in the adjustment of hotly contested political controversies. The church history of West Union is exhaustive; but four of the principal churches in the place are written up in special articles by men thoroughly conversant with their history, and are represented in the chapter on Church History of Fayette county.

CHURCHES.

The Christian church was one of the first on the ground, the organization dating from the winter of 1853-4, and the erection of their church building dates from the next year. The first pastor was Rev. E. Griffin. The church was prosperous for a few years, when by reason of deaths and removals, the membership decreased, and finally services were discontinued. The old church building was merged into a private school house, where Professor J. P. Wallace conducted a private school. It was later the home of Ainsworth's Academy, whereat many of the present middle aged people of the town and surrounding country received their academical instruction. Probably more teachers were turned out from Ainsworth's Academy in the seventies and eighties than from any other one-room school house in Fayette county.

The Seventh-Day Adventists came into existence as a church organization in Fayette county from the ministrations of Elders D. T. Bordeau and George R. Butler, in August, 1867. The society was never a strong one in West Union; but they erected a church building at the northern edge of the corporation, and flourished there for a time. Nason Hoyt and his son, L. B., and F. H. Chapman were among the leaders in this movement. Two of them are dead and the other removed, hence the church fell into disuse and was finally sold and converted into a residence.

The Wesleyan Methodists had quite a strong organization at one time, and a considerable number of members still reside in West Union, but they

have no regular church services. The church building and parsonage are now located at the extreme southern end of Vine street, near the southeast corner of the fair ground.

A German Lutheran congregation meets for regular semi-monthly services at the Baptist church.

The Universalist church, known as "Burbank Memorial," was built and donated to a small congregation of that faith, by Mr. and Mrs. L. Burbank, in 1888. It is a handsome structure, built of white brick, and has a nicely arranged auditorium, well seated, and parlor, kitchen and dining-room equipment. No regular pastor is now employed, but occasional services are held. Because of the convenient arrangement, and near-by location, this building is frequently used for general assemblies of the people, or for the use of societies in serving meals.

The United Brethren in Christ is the name of one of the old and continuing religious organizations in West Union. Its ministers occupied the field as early as any. Rev. John Brown and Rev. Mr. Davis (father of A. D. Davis, a one-time merchant in West Union) were among the first ministers in Fayette county. The original United Brethren church in West Union was erected in 1855, on lot 11, block 14. The lot was donated to the church by Llewellyn Piper and wife. The first minister after the building was erected was Rev. John Dollarhide. Some of his co-laborers of that day were Revs. Richardson and M. S. Drury, from Winneshiek county. Two sons of the latter also served the church as pastors in later years. Under the pastorate of Rev. A. W. Drury, a scholarly and talented young man, the church was rebuilt and modernized in 1878. For many years this church was strong, numerically, and numbered among its membership many substantial farmers in the surrounding country.

But the organization of the Grand Army of the Republic, whom all religious societies sought to favor, and eliminate from the realm of "secrecy," if possible, precipitated a discussion in the general conference of the church, which, in many instances, resulted disastrously. The church was divided on the question of eliminating the word "secrecy" from the discipline, though the general conference was almost unanimously in favor of it. The existing churches sought to hold the church property, regardless of the claims of the "Liberal" branch, that they were the "recognized authority." The result was a radical division of the church from the highest tribunal down to the most humble, and serious litigation followed in almost every state in the Union. The disruption also meant the support of two general conferences, the estab-

lishment of two church publishing houses, and the creation of many new officers to be supplied and paid for by practically the same people who had hitherto supported but one set of high officials, editors, book-makers, etc.

The West Union church remained with the Liberals, or those favoring the elimination of the secrecy clause from the discipline, but was crippled and weakened in doing so, some members withdrawing and uniting with other churches, and some dropping out altogether. While the organization has been kept up, and usually a resident pastor is employed, the accomplishment of this end is a heavy burden upon those who remain steadfast in the faith and teachings of their fathers.

The history of the Baptist, Catholic, Methodist Episcopal and Presbyterian churches appears in the special articles to which reference has been made.

The Masonic history also appears in a special article, by Grand Master Clements.

PROFESSIONAL LIST.

In presenting the following list of professionals' names, attention is called to the fact that the professional people of the entire county appear under the title of "Fayette County Lawyers" and the "Medical Profession in Fayette County," to which articles the reader is referred for further discussion of these subjects.

The legal profession has been ably represented by the following named gentlemen: S. S. Ainsworth, S. B. Zeigler, Milo McGlathery, C. H. Millar, Henry Rickel, William McClintock, L. L. Ainsworth, J. J. Berkey, J. W. Rogers & Son (O. W.), Joseph Hobson, William Cowle, J. B. Onstine, M. V. Burdick, C. A. Newcomb, L. M. Whitney, D. W. Clements, William E. Fuller, H. P. Hancock, A. N. Hobson (one of our present judges), W. J. Rogers, H. L. Adams, L. P. Phillips, W. B. Clements, E. H. Estey, C. B. Hughes, I. M. Weed, H. T. Weed, C. W. Dykins, R. G. Anderson, W. C. Lewis.

The medical profession represented by Doctors Elliott, Cruzans, Stafford, Hart, Lake, Fuller, Chase, Armstrong, Ecker, Bassett, Robinson, Zeigler, G. D. Darnall, Drake, E. A. and F. L. Ainsworth, Crepin, Harback, Zoller, Hadsel, Cartwright, Wray, Smith, Axiline, C. F. Darnall, Williamson, Rennison, King, White, Bartlett, Whitmore, A. B. Stuart, E. H. Feige.

Among the lawyers, Hon. J. J. Berkey has been longer in practice than any other attorney now living in West Union. Hon. W. E. Fuller and Hon. D. W. Clements are close seconds for this honor. They have been in practice

in West Union about thirty-six years, Mr. Clements constantly, Mr. Fuller intermittently, as shown in his personal sketch. Dr. G. D. Darnall has been in constant practice as a successful physician and surgeon since 1874, with the exception of a brief respite while serving one term in the Legislature. The efforts of but few men, in the profession or out of it, have been crowned with greater success than Doctor Darnall's. He came to the town a poor man, but with indomitable energy, a robust constitution and fixed determination. Instead of losing any of these personal characteristics, he has added to them other desirable features—wealth and prominence. He is the oldest physician now in practice in West Union, Dr. E. A. Ainsworth being next in order of time.

FRATERNITIES.

West Union is not as much of a "lodge town" as some others of similar size and importance. Aside from the various Masonic bodies there are organizations of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and Grand Army of the Republic, these being fraternal organizations, exclusively, while there are, or have been, numerous insurance "lodges," some of which have passed out of existence, to the grief of their patrons.

The Ancient Order of United Workmen, known as West Union Lodge No. 25, was instituted on the 19th of April, 1875, and is still in existence, and has paid out more than half of the original members.

The Modern Woodmen of America also have a continuing organization, and these two fraternal insurance organizations have done much good in coming to the aid of beneficiaries when assistance was most needed.

The Grand Army Mutual Benefit Association was brought into existence in the early eighties by local men, but had an ephemeral existence. Its purpose was to afford insurance to ex-soldiers of the Civil war at cost. Evidently this feature was not thoroughly investigated, since some of the promoters were obliged to pay out most of the organizing expenses and large printing bills from their own pockets. Only one death loss was ever paid, and that only in part.

The V. A. S. Society had an organization in the town for a few years, but, like the Iowa Legion of Honor, its contemporary, both became so expensive that most of the members dropped out, and the local organizations were suffered to lapse.

Round Grove Lodge No. 41, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, has had an existence in West Union since July 26, 1852, when it was instituted by

District Deputy Grand Master Thomas B. Dripps, assisted by H. B. Fox. The charter members were William McClintock, Clark Newcomb, Edwin Montgomery, Joseph H. Dripps and A. W. Dripps. The first noble grand was William McClintock. This was the first fraternal organization in the town and it had a phenomenal growth, enrolling among its members nearly every prominent man within its jurisdiction. But enlistments in the army during the sixties depleted its ranks in the interests of a better cause, and the charter was surrendered in 1864 and the organization was dormant until 1871, when, on petition of William McClintock, D. M. Hoyt, S. B. Zeigler, David Winrott, Mark Gilbert and L. B. Dersham, the original charter and number were restored. Henry Rickel was the first noble grand after the restoration of the charter. The society has been prosperous, and after paying all its obligations in sick benefits, death claims and widows' and orphans' annuities, it accumulated a considerable sum of surplus money which has been invested in erecting a two-story brick building on Elm street, south of the public square, the upper floor being devoted to the uses of the lodge and the first floor is rented for mercantile business. The membership has remained about stationary at one hundred contributing members for the last twenty-five years. Connected with this subordinate body, and auxiliary to it, are West Union Encampment No. 57, West Union Rebekah Degree Lodge No. 97, and Colfax Canton, Patriarchs Militant.

There are very few of West Union's reputable male citizens that have not been, at some time, connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

The temperance movement has had an existence in West Union for more than fifty years, and yet it must be classed as a saloon town throughout many years of its career. There have been three organizations of Good Templars, commencing in 1858, when the first lodge was organized. This existed for ten years and had a strong following of the best and most influential people of the time. This may be said of the lodge which succeeded the original one, and was organized in 1874. Some of the first members were concerned in this organization, but as a general thing, the citizenship had undergone a radical change, but the tendency was constantly towards interesting the best people in the movement. This lodge survived less than three years, surrendering its charter in March, 1877. Six years later, or in 1883, another lodge was organized under the labors of Mrs. Tyng, through whose efforts there was a general revival of Good Templarism throughout the county. Some of the organizations affected through this agency are still in existence, but the West Union organization went the way of all its predecessors.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union has had an active organization in West Union for many years, and still maintains one, but with indifferent results in later years, owing to the death or removal of some of the most active workers. There have been a few private temperance workers in the town who have accomplished more in bringing offenders to justice than all of the lodge organizations. Prominent among these are the names of Hon. J. W. Rogers and Thomas L. Green.

There have been many saloons in West Union, some under color of legal sanction and others in defiance of existing state laws. But the tendency of the town has always been towards temperance and sobriety, as evidenced in the defeat, by vote, of every proposition to open a saloon in the place since the mulct law became operative. Bootleggers flourish for a time, go to jail and serve out heavy fines, and others take their places. As early as 1854 the ladies of the town put the "Black Warrior" out of business by spilling the stock and advising the proprietor to quit the business, which he did. But this action precipitated a political fight in the election of a county judge in that year, and the whisky element won, by first tying Elder John Webb, who "drew lots" with his competitor, Gabriel Long, and lost the "ermine."

LIBRARY.

The West Union public library was established some twenty-five years ago, and for a number of years a regular librarian was employed and great interest was manifested in the enterprise. The board of education was asked to provide a suitable room and combine the public library with that of the high school, which was done. This gives West Union much the largest school library in the county, while former patrons of the city's institution can be accommodated at the high school building by compliance with the simple and easy conditions. A recent acquisition of the historical library of the late Charles H. Talmadge has added materially to the number of volumes, which was, prior to this, two thousand two hundred and thirty.

West Union has always been a literary town, and some of her people, of both sexes, have evinced much interest in the progress of literature and art. Coincident with this taste is the formation and maintenance of two literary societies, the Historical and Literary club, for a select number of men, and the Ladies' Tourist Club. These have been in existence for many years—the Historical and Literary Club since 1879—and their regular meetings are

fraught with great interest to the participants in the discussion of men and measures, historical subjects, and travels and travelers.

A system of rhetorical, literary and oratorical training has been a part of the high school curriculum for many years.

SCHOOLS.

In presenting the preceding history of West Union, we feel constrained to use an old and familiar phrase, "the best of the wine at the last of the feast!" The school history of this town is supremely interesting and, though varied and mediocre in early days, it has had a constantly upward trend. The pioneers were all men of intelligence, and many of them were liberally educated. It is not strange, therefore, that they took an early interest in the establishment of a school for their children. Scarcely was the county organized, and the town plat of West Union recorded, when the first school house was built. It was not a pretentious affair. It was built of logs, and its dimensions were eighteen by twenty-four feet. It was covered with "shakes" and seated with slab benches. It goes without saying, that the school "furniture" was of the simplest and most inexpensive kind. Nor were the rude walls covered with costly maps and charts; but they were extremely fortunate if good blackboards, with sufficient area, were provided. It is probable that a huge fire-place, with burning logs, radiated sufficient caloric to scorch the face and allow the back to freeze; but of this we are not informed. Possibly a stove may have been provided, but if so, this was an exception to pioneer schools in Fayette county.

The first teacher in this school was J. S. Pence, who taught during the winter of 1850-1. It is said that he was examined as to his proficiency by J. W. Rogers, who was working in his field, and each party to the transaction stood on opposite sides of a rail fence. The successor of Mr. Pence, for the following summer term, was Miss Anna Dutcher. James Boale taught the winter term of 1851-2. As time passed there were some improvements made in the school furniture, by substituting desks and seats made of boards. These were probably upholstered with the jackplane. In a few years the town outgrew its school accommodations, yet was unable to build larger. In this emergency the Methodist Episcopal church was utilized, and the pastor, Rev. Joel Davis, was employed as a teacher. In like manner other rooms were secured as needed, and eventually private schools (for which West Union was noted) began to take in the pupils in excess of public school accommodations.

Of the pupils in the first log school house, none are known to be living except Hon. William E. Fuller, Newel Johnson, Thomas D. Reeder, Darius O. Smith and L. C. Phillips. They all live in West Union, where their homes have always been, except that the three last named served in the army during the Civil war, and Mr. Fuller served in the Legislature, went to Congress, and was assistant United States district attorney. It is understood that public schools were taught in the Baptist and United Brethren churches during the year 1859. D. W. Hammond and wife and Miss M. E. Hackett were the instructors. These and kindred accommodations, with an occasional select school, supplied the educational needs of the town until after the organization of the independent district of West Union, about 1860, and the building of the first section of the school house near the entrance to the cemetery. This was occupied by a three-department school in 1864. The teachers were E. B. Wakeman, principal, with Mrs. Jennie E. (Hines) Lacy and Miss Addie M. Close in charge of the other departments. It may be remarked here, incidentally, that Mrs. Lacy was a teacher in the public schools of the county, and mostly employed in the West Union schools, for thirty-five years. Miss Jessie Sherman commenced teaching in the "old school house" and continued in the employ of the city schools for twenty-six consecutive years.

In 1869 it became necessary to again increase the school accommodations, and an addition was built about the same size as the original. It was then a two-story frame building, on a high basement wall, and had accommodations for six grades, which were then established. Some splendid educators have been employed in the West Union schools, both in the old building and in the present one. Men have gone out from the principalship of this school into much more profitable positions in educational work, leaving an odor of efficiency and adaptability behind them, which stimulated their students to strive for equal attainments. One of these was Prof. J. B. Knoepfler, who succeeded to the state superintendency soon after leaving West Union to enter upon a similar but better paying position, at Lansing, Iowa. He is now an instructor in the Iowa State Normal School. Nearly all of the former principals and superintendents here have gone upward in their professional career. In 1879 the question of building a new and modern school house came before the board of education, who also favored a change of school house site. Parties desirous of beautifying and enhancing the value of their surroundings, offered sites for sale in several different localities. The board had decided to change the location in order to locate nearer the geographical center of the district, and at the same time get the school house away from the environments of the cem-

etery, which had been enlarged and brought nearer. But it was not so easy a matter to locate as it was to decide upon making a change. After much discussion in which some bad blood was engendered, the board selected the site as now occupied, at the northeast corner of the public square. An appeal was promptly filed with the county superintendent, by the opponents to this location, and after a patient hearing, lasting two or three days, that official approved the action of the board in the matter of selecting a school house site. An appeal was then taken to the state superintendent, who reviewed the testimony, maps, diagrams, etc. and modified, but approved, the decision of the county superintendent. The district commenced building at once, and by the beginning of the school year, 1881, the east half of the building was ready for occupancy, and the "old school house on the hill" was abandoned. The new building is architecturally very beautiful. There is a large stone basement under the entire building, wherein is the heating apparatus, fuel, etc., with ample room for storing broken furniture and other commodities which accumulate around a public place. The building, proper, is constructed of red brick, with handsome colorings about the windows, doors and archways. Artificial stone is used for window sills, thresholds, etc., the whole presenting a striking and artistic appearance. In 1902 an addition, or practically the other half of the building, was erected, thus completing the symmetrical appearance, and doubling the capacity of the building. At that time a handsome tower was added, the interior of the old rooms remodeled, decorated and partially refurnished. The building is two stories high, with entrance off Main street, and faces the handsome court house park. All modern conveniences and appliances are supplied in this school, which is an "accredited" high school, its graduates being eligible to the freshman class in the Iowa State University without examination. The teaching force as at present constituted consists of one superintendent (male), one principal of the high school (female), and thirteen teachers in the grades, or in special work. Ten rooms are occupied. The salary of the superintendent is one hundred and thirty-three dollars and thirty-three cents per month; the other teachers receive an average of forty-five dollars and seventy-two cents per month. The duration of the school year is nine months. The total number of persons in the school district between the ages of five and twenty-one years is five hundred and seventy-two. Probably five per cent of these are away attending higher schools. Of those remaining, four hundred fifty-five were enrolled in the school during the year 1909. The average daily attendance for that year was three hundred sixty-seven, at an average cost for tuition in all departments of one dollar and ninety-eight cents per month for each pupil.

There were fourteen non-resident pupils enrolled below the ninth grade from whom was received in tuition fees one hundred and seventy-eight dollars and sixty cents; and twenty-five students were enrolled above the ninth grade, who contributed five hundred and five dollars and eighty cents in tuition fees. The estimated valuation of the school house property is thirty thousand dollars, and the school apparatus is valued at one thousand two hundred dollars. As previously stated in this article, the school library contains two thousand two hundred and thirty volumes. In connection with the school, and under jurisdiction of the superintendent, a manual training department is conducted for the benefit of the young men in the high school department. This mechanical work, in connection with the regular gymnastic exercises, affords a pleasant diversion and profitable hour to those availing themselves of the opportunities.

West Union is justly proud of her schools, and every citizen, whether rich or poor, takes a personal interest in their welfare. With hardly an exception during the history of the schools, the rich, but childless man, has vied with his prolific neighbor to determine which could do most to increase the efficiency and popularity of the public schools.

Under the regime of Professor Knoepfler, above mentioned, the schools were moved from the old to the new building, the first thorough gradation effected, and an approved course of study adopted; and it was under his jurisdiction that the first class was graduated. Since that time the annual graduation exercises are looked upon as one of the most interesting of all literary proceedings in the town.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Referring again to the later history of West Union to record its progress since it became a city of the second class: The fire department was established in 1876, when Engine Company No. 1 and West Union Hook and Ladder Company were organized. Previously, the fire-fighting had been done by the "bucket brigades" and a few bottles of chemical fire extinguishers placed about town in stores, hotels and other public places. The establishment of the water-works plant by vote of the people in 1891, necessitated some changes in the fire equipment and the purchase of a hose-cart and several thousand feet of hose. The department moved from the old rookery east of the Commercial House on the completion of the elegant city hall, which building provides for their accommodation. Members of the department are paid by the city for actual services, but there are no salaried men on the force.

OTHER IMPROVEMENTS.

The electric lighting plant was built as a private enterprise in 1897. After two or three changes in ownership, it became the property of the Neff Brothers (J. H. and C. G.), and so continues. The town and streets are well lighted, and the service seems to be entirely satisfactory.

Some very substantial street improvements have been made within recent years, and each year sees an addition to the preceding one in the amount of macadamized street opened to traffic. Under the skillful manipulations of "Billie" Loftus (a long-time street commissioner), this department of the city's improvements has kept abreast of all others.

Cement walks and crossings have taken the place of the perishable planks of former days and add greatly to the appearance of the city as well as to the comfort of the pedestrian. West Union has as many miles of cement walks as any town of its size in the country.

The board of supervisors have had constructed, at county expense, a splendid cement bridge across Otter creek, at the Rock Island depot. This was a greatly needed improvement to lower Vine street, in that the old wooden structure which it supplanted was not suitable for the heavy traffic to and from the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul depot, the fair grounds, etc., or even the ordinary travel between West Union and Fayette, and the intermediate country districts. This and the other railroad and city improvements in that section, have given lower Vine street a decided city air.

As supplementary to the ever-present sprinkling cart, the council decided to test the merits of oil instead of water, and the summer of 1910 was their first experience in that line.

The Board of Trade, organized by the active business men of the town for the promotion of new enterprises, has been in existence for several years, and through their efforts the idea of oiling the streets instead of sprinkling with water was brought to the attention of the city council. This body also had much to do with introducing an annual Chautauqua entertainment which has proven so satisfactory as to encourage the incorporation of a company during the present year (1910), to promote a continuance of this literary festival.

REUNIONS.

The citizens of the town have always aided and encouraged the county reunions of the veterans of the Civil war, and, whether regimental or general, these annual meetings of the veterans have been as great a source of pleasure

to the general public as to the old soldiers themselves. These demonstrations have been held annually, and mostly at West Union, for the last thirty-four years. It seems to be the policy of the intelligent citizenship to vie with each other in the matter of general entertainment, supplying music and speakers, and in paying the legitimate expenses of the meetings.

Abernathy Post No. 48, Grand Army of the Republic, is the nucleus around which centers the executive features of the annual re-unions; and though the ranks are rapidly thinning and many of the most active members are gone, the remnant is still active and zealous in the promotion of anything calculated to enhance the interests and pleasures of the survivors. This post was organized in 1879, and named in honor of Col. Jacob Abernathy, a Fayette county soldier who lost his life in the Atlanta campaign. Dr. S. E. Robinson was the first commander and G. W. Fitch was the first adjutant and second commander. For many years this organization was the most popular and prosperous of any of the fraternities in West Union. It enrolled nearly every ex-soldier within a radius of ten miles of West Union, and seldom did any member fail to attend its meetings. It mustered in its palmiest days considerably more than a hundred members, and its meetings were always enthusiastic, enlivened with speeches and old-time war songs, and frequently public entertainments and open meetings were held. But many deaths and some removals have depleted the ranks, while the decrepitude of old age has shorn the survivors of much of their former energy and activity. The trustees of the Universalist church have allowed the use of the parlor and dining room in the church basement for the general meetings of the post and Woman's Relief Corps, the latter being an enthusiastic body of loyal women (loyal to the old soldiers as well as to their country) whose helpful co-operation could not be ignored. The regular meetings of both bodies are now held on Saturday afternoon, on or before the full moon in each month. But this auxiliary to the "Grand Army of the Republic" is entitled to more than a passing notice. Their benefactions have reached nearly every poor family in the place, regardless of soldier connections, and many a poor sufferer has had occasion to bless the existence of the Woman's Relief Corps.

BANKS AND BANKERS.

West Union was the first banking point in Fayette county. For a number of years prior to the organization of the Fayette County National Bank, in 1872, S. B. Zeigler (lately deceased) was the proprietor of the Fayette

County Bank, the assets of which were transferred to the National Bank on the 5th of August, 1872, that being the date of formal organization. The subscribers to the capital stock, of fifty thousand dollars, were David Bell, of Dover township; C. R. Bent, Lewis Berkey, George Blunt, Joseph Hobson, H. B. Hoyt, Myron Peck, William Redfield, L. W. Waterbury, E. A. Whitney and S. B. Zeigler, of West Union; William Larrabee and B. H. Hinkley, of Clermont; D. B. Herriman, Wadena, and J. K. Rosier of Dover township. (Of these original stockholders, but three are now living.) It was found that the stock subscribed for was nine thousand five hundred dollars in excess of the capital stock intended, and a readjustment was made in conformity with the original purpose.

The first board of directors was David Bell, George Blunt, D. B. Herriman, Joseph Hobson, H. B. Hoyt, William Larrabee, Myron Peck, E. A. Whitney and S. B. Zeigler. Joseph Hobson was elected president, S. B. Zeigler, vice-president, E. A. Whitney, cashier, and E. B. Shaw, teller. These officers held the positions to which elected for about ten years, when Mr. Whitney resigned and Mr. Shaw became the cashier, with C. W. Lathrop as teller. Two or three years later, Mr. Hobson was compelled to resign the presidency by reason of failing health, and did not survive but a few years. Mr. Zeigler was elected president and held the office until his death in 1909, when Dr. G. D. Darnall (who had become a stockholder and director) was elected president, and so continues. In the meantime Mr. Shaw was elected United States bank examiner, and resigned his office as cashier to accept the higher and better-paying position. (While engaged in this work he died suddenly when away from home.) Frank Camp, who was serving in the office of county treasurer, was called to the place made vacant by the resignation of Mr. Shaw, and is the present cashier. The capital stock of this institution has been increased to eighty thousand dollars. In 1874 the Bank block was completed and the bank was moved into its present commodious and handsome quarters, where it has installed all the paraphernalia for the protection of itself and its patrons, and prosecutes a general banking and exchange business on the conservative basis which has always characterized its business transactions. Connected with it, yet apart from it, is the Fayette County Savings Bank whose nine directors, aside from John Owens, were chosen from the stockholders of the National Bank. The business of this institution is mostly transacted through the National Bank, where its deposits and securities are held.

These have been very helpful institutions in the community, and the wreck of many a business man has been averted by the timely aid of the Fay-

ette County National Bank and the co-operation of the Savings Bank. The deposits in these banks are as great as that of any monetary institution in the county, and their careful and conservative management has inspired the people with confidence in their stability and business capacity.

The Bank block, to which reference has been made, is the location of the only opera house in the town, and the home of the Hoyt hardware business since the completion of the building in 1874. Several other store and offices are located in this building, which for many years was the best building in the town and compares favorably with the best at present. It is located on the west side of Vine street, between Elm and Plum streets.

The Bank of West Union was incorporated March 12, 1883, and the certificate of the auditor of state issued on the 10th of July following. It continued to do business under this name until February 7, 1898, when its articles of incorporation were amended to comply with a change in the law and the word "State" was prefixed to its name and it has since been known as State Bank of West Union. Its original incorporators were A. Rawson, John Jamison, G. H. Thomas, J. H. Lakin, J. B. Green, William A. Hoyt, William Larrabee, F. Y. Whitmore and O. B. Dodd, and these gentlemen constituted the first board of directors. John Jamison, William Larrabee and F. Y. Whitmore have continuously served upon the board until the present time and O. B. Dodd with the exception of one year. The present board consists of William Colby, O. B. Dodd, Mark Gilbert, H. P. Hancock, John Jamison, William Larrabee, J. K. Montgomery, W. B. Thomas and F. Y. Whitmore. Others who have served upon the board being Jay M. Stevenson, W. B. Stevenson, James Graham and George Blunt.

The first officers were: President, John Jamison; vice-president, J. H. Lakin; cashier, F. Y. Whitmore, and there have been no changes in the offices of president and cashier. Mr. Lakin sold his interest in the bank in 1890 and G. H. Thomas was elected to succeed him and filled such position until his death in 1902, when W. B. Thomas was chosen, who has served until the present time. The management has always been in strong hands, who have conducted its business along conservative lines, and has had the entire confidence of the community. Its second certificate for doing business extended the life of the organization until January 1, 1923. Its present capital is ninety thousand dollars fully paid, its surplus fifteen thousand dollars and its deposits nearly three hundred thousand dollars. The present working force of the bank consists of F. Y. Whitmore, cashier, A. J. Gurney, assistant cashier, and F. W. Kingsbury, teller.

Mr. Gurney has been with the bank since early in 1885 and has done much for the prosperity of the institution. Mr. Kingsbury is now serving his fourth year, and, like other members of the force, is deservedly popular with the community. The bank owns its own building which is one of the best business locations in the city, and has never passed but one semi-annual dividend to its stockholders, which was during the panic of 1893 when it was considered that the protection of its depositors was paramount to dividend payments to its stockholders, and after the money stress was over resumed its usual payments.

Like Rome, West Union was not built in a day. The pioneers had to deny themselves some of the luxuries which today might appear as necessities; nevertheless, they were just as ambitious, contented and happy under the circumstances then existing as we of today. And the few old pioneers who remain enjoy living over again in their vivid imaginations the never-to-be-forgotten past; and as the memories of thrilling incidents and loved ones long departed pass in a grand procession before their vision, their eyes, now dimmed with years, kindle anew and sparkle with old time brilliancy. Then it was that brain, muscle and courage were in the ascendancy, and by these powerful elements homes, secure and blessed, were founded for their loving families. The same deeds and requirements did not characterize a hero then, but every human being who gave up the friends and home of his youth, braved the western wilds, and endured the privations of that early period, to carve out a home and future, well deserves the name of hero.

There may be some of our readers who exhibit a careless indifference regarding the history of their forefathers, counting as naught the privileges they have gained at the sacrifice of others. As it were, they almost scorn the round on which they stand, when the next seems within their easy grasp. To them stepping stones are useless, when once they are passed. But to the intelligent and more thoughtful, we feel that this brief history may be followed with interest, appreciating the fact that the joys and luxuries they are permitted to enjoy in the present, have been bought with the life blood of humanity; and that the least we can offer in return is to perpetuate the memory of their honest lives, and that their great and heroic deeds may be incentives to the rising generations, and their names be enrolled in the hearts of the people.

Reference is made to the origin of Union township in the beginning of this chapter, and it now remains to complete its history. But West Union township, from which this was organized in recent years, contains most of the

story pertaining to Union township. The topography of the territory, its present state of development, schools, etc., will constitute the subject matter of this article.

NATURAL FEATURES.

The land in this township is mostly rolling—in a few places quite rough and broken, while in other localities are comparatively level farms. The soil is universally fertile where arable, and the amount of waste land is small. Otter creek passes through the township from west to east, and along this stream are the bluffs and hilly land, which were originally covered with heavy timber, much of which still remains. The varieties of timber which prevailed were the various species of oak, hickory, alder, black walnut, ash, cherry and large groves of sugar-maple. The latter were utilized by the pioneers, and to some extent at present, in the making of large quantities of maple sugar and syrup, the equal of which in palatableness has never been approximated by the ingenuity of man. But the maple groves, because of the value of the timber for various purposes, have mostly disappeared under the inspiration of the woodman's axe.

EARLY MILLS.

Along the course of Otter creek were erected in early times, several mills, some for sawing and others for grinding grain. The Otter was admirably adapted to these purposes, the fall in some places between West Union and Elgin being one hundred feet to the mile. Cyrus Gurdy, an early pioneer, owned and operated a flouring mill on the Otter for a great many years. William Alvey's and the Higgins mills were also early industries along this stream. Cyrus Gurdy was a familiar figure about West Union for many years after his retirement, and died in that city. His son, Seth, who still resides in West Union, operated the mill and farm after his father discontinued active business.

EARLY-DAY CITIZENS.

One of the pioneer home-makers in Union township was James Holmes, not previously mentioned in this chapter, though he is elsewhere. He came to the township in 1850, and is credited with doing the first extensive job of breaking land in the township. He first settled in what is now Dover township, but soon moved to West Union township, where he opened up an extensive farm, and lived upon and cultivated it until a few years before his

death, when he retired to West Union, and died there. The farm, a mile south of the county seat, is still in possession of his widow and other heirs.

Franklin Bishop was a well-known character among the early pioneers of this township, and lived to a ripe old age. One of his sons still lives in the community where the family first settled. N. C. Spencer, familiarly known as "Nels," was another early settler in Union township, and still lives there on his splendid farm. He married Cassie Brewer, daughter of J. S. Brewer, who, in company with Henry Wimber, was running a blacksmith and wagon shop in "Mechanics' Row," West Union, in very early times. James B. Green, who was a pioneer thresher, owned a large and valuable farm in this township, and was one of the progressive men of his day. Being a bachelor, his land descended to his heirs of the second generation, and is now the property of M. W. Grimes, who came from Indiana to occupy it about twenty-five years ago. This is a splendidly equipped farm, and Mr. Grimes is a thorough-going business man and prominent citizen in his adopted locality. The Crowe family, and the Frisbies, were also early pioneers in Union, and whose posterity are numbered among the successful people of today. In this list are also included the Wilburs, Harrisons, Dullards, Meskels, T. D. Mabb, William Kinsey (who was reared in Illyria township), George W. Gilbert, S. D. Rowland, T. D. Reeder, William Alcorn, William Wade, Matthew Wells, John Shroyer, T. C. Barclay, Philip Barnhart, R. M. and D. M. Hoyt, Rev. Enoch Fothergill, George Blunt, W. C. Montgomery, William McClintock, the numerous families of Smiths, the Butlers, Saltgivers, William Barnhouse, Glovers, D. W. Hall family, Buntons, Souths, the House family, the Hoyers, J. A., C. C. and George. All these, and many others, owned farms in Union township in early days, and became identified with the early history of this locality. See West Union township for additional names and history. It is not assumed that the list is a complete representation of early-day citizens, and we are sorry that such is the case. But it is hoped that the generous reader will realize that we are now far removed from the pioneer period, and that memory is treacherous, even when stimulated by nearly half a century of association and observation.

STATISTICS.

The taxable valuation of property in Union township exceeds that of any other rural township in the county, when it is remembered that it has several sections less than a full congressional township, these sections being detached in the formation of West Union township. The total assessment

valuation for 1909 was three hundred and eleven thousand and fifty-four dollars. This includes thirty-seven thousand four hundred and thirty-six dollars, valuation of nine and one-half miles of railroad; seven hundred and sixty dollars valuation of telegraph lines, and one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four dollars assessed valuation of the forty-three and one-fourth miles of telephone lines traversing the township.

EDUCATIONAL.

The early school history is coincident with that of early West Union, where the first school was opened in 1850. As settlements were formed outside of the village, schools were provided until there are now eight sub-districts in the district township, and schools were taught seven and nine-tenths months during the school year of 1909. One male teacher was employed, and seven females, the salary of the former being thirty-eight dollars per month. The female teachers received an average compensation of thirty-six dollars and two cents per month. The school enumeration for the district township shows one hundred and eighty-eight persons of school age, whose total average daily attendance was one hundred and seventeen. The average cost of tuition per month for each pupil was one dollar and ninety-six cents. The estimated value of the eight school houses is two thousand four hundred and thirty-five dollars, and of school apparatus, two hundred dollars. There are four hundred volumes in the school district libraries. Since the sub-division of the township, elections are held in a country school house, and as West Union is located interiorly, it necessarily follows that some inconvenience is met in passing through the town to reach the voting place. This is more keenly felt by those whose habit has been to spend election day around the polling place.

There are no churches in Union township, convenience to the city of West Union rendering their existence in the adjacent country impracticable. In cases of necessity, as for instance the holding of funeral services at Pleasant Grove cemetery, in the east part of this township, the school houses are utilized, as in the olden time.

The farmers of this township are rich and prosperous, and are generally well-equipped for the diversified farming and stock raising which is their principal employment. A few of them deal quite extensively in buying, fitting and shipping stock, particularly cattle. The Blunt brothers (Jesse, John and James) have been quite extensive stock dealers, besides operating their large farms; but Jesse is dead, John has retired, and lives in West Union, and James H. is operating in the Hawkeye country, to which he has transferred his residence and a large share of his farm interests.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

WESTFIELD TOWNSHIP.

The first settler who located in this township was Franklin Wilcox, who came from Illinois, with other members of the Wilcox family, and built a house on section 32, some time during the year 1840. There were several of the Wilcox brothers, some of whom lived in the home of Franklin, at times; but the others being unmarried, and somewhat transitory as to habitation. Franklin is recognized as the first actual settler in Fayette county, though Robert Gamble accompanied him to this county, from Ead's Grove, in Delaware county, and located in Center township. There a postoffice was established in 1851, and known as "Gamble's Grove," with Thomas Woodle as the postmaster. This office was soon discontinued, and the name of the locality changed to Dunham's Grove, as now known. Gamble removed from the county after two years' residence here.

The Wilcox house—a double log structure—was the first house erected within the boundaries of Fayette county; and after the removal of Mr. Wilcox to another location in 1843, it became a sort of asylum for many of the newcomers to that locality, during the time they were selecting their land and building their houses thereon. It was occupied as a temporary home by the Hensley family, by Van Dorns, P. F. Newton, James and Samuel Robertsons. It was in this house that the Van Dorn child was born—the first birth of a white child in Fayette county.

Soon after the arrival of Franklin Wilcox, with his wife and small daughter, James Beatty and William Orrear came and located a short distance south of Wilcox, their location being just over the line in Smithfield township. They built their cabin in the spring of 1842; and on the 25th of February, 1844, William Orrear and Miss Angelina Wilcox were married, the Rev. D. Lowry, of Fort Atkinson, officiating. Soon after his marriage Orrear bought Beatty's interest in the claim which they had occupied jointly, and established quite an extensive dairying business, which he and his wife conducted successfully for a number of years. They used the product of twenty to thirty cows in making butter and cheese, which they marketed, mostly at the fort, where

several hundred soldiers and officers were anxious to secure these "delicacies," as viewed from a soldier's standpoint. This couple led the vanguard in beginning the dairy business in Fayette county, an industry which has revolutionized the profits of general farming, as compared with wheat growing in early days. Beatty located a mile and a half north, on section 29, in Westfield township, and erected a house in what became the early-time village of Westfield. But this was several years before that village was laid out.

EARLY LAND VALUES.

Westfield township was not surveyed, hence the land was not subject to entry, until 1848. But the earliest settlers occupied their lands under what is known as "squatter's rights," which, among friends and neighbors, were almost universally respected. When the land came into market, the government price was one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, at which price a person could buy an unlimited number of acres. Many speculators who had means availed themselves of this privilege, and bought up thousands of acres of desirable land, without the remotest idea of ever making a home upon it. But after the land had been open to entry for a certain length of time without being sold, the price was reduced to seventy-five cents an acre, and so remained until sold. A number of early settlers in Westfield township procured their land at this price. This land coming into market soon after the close of the Mexican war, some returning veterans were able to procure their land on land warrants, granted to them for military services. These warrants were negotiable, and some were sold by soldiers who did not wish to use them. They guaranteed full ownership of one hundred and sixty acres of the government domain.

LAND ENTRIES.

Robert Alexander made the first land entry of record in Westfield township, this being on the 9th of July, 1849. But there were several other entries made on the same date, probably by non-residents, and John W. Lane and Horace Andrus made entries during the year 1849. On the 8th of October, 1850, the board of county commissioners created, by proclamation, the election precinct of Westfield. This included, for election purposes, the townships of Smithfield, Center and Westfield, the election to be held at the house of Stephen Ludlow, and Michael Hinman, Stephen H. Ludlow and Andrew Hensley were appointed judges. The first election was held in April,

1851, and the August election which followed, the same year, was held at the home of Clark Newcomb. It seems that the development of this township commenced simultaneously, at Westfield village and Lima—the latter also called “Lightville” and “Volga City” in early days.

LIMA.

During the year 1849, Thomas R. Talbott, E. A. Light and H. W. Light located homes near the present site of Lima. The Lights being the most numerous family in the community, the locality came to be known, locally, as Lightville, and retained that appellation until after the village had passed through the ordeal of a county-seat contest, in which it “tied” West Union, but lost the prize when all other contestants except West Union were eliminated. (See general history of county organization.) The community next chose the name of Volga City, but when apprised that Clayton county people had recently installed such a “city,” the name was changed to Lima by action of the Legislature.

The Lights built a saw mill on the banks of the Volga river at this point in 1849-50. T. R. Talbott was interested in the erection of this mill, and some controversy arose as to whether it should be built at Talbott’s ford, or a mile farther up the river. But Mr. Talbott forced its building at the point originally agreed upon, and also secured a bonus of fifty dollars for delay and disappointment. This was a much needed pioneer enterprise in the community, as the adjacent land was nearly all heavily timbered, and lumber was in great demand in building homes for the incoming settlers. It is understood that the Lights also put in a small stock of mercantile goods and started the first store in Lima. Ben Reeves was one of the earliest merchants there, but he and his partner, young Hyde, were soon closed out by their creditors. Stephen Ludlow was a “squatter” on some land in the vicinity of Lima, but sold his interest to Robert Alexander, and bought the mill property. This is the land upon which Reuben R. Hensley has lived for so many years. Through various changes in proprietorship, there has always been one general store in Lima, the Oelbergs having conducted the mercantile business there for a great many years. There is also a postoffice, and, since the completion of the railroad to that point, a lumber and stock business. P. H. Hastings, an early pioneer in Illyria, conducts the latter. In 1852 A. J. Hensley built a flouring-mill at this place, but soon after sold it to P. H. Durfey & Son. Mr. Hensley again assumed the proprietorship of the mills in 1878, but has long since retired from active business. (The mill had been rebuilt in 1865.)

Lima has one church building, originally erected for the Congregationalists, Rev. S. D. Helms having organized a congregation of that faith in 1857. Winslow Stearns and wife, E. Hyde, wife and daughter, and Rev. S. D. Helms and wife, were the organizing members. The old church succumbed to the ravages of time, and a new church appeared in its stead. Here all denominations sustain a union Sunday school and attend other religious services as propounded from the pulpit by Methodists, United Brethren, or other advocates.

The first school house in Westfield township was built at Lima in 1850, and E. H. Light was the first teacher there. Others followed as settlements were made, until there were at one time eight sub-districts in the district township, but this number was reduced to seven with the organization of the independent district of Fayette, and so remains. These seven schools were taught, during the last year, an average of seven and four-tenths months, by one male teacher and ten females, the salaries paid being forty dollars per month to the male teacher, and thirty-six dollars to the females. The seven school houses are valued at three thousand five hundred dollars, and the school apparatus at one thousand dollars. The district libraries comprise six hundred and thirty-five volumes. Of one hundred and eighty-five pupils in the district township, one hundred and 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 seventy-four cents.

Westfield township is traversed by four and thirty-nine-hundredths miles of the Volga Valley branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, and four and eleven-hundredths miles of the Davenport line of the same system. They are assessed for taxation purposes at fifteen thousand three hundred and sixty-five dollars, and sixteen thousand four hundred and forty dollars, respectively. The incorporation of Fayette has one and seventeen hundredths miles of the last mentioned line. The same mileage of the United States Express Company is assessed at three hundred and thirty-seven dollars and forty-five cents for the nine and sixty-seven-hundredths miles, and the Western Union Telegraph Company is assessed at eighty dollars per mile.

There are four telephone companies doing business in the town and township with a total mileage of forty-three and one-half miles of lines. Twelve and three-fourths miles of this system are inside the corporation of Fayette.

It seems strange that two small villages should be brought into existence within a mile of each other, and both survive the pioneer period, yet without development in later years, though still surviving. Albany and Lima have lived, side by side, for fifty-six years, yet neither is as populous now as in

early days. Each village had a good mill in "middle life," and probably these had something to do with holding the villages together. During the struggle for county-seat honors, Lima was quite an important town, as compared with other towns of that day; and under the domination of the Lights, Lacey and Hopkinses, it put up a strong fight for the distinction it sought.

The village of Albany commenced its existence as such in 1854. Albert Albertson and Edwin Smith were the founders. Mr. Albertson sold his property in the fall of 1855, and removed from the county. Richard Earle was the purchaser, and for many years he was the principal business man in that section of the county, having built the flouring mill at Albany and owned and operated it during the remainder of his life. He served several terms as a member of the county board of supervisors, under the policy of one member from each township, which succeeded the county commissioner system, and was a zealous worker for the removal of the county-seat to Fayette.

Simon Nefzgar was an early and successful merchant at Albany, and J. B. Oelberg kept a merchant tailoring establishment there in early days. Like its twin sister, Lima, there has always been a blacksmith and repair shop in Albany. George Dow and R. E. Matsel were early, and later, operatives in this line.

When the township of Westfield was divided (in 1877), Albany was designated as the polling place for the voting precinct outside of the corporate limits of the town of Fayette. The board of supervisors (under whose jurisdiction this action was taken) appointed as judges of the first election under the new regime, J. J. Epps, Richard Earle and John Orr.

But when the Volga Valley branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad was built through Lima, in 1881, and missed the village of Albany by more than a mile, the prestige of the former as a trading point assumed the ascendancy. But many tender memories of early times center about these two primitive villages, and some stirring scenes in pioneer life were there enacted.

In very early days a postoffice was established at Corn Hill, in this township, and "Corn Hill" was the home of Capt. R. R. Richardson, the organizing sheriff of Fayette county. The county poorhouse was located in the northwest corner of Westfield township, as appears more fully in the history of that institution, as found in the chapter on the county organization.

WESTFIELD.

The town of Westfield, which was located on the northwest quarter of section 29, was laid out by Robert Alexander, in 1851, and thus antedates the town of Fayette by about four years. The founder of this town began

the erection of a saw-mill in 1850, and the village had a rapid growth for several years. Sutton & Axtell built a store building and started the first store in this region, and in 1855 Isaac Templeton and his son Leroy commenced the construction of the Westfield flouring mill. These industries absorbed the interest of the small settlement and directed attention to Westfield village, even after the rival town of Fayette, across the Volga, had commenced to bid for public recognition. In fact Westfield seemed to hold the ascendancy as a prospective town and good trading place until the building of the Fayette seminary was assured.

FAYETTE.

In 1856 the town of Fayette began a tangible and prosperous growth. Two stores were opened, those of Maxon & Griffith and Budlong & Norton, and the presence of strangers in the town, engaged in erecting the college building, stimulated the formation of a stock company to build a hotel. The outgrowth of this was the building of the well known Fayette House, though it was first called the "Stock," in recognition of the methods employed to bring it into existence. The "Volga Hotel Stock Company," of which H. Budlong was secretary, had a nominal capital of four thousand dollars. For many years past H. S. Canfield has owned and conducted this hotel as the principal one in the town.

No attempt will be made in this article to write the history of the Upper Iowa University, since that subject is ably and fully presented in a special article by Prof. J. W. Dickman, D. D., vice-president of the institution; the history of the churches and public schools is presented in like manner by Rev. J. L. Paine, A. M., and the Masonic history will be found in the general article on that subject, which is prepared by Hon. D. W. Clements, past grand master of the Masonic jurisdiction of Iowa. We feel that these three important subjects in Fayette history are in good hands, and that the facts are given with fullness and accuracy. The newspapers of the town are also written in a special article on the Press of Fayette County, by D. H. Talmadge; but one important event in the history of Fayette journalism has occurred since Mr. Talmadge's article was written. Reference is here made to the recent consolidation of the *Fayette Postal Card* with the *Fayette Reporter*, and the organization of a company to enlarge and promote the interests of the latter. C. F. Paine is the secretary and manager of this worthy enterprise, while his distinguished father, with years of experience and a half century's residence among the people whose interests the paper serves, is a valuable ally. The

Reporter is ably edited and mechanically perfect. It has assumed advanced ground in the field of country journalism, which is daily adding to its prestige and popularity

THE CITY OF FAYETTE.

The town of Fayette, laid out in 1855, by Samuel H. Robertson, was incorporated in 1874. It is located on the northwest quarter of section 28, on comparatively level bottom land, with commanding hills overlooking the town site from almost every direction.

This is a city of homes and culture. The environments of the University have brought people to the town for the better education of their families, and few, indeed, are the citizens of the place who have not at some time attended this institution of higher learning. Many of the graduates of this time-honored institution are holding honorable positions in distant states, while others have settled down to life's duties in the shadow of their Alma Mater. In early days the "Sem" rather overshadowed the public schools of the place, and crippled their efficiency by enrolling students who would have remained in the high school, had there been one of sufficient caliber; but this disparity has long since been corrected, and the public schools of Fayette have been advanced to the class of the best accredited high schools. Some excellent instructors have been employed there as principals, superintendents and subordinate teachers, many of whom have been graduates of the Upper Iowa University. With apologies to Mr. Paine, should we duplicate any portion of his article on schools, we append the following statistics and general information as to late history:

For the year closing July, 1909, there were two male teachers employed in the Fayette schools at an average salary of eighty dollars each per month; there were six female teachers employed for a period of nine months, the duration of the school year, these receiving an average salary of forty-eight dollars each per month. The number of pupils of school age (five to twenty-one years) is three hundred and twenty-nine, of whom one hundred and seventy-six were enrolled in the schools, and made a total average daily attendance, in all departments, of one hundred and seventy-nine. The average cost of tuition per month for each pupil was two dollars and fifty cents. There were thirteen non-resident pupils enrolled, from whom the district realized in tuition fees two hundred and thirty-three dollars and seventy-five cents. The independent district owns two school houses, with a total of nine rooms in use. The estimated value of the buildings is twenty-two thousand, five

hundred dollars. The school apparatus is valued at four hundred dollars, and there are six hundred and twenty-six volumes in the school libraries.

The names of the distinguished men who have been connected with the University from its inception, together with brief mention of their life careers, appear in the article devoted to the institution, and need not be duplicated here.

COMMERCIAL RECORD.

The development of Fayette as a market point and trade center was steady and permanent from the time the building of the University was fully assured. It has always sustained a number of good stores, two or more hotels, and numerous private boarding house, mechanical shops of all kinds, several livery stables, extensive lumbering interests, milling, etc. But this old landmark (the mill) was removed by fire within the last year, it being then the property of Mr. Marvin, an old-time sawyer and lumberman a mile or two below the town. For a number of years past the product of this mill was mostly feed and buckwheat flour. It excelled in the grinding and preparation of the last named commodity.

Fayette has had its saloons and questionable resorts; but the tendency of public sentiment, even in early days, was towards morality and sobriety, and there was constant warfare between the two elements in the make-up of the town. Since the adoption of the constitutional amendment in the early eighties, there has not been an open saloon in the town.

The first meeting of the city council of Fayette was held April 21, 1874. The city officers were then Chares Hoyt, mayor; C. W. Sperry, recorder; trustees, R. Gaynor, E. R. Edmonds, Adam Fussell, E. Gregory and G. F. Lyman. Many of the prominent ladies of the town presented a petition to the council, accompanied by an oral address by Miss Mills, asking that the council do not license any saloons. This had the effect of delaying consideration of the question until the next meeting, or until the meeting held on the second of June, when an ordinance licensing the sale of ale, wine and beer was passed, four members of the council voting for the measure, and three against it.

The sentiments of the people generally were expressed on this subject as closely as indicated above, one party winning one year, and the other the next, during the years in which it was considered legal to license the liquor traffic. There was a temperance organization effected in 1878, called the "Rechabite Band," which enlisted the membership and co-operation of over

eight hundred persons, this representing a general temperance wave throughout the state, and doubtless had much to do with the adoption of the prohibitory amendment a few years later.

CEMETERY ASSOCIATION.

The Fayette Cemetery Association was formed in 1864, the organizing members being Dr. D. Alexander, H. W. Waterbury, William Burch, John A. Griffith, I. W. Comstock, S. H. Robertson and E. Gregory. Doctor Alexander was elected president; H. W. Waterbury, secretary; E. Gregory, treasurer, and Edward Cavanaugh, sexton. This was the nucleus to the present well-kept and beautiful cemetery from whose commanding eminence the beautiful little city of Fayette appears in the valley beyond. The interments in this sacred spot in the year 1855 were: Martha Alexander, J. Buffington, Mrs. Fulmer and son, Mrs. George Walker, Mrs. Isaac Templeton, Mrs. W. A. Boughey, and Moses Davis and daughter.

When the railroad reached Fayette, in September, 1873, the town entered upon a new era of development which has been unceasing. New industries were launched, or old ones improved; new and better homes were built, and this event was followed by very extensive building and improvement at the Upper Iowa University. In time systems of water-works, electric lights and fire protection were installed, and a strong and forceful municipal government instituted and perpetuated.

For several years Fayette was the terminus of the Davenport & St. Paul railroad, and this gave the city some prestige; but we think this temporary advantage was overcome by the extension of the road to give a through line of communication in all directions.

BANKS AND BANKERS.

Fayette has two banking institutions, one of which has had an existence in the town for thirty-eight years.

One of the sound and popular banking institutions of northern Iowa is the State Bank of Fayette. It was first organized in 1872, by D. C. Sperry, who was later joined by his brother, C. W. Sperry, the firm being known as the Sperry Brothers. This firm was succeeded by Sperry & Davis, and then by Daniel Davis, who sold the bank, in 1880, to S. B. Zeigler & Company, of West Union. On February 1, 1887, Zeigler & Company sold it to Baker, Hoyt & Company, who continued it as a private bank until April 1, 1901.

when it was reorganized as the State Bank of Fayette, with a capital stock of thirty-five thousand dollars. The capital is now forty thousand dollars with a surplus of sixteen thousand dollars.

Judge W. A. Hoyt was president of the reorganized bank; J. A. Claxton, vice-president, and C. R. Carpenter, cashier. In 1903 Judge Hoyt died, and Mr. Claxton became president and Q. C. Babcock became vice-president. Following are the directors: Messrs. Claxton, Babcock, Dr. M. Y. Baker, John Graff, G. B. Finch, George A. Davis, Frank Oelberg and A. R. Oelberg, both of Lima, Iowa, and C. R. Carpenter.

This bank has elegant and substantial quarters in one of the best business locations in Fayette, and the institution is so conservatively managed and its patrons treated with such courtesy and consideration that its prestige has continued to increase with the years.

The First National Bank of Fayette, which was incorporated in 1910, numbers on its list of stockholders some of the strongest financiers of Fayette county. It began business in its own splendid building, especially constructed for the purpose, on December 1, 1909. This institution already has heavy deposits from the business men of the town and surrounding country, amounting on October 1, 1910, to fifty thousand dollars, with a capital stock of twenty-five thousand dollars. These are the days when nearly every farmer in Fayette county has a bank account, large or small, and when the accommodations of these monetary institutions are appreciated to a greater degree than ever before. Let us hope that the old-time habit of concealing valuables in beds or stockings for "safety" (?) has been superseded by the establishment of safe and reliable banking institutions in every market town. The First National Bank of Fayette is fully equipped with all necessary appliances for the protection of its patrons, not only in the care of their cash and jewelry, but in the protection and preservation of valuable papers, as well. A general banking business is here transacted; also buying and selling of foreign and domestic exchange. The official directory of this institution is as follows: President, W. N. Clothier; vice-president, M. J. Hartman; cashier, F. E. Finch; directors, W. N. Clothier, Alf. Hanson, Theo Mieke, F. E. Sanders, G. S. Hartman, W. B. Stevenson, M. H. Fussell, M. J. Hartman and V. E. Dye.

FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS.

There are several fraternal organizations in the city of Fayette besides the two prominent Masonic bodies, as represented in the general history of Freemasonry in the county.

Warner Post, Grand Army of the Republic, was established by the soldier population in the early eighties, and mustered a working membership. For a number of years the meetings were attended with great interest, and every ex-soldier within a radius of several miles of the town was mustered into full relations. The post was never strong, numerically, there being but comparatively few soldiers within its jurisdiction, but great activity prevailed among those who were instrumental in bringing it into existence; and these, combined with the efforts of the Woman's Relief Corps, aroused a sentiment favorable to the old soldier and his interests, which survives the existence of the organization. Many of the members have answered the last roll-call—some in distant lands—and most of the survivors are burdened with the weight of years and the infirmities resulting from early-life exposures and hardships. We believe a nominal organization is kept up, but soon the "time limit" will annul even that poor satisfaction.

A lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows has existed in the town since the early eighties and has enrolled in its membership many of the prominent men of the town and community. Some of the charter members of this organization received the preliminary work at the Randalia lodge, which preceded it in existence by a few months.

There are various fraternal and literary organizations connected with the Upper Iowa University which have had an existence almost from the founding of the institution. There are separate organizations for ladies and gentlemen, though their deliberations may be attended by both sexes, under certain conditions. No doubt these societies have had much to do in developing the literary and oratorical ability which has long distinguished the students of the Upper Iowa University. Some of its graduates have achieved great prominence in the lecture field, in the pulpit and as barristers.

INSURANCE.

Fayette was the official home of the Farmers' Mutual Insurance organization at its inception, and some of the prominent citizens of the place have continued as members of the official board from the organization to the present. It was also the official headquarters of the long since defunct Home Insurance Company, which came into existence in 1864, but was reorganized in 1869 under the name of the Fayette Home Insurance Company. Many prominent men of that day were concerned in its reorganization, among whom were Professor Brush, Rev. H. S. Brunson, Rev. John Webb, Elmer Allen, Hiram Sweet and others.

Back of the first organization, and permeating the new, were some visionary conditions not understood by the inexperienced men who were concerned in the reorganization, and these led to interminable trouble. Finally, the Chicago fire of 1871 drove the concern into liquidation and final bankruptcy, but the Fayette end of the company paid all of its legal obligations. Their assets were represented by dearly bought experience.

Several fraternal insurance societies have had an existence in Fayette, some of which have been continuing institutions from which much benefit has accrued. One of these is the Ancient Order of United Workmen, Fayette Lodge No. 80 being instituted in 1876. Of the original membership of sixteen, but few are now living, though they represented the prominent business and professional men of that day.