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HISTORY

OF

BENTON COUNTY

IOWA

V. I.

From Materials in the Public Archives, the Iowa Historical Society's Collection, the Newspapers and data of personal interviews; also containing sketches of representative men.

Compiled under the editorial supervision of Mr. Luther B. Hill, General Historian, and a corps of local editors.

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INTRODUCTION

Benton county is a representative section of a representative Mississippi valley state—rich in material and intellectual wealth, fertile of soil and individual resources. It was almost equally settled by men and women from the New England and the old Middle states and from the commonwealths of the old-time Middle West, such as Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. The result was that economy, hospitality and an ambition both to be well educated and well-to-do, were early and firmly implanted in the character of the Benton county settler, and these are still strong traits in the farmer, business man and professional representative of today.

In attempting a delineation of the country and the people included in the political term, Benton county, the editors and the publishers have endeavored to give a due meed of credit to both the pioneer and his descendants of two and sometimes three generations, all of whom have had their historical place in making Iowa and Benton county solid, alert, intelligent and progressive types of the highest American development. To the real, home-loving American, it is sufficient praise of Benton county to say that within her borders one may find comfort of life and full appreciation of industry, honesty and intelligent and educated effort. Nothing can more forcibly illustrate and prove this statement than the history now put forth.

In the preparation of the history of Benton county, the compilers and publishers were courteously and intelligently assisted by leading citizens, in every field of activity, and as space forbids a mention of the many individuals who thus contributed to the subject matter both of histories and biographies, thanks are hereby tendered in general terms, but in most cordial spirit.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER I.

PHYSICAL FEATURES OF BENTON COUNTY.

LOCATION AND FORM—CHIEF TOPOGRAPHIC AND GEOLOGICAL FEATURES—GREAT IOWA ICE FILL—BROKEN AND PICTURESQUE FEATURES—PICTURESQUE BENTON COUNTY—EVIDENCES OF PREHISTORIC MAN—DRAINAGE OF THE COUNTY—THE IOWA RIVER—THE CEDAR RIVER—PEAIRIE CREEK—WATER SUPPLY OF BENTON COUNTY—BELLE PLAINE ARTESIAN AREA—BELLE PLAINE'S "JUMBO"—BUILDING MATERIALS—CLAYS AND COAL—TIMBER AND GROVES. 1-22

CHAPTER II.

THE INDIANS AND TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT.

BENTON COUNTY, LOUISIANA PURCHASE—WHY BLACK HAWK JOINED THE BRITISH—KEOKUK, DIPLOMAT AND ORATOR—INDIAN TREATIES—HALF-BREED TRACT—DIRECTLY CONCERNING BENTON COUNTY—NEUTRAL GROUND BETWEEN INDIAN FOES—RESULTS OF THE BLACK HAWK WAR—THE BLACK HAWK PURCHASE—KEOKUK'S RESERVE AND DEATH—WRITES ON THE HEELS OF INDIANS—ROVING INDIAN BANDS—BIRTH OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT—SUB-DIVISION OF COUNTIES—FIXING THE TERRITORIAL CAPITAL—IOWA BECOMES A STATE—BENTON, ONE OF NINETY-NINE COUNTIES. 23-37

CHAPTER III.

GENERAL PROGRESS OF COUNTY.

ORGANIZATION OF TOWNSHIPS—GROWTH IN PROPERTY—ACTUAL VALUES OF PROPERTY—1908 (ONE-FOURTH CASH VALUE)—1895 (ONE-HALF CASH VALUE)—1885 (ONE-HALF CASH VALUE)—1875 (ONE-HALF CASH VALUE)—1865 (CASH VALUE)—INCREASE IN POPULATION—POPULATION OF TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS—PROGRESS IN AGRICULTURE—AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES—THE PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY. 38-51

CHAPTER IV.

POLITICAL HISTORY.

FIRST ELECTION IN BENTON COUNTY—FIRST CONTESTED ELECTION—EXCITING ELECTION OF 1855—RAILROAD POLITICS—MID-WAR ELECTION—SINCE CIVIL WAR TIMES—COUNTY ROSTER, 1846-1878—SUPERVISORS (TOWNSHIP SYSTEM)—SUPERVISORS (COUNTY SYSTEM)—OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS, 1878-1909—OLD-TIME COUNTY OFFICIALS. 52-68

CHAPTER V.

COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS IN DETAIL

COUNTY BOUNDARIES FIXED—ACT FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF BENTON COUNTY—FIRST COUNTY ELECTION—NORTHPORT, THE COUNTY SEAT—ATTEMPTED OCCUPATION OF COURT HOUSE—NORTHPORT, RECHRISTENED VINTON—MOVE TO CHANGE COUNTY SEAT—TROUBLE WITH SECOND COURT HOUSE—CIVIL COURTS ESTABLISHED—HEAVY BURDENS OF COUNTY JUDGE—FIRE WIPES OUT COURT HOUSE AND SCHOOL—CORNER STONE OF NEW COURT HOUSE LAID—HOUSE WARMING IN DETAIL—CHANGES IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT—A COURT HOUSE OF WHICH TO BE PROUD—CORNER-STONE OF 1856 COURT HOUSE—THE COURT HOUSE OF THE PRESENT—STRONGHOLD FOR LAW BREAKERS—PROVISION FOR THE POOR. 69-88

CHAPTER VI.

EARLY SETTLERS AND SETTLEMENTS.

FIRST BENTON COUNTY "STAYER"—FIRST NATIVE WHITE CHILD—FIRST FUNERAL IN THE COUNTY—SETTLERS OF 1841-1850—NO PERMANENT OLD SETTLERS SOCIETY—FIRST LAND ENTRIES—TOWNS AND CITIES OF BENTON COUNTY—POSTOFFICES IN BENTON COUNTY—PROFESSOR T. F. TOBIN ON EARLY TIMES—JUDGE G. M. GILCHRIST ON "THE PIONEER"—REMINISCENCES OF I. VAN METRE—"SLOPE" POLITICS—EARLY SETTLERS OF THE TOWNSHIPS. 89-124

CHAPTER VII.

MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION.

BUILDING OF THE FIRST REAL BRIDGE—DAILY STAGE COMMUNI-

CATION—STEAMBOAT ERA, 1858-1860—DOINGS OF THE STEAMER "EXPORT"—BECOMES THE "BLACK HAWK"—LAST TRIPS OF THE "BLACK HAWK"—EARLY STATE ROADS IN BENTON COUNTY—RAILROADS OF BENTON COUNTY—FIRST RAILROAD FOR THE SOUTH SLOPE—BENTON COUNTY'S NORTHERN ROAD—IRON HORSE TROTS INTO VINTON—BRANCH WEST FROM VINTON. 125-133

CHAPTER VIII.

BANKING IN BENTON COUNTY.

THE OLD TRAEER BANK BOOK—JAMES C. TRAEER—BANKS AS POLITICAL CENTERS—BELLE PLAINE BANKS—VINTON'S OLDEST BANK, FARMERS' NATIONAL—THE HALBERTS, SHELLSBURG BANKERS—CITIZEN'S BANK, BELLE PLAINE—CORN BELT SAVINGS BANK, BELLE PLAINE—FARMERS' NATIONAL BANK, VINTON—STATE BANK OF VINTON—VINTON SAVINGS BANK—PEOPLES' SAVING BANK, VINTON—PEOPLES SAVINGS BANK, SHELLSBURG—BENTON COUNTY SAVINGS BANK, NORWAY—ATKINS SAVINGS BANK—URBANA SAVINGS BANK—FARMERS SAVING BANK, WALFORD—FIRST NATIONAL BANK, NORWAY—MT. AUBURN SAVINGS BANK—LUZERNE SAVINGS BANK—PRESENT CONDITION OF BANKS. 134-143

CHAPTER IX.

THE PRESS OF BENTON COUNTY.

"VINTON EAGLE" BORN—WHEN THE "EAGLE" SCREECHED—THE "VINTON EAGLE" SALUTES—BERNARD MURPHY COMES IN—EARLY CHARACTERS OF THE "EAGLE"—"BENTON COUNTY DEMOCRAT"—VAN METRE VS. DRUMMOND—"EVERY OTHER DAILY UNION," BELLE PLAINE—BELLE PLAINE "DEMOCRAT-HERALD"—"PEOPLE'S JOURNAL," VINTON—VINTON'S FIRST DEMOCRATIC EDITOR—"THE REVIEW" OF VINTON—"BENTON COUNTY TIMES"—"WESTERN TELEPHONE JOURNAL," VINTON—"GARRISON INDEPENDENT"—"THE SHELLSBURG CALL"—THOMAS A. CARVER—VAN HORNE "METEOR"—VAN HORNE "ENTERPRISE"—"MOUNT AUBURN NEWS"—DEFUNCT NEWSPAPERS. 144-160

CHAPTER X.

EDUCATION IN THE COUNTY.

FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE—FORESTALLED HENRY GEORGE—BENTON

COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM—FIRST TEACHERS' INSTITUTE—SCHOOL TOWNSHIP—CITY AND VILLAGE SCHOOLS—RURAL INDEPENDENT DISTRICTS—IRVING INSTITUTE—BLAIRSTOWN ACADEMY AND SCHOOLS—TILFORD COLLEGIATE ACADEMY, VINTON—JOHN S. TILFORD—REV. THOMAS TOBIN AND WIFE—PROF. T. F. TOBIN AND THE PRESENT—VINTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS—BELLE PLAINE SCHOOLS. 161-175

CHAPTER XI.

COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND.

CAPTAIN THOMAS DRUMMOND—PROFESSOR SAMUEL BACON, FIRST PRINCIPAL—COLLEGE FORMALLY OPENED AT VINTON—TWO WINGS ADDED—"TOM" DRUMMOND AGAIN—"YES; IT IS WORTH IT ALL"—TRUSTEES TO BE REMEMBERED—PRESENT ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLEGE—MUSIC DEPARTMENT—INDUSTRIAL TRAINING—OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL IN OPERATION—GYMNASIUM UNDER WAY.

176-186

CHAPTER XII.

BENTON COUNTY IN TWO WARS.

FIRST GRAND UNION RALLY—FIRST TO ENLIST IN THE COUNTY—OFFICERS OF PIONEER COMPANY—PARKER'S GROVE AND HICKORY GROVE—"BOYS IN BLUE" HAD TO BE UNIFORMED—COMPANY G, FIFTH IOWA VOLUNTEERS—COMPANY D, EIGHTH INFANTRY—GRAND HOME RECEPTION—BENTON COUNTY BOYS IN THE EIGHTH—COMPANY D, TWELFTH INFANTRY—COMPANIES G AND E, TWENTY-EIGHTH INFANTRY—COMPANY A'S ROSTER—COMPANY D—COMPANY H, EIGHTEENTH INFANTRY—COMPANY K, FORTIETH INFANTRY—FORTY-SEVENTH INFANTRY—FIFTH VETERAN CAVALRY—SIXTH CAVALRY—SEVENTH CAVALRY—NINTH CAVALRY—UNION SUPPORT AT HOME—SUMMARY OF WAR MATTERS—GRAND CELEBRATION JULY 4, 1861—"KNIGHTS OF THE GOLDEN CIRCLE," BY JACOB SPRINGER—SOLDIERS OF SIXTY-ONE, BY A. H. BROWN—COMPANY G, I. N. G.—SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR—RECEPTION TO CALVIN P. TITUS—VETERANS ASSOCIATION AND G. A. R.—LIVING CIVIL WAR VETERANS—VINTON'S G. A. R. POST.

187-253

CHAPTER XIII.

CHURCHES IN THE COUNTY.

METHODISM IN BENTON COUNTY—FIRST METHODIST CHURCH, VINTON—BUILDING OF THE CHURCH—KIND WORDS FROM MR. KNAPP—WHITE ELEPHANT SLAUGHTERED—A BELOVED METHODIST PIONEER—THE PASTORAL ROSTER—SHELLSBURG METHODIST CHURCH—FIRST M. E. CHURCH, BELLE PLAINE—BLAIRSTOWN M. E. CHURCH—VAN HORNE METHODIST CHURCH—REV. THOMAS C. GOLDEN—OTHER M. E. CHURCHES—VINTON'S NEW SCHOOL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—OLD SCHOOL PRESBYTERIANS—PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VINTON—REV. STEPHEN PHELPS—UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, VINTON—SHELLSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—PLEASANT HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—BLAIRSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—GARRISON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—ATKINS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—CEDAR RAPIDS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION—SHELLSBURG BAPTIST CHURCH—FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, VINTON—GARRISON GERMAN BAPTIST CHURCH—UNITED BROTHERS SOCIETIES—DR. W. B. WAGNER—FIRST DISCIPLES' CHURCH—Mt. AUBURN CHRISTIAN CHURCH—HARRISON TOWNSHIP CHRISTIAN CHURCH—DISCIPLES' (CHRISTIAN) CHURCH, VINTON—FIRST SERMON IN BELLE PLAINE—ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, NORWAY—ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, VINTON—OTHER CATHOLIC CHURCHES—BELLE PLAINE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH—LUTHERAN AND EVANGELICAL CHURCHES—BENTON COUNTY SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION. 254-280

CHAPTER XIV.

LAW AND CRIME.

BENTON COUNTY CREATED JUDICIALLY—FIRST DISTRICT COURT TERM A "FIZZLE"—COURT REALLY HELD—FIRST JUDICIAL ACTS—EXIT JUDGE MITCHELL—SECOND SESSION OF DISTRICT COURT—JOEL LEVERICH ELUDES THE LAW—AT LAST, IN THE COURT HOUSE—ADJOURNED TO DRYER PLACE—FIRST CONVICTION OF CRIME—HON. WILLIAM SMYTHE, DISTRICT JUDGE—"DARK AGES" OF BENTON COUNTY—THE IOWA PROTECTION COMPANY—JUDGE CARLETON TO THE RESCUE—COURT AGAIN HELD—BILL AGAINST "UNCLE" WAY—SCAPEGRAVE BERRY WAY—FAREWELL TO UNCLE TOM WAY—LIST OF DISTRICT JUDGES—COUNTY JUDGE AS CZAR—FIRST COUNTY COURT SESSION—COUNTY JUDGES BUILD COURT HOUSE—CIRCUIT COURT ESTABLISHED AND ABOLISHED—LEADING MEMBERS OF THE BAR—GOVERNOR BUREN R. SHERMAN—WILLIAM C. CONNELL—

HON. WILLIAM P. WHIPPLE--O. L. COOPER--J. J. MOSNAT--FIENDISH MURDER IN KANE TOWNSHIP--SOME LATER CRIMES IN "HELL'S ACRE"--THE NOVAK CASE. 281-305

CHAPTER XV.

THE BENTON COUNTY DOCTOR.

A CONTEST FOR HEARTS--MISSION OF THE FRONTIER DOCTOR--VINTON'S FIRST PHYSICIANS--FIRST BELLE PLAINE PHYSICIAN--DR. MARION MEREDITH--DR. C. C. GRIFFIN--DR. STEPHEN M. COOK--DR. CHARLES B. CHENOWETH--BENTON COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY--IOWA UNION MEDICAL SOCIETY. 306-310

CHAPTER XVI.

THE CITY OF VINTON.

INCREASE IN POPULATION--PASSING OF THE RED CEDAR--RATHER "SHADY" FIRST SETTLER--PIONEERS OF VINTON--LOOKING FOR THE COUNTY SEAT--VINTON'S (FREMONT'S) FIRST REAL FOURTH--FREMONT BECOMES VINTON--"VINTON EAGLE" ITEMS 1856-9--MUNICIPAL OFFICERS 1869-1910--OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OF GOOD MEN--VINTON'S FIRE DEPARTMENT--WATER WORKS--ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT--FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY--THE TELEPHONE COMPANIES--"BOOSTER" CLUB OF VINTON--WORLD'S LARGEST CORN-CANNING FACTORY--GREAT EXPECTATIONS NOT REALIZED--MINNE ESTEMA PARK--THE MASONS OF VINTON--THE ODD FELLOWS--KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS--MODERN WOODSMEN OF AMERICA--THE EPWORTH LEAGUE. 311-335

CHAPTER XVII.

LEADING VINTONITES.

JAMES F. YOUNG, MILLER--ELIJAH BYANS, EARLY OFFICIAL--MARION EVANS, EX-MAYOR--CYRENIUS T. WHIPPLE, WEALTHY LAND OWNER--W. F. WILLIAMS, BANKER AND CITY PROMOTER--JOHN KNAPP AND HIS LUCKY NUMBER--CORNELIUS ELLIS, PIONEER LUMBERMAN--PAUL CORRELL, OLD-TIME MERCHANT--GEORGE HERRIDGE, LEADING BANKER--C. O. HARRINGTON, EARLY BANKER--FIRST TO MARRY IN VINTON--J. J. LOIZEUX, SETTLER OF '54--ROBERT A. HARPER, ALSO OF '54--THE YOUNGS OF '55--OCTOGE-

NARIANS IN RETIREMENT—LEVI S. MILLER, VETERAN BUSINESS MAN—PALMER BROTHERS, OLD DRUGGISTS—JOHN O. BILLS, PIONEER JEWELLER—DEAN OF INSURANCE MEN—"RALYEA" STANDS FOR "HOTEL"—CAMPBELL, THE CONTRACTOR—W. W. MEANS, OLD CITY MARSHAL. 336-346

CHAPTER XVIII.

BELLE PLAINE.

BUSINESS START—THE RAILROAD PLAT—BAD BUSINESS OUTCOME—EARLY GROWTH OF BELLE PLAINE—FIRST FOUNDRIES—CHICAGO AND NORTHWESTERN PLANTS—CORPORATION OF BELLE PLAINE—THE FIRE DEPARTMENT—THE GREAT FIRE OF 1894—LIGHT AND POWER PLANT—ARTESIAN WATER WORKS—THE TELEPHONE SERVICE—PUBLIC LIBRARY—THE BELLE PLAINE OPERA HOUSE—HERRING COTTAGE—THE BAILEY HOUSE—FOUR LEADING ESTABLISHMENTS—MASONRY IN BELLE PLAINE—ODD FELLOWSHIP IN BELLE PLAINE—KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS—THE "GRAND ARMY" POST—LEGION OF HONOR—MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA—IMPROVED ORDER OF RED MEN—BOHEMIAN SOCIETIES—RAILROAD UNIONS—WOODMEN OF THE WORLD—MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA—HIGHLAND NOBLES AND C. C. C. 347-360

CHAPTER XIX.

BLAIRSTOWN AND SHELLSBURG.

BLAIRSTOWN FOUNDED—FIRST RELIGIOUS SERVICES—SUPPORTER OF SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES—THE FIRST BLACKSMITH—THE TOWN IN 1862—THE TOWN IN 1868—CHAMPION OF THE SOUTH SLOPE—BLAIRSTOWN AS A CORPORATION—ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER PLANT—BLAIRSTOWN ELEVATORS—LODGES OF BLAIRSTOWN—WHY SHELLSBURG?—A STAGE STATION—FIRST LANDLORD—CANTONWINE'S PLACE—FIRST SHELLSBURG CHURCH—GETS A RAILROAD—INCORPORATED AS A VILLAGE—AN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT—SHELLSBURG'S FIRST MAYOR—THE FIRST BANK—FARMERS' MUTUAL TELEPHONE COMPANY—MASONS OF SHELLSBURG—INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS—THE G. A. R. POST—KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS—MODERN WOODMEN. 361-373

CHAPTER XX.

GARRISON AND NORWAY.

FIRST OWNERS OF GARRISON—THE GARRISON OF TODAY—ELEVATORS AND TILE FACTORY—TELEPHONE COMPANIES—MODERN WOODMEN AND ODD FELLOWS—VILLAGE OF NORWAY—OSMAN TUTTLE, FOUNDER OF NORWAY—PIONEER SETTLERS—FARMERS' ELEVATOR COMPANY—NORWAY LODGES. 374-378

CHAPTER XXI.

VAN HORNE, KEYSTONE AND LUZERNE.

VILLAGE OF VAN HORNE—TWO FLOURISHING INSTITUTIONS—FARMERS CO-OPERATIVE COMPANY—VAN HORNE GRAIN AND LIVE STOCK COMPANY—THE LOCAL BANKS—ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY—VAN HORNE'S TELEPHONE COMPANIES—LODGES AT VAN HORNE—PROSPEROUS, COMFORTABLE-LOOKING KEYSTONE—KEYSTONE BANKS—KEYSTONE MERCANTILE COMPANY—SECRET SOCIETIES—LUZERNE'S HISTORY AND PRESENT—PIONEER MERCHANT—WORTHY RETIRED PIONEERS. 379-385

CHAPTER XXII.

OTHER BENTON COUNTY TOWNS.

MARYSVILLE BECOMES URBANA—INTERESTING OLD-TIMER—URBANA'S MOST STIRRING EVENT—MOUNT AUBURN—CEDAR TOWNSHIP PIONEER—NEWHALL—FIRST NEWHALL MERCHANT—ATKINS—WALFORD—WATKINS—FOUNDERS OF WATKINS. 386-391

CHAPTER XXIII.

TOWNSHIP RECORDS.

TWENTY TOWNSHIPS IN 1860—A SETTLER OF 1845—BENTON TOWNSHIP, '49—JAMES RICE AND EBENEZER BERRY—SETTLERS OF 1852—GARRHIER INTRODUCES HORSES—BIG GROVE TOWNSHIP PIONEERS—JOHN P. CHINN AND ELIAS DOAN—THE HANNAS OF BIG GROVE—HELPED ORGANIZE THE TOWNSHIP—FOUNDER OF TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS—THE AULD FAMILY, '54—TYPICAL "SEMI-DEGOUT"—SHUTTS, FATHER AND SON—BRUCE TOWNSHIP PIONEERS—SETTLERS OF 1858—CANTON TOWNSHIP PIONEER WOMAN

—FIRST ELECTION IN TOWNSHIP—MR. AND MRS. DAVID HITE, 1850
 —HOUSELESS FOR FIFTEEN MILES—SHELLSBURG, ONE LOG CABIN
 —ERECTED MANY OF THE FIRST BUILDINGS—NOTED HORTICUL-
 TURIST—MR. AND MRS. WALKER, 1856—LIVED ON FARM FIFTY-SIX
 YEARS—JOHN RICKART, 1855—CEDAR TOWNSHIP PIONEERS—FIRST
 SETTLERS OF EDEN TOWNSHIP—FIRST POSTMASTER—SETTLERS OF
 1853—PIONEER FRUIT RAISER—THEY CAME IN 1854—JOHN A.
 DILLING, 1855—OTHER SETTLERS OF THE FIFTIES—ELDORADO'S
 FIRST SETTLER—EMANUEL BAKER, 1855—THESE CAME IN 1856
 —FIRST HOUSE IN FREMONT TOWNSHIP—ADDITIONS IN 1854 AND
 1855—ALEXANDER JOHNSON, 1855—PIONEERS OF HARRISON TOWN-
 SHIP—EARLY SETTLERS OF HOMER TOWNSHIP—FOUNDER OF RE-
 PUBLICANISM—THOMAS COLLINS, 1857—FIRST CLAIM IN IOWA
 TOWNSHIP—JOHN SCHILD, 1852—EARLY SETTLERS IN JACKSON
 TOWNSHIP—JAMES W. ATHEY, 1850—A KANE TOWNSHIP VETERAN
 —“LONE TRE” FARM—CONRAD TATGE, 1852—RHESA CONLEY,
 1850—POLK TOWNSHIP PIONEERS—THE BRAYSONS AND REMINGTONS
 —SETTLERS OF THE EARLY FIFTIES—EARLY COMERS TO TAYLOR
 TOWNSHIP—A UNION TOWNSHIP PIONEER. 392-416

ILLUSTRATIONS

Typical Lake Scene in Benton County	1
Section of Boulder-Strewn Field	6
Artesian Well at Belle Plaine	14
Present Benton County Court House	40
Court House of 1856	82
Benton County Jail	86
Benton County Home near Vinton	88
James C. Traer	135
Interior Views "Vinton Eagle" Office	146
"Vinton Eagle" Plant	147
D. B. Pyne	151
Tilford Collegiate Academy	168
High School Building	173
Iowa College for the Blind (before adding wings)	179
Captain Thomas Drummond	181
Main Building, Iowa College for the Blind	185
Pipe Organ, Vinton Methodist Church	258
First Presbyterian Church, Vinton	265
First Baptist Church, Vinton	272
Novak and his Steamship Ticket (opposite)	303
Vinton Looking West from the High School	312
Washington Street Looking South, Vinton	313
Old Wooden Bridge Foot of Main Street, Vinton	317
Jay Street Viaduct, Vinton	318
Rock Island Depot, Vinton	325
Free Public Library, Vinton	329
Young's Old Flour Mill, Vinton	337
Main Business Street, Belle Plaine	348
Chicago & Northwestern Depot, Belle Plaine	350
"Jumbo" Well in Action, Belle Plaine	353
The Herring Cottage, Belle Plaine	355
Main Street and High School, Blairstown	363
Soldiers' Monument, Blairstown	367
Pearl Street and High School, Shellsburg	370
Garrison Public School	375
George L. Palmer's "Semi-Dugout"	399

INDEX

- Agriculture, 46
Alicens, George R., 894
Albert, Charles F., 823
Allen, Joseph Sr., 546
Allen, A. B., 763
Allen, E. K., 156
Armstrong, Newton G., 751
Arnold, William, 565
Athey, James W., 412, 652
Atkins, Savings Bank, 141
Athens, Town of, 389
Auld, Arthur J., 861
Auld Family, 398
Austin, Annie G., 465
Austin, James, 465
Austin, Robert B., 569
Austin, Samuel B., 592
- Bacon, Samuel, 177
Baker, Emanuel, 407
Ball, J. H., 823
Banks, 134; present condition, 142
Barr—Leading members, 296
Baskwell, Frank J., 765
Barr, George, 476
Barr, J. W., 891
Barr, Ebenezer, 395
Barr, Michael, 822
Baumgardner, William, 507
Bentley, John M., 455
Belle Plaine—Banks, 136; Citizens Bank, 138; Corn Belt Savings Bank, 379; schools, 174; business start, 247; 1868; M. E. church, 262; best sermon, 276; Congregational church, 278; United Evangelical church, 279; cultural play, 348; early growth, 349; first families, 350; Chicago & Northwestern plants, 350; corporation history, 351; great fire of 1894, 352; artesian water works, 354; Herring Cottage, Belle Plaine, 354; Henry, J. P., 355; Henry, F. H., 355; secret societies, 356; Tappan & Cravford elevator, 356; Palmer brothers, Belle Plaine, 359; Belle Plaine Broom Company, 356; Bohemian societies, 359; railroad unions, 359
Belle Plaine "Democrat-Herald," 152
Beller, David, 407, 553
Beller, M. B., 554
- Benton county—Location and form, 1; topography and geology, 3; Iowa ice field, 4; broken and picturesque features, 5; pre-historic man, 7; drainage, 8; rivers and streams, 9; artesian wells, 13; building materials, 18; timber and groves, 21; one of ninety-nine counties, 37; organizing act, 70
Benton County Home, 87, 657
Benton county jail, 86
Benton County Medical Society, 309
"Benton County Signal," 159
Benton County Sunday School Association, 280
"Benton County Times," Vinton, 157
Benton County Veterans Association, 246
Benton township, 393
Bergen, O. C., 826
Berry, Robert, 769
Bickel, William E., 566
Big Grove township—Pioneers of, 396
Bills, John O., 345
Bixby Brothers, 595
Bixby, Clarence, 595
Bixby, Clayton, 595
Bixby, Wallace, 664
"Black Hawk" (steamboat), 114, 127
Black Hawk purchase, 30
Black Hawk war, 24, 30
Blairstown—Academy and schools, 166; M. E. church, 262; founded, 361; first religious services, 362; town in 1862 and 1868, 364; as a corporation, 365; elevators, 366; bridges, 366
Blairstown Presbyterian church, 261
Blossom, Charles A., 432
Bliss, John M., 535
Bozts, William C., 689
Boyle, V., 465
Boisen, William, 484
Book, John, 879
Boongarden, Okke O., 856
Bowe, Romanzo E., 447
Bowen, I. W., 398
Boyden, J. H., 785
Brandt, John D., 714
Bridges, 125
Brown, A. H., 149
Brown, Elwyn F., 298, 458
Brown, James, 814
Brubaker, Joseph S., 345, 478

- Bruce township—Early settlers, 117;
how named, 118; pioneers of, 400
- Bryson, W. G., 627
- Bryson family, 414
- Budd, Allen J., 549
- Budd, Joseph L., 403
- Bunten, James W., 509
- Burleigh, H. S., 260
- Buxton, E. A., 370
- Calkins, David, 407
- Campbell, Samuel M., 346, 462
- Canton township—Pioneer woman, 401;
first election, 402
- Cantwell, Paul Sr., 456
- Carleton, James, 289, 292
- Carver, Thomas A., 158
- Case, Nelson B., 492, 404, 562
- Cedar Valley Land Company, 641
- Cedar Rapids Baptist Association, 270
- Cedar township—Pioneers, 401
- Chenoweth, Charles B., 309, 632
- Chenoweth, T. N., 406
- Chinn, John P., 397
- Churches (see religious history)
- Civil War, 187: Union support of home,
233; summary of war matters, 234;
grand celebration, July 4, 1861, 236;
"Knights of the Golden Circle," (by
Jacob Springer), 239; Soldiers of
Sixty-one (by A. H. Brown), 240;
living veterans, 247
- Clifton, John, 711
- Cline, John C., 832
- Coburn, John P., 770
- Cokely, Jonathan, 489
- Coleord, E. H., 510
- College for the Blind, Vinton, 176
- Collins, Thomas, 411
- Collins, Martin J., 645
- Company G, I. N. G., 242
- Conley, Andrew, 409, 847
- Couley, Charles, 499
- Couley, Rhosa, 413
- Cornell, W. C., 158, 189, 298
- Comer, W. E., 701
- Cook, Stephen M., 209, 512
- Cooper, O. L., 299
- Corbin, Jerome, 769
- Correll, Paul, 342, 433
- County court house—first, 74; burned,
77; second, 78; present, 84
- County government, changes in, 81
- County officials (1846 to 1910), 59
- County school system, 162
- County seat—Northport, 73; moving of,
74
- Courts—Organization of, 281; first dis-
trict court, 282; first judicial acts,
285; second session of district court,
286; third session, 287; re-establish-
ment of, 290; first county court, 294;
county judges build court house, 294;
circuit court, 296
- Cox, George M., 648
- Crawford, James F., 407
- Crime—First conviction for, 287; the
Brody outlaws, 288; fiendish murder
in Kane township, 299; some later
crimes in "Hell's Acre," 301; the
famous Novak case, 303
- Culp, John B., 658
- Culver, James S., 761
- Cummings, Walter E., 612
- Danskin, George M., 399
- Davis, Henry, 833
- Davis, Henry J., 647
- Davis, Louisa B., 893
- Deklotz, John, 606
- Deklotz, Lewis, 610
- Dells, Carl, 876
- Detrick, Elmer E., 596
- Dickson, David D., 597
- Dilling, John A., 406, 864
- Ditzler, E. J., 384
- Doan, Elias, 396, 397
- Doerzman, William J., 581
- Donald, Jackson, 727
- Donlan, P. J., 646
- Dorsey, Beal, 393
- Douglass, Samuel, 108
- Downs Brothers, 406
- Downs, Robert N., 561
- Downs, Mary M., 561
- Drexler, Joseph, 277, 716
- Drummond, Thomas, 147, 177, 189
- Dutton, O. B., 377
- Eaton, George D., 176, 179
- Eaton, Eliza W., 461
- Eaton, Josiah, 461
- Eden township—First settlers, 405;
pioneer fruit raiser, 405
- Edmond, Samuel M., 499
- Edwards, A. T., 620
- Edwards, Hamilton B., 674
- Eggleston, Levi C., 637
- Eldorado township—First settlers, 407
- Elliott, C. W., 628
- Elliott, J. A., 656
- Ellis, Cornelius, 341, 421
- Ellis, W. C., 342, 422
- Ellsworth, W. O., 406
- Evans, Edward M., 67
- Evans, Elijah, 338
- Evans, Marion, 339
- "Every Other Daily Union," Belle
Plaine, 151
- Fagan, Robert, 698
- Farrington, Sereno S., 152, 153
- First Disciples' church (Christian
church), 275



Waverly, Wagon Co.

*See
Hawthornell
by Stone road
p. 147*

First elections, 52, 72
 First funeral, 91
 First land entries, 92
 First Methodist church, Vinton, 255
 First native white child, 90
 First permanent settler, 89
 First post offices, 98
 First school house, 161
 First Teachers' Institute, 163
 First towns and cities, 95
 Fish, E. H., 825
 Flochner, John G., 748
 Forrester, Asa B., 623
 Fosyth, John S., 294
 Fremont—Town of, 75
 Fremont township—First settlers, 408
 Fritz, August L., 613
 Frost, Daniel H., 154
 Fry, J. H., 731
 Fry, C. S., 446
 Fry, William, 403, 680
 Fry, W. E., 776

Gardemann, Louis C., 643
 Garrher, Joseph, 396
 Garrison—Farmers' Savings Bank, 141;
 People's Savings Bank, 142; Presby-
 terian church, 269; German Baptist,
 273; past and present, 314; tele-
 phones and telephone companies, 375;
 secret societies, 375
 "Garrison, Independent," 157
 Gibbins, A., 498
 Gilchrist, George M., 101, 293, 295, 429
 Gilchrist, James Y., 523
 Gilmore, John, 870
 Golden, Thomas C., 263
 Gonswer, Joseph J., 604
 Goodell, Charles M., 685
 Grovenhorst, Ida M., 705
 Griffin, C. C., 393, 854
 Grimm, Eli, 861
 Gross, Nicholas, 745
 Grute, Henry L., 525
 Gurewald, William J., 493
 Grinn, H., 411

Hagen, Fred, 803
 Half-Breed tract, 29
 Haysman, Fred, 719
 Hanford, Rush R., 805
 Hanna, Alexander H., 397, 836
 Hanna, John W., 841
 Hanna, William H., 842
 Hansen, William M., 884
 Hanson, Thomas, 883
 Harder, Henry, 787
 Harper, Alexander, 410
 Harper, Charles S., 788
 Harper, J. Wilson, 762
 Harper, Robert A., 343, 834

Harper family, 410
 Harwood, James, 848
 Harrington, C. O., 342, 527
 Harrison Township Christian church, 275
 Hayward, Horace, 586
 Heinrich, Christian A., 443
 Heinrich, Gustav, 552
 Henkle, Henry C., 453
 Henkle, Merritt C., 747
 Herring, George, 362
 Hevener, H. S., 156
 Hill, Clyde S., 523
 Hill, James M., 520
 Hite, David, 402
 Hite, Jacob, 819
 Hite, John W., 532
 Hogan, John, 278
 Homer township—First settlers, 410
 Horridge, George, 342, 425
 Houghton, John A., 409, 702
 Houghton, William A., 705
 Humphrey, George, 707
 Humphrey, Hugh, 409, 792
 Humphrey, Joseph, 409

Inman, Orville, 574
 Iowa Canning Company, 425
 Iowa Protection Company, 288
 Iowa township—First settlers, 121
 Indians, list of, 34
 Indian treaties, 28
 Iowa Union Medical Society, 310
 Irving Institute, 165

Jackson township—First settlers, 411
 Jowit, William, 441
 Johnson, Alexander, 409
 Johnson, David K., 409, 799
 Johnson, David M., 734
 Johnson, George, 482
 Johnson, James, 896
 Johnson family, 414
 Jones, J. W., 598
 Jones, Millard W., 835

Kahler, James., 632
 Kane township—Early settlers, 120;
 pioneers of, 412; origin of name, 412
 Kearns, Dham W., 764
 Kearns family, 416
 Keith, Samuel E., 344, 528
 Kellogg, Alonzo S., 686
 Kellogg, Corn W., 723
 Kellogg, Guy, 241, 339, 723
 Kelly, Charles, 847
 Kelly, John, 449
 Kelly, Michael, 416, 477
 Kenyon, Mary, 461
 Keoluk, the Indian chief, 26, 31
 Kerr, Steward J., 852
 Keystone, St. John's German Lutheran

- church, 279; present town, 382; banks, 382; Mercantile Company, 383; secret societies, 383
- Kirk, Richard, 516
- Kirk Dry Goods Company, 516
- Kluss, Frederick H., 679
- Knapp, George R., 111, 340
- Knapp, John, 111, 340
- Knapp, S. A., 184, 257
- Knapp, L. C., 882
- Knuth, William, 483
- Kolsto, Iver C., 583
- Kolsto, L. A., 568
- Koopman, O. A., 889
- Kramer, Emma K., 617
- Kramer, Henry C., 614
- Kroehnke, Herman D., 885
- Kroehnke, John P., 463
- Kruse, H. G., 157
- Kuen, Mathias, 570
- Kuhn, Henry, 631
- Kuhn, Peter, 406
- Lamb, Henry J., 388, 811
- LaRue, Chambers C., 734
- LaRue, Eliza S., 737
- Le Roy township—First settlers, 116
- Loemari, Frank, 478
- Little, Alexander H., 713
- Loekhart, Samuel M., 89
- Loizeaux, J. J., 343, 638
- Loizeaux, Leon S., 638
- Long, Cornelius P., 589
- Long, Della S., 590
- Long, William J., 813
- Lorenz, John, 728
- Lornor, Frank, 782
- Lornor family, 404
- Lowe, Frank, 584
- Lowe, Frederick, 467
- Luzerne—German Lutheran church, 279; past and present, 384
- Lyman, Frederick, 144
- Mag, Mathias, 694
- McCandless, Thomas B., 496
- McCulley, Eugene W., 923
- McCune, Thomas F., 186, 479
- McElroy, George D., 535
- McElroy, Hays H., 534
- McGranahan family, 408
- McLaughlin, Thomas, 286
- McMillan, Robert E., 741
- Mali, William A., 776
- Marietta, John E., 258, 260, 345, 434
- Martin, David E., 474
- Means, W. W., 346
- Mease, John P., 732
- Meredith, Marion, 308, 450
- Meredith, Sarah L., 450
- Methodism, 255
- Meyer, Henry J., 744
- Meyer, William L., 560
- Miller, Henry Sr., 887
- Miller, John A., 574
- Miller, Levi S., 344
- Miller, William, 624
- Mitchell, James, 284, 285
- Mitchell, James R., 490
- Moeller, John D., 513
- Morrow, E. H., 389, 543
- Mosnat, J. J., 299
- Mount Auburn—Savings Bank, 143; Christian church, 275; early history, 388
- “Mount Auburn News,” 159
- Murphy, Bernard, 147
- Myers, G. M., 152
- Narber, Homer, 678
- Nell, Jacob, 857
- Newhall—Town of, 389
- Newspapers (see Press)
- Nichols, Clarence, 780
- Nichols, John D., 779
- Noble, Andrew L., 603
- Noble, C. A., 151
- Noble, Island, 415, 602
- Noble, James A., 602
- Northport—The county seat, 73; re-christened Vinton, 74
- Norway—Benton County Savings Bank, 141; First National Bank, 142; St. Michael's Catholic church, 276; village, 376; founder, 376; societies, 378
- Novak, Frank A., 303
- Novak, John, 802
- Palmer, George L., 399, 561
- Palmer, H. N., 344
- Palmer, Walter S., 897
- Palmer, T. S., 344
- Parker, John, 394
- Parzybok, Samuel E., 542
- Patrons of Husbandry, 56
- People's Savings Bank of Shelbourn, 187
- People's Savings Bank of Vinton, 559
- Phelps, Stephen, 266
- Physicians—The country doctor, 306; first physician of Vinton and Belle Plaine, 398
- Pickart, John H., 761
- Pickering, Isaac, 441
- Pleasant Hill Presbyterian church, 268
- Pohlmann, Henry, 517
- Pohlmann, Jacob, 793
- Polk township—Early pioneers, 124, 414
- Population, 14
- Press, 144
- Property valuations, 39
- Pyne, D. B., 150
- Pyne, John E., 155
- P. M. Coder Post, G. A. R., Vinton, 253

- Radeke, Henry A., 536
 Radeke, Otto L., 660
 Radeke, William A., 666
 Railroads—Cedar Rapids & St. Paul Co., 159; Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Minnesota Railroad completed, 131; enters Vinton, 132; Shellsburg branch 172; Rock Island road, 132; Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, 133
 Rail-back, John, 817
 Railsback, Samuel E., 818
 Ralyea, Frank R., 246
 Ralyea, L., 245
 Ravenscroft, J. H., 585
 Ravenscroft, J. T., 551
 Ray, Frank G., 424
 Reiss, George, 725
 Reisser, Henry, 445
 Religious history, 254
 Remington family, 414
 Rice, James, 395
 Rice, Moses W., 400
 Richart, John, 404, 554
 Rike, Charles, 759
 Rife, A. K., 786
 Rily, William A., 781
 Robertson, Andrew, 411, 749
 Robinson, George W., 580
 Rose, William G., 766
 Rosenberg, Daniel S., 611
 Royce, Roderick, 819
 Rozema, John H., 433

 Saes and Foxes, 31, 32
 St. Clair, Archibald, 515
 St. Clair Prothers, 404
 St. Clair, John M., 775
 St. Clair, William M., 794
 Sanders, David A., 642
 Sanders, John B., 405, 637
 Savage, Thomas E., 11
 Schiff, Andrew W., 411, 663
 Schiff, John, 528
 Schiff, Henry J., 541
 Schiff, Henry, 658
 Schindtz, Ferdinand, 724
 Schaidt, Otto B., 875
 Schaefer, Nicholas, 695
 School districts, 164
 Schroeder, Henry, 700
 Schroeder, John H., 780
 Schwab, Henry, 831
 Scotton, James, 832
 Selk, Christian, 879
 Selk, John, 869
 Selleck, James L., 402
 Shano, John, 293
 Shellsburg—The Halberts, bankers, 137; People's Savings Bank, 141; Methodist church, 261; Presbyterian church 267; Baptist church, 270; origin of name, 367; present town, 368; first church, 369; first railroad, 369; a village, 371; first bank, 372; secret societies, 372
 "Shellsburg Call," 158
 Sherman, Euren R., 297
 Shuck, James D., 592
 Shuts, Lewis E., 399, 707
 Shuts, Peter, 399, 706
 Slack, Harvey, 152
 Smith, Spencer, 492
 Smythe, Williams, 284, 287, 292
 Spanish-American War, 243
 Spanish-American War Veterans, 245
 Spencer, Charles H., 415
 Spencer, Victor G., 415, 635
 Springer, Jacob, 116, 182, 239, 574
 Squatter "defined," 112
 Stage lines, 125
 State Bank of Vinton, 433
 State roads, 128
 Steamboats—"Export," 126; "Black Hawk," 127
 Stewart, William A., 408
 Stickney, David H., 798
 Stickney, George E., 799
 Stickney, William W., 797
 Stocker, Eleazer W., 412, 752
 Stookey, Charles F., 591
 Struve, Carl, 648
 Struve, John, 495
 Stuckenbruck, Herman R., 845
 Summers, J. C., 371
 Sweet, Charles A., 441
 Sweet, Sidney S., 436

 Tannehill, George W., 186, 466
 Tannehill, Jennie G., 466
 Tatge, August E., 413, 738
 Tatge, Conrad, 413
 Taylor township—Early settlers, 415
 Thompson, Edward C., 737
 Thompson, Frank L., 860
 Thompson, James M., 861
 Thompson, John, 713
 Thompson, Samuel, 871
 Thompson, W. L., 457
 Thompson, William, 408
 Tiedemann, Fred, 517
 Tilson, David, 412
 Tilson, Everett, 412, 579
 Tilford, John S., 169
 Tilford Collegiate Academy, Vinton, 168
 Titus, Calvin R., 245
 Tobin, M. J., 298, 303
 Tobin, Thomas, 169
 Tobin, T. F., 171
 Town, Wellington, 767
 Townships—Organization of, 39; order of creation, 392
 Traer, James C., 135, 145, 679
 Traer, James F., 134, 679
 Traer, William M., 157

- Trojovský, Charles, 833
 Turner, C. G., 390
 Tuttle, Osman, 376
 Twogood, Charles, 410
- Union township—First settlers, 122; 416
- Urbana—Savings Bank, 142; founded as "Hoosier Point," 286; Marysville becomes Urbana, 386; its most stirring events, 387
- Urmy, Jonathan L., 541
- Van Deusen, M. B., 400
 Vandike, H. W., 413
 Vandike, John P., 862
 Van Horn, Walter B., 344, 469
 Van Horne—Methodist church, 263; Evangelical Association, 279; German Lutheran church, 279; its godfather, 379; Farmers' Co-operative Company, 389; Grain & Live Stock Company, 380; banks, 381; light, power and telephone companies, 381; societies, 382
- Van Horne, William C., 379
 Van Horne "Enterprise," 159
 Van Horne "Meteor," 158
 Van Metre, Isaac, 165, 150, 151
 Vannice, A. V., 398
 VanSlike, Nehemiah, 410, 619
 VanSlike, William N., 410, 619
- Vinton—Oldest bank, 137; Farmers' National Bank, 139; State Bank, 140; Vinton Savings Bank, 140; People's Savings Bank, 140; public schools, 172; New School Presbyterian church, 264; Presbyterian church, 264; United Presbyterian church, 267; First Baptist church, 271; United Brethren church, 273; Christian church, 276; St. Mary's Catholic church, 277; increase in population, 311; first settler, 313; pioneers, 311; Fremont becomes Vinton, 316; municipal officers (1869-1910), 319; fire department and water works, 327; electric light plant and free public library, 328; telephone companies, 329; secret societies, 322; Booster Club, Vinton, 330; world's largest corn canning factory, 331; Vinton Pearl Button factory, 331; Minne Estema Park, Vinton, 332; Epworth League, Vinton, 335; leading citizens, 336
- Vinton Canning Company, 331
 "Vinton Eagle," 144
 Vinton Public Library, 328
 Vinton "Review," 156
 Vinton Savings Bank, 140
- Wagner, W. D., 274
 Walford—Farmers' Savings Bank, 142; town of, 389
- Walker, C. N., 404
 Walker, Fred, 858
 Wallace, Bruce, 731
 Wallace, Elmer E., 693
 Wallace, Orr A., 519
 Waller, William H., 810
 Walter, Joseph, 855
 Walter, Peter, 576
 Walther, Frederick Jr., 558
 Walther, Frederick G., 557
 Wandschneider, Charles, 824
 Ward, F. Marjon, 868
 Warner, Peter, 639
 Watkins—Town of, 390
 Way, Thomas, 90, 282, 283, 291, 292
 Wehrman, August, 545
 Wehrman, Henry, 585, 526
 Weidman, Christian A., 622
 Weichman, Frank, 631
 Weichman, John, 708
 Welton, Henry L., 729
 Werner, Henry, 742
 "Western Telephone Journal," 157
- Whipple, Cyrus T., 339, 721
 Whipple, Milo E., 891
 Whipple, S. T., 628
 Whipple, William P., 298, 339, 419
 Whiteis, C. B., 872
 Wilkinson, Charles, 118
 Williams, John L., 617
 Williams, Stephen D., 618
 Williams, W. F., 340
 Wilson, Adam H., 486
 Wilson, Henry M., 67, 89
 Wilson, James N., 773
 Wyckoff, Elijah, 415
- Young, John, 343, 558
 Young, John D., 660
 Young, James F., 336
 Young, Robert N., 423
- Zornig, Marks H., 757

CHAPTER I.

PHYSICAL FEATURES OF BENTON COUNTY.

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LOCATION AND FORM—CHIEF TOPOGRAPHIC AND GEOLOGICAL FEATURES—GREAT IOWA ICE FIELD—BROKEN AND PICTURESQUE FEATURES—PICTURESQUE BENTON COUNTY—EVIDENCES OF PREHISTORIC MAN—DRAINAGE OF THE COUNTY—THE IOWA RIVER—THE CEDAR RIVER—PEAIRIE CREEK—WATER SUPPLY OF BENTON COUNTY—BELLE PLAINE ARTESIAN AREA—BELLE PLAINE'S "JUMBO"—BUILDING MATERIALS—CLAYS AND COAL—TIMBER AND GROVES.

The physical characteristics of Benton county, as of any other section of the United States, largely determine its history in a material sense—the nature and progress of its agriculture, its standard crops, its value as a livestock country, the location of its towns and cities, the variety of its manufactures and, to a great extent, the very character of its people. A simple and clear delineation of them indicates the raw material from which have evolved prosperous and advanced communities. A consideration of this topic has therefore been made introductory to the human history of the county. Natural history, in its every form, is the real basis of human or political history.

LOCATION AND FORM.

Benton county is located in the east-central portion of Iowa, lying across the middle line of the state from north to south, while its eastern border is about seventy-two miles from the Mississippi river. Its extreme southwestern portion is cut by the channel of

the Iowa river, and the northern part is crossed diagonally by the valley of the Cedar. The county is rectangular in form, thirty miles in a north and south direction and twenty-four miles in width embracing an area of 720 square miles. It embraces twenty congressional, as well as twenty civil townships; fifteen of the latter are of the usual size, while the other five—Cedar, Harrison, Polk, Taylor and Benton—which are located towards the northeast corner, are more or less irregular in size and form, owing to the fact that their boundaries are in part determined by the winding channel of the Cedar river.

Benton county is pre-eminently an agricultural region. The



TYPICAL LAKE SCENE IN BENTON COUNTY.

larger portion of this beautiful area lies within the section covered by the Iowan ice sheet of Pleistocene time. The drift of this age has furnished a soil that is surpassed in depth, fertility and productiveness. The beautiful homes of the people, the large and commodious farm buildings, the herds of high grade cattle, hogs and horses, evidence the prosperity which springs from a productive soil.

Benton county lies outside of the main area of the Coal Meas-

ures of Iowa, and consequently the history of the early exploitations of that mineral did not involve this particular portion of the state. No valuable mineral deposits of any kind have attracted the practical students of geology to this region. The problems of the superficial deposits did not appeal to workers in the science of geology until recent years; hence, the chroniclers of early explorations in Iowa rarely give to the county even passing notice.

The pioneer geologist, Dr. D. D. Owen, does not mention the county by name in his report of 1852, but he might well have referred to her billowy surface when he thus described the rural beauty of a portion of the state: "Undulating prairies interspersed with open groves of timber and watered with pebbly or rocky-bedded streams, pure and transparent; hills of moderate height and gentle slope; here and there, especially toward the heads of the streams, small lakes as clear as the rivers, some skirted with timber and some with banks formed by the greensward of the open prairies; these are the ordinary features of the pastoral landscape."

CHIEF TOPOGRAPHIC AND GEOLOGICAL FEATURES.

The county as a whole embraces topographic phenomena of exceeding interest, for the reason that the surface features over one portion of the area have been developed through the destructive processes of erosion, while those over another part of the region have been moulded by the constructive agency of ice.

The entire surface of the county is drift-covered, with the exception of small areas of fluvial deposits along the flood plains of the larger streams. The drift of the county has been derived from two different ice sheets, which, in time, are separated by an exceedingly long interval. The two topographic areas mentioned above are coincident with the areas over which the drift of these respective ice sheets are spread out at the surface. The older portion of the region, that over which the uppermost till is of Kansan age, embraces a little more than the south half of Iowa township, the south part of Leroy and a small area near the south side of the township of Saint Clair.

The history of this ancient surface is one of long continued exposure to the processes of weathering and the agents of erosion. It is recorded in the chemical and physical changes that have been accomplished in the superficial portion of the drift. It is revealed in the deeply carved and thoroughly dissected divides. It is re-

flected in the depth of the stream channels and in the great width of their flood plains. In general, it is depicted in every feature of the landscape, which is typical of a water-sculptured region approaching the conditions of topographic maturity.

The area over which the later, or Iowan, drift was spread embraces the most of the county, with the exception of the older portion outlined above. That the topography of this area was impressed upon it by the ice is shown by the gentle curves and slight inequalities in the surface; by the scant development of definite stream channels and the absence of any widely extending series of secondary branches; by the presence of innumerable swales or saucer-like depressions which lie between low, rounded elevations, and which have not yet been obliterated either by filling or by drainage, or by both of these means combined. The above are glacial phenomena, and they clearly testify to the recent retreat of the ice mantle and to the extreme topographic youthfulness of this portion of the county.

GREAT IOWAN ICE FIELD.

It was these two forces—the wearing away of the water, and the bearing and deposition of drift by the ice sheets—that determined the characteristics of the topography of Benton county. The limits of the southern extension of the Iowan ice sheet are indicated by a sinuous line of irregular elevations extending across the southern part of the county, and roughly corresponding to the route of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway, or perhaps more properly, Prairie creek. The area in Benton county that was covered by the Iowan ice sheet includes most of that portion lying to the north of the bordering line of hills mentioned, its physical features being an undulating prairie over which gentle swells and grassy swales alternate in almost endless succession.

The portion of Benton county over which the superficial drift is of Kansan age embraces about forty square miles in its extreme south and southwestern portions, its northern border being approximately about five miles from the channel of the Iowa river. As would be expected from its proximity to the river, the Kansan plain is here deeply gashed and trenched by an intricate system of stream channels so that no large undissected upland areas are left in this portion of the county. The wagon roads have in many places no relation to the section lines, but follow the channels of the streams, or wind in a zigzag manner along the tops of the narrow divides.

From these ridges the traveler looks off on either side over an almost endless series of hills and ravines. The tops of the elevations rise sixty to eighty feet above the deeper valleys. The slopes are quite steep. The bottom of the smaller runnels are open and their sides are sharply angular, testifying to the activity of erosion at the present time.

BROKEN AND PICTURESQUE FEATURES.

Although the bulk of the area of Benton county, which was covered by the Iowan ice sheet, is generally an undulating prairie, solitary boulders of light colored granite are not infrequent, being most numerous in Iowa, Kane, and Leroy townships, near the southwestern border of the Iowan drift area, where the country is quite broken; and in the northeastern portion of the county, near Cedar river. In the east-central portion of Monroe township, in the northeast quarter of Big Grove township, and so on, to the northeast corner of Florence township, is a broken chain of hills or "island areas," covered by deep deposits of loess devoid of boulders. The hill tops stand about forty feet above the ravines and some sixty above the prairie surface. All geological indications point to the explanation that the ice which moved over that particular area was so thin that it failed to completely overflow these island areas. When the early settlers came to Benton county they found these elevated areas covered with forests, and groves of native timber still remain on some of the steeper hillsides. The presence of such a woodland area within its borders, in the midst of the treeless prairie, suggested for Big Grove township its name.

In the northeastern portion of the county, in the proximity of the Cedar river and its larger tributaries, there is an area over which the present topography has been largely determined by the agency of wind. The surface is here quite broken. The hills in many places are crowned with fine-grained materials, and rise to a height of fifty to sixty feet above the lower lands. This region is embraced in the Iowan drift plain, but its surface is modified by exceptional erosion, and by the presence of abundant deposits laid down by the winds. In many places numerous large, gray, granite boulders, are scattered quite thickly over the lower lands and on the flanks of the hills. Boulder-strewn fields are more conspicuous topographic features over this portion of the Iowan drift plain than at any other points in the

county. These large granite masses appear incongruous among the trees that still cover the steeper slopes. The timber groves of white oak and red oak, of elm, hickory, basswood, and butter-



SECTION OF BOWLDER-STREWN FIELD.

nut, seem to thrive not a whit less perfectly over this portion of the Iowan plain than on the clay ridges over the rougher portion of the Kansan.

PICTURESQUE BENTON COUNTY.

The area embraced between the bend of the Cedar river and the abandoned valley of Sand Prairie is pre-eminently the scenic portion of the county. For purposes of tillage the land cannot be compared with the deep, black soil of the wide prairie that surrounds it at some distance on every side. The steep hillslopes and sand covered crests should never be deforested, nor should the plow of the too enterprising farmer be allowed to convert these uniform slopes into angular trenches and rain washed gulleys. If the more densely wooded portion of this area, so convenient to the towns of Vinton, Shellsburg and Ur-

bana, could be preserved as a picnic ground or public park, accessible to all for purposes of pleasure and recreation and for the beneficent influence which objects of natural beauty so graciously afford, it would prove a constant source of satisfaction and enjoyment to the enlightened people of Benton county.

EVIDENCES OF PRE-HISTORIC MAN.

It is also within this picturesque area that many evidences of pre-historic man are found, chiefly in the form of circular mounds and oblong earthworks. Numerous stone hatchets, flint arrowheads, scrapers and other implements of early man have been found over the region by Thomas Carver, of Shellsburg, and by other enthusiastic collectors. Near the northwest corner of section 15, of Benton township, there is a glacial lake that covers an area of three and one-half to four acres, and which formerly was of much larger size. It is surrounded by low, forest-clad hills, and is situated one hundred feet above the flood plain of the Cedar river and twenty rods south of the bluff that borders the valley. About three-fourths of a mile southwest of this lake there are a number of mounds composed of rather fine-grained sand, and disposed in a line along the crest of a divide that is bordered on either side by a deep ravine. Another group consisting of ten or twelve circular mounds arranged about an oblong ridge six or seven rods in length, occurs a short distance to the south-east of the lake mentioned above. Excavations in these mounds have furnished a few poorly preserved fragments of human bones. The mounds are probably tumuli where men of a departed race, with a keen sense of the beautiful withal, built the graves of their fathers beside the quiet waters of this charming lakelet, and overlooking the valley of the river where picturesque bluffs of woodland and scarped cliffs of limestone make beautiful its bordering banks.

North of Urbana, in Polk township, the level surface of the Iowan drift plain stretches unbroken up to the northern border of Benton county. South of the Cedar river there is a rugged area lying between that stream and the main line of the old Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern railroad, embracing a part of Taylor township, the whole of Benton and the northern portion of Canton. The tops of the sand or loess crowned hills rise fifty feet above the marshes, basins or valleys that lie between

them. In many of these deposits the loess contains fossils. A good exposure of such a fossil bearing bed may be seen in the east-central part of section 34, Benton township.

DRAINAGE OF THE COUNTY.

The chief topographic features of the land of Benton county have been described, with the geological and other natural causes by which they were developed. In noting the causes for its general drainage, it is evident that the main determining influence is the comparative altitude of different points, or, in popular parlance, the "slope of the land." Observations taken in the northern sections give the altitude of Mount Auburn at 863 feet above sea level, and Vinton as 808 feet. In the southern part of the county, Keystone has an elevation of 883 feet and Atkins, of 841; Belle Plaine of 824, and Norway of 792. Without going into further details, it may be inferred that the slope in the northern part of the county is toward the southeast and in the southern part, almost due east. And if the most conclusive proof were to be given, it would be the general directions of the streams which drain the surface.

Two master streams, the Cedar river and the Iowa, control the drainage of Benton county. The northeastern and the southwestern portions of the county are pretty well dissected by stream channels, and consequently have a fairly thorough surface drainage. Over a large portion of the intervening area, however, marshes are not infrequent. Many of the sloughs have not yet been converted into corn fields, nor have all of the swales been properly tilled and put under the plow.

These marshes are the contracted remnants of once larger glacial lakes. They represent the last stages in the passing of these lakes from which the water has been banished by the development of slight drainage, by the shrinking of the ground water, by filling with material borne by the winds and washed by the rains from the bounding slopes, and by the accumulation of the imperfectly decomposed remains of moisture-loving plants which for many generations flourished around the shallow margin of these prairie pools.

Some of the marshes still furnish congenial conditions for the growth of cat-tails and rushes. The most of them, however support a luxuriant growth of swamp grass and sedges. During the summer months the uniformly rich green color of these grassy

patches is broken only where a solitary water hemlock spreads aloft its delicate umbels or a swamp milkweed unfolds its purple flowers. Such areas are usually left by the farmer for native meadow, or fenced and utilized for purposes of pasturage.

THE IOWA RIVER.

The Iowa river receives the run-off from an area of about seventy-five square miles in the southwest corner of the county. It enters Benton from Tama county about the middle of the west side of section 31 of Iowa township. It cuts across the southwest corner of this section and enters Iowa county about the middle of the south side of the same section. After passing south for a distance of one-fourth of a mile, the channel bends northward and once more enters Iowa township near the southwest corner of section 32. It meanders near the south side of this section for one-half mile, then bending further southward it again leaves Benton county and returns no more to its borders.

Along this portion of its course the river flows in a channel of pre-Kansan age, which was probably carved in the indurated rocks before the advent of the Glacial epoch. Wells that have been put down over the flood plain of the Iowa river, in Benton county, show that the pre-glacial channel was more than two hundred feet deeper than the bed of the present stream. The width of the ancient valley has not been definitely ascertained, but well borings would indicate that it was probably not less than five or six miles. The waters of the present river flow in a broad flood plain nearly two miles in width. The valley is bordered by bluffs of Kansan drift that stand sixty to eighty feet above the bed of the stream. At none of the numerous meanders of the river has the current cut away the bordering hills to such an extent as to expose the indurated rocks which formed the banks of the pre-glacial valley.

The only tributary to the Iowa river whose waters are largely collected from Benton county is Stein creek. This stream rises in the ill drained swales of the Iowan drift plain near the southern border of Kane township. It flows in a southeasterly direction across Iowa township, crossing the county line near the southwest corner of section 36. It drains a few square miles along the south side of the township of Kane, and the greater portion of the surface of Iowa township.

THE CEDAR RIVER.

The Cedar river enters Benton county, from Black Hawk, near the northwest corner of section 6, township 86 north, range 10 west. It flows for about two miles in a direction a little south of east and then bends nearly due south for a distance of three miles. Along this portion of its journey the waters are bounded for much of the distance by abrupt ledges of limestone. Near the middle of the west side of section 21 of Harrison township the river bends westward, debouching in a broad, drift bordered valley, one and one-half to two miles in width, which it follows down to the city of Vinton.

This broad valley continues toward the southeast from Vinton, past the town of Shellsburg and beyond the limits of the county. It is bordered on the north by rather abruptly sloping hills, but on the south the bed of the channel merges by a gentle gradient into the undulations of the Iowan plain. Instead of following the direct course in the channel already formed, the bed of which is only a few feet higher than its own flood plain, the Cedar river swings northward at Vinton and continues to flow in that direction up to the southeast corner of section 9, of Taylor township. It then changes to a southeasterly trend for two and one-half miles, when it again bends to the northeast for one mile, and then, with a swing to the southeast and east, it reaches the old town of Benton City, about the middle of the west side of section 20, Benton township. At this point once more an opportunity was presented for the Cedar river to appropriate an old pre-glacial channel. With inexplicable perversity, it again turns aside from the ready formed waterway and choosing the longer course and more difficult route, it swings in a broad curve two and one-half miles farther north, carving a new channel one hundred and twenty-five to one hundred and fifty feet in depth in the hard limestones of the Cedar Valley stage. The river leaves the county near the middle of the east side of sections 13 of Benton township. It again meets the pre-glacial channel not far from the town of Palo, a short distance east of the Benton county line. By the erratic course which it follows from Vinton to Palo the river traverses a journey of eighteen miles to shorten the distance to its mouth by one-half that number of miles. It carves a channel to a depth of more than one hundred

feet in hard limestones, in order to avoid the shallow cutting and ready erosion that would have been required by the more direct route.

PRAIRIE CREEK.

Prairie creek drains a larger area in Benton county than any other tributary to the Cedar river. It rises in the marshes of Kane and Homer townships. It flows a little east of south for a dozen miles, in a direction nearly parallel with the channel of Salt creek, which lies ten miles to the westward, and with the valley of Stein creek nearer at hand. However, instead of continuing parallel with those streams and rendering tribute to the Iowa river, its channel bends abruptly towards the east near the northwest corner of section 16, of Leroy township. It swings two miles to the southward as it crosses near the middle of Saint Clair township, and again bends an equal distance to the north as it passes across the township of Florence. From the elbow in Leroy township the channel of Prairie creek maintains a trend that is practically parallel with the valley of the Iowa river up to the point where it leaves the county, near the southeast corner of section 12 of the latter township. Its waters meet those of the Cedar river about a dozen miles further eastward, in Linn county. Prairie creek has a longer flow in Benton county than any other stream, traversing a distance of over forty miles. It embraces in its basin the larger portion of Kane township, the southern part of Big Grove, the northeast corner of Iowa, practically the whole of Union and Saint Clair, the larger portion of Leroy and Florence and the southern part of Fremont and Eldorado townships. It drains an area of more than one hundred and eighty square miles.

Throughout the whole of the eastward flowing portion of its course in Benton county the bed of Prairie creek follows parallel with, and only one to two miles distant from, the divide that separates its basin from that of the Iowa river. Its affluents from the south are short, insignificant branches, none of which are of sufficient consequence to merit a name. From the north it receives tribute from Weasel, Buffalo and Mud creeks, the latter being more than a dozen miles in length. Prairie creek is a typical representative of a class of streams in Iowa that have developed unsymmetrical basins, the channel of the master stream lying very close to the south side of the area which it drains.

Of the other streams that owe allegiance to the Cedar river, and which flow for the greater portion of their courses in Benton county, the largest are Blue, Prairie and Bear creeks on the north, and Mud, Bear, Pratt, Hinkle and Rock creeks on the south. These are generally simple, consequent waterways without any complex series of secondary branches. They range in length from ten to fifteen or eighteen miles. They are all prairie streams. Their beginnings can be traced back to the swales and marshy meadows of the Iowan drift plain. Out from these boggy sloughs the water slowly filters, forming perennial springs. These unfailling fountains feed the larger streams with a constant supply of clear, pure water.

For some distance from its source the water follows lazily along shallow, grassy depressions that are bordered by no erosion formed banks. After a few miles, each stream becomes established in a wide, partially drift filled valley that was formed prior to the advent of the Kansan glacier, and which neither that ice sheet nor the subsequent Iowan succeeded in completely obliterating. Even here, however, the bed of each of the present streams lies but a few feet below the general level of the region through which it flows. Along this portion of their courses there is exposed at rare intervals ledges of indurated rock. Such outcroppings are exceedingly infrequent, however, and are limited to the north half of the county, with the exception of a small area adjacent to the town of Shellsburg.

WATER SUPPLY OF BENTON COUNTY

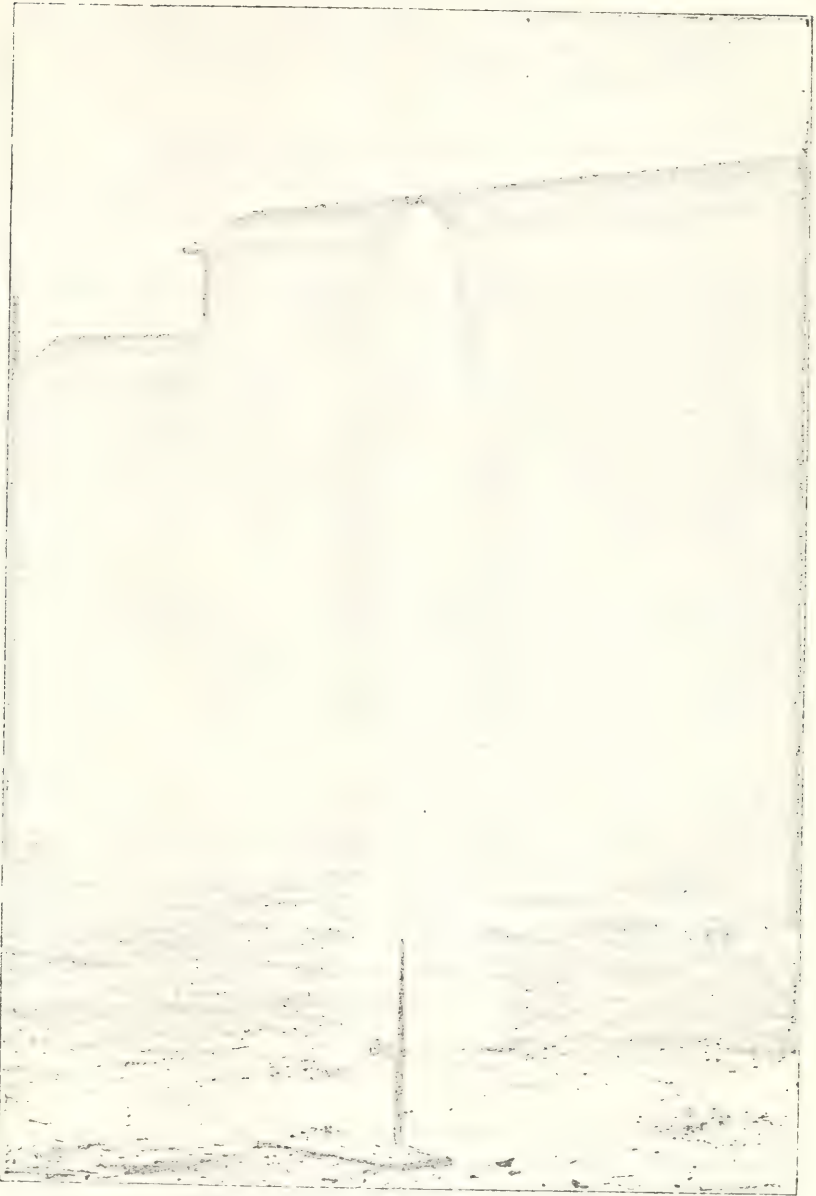
Almost everywhere in the county shallow wells find in the drift a bountiful supply of pure water at a depth ranging from twenty-five to seventy-five feet. The Cedar river and the Iowa furnish an abundant and permanent water supply to the regions through which they flow. The larger tributaries of the major streams have their sources in the boggy springs over the Iowan plain, and their perennial flow supplies stock water of the finest kind to the farms over large areas. The town of Vinton obtains its water from two deep wells which penetrate the Saint Peter and the underlying sandstones. One of these wells has a depth of 1,172 feet, and the other 1,287 feet below the surface.

BELLE PLAINE ARTESIAN AREA.

The southwestern portion of the county is embraced in the Belle Plaine artesian basin. The flowing wells of this basin derive their water from the porous gravels that here underlie the Kansan drift, at a varying depth of from ninety to three hundred feet. A number of such wells occur in Iowa township, and a few are found in Kane and Leroy. These artesian wells furnish an ideal supply of water for farm purposes. The water carries such a high percentage of minerals, notably calcium and magnesium sulphate, that it is not suitable for drinking or culinary purposes. It possesses no valuable medicinal properties. It contains such quantities of incrusting and corroding salts that it is unsuitable for use in steam pipes and boilers. Some years ago the Chicago, Milwaukee and Saint Paul railway company put up a round house and other large buildings at the town of Van Horne. On account of the pipe consuming and incrusting minerals in the water at this place, the works have been abandoned and the buildings are now unused.

The so-called Belle Plaine area of artesian wells is one of the most famous geological regions of that nature in the prairie states of the west, and has been made the subject of many reports, both popular and careless, expert and scientific. Without being unduly technical, we shall briefly describe this interesting section of the county. The facts, as a whole, are taken from the very complete and valuable report made by H. R. Mosnat to the Iowa Geological Survey, in 1899.

About forty miles east of the geographical center of the state of Iowa, is an area, about one hundred square miles in extent, occupying a portion of the valley of the Iowa river, and nearly all of the valley of Salt creek, a tributary of the river from the north. This area is apparently like the adjacent country, but by drilling to a depth of 110 to 360 feet numerous artesian wells have been found. Non-flowing artesian wells were secured in the high, rolling land to the northeast of Belle Plaine, as early as 1882; four years later a strong flow was struck in the city itself and later, in 1886, the famous "Jumbo" was allowed to break loose. Thus, for historical reasons, this has been called the Belle Plaine artesian area. The exploration of the basin has not altered the appropriateness of the name, as Belle Plaine is still approximately its center. In general, the width of the area is about six miles. About three and one-half miles southeast of Belle Plaine



ARTESIAN WELL AT BELLE PLAINE

the width diminishes to about three miles, and from this point it rapidly increases to twelve miles, which width it maintains as far south as the area has been explored. The field, as far as explored, extends from northwest to southwest, from Vining to Ladora, a distance of twenty miles, diagonally crossing the present valley of the Iowa river.

The Belle Plaine artesian area is one of the most important of its kind in glacial drift of Iowa, embracing about one-tenth of the whole number of artesian wells so far drilled in glacial drift in the state.

The wells are most numerous in the flood-plain of the Iowa river, particularly in the Salt creek valley and westward of it, and the water supplying all of these wells comes from the same water-bearing layer, making very apparent the reasonableness of Professor Norton's definition of the word "artesian." The very case there supposed actually occurred to the previously flowing wells in the Belle Plaine area, when "Jumbo" broke loose; that is, the other wells ceased flowing and became "deep wells," "deep borings," etc. After "Jumbo" was controlled, the wells which had stopped flowing began to flow again.

As remarked above, the Belle Plaine artesian area was discovered about 1882, in the elevated, rolling country two to four miles northeast of Belle Plaine. The water in the first wells drilled rose to within twenty-five or fifty feet of the surface. They were wholly in blue clay, and so were easily drilled and not expensive. It was noticed that the water had a peculiar mineral taste; that it left a red sediment and stain; and, after a time, it was observed that the water rapidly corroded iron pipe; but no one took the trouble to have the water analyzed. The supply of water was inexhaustible and constant. Live stock liked the water after becoming accustomed to the taste. It, therefore, made a good water for stock, and was used for that purpose only, being pumped usually by windmills.

BELLE PLAINE'S "JUMBO."

"Hilton Bros., of Boston," says Mr. Mosnat, "needed an unlimited supply of water for their creamery at Belle Plaine. In April, 1886, a 2-inch well was drilled which proved a pleasant surprise. At a depth of 215 feet, after passing through blue clay, water was struck which rose from the well curb with a pressure of more than thirty-five pounds per square inch, or to a

height of about seventy-seven feet from the surface. This well was located at the eastern edge of Belle Plaine. Immediately other wells were drilled. The flow secured varied with the elevation of the surface, the water in all the wells rising to the same head, about 915 feet A. T. A well was drilled on top of a hill in the northern part of Belle Plaine, at an elevation of 918 feet A. T. This well, of course, did not flow, but it was a much more reliable indicator of the head than the strong flowing wells. The head of water rose to within three feet of the surface, showing the head to be, at that time, 915 feet.

“Shortly after the last mentioned well was completed, the most famous of all Iowa artesian wells was drilled. This well, for its brief day, attracted a popular notice almost as wide as the Charleston earthquake, which occurred about three days later, and with which the outburst of water from this well was connected by a romancing newspaper reporter. Professor Chamberlin remarked that the only similitude of seismic disturbance, as the cause of this well, was in the moral faculties of said reporter. Renewed geyser activity in Yellowstone park, a seismic movement on the opposite hemisphere, the Charleston earthquake and this runaway well at Belle Plaine, were at once connected as factors in a common disturbance of the earth's crust. A relation between the first three may have been possible, but connecting the well with them was as ridiculous as many of the theories advanced as to the source of the water supply.

“The notoriety of ‘Junbo’, of Belle Plaine, was strictly that of a member of the criminal class, and began with his resistance to control, and lasted only until his final imprisonment. The accounts of the well given in newspapers were in many instances most sensational, their extravagance increasing directly as the square of the distance from Belle Plaine. European papers published accounts of the water spouting hundreds of feet into the air, with a roar that could be heard for miles, and even pictured people being rescued by boats from the third and fourth stories of houses.

“As Professor Chamberlin remarks, the record lacks detail, and possible precision. But inaccurate as the record no doubt is, it is the most careful that has been kept, and satisfactorily shows the geological structure which will be considered under that heading. This well is a typical well on low ground. The elevation of the curb is 811 feet A. T. A local history of the well is entitled: ‘A complete History of the Junbo Artesian Well

of Belle Plaine, Iowa, Known as the Eighth Wonder of the World,' second edition, by A. C. Huston.

“Professor Norton’s account of the history of ‘Jumbo’ is accurate, and is given below with some additional facts. The seventh well ‘Jumbo,’ was drilled on lower ground than any of the others, and reached the water-bearing stratum of sand and gravel at 193 feet. (A. T. 811.) The beginning of the trouble lay in the fact that the driller attempted to use the force of the flow in reaming out the two-inch bore, which he had put down for want of a larger drill, to three inches, the dimension specified in the contract. This task the water speedily accomplished in the unindurated clays and sands, but, not stopping there, went on and soon enlarged the bore to over three feet in diameter. When the driller saw the result of his inexcusable carelessness, which result he ought to have foreseen, he hastily decamped and was not heard of until the popular excitement had subsided.

“The force of the water was sufficient to throw out two-bushel sacks filled with sand. Through this three foot shaft the water boiled up in a fountain five feet in height—the press reports giving several hundred feet as the height of this fountain, were exaggerated—flooding streets and lawns, and covering them with sand. It was estimated that from 500 to 1,000 carloads of sand were discharged from the well. The quantity was certainly so great that only with the greatest effort could the ditches be kept open to carry off the water. Gravel and small pebbles of the drift, representing a great variety of northern rocks, were thrown out.

“The writer has a flint bowlder weighing two and one-fourth pounds which was thrown out by ‘Jumbo.’ There may have been others even larger. It is not necessary to suppose that these larger stones came from the bottom of the well, as bowlders are occasionally encountered in drilling through the till sheets. Pieces of fossil wood, some of them two or three feet long and four or five inches thick, were thrown out. These, no doubt, came from the forest bed which represents the Aftonian interglacial stage between the Kansan and sub-Aftonian till sheets. Small boys, of which the writer was one, put fossil wood, pebbles and sand into bottles and sold them to visitors to the well during the few days of its fame.

“The maximum flow of water was variously estimated at 5,000,000 to 9,000,000 gallons per day, 30,000 to 50,000 gallons

per minute. Two weeks after the well was drilled Professor Chamberlin, of the University of Chicago, calculated its discharge at 3,000,000 gallons per day; 2,000 gallons per minute. The enormous flow rapidly drew down the head until the other wells ceased flowing.

"The attempt to case and control the well continued from August 26, 1886, the date when the water was struck, to October 26, 1887, when the task was successfully accomplished. During this time the well, 193 feet deep, devoured, as the local historian recounts, 163 feet of 18-inch pipe, 77 feet of 16-inch pipe, 60 feet of 5-inch pipe, an iron cone 3 feet in diameter and 24 feet long, 40 carloads of stone, 130 barrels of cement, and an inestimable amount of sand and clay.

"After Jumbo broke away, the head of water in the other wells fell rapidly until those on Main street—elevation, 848 and 846 feet A. T.—ceased to flow on August 30th; four days after Jumbo began his escapade. The head diminished 67 feet in four days, an average of almost 17 feet per day. By September 7th the water had dropped to 838.5 feet A. T., a fall of 1.3 feet per day. From that time until September 20th the head diminished at an average of 3 inches per day, or to 835 feet A. T. The head remained at this point for about 3 days—24 feet above Jumbo—and then began to rise until, on November 22d, it was within 5 inches of the surface at Main street, or an average rise of .6 foot per day. The well was then closed for the winter. About 1886 well No. 88 was allowed to break away by careless drilling, and a second Jumbo occurred. This one did not act just like the first one. Instead of coming out in one stream, the water flowed from every gopher hole over several acres. It probably spread out in an underlying bed of sand. This well again drew down the head. Little was done to shut it off. It was allowed to run until it had choked itself up, and all the other wells had again ceased flowing."

BUILDING MATERIALS.

The foundation of the rich soil from which springs the agricultural wealth of Benton county is composed of limestones and shales. Although these form the basic supplies of the chemical constituents of the soil, their out-crops are found only in the northern and northeastern portion of the county and have been utilized, economically, to a comparatively small extent. The exposures of limestone in section 36, Cedar township, and section

6. Taylor township, furnished the best quality of building stone found in the county. The rock is yellow, very hard and fine grained, and the ledge outcrops almost continuously at the base of a bluff for nearly a mile. Several quarries have been operated in this locality, but lack of shipping facilities is a serious drawback. At several points near Vinton deposits have also been worked, but, as a rule, the material here has been found suitable only for rough masonry. In the vicinity of Shellsburg the limestone beds have also produced a grade of stone used in cellars and foundations. Blocks of the limestone quarried from deposits on the Cedar river, in the northern part of the county, may be seen in the piers of the Mount Auburn-Brandon bridge; and limestone beds have also been worked to some extent near Garrison. In nearly all cases the supply has been for local demands.

Lime has been manufactured to some extent from limestone beds in Taylor and Jackson townships, kilns in the latter township having been operated near Garrison. At various places in the state, especially in its eastern sections, stone which is similar to that found near Garrison has been manufactured into lime on a large scale.

Materials suitable for permanent road building are abundant, and fortunately located, over the county. The numerous rock exposures in the townships of Cedar, Harrison, Polk, Benton, Taylor, Jackson and Canton, would furnish an unlimited supply of stone, which, when crushed, would make an excellent macadam. These outcrops are so readily accessible from all portions of the area that no long hauls would be required to cover all of the main lines of travel with this material. Along the north bank of Pratt creek, in Cedar township, is a bed in which the rock fragments are so small that, without crushing, they are ready to be taken out and applied to the roads. While no exposures of indurated rocks occur in the townships of Bruce, Monroe, Homer, Big Grove and Eden, yet such deposits are encountered but a short distance beyond their borders.

In the southern portion of the county, where the rocks are buried deeply with the drift, there are occasional beds of gravel which furnish a cheap and very satisfactory material for road-making purposes. Gravel beds out-crop in Saint Clair, Florence, Eldorado, Canton, Taylor and Iowa townships, being near the surface and easily worked. They have been used with excellent results on the wagon road between sections 25 and 36, in Florence

township, and also on the road crossing the middle of section 24, of the township of Iowa.

Abundance of sand, well adapted for use in mortar, cement or plaster, occurs at a number of places in the county. Large quantities are annually taken from the flood plain of the Cedar river, and the larger of its tributary streams. At Vinton the supply for building purposes is drawn almost exclusively from the river's bed within its limits. Hills of sand of requisite purity and quality for general purposes occur in Polk, Taylor, Harrison, Iowa and Leroy townships. The sand used at Shellsburg is taken from the channel of Bear creek close at hand. The beds of the Iowa river and of Prairie creek contain a large amount of common, clean sand, which supplies the demand of a large area in the southern portion of the county.

CLAYS AND COAL.

Clays suitable for the manufacture of common brick and drain tile are widely distributed over the area under discussion. The only deposits utilized are the loess and alluvium. For the production of the cheaper grades of common clay goods these beds furnish a supply of raw material that is excellent in quality, inexhaustible in quantity, and inexpensively worked. The common kinds of clay wares from clay have been produced on a small scale at Vinton, Shellsburg, Garrison, Norway, Belle Plaine and Newhall, but probably at no time has the total output of brick and tile in Benton county exceeded \$50,000 annually. The only considerable factory now in operation is that at Garrison, the clay being taken from the flood plain of Hinkle creek. In this case, as at other points, the output is solely for local consumption.

Although it is impossible to find any deposits of coal that would be of commercial importance, in Benton county, about ten years ago a shaft was sunk by a prospector in section 14 of Benton township, on the south bank of the Cedar river at a point locally known as Barr's Bluff. It is reported by local authorities that a little coal was actually found at a depth of some thirty feet; but the enterprise was soon abandoned. Of course there is no possibility of finding seams of workable coal in strata of Devonian age.

TIMBER AND GROVES.

The various kinds of oak, hickory, maple, walnut, ash, basswood, elm, cottonwood, willow and hackberry flourished in the rich soil of Benton county.

"Cedar Timber," the timber skirting the Cedar river, especially on the north and east, in Polk, Harrison, Taylor and Benton townships.

"Big Grove," a large grove of several thousand acres, in township 84, range 11, Big Grove township.

"Scotch Grove," in northeast part of township 82, range 9, Florence, and extends into Linn county.

"Parker's Grove," on sections 26, 27, 33 and 34, township 84, range 9 (Canton).

"Ure's Grove," on Prairie creek, in sections 14 and 18, township 82, range 9 (Florence township).

"Darnell's Grove," on Prairie creek, in sections 20 and 21, township 82, range 9.

"Cue's Grove," on sections 16 and 17, township 82, range 9.

"Buckeye Grove," extends for several miles on the west side of Buckeye creek, in Iowa, township 82, range 12.

"Van Metre's Grove," on section 32, township 83, range 11 (Union township).

"Lost Grove," sections 31 and 32, township 84, range 9 (Canton township).

"Crab Apple Grove," sections 31 and 32, township 83, range 9 (Fremont township).

"Wild Cat Grove," section 8, township 84, range 9 (Canton township), a continuation of "Cedar Timber."

"Reard Grove," section 12, township 84, range 11 (Big Grove township).

"Garrison's Grove," in sections 19, 29 and 30, township 85, range 11 (Jackson township).

"School Grove," on sections 15, 16, 17 and 22, township 85, range 11.

"Helm's Grove," on section 13, township 85, range 11.

"Yankee Grove," on sections 15 and 22, township 85, range 12 (Monroe township).

"Brush Grove," on section 31, township 86, range 12 (Bruce township).

"Spencer's Grove," on sections 2, 3, and 11, township 86, range 9 (Polk township).

The southwest has but little timber, except in Iowa township and along Prairie creek, where there are some small forest areas. Added to this amount, nearly every farmer in the county has planted a grove of cotton-wood, silver-leaf maple, or other fast-growing wood, which has reached a sufficient size to be extensively used for the ordinary purposes of fencing and fuel. The broad prairies of the county are thus dotted over with cultivated groves, which not only beautify and adorn the surface of the county, but form an attractive feature to travelers and emigrants seeking a home in the state, and add very materially to the real wealth of the county.

CHAPTER II.

THE INDIANS AND TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT.

BENTON COUNTY, LOUISIANA PURCHASE—WHY BLACK HAWK JOINED THE BRITISH—KEOKUK, DIPLOMAT AND ORATOR—INDIAN TREATIES—HALF-BREED TRACT—DIRECTLY CONCERNING BENTON COUNTY—NEUTRAL GROUND BETWEEN INDIAN FOES—RESULTS OF THE BLACK HAWK WAR—THE BLACK HAWK PURCHASE—KEOKUK'S RESERVE AND DEATH—WHITES ON THE HELLS OF INDIANS—ROVING INDIAN BANDS—BIRTH OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT—SUB-DIVISION OF COUNTIES—FIXING THE TERRITORIAL CAPITAL—IOWA BECOMES A STATE—BENTON, ONE OF NINETY-NINE COUNTIES.

It is undoubtedly interesting to the historical student to definitely trace the governmental ownership of any special fragment of the earth's surface, irrespective of its comparative values among the forces which count for progress in civilization. But there is always a question as to the real worth of such literature, and the great majority of readers—the public of the author—would vote to virtually commence the historical narrative with the actual advent of humankind to the segment of the earth under consideration. This chapter will therefore deal, in a somewhat cursory manner, of the great government domains which included Benton county within their bounds prior to the coming of white settlers to its fertile and pleasant prairies in 1839, seven years after the close of the Black Hawk war, which was the signal for the first permanent influx to the southeastern section of the present state.

In 1788 the French-Canadian traders, headed by Julien Dubuque, commenced to work the lead mines and buy furs of the Sacs and Foxes, Sioux and Winnebagoes, Potawattamies and Iowas, bringing back in their small boats from St. Louis merchandise and supplies for both themselves and the Red men. The chief field of their activities included the territory of Iowa now included within Dubuque, Clayton and Lee counties, but they came merely as traders and pioneer exploiters of the country, and it was not until some twenty-three years after the death of Dubuque that really permanent settlement commenced in the state.

BENTON COUNTY, LOUISIANA PURCHASE.

The Louisiana Purchase, which included the present Iowa and Benton county (territorially considered), was made in 1803, and in November of the following year the United States government entered into its first treaty with the Sac and Fox Indians, who were so long among the leading lords of the soil embracing the Hawkeye state of today and its special political division which is treated in this chapter. In fact, until 1843 much the larger portion of Benton county was in nominal possession of these tribes. But in 1804 their claim to the western lands was so obscure that the national government obtained from the Saes and Foxes their title to this portion of the territory of the future states. In 1808 a military post was established on the west side of the Mississippi river on Indian lands, named Fort Madison (Lee county), and as this was in violation of treaty stipulations it led, four years after, to the formal enrollment of the Indians on the side of the British in the war of 1812. In fact, they attacked Fort Madison so vigorously and persistently that in 1813 it was abandoned by its small garrison, and in 1815 various treaties were concluded with the Saes and Foxes confirmatory of the original agreement of 1804.

This epoch in the history of Iowa, while it was successively attached (for government purposes) to the District of the Territory of Louisiana and the Territory of Missouri, has so direct a bearing upon the final departure of the Saes and Foxes and the consequent permanent settlement of the state, that it is entered into somewhat at length.

The most powerful native ally of the British in the war of 1812 was Black Hawk, the able and brave chieftain of the Sac and Fox Indians. But with all his skill and courage he was unable to lead all the members of these tribes against the United States. Keokuk, the Watchful Fox, persisted in remaining neutral and carried with him a considerable following. So that throughout the conflict the Indians on Iowa soil were divided into the War and the Peace parties.

WHY BLACK HAWK JOINED THE BRITISH.

Still, Black Hawk was the determining force, and, convinced that he and his tribe (he was a Sac) had been grossly deceived he entered into the conflict with all the fury and ability of his

nature. He himself relates the circumstances which led to his decision, as follows: "Several of the chiefs and head men of the Saes and Foxes were called upon to go to Washington to see their Great Father. On their return, they related what had been said and done. They said the Great Father wished them, in the event of a war taking place with England, not to interfere on either side, but to remain neutral. He did not want our help, but wished us to hunt and support our families, and live in peace. He said that British traders would not be permitted to come on the Mississippi to furnish us with goods, but that we should be supplied with an American trader. Our chiefs then told him that the British traders always gave them credit in the fall for guns, powder and goods, to enable us to hunt and clothe our families. He repeated that the traders at Fort Madison would have plenty of goods; that we should go there in the fall and he would supply us on credit, as the British traders had done."

Black Hawk seems to have accepted this proposition, and he and his people were very much pleased. Acting in good faith, they fitted out for their winter's hunt, and went to Fort Madison in high spirits to receive from the trader their outfit of supplies. But after waiting some time, they were told by the trader that he would not trust them. It was in vain that they pleaded the promise of their Great Father at Washington. The trader was inexorable; and, disappointed and crestfallen, they turned sadly toward their own village. "Few of us," says Black Hawk, "slept that night; all was gloom and discontent. In the morning, a canoe was seen ascending the river; it soon arrived, bearing an express, who brought intelligence that a British trader had landed at Rock Island with two boats loaded with goods, and requested us to come up immediately, because he had good news for us, and a variety of presents. The express presented us with tobacco, pipes and wampum. The news ran through our camp like fire on a prairie. Our lodges were soon taken down, and all started for Rock Island. Here ended all hopes of our remaining at peace, having been forced into the war by being deceived."

He joined the British, who flattered him, styled him "Gen. Black Hawk," decked him with medals, excited his jealousies against the Americans, and armed his band; but he met with defeat and disappointment, and soon abandoned the service and came home.

Black Hawk says he was informed, after he had gone to the war that the nation, which had been reduced to so small a body

of fighting men, were unable to defend themselves in case the Americans should attack them, and leaving all the old men and women and children belonging to the warriors who had joined the British on their hands to provide for, a council was held, and it was agreed that Quash-qua-me (the Lance) and other chiefs, together with the old men, women and children, and such others as chose to accompany them, should go to St. Louis and place themselves under the American chief stationed there. They accordingly went down, and were received as the "friendly band" of the Saes and Foxes, and were provided for and sent up the Missouri river.

KEOKUK, DIPLOMAT AND ORATOR.

On Black Hawk's return from the British army, he says Keokuk was introduced to him as the war chief of the braves then in the village. He inquired how he had become chief, and was informed that their spies had seen a large armed force going toward Peoria, and fears were entertained of an attack upon the village; whereupon a council was held, which concluded to leave the village and cross over to the west side of the Mississippi. Keokuk had been standing at the door of the lodge where the council was held, not being allowed to enter on account of never having killed an enemy, where he remained until Wa-co-me came out. Keokuk asked permission to speak in the council, which Wa-co-me obtained for him. Keokuk then addressed the chiefs; he remonstrated against the desertion of their village, their own homes and the graves of their fathers, and offered to defend the village. The council consented that he should be their war chief. He marshaled his braves, sent out spies, and advanced on the trail leading to Peoria, but returned without seeing the enemy. The Americans did not disturb the village, and all were satisfied with the appointment of Keokuk.

Keokuk, like Black Hawk, was a descendant of the Sac branch of the nation, and was born on Rock river, in 1780. He was of a pacific disposition, but possessed the elements of true courage, and could fight, when occasion required, with a cool judgment and heroic energy. In his first battle, he encountered and killed a Sioux, which placed him in the rank of warriors, and he was honored with a public feast by his tribe in commemoration of the event.

Keokuk has been described as an orator, entitled to rank with the most gifted of his race. In person, he was tall and of portly bearing; in his public speeches, he displayed a commanding attitude and graceful gestures; he spoke rapidly; but his enunciation was clear, distinct and forcible; he culled his figures from the stores of nature and based his arguments on skilful logic. Unfortunately for the reputation of Keokuk, as an orator among white people, he was never able to obtain an interpreter who could claim even a slight acquaintance with philosophy. With one exception only, his interpreters were unacquainted with the elements of their mother-tongue. Of this serious hindrance to his fame, Keokuk was well aware, and retained Frank Labershure, who had received a rudimentary education in the French and English languages, until the latter broke down by dissipation and died. But during the meridian of his career among the white people he was compelled to submit his speeches for translation to uneducated men, whose range of thought fell below the flights of a gifted mind, and the fine imagery drawn from nature was beyond their power of reproduction. He had sufficient knowledge of the English language to make him sensible of this bad rendering of his thoughts, and often a feeling of mortification at the bungling efforts was depicted on his countenance while speaking. The proper place to form a correct estimate of his ability as an orator was in the Indian council, where he addressed himself exclusively to those who understood his language, and witness the electrical effect of his eloquence upon his audience.

Keokuk seems to have possessed a more sober judgment, and to have had a more intelligent view of the great strength and resources of the United States, than his noted and restless contemporary, Black Hawk. He knew from the first that the reckless war which Black Hawk and his band had determined to carry on could result in nothing but defeat and disaster, and used every argument against it.

WISE AND ELOQUENT KEOKUK.

The large number of warriors whom he had dissuaded from following Black Hawk became, however, greatly excited with the war spirit after Stillman's defeat, and but for the signal tact displayed by Keokuk on that occasion would have forced him to submit to their wishes in joining the rest of the warriors in the field. A war-dance was held, and Keokuk took part in it, seeming to be

moved with the current of the rising storm. When the dance was over he called the council to prepare for war. He made a speech, in which he admitted the justice of their complaints against the Americans. To seek redress was a noble aspiration of their nature. The blood of their brethren had been shed by the white man, and the spirits of their braves, slain in battle, called loudly for vengeance.

"I am your chief," he said, "and it is my duty to lead you to battle, if, after fully considering the matter, you are determined to go. But before you decide on taking this important step, it is wise to inquire into the chances of success." He then portrayed to them the great power of the United States, against whom they would have to contend, that their chance of success was utterly hopeless. "But," said he, "if you determine to go upon the war-path, I will agree to lead you, on one condition, viz: that before we go, we kill all our old men and our wives and children, to save them from a lingering death by starvation, and that every one of us determine to leave our homes on the other side of the Mississippi."

This was a strong but truthful picture of the prospect before them, and was presented in such a forcible light as to cool their ardor, and cause them to abandon the rash undertaking.

But during the war of 1832, it is now considered certain that small bands of Indians, from the west side of the Mississippi, made incursions into the white settlements, in the lead mining region, and committed some murders and depredations.

INDIAN TREATIES.

When peace was declared between the United States and England, Black Hawk was required to make peace with the former, and entered into a treaty at Portage des Sioux, September 14, 1815, but did not "touch the goose-quill to it until May 13, 1816, when he smoked the pipe of peace with the great white chief," at St. Louis. This treaty was a renewal of the treaty of 1804, but Black Hawk declared he had been deceived; that he did not know that by signing the treaty he was giving away his village. This weighed upon his mind, already soured by previous disappointment and the irresistible encroachments of the white; and when, a few years later, he and his people were driven from their possessions by the military, he determined to return to the home of his fathers.

Following the conclusion of the war with Great Britain, in

1815, various treaties were made with the Sacs, Foxes, Iowas and Sioux, establishing peace between the hostile tribes and the United States; re-affirming the treaty of 1804 and drawing a sharp line between the Sacs who fought under Black Hawk and those who had remained neutral under Keokuk. The result of the conflict, as far as the Indians was concerned, was to confirm the position of the Sacs and Foxes as the most powerful combination of Indian tribes in what are now Illinois and Iowa.

HALF-BREED TRACT.

Within the succeeding decade there was considerable intermarrying between traders and army men and Sac and Fox women, and even from the time of Dubuque the custom had been more or less in vogue. The result was a considerable class of half-breeds in southeastern Iowa, for which provision was made by the United States in August, 1824, the treaty with those tribes reserving for this class a triangular piece of land, containing nearly 120,000 acres lying between the Mississippi and Des Moines rivers and included within the present limits of Lee county. Those who thus occupied the Half Breed Tract had the right to the use of the soil, but could not convey it. In January, 1834, however, by act of congress the half breeds acquired the land in fee simple, which caused an endless amount of trouble and property complications, the difficulties being unsettled for several years. But the details of these complications do not specially concern Benton county.

DIRECTLY CONCERNING BENTON COUNTY.

In the year following the session of the Half Breed Tract, however, an Indian treaty was ratified which directly concerned the tribal relations of the Redmen who retained title to the soil of Benton county until 1843. On August 19, 1825, the Chippewas, Sacs and Foxes, Menomonees, Winnebagoes and a portion of the Ottawas and Potawattamies met at Prairie du Chien (since 1819 the present Iowa had been politically attached, first, to Arkansas, and later to the state of Missouri). At the town named, which is now in the state of Wisconsin, these tribes, through their representatives, met William Clark and Lewis Cass, and the agreement in the articles of the treaty which chiefly concerns this history was made between them and the Sioux, Sacs and Foxes. In order to insure peace between these powerful contending tribes it was agreed

that the United States government should run a dividing line between their respective hunting grounds, as follows: Commencing at the mouth of the Upper Iowa river on the west bank of the Mississippi and ascending said Iowa river to its west fork; thence up the fork to its source; thence crossing the fork of Red Cedar river in a direct line to the second or upper fork of the Des Moines river; thence in a direct line to the lower fork of the Calumet river, and down that river to its junction with the Missouri river.

NEUTRAL GROUND BETWEEN INDIAN FOES.

Instead of settling the difficulties between these hereditary enemies, the running of the line seemed to be the signal for fiercer quarrels than ever, as each was continually alleging that the other had crossed the demarkation into the tribal hunting grounds. In 1830 the confederate tribes of the Sacs and Foxes were induced to cede to the United States a strip of country twenty miles wide south of the line mentioned, and the Sioux, a strip of the same dimensions, north of it. This was called Neutral Ground and remained open to all these tribes until it was occupied as a Winnebago reservation in 1841.

RESULTS OF THE BLACK HAWK WAR.

The incidents of the Black Hawk war pertain rather to the history of Illinois than to that of Iowa, but the results of it were vital to the progress of Iowa and Benton county as the domain of the white settlers and progressive citizens. In September, 1832, at the close of the war, the Winnebagoes ceded to the United States all their lands east of the Mississippi river and the government granted them the Neutral Ground, which, as stated, afterward became their regular reservation. The national government also made other concessions, covering a period of twenty-seven years, and embracing an annual tribal allowance and agricultural and educational privileges.

THE BLACK HAWK PURCHASE.

But the all-important treaty to Iowans was that of September 21st of that year, which resulted in the Black Hawk Purchase. The fierce leader of the war and his two sons were in irons, as prisoners of war, but Keokuk and some thirty other chiefs and warriors of the Sac and Fox nation were present at the council.

which was held on the future site of Davenport and presided over, on the part of the government, by General Winfield Scott and Governor Reynolds, of Illinois. By this treaty the Sacs and Foxes ceded to the United States a fifty-mile strip of land on the eastern border of Iowa, from the northern boundary of Missouri (to which state the present Hawk Eye domain was still attached) to the mouth of the Upper Iowa river. It is not necessary to describe in detail the terms of the consideration on the part of the government. It is sufficient to know that the Sacs and Foxes were satisfied and in June, 1833, peacefully vacated the ceded territory and that the tide of white immigration immediately commenced to flow from across the Mississippi.

KEOKUK'S RESERVE AND DEATH.

By the terms of the treaty, out of the Black Hawk Purchase was reserved for the Sacs and Foxes four-hundred square miles of land situated on the Iowa river, and including within its limits Keokuk's village on the right bank of that river. This tract was known as "Keokuk's Reserve," and was occupied by the Indians until 1836, when by a treaty made in September between them and Governor Dodge of Wisconsin territory, it was ceded to the United States. The council was held on the banks of the Mississippi, above Davenport, and was the largest assemblage of the kind ever held by the Sacs and Foxes to treat for the sale of lands. About one thousand of their chiefs and braves were present, and Keokuk was their leading spirit and principal speaker on the occasion. By the terms of the treaty, the Sacs and Foxes were removed to another reservation on the Des Moines river, where an agency was established for them at what is now the town of Agency City.

The Indians at this agency became idle and listless in the absence of their natural and wonted excitements, and many of them plunged into dissipation. Keokuk himself became dissipated in the later years of his life, and it has been reported that he died of delirium tremens after his removal with his tribe to Kansas.

SACS AND FOXES LEAVE THE COUNTY.

In 1838 the exodus of the Sacs and Foxes from Benton county had its beginning in the treaty with them, which was ratified on February 21st of that year, the ceded tract embracing 1,250,000 acres directly west of the Black Hawk Purchase and of

the same length. The piece of land was twenty-five miles in the middle and ran off to a point at both ends, and in Benton county its west line crossed the Cedar river near the west line of Benton township and included what would be very nearly one tier of easternmost townships. Township 86, range 9, was included in the cession, and the earliest settlers in Benton county, of 1839-40, were very near the Indian line. Two years prior to this formal throwing open of Indian lands to white settlement in Benton county, the territory of Wisconsin had been organized and Iowa had been politically attached to it, until the latter was created on the 4th of July in the same year signalized by the withdrawal of the Sacs and Foxes from the eastern border of Benton county. The Iowa territory of that day, however, embraced that part of old Wisconsin lying west of the Mississippi river and north of Missouri.

WHITES ON THE HEELS OF INDIANS.

The last treaty by which the Sacs and Foxes relinquished all their lands west of the Mississippi (and therefore, in Benton county) was made at their agency (Agency City) October 11, 1842, and ratified March 23, 1843. By its terms they were to be removed from the country at the expiration of three years, and all who remained at that time were to depart at their own expense. Part of them were removed to their reservation in Kansas in the fall of 1845, and at that time were to depart at their own expense. In the meantime the white settlers had been streaming into the ceded territory, their entry into it at the earliest possible moment after the dawn of May 1, 1843, being attended by all the excitements and violence of an "Oklahoma rush."

These times have been so well described by Judge Nourse in his centennial address that his language is here reproduced: "In obedience to our progressive and aggressive spirit, the Government of the United States made another treaty with the Sac and Fox Indians, on the 11th day of August, 1842, for the remaining portion of their land in Iowa. The treaty provided that the Indians should retain possession of all the lands thus ceded until May 1, 1843, and should occupy that portion of the ceded territory west of a line running north and south through Redrock, until October 11, 1845. These tribes, at this time, had their principal village at Ot-tum-wa-no, now called Ottumwa.

As soon as it became known that the treaty had been concluded, there was a rush of immigration to Iowa, and a great number of temporary settlements were made near the Indian boundary, waiting for the 1st day of May. As the day approached, hundreds of families encamped along the line, and their tents and wagons gave the scene the appearance of a military expedition. The country beyond had been thoroughly explored, but the United States military authorities had prevented any settlement or even the making out of claims by any monuments whatever.

“To aid them in making out their claims when the hour should arrive, the settlers had placed piles of dry wood on the rising ground, at convenient distances, and a short time before twelve o’clock of the night of the 30th of April these were lighted, and when the midnight hour arrived, it was announced by the discharge of firearms. The night was dark, but this army of occupation pressed forward, torch in hand, with axe and hatchet, blazing lines with all manner of curves and angles. When daylight came and revealed the confusion of these wonderful surveys, numerous disputes arose, settled generally by compromise, but sometimes by violence. Between midnight of the 30th of April and sundown of the 1st of May, over one thousand families had settled on their new purchase.

“While this scene was transpiring, the retreating Indians were enacting one more impressive and melancholy. The winter of 1842-43 was one of unusual severity, and the Indian prophet, who had disapproved of the treaty, attributed the severity of the winter to the anger of the Great Spirit, because they had sold their country. Many religious rites were performed to atone for the crime. When the time for leaving Ot-tum-wa-no arrived, a solemn silence pervaded the Indian camp, and the faces of their stoutest men were bathed in tears; and when their cavalcade was put in motion, toward the setting sun, there was a spontaneous outburst of frantic grief from the entire procession.

“The Indians remained the appointed time beyond the line running north and south through Redrock. The government established a trading post and military encampment at the Racoon Fork of the Des Moines river, then and for many years known as Fort Des Moines. Here the red man lingered until the 11th of October, 1845, when the same scene that we have before described was re-enacted, and the wave of immigration swept over the remainder of the ‘New Purchase.’ The lands thus occupied

and claimed by the settlers still belonged in fee to the general government. The surveys were not completed until some time after the Indian title was extinguished. After their survey, the lands were publicly proclaimed or advertised for sale at public auction. Under the laws of the United States, a preemption or exclusive right to purchase public lands could not be acquired until after the lands had thus been publicly offered and not sold for want of bidders. Then, and not until then, an occupant making improvements in good faith might acquire a right over others to enter the land at the minimum price of \$1.25 per acre. 'Claim laws' were unknown to the United States statutes. They originated in the 'eternal fitness of things,' and were enforced, probably, as belonging to that class of natural rights not enumerated in the constitution, and not impaired or disparaged by its enumeration.

"The settlers organized in every settlement prior to the public land sales, appointed officers, and adopted their own rules and regulations. Each man's claim was duly ascertained and recorded by the secretary. It was the duty of all to attend the sales. The secretary bid off the lands of each settler at \$1.25 per acre. The others were there, to see, first, that he did his duty and bid in the land, and, secondly, to see that no one else bid. This, of course, sometimes led to trouble, but it saved the excitement of competition, and gave formality and degree of order and regularity to the proceedings they would not otherwise have attained. As far as practicable, the territorial legislature recognized the validity of these 'claims' upon the public lands, and in 1839 passed an act legalizing their sale and making their transfer a valid consideration to support a promise to pay for the same. The Supreme Territorial Court held this law to be valid. The opinion not only contains a decision of the question involved, but also contains much valuable erudition upon that 'spirit of Anglo-Saxon liberty' which the Iowa settlers unquestionably inherited in a direct line of descent from the said Anglo-Saxons. But the early settler was not always able to pay even this dollar and twenty-five cents per acre for his land."

ROVING INDIAN BANDS.

Part of the nation of Saes and Foxes were removed to their reservation in Kansas during the fall of 1845, and most of the remainder followed in the succeeding spring. This was virtually

the final chapter in the history of the Benton county Indians, although old settlers recall small roving bands as late as 1854. In this connection, the following (on the authority of a pioneer) is appropriate: "Although the Indians ceded a portion of the county to the United States in 1837 and the remainder in 1843 they roved over the country as late as 1854. They had a favorite camping place on the east side of the Cedar river, near Mr. Thomas Way's. The spot was chosen partly, perhaps, because 'Uncle Tom' always had a good supply of firewater. They came here every year and spent several days in celebrating some of their mystic rites, religious dances, etc. Upon one occasion, James Rice gave them a fine puppy, which they sacrificed to the Great Spirit with much ceremony, holding a war dance as a part of the exercises. The Indians were many times accused of committing depredations of which they were not guilty. They were very convenient scape-goats for horse thieves. Berry Way, Uncle Tom's renegade son, used to steal and run off their ponies during their annual encampment near his father's house. Stealing them during the night, Berry would always be at home the next morning, and when the Reds entered complaint, he was on hand to assist them in efforts to discover the missing animals, but always sent them on the wrong trail.

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"Berry Way and another young man, well known thieves of Benton county, made a trip through Black Hawk county in March, 1846, stopping all night at a logging cabin, built by Cedar Johnson a year or two before near Big Creek and then occupied by James Newell. The next morning they proceeded up the river to the vicinity of the Turkey Foot Forks; spent that night with Big Wave, a prominent Winnebago chief, and to requite his hospitality, stole two valuable horses from him before daylight. About twenty of Big Wave's band pursued them, and found them at a singing school near Center Point. They threatened to shoot the trio, but the settlers interfered and persuaded the Indians it would be best to place the thieves under arrest and let the law take its course. The scoundrels were accordingly confined in jail at Marion, but soon after escaped."

BIRTH OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

The real conception of Iowa as a distinct political body occurred in September, 1834, when the territorial legislature of Michigan created two counties on the west side of the Mississippi river called

Dubuque and Des Moines and separated by a line drawn westward from the foot of Rock Island. These counties were partially organized by the appointment of a chief justice and two associates for each division. On the first of October, 1835, General George W. Jones (long a citizen of Dubuque) was elected a delegate to congress from this section of Michigan territory, and in April, 1836, through his efforts the territory of Wisconsin was created. The census taken that year indicated that its counties of Dubuque and Des Moines had a population of 10,531. In the first territorial legislature of Wisconsin, which assembled at Belmont (present state of Wisconsin) October 25, 1836, each of the Iowa counties was represented by three members in the upper house, while Dubuque had five and Des Moines county, seven, in the lower body.

SUB-DIVISION OF COUNTIES.

At the first session, Des Moines county was divided into Des Moines, Lee, Van Buren, Henry, Muscatine and Cook (subsequently changed to Scott), and at the second session the territory embraced in the original Dubuque county was divided into Dubuque, Clayton, Fayette, Delaware, Buchanan, Jackson, Jones, Linn, Clinton and Cedar. Most of these original counties were not organized until the creation of the territorial government of Iowa, the congressional act which provided for it going into effect July 3, 1838.

FIXING THE TERRITORIAL CAPITAL.

Shortly before the assembling of the second Wisconsin legislature at Burlington, in November, 1837, a convention was held in that place memorializing congress to take such action, and in the same month of the following year Burlington was also the scene of the convening of the first territorial legislature of Iowa. At that time its vast area was bounded on the north by British America, south by the state of Missouri, east by the Mississippi river and west by the Missouri and White Earth rivers, and, with the exception of the narrow strip known as the Black Hawk Purchase, was in undisputed possession of the Indians. At the first session of the legislature Napoleon, in Johnson county, was designated as the temporary seat of government, Iowa City, a few miles above, on the Iowa river, being subsequently platted for the permanent

capital. The new capital of the territory was occupied in April, 1841, the third regular session convening therein during December. Iowa City remained the capital until 1857, when (then under the state government) it was removed to Des Moines.

IOWA BECOMES A STATE.

In 1844 the proposition to erect the territory of Iowa into a state was carried by vote of the people, the constitutional convention convening at Iowa City on the 7th of October. It also agreed upon boundary lines for the new state, including a large part of the present state of Minnesota, and excluding the tract now embraced in Lyon, Osceola, Sioux and parts of Dickinson, O'Brien, Plymouth and Woodbury. The state boundaries were rejected by congress and the people, in turn rejected the proposed congressional bounds, at an election held in April, 1845. The constitution also having been rejected by popular vote, another convention was held at Iowa City May 4, 1846, and agreed to a constitution with provisions for state boundaries identical with the present limits and in harmony with a statehood bill then pending in congress. The constitution was adopted by the people, ratified by congress and, under it, Iowa was admitted into the union December 23, 1846.

BENTON, ONE OF NINETY-NINE COUNTIES

Since 1857 there have been ninety-nine counties in the state of Iowa, but their organization has only been uniform since 1871. Benton county was originally constituted December 21, 1837, and was named in honor of Thomas Hart Benton, United States senator from Missouri, who had materially aided in the passage of the bill erecting Wisconsin territory. Its original territory included the area between its present northern and southern bounds extended to the Missouri river, and it was temporarily attached to the county of Jackson. That was before there was a single settler within its present limits. In 1840 (the year after its first settler located) it was similarly attached to Linn county, and re-established with its present boundaries February 17, 1843. At this point in the general narrative, the author may fittingly enter into details regarding the development of Benton county in every line and field.

CHAPTER III.

GENERAL PROGRESS OF COUNTY.

ORGANIZATION OF TOWNSHIPS—GROWTH IN PROPERTY—ACTUAL VALUES OF PROPERTY—1908 (ONE-FOURTH CASH VALUE)—1895 (ONE-HALF CASH VALUE)—1885 (ONE-HALF CASH VALUE)—1875 (ONE-HALF CASH VALUE)—1865 (CASH VALUE)—INCREASE IN POPULATION—POPULATION OF TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS—PROGRESS IN AGRICULTURE—AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES—THE PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

Following the coming of the first settlers to eastern Benton county in 1839-40, the immigration was very small and uncertain for a decade. During that period New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio furnished the bulk of the early and real pioneers. In 1847, the year after the organization of the county, the population had reached only 312 and by 1850, 672. The period from 1850 to 1860, however, was of unusual development and growth in population. Good state roads were established through the county, stage lines developed, the Cedar river utilized for transportation purposes and a steady agitation was progressing over the building of railroads into the county. In fact, all indications were favorable to a substantial development of the county into a prosperous and pleasant community for thrifty and intelligent people, closely bound together and placed in intimate communication with the more developed outside world of business and commerce. After 1850 all states sent their contributions to swell the permanent citizenship of Benton county. It numbered 1,250 inhabitants in 1852; 2,623, in 1854; 6,247 in 1856, and 8,496 in 1860. The period covered by the Civil war told the same sad story everywhere; people both north and south were not migrating to new locations, but were fighting on bloody battlefields, or remaining at home to uphold their families, or conduct the necessary institutions of their communities.

ORGANIZATION OF TOWNSHIPS.

It is presumed that the board of county commissioners for 1847-8 created several civil townships, although there is no record to that effect. There is an entry in April, 1847, that John Royal and George Cantonwine were appointed supervisors of Canton township, and they were directed to "open and work all legal laid-out roads in said township." Anderson Amos was appointed supervisor in township 86 north, range 9 west; David Jewell in township 85, range 9, and Thomas Way on a certain road "commencing at the corner of Harrison's field and running to Edward's ford across the Cedar river." Prior to 1851, Polk, Harrison and Taylor townships were added to those then in existence. Cue township (changed, in 1862, to Florence) was organized in January, 1855, and in April, 1856, Jackson, Eden, Bruce and Big Grove townships were created. Various attempts have been made to divide Taylor township, making Vinton township co-extensive with the corporate limits of the city; but, to date, all such efforts have failed. For many years the county has embraced twenty congressional and civil townships, as follows; Polk, Harrison, Cedar, Bruce, Monroe, Jackson, Taylor, Benton, Canton, Eden, Big Grove, Homer, Kane, Union, Eldorado, Fremont, Florence, St. Clair, Le Roy and Iowa. The township government consists of three trustees and a clerk.

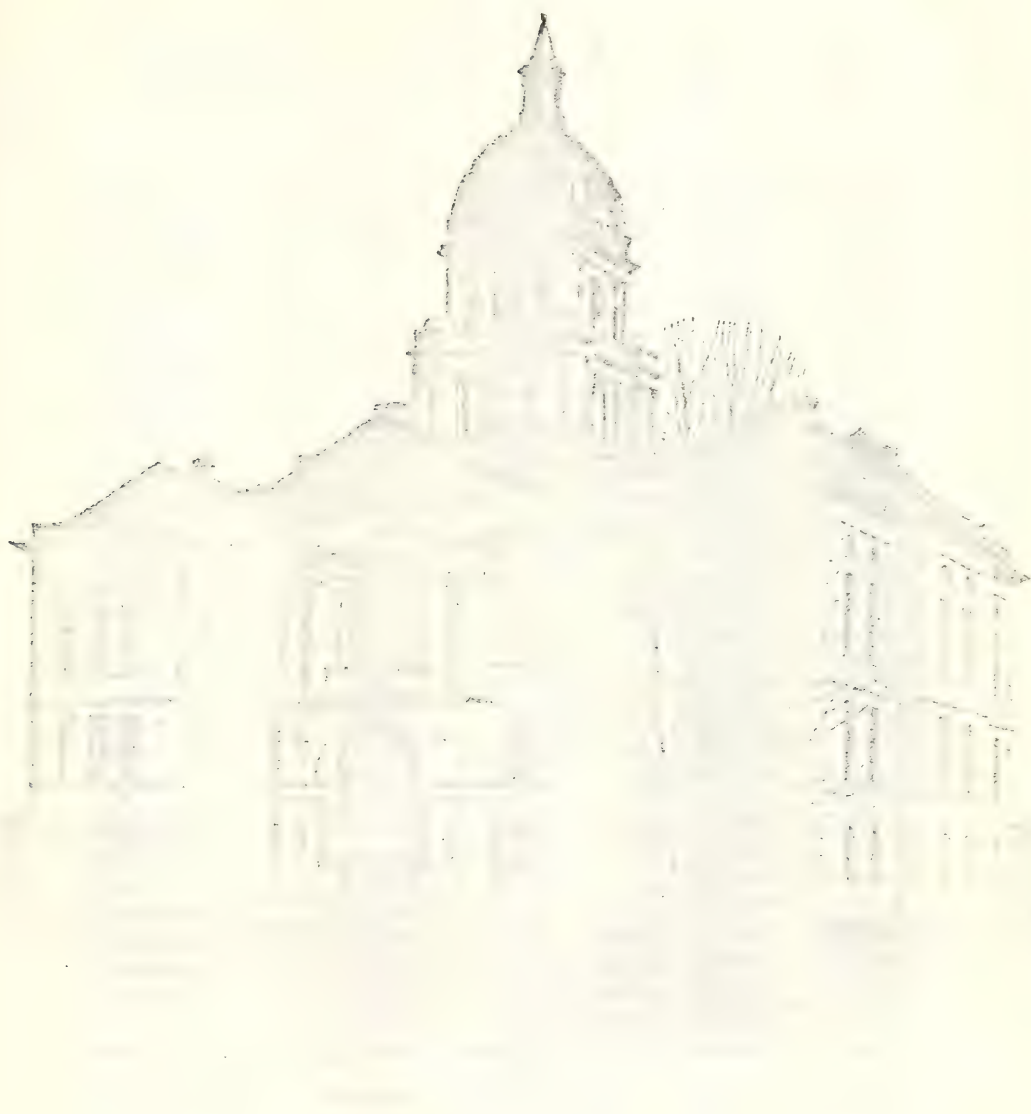
GROWTH IN PROPERTY.

The grand total of the tax assessment of Benton county is \$324,949.81, of which amount \$138,873.39 is credited to the state and county, \$113,281.66 to the schools, and \$35,394.69 to corporations. It is also of interest to learn that of the tax last named, the railroads pay the following: Chicago & North-Western, \$11,873.49; Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, \$7,825.75; and Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, \$7,005.28.

ACTUAL VALUES OF PROPERTY.

1865	\$ 3,495,303
1875	11,557,214
1885	15,777,840
1895	14,244,248
1908	39,677,792





PRESENT BENTON COUNTY COURT HOUSE

1908 (ONE-FOURTH CASH VALUE).

Townships	Land	Land Ex Corp	Lots	Personal	Totals
Vinton	\$ 7251	\$ 7251	\$ 369012	\$ 406190	\$ 782453
Belle Plaine	30990	29133	267999	168485	467474
Luzerne	11280	10614	11068	44637	66985
Blairstown			42615	56347	98962
Norway	3754	2979	36437	86488	126679
Garrison	2851	2851	44431	53551	100833
Mt. Auburn	731	731	19591	25335	45657
Shellsburg	4510	4250	40739	47432	92681
Keystone	4086	3643	47721	54523	106330
Van Horne	8237	6937	45208	47620	101065
Iowa	235949		844	102035	338828
Le Roy	279291		338	141103	420732
Urbana	400	400	22077	35294	57771
Monroe	313086			85216	398302
Bruce	306598			50029	356627
Harrison	152435		275	26254	178961
Polk	310572			53456	364028
Cedar	363356			120655	484011
Jackson	312560			100310	412870
Taylor	307122			102007	409129
Benton	121122			36583	157705
Canton	297815			81203	379018
Eden	339379			54668	394047
Big Grove	319457		3	65630	385090
Homer	321116			55520	376636
Kane	314648			119388	434036
Union	338804			106740	445544
Eldorado	326369		18690	147197	492256
Fremont	315715		9976	142679	468370
Florence	317915		6498	156768	481181
St. Clair	318525		3306	172853	494684
Assessed Value	\$5985924	\$ 68689	\$ 986828	\$2946696	\$9919448
Cash value	23943696	274756	3947312	11786784	39677792

1895 (ONE HALF CASH VALUE)

Townships	Land.	Personal.	Lots.
Polk	\$ 277,015	\$ 45,752	\$
Harrison	145,950	26,278	
Cedar	285,352	59,042	12,850
Bruce	210,357	33,465	
Monroe	263,390	37,208	
Jackson	253,093	45,797	
Taylor	268,235	42,412	
Benton	95,808	22,268	
Canton	234,406	35,630	1,692
Eden	266,470	35,633	
Big Grove	265,896	41,849	300
Homer	259,661	33,702	
Kane	260,034	34,096	
Union	260,030	36,731	
Eldorado	265,045	74,700	15,261
Fremont	256,793	50,802	7,304
Florence	265,358	61,621	6,550
St. Clair	267,719	63,434	4,830
De Roy	217,674	56,929	4,804
Iowa	204,427	50,274	2,738
Vinton	50	335,449	425,291
B. Plaine	19,786	84,401	212,100
Garrison	2,053	36,246	36,105
Shellsburg	4,875	30,199	30,248
Van Horne	3,270	39,447	34,402
Blainstown		44,035	54,215
Keystone	3,406	25,488	29,670
Norway	6,253	53,520	27,968
Urbana	130	12,917	13,995
Assessed value	\$4,863,476	\$1,518,325	\$ 740,323
Cash value	\$9,726,952	\$3,036,650	\$1,480,646

1885 (ONE HALF CASH VALUE)

Townships	Land.	Personal.	Lots.
Polk	\$ 297,303	\$ 67,701	\$ 7,331
Harrison	153,960	37,783	
Cedar	268,303	76,666	8,705
Bruce	281,133	59,288	
Monroe	299,849	50,141	
Jackson	319,036	73,385	
Taylor	242,227	62,248	
Benton	95,882	24,549	
Canton	331,825	76,322	
Eden	217,956	69,962	

Townships.	Land.	Personal.	Lots.
Big Grove	291,642	60,284	341
Homer	186,973	51,981	
Kane	262,099	54,891	13,993
Union	216,983	45,511	
Eldorado	219,789	50,567	7,260
Fremont	225,706	67,637	3,241
Florence	281,073	111,349	29,990
St. Clair	316,380	64,245	9,905
Le Roy	248,260	54,599	6,510
Iowa	200,230	69,686	4,019
Vinton	3,010	283,707	376,320
B. Plaine	35,509	111,978	185,193
Garrison	1,656	11,466	11,900
Shellsburg	6,296	25,930	32,110
Van Horne	6,450	92,139	68,962
Blairstown		65,034	64,546
Assessed value	\$ 5,239,540	\$1,818,944	\$ 830,436
Cash value	\$10,479,080	\$3,637,888	\$1,660,872

1875 (ONE HALF CASH VALUE)

Townships	Land.	Personal.	Lots.
Polk	\$ 160,736	\$ 63,778	\$ 2,020
Harrison	93,075	37,781	
Cedar	263,221	69,446	4,495
Bruce	224,435	36,739	
Monroe	157,396	36,739	
Jackson	187,939	49,998	5,766
Taylor	204,408	47,167	21,794
Benton	87,372	22,959	
Canton	221,073	64,125	
Eden	174,947	54,933	354
Big Grove	192,261	54,024	346
Homer	160,188	31,780	
Kane	189,161	36,483	115
Union	170,687	40,242	
Eldorado	181,962	38,663	
Fremont	238,928	60,396	
Florence	181,150	80,594	22,925
St. Clair	166,562	50,946	2,105
Le Roy	173,336	65,932	10,465
Iowa	192,641	80,878	10,793
Vinton		257,941	392,735
B. Plaine	7,524	86,424	123,796
Blairstown		62,075	56,610
Shellsburg	6,912	25,156	33,265
Assessed value	\$3,635,814	\$1,455,299	\$ 687,494
Cash value	\$7,271,628	\$2,910,578	\$1,374,988

1865 (CASH VALUE)

Townships	Land.	Personal.	Lots.
Eden	\$ 137,253	\$ 31,367	490
Big Grove	\$ 135,576	26,094	751
Benton	103,053	29,774	751
Florence	138,272	47,270	1,135
Iowa	162,780	69,399	18,910
Kane	100,496	15,992	
Union	77,494	9,650	100
Homer	71,201	9,385	
Monroe	89,963	12,220	
Cedar	163,036	40,171	440
Fremont	116,956	17,359	
Eldorado	97,783	7,774	
Jackson	96,523	9,650	
Le Roy	149,191	36,706	19,963
Canton	145,583	69,162	8,390
Bruce	100,512	14,706	
Harrison	106,994	30,906	356
St. Clair	136,053	18,881	
Polk	177,600	54,329	1,284
Taylor	190,334	185,556	210,329
Total	2,496,053	\$736,351	\$262,899

INCREASE IN POPULATION.

In 1865 the population of Benton county was 11,245, an increase of less than three thousand over that of 1860. From that time on the tale is told in the following table:

1870	22,454	1890	24,178
1875	22,807	1895	24,244
1880	24,888	1900	25,177
1885	23,902	1905	24,117

In line with the increase of population, the increase of taxable property in a county is a conclusive proof of its material development. But in the consideration of such figures it must always be remembered that the assessed valuation is not the cash value of the property. In the figures given below, the valuations for 1855 and 1865 are on the full cash basis; those for 1875, 1885 and 1895, one-half the cash value, and for 1908, one-fourth.

It is evident from the condition of the assessors' book of 1855 that a more or less futile attempt was made in that year to collect the desired figures from its countrymen and townsmen. At that time the government owned most of the land, which it sold for

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\$1.25 per acre, and the towns in the county were confined to Vinton, Benton City, Marysville (Urbana) and others of even less importance. So far as the record of assessments is decipherable, the statistics for that year appear as follows:

Townships	Land.	Personal.	Lots.
Iowa	\$ 6,950	\$43,590	\$
Monroe	21,777	4,328	
Benton	93,578	45,635	6,261
Eden, Taylor, Big Grove	266,998	69,813	36,230
Cue (Fremont, Florence)	128,730	6,438	
Bruce, Canton	119,060	71,436	
Cedar	85,371	15,423	
Harrison	63,299	12,440	
Le Roy, St. Clair	173,766	4,089	
Polk	78,574	24,414	1,590

Omitting Union and Eldorado townships entirely, the total for land assessments was \$1,008,103; for personal property, \$297,526, and lots (town property), \$44,081. Assuming that the figures for the two townships named would be about the same as for Leroy and St. Clair, directly to the south. The total assessed and cash value of Benton county property in 1855 was as follows: Land, \$1,181,000; personal, \$301,000; and lots, \$44,000.

POPULATION OF TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS.

The population of the towns and townships of Benton county, as shown by the last census is as follows:

	Male	Female	Total
Belle Plaine, Ward No. 1	527	527	1,054
Belle Plaine, Ward No. 2	807	841	1,648
Belle Plaine, Ward No. 3	293	327	620
Benton Township	265	213	478
Big Grove Township	352	313	665
Bruce Township	305	245	550
Canton Township, exclusive of Shellsburg	298	269	567
Shellsburg	284	281	565
Cedar Township	536	466	1,002
Eden Township	331	263	594
Eldorado Township	443	395	838
Florence Township, exclusive of Norway	403	347	750
Norway	260	283	543
Fremont Township	455	385	840

	Male	Female	Total
Harrison Township	280	257	537
Homer Township	337	284	621
Iowa Township, exclusive of Belle Plaine and Luzerne	374	331	705
Jackson Township, exclusive of Garrison	353	297	650
Garrison	247	257	504
Kane Township, exclusive of Keystone	322	300	622
Keystone	167	189	356
Leroy Tp., exclusive of Blairstown and Luzerne	343	231	674
Blairstown	271	323	594
Luzerne	82	82	164
Monroe Township	313	273	586
Polk Township, exclusive of Urbana	507	491	998
Urbana	181	169	350
St. Clair Township	335	316	651
Taylor Township, exclusive of Vinton	448	382	830
Vinton, Ward No. 1	513	539	1,052
Vinton, Ward No. 2	398	382	780
Vinton, Ward No. 3	429	475	904
Vinton, Ward No. 4	348	403	751
Union Township, exclusive of Van Horne	293	274	567
Van Horne	240	257	497
Total	12350	11767	24117

PROGRESS IN AGRICULTURE.

The opening chapter of this work presents, from a scientific authority, the natural reasons for the unsurpassed fertility of the soil of Benton county and its advantages as a thoroughly drained and watered country. Both its natural and its industrial resources are there depicted, and its preeminence noted as an agricultural section of the state.

For several years after the departure of most of the Indians from Benton county, in 1845-6, there was little land within its limits which could not be bought for the old Government price of a dollar and a quarter an acre, and as late as the closing period of the war from six to eight dollars per acre was a fair price. None of the pioneers of '55 and few of '65 ever expected to see the day when they, or their sons, or grandsons, would be "holding out" for even more than \$100 per acre. But that very day arrived some years ago. The wonderful transformation of prices, the tremendous leap in values, was brought about by the development of transportation facilities and the consequent extension of markets

for the farmers, livestock men, dairymen and all others engaged in any form of agriculture. Fertile soil and ability to raise fine crops are of little practical advantage as long as the markets for such produce are contracted.

The advantages possessed by the pioneer farmer of Benton county over the pioneer agriculturist of the east are quaintly described by I. Van Metre, one of the old-timers of Union township, whose land in the '50s was in the vicinity of Van Metre's Grove (Pickaway), in the southwestern part of that township. The subjoined extract is taken from the semi-centennial edition of the *Vinton Eagle*, published in 1905: "Fifty years ago, what was pioneering on the rich prairies of Benton county? We old fellows who entered land and settled upon it to make homes, are fond of impressing upon the younger generation that such fortitude and pluck as we exhibited in taking this step has seldom been equalled. If a few of us happen to meet, with a pipe or cigar in mouth, we cock our feet on a stove, lean back in our chairs, and regale each other with stories of the struggles and hardships of the time, until the listener stands in awe of the heroic spirit who worked such wonders. But in fact what was pioneering in a country, soil rich and ready for the plow, markets and points from which to secure supplies within fifty or a hundred miles, but a change, with most of us, from landless homes, mere renters, in countries where homes had to be hewn out of forests! What was it but a pleasant adventure full of novelty and excitement to the late-landless now in full possession of the virgin soil! What was it but an inspiration which brightened every prospect in life! Why, the pioneer as he held his plow, or with gun on shoulder, went out in search of a supply of game, could almost hear the whistle of the steam engine and see the smoke of the locomotive bearing a train of cars across the state.

"The railway cars were practically on the heels of the pioneers of Iowa. They had severe trials, much suffering and a measure of privations; they had difficulties to surmount and hard labor to perform under those difficulties, but they would have had to be mentally blind if they did not discern the fact that a brief span of years would see them end. Certainly they could not have expected even with all the lavish preparations that nature had made for them in fertile soil and in a climate ideal for the production of the necessaries of life, that they should be able to make homes, such as they and their fathers before them never had, without undergoing a degree of hardship, suffering, and privation. They did

well, but they scarcely could have done otherwise. They had everything at hand which if used with reasonable diligence, must insure their material, social, and political success.

“Massachusetts had had in successful operation a common school system that had been copied by Ohio and other states and that could be easily adapted to the conditions of Iowa and under the most favorable circumstances. That law was put into operation here at an early day enabling the settlers to secure an education for their children practically without cost to themselves. If there were but two or three families in a township, they could build school houses and hire teachers to instruct their three or four children, now residents bearing so large a part of the burden that the little left for the settlers to pay was never felt by them. There was no excuse for the children growing up in ignorance. I know how it is: The professional orators and political declaimers speaking before annual meetings of old settlers, cover them all over with fulsome eulogies of the old fellows for having braved dangers and with minds little less than inspired, laid broad and deep the foundation upon which our magnificent state is builded. And we old fellows lean forward with our elbows on our knees and take it all in while the dim eyes brighten and sparkle and the wrinkled forms swell to bursting with self-appreciation. And we old fellows nod assent and lean over and whisper in each other’s ears, ‘We did it. We did it.’

“I do not wish to be understood as belittling either the hardships suffered and the difficulties overcome by the early settlers, nor their excellencies as home-makers and state builders, but when we read of the sufferings and achievements of the pioneers who first settled on this continent or even of the difficulties of those in the older western states, Ohio, for instance, whose nearest market or source of supply was over the mountains to Baltimore, hundreds of miles away, with land to be cleared of timber before a plow or even a hoe could be put in it to any purpose and surrounded not only by blood-thirsty Indians, but by various species of ferocious wild animals—Iowa pioneering takes on the form of a holiday picnic. We were but a few years without postoffice facilities, which put us within easy communication with our friends ‘back east,’ and but a little longer without railways and telegraphs. They lived all their lives before the postoffice was established nor dreamed that such a thing as a railway car would ever come to supplant the wagon as a means of transportation. We had houses to live in and acres of land under cultivation in two or three years. They

were happy if after many years of persistent toil they could close their declining years in a comfortable hewed log house and have forty or fifty acres of more or less stumpy land under the plow."

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

Benton county has had various agricultural organizations since 1859, the society now in existence having been incorporated in 1888. The first meeting, for purposes of organization, was held at Vinton June 13, 1857, when W. F. Kirkpatrick was made chairman and Joseph Dysart, secretary. A committee of six was appointed to draw up a constitution and by-laws; but this movement came to naught. In June, 1859, however, the Benton County Agricultural and Mechanical Society was organized, with J. H. Shutts as secretary, and grounds were procured near the Blind Asylum grounds, Vinton, and fitted up for the first fair, held October 13th and 14th of that year. It is reported that the most creditable displays were made in the livestock department devoted to horses and cattle, and in the exhibit embracing sewing, cooking and other female accomplishments of the day. On the last day of the fair permanent officers were elected, as follows: I. N. Chenoweth, president; J. F. Traer, W. C. Wiley, vice presidents; J. H. Shutts, secretary; and W. A. Guinn, treasurer. This society went out of existence in March, 1871, its grounds passing to Professor Thomas Tobin to be used as the site of the Tilford Collegiate Academy.

Not long after the death of the Benton County Agricultural and Mechanical Society was formed the Vinton Driving Park Association, which, in turn, gave way to the Benton County Agricultural Association, in May, 1872. The capital stock of the latter was \$10,000, and its officers at the first annual meeting held in January, 1873, were as follows: Dr. J. C. Traer, president; J. A. McDaniel and James Rice, vice presidents; John F. Pyne, secretary; and Paul Correll, treasurer.

On March 19, 1888, the Benton County Agricultural Society was incorporated by J. W. Keith, Frank Watson, I. Mitchell, H. B. Kelley, Ira Seoville, G. W. Spears, I. M. Garn, S. Robinson and S. White. The preliminary meeting was held at the court house in Vinton, and the first officers of the society were T. C. Black, president; J. B. F. Bunton, vice president; Frank Watson, treasurer, and Arad Thompson, secretary; H. B. Kelley, Joseph Sheeley, I. Mitchell, James Austin, D. Aleorn and J. W. Keith, directors.

Mr. Black served as president for ten continuous years, and W. H. Hanna has been at the head of its affairs for the past five. Until the meeting of December 14, 1909, Mr. Thompson had held the secretaryship for fifteen years. The directors then elected for three-year terms were Roy Cameron, Albert Gilchrist and A. C. Austin. The books show the membership of the society to be 170, but there is some complaint that the active membership falls considerably below those figures.

The grounds of the society comprise twenty-five acres adjoining the city of Vinton on the south, and were originally purchased of J. S. Tilford. The improvements comprise a good race course, with grandstand and amphitheater; a horse barn of one hundred stalls; a convenient office building, and halls in which are displayed products of the farm and various works of art.

THE PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

There is not a flourishing agricultural community in Benton county which fails to support its local grange, but for many years the political and business features of the Patrons of Husbandry have been conspicuous--for their absence. As elsewhere in the west, the order was most flourishing for several years after its establishment. The organization was introduced into Iowa in 1870, and the first granges organized were Producers No. 49, of Blairstown, and Expansion Grange, of Belle Plaine. An especially flourishing store was organized in 1874, at the latter city, under the name of the Patrons' Joint Stock Company, but after a few years the enormous shrinkage in values placed a quietus on this enterprise, as it did on so many other business ventures.

In 1871, Plow Handle Grange was organized at Vinton, with W. B. Reynolds as master, and in 1872 Lone Tree and Homer Granges were instituted in Homer township, with E. Haat and P. Van Dyke as respective masters. Eden, Canton and Bruce townships fell into the grange column in February, 1873, with the following local organizations: Eden Center, J. M. Hill, master; Canton Center, Nathaniel Dice, master; and Bruce Grange, T. J. Sloan, master. In 1872 James McDaniel, of Big Grove, was made county deputy of the order, and in the following year a county council was formed.

A close observer of conditions in the early '70s thus notes a bright chapter in the history of the Patrons of Husbandry: "The order reached the summit of its growth and usefulness in 1874, and

during the winter of that year proved most efficacious means of collecting and forwarding supplies to the destitute population on the frontiers of Nebraska and Dakota, whose crops had been devoured by grasshoppers. The people of Benton county, in common with the whole of central and eastern Iowa, collected of their abundance, both of food and clothing, to preserve the lives of the settlers beyond the Mississippi river; and a very large part of the present prosperity of western Nebraska and southern Dakota (speaking from the viewpoint of an observer of 1878) is due to the generous sentiment for brothers in distress manifested by the farmers of Iowa during the winter of 1874-5. If the part taken by the Patrons of Husbandry during that winter were all that the order had ever accomplished, its mission would be fully approved at the final settlement of accounts of the human race."

Since the declination of the Patrons of Husbandry as a political and business agency, its mission as a social and educational force has been emphasized. Not only has it accomplished much in the line of the scientific and labor-saving development of agriculture, but its members have been brought together socially and fraternally, and the necessary tedium of farm life has been relieved through dozens of avenues.

CHAPTER IV.

POLITICAL HISTORY.

FIRST ELECTION IN BENTON COUNTY—FIRST CONTESTED ELECTION—EXCITING ELECTION OF 1855—RAILROAD POLITICS—MID-WAR ELECTION—SINCE CIVIL WAR TIMES—COUNTY ROSTER, 1846-1878—SUPERVISORS (TOWNSHIP SYSTEM)—SUPERVISORS (COUNTY SYSTEM)—OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS, 1878-1909—OLD-TIME COUNTY OFFICIALS.

Considered politically, Benton county composes the forty-ninth assembly district of Iowa; is, with Tama county, a portion of the forty-fifth senatorial district of the state; with Tama and Marshall counties, it is included in the seventeenth judicial district, and in the fifth congressional district, with Tama, Marshall, Linn, Jones, Grundy and Cedar. It has an average Republican majority of about seven hundred, and has long been placed, as whole, in the columns of that party.

FIRST ELECTION IN BENTON COUNTY.

The first election in Benton county, held at Parker's Grove, in April, 1846, has already been noted. Over that initial performance of the voters of the county, which was all included in one precinct, Beal Dorsey, Steadman Penrose and Lyman D. Bordwell presided as judges and David S. Pratt and John Royal as clerks. The voters, or constables seems to have brought out the full political strength of the county, 148 votes having been cast for the different candidates, and 142 for justices of the peace. At the regular election in August of the same year, three voting precincts were in use, and it appears that soon after the precincts were erected into townships. The highest number of votes cast at this election, 164, was for county commissioners. Black Hawk county, then attached to Benton, figured in the election as Black Hawk precinct. As is quite natural, these early voters failed to show the interest in the October election.

for state officers which they had evinced over the affairs of the county; and, besides, three elections in one year was doubtless quite a strain on their political enthusiasm. At all events only 41 votes were cast in the entire county for governor.

FIRST CONTESTED ELECTION

The first contested election in the county occurred in 1847. In April of that year a special election was held for prosecuting attorney, district clerk and school land commissioner. On the face of the returns Stephen Holcomb was elected prosecuting attorney over James Mitchell by 21 to 19 votes; but Mr. Mitchell went behind the returns to such effect that on the 13th of May his contention was sustained by the Justices' court in the following (verbatim) decision:

We, The Undersigned Justes of The peace of Benton Co., state of Iowa after examining All the Testimouy perdused Before us on A case of the contesting of alectun of Stephen Holecomb by James Mitchel do find that the said Mitchel is duly alected this the 13-day of May, 1847.

(Signed)

L. W. Haynes, J. P., (L. S.)

L. D. Bordwell, J. P., (L. S.)

Charles Cantonwine, J. P. (L. S.)

From the evidence "perdused" it appears that the contest hinged on the five votes from Black Hawk precincts, which were solid for Mitchell. These votes had not been received when the canvass of returns was completed on the 5th of May. But as it was afterward decided that the canvass should be re-opened and the ballots from Black Hawk counted for Mr. Mitchell, the contestant went into office with a majority of three votes.

EXCITING ELECTION OF 1855.

For some years before the Civil war the Whigs and Democrats of Benton county were considerably disorganized over such matters of pure county concern as the building of railroads. In August, 1855, according to the *Vinton Eagle*, the Democrats were in the ascendancy. In that year the popular and able Samuel Douglass was a candidate for the county judgeship against M. P. Adams.

Whig, and J. F. Filkins, Democrat, was running against C. H. Johnson for recorder and treasurer. More interest attached to these two offices than any others, and the vote cast was as follows:

Townships	County Judge		Rec. and Treas.	
	Douglas	Adams	Filkins	Johnson
Cue			12	12
Iowa	16	4	20	
LeRoy	3	9	4	8
Monroe	8	5	8	5
Cedar	25	13	25	12
Harrison	16	16	22	24
Polk	80	21	75	24
Benton	31	36	23	45
Canton	22	54	19	58
Taylor	134	112	159	87
Total	336	282	367	263

RAILROAD POLITICS.

While the routes of the first railroads to enter Benton county were in doubt, the politics of the county largely hinged on this question, and resulted for several years before the war in rather a bitter feeling between the northern and southern townships. Jacob Springer, who was so long a leading politician of the "south slope," has this to say of the politics of these times:

"In the spring of 1858 the 'south slope' became much agitated over the question of where the Cedar Rapids and Missouri River Railroad running across the county should be located. This road, which was afterward absorbed by the Chicago and Northwestern, was organized by some enterprising men of Cedar Rapids and Marshalltown, intending to get the road located running from Cedar Rapids, following Prairie creek up through the south part of the county and striking Iowa river at what is now Belle Plaine, and following the Iowa river to Marshalltown. It was necessary in order to enable the company to build the road to get the legislature to transfer to the company the land grant which was formerly given by the State to the Air Line Railroad which was to run through Benton county near where the Milwaukee now runs. The Air Line, in failing to build the road fixed by the State had forfeited the land grant which then reverted to the State.

The business men and politicians of the north part of the county (so reported) had arranged to have both the Senators and Representatives nominated and elected from the north part of the county with the understanding that they would vote and use their influence in the legislature to prevent the transfer of the land grant to the new company unless the company would pledge itself to build the road by way of Vinton. The agitation in the south part of the county finally culminated in calling a convention of the eight southern townships to meet at Hickory Grove, now Blairstown. At the time fixed all of the eight townships were fully represented. After an all day conference it was finally unanimously decided to send a full delegation to the Republican County Convention to be held at Vinton, and insist upon the nomination of James McQuin for representative, conceding the senator to the north part of the county. The north part of the county treated the south part fairly by nominating for representative James McQuin, who was elected. The controversy was then transferred to the legislature at Des Moines and terminated in the road being located in the south part of the county. Ever after the Hickory Grove convention the eight townships were named the "south slope," which soon became somewhat of a factor in Benton county politics.

"In the winter of '59 and '60 the question of the location of the Cedar Rapids and Missouri River Railroad was finally settled and located through the south tier of townships. So soon as that fact became generally known the country for two or three miles on each side of the railroad was soon settled. The most of the settlers had entered the land in 1855 and 1856. In Florence there had been quite a number of Norwegians, Irish and Germans. St. Clair was settled mainly by Americans. After 1860 many Germans came in and settled in St. Clair township. In Leroy and Iowa about the same conditions existed. Kane largely Germans. Union mainly Irish. Eldorado and Fremont considerably mixed. After the railroad was built and the towns of Norway, Blairstown and Belle Plaine were located the people began to take much more interest in the public affairs of the county. Each township soon brought out its 'local leaders.' James McQuin, D. B. Ramage and M. L. Harper, of Florence; W. Kelley, A. G. Hannah and Jacob Springer, of St. Clair; Bassett, Morris and Dean, of Blairstown; Stocker and Snow, of Kane; Judge Smith, of Union; McGrahaman, Youel and Anderson, of Fremont. The above named

persons desired no office, consequently worked in harmony. In time they became quite influential in Benton county politics."

For a number of years Judge Douglass was the acknowledged leader of his party in Benton county, and for a time seemed to carry everything before him. The brilliant and aggressive Tom Drummond then appeared upon the scene, and had almost grasped his scepter and transferred the leadership to the Republican party, at the breaking out of the Civil war. The effect of that conflict upon county politics was to more firmly entrench the Republicans, although even during that period of a strong prevailing Union sentiment there were strong Democratic partisans. In the summer of 1863 lodges of the so called Knights of the Golden Circle were organized in Benton county, with the design of encouraging a sentiment of disloyalty against the government, but the organization of counter societies by the Republicans, known as Loyal Leagues, effectually squelched all such attempts.

MID-WAR ELECTION.

At this point it may be of interest to note the voting strength of Benton county, at the mid-war period. On the 13th of October, 1863, a general election was held for governor, lieutenant governor, judge of the supreme court, member of the board of education, senator for the thirty-second district, representative for the thirty-eighth district, county judge, treasurer and recorder, sheriff, surveyor, county school superintendent, coroner, and propositions regarding poor farm and restraining swine and sheep. The twenty townships—Pelk, Harrison, Cedar, Bruce, Monroe, Jackson, Taylor, Benton, Canton, Eden, Big Grove, Homer, Kane, Union, Eldorado, Fremont, Florence, St. Clair, Le Roy and Iowa—cast the following vote:

Governor—William M. Stone, 1,024; J. M. Tuttle, 656; Le Grand Byington 1; total 1,681.

Lieutenant Governor—Enoch W. Eastman, 1,031; J. F. Duncombe, 648; total 1679.

Judge Supreme Court—J. F. Dillon, 1,031; Charles Mason, 651; total 1,682.

Senator—Wm. B. King, 1,032; Andrew Hale, 650; total 1,682.

Representative—Alexander Runyon, 1,045; W. C. Smith, 629; total 1,674.

Judge—Buren R. Sherman, 1,040; A. L. Kimball, 644; total 1,684.

Recorder and Treasurer—James H. Shutts, 938; Stephen Chapin, 732; total 1,670.

Sheriff—Ezra Bigelow, 968; A. H. Sebern, 80; G. W. Ridge, 634; total 1,682.

Surveyor—J. M. Kellar, 605; P. B. Smith, 898; C. S. Bennett, 142; total 1,645.

County School Superintendent—L. M. Holt, 1,021; J. Shellenger, 648; total 1,679.

Coroner—Moses Denman, 1,043; William Robbins, 642; total, 1,685.

Poor Farm—For, 861; against, 517; total 1,377.

Restraining Swine and Sheep—For, 1,072; against, 381; total, 1,453.

It appears also that the soldiers of the state, in the field and hospitals, cast 272 ballots for representative of the thirty-eighth district, of which Alexander Runyon received 232 and William C. Smith 40 votes. The state canvassing board certified to the above November 25, 1863.

The general election held November 8, 1864, was for president, vice president, congressman from the fourth district, secretary of state and other officers, judge and district attorney of the eighth district and county recorder. The vote for judge of the eighth district in Benton county was as follows: Charles H. Conklin, 1,167; James D. Templin, 125; George D. Templin, 366; total, 1,558.

District Attorney—C. R. Scott, 1,172; J. R. Sheean, 1,000; total 1,272.

District Court Clerk—James Chapin, 1,160; A. Clark, 1; James T. Sargent, 4; total, 1,165.

County Recorder—Milton P. Adams, 1,166.

In the October election during the last year of the war for governor, lieutenant governor, supreme judge, superintendent of public schools, congressional representative and county officers, Benton county gave William M. Stone a majority of 531 for governor and Benj. F. Gue, 633, for lieutenant governor. The following votes were cast for county officers:

County Judge—Buren R. Sherman, 1,353.

County Treasurer—James H. Shutts, 1,318; Elijah Evans, 1.

Recorder—Fredk. Lyman, 1,344.

Sheriff—Ezra Bigelow, 1,337; J. Knapp, 2.

County Superintendent—Amos N. Dean, 1,357.

Coroner—Elder H. Cowell, 1,293; George F. Jones, 5; E. Smith, 1; A. Taylor, 16.

Surveyor—Peter B. Smith, 1,303; S. H. Lee, 7.

SINCE CIVIL WAR TIMES.

Since war times there have been "ups" and "downs" for both parties, but a general analysis of the vote cast in Benton county since 1904 will give a fair idea of general political conditions. In that year the county gave Roosevelt 3,609 votes for president, and Parker, the Democratic standard bearer, 2,057. In 1906, the first election for governor under the new law, Cummins, the Republican candidate, received 2,423 and Porter, Democrat, 2,989; while in 1908 the county again returned to the Republican column, both gubernatorially and presidentially—Carroll receiving 3,020 to 2,451 votes cast for White, and Taft, 3,180, against 2,418 cast for Bryan. In 1906, W. P. Whipple polled 2,819 votes in Benton county as a Republican candidate for the forty-fifth senatorial district, and his opponent, W. J. Guinn, 2,489. The official canvass of the votes cast at the general election of November 3, 1908 shows the following Republican majorities in the county: Presidential electors, 764; governor, 570; lieutenant governor, 674; secretary of state, 696; auditor of state, 674; treasurer of state, 797; attorney general, 686; superintendent of public instruction, 703; judges of supreme court, 699, 684 and 698; clerk of superior court, 674; railroad commissioner, 692; member of congress, 749; state representative, 150; county auditor, 955; clerk, 439; sheriff, 1,014; attorney, 306; surveyor, 676; coroner, 478; and county supervisors, 478 and 498. In the county there was no opposition to the Republican candidates for treasurer and recorder, who received 3279 and 3256 votes, respectively, which was a little above the average party vote. The voting strength of the county, at this election, was from 5,300 to 5,500, the larger vote being generally cast for the county offices, especially for sheriff and attorney. A general analysis of these figures indicates, as stated at the commencement of this article, an average Republican majority in the county of about seven hundred, out of an average total vote of some 5,400.

COUNTY ROSTER 1846--1878.

It is impossible to give a complete list of the officers of Benton county, as there is no record of the election in 1848 and from 1852 to 1863 the records are not in existence. But from the best accessible sources of information a list has been compiled which will be found fairly complete.

County commissioners. 1846 (April to August), Edwin B. Spencer, Stedman Penrose and Samuel K. Parker; 1846-7, Samuel M. Lockhart, Charles Cantonwine and L. F. North; 1847-8, Samuel M. Lockhart, L. F. North and Thomas Way; 1848-9, Samuel M. Lockhart, Thomas Way and L. F. North; 1849-50, Samuel M. Lockhart, Thomas Way and L. F. North; 1850-1, Samuel M. Lockhart, L. F. North and James Rice.

Commissioners' clerk. David S. Pratt, 1846-8; Elias H. Keyes, 1848-9; W. R. Johnson, 1849-50; James T. Beckett, 1850-1; Geo. W. Vardaman, 1851. (Office abolished in 1851.)

County surveyors. I. D. Simison, April to August, 1846; Francis Rigaud, 1846-7; I. D. Simison, 1847-51; Newell Colby, resigned May 1, 1856; Wesley Whipple, 1856; Peter B. Smith, 1862-7; James A. Brown, 1868-77; G. W. Smith, 1877.

School fund commissioners. John Royal, 1847-8; Elias H. Keyes, 1848-50; James F. Beckett, 1850-2; Irwin D. Simison; Jacob S. Hunt, 1855. (Office abolished in 1858.)

Clerks of courts. Wm. J. Berry, 1846; J. R. Pratt, 1846-7; Irwin D. Simison, 1847-50; C. W. Buffum, 1850-1; G. W. Vardaman, 1851-2; James C. Traer, 1852-4; David Robb, 1854, resigned April 21, 1856; W. C. Stanberry, 1856; James Chapin, 1856-66; Buren R. Sherman, 1867-74; H. E. Warner, 1875.

Sheriffs. John Royal, April to August, 1846; James Downs, 1846-7; John Royal, 1847-9; Cyrus C. Charles, 1849-52; William Remington, 1853-7; Elmer Howard, 1857-9; A. H. Sebern, 1860-3; Ezra Bigelow, 1864-7; Henry M. Wilson, 1868-73; Peter S. Smith, 1874.

Prosecuting attorneys. James Mitchell, 1846-7; Samuel Lockhart, 1847-8; John Alexander, 1848-50; I. M. Preston; Norman W. Isbel; James Harlan, 1852; John Alexander, 1854; Edwin Humphreyville, 1856-8.

Recorders. Irwin D. Simison, 1846 (April to August); Lester W. Hayes, 1846-7.

Treasurers and Collectors. Beal Dorsey, 1846 (April to August); S. L. Morse, 1846-7.

Treasurers and Recorders. David S. Pratt, 1847-9; Joseph Rouse, 1849; James Johnson, 1849-53; James Chapin, 1853; W. R. Johnson, 1853; J. W. Filkins, 1855; Alexander Runyon, James H. Shatts.

Treasurers. James H. Shatts, 1865-6; S. A. Marine, 1870-73; Othniel Horne, 1874-7; Philip M. Coder, 1878.

Recorders. Milton P. Adams, 1865; Frederick Lyman, 1868-9; Philip M. Coder, 1869-72; James W. Smock, 1873.

Auditors. Edward M. Evans, 1870.

Superintendents of schools. J. Dysart, 1858; L. M. Holt, 1864-5; Amos N. Dean, 1866-9; H. M. Hoon, 1870-73; S. T. Shortress, 1874-5; Miss Salina Blackburn, 1876.

Judges of probate. Jonathan R. Pratt, April to August, 1846; James M. Denison, 1846-7; James Mitchell, March to August, 1847; David S. Pratt, 1847-9; John Alexander, 1849-51 (office abolished 1851).

County judges. John S. Forsyth, 1851-5; Samuel Douglas, 1855-9; John Treanor, 1860-61; John McCartney, 1862; Buren R. Sherman, 1864-7; George M. Gilchrist, 1868-9; J. L. Geddes, June, 1869-70 (office abolished).

District judges. James P. Carleton, 1847-8 and 1851-3; William Smyth, 1854-6; Isaac Cook, 1857-8; William L. Miller, 1859-61; Norman W. Isbel, 1862-3; James Bart, 1864; C. H. Conklin, 1865; N. M. Hubbard, 1866; James M. Rothrock, 1867-75; John Shane, 1876.

Circuit judges. William E. Miller, 1869-70; Geo. R. Struble, 1871, resigned; William J. Haddock, 1871, John McKean, 1872.

SUPERVISORS (TOWNSHIP SYSTEM).

For 1861. James McQuin, chairman; James Rice, Jacob Springer, M. Guinn, Samuel Miskinin, W. F. Kirkpatrick, John Slattery, Wm. C. Smith, J. M. Inman, John F. Forsyth, Joab Austin, J. R. Christie, B. R. Dwigans, E. W. Stocker, D. A. Robinson, S. G. Livermore, Martin Mickey, Stoughton Lamoree, George L. Palmer, George Treanor.

For 1862. James McQuin, chairman; H. Gwin, W. F. Kirkpatrick, W. C. Smith, Joab Austin, B. R. Dwigans, D. A. Robinson, S. G. Livermore, Stoughton Lamoree, J. M. Inman, Jacob Springer, James Rice, William Helm, William Wallace, George

Treanor, Samuel Miskinim, John Slattery, Martin Mickey, John Ruffcorn, and C. W. Stocker.

For 1863. James McQuin, chairman; Jacob Springer, J. G. Burnett, H. Guinn, Simpson Wells, D. A. Robinson, M. Mickey, E. W. Stocker, J. M. Inman, S. Miskinim, John Buffam, W. C. Smith, James Rice, John Slattery, Joseph Dysart, Wm. Hehn, George Treanor, Russell Bowe, Thomas Gillett and William Wallace.

For 1864. James McQuin, chairman; Jacob Springer, George Bergen, John L. Burke, Douglass W. Marsh, Michael Smith, W. F. Kirkpatrick, James Rice, E. W. Stocker, Dickson Johnson, S. B. Corning, John Treanor, W. C. Smith, J. M. Inman, T. Gillett, S. T. Wells, I. G. Burnett, D. A. Robinson, H. Guinn, R. Bowe.

For 1865. James McQuin, chairman; W. C. Smith, W. F. Kirkpatrick, John Knapp, Henry A. Shaffer, W. S. Snow, H. Sheldon, Alex. Runyon, D. A. Robinson, Alexander Johnson, John Treanor, D. W. Marsh, James Rice, Jacob Springer, George Bergen, M. Smith, E. W. Stocker, J. L. Burke, S. B. Corning.

For 1866. James McQuin, chairman; John Treanor, Jacob Springer, George Bergen, D. Johnson, James Rice, M. Smith, J. L. Burke, N. Hawley, A. Beaman, William Wallace, W. C. Smith, W. S. Snow, H. Sheldon, D. A. Robinson, Alex Johnson, W. F. Kirkpatrick, John Knapp, Alex Runyon, H. A. Shaffer.

For 1867. James McQuin, chairman; W. F. Kirkpatrick, Amos Dean, John Knapp, E. Trueblood, W. C. Pogue, C. L. Summers, S. McGranahan, Isaac N. Chenoweth, Thomas Lewis, Thomas Ryan, John Treanor, W. Wallace, D. Johnson, J. Rice, J. Springer, George Bergen, J. L. Burke, A. Beeman, N. Hawley.

For 1868. James McQuin, chairman; Jacob Springer, E. G. Brown, J. L. Cobb, J. M. Van Metre, Samuel Mahin, Nelson Hawley, John B. Reeve, James Rice, George Buchan, David McNie, A. J. Wyckoff, Amos Dean, C. L. Summers, S. McGranahan, W. F. Kirkpatrick, W. C. Pogue, Thomas Lewis, John Knapp, I. N. Chenoweth.

For 1869. E. G. Brown, chairman; D. L. Webb, J. Blackman, J. M. Inman, W. A. Tanner, C. L. Summers, W. W. Hamilton, D. B. Ramsdell, A. W. Burnison, David Landon, A. D. Ryan, David McNie, J. L. Cobb, S. Mahin, James Rice, J. B. Reeve, Jacob Springer, A. J. Wyckoff, George Buchan, N. Hawley.

For 1870. E. G. Brown, chairman; Amos Dean, John L. Burke, David McNie, L. Brooks, H. T. Elliott, A. H. Heldenbrand,

J. T. Ravenscroft, J. R. Christie, J. T. Austin, M. Smyth, S. M. Dinkkin, C. M. Summers, J. M. Inman, D. L. Webb, D. B. Ramsdell, A. W. Burnison, W. A. Tanner, W. W. Hamilton, J. Blackman.

SUPERVISORS (COUNTY SYSTEM).

For 1871. James McQuin, chairman; Isaac N. Chenoweth, John Knapp.

For 1872. Same.

For 1873. John Knapp, chairman; I. N. Chenoweth, E. W. Stocker.

For 1874. John Knapp, chairman; I. N. Chenoweth, H. Guinn.

For 1875. I. N. Chenoweth, chairman; H. Guinn, Nelson Hawley.

For 1876. I. N. Chenoweth, chairman; N. Hawley, H. Guinn.

For 1877. N. Hawley, chairman; A. A. Wentz, William F. Atkinson.

For 1878. A. A. Wentz, chairman; W. F. Atkinson, N. Hawley.

OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS 1878--1909.

1878. District (Eighth) Judge, John Shane; district attorney, Milo P. Smith; clerk of the court, Arad Thompson; county recorder, James W. Smock; county supervisor, George M. Gregg; jail proposition and tax defeated—for 1,325 and against 1,555.

1879. State senator, John D. Nichols; representative, Jacob K. Wagner; county auditor, Edward M. Evans; county treasurer, Philip M. Coder; sheriff, Peter S. Smith; county superintendent, Salina Blackburn; county supervisor, John L. Youel; surveyor, George W. Smith; coroner, W. F. Kirkpatrick.

1880. For presidential election Benton county cast 9,210 votes and for district elector 42,444. Various state officers except governor were elected, those more closely connected with Benton county being as follows: Circuit judge (eighth district), Christian Hedges; clerk of district and circuit courts, Arad Thompson; recorder, James W. Smock; supervisor, Nehemiah Van Skike; surveyor, Hiram Lipe; majorities against the constitutional convention and the constitutional amendment.

1881. Election for governor and lieutenant governor, judge of the state supreme court, superintendent of public instruction,

and representative for forty-sixth congressional district. County officers elected: County auditor, Edward M. Evans; treasurer (to fill vacancy), Elihu D. Stedman; sheriff, Peter L. Smith; county superintendent, Salina Blackburn; surveyor, Hiram Lipe; supervisors, Cyrus Mahorn; coroner, Wm. F. Kirkpatrick; majority of 949 for proposition to build a jail and 1082 for appropriation of swamp land fund.

1882. Election for various state officers except governor, judge, clerk and reporter of state supreme court and congressional representative from fifth district. Following were elected for other offices: Judge (eighth) district court, James D. Giffin; district attorney, Milton Rumley; clerk district and circuit courts, Arad Thompson; recorder, James W. Smock; commissioner, John L. Youel.

1883. Gubernatorial election; also for another judge of the supreme court and superintendent of public instruction. Majorities: State senator, John Rider; representative, George C. Sermingour. Elected: County auditor, George K. Knapp; treasurer, Elihu D. Stedman; sheriff, Irvin Mitchell; superintendent of schools, (Miss) S. Blackman; surveyor, Hiram Lipe; coroner, Wm. F. Kirkpatrick; supervisor, Nehemiah Van Skike.

1884. Presidential election year; also for state officers except governor and lieutenant governor; congressional representative fifth district. Majorities for amendments 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the state constitution and for J. H. Rothrock as judge of the state supreme court and Christian C. Hedges, judge circuit court of eighth district. County officers elected: Recorder, George A. Freeman; clerk of the district and circuit courts, Arad Thompson; supervisor, Hugh St. Clair.

1885. Election for governor, judge of state supreme court, superintendent of public instruction etc. County officers elected: Auditor, George R. Knapp; treasurer, Elihu D. Stedman; sheriff, John W. Barr; county superintendent of schools, Charles B. Marine; supervisor, John L. Youel; coroner, Wm. F. Kirkpatrick; surveyor, Hiram Lipe.

1886. Election for various state officers except governor; for congressional representative and clerk and reporter of state supreme court, Hon. George M. Gilchrist had a majority for the district judgeship and the following county officers were elected: Supervisor, G. H. Krime; recorder, George A. Freeman; attorney, George W. Burnham.

1887. Election for governor, lieutenant governor, judge of

the supreme court, superintendent of public instruction and congressional representative. County officers elected: Auditor, S. P. Van Dike; treasurer, E. D. Stedman; sheriff, John W. Barr; superintendent of schools, Charles B. Marner; supervisor, John Young; coroner, W. F. Kirkpatrick; surveyor, George W. Ridge.

1888. Presidential election; also for various state officers except governor (and including railroad commissioner); judge of state supreme court and representative for congress. County officers elected: Recorder, David D. Johnson; attorney, John T. Christie; supervisor, John S. Stanley.

1889. Election for governor, lieutenant governor, judge of the supreme court, superintendent of public instruction, railroad commissioner, judge of the district court (Hon. G. W. Gilchrist in a majority), senator from the forty-fifth district (J. J. Mosnat in a small majority) and representative for forty-ninth district (L. A. Mitchell in a heavy majority). County officers elected: Auditor, S. P. Van Dike; treasurer, Alex. Runyon; sheriff, John A. Elliott; surveyor, H. Lipe; superintendent of schools, E. K. McGogg; coroner, D. D. Maples; supervisor, G. H. Krime.

1890. Election for various officers except governor, etc. Majority of 2,186 in county against revision of state constitution. County officers elected: Recorder, D. D. Johnson; clerk of district court, John M. Lehr; attorney, Cato Sells; supervisor, Joseph Owens.

1891. Election for governor, lieutenant governor, representative forty-ninth district etc. County officers elected: Treasurer, Alex. Runyon; sheriff, J. C. Downs; superintendent of schools, E. K. McGogg; supervisor J. S. Stanley; surveyor, C. S. Bennett; coroner, G. McCorkle.

1892. Presidential election; also for various state officers except governor, congressional representative from the fifth district judge of the seventeenth judicial district and clerk of district court. County officers elected: Auditor, H. H. Buck; recorder, E. M. Evans; attorney, Cato Sells; supervisor, G. W. Ferris.

1893. Gubernatorial election; also for judge of the supreme court, superintendent of public instruction, railroad commissioner, representative of the forty-ninth district, senator of the forty-fifth district etc. County officers elected: Treasurer, James G. Mallory; sheriff, James M. Elson; county superintendent of schools, A. W. White; coroner, G. M. Mesbit; supervisor, R. F. Smith.

1894. Election for state officers except governor etc., judges of the superior and supreme court, clerk and recorder of the su-

preme court, representative from fifth congressional district and judge of the seventeenth judicial district. County officers elected: Auditor, H. H. Buck; clerk of the district court, John Lorenz, Jr.; attorney, C. F. Stookey; recorder, E. M. Evans; sheriff, S. H. Metcalf; supervisor, John T. Sloan. Majority of 300 against proposition to levy three-mill tax for county poor house.

1895. Election for governor, lieutenant governor, judge of state supreme court, superintendent of public instruction, railroad commissioner and representative from forty-ninth district. County officers elected: Treasurer, James G. Mallory; sheriff, Samuel H. Metcalf; superintendent of schools, Authur White; supervisor, Morgan S. Pratt; coroner, C. B. Chenoweth; surveyor, Hiram Lipe. Proposition to borrow money to erect new court house defeated by 2,885 to 1,914 votes.

1896. Presidential election; also for various state officers except governor, etc. County officers elected: Auditor, W. H. Bickel; clerk of district court, B. F. Mossman; recorder, J. E. Whipple; attorney, M. J. Tobin; supervisor, R. E. Smith.

1897. Election for governor, lieutenant governor, etc. County officers elected: Treasurer, Charles W. Brubaker; sheriff, Peter H. Theissen; superintendent of schools, Aaron K. Rife; supervisor, John F. Schloeman; coroner, J. E. Cox; surveyor, William Bernstorff. Proposition to build a county home defeated by 1,739 to 1,686.

1898. Election for various other state officers than governor, etc. Elected: Clerk of the district court, B. F. Mossman; auditor, W. H. Bickel; recorder, D. S. Rosenberg; attorney, M. J. Tobin; supervisor, Jno. N. Kerr; surveyor, Llewellyn Smith.

1900. Presidential election; also for secretary, auditor, treasurer and attorney general of the state, railroad commissioner, judge of supreme court and representative from the fifth congressional district. Officers elected: Clerk of district court, A. B. Allen; recorder, D. S. Rosenberg; auditor, W. O. Brand; attorney, L. J. Kirkland; supervisor, Hugh Humphrey. The constitution amendment carried by a vote of 2,680 to 1,756 and the constitution convention by 2,546 to 2,132.

1901. Election for governor and various other state officers, state senator from the forty-fifth district and representative from the forty-ninth. County officers elected: Treasurer, J. C. Pingel; sheriff, W. C. Youel; superintendent of schools, C. R. Lowe; surveyor, L. Smith; coroner, A. J. Bryant; supervisor, John N. Kerr.

1902. Election of various state officers other than governor, etc. County officers elected: Clerk of district court, A. B. Allen; auditor, W. O. Brand; recorder, George H. Thompson; supervisor, J. P. Coburn.

1903. Election for governor, etc. County officers elected: Treasurer, John C. Pingel; sheriff, W. C. Youel; superintendent of schools, C. R. Lowe; surveyor, L. A. Dickinson; coroner, A. J. Bryant; supervisor, H. Humphrey.

1904—Presidential election; also for secretary, auditor, treasurer and attorney general of the state, railroad commissioner, judge of the supreme court and representative from the fifth congressional district. County officers elected; Auditor W. O. Brand; clerk district court, A. B. Allen; treasurer, John C. Pingel; sheriff, W. C. Youel; recorder, George H. Thompson; superintendent of schools, C. R. Lowe; coroner, A. J. Bryant; surveyor, L. A. Dickinson; attorney, L. J. Kirkland. On the constitutional amendment, 2226 votes were cast for, and 2382 against; on the court the court house proposition (for direct taxation of five mills) 2607 for, and 2,647 against.

By proper legislative action the proposed amendment to article XII (section 16), providing for uniform biennial elections of state officers was submitted to the electors at the fall election of 1904 and adopted. It provided for the election of a governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor, treasurer, attorney general, two judges of the supreme court—the successors of judges of the district court whose terms of office expired December 31, 1906—and six state senators who would otherwise be chosen in 1905, as well as members of the house of representatives. The terms of the judges of the supreme court which would otherwise expire on December 31st of odd numbered years, and all other elective state, county and township officers whose terms of office would otherwise expire in January, 1906, and members of the general assembly whose successors would otherwise be chosen in 1905, were extended one year until their successors could qualify. The terms of senators whose successors would otherwise be chosen in 1907 were extended one year. The general assembly was to provide which of the judges of the state supreme court was to serve as chief justice.

1906-7—Gubernatorial election. County officers: Auditor, A. H. Turner; clerk, F. G. Bryner; treasurer, John C. Pingel; recorder, George H. Thompson; sheriff, W. C. Youel; attorney,

Clarence Nichols; superintendent of schools, C. R. Lowe; coroner, Dr. A. J. Bryant.

1907-8—Election for congressman. County officers: Auditor, A. H. Turner; clerk, F. G. Bryner; treasurer, J. N. Wilson; recorder, J. A. Ridenour; sheriff, A. B. Blair; attorney, Clarence Nichols; coroner, Levi W. Latham; superintendent of schools, J. W. Jones.

1908-9—Gubernatorial election. County officers: Auditor, E. E. Strait; clerk of district court, P. O. Christianson; treasurer, J. N. Wilson; recorder, J. A. Ridenour; sheriff, A. B. Blair; attorney, E. F. Brown; superintendent of schools, J. W. Jones; coroner, S. H. Lutes; surveyor, H. Lipe.

OLD-TIME COUNTY OFFICIALS.

Commencing in 1873, P. S. Smith of Vinton served as sheriff of Benton county for several terms. He is one of the old-timers, coming from Montgomery county, New York, in 1855, to Linn county, Iowa. He first engaged in farming and stock-dealing, and gradually approached the shrievalty of the county through the offices of assessor of the town of Eden (eleven years), town clerk (nine years), and justice of the peace (eleven years). Altogether, he was an office holder in Benton county about forty years.

Captain Henry M. Wilson, who served three terms as sheriff of Benton county after the war, received his military title as commander of Company D, Twenty-eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. The main business of his life was that of agriculture and the raising of stock. In April, 1855, he came to Vinton with his parents from Scott county, Indiana, being then fourteen years of age. He was therefore not quite of age when he entered the ranks of the Twenty-eighth, but before it started for the front he was elected orderly sergeant. Throughout the war he participated in twenty-three engagements, which included the battles of Magnolia Hill and Champion Hill, the siege of Vicksburg and the actions at Pleasant Hill, Winchester and Cedar Creek. He was successively promoted to be lieutenant and captain and upon his return to his home in section 30, Taylor township, near Vinton, took up his interrupted farming operations. In 1860 he commenced his first term as sheriff of Benton county and was reelected in 1870 and 1872. He married Miss C. L. Cline, a member of one of the best known pioneer families in the county.

Edward M. Evans, a brave soldier of the Twenty-eighth Regi-

ment was, after the war, retained in office for many years, as auditor of the county, as city treasurer and in other capacities. He was a native of Linn county, Iowa, born July 28, 1845; was brought to Benton county in his infancy and in his boyhood learned the trade of a harness maker. As a member of Company D, Twenty-eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, he participated in the siege of Vicksburg, was in the Red River Campaign with General Banks, and served with Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley, being later severely wounded in the battle of Cedar Creek, after having been in the service three years. He served continuously as county auditor from 1869 to 1879.

CHAPTER V.

COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS IN DETAIL.

COUNTY BOUNDARIES FIXED—ACT FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF BENTON COUNTY—FIRST COUNTY ELECTION—NORTHPORT, THE COUNTY SEAT—ATTEMPTED OCCUPATION OF COURT HOUSE—NORTHPORT, RECHRISTENED VINTON—MOVE TO CHANGE COUNTY SEAT—TROUBLE WITH SECOND COURT HOUSE—CIVIL COURTS ESTABLISHED—HEAVY BURDENS OF COUNTY JUDGE—FIRE WIPES OUT COURT HOUSE AND SCHOOL—CORNER STONE OF NEW COURT HOUSE LAID—HOUSE WARMING IN DETAIL—CHANGES IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT—A COURT HOUSE OF WHICH TO BE PROUD—CORNER-STONE OF 1856 COURT HOUSE—THE COURT HOUSE OF THE PRESENT—STRONGHOLD FOR LAW BREAKERS—PROVISION FOR THE POOR.

The civil organization of a county may well be called its skeleton; the framework of the whole body. When the county government takes form; when its civil divisions commence to take shape and the trusted and substantial representatives of its populace are placed in office to conserve the interests of the public, their associates at large—then the conviction takes root that the best form of modern development, or American civilization, is well under way.

COUNTY BOUNDARIES FIXED.

AS is customary in the formation of counties in the United States, Benton's limits were defined before provision was made for the organization of its civil government in that special territory. Its present boundaries were established by legislative act of February 17, 1843, and were described as follows: "Beginning at the northwest corner of Linn county, thence west to range 13 west, thence south on said line to the corner of townships 81 and 82, ranges 13 and 14 west, thence east to the southwest corner

of Linn county, thence north to the place of beginning." These defined boundaries reduced the length of Benton county from two hundred and thirty-four to twenty-four miles, and from seven thousand square miles to seven hundred and twenty, as it had heretofore comprised all the country west of Linn county to the Missouri river. Tama county was established at the same time, and both, with the territory west, were continued attached to Linn county for judicial, political and revenue purposes. But there was no need of civil government for the territorial Benton county, as described above; for the Sacs and Foxes were still the title holders of every acre of its land. But when it became generally known that, by the treaty of 1838, they had vacated a strip virtually corresponding to the five easternmost townships, the pioneer eye was turned toward this section, and in the following year permanent settlements commenced and continued to be confined to the country near the Cedar river for some time. In 1843 the Indian title was completely extinguished in Benton county, and in January, 1846, a few months after the bulk of the Sacs and Foxes were removed to Kansas, a civil organization was created under the following legislative act:

ACT FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF BENTON COUNTY.

SECTION I. Be it enacted by the Council and House of Representatives of the Territory of Iowa that the county of Benton be and the same is hereby organized from and after the 1st day of March next, and the inhabitants of said county shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges to which, by law, the inhabitants of other organized counties of this Territory are entitled; and said county shall constitute a part of the Third Judicial District of this Territory.

SEC. II. That there shall be a special election held on the first Monday in the month of April next, at which time the county officers for said county shall be elected, and also such number of Justices of the Peace and Constables for said county as may be ordered by the Clerk of the District Court for said county.

SEC. III. That it shall be the duty of the clerk of the District Court in and for said county to give at least ten days' previous notice of the time and place of holding such special election in said county, grant certificates of election, and in all respects discharge the duties required by law to be performed by Clerks of the Boards of County Commissioners, in relation to elections, until a Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners may be elected and qualified.

SEC. IV. That it shall be the duty of the Clerk of the District Court in said county to discharge all the duties, required by law to be performed by Sheriffs, in relation to elections, until a Sheriff for said county may be elected and qualified.

SEC. V. That the county officers, Justice of the Peace and Constables elected under the provisions of this act, shall hold their offices until the first Monday in August, 1846, and until their successors are elected and qualified.

SEC. VI. That the Clerk of the District Court in and for said county of Benton may be appointed and qualified at any time after the passage of this act.

SEC. VII. That all actions at law or equity in the District Court for the county of Linn, commenced prior to the organization of said county of Benton, when the parties or either of them reside in said county of Benton, shall be prosecuted to final judgment, order or decree, as fully and effectually as if this act had not been passed.

SEC. VIII. That it shall be the duty of all Justices of the Peace residing within said county of Benton to return all books and papers in their hands, pertaining to said office, to the next nearest Justice of the Peace who may be elected and qualified in and for said county under the provisions of this act; and all suits at law or other official business which may be in the hands of such Justice of the Peace, and unfinished, shall be prosecuted and completed by the Justice of the Peace to whom such business or papers may have been returned, as aforesaid.

SEC. IX. That the judicial authorities of Linn County shall have cognizance of all crimes or violations of the criminal laws of this Territory committed within the limits of said county of Benton prior to the 1st day of March next; Provided, prosecutions be commenced under the judicial authorities of said Linn County prior to the said 1st day of March next.

SEC. X. That the said county of Benton shall have cognizance and jurisdiction of all crimes or violations of the criminal laws of this Territory committed prior to the 1st day of March next, in cases where prosecutions shall not have been commenced under the judicial authorities of Linn County.

SEC. XI. That the county of Tama and the counties lying west of said county of Tama, by and the same, are hereby attached to the county of Benton, for election, revenue and judicial purposes.

SEC. XII. That the Clerk of the District Court in and for the county of Benton may keep his office at any place within said county, until the county seat thereof may be located.

SEC. XIII. That Joseph A. Seerest, of Jones County, Lyman Dillon, of Dubuque County, and Joseph A. Downing, of Cedar County, be and they are hereby appointed Commissioners to locate and establish the county seat of the county of Benton.

SEC. XIV. That said Commissioners, or a majority of them, shall meet at the office of the Clerk of the District Court of the county of Benton, on the first Monday of May next, or at such other time, not exceeding thirty days thereafter, as a majority of them may agree.

SEC. XV. Said Commissioners shall first take and subscribe to the following oath, to wit: "We do solemnly swear (or affirm) that we have no personal interest, either directly or indirectly, in the location of the seat of justice of the county of Benton, and that we will faithfully and impartially locate the same, according to the best interests of said county, taking into consideration the future as well as the present population of said county;" which oath shall be administered by the Clerk of the District Court, or any other officer authorized by law to administer oaths within the county of Benton; and the officer administering said oath shall certify and file the same in the office of the Clerk of the District Court of said county, whose duty it shall be to record the same.

SEC. XVI. Said Commissioners, when met and qualified under the provisions of this act, shall proceed to locate the seat of Justice of said county of Benton; and as soon as they shall have come to a determination, the same shall be committed to writing, signed by the said Commissioners and filed with the Clerk of the District Court of said county, whose duty it shall be to record the same and forever keep it on file in his office; and the place thus designated shall be the seat of justice of said county.

SEC. XVII. Said Commissioners shall each be entitled to receive the sum of \$2 per day while necessarily employed in the said location, and the sum of \$2 for every twenty miles' travel to and from the county seat, which shall be paid by said Benton County out of the first funds arising from the sale of lots in such seat of justice.

SEC. XVIII. The county of Black Hawk is hereby attached to said county of Benton for election, judicial and revenue purposes.

SEC. XIX. This act to take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

APPROVED—January 17, 1846.

FIRST COUNTY ELECTION.

The first election in Benton county, under the above act, was held at Parker's Grove, in the southern part of Canton township, in April, 1846, and resulted in the casting of the following ballots for the candidates named: Commissioners—Edwin B. Spence, 35, Samuel M. Lockhart, 22, Stedman Penrose, 35, and Samuel K. Parker, 33; sheriff—John Royal, 33, and Lewis W. Bryson, 22;

commissioners' clerk—David S. Pratt, 42, Irwin D. Simison, 24, James Downs, 11, Jonathan R. Pratt, 5, and D. S. Pratt, 3; coroner—Fielding Bryson, 41; surveyor—Irwin D. Simison, 20, David S. Pratt, 10, Francis J. Rigaud, 16, Jonathan R. Pratt, 2, Beal Dorsey, 35, and Jonathan Pratt, 1; collector and treasurer—Beal Dorsey, 35, and Lewis W. Bryson, 6; assessor—Isaac Ous-tott, 27, and Price Kendrick, 28; inspector of weights and meas-ures—David S. Pratt, 39; judge of probate—Jonathan R. Pratt, 37, and James M. Denison, 14; justices of the peace—Fielding Bryson, 39, Irwin D. Simison, 21, Stephen Holcomb, 21, Charles Cantonwine, 30, Jonathan R. Pratt, 5, Gilman Clark, 14, Stedman Penrose, 7, George Miller, 1, Stephen Holcomb, 1, and George Cantonwine, 1; constables—Price Kendrick, 49, Samuel Stephens, 28, Samuel L. Morse, 28, Beal Dorsey, 38, George Cantonwine, 2, L. D. Bordwell, 2, and V. M. Gray, 1.

The county officers thus elected could only serve until the regular election on the first Monday of August, which resulted in the choice of the following: County commissioners—Samuel M. Lockhart, Loyal Fuller North and Charles Cantonwine; clerk of commissioners' court, David S. Pratt; sheriff, James Downs; coroner, Thomas Way; recorder, Lester W. Hayes; treasurer, S. L. Morse; assessor, Price Kendrick, and judge of probate, James Denison.

NORTHPORT THE COUNTY SEAT.

The organic act provided for and named three special com-missioners to establish the county seat and (also under its pro-visions) they met on the first Monday of May, 1846, and located it on the northeast quarter of section 21, township 85 north, range 10 west, calling the place Northport and ordering the county sur-veyor to "hire the necessary chain carriers and stake drivers" for the purpose of carrying into effect the plat which he had submit-ted.

The town was laid out early in the summer of that year and later in the year a hewn log court house, two stories in height and twenty by twenty-four feet in dimensions, the upper floor being divided into three rooms, was erected—in the way of the times and, doubtless, in accord with the dimensions of the county pocket-

ATTEMPTED OCCUPATION OF COURT HOUSE.

The first term of the district court was held at the house of Thomas Way, about two miles northeast of the present court house, in August, 1846, the log cabin of that citizen being considered the best in the county. The second term in 1847 was also held in his house, and on September 18, 1848, an attempt was made to occupy the log court house at Vinton. The attempt seems to have been a dismal failure. At the time there were no roof, and no floor--nothing but the log walls--but an attempt was made with true western bravery. A seat was provided for the judge in one corner of the "lower story" by placing a piece of board across the corner in the crevices between the logs, and upon the onset of a shower, other pieces were thrust into the chinks over his head to protect it from the rain. Court was opened, but soon adjourned to the cabin of William Davis on section 15, the grand jury occupying a blacksmith shop in the vicinity.

NORTHPORT RECHRISTENED VINTON.

At the time this first and last court was "held" in Benton county's first "temple of justice," the town of Northport had been rechristened Vinton, in honor of PLYNN VINTON, a member of congress from Ohio. The record of the original town plat was not made a part of the county archives until February 12, 1848, when the county commissioners of that year--Samuel M. Lockwood, Loyal F. North and Thomas Way--filed the plat under the name of Vinton. Northport, which therefore never had a legal existence, as far as the county records show, is included in the limits of the present city of Vinton.

MOVE TO CHANGE COUNTY SEAT.

During the summer and fall of 1848 Chauncey Leverich, John Alexander and others interested in property lying nearer the river, where the present business portion of Vinton now stands, determined to make an attempt to move the county seat. An election was therefore ordered for April 2, 1849, and each of the following locations received fifty-seven votes: Southeast quarter of northeast quarter of section 3, township 85 north, range 10 west, and lots 5, 6, 7 and 8, of west one-half of section 16, township 85 north, range 10 west. The location on section 3, as de-

scribed, was on the property of Thomas Way, a local political power, whose house across the river, three miles northeast of the present city, had so well served the district court of the county—standing for several years as its virtual court house.

Another election for the location of the seat of justice was held in August, at which the present site was selected, then lying without the town limits. In November following, James Leverich, who had purchased the claim of Chauncey (the county commissioner), laid out a town on section 16, as described, and called it Fremont, in honor of General John C. Fremont, and this became the capital of Benton county. But owing to the fact that there was another town of the same name in the state the name was changed to Vinton by a legislative act approved January 21, 1853.

TROUBLE WITH SECOND COURT HOUSE.

Again came trouble with the second court house, which was a small two story frame building that stood on the southeast corner of the present public square. It is said that the frame was raised and roofed, and the walls sided up, before the town of Fremont was platted; some of the old settlers go farther, and insist that the skeleton of the court house was put together before the result of the county seat fight was known, as an inducement by the Leverich faction to bring the location to their choice. But when the county seat was once fixed, the court house stood for several years as a real skeleton of a building, without floors, doors or windows. In 1851-2 a floor was laid in the lower story, and doors and windows placed, so that it could be used as a district court room; the upper story was divided into two rooms, in one of which the county officers were installed; and a flight of rough stairs on the outside of the building connected the two stories.

CIVIL COURTS ESTABLISHED.

Altogether, the year 1851 appears to mark an epoch in the civil government of Benton county. From 1848 to 1851 the ends of justice had been almost entirely controlled by Vigilantes, Regulators and other ex-judiciary organizations often presided over by Judge Lynch. There is no record of any attempt to hold court in Benton county from the fall of 1848 until April 1851, and, on account of the absence of the district judge, it was not opened un-

til June 4th. The lower floor of the Fremont court house had been put in order for this special occasion.

The re-establishment of the court in June and the election in the following August, mark the commencement of a new era in the county. By legislative act approved February 5, 1851, the board of county commissioners was abolished and the office of county judge created, the first incumbent of that bench to be elected in the succeeding August. The new functionary was invested with the functions of the abolished commissionership and these customarily attached to the probate judgeship.

As Benton county had now been organized five years, it will be interesting to compare the votes cast at the first election which marked the abolishment of the board of county commissioners and the creation of the powerful county judgeship: For county judge—John S. Forsyth, 75, and D. S. Baker, 46; treasurer and recorder—J. P. Cline, 36, James Johnson, 76, and William Cline, 3; sheriff—William Remington, 39, and C. C. Charles, 76; supervisor of roads—L. F. North, 22, James Rice, 62, Samuel Osborn, 28, and James Downs, 1; coroner—H. Mahan, 57, and L. D. Bordwell, 22; district clerk—G. W. Vandaman, 78, and J. F. Beckett, 19; prosecuting attorney—William Cline, 3, John Alexander, 2, J. E. Vandaman, 5, and J. J. Sanders, 5; county surveyor—L. D. Simison, 56, and John Sawyer, 36.

HEAVY BURDENS OF COUNTY JUDGE.

The authority of the courts of Benton county has never been questioned since 1851, but the new county judge who assumed office under the election of August was certainly saddled with unusual and heavy responsibilities. The following well describes his predicament and the able way in which he carried through his task: "Upon assuming the duties of county judge, Mr. Forsyth discovered that the finances of the county were in a deplorable condition. It was flooded with warrants, which had been issued without much regard to expense.

"But no sooner had the affairs of the county began to assume definite shape under his skilful and energetic management than the county officials were startled by the large number of warrants that were presented for payment. As there was no proof that a single warrant had been illegally issued, they were paid and canceled as rapidly as the resources of the county would permit. The revenue, however, was very small, and the constant drain kept the

county, as a civil organization, in very straightened circumstances for several years; and it was not until about 1854 that its financial affairs commenced to tangibly improve. It is to be remarked, to the credit of Judge Forsyth and his successor, Judge Douglas, that Benton county owes much of its subsequent prosperity to their energetic and able efforts to bring financial order out of chaos and to permanently establish the reign of law and order."

FIRE WIPES OUT COURT HOUSE AND SCHOOL.

But the trouble with the old Fremont court house was by no means at an end, and perhaps it was well, after all, that a fire should have wiped it out completely before it was really occupied as a completed structure. During the summer of 1852 it is said that the first story was occupied for a time as a store, the goods being put in by a Mr. Green of Cedar Rapids and disposed of by Russell Jones, the local salesman. In the fall and winter following George Parish taught school therein—the first in Fremont—but in February, 1853, before the term was closed, the court house was burned. One day, after school, some one took the ashes and coals from the stove and threw them in the yard. Unfortunately there were some shavings left under the building by the workmen, and during the night a heavy wind arose and produced the necessary combination for the conflagration. That night the county treasurer, James Johnson, and Dr. J. C. Traer, district clerk, were sleeping in the office in the second story.

The story of how they saved the county records, with the assistance of T. S. Palmer, the merchant across the street, was described by the latter, more than fifty years afterward, in the following words: "I was in my store on Jefferson street, opposite, when about midnight I was awakened by Johnson banging at the door, saying the court house was on fire. I dressed as rapidly as possible and found the building all on fire on the first floor. The court room was above as well as all the books and records of the county. The only entrance to the court room was an outside stairs on the east end of the building. The wind coming from the west, drove the smoke over the stairs. To get upstairs we had to pass through a dense body of hot smoke. It was impossible to carry the books and papers down these stairs. We found a long scantling and raising one end to an upper window, we slid the books and papers down this joist to the ground. In this way all the records were saved. Before this was done, the flames had burst

out from below, enveloping the whole side of the building. Then the point was how the men were to get out safely. The stairs were choked with hot smoke and flames had captured the side. Johnson chose the stairs, and fell to the ground before getting down. The people below rushed in and dragged him out and saved him. Dr. Traer got on to the scantling to slide down, but in doing so threw the scantling off the upper window, but fortunately for me, it caught on the lower window, so I shoved my feet out first, dropping through the flame. I lit on the plank and dropped to the ground. We were all injured, but Johnson fared the worst. He never recovered, but died about three months after—a true friend and a grand, good man. Traer and myself took violent colds, which lasted several months, but we saved the records of Benton County. If Traer and Johnson had not been sleeping in the court room that night, all would have been lost. These are the bare facts in the above case, and, although true, we never got credit for the risk we ran.”

CORNER STONE OF NEW COURT HOUSE LAID.

In the fall following the fire, the county issued bonds to build a \$7,000 court house on the site of the old, and in November, 1853, E. E. Downing entered into a contract to erect it, but the latter made so little progress that his contract was annulled. John Tyler was a more dependable contractor, and he actually commenced work on the foundation in the spring of 1856. The corner stone was laid July 13th, under the auspices of the Masonic fraternity, and to the tune of the Marion brass band and addresses by Messrs. Evans and Root. A more detailed account of the proceedings (and perhaps presented with more appropriate dignity) appeared in the *Eagle*, as follows:

“The corner stone of our court house was laid on Saturday by our Masonic fraternity with the usual ceremonies on such occasions. The procession formed at the Odd Fellows’ hall at 2 o’clock p. m., and marched to Crow’s hall, where it was joined by the citizens generally, a large number of whom were in attendance from the surrounding country. From there they proceeded to the northeast corner of the court house site, where the corner stone was in readiness to receive such deposits as the fraternity or any of the citizens chose to make, which were placed in the proper place and the corner stone was then placed upon the corner, under the direction of the master of the lodge, with the ceremonies ap-

propriate to the occasion. The assemblage was then addressed by Messrs. Evans and Root, explanatory of the ends and aims of Masonry, when the procession, after the appropriate exercises, was dismissed by the county judge. The occasion was of great interest to the citizens of Vinton and of Benton county generally. It is an indication of the growing importance of the county; and, as a manifestation of the interest felt in the improvement of our young and growing city, was especially to those who have been identified with the welfare of the town of Vinton from its early infancy, and who have watched with an anxious eye its growing importance. Among the crowd we noticed a large number of strangers, who, no doubt, went away with enlarged views of the future progress of our village and county. We also noticed among the crowd a number of the very oldest inhabitants of the county, among whom was our venerable neighbor, Mr. Sanders, whose gray hairs bespeak for him a place among the first or pioneers of this region, and who no doubt has passed over the spot where Vinton now stands, years ago, little expecting to see a city spring up in so short a space of time, that could turn out its hundreds to see and assist in laying a corner stone of the first permanent court house ever erected in Benton county. Prominent among others we might mention were the names of Tilford, Jones, Webb, Forsyth and Evans, and if last certainly not least, our old friend Bill Stanberry, who, with his broad, fat face, was the very personification of the good humor which we believe invariably prevailed during the occasion. The affair was also graced by a large number of the ladies of the town and the vicinity, who, by their smiles and presence, are always ready to lend their aid to every good and noble work. The occasion was also enlivened by the fine brass band, which dispensed strains of their soulstirring music at intervals during the performance. In short, the whole affair passed off very finely, and no doubt will be an occasion long remembered by those who participated."

NEW COURT HOUSE "WARMED."

The first floor was finished before the end of the year, and the upper story was so far advanced that on Christmas 'eve, or to be more precise, December 23rd, the court house was dedicated by a grand ball and supper, given by citizens of Vinton to everyone in the county. The bill of fare is given as oyster soup, ornamented cold dishes, boiled dishes and hot reliefs, cold and hot

side dishes, cold relishes, buffalo and elk meat, wild turkey and prairie chicken, quail and pastry, nuts, confectionery and desert generally. The court room was used as the dancing hall and Cedar Rapids, Waterloo, Pickaway and Benton City all sent delegations of gay dancers. The Cedar Rapids contingent was especially in evidence, and did much to uphold the name of the affair as a "house warming."

HOUSE WARMING IN DETAIL.

A description of this famous affair in the early history of Benton county is preserved in the files of the *Vinton Eagle*, from the lively pen of I. Van Metre:

"On the 23rd, of December, 1856, two sleigh loads of people appeared at Pickaway from Cedar Rapids. There were Mr. and Mrs. McIntosh, John and Mrs. Graves, Mr. Kellogg, a merchant, and some one else whose name I do not recall. They were on their way to Vinton to attend the dedicatory ball in the new court house. They had come that round about way for a short visit and to get some of my older brothers to go with them. Brother Henry tells the story.

"When the Cedar Rapids party arrived, the hallway was packed full of dressed hogs. We had been butchering and there were twelve or fifteen of the porkers, big ones. We worked all night cutting up and salting down this pile of pork, and the next day joined the party for Vinton. The road was but poorly opened the travel in that direction being light, and the snow that winter always plentiful and ready to drift on the smallest provocation, which, to tell the truth, it rarely lacked. We got through it without more serious accident than the loss of one horse, which got a leg broken while floundering in a snow bank.

"The court house was not finished; there was no fire in it and the weather was severely cold. There was no fire and there was a string of people constantly going to and from the court house to the Fremont House across the street, kept by a genial old soul, prince of bonifaces, Russell Jones, with a heart as big as the court house itself. It was cold, but young blood is hot and the great crowd gathered there from Benton and adjoining counties were there to have a good time. They did not propose to be frightened out of that while there were warm fires and a hearty welcome at the Fremont. Uncle Russell Jones was happy. 'It

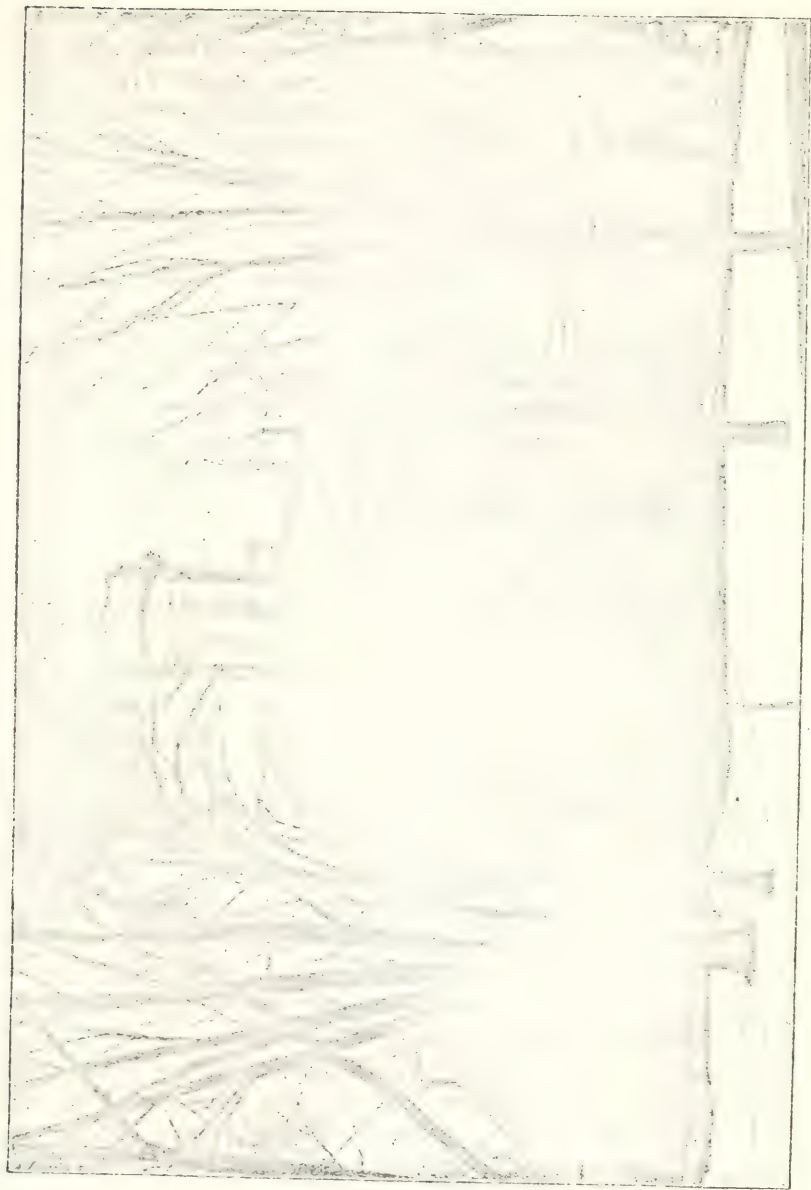
is cold, boys. Wrap up well. Take something to keep you warm while crossing the street. Don't be afraid of it; it is a good article.' Over and over this kindly injunction was repeated and always accepted as the right thing to do, coming from so sage an authority. Meanwhile the dancing went on. There were always enough to fill the floor. While some danced, others visited the Fremont House and heard Uncle Russell say, 'Wrap up boys' before they went out. 'It is cold. Take something warm for the stomach's sake; it will keep you warm while you dance.' Uncle Russell need not have troubled himself to insist on the boys, men too, on taking something to keep them warm. They were very regular about it at the close of each set and grew livelier until night gave way to morning and daylight and sunlight, in fact, did appear.

A delegation from farther down the creek, James Bryan, S. A. Lee, J. S. Sterling and others, with their wives, arrived at Vinton late in the night. Mr. Graham, who kept a hotel and the postoffice at Redmond, just over the line in Tama county, and Benjamin Twogood, a few miles north of Redmond in the same county, with their wives and others, were there. Mr. Twogood rarely missed anything going in the way of amusement between Toledo and Marion. They had no children, were well fixed for the time, liked company and liked to go. They were on hand early. The young people and most of the older ones of Vinton were there, and Judge Douglass the happiest of them all.

As finally completed the court house cost about \$13,000, and was a substantial two-story brick structure, some forty by sixty feet. The surrounding grounds of the Public square were eventually ornamented with shrubs, evergreens and other trees, and became a favorite gathering place for Vintonites. The first story was occupied by the different county offices and record vaults, and the second by court and jury rooms.

CHANGES IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

By act of the general assembly of Iowa, approved March 26, 1860, the county judge system, by which the affairs of the government had been virtually vested in one man elected for a term of four years, was abolished in favor of a rather cumbersome county legislature, or board of supervisors, consisting of a representative from each of the twenty civil townships. The act went into effect July 4th and the election for members of the new board was in the



COURT HOUSE OF 1856.

following October, resulting as follows: James McQuin, Cue township; James Rice, Benton; J. M. Inman, Eden; G. L. Palmer, Big Grove; H. Guinn, Iowa; S. G. Livermore, Fremont; S. Miskimin, Monroe; G. Treanor, Bruce; S. Lamosee, LeRoy; E. W. Stocker, Kane; W. F. Kirkpatrick, Taylor; Martin Mickey, Union; R. R. Dwiggins, Canton; John Slattery, Polk; J. Austin, Cedar; J. R. Christie, Jackson; J. S. Forsyth, Harrison; D. A. Robinson, Eldorado; W. C. Smith, Homer; and Jacob Springer, St. Clair. In January, 1861, the board elected Mr. McQuin as chairman and determined the long-term (two years) and the short-term (one year) members. The supervisors' system was thus placed in full working order.

The above named system, after being placed on trial for ten years, was replaced by the county supervisorship in the fall of 1870. The October election of that year was in pursuance of the legislative act of April 14th of that year, by which three supervisors were to be elected, to serve respectively, one, two and three years; after the first election one was to be chosen annually for a term of three years. Although the law provided that the number of supervisors might be increased to five or seven, by popular vote, three is the prevailing number, with three trustees from each township.

The year before the establishment of the present supervisory system for the county, the office of county judge had been abolished by the establishment of the circuit court. The office named ceased to exist January 1, 1869, but the incumbent of the office was made *ex officio* county auditor (thus newly created). The auditor was made clerk of the board of supervisors, and was required to perform all the duties in relation to the school fund and school lands until that time performed by the clerk of the district court. The clerk of the district court and the county recorder were eligible to the office of auditor and the election of that officer was fixed in the odd-numbered years. On the first of January, 1869, George M. Gilchrist was county judge and therefore became, *ex officio*, the first auditor of Benton county; but he resigned in the same month and was succeeded by J. L. Geddes. At the election in October, 1869, Edward M. Evans was chosen county auditor, and entered upon the duties of his office in January, 1870.

A COURT HOUSE OF WHICH TO BE PROUD.

The facts in the case fully justify the pride evinced by the people, especially the tax-payers, of Benton county in the present court house. There is no county in the west of equal population and wealth which can show a more substantially or tastefully constructed house for the accommodation of its government; but this is not the main cause of citizen pride. Although the court house cost more than \$105,000 the county issued no bonds for future generations to liquidate; but the people who assumed the responsibility of erecting it voted an annual tax of five mills to meet the expenses of erection, decorating, furnishing, heating and placing the building in a complete state for occupancy. There were not a few Doubting Thomases, who prophesied all kinds of public rebellions, but, as a whole, the almost unique proposition in county financing was enthusiastically supported by tax payers. So the fine court house of today stands, unsaddled by debt; which is the chief reason why the citizens of Benton county are proud of it. And well they may be; and well would it be if more western counties would go and do likewise.

CORNER STONE OF 1856 COURT HOUSE.

Work upon the foundation of the new court house was commenced in the spring of 1905, and in July the corner stone of the 1856 structure was unearthed. Surrounded by a curious crowd of citizens it was carried into the auditor's office and the mortar removed from the box containing the articles deposited nearly a half century previous. In it were found an article printed in the *Vinton Eagle* of June 11, 1856; a copy of the *New York Tribune* of June 7, 1856; a Masonic text book; a silver half dollar of 1846; a silver dime of 1853; a Mexican coin of 1830; an ambrotype case of Marion Evans; and such miscellaneous articles as seissors, part of a key, a nail, bullet and bone button. A certain article which several wags of the county had insisted, for years, would be found in the corner stone, failed of materialization; these jokers, at the expense of the official sobriety of the county, had persisted that a bottle of whiskey had been deposited in the corner stone, with the other articles placed therein fifty years before.

THE COURT HOUSE OF THE PRESENT.

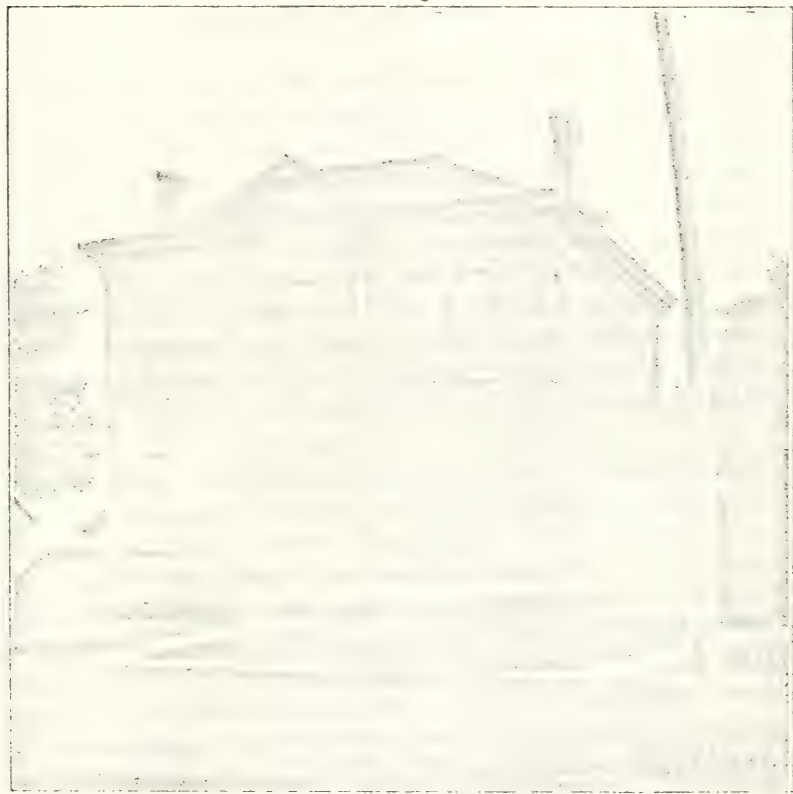
The corner stone of the new court house was laid October 14, 1905, on the site of the one unearthed, the ceremonies attending it being under the auspices of the Masonic order. The parade through the city was participated in by various fraternal organizations, the Old Settlers' Society, city and county officers, Company G., of the Illinois National Guard, and citizens generally. Judge G. W. Burnham was president of the day, and addresses were delivered by Hon. Cato Sells and Hon. W. P. Whipple. In June, 1906, as the court house was approaching completion, Paul Correll made a splendid donation to its completeness and attractiveness in the shape of a fine tower clock, with four primary dials outside and eight secondary dials placed in the court room, corridor and county offices. The bell, which weighed fifteen hundred pounds, was pitched in B flat, its tone being remarkably rich and penetrating. At night the tower dials are lighted by electricity. Upon the secondary dials are engraved "This clock presented by Paul Correll," and the same inscription is cast in the bell.

As it stands today, the court house is a stately and beautiful building, two stories and basement, 112 by 77 feet in dimensions on the ground. Its main body is of Buckeye gray sandstone and the tower stands 112 feet above the substantial foundation of cement, reinforced by rock, and the basement story of Kettle river sandstone. In the basement are large fire proof vaults for the county records and other official valuables; in the second story are the county offices and in the third, the court and jury rooms. The county superintendent of schools is also in the basement story, in which is further installed a neat and comfortable "rest room." At the entrance to the main corridor to the court house is a large tablet on which is the following self-explanatory inscription: "1905-6--County Commissioners: John P. Coburn, chairman; Hugh Humphrey, Willis W. Palmer. C. A. Bell, M. S. Detweiler, architects. J. A. Murphy, superintendent. George Rickman & Sons Co. builders."

STRONGHOLD FOR LAW BREAKERS.

Since the firm establishment of judicial authority in Benton county, its citizens have had little need of a jail, although the occurrence of scattered crimes has brought periodical panic to the law-and-order element over the absence of a "stronghold" for of-

fenders against the laws. The first recorded action of the county authorities relative to the erection of a jail was on the 15th of October, 1861, but the recommendation of James Rice, made in the following January, to provide a similar structure to the one he had visited at Independence, was laid on the table.



BENTON COUNTY JAIL.

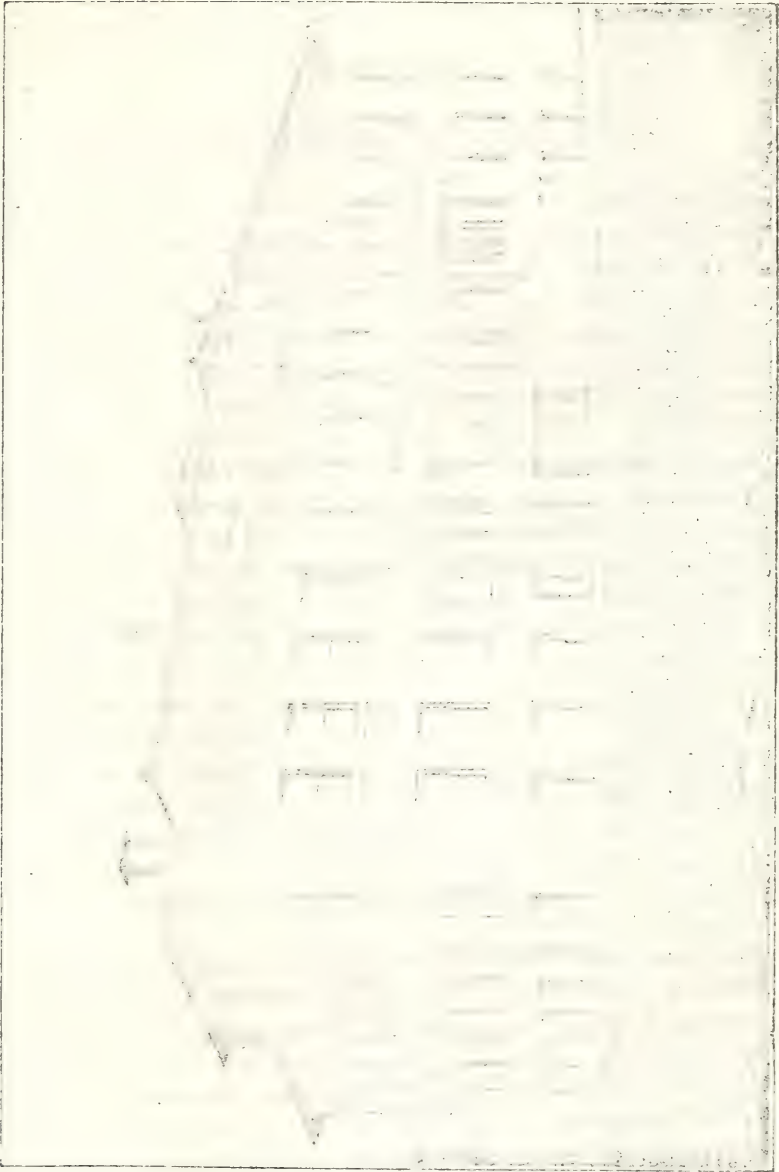
Thereafter, for many years, the subject was in the state of innocuous desuetude described by Cleveland in relation to certain national affairs. But in 1878, with the apprehension of Fred Allers, a farmer of Kane township, for the murder of his uncle, Carl, four year previous, and the recurrence of various crimes in the vicinity of old Benton City and Shellsburg, the subject of a substantial county jail was revived. The so called "Egypt" of Benton county, the timbered region near those points which had

harbored the horse thieves and desperadoes of thirty years before, again became active with criminals and furnished the propelling force which led to the final erection of the present county jail, really a substantial building. Now that the jail is in existence, it is little used, and at the present writing (1910) is without a prisoner.

PROVISION FOR THE POOR.

To the great credit of the good people of Benton county, the question of providing for the worthy poor has been quite a different matter. The supervisors considered previous pieces of property for the poor farm, but finally decided in favor of the lands owned by Robert Gilchrist and M. P. Adams, two hundred acres in sections 27, 23 and 22, a short distance southeast of Vinton. The purchase was concluded for \$3,700, in September, 1864, and in the following year a two-story addition was made to the Gilchrist house which already stood upon the property. Since that time the poor of Benton county have been well provided for; especially since the completion of the County Home in 1902.

The building, which was erected at a cost of twenty thousand dollars, was located directly south of the old site. The general contractors were Palmer Brothers of Belle Plaine. The building is of plain, simple but appropriate colonial style, two stories over a nine-foot basement, and its dimensions are ninety-eight by sixty-six feet. The body of the structure is of brick; the basement, Anamosa and Bedford limestone. On the first floor are the administration and living rooms of the steward and his family, a dining room for men and women, and two dormitories. Dormitories are also found on the second floor. The heating, ventilation and lighting facilities are all modern; and, on a small scale, the County Home of Benton county is a worthy mate to its court house.



BENTON COUNTY HOME NEAR VINTON.

CHAPTER VI.

EARLY SETTLERS AND SETTLEMENTS.

FIRST BENTON COUNTY "STAYER"—FIRST NATIVE WHITE CHILD—FIRST FUNERAL IN THE COUNTY—SETTLERS OF 1841-1850—NO PERMANENT OLD SETTLERS SOCIETY—FIRST LAND ENTRIES—TOWNS AND CITIES OF BENTON COUNTY—POSTOFFICES IN BENTON COUNTY—PROFESSOR T. F. TOBIN ON EARLY TIMES—JUDGE G. M. GILCHRIST ON "THE PIONEER"—REMINISCENCES OF I. VAN METRE—"SLOPE" POLITICS—EARLY SETTLERS OF THE TOWNSHIPS.

The natural explanation for the fact that the first settlers of the county located in or near the present eastern townships is that already given—that the Indians had moved out of that strip, according to treaty with the government. Early in 1839 two young men located on section 24, township 84, range 9 (Canton), built thereon probably the first cabin erected by a white man in the county, and broke a little tract of virgin prairie land. Not long afterward James Scott came and did likewise. But with the coming of Samuel M. Lockhart and his family, in the spring of the year named, Benton county commenced to number men of perseverance and character; or, in other words, "stayers," who came to make homes and found communities and cities.

FIRST BENTON COUNTY "STAYER."

Mr. Lockhart was an Adams county (Ohio) man, born May 17, 1812, and was therefore in the vigor of his early manhood when he made his claim, erected his cabin and installed his family on what is now section 24 of Polk township, just northeast of Urbana. He made such other improvements as enabled him to raise some corn and vegetables during the first season of his stay, but he had no neighbors for some months, although he was soon followed into the county by Samuel P. Parker, who settled

on section 27, township 84 (Canton), and gave his name to the Grove so well known in that locality. Somewhat later in 1839 Thomas Way settled near Lockhart, and still later accessions to the neighborhood were received in the persons of James Downs and Thomas and Price Kendrick. In a few years quite a hamlet arose under the name of "Hoosier Point," which was platted as Marysville in 1847 and finally became Urbana. Mr. Lockhart became one of the prominent men of the county, holding such offices as county commissioner, prosecuting attorney and foreman of the first jury of the district court. Mr. Parker was a typical Indiana frontiersman, and a fearless trapper and hunter. Although quick to resent what he considered a wrong, he was a kindly soul and both his white and red friends were sorry to see him leave the county, being deeply pained at the nature of his death. In 1847 he sold his claim to Jerry Hull, and moved to Jasper county, where he erected a sawmill. In the following year, however, he returned to Benton county to collect some outstanding accounts, and started for his new home. The last night before he reached his destination he stopped at a lonely farm house, where he was murdered and robbed.

Thomas Way, who has been mentioned as one of Lockhart's neighbors, also became one of the most popular men in the county, and held a number of public offices. He was hospitable, almost to a fault. His ambitions to have the county seat located on the farm which he bought at a later day near Vinton has already been described. "Uncle Tom," as he was generally called, moved to California during the gold excitement of 1849.

Stedman Penrose, another settler of 1839, came from Bucks county, Pennsylvania, and settled in Canton township, about a mile east of the present town of Shellsburg. He, too, was a California '49-er, and died in the gold diggings of the coast in 1850.

FIRST NATIVE WHITE CHILD.

Gilman Clark settled not far from the Penrose place, and his daughter, Susan Clark, was the first white child born in the county.

Among the settlers of 1839, who remained to see the county develop into the twentieth century type, was that sturdy old farmer and citizen, Hugh Brody, who settled not far from the Lockhart farm, and did not pass away until September 18, 1903.

--his mind being a treasury of reminiscences from which the Old Settlers' Society often drew with pleasure and profit.

Jacob Bonsall settled in the county in 1840, but moved away after two or three years. About the same time A. D. Stephens, J. W. Filkins and Joseph Remington located near Shellsburg, Mr. Filkins acquiring considerable prominence in county affairs.

THE FIRST FUNERAL IN THE COUNTY.

It is also said that in 1840 Reuben Buskirk settled in the eastern part of the county, near the line, nearly due east from Vinton. There is some dispute as to whether his residence was in Benton or Linn county, his land probably lying in each. Mr. Buskirk died October 10, 1842, and as there was no lumber with which to make a coffin a few tender-hearted settlers felled a linn tree, cut a log of suitable length, split it and hollowed out the halves, and in this rude sepulchre incased their friend for burial. Five men and three women attended the funeral of what is generally accepted as the first deceased resident of Benton county; and the wooden blocks inscribed with the name and dates of birth and decease of Reuben Buskirk were placed at the head and feet of the departed with as much neighborly love and reverence as though they had been of rich polished marble.

SETTLERS OF 1841-1850.

Among the leading settlers of 1841 were Loyal F. North and Abner R. Spencer. Mr. North's claim was in section 2, in the northeastern part of Canton township, above the present site of Shellsburg, and at the organization of the county he was appointed a judge of election. In 1851 he was appointed postmaster of Potato Hill postoffice, which was established at his house, but as Mrs. North desired a more dignified and euphonious name, in 1852 it was changed to Beulah-- and so appears in the county maps of that period. Mr. North died December 18, 1892. After remaining in the county for two years, Mr. Spencer returned to the east for a stay of five years, and after his relocation in Benton county (about the time of its organization) made it his permanent residence until his death November 14, 1879.

Other early settlers, up to 1850, may be mentioned as follows: F. Bryson, Joseph Bryson, William Mitchell, Jesse Brody, Josiah Helm and Joseph C. Rouse, 1843; S. R. Price, George Me-

Coy and Andrew D. Stevens, 1844—the last named locating on the Iowa river, a few miles east of the present city of Belle Plaine; J. R. Pratt, David S. Pratt, L. W. Hayes, James Leverich and Stephen Holcomb, 1845; A. H. Johnson, David Jewell, John Renfrew, and Hyrcanus Guinn, 1846; Daniel Harris, John S. Epperson, Elijah Evans and Charles N. Moberly, 1847; C. C. Charles, J. S. Forsythe, 1848; James Rice and Richard N. Van Clief, 1849; Russell Jones, 1850. Hyrcanus Guinn made the first claim in Iowa township, later moved to Canton township, became a wealthy farmer and died in 1891. In 1849 James Rice purchased the claim made by Jesse Brody in Taylor township, and until a comparatively recent date lived in the log cabin which he erected when he first came to the county. Mr. Van Clief entered land in the northwest corner of Big Grove township, in 1849; platted the town of Geneva in 1855, and later moved to Guthrie county, Iowa, where he died in 1893.

Most of the early settlers of Benton county fix upon the early fifties as marking the virtual division between the old, or primitive, and the new, or advanced era of its history. Judge G. M. Gilchrist, in his address of 1903 delivered before the old settlers' reunion held at Shellsburg, presents the following sharp etching of these early conditions leading up to the line of demarkation: "I believe Samuel Lockhart was the first permanent settler in the borders of our county, but in the same year Samuel Parker and Gilman Clark made homes somewhere hereabouts. These very first settlers must have been here by the sufferance of the Indians; for only six years before they were on the war path taking white scalps. Indians were everywhere. The only playmates of the children were Indian boys and girls. No one could then acquire title to the home he occupied, for the land survey was begun in 1815 and not completed for two years. The two counties created by Michigan were now divided by Wisconsin into twenty-two, and Benton was one of them. At the first election held at Parker's Grove, only twenty-nine votes were cast; at the next, with two voting places—one at the Grove and the other at Marysville—not twice as many votes were cast. Outside of parts of Polk, Benton, Canton, and Taylor townships, few land entries were made until about fifty-two to fifty-five. As a matter of course, there was no market for farm products and live stock, except to the immigrant. Schools and churches could not exist much before the fifties because they were so few and scattered."

NO PERMANENT OLD SETTLERS SOCIETY.

The annual reunions of the old settlers of Benton county are occasions of the heartiest sociability and furnish much valuable and interesting information connecting the past with the present. The presiding officers, however, are only temporary—chosen from year to year—and there is no permanent organization known as the Old Settlers' Society, as is the case in many other counties of the west, and not a few, of Iowa.

The so-called Old Settlers' Society was formed June 15, 1887, its first president being Milton Rickey, of Shellsburg, and its secretary, C. T. Horton, who is now a resident of Texas.

FIRST LAND ENTRIES.

The early '50s in Benton county saw a marked increase of the town population, the main historical interest afterward centering in the villages and cities which were founded and developed. In a general way, the pioneers of the different townships are indicated by those who made the original entries, although, in some cases, settlement did not immediately follow entry of land.

BENTON TOWNSHIP (85-9): George W. Brice, part of section 1, May 6, 1846; Hugh Brawdy, June 26, 1846; Edwin B. Spencer, part of section 7, November 1, 1845; Charles Cantonwine, part of section 31, December 10, 1845.

POLK TOWNSHIP (86-9): Abner Spencer, part of sections 2, 10 and 11, September 27, 1848; Malinda Lockhart, southwest quarter of northwest quarter of section 24, May 1, 1846; Barney D. Springer, south half of the southeast quarter of section 26, June 15, 1846; Joseph Remington, west half of the northeast quarter of section 34, April 7, 1846; William Mitchell, part of section 34, June 19, 1846; Jacob Remington, October 3, 1846; Caleb S. Hendrys, southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 36, November 3, 1845; Samuel M. Lockhart, west half of the northwest quarter of section 36, November 17, 1845.

CANTON TOWNSHIP (84-9): Daniel Ousted, part of section 3, April 20, 1846; Charles A. Belnap, part of section 11, May 13, 1846; Loyal F. North, part of section 12, February 7, 1846; Stedman Penrose, Edward Karlsback, part of section 12, December 30, 1845.

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP (82-9) : John Ure, part of section 14, April 1, 1846; Hiram Usher, part of section 18, February 14, 1846; William Thomas, part of section 22, February 19, 1846.

TAYLOR TOWNSHIP (85-10) : William A. Bryson, part of section 1, June 20, 1846; Samuel Morse, part of section 10, March 10, 1846; John Renshaw, Samuel K. Parker, Joseph R. Strawn and Gilbert B. White, entered in 1846.

BIG GROVE TOWNSHIP (84-11) : Hans Hanson, part of section 11, April 11, 1848.

JACKSON TOWNSHIP (85-11) : William Holmes, part of section 15, June 26, 1848; Sarah Harris, part of section 12, October 11, 1848; Ebenezer Mullinick, part of section 29, June 26, 1848.

EBEN TOWNSHIP (84-10) : Elias Doan, part of section 7, May 31, 1849.

LEROY TOWNSHIP (82-11) : George Tilter, part of section 24, October 24, 1850.

HARRISON TOWNSHIP (86-10) : William Hendricksen, north-east quarter of section 28, June 13, 1849.

MONROE TOWNSHIP (85-12) : Grenville C. Slader, part of section 15, June 30, 1851.

IOWA TOWNSHIP (82-12) : Hyrcanus Guinn, part of section 27, September 3, 1851; Samuel Yeomans, part of section 21, September 13, 1851.

UNION TOWNSHIP (83-11) : Sarah Ann Matsinger, part of section 32, October 27, 1851.

CEDAR TOWNSHIP (86-11) : John Koux, southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 25, July 16, 1851; Stephen King, part of section 25, August 2, 1852.

ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP (82-10) : William T. Scott, part of section 26, October 18, 1852.

FREMONT TOWNSHIP (83-9): Edward Connolly, part of section 32, March 12, 1853.

KANE TOWNSHIP (83-12): Levi Marsh, part of section 32, September 20, 1853.

BRUCE TOWNSHIP (86-12): Lewis M. Carlisle, parts of sections 31 and 32, June 29, 1853.

HOMER TOWNSHIP (84-12): Benjamin Kunkle, part of section 29, October 23, 1854.

ELDORADO TOWNSHIP (83-10): James S. Easley, part of section 26, September 8, 1854. Nearly all of this township was entered in the fall of 1854.

TOWNS AND CITIES OF BENTON COUNTY.

The progressive platting and founding of the towns and cities of Benton county is set forth in the following facts, and is really supplementary to the foregoing list, which indicated the establishment of the landed interests of various pioneers outside the centers of more urban population.

Marysville (Urbana), located on the north twenty acres of the west half of the northeast quarter of section 34, township 86, range 9, was laid out May 5, 1847, by P. J. Rigaud, county surveyor; Joseph Remington, proprietor. Plat recorded May 10, 1847, at 8 o'clock A. M. This is the oldest town in the county, and was well known to the early settlers as "Hoosier Point."

Vinton was located by the commissioners to locate the county seat, 1846, on the northeast quarter of section 21, township 85, range 10, and named Northport by the first board of county commissioners, and ordered to be surveyed in July, 1846; but a new board was elected in August, and the record was delayed until February 12, 1848, when it was recorded by Irwin D. Simison, county surveyor. The plat was signed by Samuel M. Lockhart, Loyal F. North and Thomas Way, county commissioners, and by them named Vinton, in honor of a member of congress from Ohio who was anxious to perpetuate his name in this way. The town has no existence now, and its territory is included in the limits of the present city of Vinton.

Fremont, located on lots 5, 6, and 7, of the west half of section 16, township 85, range 10. "which point being voted for at the August election, 1849, by a majority, to be the seat of Justice of Benton County." Surveyed by Irwin D. Simison, county surveyor, November 24, 1849; James Leverich, proprietor. Plat recorded November 29, 1849. The name of this town was changed to Vinton by act of the General Assembly of Iowa, approved in January, 1853.

Shellsburg, on the southwest quarter of section 11 and partly on the northwest quarter of section 14, township 84, range 9; surveyed by H. M. Drury, deputy county surveyor, June 16, 1854; Jacob Cantonwine, Christiana Cantonwine, Emanuel S. Fluke and Mary Fluke, proprietors.

Grand Gulf, on the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 17, township 85, range 10; surveyed April 17, 1854, by H. M. Drury, deputy county surveyor; John Alexander and Nancy Alexander, proprietors. Now a part of the city of Vinton.

Geneva, on the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter and the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 3, township 84, range 11; surveyed by Wesley Whipple; R. N. Van Clief and Susanna Van Clief, proprietors. Plat filed for record March 20, 1855.

Wilmington, located on section 4, township 85, range 9; surveyed by Wesley Whipple, November 9, 1855; Lewis Berry, Ellen Berry, Conrad Binkhart and Sarah Binkhart, proprietors. Plat filed for record, 1858.

Irving, on the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 6, township 82, range 12, October 10, 1855; Samuel Hinton, proprietor.

Benton City, located on section 20, township 85, range 9, south of the river; surveyed by Joseph Owen; John Royal, Catherine Royal, John Graham and Lucinda Graham, proprietors. Plat filed for record June 16, 1856. This was then a thriving little town. John Graham built a hotel there in 1855-6. It was probably surveyed as early as 1854-5. Dr. S. E. Warner located there in 1855. W. C. Stauberry advertised in August, 1855, at Benton City, "the largest and best-selected stock of goods ever offered for sale in Benton county." Benton City Lodge A. F. & A. M. was instituted F. D. October 31, 1855, and chartered June 4, 1856, but was removed to Shellsburg prior to 1864. The line of the B. C. R. & N. R. R. was first located to pass through or near the town, but the loca-

tion was afterward changed. The glory of the town long since departed, and it no longer exists save in history.

Eden, south half of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 1, and part of section 12, township 84, range 10; surveyed by Newell Colby January 19, 1856.

Guinnville, part of the northeast quarter of section 30, township 82, range 12; surveyed by Wesley Whipple, October 30-31, 1856. John E. S. Guinn and Caroline Guinn, proprietors. Plat filed for record November 8, 1856.

Brooklyn, in Benton and Black Hawk counties; surveyed April 3, 1856, by N. Colby; H. N. Brooks, proprietor. Plat filed for record March 13, 1857. Defunct.

Williamsburg, on section 11, township 86, range 10; surveyed by Wesley Whipple, March 20, 1857; William L. Jones, Abigail Jones, L. W. Bryson and Mary A. Bryson, proprietors. Plat filed for record March 31, 1857.

West Vinton, on the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 17, township 85, range 10; surveyed by Wesley Whipple, March 25, 1857; Edwin Humphreyville, L. C. Rhodabeek, Hannah B. Stoughton and William Stoughton, proprietors. Plat filed for record March 30, 1857. Now a part of Vinton City.

Manatheka, parts of sections 26 and 35, township 86, range 9 near (Maryville); surveyed by Wesley Whipple, March 31, 1857; William Remington, Elizabeth Remington, John Ferguson, Nancy Ferguson, Theodore Stevens and Lucy Stevens, proprietors. Plat filed for record April 4, 1857.

Belle Plaine, on the east half of and northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 20, township 82, range 12, embracing thirty acres; laid out in March, 1862; John I. Blair, proprietor; G. F. Kirby, surveyor. Plat filed for record May 12, 1862.

Blairstown, on the southwest quarter of section 13, and the southeast quarter of section 14, township 82, range 11; surveyed by G. F. Kirby, in the spring of 1862; John I. Blair, proprietor. Plat filed for record May 12, 1862.

Norway (now Florence), on the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 20, township 82, range 9; surveyed June 10, 1863 by P. P. Smith, county surveyor; Ormond Tuttle and Helen Sophia Tuttle, proprietors. Plat filed for record July 21, 1863.

Luzerne, on the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter
Vol. I--7

of section 24, township 82, range 12, and partly on section 19; B. B. Hunt, surveyor; Isaac B. Howe and Hannah R. Howe, proprietors. Plat filed for record April 17, 1868.

Mount Auburn, on the south half of section 14, township 86, range 11; surveyed by P. F. Randall; Milton S. Hall, Sarah A. Hall, Thomas D. Lewis and Mary A. Lewis, proprietors. Plat filed for record June 19, 1871.

Benton, on sections 28 and 29, township 85, range 11; surveyed by C. G. Johnson in April, 1873; Jonathan Barkdoll and Susan Barkdoll, proprietors. Plat filed for record July 22, 1873.

Watkins, on the southwest corner of section 23 and the northwest corner of section 26, township 82, range 10; surveyed by Hiram Lipe in May, 1874; Charles G. Turner and Eliza Turner, proprietors. Plat filed for record August 16, 1874.

POSTOFFICES IN BENTON COUNTY.

The first postoffice in Benton county was established at Vinton (Northport) on October 1, 1846, with Stephen Holcomb as postmaster. This was about three months after the county seat had been ordered to be surveyed, and it remained the only postoffice in the county for about two years. In January, 1848, the general assembly of Iowa asked for the establishment of a mail route from Tipton, Cedar county, via Pioneer Grove and Marion, to Vinton; also of another route from Cedar Rapids, via Vinton, to the falls of the Cedar river, Black Hawk county. The postoffice at Marysville was established September 21, 1848, and John S. Forsyth appointed postmaster, and Potato Hill (already noted) October 20, 1851, with Loyal F. North, postmaster. Prior to 1860 the following offices were established which no longer appear in the guide; in fact, some had little existence except on paper, and, with the exception of Benton City, none really flourished or had the making of towns in them:—Bark, established October 31, 1853, Lewis W. Bryson, postmaster; Benton City established January 31, 1854, William C. Stanberry, postmaster; Taylor's Grove, established January 31, 1854, George T. Hendricks, postmaster (discontinued August 26, 1863); Linwood, established August 30, 1856, Anson T. Wilkins, postmaster (discontinued May 19, 1863); Pickaway, established September 1, 1857, Isaac T. Van Metro, postmaster; Williams, established June 19, 1858, John Tanner, postmaster (discontinued March 23, 1865); Unity, established

June 19, 1858; and General, established November 13, 1858, J. Emrick Flickinger, postmaster (discontinued May 24, 1864).

Aside from Vinton, the establishment of postoffices in the chief towns and cities of Benton county of today occurred as follows: Belle Plaine, established as Guinnville, February 29, 1856, John E. S. Guinn, postmaster (changed to its present name August 6, 1862); Shellsburg, established November 24, 1856, David Robb, postmaster; Blairstown, established July 21, 1861, Leonard E. Watrous, postmaster; and Garrison, established December 12, 1873, with Edward M. Lewis, postmaster. Urbana was established November 27, 1857 (William W. Bartholomew, postmaster); Mt. Auburn, February 16, 1865; Florence (Norway), October 2, 1866, (William F. Atkinson, postmaster); Luzerne, August 2, 1870 (John Anson, postmaster); and Watkins, December 15, 1873 (Charles G. Turner, postmaster), while Atkins, Van Horne and Keystone were supplied with postal facilities in the early eighties, about the time of the coming of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad into the county.

PROFESSOR TOBIN ON EARLY TIMES.

The following extracts are taken from Professor T. F. Tobin's address, delivered at the Old Settlers reunion, held at Shellsburg, June 16, 1904:

"Early in 1839 George Wright and John Smith located in township 24, range 9. They were young men of adventurous spirit, who as the scouts of civilization penetrated far beyond the firing line of forest and field, built a cabin and broke some prairie. This was probably the first cabin built by white men in Benton County. Soon after or about the same time James Scott came and erected his humble pioneer home. The same year a little later Samuel Lockhart and his family settled in the northeast part of the county on section 24, township 8, range 9. Others came in slowly and soon after we find that James Downs, Thos. Way, Price Kendrick and Thomas Kendrick located in the neighborhood of Lockhart's home and this little settlement was called Hoosier's Point.

"This is the spot where some eight years later a town was laid out and called Marysville. Beal Dorsey also came in 1839 and Charles Hinkley along about 1840. Samuel K. Parker located in township 84, range 9, and the place is now called Parker's Grove. Many of these names are well known today in Benton county and are an honor to it.

“Jacob Bonsal settled here in 1840. After two or three years residence he moved away. Gilman Clark located here in the same year, 1840, about a mile and a half east of the present site of Shellsburg. Stedman Penrose, A. D. Stevens, J. M. Filkins and Joseph Remington came in the same year.

“The first death in the county was that of Reuben Buskirk, October 10, 1842. It is told that there was no lumber with which to make a coffin and the few settlers felled a linn tree and cut off a log of suitable length and split it in two pieces. One half of this was placed in the grave and on it was placed the body of the deceased. Blocks were placed at his head and feet and the other half laid over him and the grave filled up. There were five men and three women at the funeral.

“In April, 1842, Lyman Boardwell came to the county and purchased the claim and improvements of Wright and Smith, where he lived until 1849, when he removed to the location on which he afterward lived for many years. It would be a pleasure to mention the names of all those who came in the early years, but of the many important facts of Benton county early history.

that is out of the question. This paper can be but a brief outline.

“For eight or ten years the population increased very slowly, but the spirit of extension was upon the people and from out the settled east, from homes where there was more of comfort and of ease, from the enduring friendships of a lifetime, came the hardy and adventurous pioneer to subdue the forest and make the prairie blossom as a rose.

“Many whose names are familiar to you and some of whom are possibly present today, came between the years of 1843 and 1850 and I give a few of them as I have gleaned them from various sources: Hyrcanus Guinn, Hugh Brody, F. Bryson, Stephen Brody, Joseph Bryson and Jesse Brody in 1843; S. R. Pries, George McCoy, D. G. Harris in 1844; J. R. Pratt, Chauncey Leverich, Stephen Holcomb in 1845; A. H. Johnson and David Jewel in 1846; George Sander, John Epperson, H. T. Epperson, E. L. Evans, Charles Moberly in 1847; J. S. Forsyth in 1848; J. S. Traer in 1851.

“If my information is correct, the first white child born in Benton county was William Penrose, son of Stedman Penrose, and was born March 26, 1852. The next was Mary North, daughter of Loyal North, born in June, 1853. The third was Lucinda Boardwell, daughter of Lyman Boardwell, born in July, 1844. The first marriage was that of Charles Hink-

ley and Mary Helms, by Perry Olliphant in 1859. The marriage license was obtained in Marion. The first marriage licenses after the organization of the county was issued by David Pratt, deputy clerk of the district court, to Joseph Onstott and Miss Lena Patch, and they were married June 20, 1847, by Lyman Bordwell, justice of the peace. The first death was that of Christian Kensinger, Mrs. Bordwell's father, who came to the county in the fall of 1843 and died May 5, 1844. The first school house erected in Benton county was built of logs on section 28, township 86, range 9, and was known to the early settlers as the Johnson school house.

"It was built in 1845-46 and the first school in the county was taught in this building in 1846-7 by a man named T. J. Rigaud. Mr. Rigaud lived in a log cabin near what was more recently known as Wilmington. He died there in 1848.

"The first election was held at Parkers Grove, according to tradition, and that Beal Dorsey, Stedman Penrose, and Lyman Bordwell were the judges and David S. Pratt and John Royal were clerks, but there is no record of this. The first election recorded was held on the first Monday in April, 1846. The candidates for the county commissioners were Edwin B. Spencer, Stedman Penrose and Samuel K. Parker. John Royal was elected sheriff. Some of the other officers elected were Irwin Simison, recorder; Beal Dorsey, collector and treasurer; J. R. Pratt, judge of probate court; Isaac Onstott, assessor. All the officers elected took the oath of office and entered upon their duties during April.

"It was at this time that the first county seat was located. There is considerable obscurity about this part of our history, but it seems that it was the intention of the commissioners to call the county seat Northport and to locate it on section 21, township 85, range 11."

JUDGE G. M. GILCHRIST ON "THE PIONEER."

"It was only about twenty-four years before Shellsburg was platted that Chicago was but a hamlet with only four families residing there permanently; only about twenty-one years before the first white woman became a permanent resident of central Iowa, the first school house was erected by the miners of Dubuque, the first J. P. was commissioned and the first postoffice opened.

"In the same year the treaty with the Indians of the Black-Hawk war became effective and opened up to settlement the eastern

part of Iowa. We stand now very near the western border of this strip for I am advised it is almost identical with Polk, Benton, Canton, Fremont and Florence townships. You must stop and think before you can believe that no church or Sunday school existed in the state until about eighteen years before the time I have mentioned; that no newspaper was published until about sixteen years before. It was about this time that the state was divided into two counties by the legislative body of Michigan. One was all that part of the state south of a line drawn west from Rock Island, called Des Moines, and the other was the remainder of the state called Dubuque. As late as December, 1855, there was no operated railway in the state. The only means of transportation was the old stage coach, remembered so well by some of you, or the farm wagon. Some of you, I doubt not, have made trips to the river then to Iowa City and then to Cedar Rapids with loads of wheat, oats and pork, and brought back loads of merchandise. It was in 1855, July, that I first came into the country, traveling all the way from Davenport in the stage. Though it was more than a year after your town, here, was laid out, can't remember that it made any impression upon me. I do not remember seeing any houses except that of Mr. White; nor can I recall, that I saw any of the stakes marking street and lot lines. But if I found nothing in your town that was impressive I did find much that was expressive in the dinner Mr. White furnished us, for my waist belt required lengthening when I rose from the table. * * * * *

"I have always thought well of the old pioneers that I have known, especially those of them who came from Indiana; first because they came from that great state and secondly because I believed that, as a rule, they are not only honest men but good citizens. One thing, however, raised a doubt in my mind, the fact that one of these acquired the name of 'Honest John.' One of the maxims of the law is that the mention of one is the exclusion of the others. I have not been able to get around the thought that the calling of one by a name indicating that he, at least, was honest impliedly excluded all of you. Nor does traditional local history aid me any in my doubt for it says that 'Honest John' and his friend owned the land on which Vinton was first laid out and desired to secure the county seat here; that they could not do this except by securing the consent of all the residents. The plan devised was that both a petition and remonstrance should be prepared and both be presented to each voter. That seemed fair and honest, so 'Honest John' took one paper and his friend the other and on

one or the other secured every name. Unfortunately, the heading of the one and all the names appeared on the other. History does not say which but the county seat was located as we have now.

"I believe Samuel Lockhart was the first permanent settler in the borders of our county but in the same year Samuel Parker and Gilman Clark made homes somewhere hereabouts. These very first settlers must have been here by sufrage of the Indians, for only six years before they were on the warpath taking white scalps.

"Indians were everywhere. The only playmates of the children were Indian boys and girls. No one could then acquire title to the home he occupied, for the land survey was begun in 1845 and not completed for two years. The two counties created by Michigan were now divided by Wisconsin into twenty-two and Benton was one of them. At the first election held at Parker's Grove, only twenty-nine votes were cast; at the next with two voting places, one, the Grove, the other, Marysville, not twice as many votes were cast.

"Outside of parts of Polk, Benton, Canton and Taylor townships few land entries were made until about fifty-two to fifty-five. As a matter of course there was no market for farm products and live stock except to the immigrant. Schools and churches could not exist much before the fifties because you were so few and scattered. The railroad and telegraph did not come until 1869. I doubt not the first settlers look upon these early days as their happiest, notwithstanding the privations they endured. Is it not true that we are in great measure creatures of our circumstances; that our actual needs are few and our others are largely bounded by our environment?

"These first frontiersmen were but the advance guard of the army of sturdy, strenuous, intelligent citizens of the more eastern parts invading the wilderness between them and the Pacific ocean. At one time the Puritan settlers of Massachusetts Bay, as they thought, proper investigation determined that population would never be very dense beyond the territory immediately about Boston and that a little way west from there the country never would be worth anything. We know that they were, like some of us today, judging that of which they had no adequate knowledge. Not longer ago than the beginnings of civilized life in this community you were taught that west of the Missouri river was the great American desert. On the map we studied and in the imagination of the people the western border of Iowa was the

limit of our agricultural lands and beyond lay a great waste that here and there might, possibly, be used for grazing purposes. Some began to wonder what we'd do with our ever increasing population; how in time, we'd feed them. Let us see, for a moment what the facts are as we know them or can reasonably believe them.

“Whose was the influence, intelligence and energy that brought about the wonderful changes we have seen in our national condition; that laid the foundations for our schools, colleges, churches and the law abiding instinct of our people and that so well put in practice the Golden Rule? It was the early pioneers. Counties and communities have their childhood, as do men and women their formative time. The first settlers in a county, state or country, usually leave their impress upon its people following them. There is no great difference in climate or soil between North and South America. Both are in the new world now; whatever there was of civilization in either at discovery was found in the southern parts. Both of the Americas have their temperate, tropical and frigid zones. In the one the frigid zone is in the north while it is in the south in the other. In all other respects how great the difference. In one the people are progressive energetic, intelligent, law abiding and happy, commanding everywhere respect and influence. In the other the people are generally unprogressive, slothful, ignorant and ever ready to set aside law and disrupt government and without respect or influence as nations anywhere. But for the aegis of the Monroe doctrine, enunciated and maintained by the United States, it is more than possible many of these states of the south part of the continent would now be colonies or dependencies of some of the old world powers. In the one the pioneer settlements were made by those of the Anglo Saxon race, while in the other they were made by those of another blood. Some one, asked when the training of a child should begin, answered ‘a hundred years before it was born.’

“Why did he answer so? Because the characteristics of the ancestor will inhere in the child and more or less mould its life. Changing circumstances may modify but not wholly eradicate these. The austere Puritan lover of religious and personal liberty was the pioneer at Massachusetts Bay. He left his home to enjoy such liberty yet he denied it to those who followed him into the wilderness for the same cause, and cruelly persecuted and punished all who dared

to differ with him. But there were many of the qualities in him that are so essential to nation builders. The cavalier of Virginia, in his coming, cared little for religious liberty and less, it may be for religion itself. From these two sources more than any where else has come the steady stream of immigrants who first opened up the Ohio valley, then that of the Mississippi and all that is west of it. This mingling and their changing circumstances modified the characteristics of each class, smoothed down and rounded off the roughness of the one and added strength and steadfastness to the other, but left untouched or intensified those of our race which make us, and those akin to us in blood, world leaders. Our Benton county pioneers are their descendants. Their training as citizens began in Massachusetts, Virginia and other Atlantic states long ago.

“The future of our country that some of you fought for, that some of your sons or husbands died for and that all of us, both north and south, love so well, depends upon our children. Our day for shaping and moulding her destiny is almost gone. God grant that it may continue to increase in all that makes a nation great until time shall be no more.”

REMINISCENCES OF I. VAN METRE.

I. Van Metre, so well known to all old settlers of Benton county, contributed generously to the *Vinton Eagle's* jubilee edition of 1905, and the following is quoted from his articles:

“I did not get into Benton until late in the spring of 1856, when the sloughs were at their best, having been left behind to bring up the rear. I made the trip on horseback. I remember the ride well. Coleman's Grove was on the road seven miles from Cedar Rapids, and there was no human habitation for fifteen miles. It was a State road running from Cedar Rapids to Toledo, and was traveled by a large share of the population of the west, who did their trading, both buying and selling, at Cedar Rapids—chiefly buying. The preceding winter the fall of snow had been exceedingly heavy and the sloughs were at this spring season correspondingly full of water, and the mud was deep and stiff. The amount of travel on the road going and coming was great and the sloughs were badly cut up. I do not think it an exaggeration to state that the roads over many of these sloughs were a quarter

to a half-mile width; the sod worn out entirely in places, evidences being frequent where teams had been swamped, mired, and where the plucky teamsters had carried their loads to the opposite bank. There were wagon tracks which indicated that some enterprising settlers had endeavored to head the sloughs. Having had a great deal of trouble getting over some of them myself, I concluded to follow one of these tracks. I think it was more than half a mile—it seems so, at least—where the track turned into the slough to cross. It seemed well up toward the head of the swail, and its appearance promised an easy passage. I turned my horse's head to follow the course taken by the wise man who had found a way to beat a slough. I soon learned something. Both my eyes and the action of my horse awakened me to a realization of the fact that neither the teamster nor myself had mastered the slough problem. I saw, a hundred or so feet ahead of me, where the old grass had been tramped into the mud for yards around and where there was every appearance of horses having been struggling in the mud. I got out on the same side I had started in, and in time got to the other side farther down.

“It was nearly sundown when I reached a cabin occupied by Thomas Keenan and family. I inquired the distance to Mr. Van Metre's. There were several young men besides the old gentleman; near the door of the cabin were several women and a girl or two, and numbers of small children. There were a few cows and cattle in the stable yard and some ducks and chickens. Mr. Keenan and some of the others answered my question: ‘It is two miles, and the sloughs are bad.’ A young fellow volunteered the assertion that I could not get through there that night, and Mr. Keenan said: ‘Get off your horse and stay the night.’ I protested, but he paid no attention to my protests. ‘Take the lad's horse,’ he said, and the horse was taken. I was ushered into the house and had my supper. The cabin was probably sixteen feet square and very low. The family had had supper and were outside, except an elderly lady, who, I afterwards learned was Mrs. Keenan, and a younger woman. While I ate, I had a good opportunity to make a survey of the surroundings. There were three beds in one side of the room, very close together; the table stood near the door, and the stove was in the corner nearest to it. A miscellaneous assortment of articles filled the other corner. The food was plain, but good, and I ate heartily. The friendliness shown in every act and the hospitable urging to eat more were little less effective in sharp-

ening the appetite than the strenuous day's work I had done in braving twenty-five miles of early-day Iowa sloughs in wet spring-time.

"The family retired early, giving me the bed in the southwest corner, which, like the others, was curtained. I was tired and sleepy, and remember nothing of what followed until called for breakfast. I had supposed that most of the people I had seen the evening before were visitors, and was surprised to find them all seated at the table. As I recall the faces now, there were Mr. Keenan, Mike Smith, Mr. McCormick and Mr. Cummins, sons-in-law of Mr. Keenan, Mike and Con Keenan, and myself. There were also Mrs. Keenan and two of the other ladies, if I remember rightly. It was homelike and free, and I did full justice to the substantial and palatable food.

"A surprise was awaiting me at the end of the meal. I had not observed the previous evening that in the corner filled with miscellaneous articles stood a ladder very upright. Neither had it occurred to me that there was any room upstairs for anybody to sleep. At the close of the meal old lady Keenan arose, and, going to the ladder, called, 'Childer, coom to breakfast.' Such a gettin' downstairse I never did see. The little fellows following Katie Keenan—I think that is the name, a miss of twelve or thirteen years, perhaps—simply rolled down that ladder.

"It seems that the sons-in-law and their wives, each pair of whom had two or three children, were staying temporarily under the home roof while building houses of their own. I think I am not at all out of the way in my count, which footed up eighteen of us sleeping under that roof that night. The names of the several persons I ascertained later, and it is possible that I may have gotten them mixed, but otherwise the statement is simple truth.

"The incident strikingly illustrates a phase of the early pioneer life—its free-handed, open-hearted, kindly hospitality. The welcome to the total stranger; not a grudging admission to shelter, but a fatherly order from old gentleman Keenan, 'Get off your horse and stay the night; the sloughs are bad and you may meet with trouble.' And this when the house was full to overflowing, and I was but two miles from my destination. Hospitality! How little people in general know of the significance of the word!

SLOPE POLITICS.

“The largest gathering of people for a good time and a stroke of business held during the early days on the southern slope was held in the winter of 1857-8, I think it was, at the home of the Andersons, about a mile south of where Blairstown now stands. Along in the years of '57-8, and, in fact, for several years, there was a strong disposition upon the part of the people of the Slope and certain townships in Iowa and two or three townships in Tama County, to set up a new county. The people in South Benton thought it unreasonable and unjust that Vinton, away to the north of the county, should be the county seat, and the action of Judge Samuel Douglass in building a court house and that of Tom Drummond in securing the location of the College for the Blind there, had practically cut off all prospect of the removal of the county seat to a more central point; so the active brains of the ambitious people of the southern section conceived the idea of a new county. The matter was broached to some of the principal men of the northern townships of Iowa County, those lying north of the Iowa River, which that stream, then poorly bridged, cut off from Marengo, their county seat. Marengo, like Vinton, is in the north of the county, and Williamsburg, further south, had always had an ambition to be made the county seat. The people down that way favored the new scheme. Then over in Tama the people of two townships favored it. The men who did the figuring in the interest of the new movement calculated that these three, or rather four, interests—that is, the Tama corner township interest, and the north and south Iowa County interest—could control a majority of the voters of the two counties if the question were fairly submitted to them. The matter was earnestly discussed and quietly agitated by the people in the several divisions named, and there were enthusiastic individuals who believed that the project was not only feasible, but certain of consummation.

“I called it a meeting, but it was a party, and yet it had the elements of a meeting in it. Anderson's was what was known as Stonecyfer's Grove, and was well located for the county seat of the new county, according to the best judgment of the people who lived in the immediate vicinity. I would not attempt to give a list of the big men who attended that party. You may be sure that Andy Stein was there. Andy was always around when any interest of the Slope was to be forwarded or any interest of the county

was to be protected. He lived at the foot of the bluffs, not far from the Iowa county line, and a few miles southeast of where Belle Plaine now stands. Jake Springer was there, then and ever since, Chief Mogul over in St. Clair. Pat Kelley and Mike Smith and two or three of the Van Metres were there. Snow and E. W. Stocker, of Kane township, and the Twogoods, Grahams, and numerous others from over in Tama. There were representatives from all the territory to be affected by the change, large representations of men, women and children.

BITTER OUTSIDE—JOLLY INSIDE.

“Having returned to Cedar Rapids and begun the study of law, I remained there after the family had moved out on the farm, but by frequent visits home I kept in touch with the people of Van Metre's Grove, or Pickaway, as the place was named in honor of the county from which the family had come when moving from Ohio. A postoffice was established at Pickaway in 1856, and John E. Van Metre was appointed postmaster. It was the halfway stopping place for the hack line between Cedar Rapids and Toledo, a visiting place for Ohioans and other of the family acquaintances at Cedar Rapids. I was stopping with the family of D. M. McIntosh in Cedar Rapids, in whose law office I was continuing my studies after my brother, Ezra's death.

“On Monday morning Mc. suggested that we go out to Pickaway for a day or two. I think it was the first day of December, 1856, though it may have been a week earlier. The weather had been moderate, but damp, but this morning was reasonably fair, and not at all cold. We got a two-seated open buggy or wagon, such as were common in those days, and a good team. There were Mr. and Mrs. McIntosh and little boy, Mrs. John Graves and myself. The roads were not bad as they usually were in the spring time, but not any too good. We stopped to water the team at Mud Creek, eight miles from home. While I was watering the horses it began to snow. Before we reached home the ground was covered an inch or two deep with the beautiful. It continued to snow through the night and was still at it in the morning, and the wind was busy piling it in drifts.

“Notwithstanding appearances to the contrary, we insisted on thinking that it would not be much of a storm. Brother Henry who had an errand at E. W. Stocker's two miles west, hitched up a team and took in a couple of girls, relatives of the family, who

were staying there, and Mrs. John Graves, and went up to Mr. Stocker's. They intended to return without further delay than was necessary to warm up, but the storm grew so fierce and the snow-drift so high that they were obliged to stay over night. Even then the men did not dare to venture out with the ladies until they had broken a track the full two miles. All were safely back by evening of the second day.

"I mention this as an instance of the terrific character of the snow storms of those days, and because these mountainous snow drifts rendered doubly severe the too severe weather, vastly increasing the difficulties of caring for stock and attending to other necessary labors. Think of a snow storm in these later years which would deter people from making a drive of two miles! We don't have them.

"But our Cedar Rapids party. From two days we extended our visit to ten, when Mr. McIntosh having pressing professional business awaiting him, had to go. My brother Taylor hitched four horses to a bobsled with a wagon box on it, made all preparations to keep warm, and he and Mr. McIntosh started out to break a track to Cedar Rapids. They had a very hard time of it, but reached their destination that night. They returned the next day, bringing an additional conveyance with them, and the following day reached Cedar Rapids with the ladies.

"That is an incident common enough in those times. It was rough and severe outside, but indoors there were jolly times for two weeks."

JACOB SPRINGER.

"One of the most prominent characters in Benton county for the past fifty years is the Hon. Jacob Springer, of St. Clair township. He is now living in retirement at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Jabez Bowers, of that township. He came to this country in 1852, while in the very prime of his young life. He and his good wife (now in the heavenly home) settled in St. Clair township when there wasn't a neighbor for miles and built up a prosperous home. It seemed to them then, and they often remarked it for several years, that they would not live to see the day even when their own township would be settled. Mrs. Springer, though now dead for several years, lived to see the almost full development

of the county. From a land bare of homes it became dotted all about them with happy homes and school houses.

“Mr. Springer, in his active life, was a natural leader of men. He possessed great organizing and executive ability. Hardly a movement, either civil or political, was suggested but he was called into the councils and his advice sought. He was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, January 21, 1824. On the 11th day of March, 1845, was married to Eliza J. McCormick. They raised five children to manhood and womanhood, three girls and two boys, one of which, Eugene B., enlisted in Company H, Second Iowa Cavalry, in September, 1864, and died in the service in July, 1865; the balance of the children are now living.

“In 1852, Springer and family emigrated to Iowa, leaving Pennsylvania on June 2d. They came overland by team. There were no railroads at that time west of Chicago; crossed the Mississippi at Muscatine on a horse ferry-boat. East of Iowa City they passed two squadrons of United States troops in charge of the Musquakie Indians, taking them back to the reservation. The following summer four hundred of them left the reservation and returned and are now living near Tama City on land purchased with their own money, derived from the sale of their lands which the government purchased from them in Iowa. Springer and family arrived in Iowa City on the 5th day of July and stopped over there two days. They arrived in what is now known as St. Clair township on July 9th. Mr. Springer put up a tent and lived in it until a log cabin could be built, into which the family moved before it was finished.”

GEORGE R. KNAPP'S REMINISCENCES.

The following was written originally for the semi-centennial edition of the *Vinton Eagle* by George R. Knapp of Vinton:

“My father, John Knapp, first visited Iowa in 1850. He had fought through the war with Mexico from Palo Alto to the peace of Guadalupe Hidalgo, with General Taylor and his ever-victorious army, as well as one campaign against the Sioux Indians in the Northwest. He served with the famous First Mississippi under Colonel Jefferson Davis, afterward president of the Southern Confederacy. This regiment sailed from New Orleans with twelve

hundred men and mustered out there at the end of the war one hundred and thirty only. The ten hundred and seventy comrades were dead, every man, warrior and chief. There had been no sick leaves, no discharges, no prisoners. My father had been wounded at Monterey, and his health had been ruined, like that of all his comrades.

DANGEROUS CRACKS.

“After his first visit to Iowa, Mr. Knapp went to Philadelphia and engaged in business, but found his health unequal to city life, so that he returned to Iowa in 1856 and settled with his family near Remington’s Ferry in Cedar township. There was a small log cabin on the place erected by some squatters. This one had big cracks in the floor. When my uncle took me out of the wagon and put me down on the floor I was afraid to move lest I would fall through, and never know where I ‘was at.’ However, there were so many things to frighten a boy, ghost stories and bears and panthers occasionally, and Indians.

“The Indians who visited us were all friendly, but just as good to scare children as any. So it happened that I soon got so used to all the scares that I was not afraid of any of them. I do not think this was anything unusual. Border children get a good nerve about the first thing. Indeed, I was fully grown before I had any idea what people meant when they said they were nervous.

THE SQUATTER “DEFINED.”

“Perhaps I should explain, for the instruction of some of the younger readers, what a squatter was. The squatters were people, mostly Americans, who were forever keeping on the border of civilization, pushing the wild beasts and the Indians ever westward before the muzzles of their rifles. They generally bought no land, built their cabins on any land that suited them, staying until the settlers came, cultivating a little land and fishing and hunting. They cut all the timber they wanted wherever it suited them, caring not a whit who owned it. Their cabins were warm in winter and cool in summer, and they made a good living after their fashion with little exertion. They were nearly all very ignorant and superstitious, but kindhearted and helpful, though not particularly honest.

“Did the settlers buy land which they had improved of the gov-

ernment, and come and drive the squatters off and take their improvements? No, not on your life. That is, not at that stage of the game. That may have happened to some belated squatters, but the great body of them never suffered thus. There were plenty of hogs among the settlers that were not above taking anything from anybody, but they had noticed that other hogs of their type who had robbed squatters suddenly found themselves out of business entirely and in the hands of the coroner, or in equivalent circumstances. It was easy to steal from the Indians, but there were few people indeed who wanted the contract of robbing squatters.

“I remember that a man bought some timber, and in that timber he found a big pile of rails. One night, in a cabin, he said to the host: ‘I bought that timber, and I suppose that big pile of rails is mine. They will come mighty handy to use in fencing in the spring.’ Just then a man who had been quietly smoking said, “You let them rails alone!” and not another word. That was enough, though; the settler never moved a rail. What law there was could not be used against the squatters, for they could prove anything whatever by all the other squatters in the neighborhood.

“The squatters were always telling ghost stories, even locating the places where they could be seen nightly in wholesale lots. These stories aroused my curiosity so much that I felt that I ought by all means to see some ghosts myself; and that never having seen a single one, placed me far behind the times. So one night, not knowing any better, I posted off to a lonely path in the woods where I had been told the ghosts were the thickest, and hiding where I had good view of the path, I waited and waited, never seeing a ghost, until my mother got frightened at my absence and called me many times. I did not answer for fear of scaring away the ghosts. I finally went home very warm under the collar at the disobliging ghosts.”

TOO CIVILIZED FOR DAVY.

“An old squatter, Davy Allen, came in one day and said he was going west; it was getting entirely too civilized. My mother did not see it in that way and was not slow in saying so.

“Well,” said Allen, “it is so to me. You folks have put iron hinges and latches on your doors, and have built a chimney and have the house all to yourselves—beds seven feet long and all that. Now when we first landed here the beds were only four feet long, so that grown folks’ legs stuck out about two feet, and the chickens roosted on them. That was satisfactory for a whole year, but no longer. You see, the second year there were two or more roosters, and they always got to fighting at 3:29 in the morning and woke up the family, to say nothing of scratching their legs. They couldn’t stand such destruction, I tell you, so they fired the chickens out and lengthened the beds. Besides all that there have been too many changes in this part of the country. Now, when I first came here, that big hill over there was nothing but a hole in the ground.”

“Allen had a big family, but he got them all in a wagon one day and turned the heads of the oxen westward, and we never saw any of them again. The whole family was killed and scalped by the Sioux Indians, save one young man who was in the army.

FIRST TRIP OF “BLACK HAWK.”

“In the fall of 1858 the steamer Black Hawk made its first trip up the Cedar river from Cedar Rapids to Waterloo. The boat would always whistle for Remington’s Ferry for the reason that it could not run under the cable, which had to be lowered to allow the boat to pass over it. This boat was about a hundred and fifty feet long and with good beam, and carried heavy loads of freight. It would run over the apron attached to the bow. I used to see men with brooms sweeping back the water to keep the boat from swamping. There was a great deal more water in the river then than now, so that it was possible to run such a boat. The channel of the river began to fill soon after the farms were cultivated, and has continued to fill ever since, so that no large craft can be now floated save during very high water.

HARD TIMES.

“Soon hard times were upon us. In 1857 the wheat crop failed entirely, being drowned out by excessive rains. However, we raised a little soft corn, and there was no bread but straight, poor johnnycake for a solid, and never to be forgotten year, until

the wheat crop of 1858 could be raised and milled. To make matters worse, there was the greatest financial panic this country ever experienced that same year. Gold was about the only money one could be sure of. Many found their paper money worthless. Then on top of all this, we nearly all were sick with chills and fever from drinking surface water from sloughs and shallow wells. There had been no time to dig deep wells in a community struggling to raise and save crops enough to keep off starvation. The squatters had some cattle and horses, and being generally lawless, allowed them to feed on the crops of the settlers, on unfenced land, so that all spare time was devoted to fencing. Sometimes whole families were sick in bed with ague, so that none were able to care for the little stock there was. We finally dug deep wells and between those and quinine we got rid of the ague. I believe many people, too, become immune to ague. The squatters were not so much afflicted with it, and I have never seen an Indian with it, nor have I ever heard of any of them having it.

SATISFACTORY SUBSCRIPTION PRICE.

“The *Vinton Eagle* would get into our neighborhood that summer whenever some daring settler would swim Pratt creek and Mud creek and a lot of sloughs and get back with his life and the wet papers. The *Eagle* was \$3.50 per year then, I believe, and as nobody paid for it, the price was satisfactory. Hamford and Holt used to send out elegantly printed duns once in a while. These aroused the merriment of the settlers, as there was frequently not enough cash in the whole neighborhood to pay one bill.

“A good cow could then be bought for \$8.00, and a good man could be hired for about the same price per month.

“The bravest of the settlers looked blue in those dreadful days, and the women shed many homesick tears. Some of them had been well raised in the east, and were nearly overcome by the wildness and hardships of the west. However, most of them were young and filled with the joy of life, which even the desolation and homesickness could not wholly quench.

A SONG FOR EVERYTHING.

“One would hear in the stillness of the saddest nights some beautiful soprano—

“There’s a land that is fairer than day,
And by faith we may see it afar.”
“No storms ever break on that beautiful shore,
While the years of eternity roll.”

Or some strong tenor on the trail at night, who had left his sweetheart in the east, while he came forth to conquer the wilderness—

“Her form was like the dew drop,
Her neck was like the swan’s,
Her face it was the fairest that ere the sun shone on.”

“There was another special Providence in those days, the border minstrel.

“How sweetly from the minstrel’s throat
The tender ballad rang;
And how the banjo’s quivering note
Came throbbing as he sang!
“And yet, tho’ with his liquid song,
It ne’er shall speak again,
Its tender strains shall echo long
Within the souls of men.”

“There was plenty of wild game, too. I do not know how we could have lived through the first years without it. There were great flocks of wild pigeons and ducks and geese and brants, as well as pinnated grouse. Quails were less plentiful than now, and so were rabbits. The wolves had kept the rabbits down.

EARLY SETTLERS OF THE TOWNSHIPS.

“The first settler in Le Roy township was J. W. Athey, who entered land a mile south of the site of Blairstown in 1853. A character in Le Roy for many years was Isaiah Morris, who came the same year Mr. Athey did, in 1853. He lived for years in the vil-

lage of Blairstown and was justice of the peace. He was a man of much intelligence and took a sincere interest in the welfare of the village and in promoting good citizenship. He moved to Joplin, Missouri, some years since. James Bryan came in 1855 and set up a blacksmith shop near the site of Blairstown, the first in this vicinity, although a German, I forget his name, opened a shop shortly after a little further up Prairie Creek. Mr. Bryan accumulated considerable property and was one of the leading citizens in Blairstown. He had a daughter, and, I presume, other children. One daughter resides at Denison, wife of George Richardson.

“Isaac Barnett and family came in the same year, 1855. Mr. Burnett was a nephew of Judge Burnett of the supreme court of Ohio, and came here from Cincinnati. He was a well-read, cultivated gentleman, but his early training did not especially fit him for the rough-and-tumble life of a pioneer. He had an unusually fine family, two boys and several daughters. One of the boys, I think, died in the army; the other I have lost track of, as I have of all the girls except Kitty, the eldest daughter. She was a most lovely and loveable girl, and no doubt was a delight to her husband, Dr. Basil Webster, and a continual benediction upon his household.”

TOWNSHIP HISTORIES.

By BRUCE M. B. VAN DUSEN.

“Though not one of the first settlers of Bruce township, my acquaintance with its people, history, etc., dates to the 15th of May, 1858. Having driven overland from northern Ohio in company with a neighbor, Mr. M. Woodley and son, who had sold out and were coming west with their families that spring. The spring and summer of that year were very wet and the roads, especially in Illinois and Iowa, were very bad. We were four weeks on the road. Three brothers of Mr. Woodley had come out the spring before. Two of them, Abram and Jacob, had settled in Bruce township.

“It was at Jacob Woodley’s, near Bruce Center, that we landed, May 15, 1858. The country at that time was one almost boundless prairie. So vast in extent that it was the supposition of the

people for many years that it would never be settled up. If I mistake not, there were at that time twelve families in the township, coming mostly from Ohio and York State and settling near the timber along the creek and around Brush Grove, some in little log cabins, some in dug-outs or holes in the ground.

"One man, Mr. Fisk, had built a house, 12x18, of boards hauled from Benton City, twenty-five miles away. N. S. Warner had ventured a few miles away into the prairie and lived with his family in a log cabin 6x8 feet, built over a hole in the ground about three feet deep. Mr. Brown and Mr. Carlisle settled in Brush Grove. They were among the first in the township.

HOW THE TOWNSHIP WAS NAMED.

"George Buchan, Sr., a Scotchman coming from Ohio in about '55, was one of the first to locate in the township, and who had the honor of giving to it the name Bruce, after the noted Scotch orator, Robert Bruce, who was a personal friend of Mr. Buchan before his leaving the mother country.

"After arriving here I at once hired out for the season to Judge Treanor at \$12.00 per month, working for my board through the winter. The second season my salary was increased to \$15.00 per month. That was under James Buchanan's administration, which accounts for the extravagant wages farm hands were getting at that time.

"There are but few remaining at the present time of the old settlers of '58. Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Woodley are still living on the same farm they settled on in 1856. Mrs. George Treanor, now living with her daughter, Mrs. Anderson. Mrs. Geo. Buchan, with her son on her farm; Mrs. C. V. Young at Bruce Center. A few families that came in the early sixties are still in the neighborhood. These old first settlers who are living have lived to see the most marvelous changes ever wrought in any country. We have lived to see land increase in value from \$4.00 to \$100.00 per acre. Also to see those log cabins and dug-outs replaced by the finest palatial homes to be seen in any farming country on earth.

WHOLE TOWNSHIP A NEIGHBORHOOD.

"To say that those first settlers were a social people comes far short of expressing the whole meaning. The whole township was one neighborhood and it was not infrequent that they would

all gather together at some one's cabin of a winter afternoon and evening. And say! John Perkins never forgot to take his fiddle, and such never-to-be-forgotten music and tripping of the 'light fantastic' on those puncheon floors! Sometimes a blizzard would come along and the whole company would be compelled to stay all night. There was always lots of room and no rheumatism in those days.

TAKING THE GRISTS TO MARKET.

"The wheat crop, which was about all the crop raised in those days, was a good crop in '57 and '58, but owing to excessive rains and sultry weather it blighted and was a failure. The nearest market was Iowa City, when anything would sell for money. The Rock Island Railroad had been built to that point the year before, so there was a market 75 miles away. A company of five of us with about twenty-five bushels apiece started on the 5th of July for Iowa City. Camping out wherever night overtook us, we reached there the third night, and on account of a very heavy rain we had to stay there two nights. We disposed of our wheat at 41 cents a bushel and loaded back with lumber and building material. We reached home the evening of the eighth day. We often had to 'double' and sometimes 'tribble' teams to get through the sloughs. It was an experience not to be forgotten.

"Another little experience lingers in my memory, and is a trip to Vinton on the 7th of January, '59, with a grist of wheat to exchange for flour and to bring groceries and also several bunches of green oak shingles. On returning I had to cross Rock Creek at a fording place. It was not frozen over sufficient to bear a team. The ice gave way and I was stuck. One of my horses got down and I was obliged to plunge into three feet of water to save the horse. It was a cool proposition. I had to carry my load out, get my sled out and load up again. Had four miles to go plodding through the deep snow and no track. Only now and then could I see a mark made the day before. I rode and walked as I could stand it, boots full of water. I reached home about dusk with both feet frozen solid to the ankle joint. I put them in cold water till the frost was out. Then came the experience that one seldom forgets. No doubt but there are many of the old pioneers that could relate similar experiences. Mr. Burnett made his home with Dr. Webster for several years before his death, which occurred about the 10th of November, 1904.

“Perry Wood came in 1856; he was a brother-in-law of James Bryan. For several years he was mayor of Blairstown, and is fairly prosperous, having the appearance of one on whom the cares of life rest lightly.

“S. H. Lee and J. S. Sterling came in 1856. Mrs. Sterling was a more than ordinarily attractive lady and things looked nice about their home. Mr. Sterling is now living in Blairstown at the ripe old age of 82 years. The Lees had no children, at least not while I was in the county. Some old settlers could tell some good stories on Mr. Lee, but my memory is not sufficiently sure to warrant me to play the role.

“O. J. Simmons and Thomas and Hiram Miner came in 1856. Mr. Simmons and Hiram Miner are here yet. Mr. Miner lives on a farm two miles south of town. Another old settler still here is Joseph Haines, who came in 1855. He had two sons on farms near Blairstown and one living in the village.

“Over in Kane township, which had no name at the time I write of, not yet having been organized, the early settlers, like those of Le Roy and Iowa townships, were neighbors at Pickaway. A. M. Drake was the first man to build a house in Kane township. It was built on S. W. one-quarter section 30, township 84, range 12, in the spring of 1854. He did not enjoy it very long, for in about a year he died. A year or two later his widow married Henry Van Dyke. I think he was a son of old Mr. Van Dyke, who lived over the Tama line. Old Mr. Van Dyke and a J. P. Henry were great readers and frequently stopped at our house to enjoy my father's library, which was an unusually good one for the time. Mr. Van Dyke took an active part in Kane township and county politics for years.

“The second house built in the township was that of E. W. Stocker, built on N. W. one-half section 36. Mr. Stocker still owns the land, although for several years a resident of Blairstown. Mr. Stocker, a quiet, plain man, making no display, has always been one of the most successful and influential men on the Southern Slope. He celebrated his eightieth birthday a few years ago at which a number of his old cronies, men and women, were present. He continues to enjoy fairly good health, and, with his wife, lives contented at Blairstown. He has one son and two daughters living. The eldest, Mrs. George Kirk, recently widowed, lives in Blairstown; the other daughter lives with her husband on the home farm, and Jacob, the son, on one of his father's farms in Union township.

“Soloman Snow, who came to Kane with Mr. Stocker, was a man of much greater pretensions. He had enjoyed some advantages and was well informed and ambitious for place, but this he never secured. He died a few years since, after undergoing an operation at Cedar Falls, where he was temporarily staying for that purpose.

“This township was organized in 1857, E. W. Stocker having been appointed commissioner to attend to the matter by Judge Douglass. Mr. Stocker said that Judge Douglass probably thought he was a Democrat, from his rough exterior. There were ten votes cast at the first election, held in August of that year. There were others early in the township. The Harrisons and Sheets, who lived two miles west of Stocker; and John and Cy Caholm, who made their home with Mr. Sheets, who was their brother-in-law, but were generally working for some of the other settlers. Both of the Caholms made quite a success for a while in the profession of law and in business incidental to it, but I do not know what their final outcome was.

“Andy Stein was the first settler in Iowa township. He was probably one of the first settlers west of the Mississippi; a hunter, a trapper, an Indian trader. After a varied experience in these several vocations, he settled in Iowa township. In what year I do not know, but I think that it was in 1859. His house was open to all comers; his hospitality was unstinted. He was a man of large intellect and shrewd, but had enjoyed but little education. In some way he picked up a remarkable knowledge of the law, and knew the ‘Code of Iowa’ practically by heart. He was successful in securing justice for the county, and it was through his unwearyed efforts that he, more than any other, secured the injunction restraining the issue of the \$200,000 railroad bonds and thus saved the people of the county hundreds of thousands of dollars. The bonds were to have drawn ten per cent interest, and it is easy enough for the people of Benton to see what a load the taxpayers of to-day would have hanging over them except for the earnest efforts of this neglected and forgotten old settler. He made several efforts to obtain from the county the amount of expenses incurred and some remuneration for the labor given to this end, but to no purpose. Finally, through the efforts of Jacob Springer, an appropriation of \$100 was made him by the board of supervisors for a bridge more or less imaginary. An appropriate monument to the memory of Andy Stein is due from the county for having

saved it from practically bankruptcy, or the people a million or more dollars in taxes.

"A family of Guinns settled early and laid out a town, Guinnville, a few miles off in the Iowa valley, near where Belle Plaine now stands. The chief one among them was Hyrcanus, a tall, fine-looking fellow with the air and breeding of a gentleman. A Mr. Trueblood was quite a man among the early settlers. Two of his daughters live south of Belle Plaine. Squire Dan Coder, leading Democrat. His son, Phil, was county treasurer after his return from the army, and the G. A. R. at Vinton is named in honor of his memory. John Travis, another. His son, Jeff, keeps a livery in Belle Plaine. B. F. Kelley, a capitalist, father-in-law of Doc. Worth, well known in Vinton, who blossomed out as an attorney, became so much the terror of delinquent debtors that he gained the name of 'Prairie Wolf.'

"A little later many others came to the township named. In Union the Barrys might well be named; some of the sons are among the best people of the county. In Iowa there were Mr. Hutton, who came over from West Irving in Tama and was one of the founders of Belle Plaine; Seth Price, for years a leading business man and Republican politician. In Le Roy were John Kellar, who came from Johnson County with the Howards, of whom there were several, and who left many descendants. Squire Lunone, a man of prominence and successful in business. Forty years, fifty years, is a long while to keep in memory names and events, and it is more than likely that there are errors of omission, if not of commission, in the narrative.

"As near as I can recall the general understanding of the facts at the time, Thomas Keenan, Patrick Kelley, Andy Ryan and John Kirby were the first permanent settlers in Union township; they came, entered land and built cabins in 1854. Others came with them, the Burkes, the Cummins and some whose names I do not recall. They were poor, though some of them had teams and a few head of cattle, which they had accumulated in a year or two's residence in Illinois. Thomas Keenan, to all outward appearance, had more property than any of the others.

"John Kirby was the largest landholder, having 400 acres. Mr. Kirby claimed to be the rightful owner of Castle Kirby and a great estate thereto belonging and appertaining. His face bore marks of having gone through serious broils, but he was widely read and highly intelligent. His children were especially bright. He lost his boy, which grieved him greatly; one of his daughters, one of

a pair of twins, also died. The other twin married Jerry Lynch and some years after his death married the late John Shane. The two other girls married two brothers named Early, intelligent and thrifty young fellows, now wealthy men in Chicago. I believe that Mrs. Shane, too, resides in Chicago. One of Mr. Keenan's daughters was married to Michael Smith, who was one of the best informed men in the township and had a very creditable knowledge of business acquired as deputy clerk of Cook county, Illinois. He was for years a leading man in the township. Another married a Mr. Cummins—I can't recall his name, but he was a man of business and made a success of life. I mention these two, although I do not see any reason to leave out the daughter, who married Mr. McCormick, or the other children, only that I cannot give a family history of all the early settlers.

“Patrick Kelley I have already mentioned; the genial old soul should have a biography of himself alone. His children who are all playing important parts in the busy life of their several communities, might have one written by a hand competent to do the venerable pioneer justice.

“Some of the early comers were able to enter only a forty-acre tract. One of the Burkes was one of those, I think it was Tim. It is worth recording, as he became one of the wealthier farmers in this section of the county. Others followed in 1855-6-7. Among those added to the Irish settlement was Mr. Tomey. Considering the opportunities they had, most of the women were good cooks and fairly good housekeepers, but Mrs. Tomey was a model for any house or country. The Tomey cabin was always a picture of neatness and order. There was an air of refinement and cultivated taste in and about the house which indicated early favorable association and environment. They had a son and daughter, John and Mary, fine children, but I do not know to what extent fortune smiled upon or neglected them, after they passed from under the parental roof.

“For several years there was but one Republican vote cast in Union township. I regret the fact that the name of the foresighted gentleman who cast it has slipped my memory. The organization of the township was effected, I think, in 1859, though that is a matter of record; but prior to the organization the voting was done at the polls in Le Roy township.

POLK TOWNSHIP.

“Polk township is one of the early pioneer settlements that is deserving of special mention. Settlements were formed there in the early forties. The most we can do is to mention a few of the early pioneers who are still alive and live in the township at this time. Many of the early pioneers who suffered the privations of that day, have gone to their long reward and their bodies are at rest in the Urbana cemetery and the headstones tell the tale of their early settlement.

“We have but a few of the early pioneer families, among whom are the following: A. V. Taylor came to Polk township with his parents in 1853 when he was nine years old. He is still hale and hearty. A. A. Fetherkile was born in the township in the early fifties. His parents came to the township in the early fifties. Three Mossman families settled in the township in 1854, Hugh, Francis and William, and some of their descendants are still living in that township and Vinton. Hugh was the father of James and B. F. Mossman, who are still living in the county. Francis has no descendants living in Iowa. William was the father of Mrs. J. L. Tinkham, who is living in Vinton, and A. P. Mossman, who is still living in that township. John Bryson and wife, who are still living, settled in the township in 1848. Henry Todd, who is still living, also settled in the township in 1848. Mrs. Sarah J. Fulton settled with her husband in the township in 1855. Sam Brody, who is still living, was born in the township and is past sixty years old. He is of the same family as Stephen, William, John, Alex. and Henry, and all of them are still living in the township. Mrs. Malinda Lockhart Houser, who is now 58 years old, was born in the township and is still living there. John Rouse, who is still living, settled in the township in 1848.”

CHAPTER VII.

MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION.

BUILDING OF THE FIRST REAL BRIDGE—DAILY STAGE COMMUNICATION—STEAMBOAT ERA, 1858-1860—DOINGS OF THE STEAMER "EXPORT"—BECOMES THE "BLACK HAWK"—LAST TRIPS OF THE "BLACK HAWK"—EARLY STATE ROADS IN BENTON COUNTY—RAILROADS OF BENTON COUNTY—FIRST RAILROAD FOR THE SOUTH SLOPE—BENTON COUNTY'S NORTHERN ROAD—IRON HORSE TROTS INTO VINTON—BRANCH WEST FROM VINTON.

The completion of the first bridge across the Cedar river, at Vinton, June 27, 1857, and the abandonment of the old ferry, which had been used for five years, marked the first step in really substantial progress toward giving the people of Benton county fair means of communication with their neighbors and transportation for their goods and farm products. It cost \$8,000, and was a toll bridge, but the charges were no higher than the usual ferry rates, and the villagers proudly preened their feathers, as—"ours is, at the present time, we believe, the only bridge now completed across the Cedar above Cedar Rapids."

BUILDING OF THE FIRST REAL BRIDGE.

It is true that the legislature had provided for state roads as early as 1847, and had also declared the Red Cedar river a navigable stream worthy of being improved by congress; but the improvement, both of roadways and waterways, had been largely confined to suggestions of what should be done. But the building of a substantial bridge brought practical men to the front, who had well defined ideas about steamboats and stages and also those who were before their times in the building of railroads. That \$8,000 bridge was a plain notice that Vinton and Benton county were in the race for western development and wanted to get in touch with every-

thing that was going on. The first crossing of a team was safely made on Saturday, June 27, 1857.

In November, 1856, a construction company was organized composed of J. C. Traer, J. E. Palmer, J. W. Filkins, John Mason, J. S. Hunt and others, and in the following January a license was granted to the Vinton Bridge Company (Mr. Traer, president) to erect the bridge at the north end of Main street. As completed, it was 462 feet long, the superstructure resting on eight piers, each composed of sixteen piles driven twelve feet into the bed of the river. There was a clear passage-way of sixteen feet, but, as became forcibly evident, due allowance had not been made for ambitious captains with cabined steamboats. The structure remained a toll bridge until 1862, when it was sold to the county. One of its spans was swept away by high water in 1865, and soon afterward it was taken down.

DAILY STAGE COMMUNICATION.

Since the spring of 1855, Vinton had enjoyed daily stage communication with Cedar Rapids and in January, 1856, the Western Stage Company put on a daily line of four-horse coaches between Iowa City and Cedar Falls via Vinton. A line was also run between Cedar Rapids and Cedar Falls by John Weare, Jr., these means of communication and transportation forestalling her railroads of the later days. The Western Stage Company disposed of its route in July 1861, about the time that the Cedar Rapids and Missouri River Railroad (now Chicago and Northwestern) was completed through the southern part of the county, via Blainstown and Belle Plaine.

By 1862 Vinton and the county had outgrown the system of toll bridges—anything that impeded free communication with the outer world and general progress of the community was to be removed. Hence the agitation for a free bridge across the Cedar river, which resulted in the purchase of the toll affair by the county, during the later part of 1862, and throwing it open to the public traffic—"free, gratis, for nothing." The wooden bridge of 1867, the ends of which rested on wooden abutments made of piles, became so decayed and unsafe by the spring of 1876 that an iron structure was completed in that year by the Clinton Bridge Company at a cost of \$20,000. Its abutments were of course constructed of stone. Six years before the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Minnesota Road had built its 1,500 ft. bridge over the Cedar river—

the largest which spanned that stream—and trains had been running for a number of years through the northern part of the county over what is now the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific system.

But before the railroads came to stay the steamboats had to have their little day on Cedar river.

THE STEAMBOAT ERA, 1858-1860.

The shallowness of Cedar river so limited the usefulness of steamboat navigation that the excitement and trials of that period covered less than two years of time. The "Black Hawk" (alias "Export"), which was the first and only representative of this means of transportation, drew eighteen inches of water—except during the low stages of summer and autumn, when she "stuck," or was laid up until a heavy rain came.

DOINGS OF THE STEAMER "EXPORT."

The steamer "Export," which was built at Cedar Rapids by F. Smith and Company, in the summer and fall of 1858, was one hundred feet in length, nineteen feet beam, and two and a half feet hold. The engine was sixty horse-power, three feet stroke and nine inch cylinders; the boiler twelve feet long, and the side wheels twelve feet in diameter. While the boat was in process of building notice was served on the Vinton Bridge Company, requiring that corporation either to construct a suitable draw or abate the bridge which was claimed to obstruct navigation, in violation of the legislative pronouncement which declared the Red Cedar river a navigable stream.

The "Export" arrived at Vinton October 2, 1858, at high noon on her trial trip to Waterloo. She was received at the bank landing by a delegation of citizens and a shouting crowd of school children, while a loud-mouthed brass cannon, also in the foreground, added emphasis to the importance of the occasion. The ordinance was not quite equal to its duties, as it shed one of its rings, "which struck Mr. A. K. Webb, causing quite a serious injury—" but "we are happy to learn he is rapidly recovering." An anvil salute also was a feature of the reception. After discharging a portion of her sixty-ton cargo, the "Export" proceeded on her way to Waterloo without further incident. As she had no cabin above deck, at this time, she had no trouble in passing under the Vinton bridge.

BECOMES THE "BLACK HAWK."

Before the season closed the "Export" made four round trips between Cedar Rapids and Waterloo, via Vinton, but in the spring of 1859 she changed ownership, was overhauled, repainted and christened "Black Hawk." A cabin was also built above deck. The first trip of that season began at Cedar Rapids March 16th, with J. J. Snouffer, master and clerk; W. D. Watrous, mate; Thomas Stanley, engineer, and W. Vance, pilot. Captain Snouffer, anticipating trouble with the Vinton Bridge Company on account of the "Black Hawk's" new cabin, had shipped an extra force of men and provided them with ropes and tackle, with orders to tear down the bridge in case he could not pass under it. Under the circumstances, that corporation knew that the Red Cedar river was being obstructed, in violation of law, and Captain Snouffer and his men were not obliged to adopt violent measures. Instead, the "Black Hawk" triumphantly passed through one of the spans of the bridge which had been raised by its owners. As there were several cargoes of goods awaiting shipment from Vinton, the boat did not visit Waterloo until the accumulation had been removed.

The Benton County Democrat notes the arrival of the steamer thus, in its issue of March 19th: "The new steamer 'Black Hawk' arrived at our wharf on Thursday, morning with freight and passengers from Cedar Rapids. She returned the same day with one thousand sacks of corn. Her trips will not be extended above Vinton until the large amount of grain in store is shipped off. Captain Snouffer commands the 'Black Hawk,' and under his management the boat will lose no time. Further improvements will be made on the landing as soon as the weather will permit." Two young men were left behind in Vinton on this trip and the *Democrat* truly sympathizes with them: "How they are to get to Cedar Rapids, unless they await the return of the boat is a question yet to be decided, as the roads are in such bad condition that no kind of vehicle can be got through." A little illustration of the drawbacks of these times, which were not really pioneer either!

LAST TRIPS OF THE "BLACK HAWK."

The first three trips of the "Black Hawk" appeared most encouraging. She brought to Vinton forty tons of freight and took



away, in produce, about four hundred. During the season of 1859 she made twenty-nine round trips, one of Captain Snouffer's consignments being forty barrels of whiskey for parties in Waterloo, which cost six dollars per barrel delivered. But the uncertainties of the traffic induced the owners of the "Black Hawk" to sell it in the fall, and a period was put to steamboating on the Cedar, as a commercial factor, in the spring of 1860. The steamboat passed Vinton on her first trip of that season, on Tuesday, March 13th, returning on the following evening. Thursday morning she left for Cedar Rapids with a small load of grain, as the river was very low, and it was stated by the *Democrat* "she will not probably come up again until we have rain to raise the river." The season of 1860 settled the fate of the "Black Hawk," as it was a succession of groundings and lay-ups.

The boat was taken to the lower Mississippi and, during the Civil war, went to pieces by running into an obstruction near Memphis, Tennessee.

EARLY STATE ROADS IN BENTON COUNTY.

Section 5 of "An act for laying out and establishing certain roads therein named," approved February 18, 1847, appointed James Leverich, of Linn county, Charles Cantonwine, of Benton, and William Hunt, of Black Hawk county, commissioners to lay out and establish a State road, beginning at Cedar Rapids; thence to or near the house of Mr. Strawn, in Linn county; thence to the county seat of Benton; thence to the Falls of the Cedar.

By act approved February 25, 1847, E. B. Spencer, Samuel M. Lockhart, and William Ellis, were appointed commissioners to establish a State road from the county seat of Benton county to Quasqueton, Buchanan county.

Section 10 of "An act to locate and establish certain roads," approved February 5, 1851, appointed James Allenworth, of Linn, John Alexander, of Benton, and David S. Pratt, of Black Hawk, to locate and establish a State road from Center Point to Marysville, Benton county; thence by the residence of James Virden to the Big Woods, via John H. Messinger's, to Rice's old trading house.

Section 25, of the same act, appointed William Williams, of Muscatine, Isaac Cook, of Linn, and John Royal, of Benton, to locate a State road from Cedar Rapids, via Fremont (Vinton), in Benton to Fort Clarke.

Section 45 appointed Samuel C. Trowbridge, of Johnson, Andrew D. Stephens, of Benton, and C. C. Slooan, of Iowa county, to locate a State road from Marengo to Fort Clarke.

Section 30 of "An act in relation to certain State roads therein named," approved January 22, 1853, appointed George W. Voross, of Marshall, David F. Bruner, of Tama, and A. D. Stephens, of Benton, to locate a State road from A. D. Stephens' to the southeast corner of Hardin county.

Section 49, of the same act, appointed E. A. Brown, of Black Hawk, John Blunt, of Chickasaw, and W. C. Stanberry, of Benton, to locate a State road from Fremont to Waterloo; thence to John H. Messinger's, in Bremer county; thence to Bradford, in Chickasaw county.

Section 1 of "An act to establish certain State roads," approved January 24, 1855, appointed James B. Kelsey and Thomas B. Stone, of Linn, and Harrison Bristol, of Benton, to locate a State road from Cedar Rapids via Bear Creek Mill, Vinton and Waterloo, to Cedar Falls.

Section 12, the same act, appointed Andrew Steia, of Benton, John Ross and David Bruner, of Tama, to locate a State road from Cedar Rapids to Toledo.

Section 9, of "An act in relation to State roads," approved January 28, 1857, appointed (Wesley) Whipple, of Benton, James Barclay of Black Hawk, and Thomas R. Talbot, of Fayette, to locate a State road from Vinton, via Barclay, Fairbank and Linn, to West Union.

Section 12, of the same act, appointed F. A. Morgan, of Keokuk, Martin Ballard, of Iowa, and S. P. Price, of Benton, to locate a State road from Sigourney, via Millersburg, Genoa Bluffs and Kosta, to Vinton.

RAILROADS OF BENTON COUNTY.

When the "Black Hawk" was taken off the Cedar river surveys had already been made by the Cedar Rapids and Missouri River Railroad and construction had commenced through the southern townships of Benton county toward Council Bluffs, by way of Blairstown and Belle Plaine.

It was the belief in the late fifties, that Vinton would obtain railway service through the Cedar valley branch of the Chicago, Iowa and Nebraska Railroad and in April, 1857, by a vote of 698

to 467, the citizens of the county authorized a subscription of \$150,000 in stock of the company to forward the enterprise. In payment the county was to issue twenty-year bonds, bearing ten per cent interest. But before the bonds could be prepared A. D. Stephens, a good conservative citizen who foresaw the magnitude of the proposed financial burden, filed a petition in the district court at Iowa City for a writ of injunction restraining the county from issuing them. He was successful, and saved the county from assuming the payment, in twenty years of \$150,000 in principal and \$300,000 in interest. During the previous year (1856) the proposition to issue \$250,000 in bonds to aid that enterprise met with such public opposition that Judge Douglass withdrew his order calling for a special election to vote upon it.

FIRST RAILROAD FOR SOUTH SLOPE.

The original surveys of the Cedar Rapids and Missouri River Railroad Company were from Cedar Rapids to Sioux City, via Vinton, but, as stated, the line was finally constructed to Council Bluffs, via Blairstown and Belle Plaine, and was held to be somewhat of a victory for the South Slope.

BENTON COUNTY'S NORTHERN ROAD.

In 1865 the Cedar Rapids and St. Paul Company was organized at Cedar Rapids, and agreed to build a line through Benton county by way of Vinton for the sum of \$75,000 and swamp lands valued at \$15,000. Three years afterward the franchise of the company, and a small amount of grading for a road bed, became the property of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Minnesota Railroad, the officers of which were: George Green, president; Charles Mason, vice president; R. M. Green, secretary; and J. W. Fraer, general agent. Under this management work was pushed to such good purpose that in November, 1869, the first train arrived at Shellsburg, from Cedar Rapids, and on the 12th of the following month Vinton celebrated the event in a series of quite elaborate functions.

The Vinton Eagle forecasts the grand celebration in the following, published October 20, 1869: "We learn from good authority that the railroad bridge at the Cedar river crossing will be completed by the first of next week, and that a month will probably show us the iron horse in Vinton." Then comes a letter from Hon.

J. W. Traer, written from Cedar Rapids. He was assistant superintendent of the second division of the road, covering Benton and Linn counties, and wished to give the people of Vinton some idea of the magnitude of the project—and did so in detail—expanding especially on the 1,500 feet bridge over the Cedar river, the largest over that stream. A. Spaulding, of Vinton, had charge of the tying. "With reasonably fair weather," he writes, "I feel strong confidence that we will greet you with the snort of the iron horse on the first of December. I may here say that two of our engines, the 'James F. Ely' and the 'William Greene,' have arrived, and we are using the 'Ely' in construction. They are from the well known Hineckley and Williams works, Boston, and our engineers pronounce them splendid with Messer and Ellingberg in the cab and Capt. Ed. Colter as conductor on the train with his gentlemanly assistant, Martin, at the brakes, we feel that we can invite our friends soon to a pleasant and safe ride."

In November the good people of Shellsburg celebrated the arrival of the excursion train from Cedar Rapids in the hall used by the Masons and Odd Fellows. Two hundred and fifty good citizens and citizenesses were in the banquet room, and the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Minnesota was toasted and re-toasted. Hon. J. W. Traer invited all to the Vinton celebration, and all assured him of their presence.

IRON HORSE TROTS INTO VINTON.

The progress of the last two miles of track building into Vinton is thus described by the *Eagle*: "One week ago yesterday (December 7th) the track layers on the B. C. R. & M. R. R. had reached a point about two miles from town, just east of the Poor Farm. The general impression then was that the track would be laid to the depot grounds in the corporation limits by Friday evening last. Some delays and bad weather were experienced which prevented this and again oyster bets were renewed as to the exact time when we should be numbered among the railroad towns of Iowa.

"Monday morning we trudged down to Mud Creek, hearing that the track had progressed a few rods west of the bridge at that point. When we arrived at the ground we were at some loss to

know how many hands the company employed, for citizens of all ages and sizes were getting in the way in immense numbers—it seemed as though the whole town had taken a loafing day to see the tracklaying. Monday night the track was at the cut north of Shult's residence. Tuesday noon the work on the main track was completed so far as to allow the construction to back down west of Young and Utley's elevator, and at 12:30 P. M. (December 14th) the first regular train came into Vinton, consisting of an engine and eleven cars. A great many of our citizens were on the ground, but no formal public demonstration was attempted, as it was known that morning that a regular train would be up as soon as the last spike was driven. We doubt not, however, that the gratification of those present was just as hearty as though it had been given expression, and it was certainly a glad day to those of us who realize what it means to see a locomotive standing in the streets of Vinton—it means triumph over difficulties."

The banquet and formal celebration took place at the College for the Blind, the toasts and speeches being given in the music hall of that institution. Leading professional and business men were present from Cedar Rapids, Blairstown, Belle Plaine, Shellsburg, Waterloo, Independence, Toledo, and Cedar Falls—one hundred and fifty in all accommodated by three cars loaned by the Chicago and Northwestern. Hon. James Chapin, senator from Benton county; Capt. S. L. Dows, of Cedar Rapids; Hon. J. W. Traer, of Vinton and others were prominent among the speech makers—and early in the morning of December 22d the festivities became history. The first regular train from Vinton to Dysart, Tama county, started from the former city at 11:30 a. m., December the 30th.

BRANCH WEST FROM VINTON.

The Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Minnesota Railroad made the survey for a branch road west from Shellsburg, through the central part of the county, Canton, Big Grove and Homer townships voting a five per cent tax to aid in its construction. It has since been held that this move was a "bluff"—and that it worked to a charm. At all events it so stirred Vinton to activity that she voted a bonus of \$20,000 to have the branch road start from her. The amount was paid and the road built in 1872. It was foreclosed in 1875 and the following year was pur-

chased by the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern Railroad and is now a part of the Rock Island system. A substantial passenger depot was completed at Vinton in February, 1900.

CHICAGO, MILWAUKEE AND ST. PAUL RAILROAD.

The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad surveyed a line through Benton county in 1881, via Shellisburg, and the townships through which it was expected to run again voted a tax for its construction. In 1882 the road was run through the tier of townships further south, Fremont, Eldorado, Union and Kane, with Newhall, Van Horne and Keystone as its stations.

The Kansas City division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad passes through the extreme southeastern corner of the county, having Walford as its station.

In all probability the next link in the chain of communication binding the various flourishing towns and cities of Benton county will be an interurban line or system connecting Vinton with the South Slope. Several attempts to effect this have fallen through within the past few years. On June 16, 1902, articles of incorporation were filed of the Vinton, Belle Plaine and Independence Interurban Company. The plan was to touch either Urbana or Brandon on the north, and Van Horne and Keystone, on the way south to Belle Plaine. The incorporators were Matt Gaasch, George McElroy and John Lorenz, of Vinton, and Arthur R. and Charles S. Jones, of Chicago. Much the same scheme was revived in March, 1905, when the Iowa Valley Interurban Railway Company was incorporated by the following Belle Plaine citizens: George W. Voss, president; Thomas F. Murrey, vice president; W. A. Mall, treasurer; and H. R. Mosnat, secretary and manager. The survey was made by Prof. F. C. French, of the Iowa State College, the capital stock of the company was voted at \$100,000, and the enterprise promised to materialize, but the fear that the county was not sufficiently populated to support such an enterprise got the upper hand of those who could plainly see the advantages of a north and south line of transportation. But it is bound to come; and the time is not far in the future.

CHAPTER VIII.

BANKING IN BENTON COUNTY.

BY JAMES F. TRAEER.

THE OLD TRAEER BANK BOOK—JAMES C. TRAEER—BANKS AS POLITICAL CENTERS—BELLE PLAINE BANKS—VINTON'S OLDEST BANK, FARMERS' NATIONAL—THE HALBERTS, SHELLSBURG BANKERS—CITIZEN'S BANK, BELLE PLAINE—CORN BELT SAVINGS BANK, BELLE PLAINE—FARMERS' NATIONAL BANK, VINTON—STATE BANK OF VINTON—VINTON SAVINGS BANK—PEOPLES' SAVING BANK, VINTON—PEOPLES SAVINGS BANK, SHELLSBURG—BENTON COUNTY SAVINGS BANK, NORWAY—ATKINS SAVINGS BANK—URBANA SAVINGS BANK—FARMERS SAVING BANK, WALFORD—FIRST NATIONAL BANK, NORWAY—MT. AUBURN SAVINGS BANK—LUZERNE SAVINGS BANK—PRESENT CONDITION OF BANKS.

The first records of banking in Benton county are still in existence between the well-worn leather covers of an old-fashioned day-book which is usually deposited in the safe of the Vinton Savings Bank and jealously guarded by the son of the late Dr. J. C. Traer, who opened his private institution to the public on the 31st of January, 1856. With George and William Greene, of Cedar Rapids, as partners, he then established the private bank which he conducted, with different associates, until 1882.

THE OLD TRAEER BANK BOOK.

The first part of this pioneer business book covers the period from July 5th to Christmas of 1855, and relates to Dr. Traer's general store which he sold to Thomas S. Palmer at the latter date. A week afterward, as stated, he embarked in the pioneer banking venture of Benton county and, as shown by his entries of January 31st, launched into the financial world under the following auspices:

J. C. Traer.

By paid expenses	\$ 27.07
Interest by Cash	.15
Bills Payable	\$1574.20

By February 6, 1856, the cash on hand of the new bank had reached the total of \$2838, and Benton county finances were fairly under way.

The last entry in the old Traer bank book is dated October 15, 1856 (Wednesday), and after it, is made the annotation with perhaps an air of satisfaction, if not of pride: "J. C. Traer today elected Republican candidate for delegate to the constitutional convention, to meet the third Monday in January, 1857, to revise the state constitution." From the organization of the Republican party in that year until his death July 1, 1898, Dr. Traer was a stalwart Republican, and, as such, served in the constitutional convention noted, and as postmaster, alderman and mayor of the city of Vinton.

JAMES C. TRAER.

James C. Traer was born in Knox county, Ohio, on the 7th of September, 1825; received a common school education and

mastered the tanner's trade before he moved to West-Liberty, Muscatine county, Iowa, in 1845. There he commenced to read medicine with Dr. Henry Meredith, and in 1848 located in Cedar Rapids. His marriage to Miss Marcia W. Ferguson occurred in that place November 4, 1849, and his advent to Vinton dates from August 19, 1851. He practiced medicine both in Cedar Rapids and Vinton, being, in fact, the first resident physician in the latter place. Upon coming to Vinton he purchased a small frame building for a family residence, but in 1855 built the brick house in



JAMES C. TRAER.

which he lived for the remainder of his life, and which at the time of its erection was considered quite imposing. In 1858, two years after the establishment of the bank, he was admitted to the bar,

dropped his medical practice, and continued in this line of professional work, in connection with his business and banking activities, until failing health forced him to retire. For many years he also operated a fine stock farm south of Vinton. He was a citizen of strong and honest character, and assisted in building up the city and county in a variety of ways, and his death at Vinton in 1898 was the cause for wide-spread and sincere mourning. The eldest of his eight children, William M. Traer, is said to have been the first white child born in Vinton (May 21, 1852), and was associated with him in the banking business for many years. He is now a resident of Chicago. James F. Traer, the seventh child in order of birth, has been cashier of the Vinton Savings Bank since its organization in 1900.

BANKS AS POLITICAL CENTERS.

Later in the year 1856, after the establishment of the Traer bank, S. H. Watson and Judge Samuel Douglas opened a private bank in Vinton, and around these financial institutions gathered much of the early political activity of the county—the bank founded by Messrs Traer and Greene being of a Republican complexion and that of the later comer, Democratic. What was known as the Watson bank was organized into a national institution in later years, and at the expiration of its charter was dissolved and continued as a private concern by Mr. Watson. For many years these were the only two banks in the city of Vinton. But in 1869, with the coming of the railroad, banks were founded at both Belle Plaine and Blairstown. That at Blairstown was founded by A. F. Allen as a private institution, and he is still at the head of its affairs. It was conducted as a private concern for eleven years, as the Benton County Bank for two decades, and for the past nine years as the Benton County State Bank. It is the only institution of the kind at Blairstown, and is considered one of the most solid banks in the state.

BELLE PLAINE BANKS.

Belle Plaine seemed to appeal to outsiders as a desirable place for new banks, after the county had been placed in railroad communication. In July, 1869, S. L. Bardwell, a Vermonter, established a private institution which afterward became the Bank of Belle Plaine, and in 1892 was nationalized as the Citizens' Bank of Belle

Plaine, with E. E. Hughes as president. Charles A. Blossom has held the presidency since June, 1897, and conducts the institution under strictly modern methods. In 1870 S. S. Sweet also founded a private bank at Belle Plaine, and continued to actively develop it until his death in 1909. It was organized as the First National Bank of Belle Plaine in 1872, with D. W. Reed as president. Both Mr. Reed and his brother, L. T., were potent factors in the progress of the bank, the former being elected president and the latter cashier in 1877. Upon the death of L. T. Sweet in 1900, G. R. Ahrens, who had been connected with the bank since 1891, succeeded him as cashier, and became president after the decease of S. S. Sweet in May, 1909.

The third existent bank in Belle Plaine is the Corn Belt Savings Bank, which opened for business May 5, 1906, with W. J. Guinn (the present incumbent) as president.

VINTON'S OLDEST BANK.

The oldest bank at Vinton is the Farmers' National, an outgrowth of the old Farmers' Loan and Trust Company, founded in 1873. In the winter of 1874--5 George Horridge, the Ellises and others became indentified with the institution, and assumed the active management in the latter year. Professor S. A. Knapp, an educator and clergyman of remarkable executive ability, who had served as principal of the College for the Blind for six years, was president of the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company from its organization until 1878, when he was succeeded by Mr. Horridge. In 1897 the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company liquidated and the same management organized the Farmers' National Bank, of which Mr. Horridge is still president.

The State Bank of Vinton, which was organized by Paul Correll and others in 1891, retains virtually the original management, with Mr. Correll as president and Walter S. Goodhue, cashier.

THE HALBERTS, SHELLSBURG BANKERS.

One of the first banks in the county was organized at Shellsburg in 1888, by Perry M. Halbert, and the business was continued by him and his sons, David K. and Albert N., until its transfer to the People's Savings Bank of Shellsburg in 1906. Mr. Halbert was an Ohio farmer during his earlier years; came to Benton county in June, 1853, and for thirty-five years was a prosperous farmer

in Canton township. After disposing of their banking business the Halberts moved to Cedar Rapids. The president of the People's Savings Bank at Shellsburg is now J. M. Beatty, with Charles F. Stookey as vice president.

The Benton County Savings Bank of Norway is also an old institution, as banks are reckoned in this part of the state, being founded in 1881. The Atkins Savings Bank was organized as early as 1894. The First National of Norway commenced business in 1904; the Urbana Savings Bank was founded in 1902; the Farmers' Savings Bank of Garrison in 1904 and the People's Savings Bank in 1909; the Farmers' Savings Bank of Walford opened for business in 1902 and the Mount Auburn Savings Bank in 1906; and there is also the Luzerne Savings Bank of comparatively recent establishment.

A more detailed history of the institutions named above will be found in succeeding pages, with statements as to their present financial status.

CITIZENS' BANK, BELLE PLAINE.

As already stated, the Citizens' Bank of Belle Plaine was founded as a private institution by S. L. Bardwell, a Vermont man, in 1869. It was afterward conducted as the Bank of Belle Plaine by Hutton and Maholm, and upon the dissolution of their partnership the business was taken over by the Citizens' National Bank, which commenced business in June, 1892, with E. E. Hughes as president, J. J. Mosnat vice president, and Charles A. Mosnat cashier. The capital remains at the original figure of fifty thousand dollars. In June, 1897, Charles A. Glosson became president and S. P. Van Dike cashier, no change being made in the vice presidency until the death of Mr. Mosnat in 1903. S. Wertheim then was chosen vice president and is still in office. In 1907 J. P. Miller became cashier and W. O. Brand assistant. The surplus and undivided profits of the Citizens' Bank amount to \$30,000 and the deposits to \$275,000.

In 1870 S. S. Sweet came from the east and established a private bank at Belle Plaine, the business being organized as a national institution, under the name of the First National Bank, in 1872. In that year the concern was nationalized, with a capital stock of fifty thousand dollars and D. W. Read as president and S. S. Sweet as cashier. In 1873 Mr. Read was succeeded by W. A. Scott, and J. A. Durand assumed the presidency two years later.

S. S. Sweet assumed the helm in January, 1877, with his brother L. T. Sweet, as cashier. There was no further change in the official management until 1901, when G. R. Ahrens was chosen cashier to succeed L. T. Sweet, deceased. Mr. Ahrens had then been with the bank for ten years, was thoroughly familiar with the affairs of the bank, and it was quite logical that he should be promoted to the presidency upon the retirement of S. S. Sweet in January, 1909. The founder of the business died in the following May. The present officers are: G. R. Ahrens, president; F. E. Zalesky, vice president and C. A. Sweet (son of S. S.) cashier. The bank has a capital of \$60,000, surplus and undivided profits of \$60,000 and deposits of \$425,000.

CORN BELT SAVINGS BANK, BELLE PLAINE.

The Corn Belt Savings Bank of Belle Plaine opened for business May 5, 1906, with a capital of \$35,000 (as at present) and eighty-five stockholders. W. J. Guinn is still president, with J. H. Irwin as vice president and J. W. Van Nice cashier. The bank has a surplus of \$3,500 and average deposits of \$140,000.

FARMERS' NATIONAL BANK OF VINTON.

The Farmers' National Bank of Vinton is the successor of the old Farmers' Loan & Trust Company, which was organized at Vinton in 1873. The headquarters of the institution at first were in Cedar Rapids, but were moved to Vinton in October, 1874. During the winter of 1874-75 George Horridge, Cornelius and W. C. Ellis, George Knox and others became identified with the institution. They bought the present bank building and assumed the active management of the business in August, 1875. Mr. Knapp was president until 1878, when he retired, and George Horridge succeeded him. Vice President Kephart also retired about 1878, and W. C. Ellis has been vice president for more than twenty-five years. In 1897 the Farmers' Loan & Trust Company went into voluntary liquidation, the business was transferred and the same officers organized the Farmers' National Bank. The officers are as follows: George Horridge, president; W. C. Ellis, vice president; C. O. Harrington, cashier; and George D. McElroy, assistant cashier. George Knox and George M. Gilchrist are also on the board of directors. Throughout the career of these institutions there has never been a death of an officer while an active incumbent

of his office. The Farmers' National Bank has a capital of \$65,000, and its surplus is \$20,000.

STATE BANK OF VINTON.

The State Bank of Vinton, was organized fifteen years ago by Paul Correll and Walter S. Goodhue, with fifty stockholders in Vinton and vicinity and a capital stock of \$65,000; the last statement issued by the bank shows \$65,000 capital and \$20,000 surplus. The bank erected and owns the building now with a frontage of twenty-one feet, and upstairs rooms used for office purposes. Messrs. Correll and Goodhue continue as president and cashier. The board of directors comprises the following gentlemen: Paul Correll, Walter S. Goodhue, C. C. Griffin, M. J. Tobin, B. Murphy, Frank G. Ray, A. H. Abraham.

VINTON SAVINGS BANK.

The Vinton Savings Bank was organized in 1900, opening its doors July 21st of that year. The first officers of the institution were: W. C. Ellis, president; Cato Sells, vice president; J. F. Traer, cashier—the present officers being the same, with the exception of the vice president, C. C. Griffin. The career of the bank has been uniformly prosperous, and it has constantly carried on a good business. The capital stock is \$20,000 and the surplus \$75,000, with total deposits of nearly \$500,000. The building is located on Jefferson street, opposite the court house, and the institution is the only exclusive savings bank in the county. The bank is interested in the growth and progress of the community, deriving its sources of investment largely through real estate loans. The enterprise is represented by business men in good standing, and its affairs are conducted in a manner to inspire the public confidence and secure the support of the most substantial citizens of the community.

PEOPLES' SAVINGS BANK, VINTON.

The People's Savings Bank of Vinton was organized in the summer of 1900 with a capital of \$50,000. They own and occupy the building occupied for many years by the Watson bank. A. S.

Chadbourne was the first president, and John Lorenz cashier. The present officers are John Young, president; John Lorenz, vice president; and A. B. Allen, cashier.

PEOPLES' SAVINGS BANK, SHELLSBURG.

The People's Savings Bank of Shellsburg originated, as stated, in the private business established by Perry M. Harbert in 1888. On the first of August, 1906, it was transferred to the newly organized Peoples' Savings Bank, with J. M. Beatty as president, Charles F. Stookey vice president, and A. K. Rife cashier—officers which still comprise the executive management. The other directors are J. G. Carrier, J. W. McClintock, S. E. Railsback and W. W. Hatfield. Besides conducting a general savings bank business, the management has a safety deposit department which is well patronized. In August, 1909, the deposits of the bank amounted to \$194,536. The capital stock is \$25,000.

BENTON COUNTY SAVINGS BANK.

The Benton County Savings Bank of Norway was organized in 1881, with the following officers: T. H. Brown, president; J. J. Messenger, vice president; and Thomas Atkinson, cashier. H. L. Uthoff is now president and J. H. Pickart, cashier. The last report made to the auditor of state shows a capital stock of \$15,000; surplus and undivided profits of \$18,000 and deposits of \$143,000.

ATKINS SAVINGS BANK.

The Atkins Savings Bank was organized in 1894, and in December, 1909, was officered as follows: James Beatty, president; George Rinderknecht, vice president; W. A. Fawcett, cashier, and George Rinderknecht, assistant cashier. Its capital stock is \$15,000; surplus and undivided profits \$18,500, and deposits \$250,000.

GARRISON BANKS.

Garrison has two good banks—the Farmers Savings and the People's Savings. The former succeeded the earlier Bank of Garrison in April, 1904, when it was incorporated as the Farmers Savings Bank by W. J. Urice, J. H. Brandt, M. J. Collins, J. W.

Hanna, C. J. Harwood and H. C. White. Its original capital of \$20,000 was increased in June, 1909, to \$25,000. The two-story building still occupied as banking headquarters was erected by the Bank of Garrison in 1898. The first officers of the Farmers Savings Bank were J. W. Hanna, president; H. C. White, vice president, and D. D. Johnson, cashier. There has been no change in this management with the exception of the cashiership, which is now held by M. J. Collins. The People's Savings Bank of Garrison commenced business in August, 1909, and presents the following financial status: Capital stock, \$15,000; deposits, \$42,000. Its officers are as follows: A. H. Wilson, president; Henry Kirchner, vice president; A. J. Donald, cashier; and John Wilson, assistant cashier.

URBANA SAVINGS BANK.

The Urbana Savings Bank was organized in August, 1902, with S. W. Whiteis as president, T. H. Remer as vice president and F. A. Bryner as cashier. The capital stock of twelve thousand dollars was subscribed for by forty business men and farmers of the locality. H. E. Oneal, who was later elected vice president, acted as president for a time after Mr. Whiteis' death, the time fixed for the choice of his permanent successor being in January, 1910.

FARMERS' SAVINGS BANK, WALFORD.

The Farmers' Savings Bank of Walford, organized in May, 1902, started business in September of that year, and has now undivided profits of \$2,500, with a capital of \$10,000 and the following officers: J. H. Weston, president; H. Humphrey, vice president; and B. W. Humphrey, cashier.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF NORWAY.

The First National Bank of Norway was opened for business June 20, 1904, with C. P. Christianson as president, George A. Doebel vice president, and J. T. Smith cashier. The present management consists of Dr. C. E. Simpson, president; Jacob Hofferd, vice president; and John T. Smith, cashier. The bank has a capital of \$25,000; surplus, \$10,000; undivided profits, \$1,500; and deposits, \$210,000.

MT. AUBURN SAVINGS BANK.

The Mt. Auburn Savings Bank was organized August 1, 1905, and in August, 1909, had a surplus and undivided profits of \$3,700 and deposits of \$101,000, with a capital stock of \$15,000. Its officers are as follows: D. E. Mackie, president; C. E. Dorsey, vice-president; and P. L. Lupton, cashier.

LUZERNE SAVINGS BANK.

There is also a savings bank in Luzerne, of which A. F. Fatge is president and Martin Studt cashier.

PRESENT CONDITION OF BANKS.

The present financial standing of Benton county banks is shown in the following table.

Name of Bank	Location	Capital	Surplus & Profits	Deposits
Atkins Savings	Atkins	\$ 15000	\$ 18835.63	\$ 245520.95
Benton Co. State	Blainstown	25000	13792.09	305016.30
Benton Co. Savings	Norway	15000	20359.04	163120.43
Citizens' National	Belle Plaine	50000	27536.00	243569.27
Corn Belt Savings	Belle Plaine	35000	7454.97	154705.79
Farmers' National	Vinton	65000	23855.29	160865.27
Farmers' Savings	Garrison	25000	317.46	185875.22
Farmers' Savings	Keystone	15000	4025.54	261116.39
Farmers' Savings	Van Horne	25000	2978.25	245212.74
Farmers' Savings	Walford	10000	2243.15	80607.74
First National	Belle Plaine	60000	60000.00	468943.98
First National	Norway	25000	11619.04	197392.17
German State	Keystone	25000	5488.19	266427.55
Mt. Auburn Savings	Mt. Auburn	15000	4138.15	95857.38
Newhall Savings	Newhall	15000	19259.38	235087.84
Peoples' Savings	Vinton	50000	28965.34	404284.03
Peoples' Savings	Shellsburg	25000	404.97	190105.59
Peoples' Savings	Garrison	15000		42385.75
State Bank	Vinton	65000	24320.97	151375.77
Urbana Savings	Urbana	12000	8968.89	86825.03
Vinton Savings	Vinton	20000	8547.55	506933.76
Watkins Savings	Watkins	10000	11726.43	98062.39
Van Horne Savings	Van Horne	12000	524.98	69642.16
Luzerne Savings	Luzerne	12000	65.90	62992.71
	Total	\$641000	\$303427.18	\$4864925.30

CHAPTER IX.

THE PRESS OF BENTON COUNTY.

BY BERNARD MURPHY.

"VINTON EAGLE" BORN--WHEN THE "EAGLE" SCREECHED--THE "VINTON EAGLE" SALUTES--BERNARD MURPHY COMES IN--EARLY CHARACTERS OF THE "EAGLE"--"BENTON COUNTY DEMOCRAT"--VAN METRE VS. DRUMMOND--"EVERY OTHER DAILY UNION," BELLE PLAINE--BELLE PLAINE "DEMOCRAT-HERALD"--"PEOPLE'S JOURNAL," VINTON--VINTON'S FIRST DEMOCRATIC EDITOR--"THE REVIEW" OF VINTON--"BENTON COUNTY TIMES"--"WESTERN TELEPHONE JOURNAL," VINTON--"GARRISON INDEPENDENT"--"THE SHELLSBURG CALL"--THOMAS A. CARVER--VAN HORNE "METEOR"--VAN HORNE "ENTERPRISE"--"MOUNT AUBURN NEWS"--DEFUNCT NEWSPAPERS.

When the Press entered the pioneer arena of Benton county all the conditions of the community were in the unformed stage of the raw, infantile period. The county government was hardly out of its swaddling clothes, and Vinton, Benton City, Marysville, Shellsburg, Geneva and less lusty infants were trying to grow and making considerable noise about it.

"VINTON EAGLE" BORN.

When the Press of Benton county entered the fight for progress and development in the form of the little six-column quarto known henceforth as the *Vinton Eagle* (first number January 10, 1855), Belle Plaine was yet unborn, the county itself had been organized but eight years and means of communication with the outer world were yet virtually non-existent. It is true there were a few good roads in the county; but the river ferry at Vinton had been in operation less than three years, while the stage line, the toll bridge and the steamboat on the Upper Cedar were in the future--respectively, one, two and three years in the distance of time.

WHEN THE "EAGLE" SCREECHED.

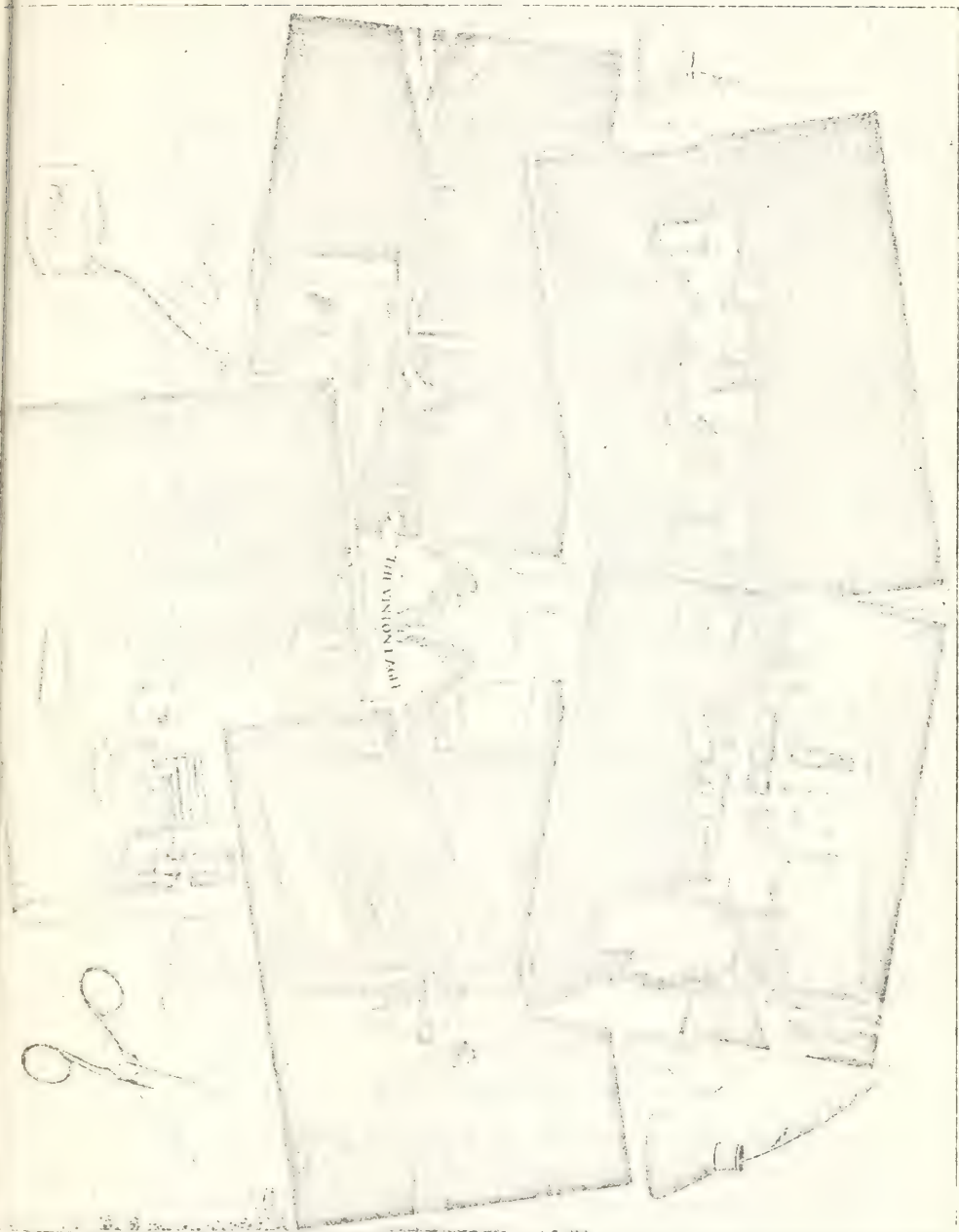
It will thus be seen that the press of the county had strenuous work cut out for it as a promoter of infant communities; but it was equal to the task: and in this connection it is to be remembered that for over a decade all the hard work fell upon the *Eagle*, which notwithstanding, flew sturdily and cheerfully along, with an occasional screech (especially during election times) to maintain its reputation.

THE "VINTON EAGLE" SALUTES.

The *Vinton Eagle* was first independent in politics, and was issued by Frederick Lyman (editor) and Stanley C. Foster. Mr. Lyman's salutatory carries the following: "After realizing innumerable unexpected, vexatious delays of time, and a consequent waste of money; after shifting from pillar to post for want of better winter quarters, liable at every turn to be cut loose and turned adrift from our temporary moorings, we have at last been successful in securing, three-fourths of a mile from town, an excellent, though temporary halting place, by which arrangement we have actually stolen time sufficient to 'catch breath,' and, by close application during the hours of daylight (our office is transformed into a church and lodge-room evenings), succeeded in presenting to the public this first, but imperfect specimen of an *Eagle*. We shall more than fulfill all former promises embodied in our prospectus, by excluding from our columns either Democratic, Whig or Abolition lies and bombast." The last sentence clearly indicates the desire of the editor to live up to the motto of his paper: "Independent in everything."

In August of the *Eagle's* first year a Democratic victory was recorded in the county, the vote for county judge being six hundred and nineteen. The second volume commenced with Lyman and Traer (J. C., the merchant and banker), but the firm was dissolved in February of that year (1856), when W. W. Hanford purchased Mr. Lyman's interest and assumed both editorial and business control.

With the withdrawal of Mr. Traer in August, the firm became Hanford and Lyman, and on February 4, 1857, they disposed of the *Eagle* to William Stoughton and Joseph Dysart, the latter of whom became state senator and lieutenant governor.



On the 20th of the following June, Mr. Stoughton dropped out and was succeeded by Thomas Drummond, so brilliant and popular as a legislator, an editor, an officer and a man, and also long to be remembered as the founder of the College for the Blind at Vinton. The partnership continued until October 10, 1860, when Mr. Hanford became sole proprietor and Joseph Dysart political editor. The former continued in control until May 9, 1866, when the firm became D. H. Frost and Company, with Mr. Hanford as silent partner, but in March of the following year the style was changed to Hanford and Frost. In October, 1868, A. C. Holt was associated with Mr. Hanford as Hanford and Holt, and two years thereafter the former became sole owner.



“VINTON EAGLE” PLANT.

BERNARD MURPHY COMES IN.

On January 4, 1871, J. W. Rich purchased a half interest, and Hanford and Rich conducted the paper until August 3, 1876, when Bernard Murphy, who had served his apprenticeship in the *Eagle's* office, bought Mr. Hanford's interest, and Rich and Murphy came

into existence. For twelve years the paper was operated under that style, and on October 11, 1887, Mr. Murphy became its sole editor and proprietor, and, as he has been at the helm ever since, is the acknowledged dean of the newspaper fraternity of Benton county.

Bernard Murphy is a native of Massachusetts, but has been a resident of Iowa since 1861. In 1867 he began his career in the newspaper business as an apprentice in the *Vinton Eagle* office, where he served for three years. For three years afterward he was a journeyman on the *Iowa State Register* at Des Moines and the *Rocky Mountain News* at Denver. In 1874, with Hanford and Rich, then publishers of the *Vinton Eagle*, he started the *Tracer Clipper*. Mr. Murphy became the owner of the *Clipper* in the following year, in August, 1876, becoming identified with the *Eagle*. He has therefore been its controlling force for thirty-three years and, through his forethought, complete files of the publication have been preserved since the first day of its issue in January, 1855. He has always maintained it as a straight Republican journal. It is a semi-weekly six-column quarto, and in its news features undertakes to cover the county. It also carries a strong editorial page, and its mechanical equipment is up-to-date in every respect. Outside of his profession, Mr. Murphy has taken more or less interest in public and party affairs, and held the office of state printer from 1901 to 1906.

EARLY CHARACTERS OF THE "EAGLE."

Charles Wilkinson, an old-time lawyer and journalist, contributed an interesting article to the semi-centennial edition of the *Vinton Eagle* of January 10, 1905, in which he mentions several who are prominent in its history. In the summer of 1867, when he first came in touch with the paper, it was owned by Hanford and Frost (D. H.), and in October, 1868, the latter sold his interest to Andrew C. Holt. Mr. Wilkinson had been studying law, surveying on the Iowa Central railroad, and doing other things required of a young westerner who wishes to "get along," when the new firm offered him an editorial position, which he eagerly accepted. At that time Mr. Murphy was in the last year of his apprenticeship in the *Eagle* office, later going to the *Iowa State Register*. "In the publication of the *Eagle*," says Mr. Wilkinson, "Mr. Hanford looked after the bookkeeping and larger matters of finance, while Mr. Holt supervised the mechanical department and solicited business. Though as unlike as possible in personal ap-

pearance and disposition, they formed a model combination. Mr. Hanford was methodical and possessed excellent business judgment, while Mr. Holt, though apparently a very quiet, reserved man, had a remarkable ability to get next to people and make friends.

“When I came to it, the paper was an eight-column folio, printed on a Washington hand press, which used to call forth strong language on the part of T. B. Moore, who pulled off the weekly edition. In the spring or summer of 1869 the owners bought and installed a George P. Taylor power press, then a nine days’ wonder in the country offices, and at the same time enlarged to nine columns to the page, giving it a new dress of type. For years afterwards the paper was admitted to be the handsomest in the Cedar Valley in typographical appearance. It is hardly necessary to add that it was ‘all home print.’

“Not very long after my entrance into Benton county journalism Mr. A. H. Brown, a one-armed veteran of the 13th Iowa, and his brother George, started the *People’s Journal*, as a Republican competitor. Mr. Brown had been a popular school teacher in Cedar township, and as he had besides a host of army friends, the presence of his paper became something of a thorn in the flesh—to the *Eagle*. The *Journal* was not only a competitor in business, but as there were two Republican factions, it gathered the support of those politicians who had not been satisfied with the course of the *Eagle*. Journalism, in those days, was intensely local and personal, and it took the least effort to batter your opponent by holding him up to ridicule and contempt, and many were the digs and sarcasms launched at each other. It was a common thing for the *Journal* to refer to the *Eagle* as *The Buzzard*, an epithet that really deeply wounded Mr. Hanford who was very sensitive.

“The late Judge Shane was the colonel of Brown’s regiment, naturally took an interest in his success, and was supposed to occasionally furnish an editorial. He therefore became the target for a good many sarcastic references. It was one of the ironies of fate that some years afterward Col. Shane and I became partners in the ownership of that same *Journal*.

“A. H. Brown moved to Nebraska in 1872, and was in the newspaper business there for some years. I believe he is now a resident of Central City where two of his sons publish a paper on which Mr. Brown does editorial work. George Brown is a prosperous banker at Hastings, Nebraska. Soon after retiring from

the *Eagle*, Judge Frost bought the *Belle Plain Union*, which he conducted for a number of years, removing thence to some western state, where he died not long ago. I remember of deeply offending him by alluding to his paper as the 'Union.' Mr. Frost was a man of fine education, high principles and a strong writer, but the handicap of deafness, and a retiring disposition, kept him from making acquaintances easily.

"In the fall of 1870, Mr. Hanford purchased the interest of Mr. Holt, the latter buying into the *Mason City Republican*. A few months after Mr. Hanford sold a half interest to Mr. J. W. Rich, and he assumed the editorial direction, which closed my connection with the paper. Mr. Rich proved to be an able and painstaking editor, and wielded a strong influence.

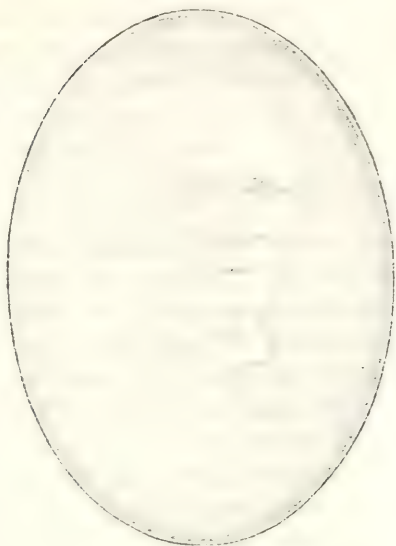
"A. C. Holt was subsequently associated with me in the *People's Journal*, but the progress of consumption forced him to retire. After fighting as brave a battle as was ever waged by any soldier, he succumbed to the disease, dying in California. In January, 1876, Wallace W. Hanford also answered the final summons. He was a man of just and honorable life. So have passed away my first employers, men beloved and respected"

I. Van Metre has this to say of William Stoughton, who became editor and part proprietor of the *Eagle* in 1857: "An educated man and the best writer in the village. One of that sort of men who have talent and capacity for fine work, but who are eternally getting sour on somebody; the disgruntled disposition. Beneath those unfortunate disguises, he was a fine-spirited and most companionable gentleman. Stoughton did not know or had forgot that people rarely judge you except from what is easily observable on the surface. They never seek under the disagreeable outside for the beauty and riches underneath. Stoughton ought to have been one of the foremost men in the history of Vinton."

"BENTON COUNTY DEMOCRAT"

The *Benton County Democrat* had a troublous existence of more than three years, its first number being dated October 2, 1856, and its last, October 20, 1859. At first D. B. Pyne was the publisher and Nathan Bass, political editor, it being generally understood that Samuel Douglas, then and for several years thereafter, county judge, and a democrat of influence, was the power behind

the venture. But the judge finally gravitated to the *Eagle*; only about forty of the two hundred subscribers on paper actually cashed in; the *Democrat* collapsed in the early winter and revived the following spring; was sold by Mr. Pyne to James Fowler and Henry Price, and, on May 21, 1859, to John Alexander and I. Van Metre. Under that management it was conducted with ability, not to say brilliancy (editorially speaking); but it was the song of the dying swan, for, although Mr. Pyne re-entered the business and worked hard to revive it, the paper was forced to suspend after the October election, which went against the Democrats.



D. B. PYNE.

VAN METRE VS. DRUMMOND.

The most exciting local event in the campaign was the fistic encounter which occurred between Editor Van Metre and Editor Tom Drummond, the dashing young Republican and pride of the *Eagle*. It is said that although on his last financial legs the Democratic champion got rather the best of that kind of an argument, albeit Drummond became so gallant an officer in the Civil war. The files of the defunct journal have for years reposed peacefully with those of its old-time enemy, still "alive and kicking."

"EVERY OTHER DAILY UNION," BELLE PLAINE.

The Belle Plaine *Every Other Daily Union*, of which C. A. Noble was editor and proprietor, from November, 1907, until his death in 1910, had its origin in the *Belle Plaine Transcript*, which was established about the middle of December, 1866, by N. C. Weiting. It was a folio, seven columns, and Republican in politics. On February 14, 1867, Mr. Weiting sold the office to W. W. Yarnan and William Nixon, and a few months thereafter the

paper passed into the possession of S. S. Farrington, who materially improved it. On March 4, 1869, Mr. Farrington disposed of the Transcript to D. H. Frost, whose connection with the *Vinton Eagle* has already been noted. It was Mr. Frost who changed the name of the paper to the *Belle Plaine Union*. George R. Lee was one of its earliest and ablest editors. Alexander Calvert also controlled it for some seven years, he being followed by H. Roy Mosnat and Mr. Noble.

BELLE PLAINE "DEMOCRAT-HERALD."

The *Democrat-Herald* was founded in 1888 by G. M. Myers. It began as a weekly and was then known as the *Belle Plaine Herald*. Mr. Myers was both editor and publisher. He was an able and forceful writer and the *Belle Plaine Herald* was not without influence in the political affairs of Benton county. Editor Myers was also a successful business man and his newspaper grew very rapidly in circulation throughout Benton, Poweshiek and Tama counties. But most unfortunately for the new publication when but a little more than two years old, his entire plant was destroyed by fire. He immediately went to work energetically to replace the material thus destroyed, and in this undertaking was remarkably successful; but just when fairly getting his newspaper back on its feet again, the great fire of 1894 broke out, sweeping away the entire business section of Belle Plaine, taking the *Herald* along in the general sacrifice. This was a great financial blow to Editor Myers, from which he never fully recovered, and though successful in getting a new plant established and in operation, he was handicapped by his repeated financial losses which made it necessary for him to sell the paper. It was bought by C. N. Whitacre, of California, who conducted the destinies of the *Herald* for the next two years.

Mr. Whitacre was also an able writer, but very caustic and aggressive in political matters and very bitter in his personal attacks on all political opponents. The consequence was that he lost the patronage of a number of the more active business men of the city and the venture soon ceased to be remunerative. He then sold to C. V. Walz, of Illinois, who took possession about June 1, 1898. He again sold to Harvey Slack, the present editor and publisher, who took possession October 1st of the same year. In May, 1901, Editor Slack consummated a deal whereby he became the owner of the *Belle Plaine Democrat* also, and the two papers were consolidated into one.

Since that time the publication has borne the name of the *Democrat-Herald*. During the year following the union of the two papers, Dr. Jas. A. Williams became associated with Mr. Slaek in the work of editing and publishing the paper. At the close of the year Dr. Williams relinquished his interest and Mr. Slaek continued as sole editor and publisher until October 16, 1908, when W. P. Haley took a financial interest and since that time has remained a member of the firm of Slaek & Haley, the present publishers of the paper. The *Democrat-Herald* is decidedly democratic politically, and its influence in local politics is fully recognized. For the last eight years the publication has been the official paper of the city and its circulation has steadily increased. In May, 1893, the paper was changed from a weekly to a semi-weekly and so remains.

SERENO S. FARRINGTON.

Sereno S. Farrington, a leading old-time editor of the county, was a native of Crawford county, Ohio, born June 25, 1840. His father died when he was an infant of two months, the oldest of the eight children in the family being only thirteen years old. After doing what he could to assist the family until he was sixteen years of age, young Farrington left his home, near Bucyrus, Ohio, and came to Springdale, Cedar county, Iowa, where he obtained work in the nursery of G. T. Wood. He remained thus employed until November, 1857, when he went to Marshall county to visit relatives. But in the following month he decided to remain, and commence his apprenticeship as a printer in the *Express* office at Marietta, then the county seat of Marshall county. With the discontinuance of the *Express* in November, 1859, Mr. Farrington next entered the office of the *Marquago Citizen*, and finished his trade in March, 1860, with the *Morrison (Illinois) Sentinel*. While thus engaged he cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln, and in June, 1861, the month after the outbreak of the Civil war, moved to Des Moines, where he entered the *Register* office. In August he left his case to enlist in Company I, Thirty-ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, in which he served until the close of the war. He then returned to Des Moines and worked in the *Register* office until September, 1867, when he came to Belle Plaine and bought the *Transcript* of Dickson and Campbell. In February, 1869, he sold his business to D. H. Frost and in October, 1874, founded the *Belle Plaine Review*.

DANIEL H. FROST.

As noted in the history of the press, Daniel H. Frost bought the *Transcript* of S. S. Farrington in February, 1869, and changed its name to the *Belle Plaine Union*. Mr. Frost was an old and able journalist and was in the late seventies the veteran of his profession in Benton county. He also held the office of postmaster at Belle Plaine for about ten years. He graduated from Hamilton College, Clinton, New York. During the earlier years of his manhood he engaged in farming, but in 1851 sold his land in Stockbridge, and moved to Oneida, also in Madison county, New York, where in October of that year he established the *Telegraph*, the first newspaper published in that town. He was the pioneer advocate of "free soil" principles in that congressional district, and vigorously supported the widely known Gerrit Smith in his first race for congress. Mr. Frost continued the publication of the *Oneida Telegraph* until 1854, and in the following year took part in the organization of the Republican party as a member of its first convention held in York state. In 1856 he moved to the territory of Minnesota and engaged in the milling business, also serving as justice of the peace and securing his admission to the bar. In 1858 he was elected to the state senate of Minnesota, serving in the first Republican legislature of that state. He was also postmaster at Northfield, from 1861 to 1865. He established the *Northfield Telegraph* in the former year, and in 1861 was also elected judge of probate for Rice county, Minnesota. He was re-elected in 1863, and was at different times a member of the State Normal Board and board of trustees of the deaf, dumb and blind asylum of Minnesota.

Mr. Frost located at Vinton in 1865, when he purchased a half interest in the *Eagle* of W. W. Hanford, then sole proprietor, and acted as its editor until October, 1868, when he sold his interest to A. C. Heli. In the following February, he bought the *Belle Plaine Transcript* of S. S. Farrington, and, as stated changed its name to the *Belle Plaine Union*. He was first appointed postmaster of Belle Plaine in December, 1872, and in January, 1877, was re-appointed for a term of four years.

"PEOPLE'S JOURNAL," VINTON

Mention has already been made of the *People's Journal*, which first appeared as a distinct publication December 19, 1868, although there were two ephemeral ventures which may be called

its predecessors. Early in the spring of 1865 Frank and Weed commenced the publication of the *Benton County News* at Vinton, but they failed to make a success of it and the office passed into the hands of James Wood, trustee of their bankrupt concern.

In the spring of 1868, Harrison Berry, who had returned from Pike's Peak with some others of the Vinton colony, caught the legislative fever of the hottest kind and, to further his ambitions, revived the *News* as a democratic paper under the name of the *Standard*. Mr. Berry was nominated without difficulty, but failed of an election, although he afterward became a member of the Kansas legislature and cut quite a figure in the politics of that state.

J. F. Pyne, as publisher, editor and what not, floated the *Standard* along for about six months longer, when it was sold to Alfred H. and George Brown, who, as stated, began the publication of the *Journal*. They made the paper a republican sheet, and thus put a period to the second democratic newspaper of Benton county. It made its appearance as an eight-column folio, and in 1871 was changed to a six-column quarto and a semi-weekly. During the succeeding two years it was managed and edited most of the time by A. H. Brown, a Civil war soldier with an empty sleeve and a lively pen. On April 1, 1872, he sold the paper and plant to C. R. Wilkinson and Company, and moved temporarily to Nebraska. The *People's Journal* continued to appear under various auspices and conditions until 1881, when it was purchased by Rich & Murphy, proprietors of the *Eagle* and discontinued.

VINTON'S FIRST DEMOCRATIC EDITOR.

John F. Pyne, whose name has been mentioned in connection with the *Benton County Democrat* and the *Standard*, was the first and most prominent democratic editor of Vinton. He was born in the town of Ovid, Seneca county, New York, and was the oldest of seven sons in a family of twelve children. At the age of four years the family moved to Boston, where he attended the first school on Corn Hill. Six years later the family returned to New York state where he learned the cordwainer's trade with his father and bought the home for the family that his father had rented for a number of years. At the age of sixteen years he was an expert workman. At nineteen years he was graduated from the Oneida Seminary and taught school for four months at twenty

dollars a month. He read law with Richard Thomas, in Cazenovia, and at twenty-one went to Susquehanna, Pennsylvania, and engaged as bookkeeper and salesman with L. N. Lenheim in an extensive general store. At twenty-four he married Miss Ruth Ann Stringham, of Windsor, New York, and on May 5, 1855, settled in Vinton where he has since resided.

In 1856 Mr. Pyne commenced the publication of the *Benton County Democrat*, and later the *Standard*. In 1876 he became publisher of the *Benton County Herald*, a few years later selling the property of J. P. Wallace. Mr. Pyne was intimately acquainted with Messrs. Lyman and Foster, the founders of the *Eagle*, in 1855, and with all of its editors since. He is believed to be the only living Mason that assisted at the ceremony of laying the corner stone of the old court house in Vinton in April, 1856.

THE "REVIEW" OF VINTON.

The *Vinton Review*, a weekly of independent action published by E. K. Allen and H. S. Hevener, had its inception in the *Benton County Herald*, which was established by J. F. Pyne and Sons, July 2, 1878. Those who have ever known Mr. Pyne and his family need not be informed that its politics were straight Democratic and remained so under his management. It was an eight-column folio weekly, and for some years was the only paper of its political faith in Benton county. In 1884 the Pynes withdrew and the journal continued to appear under its original name until 1894, when George Weber, its publisher, changed it to the *Review*. Frank and Edward Gerberich (as Gerberich Brothers), Roy Dickinson and others, issued the paper until 1899. In that year Mr. Dickinson sold his interest to A. L. Flude, who retained the same for about a year, when he disposed of it to James E. Whipple. The *Review* remained under the business and editorial management of Whipple and Gerberich until 1907, when Messrs. Allen and Hevener came into control.

"BENTON COUNTY TIMES."

The *Benton County Times*, edited and published by H. G. Kruse, is the official paper and organ of the Democratic party in the county. It was established in 1883 by J. H. Allen and Dr. A. D. Griffin, the former acting as editor. The plant was moved to Vinton from Van Horne, where Mr. Allen had previously founded a paper, vacating the field in order to establish himself in the news-

paper business at the county seat. Several years later Dr. Griffin retired and Mr. Allen continued the publication of the paper until 1903, when he sold it to E. T. Matthews. Two years later Mr. Matthews disposed of the business to C. H. Plattenburg, who, in turn sold to H. G. Kruse in the fall of 1907. The *Times* is an all home-print weekly paper, each issue containing from eight to twelve pages of local and county matter. Its circulation is about three thousand, and few county publications in the state can boast a larger. It was among the first newspapers in Iowa to add a Mergenthaler linotype machine to its mechanical equipment. Under its present management the *Times* has gained steadily in circulation, volume of business and influence, and is generally recognized as a potent factor in shaping the policies of the county and city.

"WESTERN TELEPHONE JOURNAL." VINTON.

The *Western Telephone Journal*, which is the official organ of the independent telephone associations and companies of Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska and much of the territory designated as the Middlewestern states, is issued from Vinton, its plant and building being neat and up-to-date. Its business is incorporated, with A. H. Ellis as president and treasurer and William M. Traer as vice president and secretary. The *Journal* was established in 1902, and let its printing until the fall of 1905, when it installed a small plant which has since been increased to the proportions and standard of the modern printery. In 1908 a substantial one story brick building was erected, which virtually covers a site represented by a frontage of forty-two feet and a depth of one hundred and twenty-four.

"GARRISON INDEPENDENT."

The *Garrison Independent* was established in October, 1898, by Henry Ridge, who was succeeded, as editors and proprietors, by L. E. Deutremont, I. E. Coffee, W. F. Reed and F. M. Springsteen. The last named took possession in May, 1903, and runs an independent weekly, leaning toward Republicanism.

"THE SHELLSBURG CALL."

The *Saturday Morning Call*, of Shellsburg, was founded October 11, 1884, by Thomas A. Carver, who established it as a six-column folio and afterward increased it to a quarto. He continued as

its editor and proprietor until early in the spring of 1886, when he disposed of the establishment to Carrie T. Horton. In July of the same year Charles F. Stookey and F. C. Summers purchased the business and conducted it until August, 1888, when the firm was dissolved by mutual consent, Mr. Summers retiring. Mr. Stookey continued as editor and proprietor of the paper until September, 1909, and it was during his able conduct that the name was changed to *The Shellsburg Call*. At the date mentioned the business was taken over by J. E. Albertson, and Mr. Stookey returned to the practice of the law and continued his dealings in western lands. He had already served as county attorney and is recognized as a lawyer, an editor and a business man of ability. He is also one of the old-timers of Shellsburg, at and around which were made some of the earliest settlements of the county.

THOMAS A. CARVER.

Thomas A. Carver, founder of the *Call*, is a Linn county man, born April 24, 1860, and his father, Thomas B., was a Civil war soldier of the Twentieth Iowa who died at New Orleans in the spring of 1864, while yet in the service. The son was educated in the schools of Shellsburg, and learned the printer's trade in the office of the *Shellsburg Record*. Mr. Carver not only founded the *Call* but the *Western Poultry Journal*, the latter being removed to Cedar Rapids.

VAN HORNE "METEOR."

Not long after the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul road had been put through Benton county, Van Horne, Keystone and other enterprising stations along the line commenced to agitate the desirability of newspapers. The people of the former town decided that they wanted one so promptly that the *Comet* shot into the sky of journalism in December, 1882. William G. Waters put it forth, but after a time sold the paper to E. K. Allen, now part proprietor of the *Vinton Review*.

VAN HORNE "ENTERPRISE."

The *Van Horne Enterprise* next appeared, April 17, 1891, and when it came into the hands of W. H. Wheeler of Blairstown it was changed to the *Benton County Record*, which is now edited and owned by H. J. Breuer. The publication embraces a Keystone

department, known as the *Keystone Courier*, which has a local editor who "gets all the news."

"MOUNT AUBURN NEWS."

The *Mt. Auburn News* was founded in June, 1900, by John Bills, but was sold to H. B. Lizer, of the *La Porte City Progress-Review*. The paper has since been printed in that city, although the office of publication is maintained at Mt. Auburn, with E. L. Esher as associate editor and Miss Ada Call as local reporter.

"BENTON COUNTY SIGNAL."

The *Benton County Signal* was founded at Norway, by W. H. Hoffman, of Center Point, in September, 1900. In 1902 J. E. Friis purchased the plant of Mr. Hoffman and in 1909 sold the business to John T. Smith, cashier of the First National Bank of Norway. The *Signal* is independent in everything.

DEFUNCT NEWSPAPERS.

On the whole Blairstown has not proven a newspaper town of substantial fruits, although various journalistic attempts were made early and continued to a comparatively late date. Its first paper was the *Herald*, issued by W. H. Wheeler March 1, 1869, and printed for some time at the office of the *People's Journal*, Vinton. It appeared also that the *Journal* management controlled the editorial policy of the Blairstown publication to such an extent as to insist upon the insertion of matter into the *Herald* which was in direct opposition to Mr. Wheeler's views. This became so offensive in the matter of the candidacy of ex-Governor Stone for congress that Mr. Wheeler removed from Blairstown and the *Herald* suspended publication.

In January, 1876, the *Independent* was established by S. P. Grover, who soon after transferred it to L. H. Barnes. Mr. Barnes failed, J. P. Wallace bought the tottering enterprise and for a number of years made a live newspaper of the *Independent*.

Among other early journals which are now defunct, as far as Benton county is concerned, is the *Iowa Pine Stock Gazette*, a monthly which was founded by C. R. Wilkinson and Company in July, 1874, and about two years afterward was sold and removed from Vinton to Cedar Rapids, the publication being even then in a flourishing condition.

CHAPTER X.

EDUCATION IN THE COUNTY.

FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE—FORESTALLED HENRY GEORGE—BENTON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM—FIRST TEACHERS' INSTITUTE—SCHOOL TOWNSHIP—CITY AND VILLAGE SCHOOLS RURAL INDEPENDENT DISTRICTS—IRVING INSTITUTE—BLAIRSTOWN ACADEMY AND SCHOOLS—TILFORD COLLEGIATE ACADEMY, VINTON—JOHN S. TILFORD—REV. THOMAS TOBIN AND WIFE—PROF. T. F. TOBIN AND THE PRESENT—VINTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS—BELLE PLAINE SCHOOLS.

The first collection of settlers in Benton county which can be dignified as a community was that which gathered on the northeast corner of section 34 and vicinity, Polk township, in the early '40s and became known as "Hoosier Point." In 1845 the Lockharts, the Remingtons, the Kendricks, James Downs, Thomas Way, Barney D. Springer, Wm. Mitchell, Caleb S. Hendrys and a few others, got together and agreed that a school house must be built. In those days both the building and the conduct of such establishments were purely on the subscription basis.

FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE.

In 1846 the log house was completed which was to give the first dozen or so of Benton county children their true start in life. It stood on section 25 (southwest corner) and the first little class which gathered within its rude walls was taught by Francis James Rigaud, who is described as an educated man who "wrote a magnificent hand—" the latter qualification largely determining the classification "educated man." Mr. Rigaud lived in a little log cabin near the site of a town named Wilmington, which was laid out on section 4, about a mile southwest of the present Urbana in 1858. This pioneer schoolmaster died in 1848. He was also the county surveyor, and as such laid out Marysville, the first town in the county, in 1847. His school was located about half a mile to

the northeast, and a description of the log house in which he taught will apply to every school building of that period and for ten years afterward.

In one end of the log house was a chimney made of mud and sticks of wood, with earthen hearth inside and fireplace wide enough and deep enough to embrace a four-foot back log, with smaller wood to match. In summer it was sometimes filled with plants and flowers; adapted to a conservatory. For windows part of a log was cut out on either side, the opening being covered with greased paper. Writing benches were made of wide planks; likewise seats and flooring.

FORESTALLED HENRY GEORGE.

The necessity for schools was generally recognized by the early settlers of Benton county, who, in fact, craved more education for their children than their limited means could supply. Like other home-builders they also objected to the schemes of non-resident land owners to purchase property and then hold on to it for a rise, relying upon the hard and faithful labors of bona fide settlers to bring about such an increase in values. Both to discourage this kind of speculation and to assist them in the building of school houses the assessors fixed upon the plan of placing an especially high value upon such tracts of land, taxing it about as high as improved property. It is said that several of the townships of Benton county were among the first in Iowa to adopt this policy, which was a forestalling of one of Henry George's pet theories to "tax land speculators out of existence." The story is told that one non-resident easterner, who held several tracts in Kane township, came west in 1857 to investigate the high rate of taxation. He finally complained to a resident of the township that he had paid enough taxes to build two or three school houses. The settler thereupon posted him as to the method pursued in organizing school districts, and added that "sometimes the people changed their minds after the tax was levied and borrowed the money back."

BENTON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM.

The schools in Benton county were first systematized under the general legislative act of March 20, 1858, by which each civil township was made a school district, the office of county superintendent was created and appropriations were made in aid of

teachers' institutes. Various improvements have been made upon the organic law. As it now applies, Benton county is divided into ten school townships, ten rural independent district townships and twelve independent city, town or village corporations, each governed by its board of directors. School officers may be of either sex and women may vote for issuing bonds for school purposes, or for increasing tax levy. No member of the board may receive compensation for any work done for the district in any capacity. The scheme of education provides that the effect of stimulants, poisons and narcotics and vocal music shall be taught in every school, and that the Bible shall not be excluded. As a means of beautifying the school grounds and encouraging tree culture in a prairie state, the regulation is also in force that each corporation shall cause twelve trees to be set out and protected on each school house site. Compulsory attendance is a part of the Iowa school law, and library funds are created by withholding from the semi-annual apportionment from five to fifteen cents for each pupil residing in the school corporation. As the result of the sad experience of comparatively recent years the doors of all school buildings in the cities and towns of Benton county, and all other sections of the state, are required to open outward.

FIRST TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

The Teachers' Association which was organized at Vinton in 1857 held only a few meetings, but on August 29, 1859, the first Teachers' Institute ever held in the county began its session at that place, under authority of the state law. The principal addresses were delivered by Prof. D. F. Wells, Amos Dean and Dr. J. L. Enos, and an association was formed with Julius Stevens as president; Miss Jennie Kiddoo and James Irving, vice presidents; A. E. McQuaid, secretary; and J. Austin, treasurer. As this was the organization of what has become one of the strongest features of the county's educational system the names of those in attendance are given, the list forming quite a complete list of the public school teachers in 1859: Salina Blackburn, Frances Scott, Mary A. Brooks, Margaret C. Jenks, Jane L. Wilson, Flora Wilson, Mary L. Shutts, Jane Hudson, Anna Matthews, Sarah Meskinens, Mrs. Ann Reed, Mary Spafford, Ann Brown, Margaret Pyne, Salina Heddin, Mary Kirkpatrick, Sarah Simpson, Maria Dickinson, Ellen Boyden, Mary Ann McCamron, Daniel Wood, Andrew Martin, Amos Rogers, James Hellar, W. C. Parmeter, L. Clingham, John F. Pyne, Nathan

Rice, N. C. Keys, W. C. Connell, A. C. McQuaid, George L. States, F. D. Dean, S. Stickney, R. L. Rowe, J. S. Eberhart, A. Eberhart, M. Hartwell, G. B. Gill, J. L. Davis, S. Wood, J. K. Thompson, B. F. Page, Amos N. Dean, Joel J. Long, Sherman Tracy, Syrene O. Eaton, Jacob Austin, A. J. Dickinson, S. Rowe and David Martin. Fifty-two in all. At the second session, also held in Vinton, eighty teachers were in attendance. The first superintendent of schools of Benton county was Joseph Dysart, who went into office under the act of March 20, 1858.

SCHOOL TOWNSHIPS.

The present superintendent, J. W. Jones, has the county schools well systematized, and is a tireless and skilful worker. Under the legal classification, following are the ten school townships, with number of teachers, attendance and enrollment in each township:

Township	Teachers	Attendance	Enrollment
Big Grove	9	119	170
Bruce	8	85	99
Eldorado	8	80	128
Florence	6	87	115
Fremont	11	121	196
Harrison	6	68	104
Le Roy	7	69	104
Monroe	9	90	155
Taylor	9	88	146
Union	9	95	137
Total	82	902	1844

CITY AND VILLAGE SCHOOLS.

Place	Teachers	Attendance	Enrollment
Belle Plaine	17	650	770
Blairstown	5	130	148
Garrison	4	113	145
Keystone	3	78	94
Luzerne	1	12	35
Mt. Auburn	3	65	161
Newhall	2	46	64

Place	Teachers	Attendance	Enrollment
Norway	3	95	119
Shellsburg	4	115	146
Urbana	3	87	111
Van Horne	4	92	118
Viaten	21	525	659
Total	70	2008	2510

RURAL INDEPENDENT DISTRICTS.

There are 87 rural independent districts, which have 83 teachers, with an attendance of 774 pupils and an enrollment of 1,367. One joint district (Irving) is under the supervision of Tama county and has an attendance of 12 and an enrollment of 32.

A summary of the above figures shows that more than 225 teachers are employed in Benton county, and that out of a total enrollment of over 5,200 pupils some 3,700 actually are in attendance.

IRVING INSTITUTE.

It is worthy of note that it was within the present joint school district of Irving that the first higher institution of learning in Benton county was founded—this honor belonging to Rev. A. A. Sawin, a Baptist minister of great ability who came from Massachusetts. Irving, on the northwest quarter of section 6, township 82, range 12, was the seventh town to be platted in Benton county, October 10, 1855. In 1862 the following citizens donated of their money, land, materials or labor to the extent named, for the purpose of erecting and maintaining a high school: Levi Marsh, \$1,050; George S. Williams, \$370; J. M. Yount, \$300; Andrew Hale, \$290; S. W. Hutton, \$275; T. G. Arbutnot, \$170; Martin Smith, \$150; Samuel Miles, \$120; I. R. Compton, \$120; E. Thompson, \$100. Levi Marsh, as the largest donor and most influential man in the community, was appointed by the subscribers as trustee of the institute, and Mr. Sawin gave bonds to maintain a high school for ten years or refund to those who had donated real estate.

In the spring of 1862 the Irving Institute was opened in Marsh Hall, but in the following year occupied a frame building erected by Mr. Sawin. The foundation of a brick structure was laid in the spring of 1863, and the future of the enterprise seemed bright

when it was clouded by the sudden death, from smallpox, of its earnest and gifted president. The widow and her brother, Professor Lauren A. Scott, of Vermont, then assumed the responsibility of carrying out Mr. Sawin's contract. Through the energy and faithful offices of Mr. Marsh the necessary funds were collected for the completion of the Institute building, and, with the exception of a short period in 1865, Mr. Scott and Mrs. Sawin continued the school with credit until the expiration of the ten-year contract in 1872. At that time Prof. J. G. Craven became principal and proprietor and, with the assistance of various members of his family, for many years maintained Irving Institute at a uniformly high standard. It was long considered one of the best preparatory schools in this part of the state, many of its graduates taking prominent rank in college and university.

John G. Craven was one of the best known superintendents of that early school of higher education. After graduating from Miami University at Oxford, Ohio, in 1845, he entered the theological seminary at Covington, Kentucky, completed his course therein in 1847, and was ordained to the Baptist ministry in the same year. For the succeeding twenty-five years he labored as a clergyman in Indiana, Ohio, Minnesota and Iowa, coming to Irving, this county, in 1872, to assume charge of the institute.

BLAIRSTOWN ACADEMY AND SCHOOLS.

The second of the academies to be put in operation in Benton county was the institution at Blainstown. Its original projectors and most liberal contributors were Rev. Geo. Herring, Uriah Keck, Henry Miller, Caleb Carter, Isaiah Morris, G. B. Crandall, Henry Bell, Amos Dean and James Brain. The academy was conducted under the auspices of the Evangelical church, its first board of trustees, organized early in 1868, being Rev. W. J. Hahn (principal), Rev. George Herring and Messrs. Uriah Keck, Henry Miller, James Brain and G. B. Crandall.

In the spring of 1868 the construction of the building was begun on the academy site, comprising four acres in the southeastern part of the town. The two-story structure, 75 by 90 feet in size, was inclosed and roofed during the summer, and it was completed in the fall, being formally dedicated on the first of October. Amos Dean, of Blainstown, made a suitable address on the occasion, and Rev. Mr. Shoutz, of Tipton, followed with appropriate remarks on "Christian Education." The first term of

the academy opened with a good attendance, under the instruction of Rev. W. J. Hahn, assisted by Lloyd Fording, but the debt which had been left upon the building proved too heavy for the Evangelical Society to bear, and the property passed into the hands of the sheriff. In 1870 W. S. Shon purchased it at public sale, and during the year of his ownership no school was held. In 1872 Rev. Mr. Raile bought the property in behalf of the Reformed Presbyterian church, and the building was remodeled at a cost of \$3,000, but in 1876 the classis of that church also found the property so unremunerative that it sold the building and grounds to Professor John McCarty, a highly educated Irishman who had been principal of the Vinton public schools for three years. Four teachers assisted Professor McCarty (including his wife) and for many years, under their management and proprietorship, the Blairstown Academy stood remarkably high.

The following testimonial, unanimously signed, was given in 1877, but would apply at any period of the McCarty administration: "The undersigned, residents of Blairstown and vicinity, take pleasure in giving their testimony to the satisfactory success with which Professor McCarty and his excellent wife have conducted the academy during the past year; and we would recommend the institution as worthy the patronage of such parents as desire to give their sons and daughters an education to fit them for the various spheres of usefulness that lie open before them in our growing country. The patrons and friends of the school cheerfully accord to Professor and Mrs. McCarty the merit of first class educators; and we have no hesitancy in saying that all pupils entrusted to their guardianship, will not fail to receive thorough instruction in all branches of learning they may pursue, and proper care for their morals."

The attendance at Blairstown Academy during the winter term of 1877-78 was seventy-six, and during Professor McCarty's principalship it considerably exceeded that. The institution remained under private management until its suspension in 1894, when Professor Stevenson was in charge.

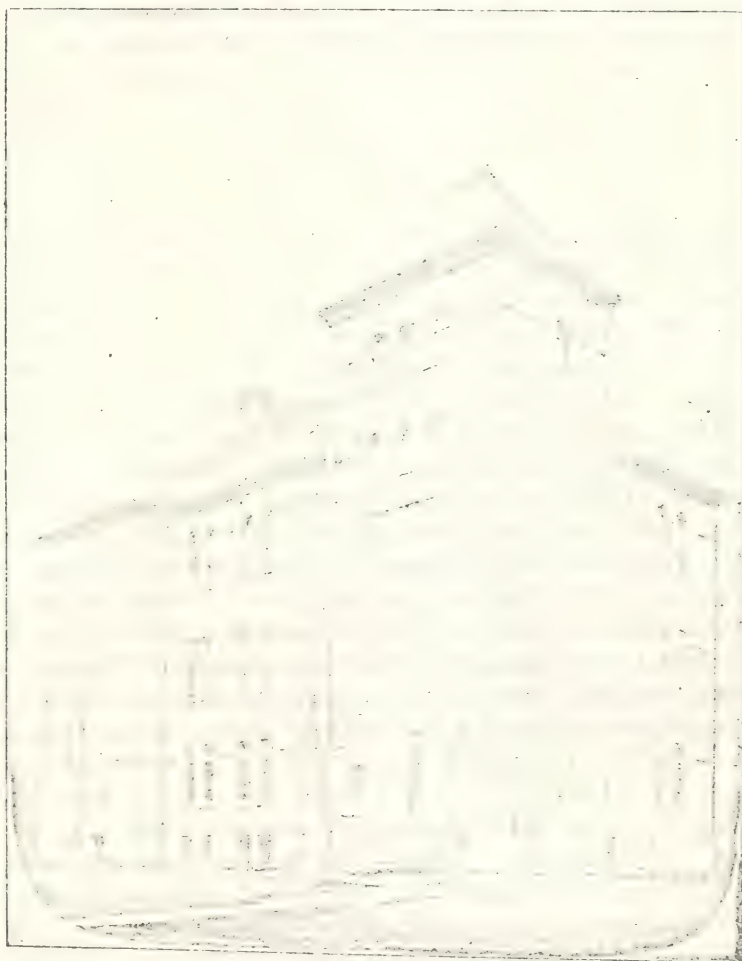
Blairstown is now accommodated with fine school facilities through its high and grammar courses which are conducted in a substantial and modern building, erected in 1904 at a cost of \$15,000. The attendance averages 150 pupils. L. O. Worley, the principal, is assisted by four teachers.

The board of education for the Blairstown school corporation in 1910 was as follows: J. H. Ransom, president; Dr. A. J. Bryant,

secretary; A. F. Allen, treasurer; other directors, M. A. Heck, W. E. Davis, M. F. Bruch and G. W. Goss, Jr.

TILFORD COLLEGIATE ACADEMY, VINTON.

In the late fifties earnest efforts were made by leading citizens of Vinton to secure an institution of learning in their midst. As the Presbytery of Iowa was looking for a site for a college, it was considered rather a favorable time to agitate the project. Cedar Rapids, however, best met the requirements of that body, and



TILFORD COLLEGIATE ACADEMY, VINTON.

Parson's Academy was located in that city. On March 1, 1857, articles of incorporation had been filed by John S. Tilford, N. C. Robinson, J. C. Traer, James F. Young, John Shane, John W. Filkins, H. B. Clingan, L. D. Boardwell, Russell Jones, William H. Bristol and Joseph Young, for the Vinton Collegiate Institute, providing for a capital stock of \$10,000. Sixty subscribers placed their names to considerably more than that amount (on paper), but little of a practical nature was accomplished. In September, 1858, a meeting of the stockholders was held, when Rev. N. C. Robinson was president and Joseph Dysart secretary, with A. C. Williams as principal. It appears that a few students were formed into classes under the half-hearted instruction of the latter, but no attempt was made to erect a building, and nothing further was accomplished in actual furtherance of such a project until the winter of 1870-1.

JOHN S. TILFORD.

John S. Tilford, who had come to Vinton twenty years before as one of its first half dozen settlers, had never ceased to labor for the highest interests of his adopted town, and an institution of higher education had continued to be one of the ambitions nearest his heart. Professor S. A. Knapp, the principal of the College for the Blind, which had been located at Vinton, was also deeply interested in the project. Fortunately, also, the latter had among his eastern acquaintances a bright, earnest and staunch Irishman, highly educated, whom he had first met at Fort Edward Collegiate Institute, New York. The eastern friend had made a deep impression on Professor Knapp, and when a special turn in one of Mr. Tilford's property investments promised to result in the donation of grounds for the long-desired institute of learning, the mind of the former instinctively turned to Rev. Thomas Tobin, a Baptist clergyman of New York since 1863. This combination of circumstances and men resulted in the founding of the Tilford Collegiate Academy in 1871.

REV. THOMAS TOBIN AND WIFE.

For some time Mr. Tilford had held a heavy mortgage on the grounds of the Agricultural Society, and in March arrangements were completed with the trustees of that organization by which the land in question was deeded to Mr. Tobin, on condition that he

build thereon and conduct an academy for a term of at least five years. The three-cornered correspondence between Mr. Tilford, Professor Knapp and Mr. Tobin had progressed so rapidly and satisfactorily that the last named was in Vinton soon after the ink had dried on Prof. Knapp's last urgent letter to him. According to the mutual agreement the old grounds of the Agricultural Society were transferred to him, and he promptly invested all his private means in the enterprise. Within sixty days after he placed foot in Vinton the plan for the academy was completed and thirteen teams and twenty-five men were at work grading, setting out trees, and preparing the foundation for the building which is now the west part of the Ladies Hall and originally used as a day school only. Within five months from the time of beginning work, Professor Tobin had completed and furnished the academy; and he had also demonstrated his energy and persuasive powers in another direction, for he had gone to Vermont, married and returned with a bright, faithful, educated wife, who proved his staunch assistant for many years thereafter. She was formerly Miss Allie C. Griswold, of Casteltown, that state, and in her collegiate work at Vinton attained a high reputation both as an artist and teacher. In the early years he also had the valued assistance of his nephew, Professor T. F. Tobin, who commenced his splendid labors for the college while he was still a sophomore at Cornell University.

In May, 1871, the foundation for the first building had been completed and more than five hundred trees set in the grounds, and so rapidly was the work prosecuted that the dedicatory exercises were held on Saturday evening, July 30, the address being delivered by Professor Knapp at Watson's Hall. In the course of his address he quoted the remark originally made by the president of the Port Edward (N. Y.) Collegiate Seminary when Mr. Tobin had graduated therefrom, to the effect that "he can be depended upon." The stamp of perfect reliability continued to be clearly defined upon his personality during the thirteen years of his management, and the same trait is the strong feature in the able personality of the nephew, who has been faithfully and successfully engaged in the development of the institution for more than a quarter of a century, until now it ranks as one of the leading western collegiate academies, engaged in educational work preparatory to university courses, teaching and business life.

PROF. T. F. TOBIN AND THE PRESENT.

In 1884, soon after his graduation from Cornell, the present head of the institution purchased the buildings, grounds and patronage of the Tilford Collegiate Academy, and since that year he has been its principal and superintendent in every sense of the word. Like his energetic and talented uncle, while he has "made things move," he has also inspired a strong and constant spirit of enthusiasm and loyalty among both students and teachers of the faculty. The attendance of students from a distance soon made it necessary to provide boarding facilities. To supply this need a large addition was made on the east side of the main building for the accommodation of young ladies, and still east of this a structure was erected for young men. In 1892 was completed the fine three story brick building known as College Hall, its location being diagonal from the original school and its site also donated by J. S. Tilford. Since that time the progress of the institution has been rapid and so substantial that the authorities of the state university, some years ago, placed it on the list of fully accredited schools. Students come from Florida, New York, New Mexico, Kansas, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Michigan, Missouri and other states. It has a well selected library of over two thousand volumes on the first floor of College Hall, on which is also a well equipped laboratory and the principal's office. The commercial school occupies the entire third floor of the building, and its course embraces not only the usual branches taught in business colleges but a post-graduate and normal curriculum for those who wish to teach any or all its branches.

In brief, the Tilford Collegiate Academy is an institution conducted for the education of pupils of average means, who desire to become trained and useful members of society. No entrance examinations are required and students can enter at any time and select their own studies. The regular courses, however, are the college preparatory, the teachers', musical and commercial, each presided over by expert educators in their line, under the superintendency of Professor Tobin. There are now two hundred and seventy-five students enrolled in all the courses, with the following faculty: Thomas Francis Tobin, A. M., principal and superintendent (Cornell College), professor of psychology, mathematics and didactics; Miss Emma Louise Stone, dean of women (Oberlin College), professor of Latin, modern languages and English literature; Fred S. Seegmiller (Northwestern College, University of

Chicago), professor of mathematics, science and economics; Nilas O. Shively, principal of Business College (North Manchester Business College, Indiana University); professor of civics and history; and Miss Eleanor Houts, director of the Conservatory of Music (Conservatory of Music, Cornell College), teacher of piano, normal music and choral work. In this connection it might be added that the organ of the student body is a tasteful and creditable publication issued for the first time in 1909 and entitled "The Green and Gold" (from the collegiate colors).

VINTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The first school in Vinton (Fremont) was taught in the old court house in the fall of 1852 by George Parish; he also was teaching in the winter term of 1852-3, when the court house burned. During the following summer Miss Jennie Chapin taught in a little brick building on Main street, known as Alexander's office. A school house was built before the end of that summer, and in the fall Mrs. Fellows taught the first school in it.

Vinton was organized as an independent school district or corporation in 1861, its first board meeting being held on April 6th, with Joseph Dysart as president and W. W. Hanford secretary. Its bounds were fixed by a committee of the board in consultation with the township district officers. On the 22d of April the board rented the basements of the New School Presbyterian and Methodist churches, and on the 4th of the following month, E. Bennett, U. E. Traer, Fannie Kiddoo, Nellie Howe and Mrs. J. F. Young were employed as teachers and took possession of these temporary quarters. Messrs. Adams, Webb and Watson, members of the board appointed to look out for a school house site, reported in favor of J. S. Tilford's offer, and in May it was voted to give him an order on the county treasurer as part payment. The building was completed in the fall of 1864 and the board celebrated New Year's day of 1865 by vacating the church basements for school purposes. At the annual election in 1872 it was voted to issue bonds for the erection of a new building in the third ward.

On March 13, 1876, the people voted in favor of an issue of \$10,000 in bonds for the erection of another school building, which amount was increased by \$2,500 in June. What is now known as the West building was thereby completed in 1877. For many years it was the high school building, and was opened with the following corps of teachers: H. M. Hoon, principal; Mary D.

Warner, assistant; Alice M. Bingham, Mrs. N. E. Pierce, Mary E. Marine, Ada Voris, Mattie Voris, Clare R. Van Horn, Ora M. Ketchum, Verona Marcellus, Etta A. Palmer, Miss C. S. Hall and Miss W. A. Burr.

What is known as the East school of Vinton was destroyed by fire November 24, 1897, and the building which replaced it (completed in December, 1898) accommodates both high and grammar grades. It is a fine structure, two stories and basement, built of brick with cut-stone trimmings; slate roof and dormer windows; hard maple floors; steel ceilings; ventilated, both direct and indirect, the circulation of air being forced by a fan in the basement



HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING, VINTON.

run by a small steam engine; lighted by electricity, and supplied with every other convenience known to the modern school. The building and grounds are valued at \$40,000. On the first floor are seven class rooms for the grammar grades, and on the second floor are one class room and four recitation rooms for the high school, with laboratories, library and principal's office.

The present attendance at the high school is about 140, the

grammar grades comprising some 260 pupils. Music, drawing and manual training are included in the curriculum.

In 1907 the West school was remodeled throughout, new heating and ventilating apparatus being installed and the structure made modern in every respect. More than 230 pupils are in attendance, the total for the city being about 630. Twenty-one teachers are employed—six in the high school, seven in the East school, six in the West school and one each for music and drawing.

The superintendent of the city schools is A. M. M. Dornon and the high school principal, James Rae.

The board of directors of the Vinton schools consists of (1910) the following: President, S. Robinson; secretary, Milo R. Whipple; treasurer, George Know; C. W. Miller, George N. Urice, F. G. Bryner and George D. McElroy.

BELLE PLAINE SCHOOLS.

Belle Plaine was platted as a town in 1860, and in the winter of 1862-3 the few children which had gathered on its site and in the vicinity were collected by Mesdames Greene and Pillbeam and organized into two small schools. The latter was the wife of a Methodist circuit preacher.

The school population increased so rapidly that Belle Plaine was organized into an independent district September 4, 1865, by the election of the following board of directors: Dr. John Stowe, president; Presley Hutton, vice president; D. C. Forbes, treasurer; D. C. Twogood, secretary; Peter Hafer, E. G. Brown and A. Steinaele. In December a room was rented of Mr. Daniels for school purposes, at thirteen dollars per month, and the board prescribed as text books—McGuffey's Readers, Pinneo's Grammar, Ray's Arithmetic, and Monteith's and McNally's Geography. Mr. Kennedy was employed to teach the school, but was soon given an assistant in the person of Miss Cupid. (N. B.—This is not a joke.)

In March, 1866, a tax levy of ten mills was voted to build a brick school house, with stone foundation, on the north side of the railroad, but the low state of the city purse prevented its actual erection until the fall of 1867. Even then Belle Plaine was obliged to modify her ambition from a \$10,000 school house to one of \$1,500, \$1,000 of which had been borrowed of Vinton parties. In 1870 the school was graded and in 1875 a branch building was erected for the accommodation of the district.

In 1879 the Longfellow school was erected at a cost of \$10,000;

the present high school building (a large two-story red brick) in 1881, at a cost of \$20,000, and the Longfellow and Emerson schools (thoroughly modern) in 1901, at \$10,000 each. The high school, which is situated just north of the geographical center of Belle Plaine, is attended by about 330 pupils, the five grammar grades being also accommodated in the building. The Longfellow school, with an attendance of some 200, is in the southern part of town, as is the small two-room school, the Emerson, with 70 scholars. The Whittier is attended by about 100. A new high school building is in contemplation.

The Belle Plaine system is under the active management of Warren J. Dean, who is both superintendent of schools and principal of the high school. The city board of education consists of Dr. J. Worley, president; G. R. Ahrens, secretary; Thomas Lawrence, treasurer; S. Wertheim, W. A. Mall, A. A. Carlson and Tom H. Milner.

CHAPTER XI.

COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND.

BY GEORGE D. EATON, SUPERINTENDENT.

CAPTAIN THOMAS DRUMMOND—PROFESSOR SAMUEL BACON, FIRST PRINCIPAL—COLLEGE FORMALLY OPENED AT VINTON—TWO WINGS ADDED—“TOM” DRUMMOND AGAIN—“YES; IT IS WORTH IT ALL”—TRUSTEES TO BE REMEMBERED—PRESENT ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLEGE—MUSIC DEPARTMENT—INDUSTRIAL TRAINING—OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL IN OPERATION—GYMNASIUM UNDER WAY.

The official title of this institution, which, conducted under the auspices of the state of Iowa for more than fifty-seven years, has enjoyed a continuous record of useful and beneficent advancement, indicates that its object is, primarily, of an educational nature. Those of both sexes are advanced virtually to a university curriculum, and they are also taught practical occupations which are in general demand, as well as instrumental and vocal music in all its forms. Some who are wholly bereft of proper guardianship in the early period of their lives thus enjoy twelve years of education, training and well-considered guidance. These advantages are free to every person who is blind, or only partly afflicted, provided he is a resident of the state and of suitable school age and mental capacity. If the guardians or friends are able, they are expected to pay traveling expenses and furnish clothing; if not, such expenses are borne by the county from which the pupil comes. This school opens September 1st and closes the last Friday in the following May. For the support of the College for the Blind the state appropriates twenty-two dollars per capita per month, during nine months of each year, the same amount allowed the School for the Deaf at Council Bluffs.

CAPTAIN THOMAS DRUMMOND.

The College for the Blind at Vinton has reached its present

status only after earnest effort on the part of both the state and the local management extending, as stated, over more than half a century. In October, 1910, it will have been located at that point for forty-eight years, and the large mural tablet fronting the main entrance of the principal building briefly tells the story of Captain Thomas Drummond's life, to whose efforts the removal of the institution from Iowa City is due.

CAPTAIN THOMAS DRUMMOND

Fifth Cavalry, U. S. A.

Born Brooks County, Virginia, May 9, 1832

Edited the *Vinton Eagle*, 1857-60

Member Iowa House of Representatives, 1858

State Senator, 1860

He secured the establishment of this college.

Wounded at the Battle of Five Forks, April 1, 1865

Died the following day.

PROFESSOR BACON, FIRST PRINCIPAL.

Prior to Captain Drummond's introduction of the bill in the lower house of the Iowa legislature, which provided for the removal of the Asylum for the Blind from Iowa City to Vinton, the institution had passed through nearly six years of trying times. In August, 1852, Professor Samuel Bacon, who had lost his sight at the age of eleven, been educated in the Institution for the Blind at Columbus and at Kenyon College, and, in his early manhood established an institution for the afflicted at Jacksonville, Illinois, founded a similar institution for the Instruction of the Blind at Keokuk. By act of the general assembly, approved January 18,

1853, it was called the Asylum for the Blind and located at Iowa City. On the 4th of April it was opened for the reception of pupils, free to all the blind of the state. The board of trustees retained Professor Bacon as principal, and appointed T. J. McGittigen as teacher of music and Mrs. Sarah K. Bacon as matron. Twenty-three pupils were admitted during the first term. In his first report the worthy principal suggested that the name be changed to that of Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, which was done in 1855, when the general assembly made an annual appropriation of fifty-five dollars per quarter for each pupil. This was subsequently changed to three thousand dollars per annum, with a charge of twenty-five dollars as an admission fee for each pupil, which, with the amounts realized from the sale of articles manufactured by the scholars, met the expenses of the institution during Mr. Bacon's administration, which closed in January, 1862. The professor was both a good manager and a fine scholar, and stories relating to his remarkable mathematical gifts are told by old residents to this day; and they learned both to thoroughly love and admire his character.

COLLEGE FORMALLY OPENED AT VINTON.

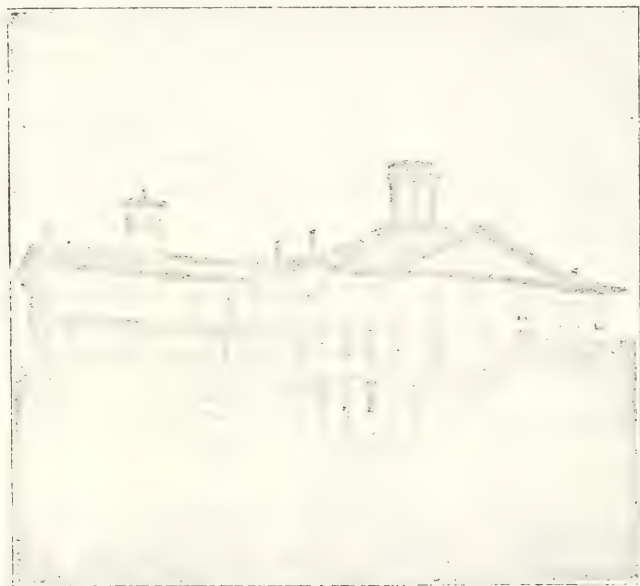
Rev. Orlando Clarke succeeded Professor Bacon as principal, and in the following October (1862) the state board of trustees formally opened the institution at Vinton with twenty-four pupils. The building, which still stands as the central portion of the main college structure, is of limestone, one hundred and seventy feet in dimensions, three stories and basement.

In August, 1864, when a new board of trustees was appointed by the legislature, Rev. Reed Wilkinson was elected principal, at which time sixty-five pupils were enrolled and each of the three departments of music, literature and the mechanical industries was under the instruction of two teachers; there were also a matron and attending physician.

Mr. Wilkinson resigned in June, 1867, and General James L. Geddes was appointed in his place during the following September. A brave officer of the Civil war, he was somewhat lacking in executive and administrative ability, and at his retirement in September, 1869, was succeeded by Professor S. A. Knapp.

TWO WINGS ADDED.

In the succeeding month the south wing of the main building was completed, and in November, 1873, the north wing was finished. Professor Knapp, who is considered one of the ablest principals who ever presided over the active affairs of the institution, resigned his position July 1, 1875, after which Rev. Orlando Clarke returned to the superintendency, but died while in office, April 2,



IOWA COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND
(BEFORE ADDING OF WINGS)

1876. John B. Parnalee, who had been assistant principal, succeeded, but resigned in July, 1877, and was followed by Rev. Robert Carothers. At that time the institution had one hundred and thirty-five pupils, as against twenty-three when it was first opened at Vinton. Mr. Carothers was followed by T. F. McCune, who was superintendent, or principal, for a period of thirty years, and was followed by Professor J. E. Vance, who resigned as superintendent of the Linn county schools in July, 1906, in order to accept his call to the College for the Blind. George D. Eaton, the present incumbent, succeeded Mr. Vance in August, 1908.

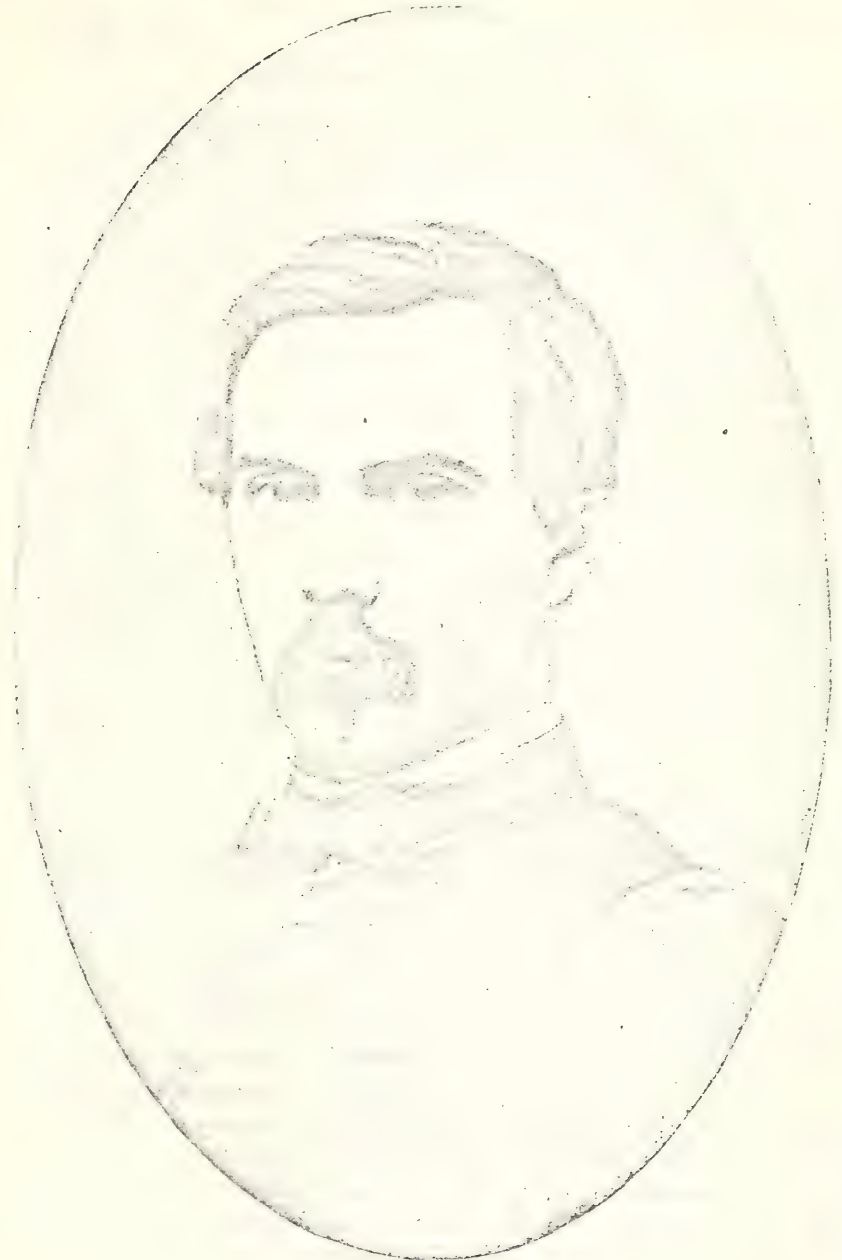


"TOM" DRUMMOND AGAIN.

In any review of the history of the College for the Blind the name of Tom Drummond, as he was affectionately called by his hosts of friends, appears uppermost, and when his memorial tablet was unveiled May 26, 1901, there were numerous evidences that the old-time feeling toward him and his good work was still as strong as when he was present in the flesh. It was in the early '50s that he came into the west and, as a young man, settled at Vinton. A natural politician and public speaker, witty and yet straightforward and practical, he was soon in active demand at all Republican gatherings and became one of the most popular and trusted men in the county. Sympathetic, as well as social, he enthusiastically espoused the cause of the weak and unfortunate, and his able editorship of the *Vinton Eagle* brought him the prominence which enabled him to secure election to both houses of the state legislature and formulate legislation which resulted in the broad and firm establishment of the College for the Blind. He had only fairly completed his task in the state senate, when he joined the first company raised for the support of the Union in Benton county, and went to the front with all the enthusiasm of his ardent nature and Virginia antecedents.

"YES, IT IS WORTH IT ALL."

Although of southern birth, Captain Drummond was of Abolitionist parentage, and was a soldier of moral convictions and fortitude. In December, 1861, he was appointed lieutenant colonel of the Fourth Iowa Cavalry; served as such in Arkansas and Tennessee, and in June, 1862, resigned and was transferred to the Fifth Cavalry operating with the Army of the Potomac. He participated in the battles of South Mountain and Antietam; was made captain July 17, 1862, and August 3, 1863, provost marshal of a cavalry corps, with the rank of colonel. Rejoining his regiment at Winchester, Virginia, he was in command until the close of the Richmond campaign in the following February. He was also in command between Dinwiddie Court House and the battle of Five Forks, being mortally wounded at the latter engagement, April 1, 1865. He died at eight o'clock in the morning of the next day, and a few moments before his manly advance into the future life the chaplain of his regiment asked him if he was willing to give his life for his country. "Yes," he answered with one of his



CAPTAIN THOMAS DRUMMOND.

bright smiles, which died calmly on his pale lips—"Yes; it is worth it all."

TRUSTEES TO BE REMEMBERED.

Among the trustees whose names are inseparably connected with the progress of the College for the Blind should be gratefully mentioned those of Samuel H. Watson, Jacob Springer, Judge C. H. Conklin and Hon. Joseph Dysart. Mr. Watson came to Vinton from West Virginia, when a young man, locating there in 1857, organizing the First National Bank of that city and being engaged in the banking business continuously until his death August 7, 1895. He was a trustee and treasurer of the college from 1869 to 1888, and it was largely due to his faithfulness to its interests and his business ability that it was financed into a substantial condition.

Hon. Jacob Springer, who is so widely known throughout Benton county, had served as a trustee for twenty-five years when he retired June 30, 1898. Not only had he given freely of his time and means in furtherance of the institution, but his home was always open to any specially severe cases of suffering or misfortune which required a more than usual amount of attention.

As will appear in their sketches published elsewhere, Judge C. H. Conklin and Hon. Joseph Dysart were among the most brilliant and prominent professional and public men of the county and state.

Of the teachers early connected with the College for the Blind, who afterward attained high standing in the community, are instanced M. L. Ward, who is now a leading California lawyer, and C. O. Harrington, who became a state trustee and a prominent banker.

PRESENT ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLEGE.

As at present organized, under the superintendency of Mr. Eaton, the College for the Blind embraces the administrative, financial, supervisory, medical, nursing, literary, musical and industrial department.

The literary or educational department, provides for the regular courses of study covering the eight grades of the common branches and the four of high school work, and embraces the library of over six thousand volumes, divided into point print, for those who are blind, and the ink print, for pupils of defective sight. The college is well supplied with apparatus for the teaching of physical science, and a number of typewriters are also furnished for practice and use.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT.

Strictly speaking, the music department falls under the head of educational, and the training and culture in this line are most important features of the curriculum. Two teachers are provided for the piano, pipe organ, vocal music and the theory of music; and another instructor teaches the smaller instruments, such as the violin, flute and other orchestral and band pieces. A high grade pipe organ is installed in the assembly room, which is a commodious hall, furnished with taste; and the eighteen pianos, twenty-six violins and the flutes, clarionets, cornets and other brass and string instruments, provide a sufficient supply of means for the gratification of all musical tastes—and very few of the blind pupils are not thus inclined, one hundred of the total one hundred and seventy-five being enrolled in the musical department.

In this connection is also the room set aside for the teaching of piano tuning, although this course is a part of the industrial division. A competent graduate of the college is in charge of this work and his blind pupils have before them for practical demonstration the works of a number of instruments, which are tuned and untuned until proficiency in the trade, or profession, is attained. In the literary course proper some one hundred and fifty pupils are enrolled.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

In the industrial department, which occupies a separate building, students of both sexes work at cane seating and netting. There is also a broom factory, in operation during a portion of the year, while the grounds give ample opportunity to indulge in gardening during the seasonable months. The girls devote themselves more especially to fancy work, rag carpets and bead work, the sale of these articles and of those turned out generally by the industrial department, being a considerable source of revenue.

The operations of the college are conducted by competent help and the kitchen, bakery and laundry are models of neatness and system. The laundry is conducted in a two-story brick building and is supplied with all the latest machinery and apparatus found in the metropolitan establishment.

OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL IN OPERATION.

A neat and convenient hospital building has been completed within late years for the special accommodation of pupils who undergo ophthalmic operations, at the skillful hands of the visiting surgeon, Dr. L. W. Dean, of the Iowa University. Many of the students have also been greatly benefited by the daily treatments carried out by the trained nurses under his direction. These operations and treatments are often beyond the reach of students at their homes, but constitute a gift which the state gladly accords them. Many of the students have also been fitted with artificial eyes and glasses. All troubles of the eye are treated under the direction of Dr. Dean, while the general health of the institution is conserved by Dr. C. C. Griffin, one of the truest friends the college has ever had.

A GYMNASIUM UNDER WAY.

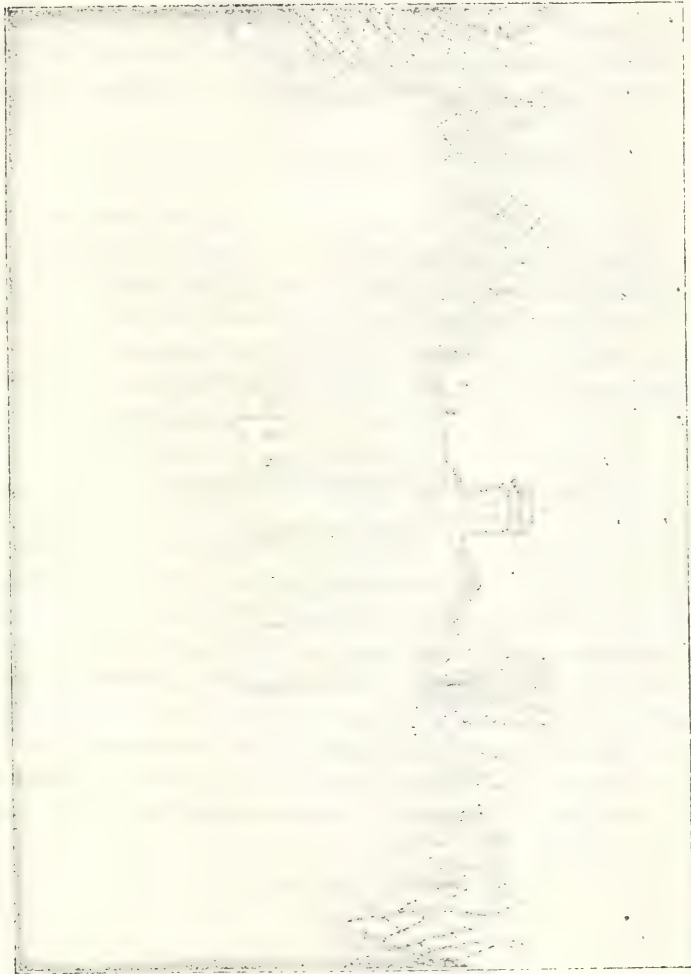
The general assembly of 1908 appropriated twelve thousand dollars for the building of a new gymnasium, which, with the funds already on hand, will make about fifteen thousand dollars. This new gymnasium will be begun in the spring, and it is expected that it will be finished by the fall of 1910. With a well equipped gymnasium and a competent director of physical training, much good can be done to improve the physical condition of the blind.

PROFESSOR S. A. KNAPP.

In the history of Iowa College for the Blind, due credit has been given to Professor S. A. Knapp for his fine labors both in the line of instruction and business which had such an important bearing on the early development of that institution. After leaving the College of the Blind, he organized the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company of Vinton, which, under his honest and able management, became a strong institution. He became the owner of several large farms, and successfully raised considerable blooded stock. In connection with these interests he also became managing editor of the *Western Stock and Farm Journal*, published at Cedar Rapids.

Professor Knapp was a highly educated man, of quite varied and noteworthy accomplishments. He was a native of Essex county, New York; graduated from Union College, Schenectady,

MAIN BUILDING POWA COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND.



and afterward went to Fort Edwards, where for seven years he was associated with Dr. King in the management of the Fort Edwards institute. He then founded and was proprietor of the Ripley Female College at Poultney, Vermont, which remained under his management until 1866, when a change of climate was advised by his physician. In this search for health he came to Vinton, where the first two years of his residence were spent as preacher in the Methodist church, after which he was chosen principal of the Iowa College for the Blind.

PROFESSOR THOMAS F. McCUNE.

Professor Thomas F. McCune, whose death occurred at Vinton, November 6, 1907, was for nearly thirty years identified with the College for the Blind, both as teacher and superintendent. His service in the former capacity commenced in 1877, the year after his graduation from college at Washington, Pennsylvania, and he was head of the College for the Blind from 1883 until his retirement in July, 1906.

PROFESSOR GEORGE W. TANNEHILL.

Professor George W. Tannehill, who died at his home in Vinton, March 23, 1909, was professor of mathematics at the State College for the Blind for nearly forty-four years. He had been blind himself from his twenty-second year and devoted his life to the education of those similarly afflicted, resigning his position at the college only about a month before his death. Everybody in Vinton knew him, honored him, loved him and wondered at his remarkable mental gifts. He at one time sat in the city council and it never had a more capable or industrious member.

CHAPTER XII

BENTON COUNTY IN TWO WARS.

FIRST GRAND UNION RALLY—FIRST TO ENLIST IN THE COUNTY—OFFICERS OF PIONEER COMPANY—PARKER'S GROVE AND HICKORY GROVE—"BOYS IN BLUE" HAD TO BE UNIFORMED—COMPANY G, FIFTH IOWA VOLUNTEERS—COMPANY D, EIGHTH INFANTRY—GRAND HOME RECEPTION—BENTON COUNTY BOYS IN THE EIGHTH—COMPANY D, TWELFTH INFANTRY—COMPANIES G AND E, TWENTY-EIGHTH INFANTRY—COMPANY A'S ROSTER—COMPANY D—COMPANY H, EIGHTEENTH INFANTRY—COMPANY K, FORTIETH INFANTRY—FORTY-SEVENTH INFANTRY—FIFTH VETERAN CAVALRY—SIXTH CAVALRY—SEVENTH CAVALRY—NINTH CAVALRY—UNION SUPPORT AT HOME—SUMMARY OF WAR MATTERS—GRAND CELEBRATION JULY 4, 1861—"KNIGHTS OF THE GOLDEN CIRCLE," BY JACOB SPRINGER—SOLDIERS OF SIXTY-ONE, BY A. H. BROWN—COMPANY G, I. N. G.—SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR—RECEPTION TO CALVIN P. TITUS—VETERANS ASSOCIATION AND G. A. R.—LIVING CIVIL WAR VETERANS—VINTON'S G. A. R. POST.

There is no period of her history in which Benton county takes greater pride than that covering the Civil war. During that time her population increased only about 3,000, in 1865 being 11,245. Notwithstanding this comparatively small population on which to draw, nearly 1,000 men were sent into the field.

Benton county was represented most extensively in the Fifth, Eighth, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Eighteenth, Twenty-eighth and Fortieth infantry regiments and in the Fifth, Seventh and Ninth cavalry. She also contributed quite a quota of troops to the Second, Third, Sixteenth and Thirty-second infantry and the Second and Third cavalry, and not a few of her citizens were distributed among other commands.

FIRST GRAND UNION RALLY.

The first grand rally of the people of Benton county, after the firing on Fort Sumter and Lincoln's proclamation for 75,000

men, was held at the court house at Vinton, April 19, 1861. John Shane was chairman of the meeting and W. W. Hanford secretary, and while the committee on resolutions were preparing their reports stirring speeches were made by the chairman, Russell Jones, Col. G. W. Sells, W. F. Pickerell and J. S. Hunt. In these days it does not appear that there was anything particularly striking in the resolutions adopted by the meeting, but the last of them indicated more particularly the practical and earnest spirit of those who participated. This was to the effect "That as citizens of Vinton, we hereby pledge ourselves to defray the expenses necessary in procuring uniforms and an outfit for a volunteer company to be raised in Benton county, to protect the Government of the United States, the Constitution and enforce the laws."

FIRST TO ENLIST IN THE COUNTY.

W. C. Connell announced that he would head the list of this first company and he, with J. S. Hunt and W. A. Walker, were appointed a committee to recruit it. On Saturday, April 20th, an office was opened for that purpose at Connell and Vanatta's law office and a number enlisted. If any three men were to be selected as fairly representing the local enthusiasm and patriotism at this time, no better could be named than Messrs. Connell, Vanatta and J. W. Traer. On the following Tuesday after the recruiting office was opened, another enthusiastic meeting was held in the court house, at which the citizens of the county pledged themselves to maintain the families of all those who volunteered their service for the Civil war. This eventually had the effect of easing the minds of would-be volunteers, and several Bentonites enlisted very soon after the resolution was passed.

It is known that the first man to enlist in this pioneer company was W. C. Connell, who was closely followed by J. S. Hunt, W. S. Pickerell, M. Thompson, W. A. Walker, John Dempsey and Edwin Jenks. Several young men from Vinton who wished to be at the front at the earliest possible date, went to Cedar Rapids to enlist, believing that a larger city would be able sooner to complete its quota of troops. Among these were P. Murdock and George Reifenhahl, who enlisted in the First Iowa infantry. A few days after the court house meeting, the board of supervisors, in special session, pledged themselves to appropriate five hundred dollars to aid in the equipment of any company of volunteers which the county might raise, and on the last of the month, about two weeks

after Lincoln's first call for troops, the ladies of Vinton organized for the purpose of preparing lint and bandages for the use of any volunteers who should require them.

OFFICERS OF PIONEER COMPANY.

On May 4th the company, which had been raised met in the court house, and after taking an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States, elected the following officers: Captain, Jacob S. Hunt; first lieutenant, William C. Connell; second lieutenant, William F. Pickerell; third lieutenant, William A. Walker, and ensign, Jacob Metz. The non-commissioned officers afterward appointed were: J. A. McClure, orderly sergeant; Nathan Rice, second sergeant; David Barbett, third sergeant; John K. Raser, first corporal; R. H. Kirkpatrick, G. B. Mills, Samuel Oberlander, corporals; Arke Jenks, fifer; J. R. Boyd, drummer; James E. White, bass drummer. It is but just to add that Mr. Connell, who had been elected first lieutenant of the company, was prevented from going to the front by the serious illness of his wife.

In response to President Lincoln's second call for troops to the number of 85,000, Benton county held another grand union rally at the court house on the 1st of May. The preamble to the resolutions adopted indicates that the second company was being formed at Vinton and that its citizens were unanimously in favor of the state appropriation of \$500,000 to carry out the provisions of the proposed military law which would require available men between eighteen and forty-five to enroll themselves in the state of Iowa.

PARKER'S GROVE AND HICKORY GROVE.

Outside of Vinton at this early period, Parker's Grove and Hickory Grove were especially active. At the former place a company of Home Guards was promptly raised and at Hickory Grove the ladies made one of the first flags turned out by the patriots of the county. On May 5th it was raised, amid an enthusiastic gathering, and Isaiah Morris read an original poem which he had written for the occasion. A few days afterwards the citizens of Harrison formed a company of riflemen called the Harrison Rangers, whose special object was to repel any invasion of the soil of Iowa, and a similar company was also organized in Eden township.

"BOYS IN BLUE" HAD TO BE UNIFORMED.

Before the "boys in blue" from Benton county could really start for the front, considerable work was still required on the part of the ladies, as they did not intend to see their representatives enter the field only half clad. On the 16th of May the cloth for the uniforms of the Benton county volunteers arrived, and three days afterward the ladies met at Rev. N. C. Robinson's church and made arrangements to manufacture the raw material into appropriate garments. The uniforms having been completed for the Benton county volunteers on the evening of July 8th, the people gathered at the Presbyterian church for the purpose of bidding them farewell and Godspeed. Not only were the Union boys given the support of enthusiastic and affectionate speeches, but each was presented with a New Testament to take with him wherever fate should lead. On the following morning the streets were alive with men, women and children, who were assembled to take a last look at those who were to start for the front. At about eleven o'clock the volunteers were drawn up in front of the Shields House, and B. R. Sherman, in behalf of the ladies, presented the company with the Stars and Stripes. Lieutenant Pickerell fittingly responded to the president's speech in behalf of this company. Having been equipped with clothing, New Testaments and the Union flag, another necessary presentation remained to be made. This was done by Messrs. Douglas and Sells in the form of impressive revolvers, which were received with thanks by Capt. Hunt, Lieutenants Pickerell and Overlander. Judge Douglas further donated sixty-four pairs of shoes, following which the captain called the roll of the company. The several persons who failed to report were then and there branded as cowards. The ceremonies concluded, the Benton county volunteers, escorted by the Vinton brass band, took up their line of march for the opposite side of the river, where wagons waited to convey them to Independence, whence they were to be taken by train to Dubuque and thence by boat to Burlington, where they were mustered into service as Company G, Fifth Iowa Volunteers.

COMPANY G, FIFTH IOWA VOLUNTEERS.

Company G, with others of the Fifth Infantry, were mustered into the service of the United States at Burlington on the 15th of July, 1861. On August 2nd, they were ordered to Keokuk.

Iowa, from which point they were sent into Missouri in pursuit of bushwhackers. Not finding much "doing" in this line, after a few days they were ordered to St. Louis, and thence to Jefferson City, Missouri, and Booneville, Missouri. They then participated in the pursuit of the rebel army under Price to Springfield, Missouri, but really did not have their first skirmish with the enemy until the following February. This occurred at New Madrid, Missouri. Later they took part in the operations at Pittsburg Landing, and at Corinth, and upon the evacuation of the latter place they followed the Confederates to Rienzi. On September 19, 1862, they took part in the battle of Iuka, where the Fifth regiment especially distinguished itself, and was highly complimented by the commanding general of the Union army. The regiment was ordered to support a battery which was threatened by a greatly superior force of the Confederates. It was at one time captured, but the Fifth retook it with terrible loss to Company A, which, out of forty-three men, lost twenty-seven in killed and wounded. Company G constantly upheld the fortunes of the Fifth Infantry, during the pursuit of the rebels after the battle of Corinth as well as in the expedition against Vicksburg. They took part in the battle of Champion Hill and the siege of Vicksburg and in September, after they had been transferred to the Seventeenth Army Corps, had the honor of doing their good part in the battle of Chickamauga. In this terrible engagement the Fifth regiment lost thirty men in killed and wounded and eight officers and seventy-six men captured, leaving only sixty-five men in the entire command to answer the rolleall on the evening of the conflict. The regiment spent the winter of 1863-4 at Huntsville, Alabama, and in April, 1864, the veterans went home on a furlough, and on their return were placed on the railroads to do guard duty at Kingston, Georgia. They pursued the Confederate cavalry led by General Wheeler in his last raid upon the rear of Sherman's army in June, 1864. During that time they traveled north nearly nine hundred miles and were for three weeks without blankets or change of clothing. About the last of July, 1864, the non-veterans of the regiment were mustered out of the service, leaving one hundred and eighty men and eleven officers. The privates were transferred to the Fifth Iowa Cavalry, leaving the officers without a command; the latter being mustered out of the service September 28, 1864, at General Kilpatrick's headquarters, fifteen miles south of Atlanta, Georgia.

ROSTER OF COMPANY G.

The members of Company G, Benton county's first command, were as follows:

*Captain Jacob S. Hunt, com. 1861, resd. January 14, 1862.

Captain Wm. F. Piekerell, com. first lieutenant, 1861, prmtd. captain, January 15, 1862, taken prisoner at Missionary Ridge, November 25, 1863, hon. disd. December 19, 1864.

Second Lieutenant Samuel Overlander, com. 1861, resd. January 29, 1862.

Second Lieutenant Charles L. Summers, e. as sergeant, June 24, 1861, prmtd. to first sergeant, then second lieutenant, February 1, 1862, resd. September 3, 1862.

Second Lieutenant John E. Pangburn, e. as sergeant January 24, 1861, prmtd. to first sergeant, then second lieutenant September 4, 1862, wd. at Iuka, disd. November 18, 1863.

Sergeant Edwin Jenks, e. June 24, 1861, disd. April 26, 1862, disab.

Sergeant Daniel W. Artist, e. June 24, 1861, kld. in battle Champion Hills.

Sergeant Jacob Wetz, e. June 24, 1861, disd. December 18, 1862, disab.

Sergeant Basil H. Martin, e. June 24, 1861, wd. at Iuka.

Sergeant Morgan Pratt, e. June 24, 1861, captd. at Chattanooga.

Sergeant A. S. Mossman, e. June 24, 1861, wd. at Champion Hills, captd. at Missionary Ridge.

Sergeant William Graham, e. June 15, 1861, captd. at Chattanooga.

Sergeant A. Campbell, e. June 24, 1861, wd. at Iuka, trans. to Inv. Corps.

Corporal W. S. Robbins, e. June 24, 1861.

Corporal Edw. Cadman, e. June 24, 1861, wd. at Champion Hills, disd. October 29, 1862.

Corporal Lyman H. Starks, e. June 24, 1861.

Corporal Milton Cox, e. June 15, 1861, disd. February 13, 1862.

Corporal H. A. Day, e. June 24, 1861, disd.

*Key to Contractions. Captd., captured; cav., cavalry; com., commission; desrtd., deserted; disab., disabled; disd., discharged; e., enlisted; exch., exchanged; hon. disd., honorably discharged; kld., killed; m. o., mustered out; prisr., prisoner; prmtd., promoted; re-e., re-enlisted; resd., resigned; trans., transferred; vet., veteran; wd., wounded.

Corporal Patrick Downey, e. June 15, 1861, wd. at Champion Hills, died at Davenport December 16, 1863.

Corporal Simon Wood, e. June 24, 1861, died at Boonville, Mo., November 9, 1861.

Corporal Edward D. Cox, e. June 15, 1861, captd. at Chattanooga.

Corporal Thomas Shields, e. June 24, 1861, wd. at Tunnel Hills, died at Chattanooga December 14, 1863, wds.

Corporal Philo D. Wilson, e. June 24, 1861, wd. at Champion Hills, captd. at Chattanooga.

Musician William Miskimmons, e. June 24, 1861.

Wagoner John Magill, e. November 1861, disd. October 14, 1862, disab.

Brainard, James, e. July 15, 1861.

Blakely, Edw. C., e. July 15, 1861.

Baldwin, James E., e. July 15, 1861.

Bain, John E., e. March 11, 1861.

Binder, Benjamin E., e. September 6, 1862, kld. in action at Champion Hills, May 16, 1863.

Cox, Henry E., e. August 15, 1862, captd. at Chattanooga.

Campbell, Samuel, e. November 5, 1861, wd. at Vicksburg, disd. January 14, 1864, wds.

Cox, William, e. August 11, 1862, captd. at Chattanooga.

Cantonwine, David, e. August 15, 1862, captd. at Chattanooga.

Cagley, Jacob, e. August 11, 1862.

Clark, William F., e. July 15, 1861.

Cole, S. W., e. July 15, 1861, trans. to Inv. Corps.

Dermotte, L. E., e. July 15, 1861, captd. at Chattanooga.

Day, Henry A., e. July 15, 1861.

Dempsey, John, e. July 15, 1861, trans. to 36 Co. 1st Bat. Inv. Corps.

Ditch, Henry E., e. July 15, 1861, kld. in battle Iuka, September 19, 1862.

Ditch, David E., e. July 15, 1861.

Dowhs, Robert J., e. July 15, 1861, wd. at Vicksburg.

Eisenham, Nicholas, e. July 15, 1861, wd. at Champion Hills.

Frazer, Rufus E., e. July 15, 1861, disd. September 18, 1862, disab.

Gillispie, Steward, e. July 15, 1861, kld. at Champion Hills, May 16, 1863.

Hatfield, M. W., e. July 15, 1861.

Hatfield, Lewis S., e. July 15, 1861, captd. at Helena, Ark.

Henderson, John, e. July 15, 1861.

Houlenhan, Robert, e. August 27, 1862.

Holsey, N. Z., e. August 27, 1862, disd. June 11, 1863.

King, George, e. September 6, 1862, trans. to Inv. Corps.

Kabrick, Peter, e. July 15, 1861, died April 3, 1862, at St. Louis.

Lane, Isaac, e. July 15, 1861.

Lebsch, John, e. August 11, 1862.

Martin, A. W., e. August 7, 1862, wd. at Champion Hills, died at Cairo, September 19, 1863.

Matthews, James, e. August 11, 1862.

Meehan, Augustus, e. August 27, 1862, wd. at Champion Hills.

Mount, Wm. M., e. July 15, 1861.

McCoy, George B., e. July 15, 1861, captd. at Chattanooga.

Moosman, Harrison, November 5, 1861.

Meyers, Emanuel, e. July 24, 1861, captd. at Chattanooga.

Moody, James, e. July 24, 1861.

Miskimmons, Lewis, e. June 24, 1861.

Miskimmons, Joseph, e. June 24, 1861, wd. at Iuka.

Miskimmons, James M., e. September 23, 1862, wd. at Iuka.

McLaughlin, Thomas, e. June 24, 1861.

Norton, Alexander, e. June 24, 1861.

Onstott, David, e. June 24, 1861.

Portor, Richard, e. June 24, 1861.

Pratt, Milo, e. September 6, 1862.

Stewart, Isaac H., e. June 24, 1861, died at Mt. Vernon, Ind., July, 1862.

Stewart, Wm., e. June 24, 1861.

Strawn, S. H., e. June 24, 1861.

Strawn, Elijah, e. June 24, 1861.

Scott, James C., e. June 24, 1861.

Sexton, Thomas, e. June 24, 1861.

Thompson, Martin, e. June 24, 1861, capt'd. at Chattanooga.

Taylor, L. D., e. June 24, 1861.

Van Horn, Arthur, e. June 24, 1861, disd. July, 1862, disab.

Williams, James G., e. June 24, 1861, died November 16, 1861, at Otterville, Mo.

Waitman, John, e. June 24, 1861, died September 27, 1862, of wds. received at Iuka.

Webb, John C., e. June 24, 1861.

White, John, e. June 24, 1861.

COMPANY D, EIGHTH INFANTRY.

Mention has been made of the organization of the Harrison Rangers, on August 2d, after the disastrous battle of Bull Run, this command while parading the streets of Vinton, was ordered to rendezvous at Davenport, as soon as its ranks were full. Soon afterward the Rangers went to that city and were incorporated into the Eighth infantry as Company D. The regiment was organized in September, Frederick Steele being appointed colonel, and James L. Geddes, a brave Scotchman of Benton county, was made lieutenant colonel. Soon afterward the Fifth was ordered to St. Louis and thence to Syracuse, where it joined General Fremont's army in pursuit of Price, in southwestern Missouri. This campaign was particularly hard on unexperienced troops such as the Eighth regiment, and many died from exhaustion and exposure. The Eighth Iowa lost heavily in this regard and returned to Sedalia, Missouri, near the middle of November.

In February, 1862, Colonel Steele was promoted to brigadier general of volunteers and Lieutenant Colonel Geddes became colonel of the regiment. In the meantime the regiment had joined General Grant's forces in Tennessee, and on the 12th of March, 1862, embarked at St. Louis for Pittsburg Landing, arriving five

days afterwards with a loss of three men killed and five wounded, while steaming up the Tennessee river. At Shiloh, April 6th, both of the regiments fought heroically for ten consecutive hours, the Eighth being overpowered by the enemy and captured as a body. The few who were not made prisoners were incorporated in the "Union Brigade" and distinguished themselves at the battle of Corinth. Early in 1863 the regiment was reorganized in St. Louis, and left the first week in April to participate in the siege of Vicksburg under Grant. It participated in the terrific assault on the 22nd and in the stubborn siege of thirty days. The Eighth was with Sherman in his movements against Jackson and during the operations of this campaign Colonel Geddes commanded the brigade. Returning to Vicksburg, for a period of rest, the regiment suffered the loss of Lieutenant Colonel Ferguson, who died of disease at that place.

GRAND HOME RECEPTION.

A short while after its return to Vicksburg a large portion of the command had reenlisted, and the regiment went home on veteran furlough, Company D arriving at Vinton on March 25, 1864. The surviving heroes were accorded a grand ovation at the court house, which was packed to its utmost. Judge C. H. Conklin made the address of welcome, which was feelingly responded to by Colonels Geddes and Shaw. Music was furnished by Professor Price and his band, and the following song given by Mr. Chapin, was heartily rendered:

Roll the drum, fire the gun,
 Make the welkin ring;
 Set the bonfires burning,
 For the soldiers returning
 Home, sweet home.

See, they come! mothers run,
 Wives and sweethearts all;
 Oh! how the heart goes throbbing
 To see the blue-coats bobbing
 Home, sweet home.

Welcome, boys! welcome, boys!
 Welcome back to your home!

Long have we waited to meet you
And we are happy to greet you
Home, sweet home.

Rally all, great and small,
Give our brave boys a cheer,
Who for the Union are fighting,
And sending the rebels a-kiting,
Home, dismal home.

Drop a tear, comrades dear,
For our brothers absent now;
Who have gone from the din of battle,
Where the loud cannons rattle,
Home, heavenly home.

When in peace wars shall cease,
And Freedom take her stand,
With the Star-Spangled Banner o'er us,
We'll sing that happy old chorus,
"Home, sweet home."

It is said that nearly every township in the county contributed to the elaborate banquet which was served to the returned Union boys at the Tremont House, and nearly five hundred persons sat down to the feast. The last hour of the reunion and welcome was marred by a sad accident, for by a premature discharge of a cannon Alexander Sbiels lost the sight of both eyes.

At the expiration of their furlough, members of Company D and others of the Eighth Infantry again joined the Union army above Memphis, where the regiment was stationed as provost guard during the remainder of 1864 and the first two months of 1865. On the 21st of August, 1864, Forrest, the Confederate cavalry officer, was repulsed from Memphis, the salvation of the city being largely credited to Colonel Geddes and his brave command. The regiment lost forty men in this affair, and early in March, 1865, was ordered to New Orleans. Thence it was sent to Dauphin Island, where it soon joined in the last general campaign of the war, that against Mobile. In these operations the Eighth distinguished itself in the assault on Spanish Fort, where it captured several hundred prisoners.

BENTON COUNTY BOYS IN THE EIGHTH.

Benton county soldiers were most largely represented in Company D, of the Eighth Infantry, as is evident by the following roster:

Captain Alexander Harer, e. as sergeant August 14, 1861, prmtd. first sergeant, then second lieutenant, December 15, 1861, prmtd. first lieutenant April 19, 1863, prmtd. captain November 15, 1865.

First Lieutenant Jacob L. Tinkham, e. as private August 14, 1861, prmtd. first sergeant April 19, 1863, wd. at Memphis, August 21, 1864, prmtd. first lieutenant November 15, 1865.

Second Lieutenant John W. McGuire, com. September 23, 1861, resd. December 9, 1861.

Sergeant John J. Legan, e. August 14, 1861, disd. February 25, 1865, disab.

Sergeant Douglas W. Marsy, e. August 14, 1861, captain at Shiloh, disd. February 13, 1863.

Sergeant Robt. M. Forsyth, e. August 14, 1861, disd. February 1, 1862, disab.

Sergeant John Brown, e. August 14, 1861, disd. June 9, 1863, disab.

Sergeant Moses A. Ames, e. August 14, 1861, captain at Shiloh, died.

Sergeant W. H. Ostrander, e. August 14, 1861, trans. to 88th U. S. col. troops for promotion.

Sergeant John Montgomery, e. August 14, 1861, capt'd. at Shiloh, vet. January 1, 1864.

Corporal Samuel B. Jones, e. August 14, 1861, wd. and capt'd. at Shiloh, disd. February 13, 1863, wds.

Corporal H. C. Montgomery, e. August 14, 1861, capt'd. at Shiloh, vet. re-e. January 1, 1864, sergeant.

Corporal R. H. Kirkpatrick, e. August 14, 1861, wd. and capt'd. June 1, 1862, at Keokuk.

Corporal Jesse L. Bigley, e. August 14, 1861, wd. at Shiloh, and Corinth, sergeant, vet. January 1, 1864.

Corporal Chas. Knapp, e. August 14, 1861, capt'd. at Shiloh, vet. January 1, 1864.

Corporal Daniel P. Marshal, e. August 14, 1861, disd. March 13, 1862, disab.

Corporal Samuel Smith, e. August 14, 1861, kld. April 6, 1862, at battle of Shiloh.

Musician Jos. P. Skea, e. August 14, 1861, vet. January 1, 1864.

Wagoner John Daniels, e. August 14, 1861, dishonorably disd. February 1, 1862.

Alden, H. L., vet. January 1, 1864.

Blakeley, L. M., e. August 14, 1861, wd. at Shiloh, kld. at Cerinth, October 3, 1862.

Brown, C. W., e. August 14, 1861, disd. February, 1862, disab.

Chambers, McHenry, e. August 14, 1861, captd. at Shiloh, vet. January 1, 1863.

Churchill, Henry, e. August 14, 1861, captd. at Shiloh, disd. February 16, 1863.

Dalloway, W. S., e. August 14, 1861, captd. at Shiloh, disd. February 7, 1863, disab.

Drinkwater, Wm., e. February 10, 1864.

Dudgeon, Thomas, e. August 14, 1861, died December 6, 1862, at Sedalia, Mo.

Davis, Geo. C., vet. January 1, 1864.

Dempsey, Wm., e. August 14, 1861, died December 6, 1862, at Sedalia, Mo.

Forsythe, John E., e. August 14, 1861, captd. at Shiloh, vet. January 1, 1864.

Gill, Alfred, e. August 14, 1861, captd. at Shiloh, vet. January 1, 1864.

Gardner, Jno. H., e. April 25, 1864.

Gingery, Daniel, e. August 14, 1861, disd. June 13, 1862, disab.

Geaton, George, e. August 14, 1861, captd. at Shiloh, vet. January 1, 1864.

Heath, Jos. Y., e. August 14, 1861, captd. at Shiloh, vet. January 1, 1864.

Holt, Geo. A., e. August 14, 1861, died near Fairfield, Mo., November 13, 1861.

Hines, Lewis, e. February 1, 1864.

Hines, Wm. E., e. August 14, 1861, vet. January 1, 1864.

Harper, Alex., e. February 22, 1864, died at Montgomery, Ala.,

July 24, 1865.

Horton, C. T., e. August 14, 1861.

Harper, Daniel M., e. February 27, 1864, died at Vinton, January 5, 1865.

Hendrix, L. T., e. August 14, 1861, wd. at Corinth, vet. January 1, 1864.

Johnson, James, e. August 14, 1861, disd. March 16, 1862, disab.

Kimball, Geo. C., e. August 14, 1861, captd. at Shiloh, vet. January 1, 1864, died at Memphis, October 29, 1864.

McCoy, Wm., e. August 14, 1861, disd.

Mossman, Thos. J., e. August 14, 1861, disd. April 26, 1862, disab.

Miskimeu, H. H., e. August 14, 1861, captd. at Shiloh, disd. September 2, 1864.

Moody, Wm., e. August, 1861, captd. at Shiloh, vet. January 1, 1864.

Meeker, T., e. August 14, 1861, disd. March 13, 1862, disab.

Morrison, John, e. August 14, 1861, vet. January 1, 1864.

Miller, John Y., e. August 14, 1861, captd. at Shiloh, trans. to Invalid Corps.

Moorhead, T., e. August 14, 1861, captd. at Shiloh, vet. January 1, 1864.

Moody, Absalom, e. August 14, 1861, captd. at Shiloh, died December 1, 1863, at Pocahontas, Tenn.

Pratt, A., e. January 5, 1864, kld. at Tuskegee, Ala., October 23, 1865, murdered.

Parsell, John P., e. August 14, 1861, captd. at Shiloh, trans. to Invalid Corps.

Richard, Samuel M., e. August 14, 1861, captd. at Shiloh, vet. January 1, 1864.

Revel, James R., e. February 27, 1864.

Steel, John, vet. January 1, 1864, disd. April 5, 1866, disab.

Thomas, Albert, e. August 14, 1861, captd. at Shiloh, vet. January 1, 1864.

Tinkham, Jacob L., e. August 14, 1861, captd. at Shiloh.

Wood, Wm., e. August 14, 1861, disd. January 15, 1862, disab.

Company B included the following men from Benton county:
Dunklee, Martin, e. December 12, 1863, died at Helena, Ark.,
March 24, 1864.

Merritt, Amos, e. September 15, 1861, wd. at Shiloh.

Moody, John, e. September 15, 1861, wd. at Shiloh.

Moody, Robt. D., e. September 15, 1861, kld. at battle of
Shiloh, April 6, 1862.

Myers, Edward H., e. September 15, 1861, disd. January 30,
1862, disab.

Penrose, Wm., e. September 15, 1861, kld. April 6, 1862, at
battle of Shiloh.

Rice, John, e. September 15, 1861, captd. at Shiloh, re-e. as
vet. January 1, 1864.

Reese, Wm., e. November 27, 1863, died at Memphis June 26,
1864.

White, Tobias D., e. September 15, 1861, disd. disab.

In Company F of that regiment, the only representative from
Benton county was Captain John C. Kennan, who was commissioned
first lieutenant of Company D, September 23, 1861; was taken
prisoner at the battle of Shiloh; promoted captain of Company F,
April 18, 1863, and honorably discharged November 1, 1864.

Company G included among its officers and privates the fol-
lowing from Benton county:

Sergeant John T. Hanna, e. September 3, 1861, vet. January
1, 1864, disd. for promotion March 17, 1864.

Sergeant J. W. Hopkins, e. September 3, 1861, captd. at Shiloh,
vet. January 1, 1864, kld. accidentally March 22, 1864.

Chamberlain, N. J., e. September 3, 1861, captd. at Shiloh, vet.
January 1, 1864.

Greenlee, Thos. F., e. September 3, 1861, captd. at Shiloh.

Jones, Wm. E., e. October 22, 1864.

Smith, Samuel S., e. September 3, 1861, disd. October, 1862.

Wyley, C., e. October 24, 1864.

COMPANY D, TWELFTH INFANTRY.

Twenty-six men, both officers and privates, who were members of Company D, Twelfth Regiment, from Benton county, saw their first active service at Fort Donelson, being recruited late in the summer of 1861, and it was one of the three Iowa regiments captured by the Confederates at Shiloh. The Twelfth and Fourteenth were in support of a battery, and having no orders to fall back were surrounded by the enemy. After several hours of desperate fighting, in which Colonel Woods of the Twelfth was seriously wounded, it was obliged to surrender. Sixteen of its men were killed, ninety-seven wounded and four hundred captured. Those of the Eighth, Twelfth and Fourteenth Iowa who were not made prisoners of war, were organized into the Union Brigade of which the Twelfth formed Companies E and K.

At the battle of Corinth, the Twelfth Iowa lost three killed and twenty-five wounded of the eighty men engaged, and in December, 1862, the Union Brigade was discontinued and the survivors of the Eighth, Twelfth and Fourteenth Iowa regiments, with those who had been paroled, assembled at Davenport, Iowa, and reorganized into their former commands. Subsequently the Eighteenth took part in the siege of Vicksburg, in the battle of Nashville and in the pursuit of Hood, as well as in the final expedition against Mobile and the heroic assault on Spanish Fort. During its entire service the Twelfth was in twenty-three battles; was under fire one hundred and twelve days, and had ninety-five men killed in battle.

ROSTER OF COMPANY D.

Second Lieutenant Robert W. Hilton, e. as first sergeant September 20, 1861, promtd. second lieutenant April 8, 1862, taken prisr. battle Shiloh, took oath of allegiance to Confederate states, com. ret.

Sergeant Howard Pangborn, e. September 24, 1861, wd. and captd. battle of Shiloh, vet. December 25, 1864.

Sergeant A. C. Blood, e. September 20, 1861, formerly private Company K, First Infantry, disd. December 18, 1862, disab.

Corporal James L. Cowell, e. September 24, 1861, wd. near Tupelo.

Blackburn, Jos. M., e. October 8, 1861, disd. January 30, 1862.

Barr, Thos., e. October 14, 1861, wd. at Shiloh.

Cowell, Robert C., e. September 25, 1861, wd. at Shiloh.

Dubois, Ferdinand, e. October 8, 1861, capt'd. at Shiloh, vet. January 1, 1864.

Doolittle, W. A., e. September 28, 1861, disd. July 8, 1862, disab.

Ellgen, Harmon, e. December 27, 1863.

Grass, Harmon, e. September 23, 1861, capt'd. at Shiloh, vet. December 25, 1864.

Gilchrist, W. B., e. September 23, 1861, disd. October 14, 1862, disab.

Haradon, Henry, e. September 20, 1861, died January 15, 1862 at St. Louis.

Jacques, John L., e. September 20, 1861, died at St. Louis January 12, 1862.

Johnson, Robt. L., e. October 8, 1861, capt'd. at Shiloh, vet. December 25, 1864.

Lee, John S., e. September 23, 1861, died January 12, 1862, at St. Louis.

Lee, Wm. L., e. September 23, 1861, capt'd. at Shiloh.

Luther, Daniel, e. September 28, 1861, kld. at battle of Shiloh.

Luther, John, e. September 28, 1861, capt'd. at battle of Shiloh, vet. December 25, 1864.

Lambert, John B., e. September 25, 1861, vet. December 25, 1864.

Minor, D. W., e. September 28, 1861, capt'd. at Shiloh, vet. December 25, 1864.

May, John D., e. September 28, 1861, wd. at Corinth and died October 19, 1862.

Mather, Uel. e. September 28, 1861, died at St. Louis, January 21, 1862.

Scott, Josiah, e. September 28, 1861, capt'd. at Shiloh, vet. December 25, 1864.

Tarpening, James M., c. October 8, 1861, captd. at Shiloh.

Van Emman, Wm. M., c. September 28, 1861, disd. March 29, 1862.

COMPANIES G AND E.

Company G, of the Thirteenth Iowa Infantry, was raised entirely in Benton county, the regiment being commanded from March, 1863, to November, 1864, by Colonel John Shane of Vinton. Early in September, 1861, Mr. Shane organized a cavalry company of which he was elected captain, with James H. Shutts, first lieutenant, and William A. Walker, second lieutenant. The company was organized as the Benton Guards; in October left Vinton in command of Captain Shane for Camp McClellan at Davenport; and there was incorporated into the service as Company G, Thirteenth Iowa Infantry. The regiment was formally mustered into the service November 2, 1861. Captain Chambers, the mustering officer, rejected a few men, but the regiment reached Davenport with a strength of eight hundred and ninety-nine men, and this number was soon afterward increased, by enlistments, to nine hundred and eighty-nine. The regiment went into the field with Marcellus M. Crocker, formerly of the Second regiment as colonel; Milton M. Price, lieutenant colonel, and John Shane, major. When the men had been supplied with clothing and otherwise fully equipped, the regiment was ordered to Benton Barracks, Missouri, where it remained until December 11th, when it was ordered to Jefferson city, where it performed garrison duty during the winter. During this time Colonel Crocker and his officers put the privates through a thorough course of instructions and drill, several hours being devoted to these matters each day. The result was that in March, when the regiment received orders to report to General Grant at Pittsburg Landing, the Thirteenth Infantry was well fitted for the practical duties of warfare. It arrived at Pittsburg Landing on the 23d of that month, and, with the Eleventh Iowa, and the Eighth and Eighteenth Illinois regiments, was constituted the First Brigade under Colonel Richard Oglesby, afterward Governor of Illinois. On the first day of the battle of Shiloh, the regiment was under fire for ten hours, both Lieutenant Colonel Price and Major Shane being wounded, and the regiment suffered a total loss of twenty-four killed, one hundred and thirty-nine wounded and nine missing. A few days after this terrible en-

engagement the army was re-organized, and the Thirteenth was attached to the Third brigade, composed of the Eleventh, Thirteenth, Fifteenth and Sixteenth Iowa regiments. This was commanded by Colonel M. M. Crocker and was known as the Iowa brigade. About this time Lieutenant Colonel Price resigned and Major Shane was promoted to be lieutenant colonel, his commission dating from April 17, 1862. The command participated in the siege of Corinth, until the early part of November, when it joined the campaign under General Grant against Vicksburg. Upon the promotion of Colonel Crocker to be brigadier general, Lieutenant Colonel Shane was commissioned colonel of the Thirteenth, his service as head of the regiment commencing March 13, 1863, and continuing until the expiration of his term of enlistment, November 9, 1864. During most of the campaign around Vicksburg, the Iowa brigade became famous for its remarkable staying qualities, as well as for its celerity of movement, and acquired the name of "Crocker's Grayhounds." It was part of Sherman's army of observation, and July 4, 1863, when Vicksburg was surrendered to Grant, the Thirteenth was skirmishing with Johnston's Confederate army at Big Black river. In August it co-operated with a portion of the Union navy in wrecking and dismantling gunboats which had been sunk by rebel torpedoes in Yazoo river. In September it went into quarters at Vicksburg and from February to March, 1864, was a portion of General Sherman's forces in his famous raid on Meridian. On its return from this campaign most of the men reenlisted as veterans, were given a thirty days' furlough, and on the 7th of March started for their Iowa homes.

Company G sent a representation of forty-seven members, who reached Vinton on the 18th. The same evening a meeting of citizens was held at the court house for the purpose of arranging a fitting welcome to the boys who had so valiantly conducted themselves and who had had the further courage to reenlist for whatever might happen, until the conclusion of the war. Ten committees, composed of men and women, were selected to make arrangements for both the reception at the court house and the banquet at Tremont House. As already stated, the surviving members of Company D, Eighth Infantry, also arrived on veteran furlough on the 25th, so that both companies were honored by this enthusiastic outpouring of the men, women and children of Vinton.

On the 16th of April, the Thirteenth Infantry was reunited, and on the 8th of June joined Sherman's army at Ackworth, Georgia. It took part in the engagement at Kenesaw Mountain.

and was almost continuously under fire until July 20th, when it was assigned to a position about three miles from Atlanta. On the 21st, in a splendid assault on one of the rebel forces, the Iowa brigade, under Colonel Shano, lost two hundred and twenty-six men in twenty-seven minutes; again suffering severely on the 22d, and on the 28th distinguishing itself in the successful repulse of a fierce assault of the enemy against a vital portion of the Union lines. It participated in Sherman's march to the sea, and a portion of the regiment, under Lieutenant Colonel Kennedy, entered Columbia and hoisted the stars and stripes on the South Carolina capitol. As a regiment it was finally mustered out with all the usual honors of war accorded to brave men, on July 28 and 29, 1865.

Major William A. Walker, of Vinton, was one of the brave soldiers from Benton county, who lost his life near Atlanta, his death in battle occurring July 22, 1864. He had been commissioned second lieutenant of Company G, October 28, 1861; was promoted captain three days later, and became major of his regiment March 13, 1863. The other general officers, who went from the county, were as follows: Newell C. Keyes, who became corporal of Company G, September 27, 1861, was wounded at Shiloh and commissioned quartermaster November 11, 1864; and William H. Buchan, who enlisted January 2, 1864, was promoted corporal and wounded near Atlanta.

COMPANY G'S ROSTER.

Captain Charles E. Putnam, e. as corporal September 27, 1861, prmtd. second lieutenant October 31, 1861, prmtd. first lieutenant April 19, 1862, prmtd. captain March 13, 1863, resd. October 22, 1864.

Captain James E. White, e. in 1861, prmtd. first sergeant, prmtd. second lieutenant, April 29, 1863, wd. near Atlanta July 21, 1864, prmtd. first lieutenant October 5, 1864, prmtd. captain January 1, 1865.

First Lieutenant James H. Shutts, com. October 28, 1861, resd. April 18, 1862.

First Lieutenant Geo. F. Ross, e. as first sergeant September 27, 1861, prmtd. second lieutenant April 18, 1862, wd. at Corinth, prmtd. first lieutenant March 13, 1863, resd. from 2d lieutenant April 28, 1863, on account of wds. received at battle of Corinth.

First Lieutenant John Ridge, e. as corporal September 27,

1861, prmtd. first sergeant, prmtd. second lieutenant March 13, 1863, prmtd. first lieutenant April 29, 1863, wd. near Atlanta, Ga., July 20, and died of wds. at Louisville October 4, 1864.

First Lieutenant John Starkweather, e. as sergeant September 27, 1861, prmtd. first sergeant, then second lieutenant October 6, 1864, prmtd. first lieutenant January 1, 1865, wd. at Atlanta.

Second Lieutenant Henry N. Palmer, e. as private September 27, 1861, wd. near Atlanta, prmtd. sergeant, com. second lieutenant June 7, 1865, mo. as sergeant.

Sergeant Wesley Whipple, e. September 27, 1861, died at Corinth July 3, 1862.

Sergeant Robert B. Durand, e. September 27, 1861, wd. at Shiloh, vet. January 1, 1864, kld. near Atlanta, July 21, 1864.

Sergeant A. R. Kennedy, e. September 27, 1861, disd. July 29, 1862.

Sergeant Frederick Lyman, e. September 27, 1861, prmtd. sergeant major June 15, 1862, wd. at Corinth.

Sergeant Ed. P. Forsyth, e. September 27, 1861, vet. January 1, 1864, wd. near Atlanta, died at Chattanooga November 1, 1864, of wds.

Sergeant Philip Murdock, e. September 27, 1861, vet. January 1, 1864.

Sergeant Charles M. Martin, e. September 27, 1861, wd. at Shiloh, died June 7, 1864.

Sergeant Orzo Small, e. September 28, 1861, vet. January 1, 1864, wd., kld. in battle near Atlanta July 22, 1864.

Corporal R. Worthen, e. September 28, 1861, vet. January 1, 1864, capt'd. near Atlanta July 22, 1864.

Corporal John H. Gipe, e. September 27, 1861, vet. January 1, 1864, capt'd. near Atlanta.

Corporal Jos. L. Coppoe, e. September 27, 1861, trans. for promotion to captain Co. D, Eighth Louisiana, A. D.

Corporal D. D. Merchant, e. September 27, 1861, wd. at Shiloh, vet. January 1, 1864, kld. in battle near Atlanta, July 21, 1864.

Corporal Robt. L. Clingon, e. September 27, 1861, wd. near Atlanta.

Corporal Wm. H. La Rue, e. September 27, 1861.

Corporal Wm. Amburn, e. September 27, 1861, vet. January 1, 1864, wd. near Atlanta, prmtd.

Corporal Wm. Wilcox, e. September 27, 1861, vet. January 1, 1864, disd. March 17, 1865, disab.

Corporal Oscar Kendall, e. September 27, 1861, wd. at Corinth and died April 4, 1862.

Wagoner Samuel Williams, e. September 27, 1861, died June 5, 1862, at Corinth, Miss.

Amburn, J. T., e. December 22, 1863, capt'd. near Atlanta July 22, 1864.

Auld, Geo., e. September 27, 1861, vet. January 1, 1864.

Beckley, Edward, e. September 27, 1861, disd. October 22, 1862, disab.

Brown, H. J., vet. January 1, 1864.

Brown, A. H., e. September 27, 1861, vet. January 1, 1864, wd. near Atlanta.

Bysong, Samuel, e. September 27, 1861, vet. January 1, 1864.

Barker, Ruel, e. September 27, 1861, vet. November 30, 1863.

Brollear, Job, e. September 27, 1861, kld. at battle of Corinth October 3, 1862.

Bowen, Jas. H., e. September 27, 1861, disd. October 22, 1862, disab.

Buck, W. W., e. September 28, 1861, vet. January 1, 1864, wd. near Atlanta.

Barnum, Wm., e. September 27, 1861.

Black, George W., e. September 27, 1861, wd. at Shiloh, trans. to Marine brigade April 12, 1863.

Collin, Wm. H. H., e. March 30, 1864.

Catlin, Lewis L., e. September 27, 1861, vet. December 15, 1863, wd. at Falling Creek, N. C., March 21, 1864.

Cassell, T. K., e. December 19, 1863, disd. May 23, 1865.

Clark, Alvin, e. September 27, 1861, disd. August 2, 1863, disab.

Cuer, John P.

Dean, F., e. September 27, 1861, died May 17, 1862, on the steamer City of Memphis.

Dean, S. G., e. September 27, 1861, died at Camp Denison, O., May 12, 1862.

Dart, S. G., e. September 27, 1861, vet. December 15, 1863.

Day, Thomas G., e. September 28, 1861, vet. January 1, 1864, kld. near Atlanta, August 25, 1864.

Dearth, Jeremiah, e. September 27, 1861, wd. at Shiloh, disd. June 30, 1862, disa.

Engeldow, S. S., e. September 27, 1861, disd. March 7, 1862.

Ferrell, Edward, e. September 27, 1861, vet. January 1, 1864.
Fawcett, Wm. H., e. September 27, 1861.

Greer, James V., e. January 19, 1864, kld. in battle of Atlanta July 21, 1864.

Heller, Joel, e. September 27, 1861, vet. January, 1864.

Hayhurst, Elias, e. February 29, 1864, kld. near Atlanta August 11, 1864.

Hanna, Wm. S., e. September 27, 1861, wd. at Shiloh, also at Corinth, vet. January 1, 1864.

Hanna, John D., e. September 27, 1861, vet. January 1, 1864.

Hallock, Hiram, e. September 27, 1861, vet. January 1, 1864, kld. near Atlanta July 22, 1864.

Hussong, James M., vet. February 19, 1864, died at Evansville, Ind., July 23, 1864.

Hull, Jos., e. September 27, 1861, wd. and missing at Corinth, supposed to have been killed.

Hull, Jerome, e. September 27, 1861, vet. January 1, 1864, wd. near Atlanta.

Hull, Henry, e. September 27, 1861, vet. February 19, 1864.

Hoover, Benton, e. September 27, 1861, kld. near Atlanta July 21, 1864.

Howett, Jos., e. September 27, 1861, wd. at Corinth, vet. January 1, 1864.

Joyce, Jacob, e. September 27, 1861, vet. January 1, 1864.

Jackson, Wm. I., e. September 27, 1861, wd. at Shiloh and disd. October 10, 1862.

Lowell, Marion, e. January 29, 1864, died at Beaufort, N. C. March 18, 1865.

LaRue, Chambers, e. September 27, 1861, vet. January 1, 1864, wd. at Atlanta, trans. to V. R. C.

Lord, Lewis, e. December 17, 1863, capt'd. near Atlanta, died while a prisoner at Andersonville, September 6, 1864.

Lynch, Jeremiah, e. September 27, 1861, wd. at Vicksburg, vet. January 1, 1864.

McElroy, H. H., e. September 27, 1861, disd. April 27, 1863.

McCasland, Alex., e. September 27, 1861.

Marine, Wm. H. H., e. September 27, 1861, vet. December 15, 1863, kld. at Yazoo City.

Millage, James, e. September 27, 1861, died at Corinth, July 26, 1862.

Martin, S. C., e. September 27, 1861, kld. in battle of Shiloh April 6, 1862.

Pray, Robert J., e. September 27, 1861, wd. near Atlanta.

Rodabeck, Wm. S., e. September 27, 1861, vet. January 1, 1864.

Ritchey, J., e. September 27, 1861, vet. December 15, 1863, wd. near Atlanta.

Ridge, Alfred, e. September 27, 1861, disd. October 22, 1862.

Royce, Samuel J., e. September 28, 1861, wd. at Corinth, died November 1, 1862, of wds.

Roberts, Jos., e. September 27, 1861, vet. January 1, 1864, kld. near Atlanta July 21, 1863.

Ricketts, W. H., e. September 27, 1861, vet. January 1, 1864.

Schoonover, Jos. O., e. September 27, 1861, wd. at Shiloh, disd. August 23, 1862.

Sherman, W. B., e. September 28, 1861.

Shields, John C., e. September 27, 1861, vet. January 1, 1864.

Sells, George A., e. December 17, 1863, wd. at Atlanta, trans. for promotion in the 4th U. S. A. D. May 1, 1865.

Sims, Dwight, e. September 27, 1861, prmtd. dram major November 1, 1862, vet. January 1, 1864.

Shutts, L. E., e. December 25, 1863.

Simpson, W. J., e. September 27, 1861.

Smack, Simon, e. December 16, 1863, died at Marietta, Georgia, August 12, 1864.

Smock, D. D., e. September 27, 1861, vet. January 1, 1864.

Smock, Thos. C., e. September 27, 1861, wd. at Corinth, disd. November 9, 1862, vet. February 12, 1864, capt'd. near Atlanta.

Starbuck, John, e. March 7, 1864, died at Savannah, Georgia, January 21, 1865.

Skinner, Amasa, e. September 27, 1861, vet. January 1, 1864, wd. near Atlanta.

Trayer, J. B., e. September 27, 1861, kld. in battle of Corinth, October 3, 1862.

Toombs, Daniel, e. September 27, 1861, vet. January 1, 1864.

Turner, Wm., e. December 16, 1863.

Volgamore, J. M., e. September 27, 1861, vet. January 1, 1864.

Wallace, Jas. R., e. September 27, 1861, wd. near Atlanta.

Walker, S., e. December 16, 1863, capt'd. at Clifton, South Carolina.

Williams, W. C., e. September 27, 1861, died at Jefferson City, January 11, 1862.

Wilson, James, e. September 28, 1861, vet. January 1, 1864.

The following two Benton men served in Company E of the same regiment:

Captain Borea R. Sherman, e. as sergeant Company G September 27, 1861, prmtd. second lieutenant February 9, 1862, wd. at battle of Shiloh, prmtd. captain, April 17, 1862, resd. April 17, 1863.

Rice, Moses W., vet. February 19, 1864, wd. at Atlanta, July 22, 1864.

TWENTY-EIGHTH INFANTRY.

Two full companies, A. and D. were organized in Benton county for the Twenty-eighth Infantry—the former being commanded by Captain W. A. Gaston and the latter, by Captain S. P. Vanatta. The regiment went into camp at Iowa city, where it remained several weeks, and was mustered into service November 10, 1862, nine hundred and fifty-six strong. On the 20th it arrived at Helena, Arkansas, and here encountered one of the many trials of war in the shape of malaria and small-pox. In the following January, the men who were in good health participated in the expedition which ascended White river, to Duvall's Bluffs, and both during that campaign and for the balance of the winter, at Helena, the suffering from exposure and cold was very severe.

In the following April the Twenty-eighth joined the Vicksburg campaign, and was first under fire at Port Gibson, May 1st,

where it suffered the loss of one man killed and sixteen wounded. On the 16th the regiment fought bravely at the battle of Jackson, and earned the following words of praise from the division commander: "Scarcely more than six months in the service, and yet no troops ever showed more bravery or fought with more valor." At this engagement the regiment lost twenty-two killed, sixty-five wounded and thirteen missing, four companies coming out without commissioned officers. Reaching Vicksburg on the 27th of July, the regiment was soon afterward transferred to the Department of the Gulf, and in September the scene of its operations was transferred to western Louisiana. In the following spring it participated in Bank's expedition up the Red river, and at the battle of Sabine Cross Roads it lost eighty officers and men; its commanding officer Colonel Connell being severely wounded and captured. In the following July the Twenty-eighth joined Sheridan's army in the Shenandoah Valley and at the famous battle of Winchester lost ninety of its men. It captured a battery, ammunition and many prisoners at the battle of Fisher's Hill, and afterward fought throughout the battle of Cedar Creek, in the Fourth Brigade of Grover's Division. In January, 1865, it was ordered to Savannah, Georgia, where it performed garrison duty for several weeks, and, after the surrender of General Johnston, was transferred to Savannah, where it was mustered out July 1, 1865.

William P. Lathrop was the only general officer from Benton county connected with the Twenty-eighth, who was assistant surgeon of his regiment for several months in 1862. The roster of companies A and D composed of Benton county boys follows:

COMPANY A'S ROSTER.

Captain Wm. C. Gaston, com. October 10, 1862, resd. January 10, 1863.

Captain Jas. H. Shutts, com. First Lieutenant, October 10, 1862, prmtd. captain January 11, 1863 resd. June 9, 1863.

Captain John E. Palmer, com. second lieutenant October 10, 1862, prmtd. first lieutenant March 10, 1863, prmtd. captain June 10, 1863, kld. in battle of Opequah, September 19, 1864.

Captain John W. McGuire, e. as sergeant April 8, 1862 prmtd. first sergeant, prmtd. second lieutenant May 17, 1863, prmtd. first lieutenant June 10, 1863, prmtd. captain September 23, 1864.

First Lieutenant Samuel Taggart, e. as corporal July 28, 1862.

wd. at Champion Hills, prmtd. sergeant, then second lieutenant June 10, 1864, prmtd. first lieutenant September 23, 1864, wd. at battle of Cedar Creek, Virginia.

Second Lieutenant John Logan, e. first sergeant August 1, 1862, prmtd. second lieutenant March 10, 1863, kld. battle of Champion Hills, May 16, 1863.

Second Lieutenant Abraham Rose, e. as sergeant August 8, 1862, prmtd. second lieutenant June 10, 1863, disd. July 14, 1863 as first sergeant.

Second Lieutenant Wm. H. Murlin, e. as private August 8, 1862, wd. Cedar Creek, Virginia, com. second lieutenant July 18, 1865, m. o. as first sergeant.

Sergeant Chas. I. Barbour, e. August 8, 1861, disd. July 13, 1863, disab.

Sergeant A. W. Francis, e. August 9, 1861.

Sergeant Jos. White, e. August 5, 1861, kld. September 19, 1864, at battle of Winchester, Virginia.

Corporal James Lebew, e. August 10, 1861, disd. December 8, 1863.

Corporal E. F. Murphy, e. July 26, 1861, died July 4, 1863, at Memphis.

Corporal Geo. B. Hatfield, e. August 11, 1861, disd. March 2, 1863.

Corporal E. Smelser, e. August 4, 1861.

Corporal Wm. L. Parmeter, e. August 8, 1861, wd. at Champion Hills.

Corporal A. G. Green, e. August 8, 1861, died at Memphis, June 30, 1863.

Corporal A. H. Doane, e. July 31, 1861, wd. at Cedar Creek.

Corporal E. Ellyson, e. July 21, 1861, died at Helena, Arkansas, March 29, 1863.

Corporal E. B. Felker, e. August 6, 1861, wd. at Cedar Creek.

Corporal H. M. Worth, e. August 5, 1861, wd. at Champion Hills, Winchester and Cedar Creek.

Musician Pat. H. Skiffington, e. July 26, 1861.

Musician Wm. P. McGuire, e. July 12, 1861, died at Carrollton, Louisiana, August 28, 1863.

Anderson, John, e. August 10, 1862, died at St. Louis, June 23, 1863.

Butterfield, John, e. August 7, 1862.

Beller, B. H., e. August 9, 1862, wd. at Champion Hills, capt'd. at Opelousas, Louisiana, wd. at Winchester and Cedar Creek.

Booth, W. L., e. August 4, 1862, disd. May 31, 1863, disab.

Bruster, Smos. N., e. August 7, 1862, kld. at battle of Champion Hills, May 16, 1863.

Bowen Wm. H., e. August 1862, wd. at Champion Hills.

Bowen, David, e. August 8, 1862.

Boyden, John H., e. August 8, 1862, wd. at Champion Hills.

Burkhead, Geo. W., e. August 12, 1862.

Barnet, John, e. August 16, 1862.

Bruce, Jos. W., July 30, 1862.

Campbell, C., e. July 26, 1862.

Coder, P. M., e. August 1, 1862, wd. at Champion Hills.

Culp, T., e. August 8, 1862, kld. at battle of Cedar Creek, Virginia, October 19, 1864.

Culp, C., e. July 26, 1862.

Dodge, E. S., e. January 5, 1864, disb. February 1, 1865, disab.

Dure, J. C., e. August 4, 1862, wd. at Port Gibson, disd. December 6, 1863, disab.

Downs, Wm. G., e. August 6, 1862, died at Vicksburg, June 29, 1863.

Dickey, W. H., e. August 9, 1862, died at St. Louis, July 16, 1863.

Elder, Clark, e. August 1, 1862, kld. at Cedar Creek, October 19, 1864.

Ellis, Benj. F., e. August 9, 1862, wd. at Champion Hills, died at Memphis, July 4, 1863.

Flickinger, F. M., e. July 26, 1862, died at Helena, Arkansas, February 27, 1863.

Fetherkill, George M., e. August 4, 1862 capt'd. at Opelousas, Louisiana.

Finch, E. D., e. August 9, 1862.

Francis, Jas. S., e. August 6, 1862.

Francis, W. W., e. August 14, 1862.

Gingery, S., e. February 26, 1864, kld. October 19, 1864, at Cedar Creek, Virginia.

Gingry, William A., e. August 1862, wd. at Sabine Cross roads, Louisiana.

Harris, Jas. B., e. July 27, 1862, wd. at Port Gibson, died at Benton Barracks, m. o. August 29, 1863.

Houts, E. C., e. August 2, disd. August 19, 1863, disab.

Houts, A. C., e. August 12, 1862, captd. at Champion Hills, wd. and captd. at Sabine Cross Roads, La.

Hicks, Wm., e. Aug. 7, 1862, disd. February 4, 1863.

Hibbard, Wm., e. August 9, 1862.

Hull, J., e. August 7, 1862, died at Perkins Landing, La., May 16, 1863.

Heath, M. S., e. August 9, 1862, wd. on steamer Mississippi River and at Cedar Creek, Va.

Inman, Orville, e. August 7, 1862.

Jimmerson, J. B., e. August 8, 1862, kld. at Champion Hills, May 16, 1863.

Jackson, Hiram, e. July 26, 1862, died at Keokuk, August 26, 1863.

Jackson, Wm. M., e. August 3, 1862, died at Helena, Ark., December 30, 1862.

Jones, Jas. M., e. August 10, 1862.

Jones, Henry, e. August 8, 1862.

Kincer, Wm. e. August 4, 1862.

Kilpatrick, John M., e. August 9, 1862, disd. March 31, 1863, disab.

Kising, Jos. C., e. August 9, 1862, died January 6, 1863, at Helena, Ark.

Lott, Jas. H., e. August 4, 1862.

Lopp, A., e. January 5, 1864, kld. at Sabine Cross Roads, La.

Luther, Geo., e. August 12, 1862.

Lloyd, A. G., e. August 9, 1862, wd. at Champion Hills.

Murphy, James M., e. January 5, 1864, wd. at Cedar Creek.

Mecker, Lyman, e. July 21, 1862.

Mickey, John, e. August 3, 1862.

Mossman, F. H., e. August 9, 1862, killed at battle Champion Hills, May 16, 1863.

Miller, Isaac, e. August 7, 1862, died at Jefferson Barracks, February 14, 1863.

McBroom, Thos., e. August 7, 1862, disd. March 6, 1863, disab.

Myers, Martin, e. August 9, 1862, died at Vicksburg, May 6, 1863.

Patrick, Jos. S., e. August 7, 1862, died at Davenport, Iowa, November 18, 1862.

Rice, F. F., e. January 5, 1864, wd. at Cedar Creek, died at Martinsburg, Va., October 28, 1864.

Razor, Wm. W., e. August 9, 1862.

Remington, Wm., e. July 28, 1862.

Rucker, C., e. July 1, 1862.

Rupp, C. D., e. July 12, 1862.

Roszell, Jno. S., e. August 8, 1862.

Roszell, Joseph B., e. August 8, 1862.

Sutton, Benj., e. August 4, 1862, killed at battle Sabine Cross Roads, La., April 8, 1864.

Segrist, Fredk., e. August 8, 1862, died at Memphis, April 1, 1863.

Stout, Geo. W., e. August 8, 1862.

Stott, Geo. H., e. August 9, 1862.

Segrist, Samuel, e. August 17, 1862, trans. to Inv. Corps.

Terwilliger, Thos., e. August 8, 1862, died on steamer Nashville, May 20, 1863.

Taggart, Geo., e. July 28, 1862.

Thompson, Wm., e. July 29, 1862, disd. December 2, 1862, disab.

Thompson, I. N., e. August 8, 1862, died at Jackson, Miss., July 20, 1863.

Vandeef, R. G., e. August 8, 1862.

Wrightman, D., e. July 21, 1862.

Webb, H. O., e. July 29, 1861.

Whitcraft, Geo., July 31, 1862, died at St. Louis, June 20, 1863.

Whitman, Noah, e. August 6, 1862.

Woods, N. S., e. August 6, 1862.

Woodruff, A. W., e. July 26, 1862, disd. March 31, 1863, disab.

COMPANY D.

Captain Samuel P. Vanatta, com. October 10, 1862, resd. March 20, 1863.

Captain John D. Thompson, com. first lieutenant, October 10, 1862, prmtd. captain March 20, 1863, died at Salem, Ind., August 8, 1863.

Captain Henry M. Wilson, e. as first sergeant August 9, 1862, prmtd. second lieutenant January 1, 1863, prmtd. first lieutenant March 20, 1863, prmtd. captain August 9, 1863.

First Lieutenant John C. Summers, e. as sergeant August 4, 1862, prmtd. second lieutenant March 20, 1863, prmtd. first lieutenant August 9, 1863, wd. at Opequan, Va., September 19, 1864.

Second Lieutenant James R. Kennedy, com. October 10, 1862, resd. December 26, 1862.

Second Lieutenant William Postlewait, e. as corporal July 25, 1862, com. second lieutenant May 26, 1864, m. o. as first sergeant.

Sergeant Wm. Geddes, e. August 9, 1862, disd. April 11, 1863, disab.

Sergeant A. W. Martin, e. August 9, 1862, captd. at Sabine Cross Roads, La.

Sergeant James F. Wishard, e. August 8, 1862.

Sergeant Jos. A. Fawcett, e. August 9, 1862, wd. at Vicksburg, and died June 20, 1863.

Sergeant Wm. Lamphaer, e. August 2, 1862, disd. March 30, 1863, disab.

Sergeant Wm. S. McDuff, e. August 9, 1862, wd. at Cedar Creek, disd. April 20, 1865, wds.

Corporal A. Stephenson, e. August 9, 1862, disd. January 31, 1863, disab.

Corporal George W. Ferguson, e. August 28, 1862, wd. Champion Hills, died at Memphis, June 14, 1863.

Corporal S. Opfelt, e. August 6, 1862.

Corporal Harrison Stephens, e. August 15, 1862, wd. at Winchester and Cedar Creek, died Baltimore November 10, 1864.

Corporal Wm. St. Clair, e. August 9, 1862, wd. at Champion Hills, disd. December 17, 1863, wds.

Corporal Edward M. Evans, e. August 14, 1862, wd. at Cedar Creek, disd. June 21, 1865, wds.

Corporal W. W. Wilkinson, e. August 5, 1862, wd. Cedar Creek, disd. January 5, 1865, wds.

Corporal James K. Mitchell, e. August 11, 1863, wd. Cedar Creek.

Corporal Lawrence Harding, e. August 8, 1862, capt'd. at Sabine Cross Roads, La.

Corporal Wm. W. McCoy, e. August 8, 1862.

Corporal H. H. Greenlee.

Musician J. F. Tryon, e. August 8, 1862.

Musician J. Jenks, e. August 8, 1862.

Wagoner Jos. F. Thompson, e. August 14, 1862.

Ashbey, James, e. August 1, 1862, wd. at Cedar Creek.

Armstrong, John, e. August 1, 1862.

Arrowhood, Nelson, e. August 9, 1862, died at Helena, Ark., January 20, 1863.

Allarding, H., e. August 9, 1862, disd. March 3, 1863, disab.

Bremson, Jno., e. August 5, 1862, wd. at Winchester.

Barney, Wm., e. August 12, 1862.

Burton, O. B., e. August 8, 1862.

Baldwin, Hiram, e. August 9, 1862, kld. in battle at Sabine Cross Roads, La., April 8, 1864.

Burton, Enos E., e. August 8, 1862, died at Milliken's Bend, La., May 3, 1863.

Bowe, Daniel F., e. August 9, 1862, wd. at Winchester.

Buttolph, Alfred, e. August 8, 1862, capt'd. at Sabine Cross Roads, La.

Brown, Wm. H., e. August 11, 1862, wd. at Cedar Creek, Va.

Bert, Henry, e. February 25, 1864, died July 19, 1864, at New Orleans.

Brewer, Ira E., e. August 14, 1862.

Bowe, R. E., e. February 25, 1864.

Barton, Joseph N., e. August 8, 1862, wd. at Cedar Creek, disd. January 20, 1865, wds.

Carrier, F. L., e. January 5, 1864, kld. at Sabine Cross Roads, La., April 8, 1864.

Clark, Budd, e. August 9, 1862, wd. at Cedar Creek.

Carrier, A. L., e. February 6, 1864, wd. at Winchester.

Crawford, Samuel A., e. August 16, 1862, wd. at Champion Hills, died at Baker's Creek, Miss., May 25, 1863.

Cottrell, Wm., e. August 9, 1862.

Collicott, Thomas B., e. August 8, 1862.

Cottrell, A., e. August 9, 1862, died August 1, 1863, at St. Louis.

Cottrell, Isaac, e. August 19, 1862, died at Milliken's Bend, La., June 3, 1863.

Detweler, Elijah, e. August 9, 1862.

Eastman, Harman, e. August 9, 1862, disd. July 5, 1863, disab.

Fee, James M.

Furnace, Jacob, e. August 1, 1862, wd. at Cedar Creek.

Goodwin, Elliott, e. August 6, 1862, disd. June 28, 1863, disab.

Hinkle, H. C., e. August 9, 1862, disd. April 4, 1863, disab.

Hampton, Benj. C., e. August 8, 1862, died at New Orleans, June 22, 1864.

Hollingsworth, W. L., e. August 8, 1862, wd. at Cedar Creek, disd. January 20, 1865, wds.

Hite, Jacob, e. August 9, 1862, wd. at Champion Hills, disd. July 4, 1864, wds.

Hite, N., e. August 9, 1862.

Hodson, Z., e. August 1, 1862.

Hollister, F. E., e. August 8, 1862, died at Carrolton, La., September 9, 1863.

Howard, H., e. August 4, 1862.

Haines, Clayton, e. August 14, 1862, disd. August 16, 1863, disab.

Honeywell, Benj., e. August 14, 1862, capt'd. at Champion Hills, kld. at Cedar Creek, October 19, 1864.

Jones, David, e. August 9, 1862, disd. January 21, 1863, disab.

Knapp, William, e. August 8, 1862.

Kimball, C. B., e. August 9, 1862.

Keller, A. S., e. August 9, 1862, capt'd. at Sabine Cross Roads, La.

Kelly, Jno. e. August 9, 1862.

Luton, Jno., e. January 5, 1864, wd. at Winchester.

Loutzenhizer, John, e. August 9, 1862, died at Helena, Ark., March 13, 1863.

Lock, P. A., e. December 24, 1863, wd. at Winchester, disd.
May 23, 1865, wds.

Means, W. W., e. December 13, 1863.

Moore, Emmett, e. August 9, 1862, died June 10, 1863, at
Helena, Ark.

McGlade, Francis, e. August 1, 1862.

Maxson, James, e. August 9, 1862, wd. at Champion Hills, died
August 10, 1863, at Memphis, wds.

Maxson, Wm., e. August 9, 1862.

Newell, Geo. W., e. August 9, 1862.

Nance, Alex., e. August 5, 1862, died April 14, 1863, at Helena,
Ark.

Park, Alfred, e. August 4, 1862, died at Bolton, Miss., May 15,
1863.

Prill, James H., e. August 9, 1862.

Prior, Thos., e. August 9, 1862, captd. at Cedar Creek.

Peck, Wm. M., e. August 7, 1862.

Ramy, Asa, e. August 1, 1862.

Reggle, David, e. August 9, 1862.

Railsback, George W., e. August 9, 1862, died on steamer D. A.
January 14, 1863.

Race, Archibald, e. August 14, 1862.

Rahauser, Jacob, e. August 8, 1862.

Scott, Sam, e. December 18, 1863, trans. to V. R. C.

Smith, George S., e. August 8, 1862, disd. May 9, 1863, disd.

Shugart, Jos. R., e. August 9, 1862, wd. at Champion Hills,
kld. at Cedar Creek, October 19, 1864.

Summers, Wm. H., e. August 4, 1862, wd. at Champion Hills,
died May 18, 1863.

Stewart, Franklin P., e. August 14, 1862, died at Vinton
September 21, 1864.

Thompson, John W., e. August 14, 1862.

Willett, Elisha, e. August 9, 1862.

Wilford, James H., e. August 1, 1862, wd. at Champion Hills,
died at Baker's Creek May 29, 1863.

Wood, Eli, e. August 4, 1862, died at Memphis April 7, 1863.

Wright, Enos, e. August 1, 1862, disd. June 28, 1863, disab.

Weaver, Levi E., e. August 9, 1862, wd. at Champion Hills.

Williams, Geo. W., e. August 9, 1862.

Williams, T. F., e. August 9, 1862, wd. at Winchester, disd.
May 29, 1865, wds.

Williams, D. C., e. August 16, 1862, wd. at Champion Hills,
and died at Memphis, June 14, 1863.

Wright, George W., e. August 5, 1862.

Wingfield, C., e. August 9, 1862.

Wallace, John S., e. August 16, 1862, died at Berwick City,
Louisiana, December 22, 1864.

Wolf, Elias, e. December 14, 1863.

York, James, e. August 1, 1862.

COMPANY H, EIGHTEENTH INFANTRY.

The Eighteenth was mustered into the service August 5, 6 and 7, 1862, with 875 officers and men, and was almost immediately ordered into Missouri, to join General Schofield's command. During the following winter it was stationed at Springfield, and bore a conspicuous part in the battle at that place January 7 and 8, 1863. The town was defended by a battalion of Missouri militia and the Eighteenth, against an army 4,000 strong. The regiment remained here for a long time, varied by a chase of the rebel General Shelby into Arkansas, thence to Fort Smith.

In the spring of 1864, the regiment was attached to General Steele's command, and marched to Camden; on April 13th, was in an engagement near Moscow, thirty miles from Camden. On April 17th, received seven successive and impetuous charges from superior numbers, and returned to Camden with a loss of seventy-seven men; returned to Fort Smith, and until it was mustered out, nothing particularly noteworthy occurred.

THE ROSTER OF COMPANY H.

Captain Jos. Van Metre, com. August 6, 1862, wd. in action and Springfield, m. o. January 8, and died of wds. January 14, 1863.

Captain Jesse C. Rhodabeck, e. as sergeant July 5, 1862, prmtd. sergeant, major, prmtd. second lieutenant December 18, 1862

privatd. first lieutenant January 22, 1863, promotd. captain June, 1863, honorably discd. January 28, 1865.

First Lieutenant Jas. A. Kirkpatrick, e. as sergeant July 5, 1862, privatd. first sergeant, then first lieutenant January 30, 1865.

Second Lieutenant Wm. H. Wood, com. August 6, 1862, resd. November 23, 1862.

Sergeant John H. Reed, e. July 5, 1862, disd. January 29, 1863, disab.

Corporal John C. Geddes, e. July 5, 1862, disd. January 29, 1863, disab.

Musician A. A. Oppelt, e. July 19, 1862, disd. December 15, 1862, disab.

Wagoner A. L. Puzzell, e. July 7, 1862, capt'd. at Poison Spring, Ark.

Barnhart, Geo. W., e. July 7, 1862.

Boughton, W. F., e. July 7, 1862.

Braman, Geo., e. July 7, 1862, disd. January 30, 1863, disab.

Berry, Wm., e. July 7, 1862.

Barnes, Frank, e. July 21, 1862.

Cue, Benj. F., e. July 21, 1862.

Enochs, Thos. P., e. July 21, 1862.

Fisher, Hezekiah, e. July 21, 1862, wd. disd. June 1, 1863, wds.

Hoyt, John, e. July 7, 1862.

Harris, Wm. S., e. July 7, 1862.

Harris, Geo., e. July 7, 1862, killed at Springfield, Mo., January 8, 1863.

Isbell, Jas. H., e. July 7, 1862, wd. at Springfield, Mo.

Jordan, Hugh E., e. July 7, 1862.

Lash, Andrew, e. July 7, 1862.

Long, Geo. W., e. July 7, 1862, disd. March 25, 1863, disab.

Martin, Oscar W., e. July 7, 1862, trans. to V. R. C.

Myers, E. H., e. July 7, 1862, wd. disd. at Springfield, Mo., April 13, 1863.

Morris, A. D., e. July 7, 1862.

Morris, E. J., e. June 16, 1864.

McGuire, D. T., e. July 7, 1862, disd. February 14, 1863, disab.

Schoonover, Levi W., e. December 16, 1863.

Schoonover, G. A., e. July 7, 1862, deserted August 13, 1862.

Smith, Jacob F., e. July 7, 1862, wd. at Poison Spring, Ark.

Snyder, Jackson, e. July 7, 1862, died January 11, 1863, at St. Louis.

Sanders, Jno. H., e. July 7, 1862, disd., disab.

Shephard, N., e. July 7, 1862, died at Springfield, Mo., November 21, 1862.

Storrs, C. H., e. July 7, 1862.

Webb, Benton, e. July 7, 1862, disd. January 31, 1863, disab.

COMPANY K, FORTIETH INFANTRY.

The Fortieth Infantry, the last of the three years regiments to be organized in the state, but not the last to get to the front, was mustered into service 900 strong, November 15, 1862, and arrived at Columbus, Kentucky, on the night of December 18th. There it remained until the following winter, and in May, 1863, joined Grant's army besieging Vicksburg. It remained in the vicinity of the Confederate stronghold until its capitulation. In July it participated in General Steele's expedition against Little Rock; and afterwards participated in engagements at Okolona, Prairie d'Anne and Jenkin's Ferry. It was mustered out of the service in August, 1865, and finally disbanded at Davenport, Iowa, on the 16th of that month.

ROSTER OF COMPANY K.

Captain George W. Sells, co. November 15, 1862, resd. November 28, 1864.

First Lieutenant Jacob R. Christie, com. November 16, 1862, resd. September 16, 1864.

Second Lieutenant William K. Harding, com. November 15, 1862, disd. March 1, 1864.

Sergeant Luke Feran, e. August 17, 1862.

Sergeant R. C. Bare, wd. at Jenkin's Ferry, Arkansas, and died at Camden September 20, 1862.

- Sergeant Eli Troxel, e. August 21, 1862.
- Sergeant A. W. Eddy, e. August 13, 1862, trans. to V. R. C. May 6, 1864.
- Sergeant H. Robinson, e. August 21, 1862.
- Corporal I. H. French, e. August 14, 1862, trans. to V. R. C. August 10, 1864.
- Corporal M. McElroy, e. August 15, 1862.
- Corporal A. J. Ferguson, e. August 11, 1862.
- Corporal A. Robertson, e. August 20, 1862.
- Corporal F. Hull, e. August 15, 1862, disd. November 24, 1863, disab.
- Corporal Hiram Miner, e. August 15, 1862.
- Corporal H. E. Christie, e. August 5, 1862.
- Wagoner H. A. Banton, e. August 11, 1862, died at Little Rock, October 22, 1864.
- Anderson, Marion, e. August 13, 1862.
- Anderson, William, e. August 13, 1862.
- Atcheson, Jesse, e. August 16, 1862, died at Paducah, Ky., August 28, 1863.
- Adams, Ira A., e. August 16, 1862, died at Duvall's Bluff September 3, 1863.
- Burkhead, John W., e. January 5, 1864, wd. at Jenkin's Ferry, Arkansas.
- Burk, John, e. August 12, 1862.
- Brubaker, Elias, e. September 26, 1862, disd. July 15, 1864, disab.
- Burrett, E. G., e. August 15, 1862.
- Baldwin, Joseph, e. August 16, 1862, disd. July 21, 1863, disab.
- Black, James J., e. August 15, 1862.
- Cassaday, William.
- Daniels, William, e. August 12, 1862.
- Daugherty, M. A., e. August 15, 1862.
- Elliott, G. W., e. January 2, 1864.
- Ferguson, John S., e. August 11, 1862.
- Fuller, Alfred, e. August 20, 1862.

Gault, John, e. August 15, 1862.

Gillechrist, James, e. August 8, 1862, died at St. Louis, October 13, 1863.

Goon, Elias, e. August 20, 1862, died, January 30, 1863, disab.

Gephart, Joseph, e. August 7, 1862.

Gillett, C. H., e. August 12, 1862, died, August 30, 1863, disab.

Hopkins, D. W., e. August 15, 1862.

Holiday, A. J., e. January 4, 1864.

Hagan, James, e. August 12, 1862, wd. at Jenkin's Ferry, Arkansas.

Hodge, George W., e. August 15, 1862.

Haines, Henry, e. August 15, 1862, died at Iowa City, November 24, 1862.

Harper, E. R., e. August 12, 1862.

Howe, A. J., e. August 15, 1862, trans. to Inv. Corps, January 15, 1864.

Inman, George E., e. January 5, 1864.

Johnston, John, e. August 15, 1862.

Kuhn, Peter, e. August 12, 1862.

Kelley, James, e. August 12, 1862.

Ketterman, L. J., e. August 16, 1862, died on steamer City of Memphis, October 4, 1863.

Langham, W. D., e. March 30, 1864.

Lash, Joseph R., e. August 10, 1862, died at Little Rock, April 6, 1864.

Lee, Isaac, e. August 30, 1862, wd. and capt'd. at Jenkin's Ferry, Ark., died May 22, 1864.

Livingston, Robert, e. August 15, 1864.

Livingston, Andy, e. August 8, 1862.

Miller, C. E., e. January 2, 1864, died August 3, 1864, at Little Rock.

Morford, Isaac, e. August 8, 1862, died at Helena, Ark., December, 30, 1863.

McDowell, Alex, e. August 22, 1862, died at St. Louis, November 30, 1863.

Parker, Henry E., e. August 15, 1862.

Patrick, D., e. August 15, 1862, wd. and captd. at Jenkin's Ferry, died at Camden, Ark., November 24, 1864.

Patterson, James R., e. August 15, 1862.

Pelton, O. Shea, e. August 16, 1862.

Robinson, D. K., e. August 15, 1862.

St. Peters, Alex., e. August 17, 1862, disd. December 21, 1863, disab.

Steele, George H., e. August 21, 1862.

Thompson, Marquis, e. August 15, 1862.

Thomas, John B., e. August 15, 1862, died at Iowa City, November 5, 1862.

Todd, R. M., e. August 5, 1862, disd. July 12, 1863, diab.

Wood, P. J., e. August 8, 1862.

Wood, William H., e. August 8, 1862.

FORTY-SEVENTH INFANTRY.

COMPANY C (BENTON COUNTY).

Captain John H. Shields, com. June 4, 1864.

Sergeant John C. Porter, e. May 2, 1864.

Sergeant James B. Locke, e. May 21, 1864.

Sergeant Silas S. R. Osgood, e. May 21, 1864.

Corporal Wm. Holladay, e. May 30, 1864.

Corporal Wm. G. Goodwin, e. May 21, 1864.

Corporal Jas. M. Tarpenning, e. May 21, 1864.

Corporal John W. Eckman, e. May 21, 1864.

Musician Wm. Wood, e. May 21, 1864.

Adams, Augustus, e. June 21, 1864.

Andrews, Geo., e. May 24, 1864.

Barger, Jas. L., e. May 21, 1864.

Barker, Jas. W., e. May 21, 1864.

Boles, Irvin S., e. May 21, 1864.

Boody, J. K., e. May 21, 1864.

Brown, A. R., e. May 21, 1864.

Brown, Geo. T., e. May 30, 1864.

Burnett, I. J., e. May 30, 1864.

Brain, Jas. e. May 30, 1864.

Crawford, Jas. J. e. May 21, 1864.

Coovet, A. N., e. May 21, 1864.

Davis, Wm. P., e. May 23, 1864.

Dobbins, A. N., e. June 4, 1864.

Dyke, E. B., e. May 21, 1864.

Elson, A. M., e. May 21, 1864.

Ervin, Z. B., e. May 25, 1864.

Fawcett, Jno. A., e. May 24, 1864, died Sept. 28, 1864, at Keokuk.

Fullenweider, W. H., e. May 21, 1864.

Fawcett, A. H., e. May 21, 1864.

Goodwin, Jno. N., e. May 21, 1864.

Good, Jno. W., e. May 21, 1864.

Geddes, John C., e. May 24, 1864.

Greer, John F., e. May 20, 1864.

Haines, Alfred, e. May 21, 1864.

Hanna, A. G., e. May 21, 1864.

Jones, G. W., e. May 21, 1864.

Kensy, S., e. May 21, 1864.

Kendall, Lawrence, e. May 21, 1864.

Kerns, Thomas, e. May 30, 1864, died Sept. 22, 1864, at Davenport.

Louderbach, H. T., e. May 21, 1864.

Maynard, Wm., e. May 25, 1864.

Morris, Isaiah, e. May 30, 1864.

Matthews, A. J., e. May 21, 1864.

Moody, John, e. May 21, 1864.

Meskimen, J. M., e. May 21, 1864.

Porter, Jas. R., e. May 21, 1864.

Peek, Henry, e. May 30, 1864.

Pavey, Thomas, e. May 21, 1864.

Stookey, M. F., e. May 21, 1864.

Smith, Silas A., e. May 21, 1864.

Wood, W., e. May 21, 1864, died July 25, 1864, at Helena, Ark.

Young, Hulet, e. May 12, 1864.

COMPANY K (BENTON COUNTY).

Fay, H. W., e. May 21, 1864.

FIFTH VETERAN CAVALRY.

The Fifth Cavalry, better known as "Curtis' Horse," was organized at Benton Barracks, St. Louis, December 20, 1861. It was composed of various detachments and companies from the western states. It did very efficient service, the details of which cannot here be given, as the regiment was constantly moving, mostly by companies or battalions, scouting, foraging, pursuing or harassing the enemy; and, while not participating often as a regiment in large battles, it was constantly having smaller battles. The principal engagements participated in were the second battle of Fort Donelson, where the Fifth Cavalry followed the retreating enemy, charged and routed them; several engagements against Wheeler's cavalry at Wartrace, Duck River Bridge, Sugar Creek, and against Roddy's cavalry in several minor engagements.

The Fifth became veterans February 4th, and went home to report at Davenport, March 5th. They returned to Nashville, Tennessee, and thence proceeded on a most active campaign, tearing up railroads and burning bridges in the enemy's rear, and annoying and crippling them in every possible way. Finally, at a place called Newman, in Georgia, they, with the Eighth Indiana, were surrounded by the consolidated cavalry forces of Wheeler, Roddy, Jackson, Hume and Ross, and compelled to cut their way out, every man for himself, in which way they reached the Union lines. Then, with but a handful of men, the Fifth was assigned to Kilpatrick's command, and operated almost day and night in the vicinity of Atlanta. After going to Louisville, Ken-

tucky, and getting fresh horses, they entered into another active campaign, between Nashville and Athens, having several important engagements with the enemy; and went home at the end of the war, with a record of which every man can justly feel proud.

COMPANY 1 (BENTON COUNTY).

Sergeant David C. Onstott, vet. January 5, 1864, fro Co. G. 5th inf.

Sergeant Jas. C. Scott, vet. January 5, 1864, from Co. G., 5th inf.

Corporal Jos. M. Meskimons, vet. January 5, 1864, from Co. G 5th inf.

Brainard, Jas., vet. January 5th, 1864, from Co. G, 5th inf.

Blakely, E. C., vet. January 5, 1864, from Co. G., 5th inf., wd., disd. September 1, 1865.

Baldwin, Jas., vet. January 5, 1864, from Co. G., 5th inf.

Clark, Wm. F., vet. January 5, 1864, from Co. G., 5th inf.

Cox, Wm. A., from Co. G., 5th inf.

Cox, Henry, from Co. G., 5th inf.

Cantonwine, David, from Co. G., 5th inf.

Ditch, David, vet. January 5, 1864, from Co. G., 5th inf.

Hatfield, L. S., vet. January 5, 1864, from Co. G., 5th inf.

Hayck, Geo., vet. January 5th, 1864, from Co. G., 5th inf.

Johnson, Jas., vet. January 5th, 1864, from Co. G., 5th inf.

Meskimmons, Jas M., vet. January 5, 1864, from Co. G., 5th inf., disd., term expired.

Moody, Jas., vet. January 5, 1864, from Co. G., 5th inf.

Porter, Richard, vet. January 5, 1864, from Co. G., 5th inf., killed at Columbus, Georgia, April 16, 1865.

Robbins, W. O., vet. January 5, 1864, from Co. G., 5th inf.

Stewart, Wm. F., vet. February 6, 1864, from Co. G., 5th inf.

Stewart, Elijah, vet. January 5, 1864, from Co. G., 5th inf.

Starks, L. H., vet. January 5, 1864, from Co. G., 5th inf.

Taylor, L. H., vet. February 6, 1864, from Co. G., 5th inf.

White, John, vet. January 5, 1864, from Co. G., 5th inf.

SIXTH CAVALRY.

The Sixth cavalry was recruited in 1862, and was sent to Minnesota immediately after being mounted and drilled, where it marched under General Sully against the Indians. During August, 1863, three companies of the Sixth, under command of Major House, while on detached service, undertook to hold a camp of 1,500 Indians until word could be sent to the main force, but this proved to be almost too large a job for the men; for the Indians were breaking away just as General Sully came up with Colonel D. S. Wilson, at the head of the Sixth, and Colonel Furnas in command of the Second Nebraska. The battle began instantly, two companies of the Sixth going through the camp, and Colonel Furnas joining Major House. The engagement lasted until after dark, when the bugles sounded the recall. The Indians fled during the night, leaving everything but their ponies and arms behind. The next day (5th) the command destroyed half a million pounds of dried meat, three hundred lodges and other valuable property. Over a hundred dead Indians were found on the field. On July 28, 1864, the Sixth had a hand in the engagement with the Indians at Takahokutah, where the Indians occupied a secure position on some steep and rocky bluffs, partly covered with timber. The Indians threw out mounted skirmishing parties eight or ten miles in advance of this position, which were driven back to the bluffs. The Indians were then shelled out of their position in the rocks and forced to retreat with considerable loss. August 8th the regiment, which had camped the previous night on the Little Missouri, had a skirmish with a heavy force of Indians, and on the following day got a chance to charge them a distance of over two miles, killing a considerable number. The regiment remained in Dakota until winter, bivouacked at Sioux City until spring, and was mustered out in October, 1865.

COMPANY H (BENTON COUNTY).

Captain Jephtha M. Van Metre, e. as sergeant September 22, 1862, prmtd. comy. sergeant, then captain July 13, 1865.

Sergeant Wm. W. Davis, e. September 15, 1862, kld. September 2, 1863, at White Stone Hill, D. T.

Farrier, A. Merchant, e. September 15, 1862.

Farrier, J. W. Davis, e. September 24, 1862.

Conley, Wm., e. September 22, 1862.

Dummett, W. H., e. September 24, 1862.

Dummett, W. K., e. September 26, 1862, kld. at battle of White Stone Hill, D. T.

Stickney, Julius, e. October 10, 1862.

COMPANY I (BENTON COUNTY).

Corporal Milo N. Higgins, e. September 24, 1862, died at White Stone Hill, D. T., September 4, 1862, wds.

COMPANY K (BENTON COUNTY)

Johnson, Lantz, e. October 31, 1862.

Harper, D. C., e. October 31, 1862.

SEVENTH CAVALRY.

This regiment was organized at "Camp Hendershott," Davenport, in the summer of 1863, and ordered to duty against the Indians in Nebraska, Dakota, Colorado and Kansas. Portions of the regiment were engaged in the battles of White Stone Hill, Takkahokutah, Bad Lands, Little Blue Julesburg, Mud Spring, Rush Creek, Horse Creek, Cow Creek, and other engagements, in which the brave Iowa boys fought gallantly. The battle of Julesburg, Colorado, was fought by Company F, under Captain O'Brien. The Indians in large numbers had attacked a train. Captain O'Brien marched to its assistance, and the battle continued during the day. The company lost thirteem killed, and the Indians lost fifty-five. The regiment remained on the plains fighting the Indians until 1866.

COMPANY G (BENTON COUNTY).

Arlist, A. S., e. May 25, 1863.
 Cotton, Isaac, e. May 10, 1863.
 Collicott, Seth, e. June 1, 1863.
 Jemerson, D. M., e. May 25, 1863.
 McGuire, D. M., e. May 25, 1863.
 Meeker, Thaddeus, e. June 1, 1863.
 Randall, John, e. May 25, 1863.
 Underwood, J. N., e. June 1, 1863.

COMPANY H (BENTON COUNTY).

Captain John H. Brooks, com. July 13, 1863, dismissed January 7, 1864.

Second Lieutenant E. M. Hutchings, e. serjeant, prmtd. second lieutenant July 10, 1864.

Alair, H. A., e. June 10, 1863, died at Fort Kearney, January 26, 1864.

Bowen, J. W., e. May 10, 1863, kld. at Smoky Hill Crossing, Kansas, by Indians, August 16, 1864.

Burke, Thomas, e. June 12, 1863, deserted July 15, 1863.

Henderson, George, e. May 25, 1863.

Jones, R. E., e. May 10, 1863.

Pitts, W. H., e. May 10, 1863.

Shoemaker, James, e. May 10, 1863.

Stewart, William, e. May 10, 1863.

Taylor, Chesley, e. June 16, 1863.

NINTH CAVALRY.

This regiment, Colonel Matthew M. Trumbull, was the last of the three regiments recruited in Iowa. It was organized at Daven-

port, November 30, 1863, and ordered to Arkansas, where it remained performing heavy scouting and garrison duty until the close of the war.

COMPANY C (BENTON COUNTY).

Sergeant Edward McGuire, e. July 29, 1863.

Corporal Jacob J. Sanders, e. August 29, 1863.

Teamster Peter B. Greenlee, e. June 25, 1863, died at Vinton, October 23, 1864.

Trumpeter J. L. Moore, e. June 25, 1863.

Bruce, C. L., e. August 10, 1863.

Brown, Huston, e. September 5, 1863.

Durand, F., e. July 25, 1863, died March 26, 1864 at St. Louis.

Harris, B. F., e. July 4, 1863.

Kennedy, C., e. August 8, 1863.

Mather, J. W., e. July 2, 1863.

Shaul, A. E., e. August 8, 1863.

Steece, William, e. August 2, 1863, died January 15, 1865, at Alton, Ill.

Urny, E. M., e. July 13, 1863, disd. April 26, 1864.

Young, W. T., e. July 7, 1863.

UNION SUPPORT AT HOME.

While the men from Benton county were valiantly contending on the field of battle, they had the comforting assurance that their families, as well as the supporters of households, were being provided for by patriotic citizens whose circumstances made it impossible for them to participate in military operations. This remark is true as a whole, but that there were exceptions is evident from the following indignant editorial published in the *Vinton Eagle* of October 3, 1861:

“But of all the accursed meanness extant, that of advising the

poor, sickly wife of one of the volunteers to take in washing for the support of herself and children, while her husband, her only support in this life, is off like a true man, exposing his life for the general cause, caps the climax. The next meanest act is that of doling out a few pounds of flour to a half-starved woman with a large family, and at the same time, warning her to be as saving of it as possible. Bah! it makes us fairly sick to have to write about such littleness of soul. Of what avail is it to observe a day of humiliation, fasting and prayer, to the end that the Almighty will shower down plentiful blessings upon us as a community, unless a stop is put to the daily fasting that is going on in our midst? It will not require a great deal of searching to find volunteers' families who are destitute of almost everything but flour, and who have but precious little of that. We do not purpose to specify families. It is for such as we have last designated to look them up and relieve their wants."

In October, 1861, the Ladies Aid Society was organized in Vinton, and throughout the entire period of the Civil war the wives, mothers, sisters and sweethearts labored night and day for the relief of their absent ones. The county board of supervisors was also energetic and thoughtful in providing all possible encouragement to would-be volunteers and extending aid to those union families which had been bereaved of their support and were in need of assistance. In August, 1862, at a special meeting of that body, a bounty of fifteen dollars was voted to be paid to each private and non-commissioned officer of two volunteer companies, and in January, 1863, the board also voted to extend aid to the families, especially to wives and mothers who were solely dependent on soldiers for their support. Other bounties were favored by the supervisors before the conclusion of the war, one of the last being one hundred dollars voted to each volunteer or draftsman who should agree to serve until the cessation of hostilities.

SUMMARY OF WAR MATTERS.

One of the best summaries of Civil war affairs, as relates to Benton county, was written several years ago by Professor T. F. Tobin, of the Tilford Collegiate Academy, and is here re-published: "Benton county may well be proud of its early settlers, of its growth, of its splendid farms, of its institutions, but the great glory of Benton is the patriotism it manifested during the dark days of our nation's history from '61 to '65. Hardly had the rebel

guns that poured their storm of iron hail upon Sumter's walls ceased to echo over the land, when a war meeting was called at Vinton. This was April 19, 1861. John Shane was president of the meeting and W. W. Hanford secretary. Resolutions were adopted to raise a company in Benton county and on Saturday the 20th, a recruiting office was opened in the law office of Connell & Vanatta. Among the first to enlist were W. C. Connell, J. S. Hunt, W. T. Pickerell, M. Thompson, W. A. Walker, John Dempsey, and Edwin Jenks. Tom Drummond took the stage for Cedar Rapids immediately upon hearing of the firing upon Sumter and proceeded directly to Washington and entered the regular army as second lieutenant of the Fifth Cavalry.

“On May 30, the ladies of Benton county formed an organization for the purpose of preparing lint and bandages for the soldiers. There were many enthusiastic Union rallies in Benton county, but it would require a volume to do them justice. About May 1 a meeting was held at Parker's Grove, of which C. P. Neal was president and J. L. Budd, secretary. All through the county patriotism was aflame and Benton's loyal sons stepped nobly to the front to volunteer their services for the Union cause. On the morning of July 9, the company which had been enlisted marched across the river at Vinton, where on the other side wagons were waiting to convey them to Independence. Thence they went by rail to Dubuque and down the river by boat to Burlington and there they became Company G, Fifth Iowa Volunteers. On August 3 the Harrison Rangers, Captain Geddes, paraded the streets of Vinton and were ordered to Davenport, where they became Company D, Eighth Iowa Volunteers. In September a cavalry company was organized, with John Shane as captain, James H. Shotts, first lieutenant, and Wm. A. Walker, second lieutenant. They were known as the Benton Guards and on October 15 left Vinton for Davenport—Camp McClellan—and became Company G, Thirteenth Iowa. I cannot give more than a mere outline of the different companies that went out from Benton county but you will be able to see that it is a record to be proud of.

“Eighth Infantry—Companies B, D, F, and C.

“Fifth Infantry—Company C.

“Fifth Veteran Cavalry—Company I.

“Twelfth Infantry—Company D.

“Sixth Cavalry—Companies H, I and K.

“Thirteenth Infantry—Companies E and C.

“Seventh Cavalry—Companies C and H.

- “Eighteenth Infantry—Company H.
- “Ninth Cavalry—Company C.
- “Twenty-eighth Infantry—Companies A, C and D.
- “Fortieth Infantry—Company K.
- “Forty-seventh Infantry—Companies C and K.

“Besides these there were 21 other regiments that Benton county men enlisted in and, if I am correct in my figures, Benton county sent out 900 men as a tribute to patriotism for the old flag. I wish I could give the complete roster of the heroic boys in blue that went out from Benton county during ‘those days that tried men’s souls.’ I see many of them before me today and old Benton is proud of their achievements and her greatest glory in the future ought to be to show in every possible manner her appreciation of this noble remnant of that Grand Army, whose unexampled patriotism, unwavering fortitude, and surpassing valor made it possible for us to enjoy the blessings of the peerless nation we call our own. God bless the old soldier and may roses strew his pathway as he marches onward to the last bugle call.

“But when the boys returned in ’65, bringing back the flags you presented them with four years before, torn and stained with shot and shell and wearied marches, yet crowned with glories of victory—there were some that did not return with them—some are sleeping the last long sleep under the southern skies. Some of them went down beneath that hell of fire in the hornet’s nest at Shiloh, where so many of the Iowa troops bravely held back the advancing rebel rank and saved the day. Some fell in that heroic charge up Lookout Mountain. Some laid down the burdens of a soldier’s life on the Red river and some sank asleep amidst the dreadful horrors of Andersonville and Libby, but they died as Union soldiers and Benton county will never forget their noble deeds nor their heroic deaths.

“On Fame’s eternal camping ground,
Their silent tents are spread,
And glory guards with solemn round,
The bivouac of the dead.”

GRAND CELEBRATION, JULY 4, 1861.

Thursday, July 4, 1861, was celebrated by the people of Benton county at Vinton, and the occasion was one of those memorable incidents of county history that may not be overlooked. The great rebellion had just raised the rattlesnake flag. The first in-

stallment of Benton county volunteers were preparing to leave for the seat of war. The patriotic heart of Benton county was all ablaze with patriotism and determination to maintain the honor of the Stars and Stripes at all hazards. An immense concourse gathered from all directions. Men, women and children came in carriages, carts, on horseback and on foot. Never before had Vinton seen such a crowd. Every township in the county was represented, and Vinton was literally packed with human beings, horses and carriages.

The officers of the day were as follows: President, S. P. Vanatta; vice presidents, H. D. Gay, S. H. Watson, R. Gilchrist, Vinton; James Rea, Benton; H. S. Bailey, Big Grove; W. C. Smith, Homer; David Robb, Canton; Geo. McCoy, Harrison; Isaac N. Chenoweth, Eden; J. C. Kinsell, Polk; George Fawcett, Fremont; G. W. Durand, Cedar; S. Miskimin, Monroe; William Helm, Jackson; chief marshal, A. H. Severn; assistant marshals, W. C. Gaston, J. H. Shields; Chaplain, Rev. A. Chapin.

The procession, which extended about a mile, was formed in front of the public square and marched to the grove, where the exercises of the day commenced with singing by the choir and prayer by the chaplain, followed by an address by the president of the day, and reading of the Declaration of Independence by Buren R. Sherman. A feature of the occasion was the administration of the oath of allegiance to the assembled multitude by James Chapin, each person repeating his or her own name and repeating after him the oath, which was as follows:

“I do solemnly swear, in the presence of Almighty God, that I will true faith and loyalty bear to the government of the United States and the constitution thereof.”

The day and the time rendered this ceremony peculiarly solemn and impressive. Rebels were in arms to destroy the nation, the birthday of which they were met to celebrate. Two companies of volunteers—the Benton County Volunteers, Captain J. S. Hunt, and the Harrison Rangers, Captain Geddes—were present in uniform and were soon to march to the defense of the Union; and as the united voices of the assembled multitude repeated the solemn oath, every heart was thrilled with patriotic pride and devotion.

After the picnic dinner, an able and eloquent patriotic oration was delivered by Hon. T. W. Jackson, of Toledo. After reviewing the terrible situation and the efforts of rebel hands to destroy the government, the orator uttered the following prophetic words:

“But this Union *will live*. The old Ship of State will outride

the billows. God's hand is at the helm; his breath is in the storm. When I survey my country today, I confess I would despair did I not know that we are under the guidance of Him who doeth all things well. Behind the dark clouds now hovering so ominously over us, I can detect the smiling face of Him who has ever been the director of nations and of men. The signs of the times are redolent with promise. Feel the beating pulse of the nation of freemen today; hear the nineteen million throbbing hearts beating in unison 'to the music of the union.' See with what alacrity three hundred thousand men have flown to arms; view the chaffing eagerness of a million more to rally at their country's call. Pre-eminently honored stands today every soldier in the grand army of of the Union. I envy their happy lot. Future generations will call them blessed. Those who come after us pointing to their posterity, will say, 'Behold, their grandsires fought in the battles of the Union.' Their's is a higher title than patents of nobility. History will write them down the defenders of this God-given Union. I would rather wear that badge than all the stars which shine upon the nobles of the earth. But as that boon hath been denied to you and to me, let us give the heroes our means and prayers."

At the close of the oration, toasts were read by the president, among which were the following:

"The Twenty Million Freemen of the North—With one accord they rush to the defense of our constitution and the maintenance of our laws. With such citizen soldiers, the cause of liberty and justice is ever secure."

Eloquent response by J. H. Shulls.

"Our Flag—Foremost ensign in the vanguard of the great army of human progress, beneath whose glittering stars and flaunting stripes are gathered the embattled hosts of law, order and constitutional government on this continent, and to which are hopefully directed the straining eyes of the oppressed nationalities of Europe."

Response by W. C. Gaston, Esq.

"The Press—The strongest bulwark of American liberty."

Response by Frederick Lyman.

"The Ladies—Without their assistance the world stands still."

Response by James Chapin, as follows:

"Woman! the finishing work of creation,

Exerts a wide influence over the nation;

In fact, such a mission she's made to fulfill.

'Tis said that without her the world would stand still!
But should such a calamity ever befall,
Instead of a still world, we'd have none at all,
And the dried-up old specimens of human depravity,
Like Egyptian mummies, would fill up the cavity.
In all ages, if history gives faithful relations,
Woman has more or less governed the nations;
And disloyal mothers are more to be feared
Than all the proud Xerxes that ever appeared;
For those who in childhood are under her drill,
In manhood will cherish her sentiments still.
But if she is loyal, her sons will prove true—
'Gainst the ranks of rebellion will fight their way through.
And likewise the daughters—God bless them today!
Of our beautiful Home Guards, I've something to say,
Who carry such weapons as arrows and lances,
And never miss fire when they shoot with their glances.
When the soldiers at night on their arms have reclined,
And dream of their homes and the girls left behind,
These chivalric daughters, in all their bright charms,
At home dream of *union*, and sleep on their arms."

Among the incidents of the day was the appearance of the venerable James Dowd, of Shellsburg, upward of eighty years old, dressed in the military costume of the American Revolution.

The exercises of the day were closed by a grand ball at the Fremont House, attended by fifty or sixty couples.

"KNIGHTS OF THE GOLDEN CIRCLE."

BY JACOB SPRINGER.

In the summer of 1863 there was a secret political society organized in St. Clair township called "A Golden Circle." It was a disloyal organization calculated to cultivate disloyal sentiments. To counteract its influence "A Loyal League" was organized. The country was under martial law. The authorities had issued an order prohibiting the sale of fire-arms or ammunition. The officers of the Loyal League made application through provo-marshal department for permission to purchase enough Colt's revolvers and ammunition to arm every man. The request was granted and the revolvers were secured, sufficient in number to arm every man in the

Loyal League. Each revolver cost \$16.00. In the meantime several young men who had been drafted in Pennsylvania had escaped to Iowa and were harbored in the southwest part of the township.

So many of the Union men had enlisted it was a question whether the Union men would be able to prevent the Disloyalists from controlling the coming election. It was rumored that the Disloyalists intended to run in and vote those escaped drafted men which would give them a sufficient vote to control the election. On the night before the election all of the members of the Loyal League assembled at Mr. Springer's (fully armed) and held a meeting in his barn. Plans were agreed upon for the next day. Wm. Kelley (a good, cool, clear-headed, whole-souled Presbyterian) was selected as leader for the next day. Every man pledged himself to obey Kelley's orders and not allow themselves to be led into any discussion on any subject that might lead to any disturbance. If there was any effort to force those illegal votes upon the judges of election and trouble followed and a revolver was drawn by any one of the Disunionists, Kelley was then to give the order and every "Leaguer" was to select his man and fire. The Disloyalists heard of the preparation made for their reception, consequently but few of them attended the election.

SOLDIERS OF SIXTY-ONE.

BY A. H. BROWN.

Vinton and Benton county furnished a great many brave soldiers for the Union side of the Civil war. A few won fame, but the large majority simply did their duty, and it was done nobly, grandly and heroically. Fame belongs to the lucky few, or the more clever few, perhaps.

Just who the first soldier was to enlist from Benton county I do not know. I have seen it stated that Thomas Drummond was, but I do not believe such was the case. However, he was a conspicuous and daring officer and gave his life for the Union cause, and if he was the first to get on the firing line from Benton he is entitled to the credit.

General James Geddes raised the first company and took it into the Eighth Iowa Infantry, and it has the credit of being the best drilled regiment from Iowa. Geddes was its colonel and to

him it owes its efficiency and drill. Andrew Geddes was a lieutenant-colonel in the regiment at the age of sixteen. The Geddes family was a patriotic one. Besides the two just mentioned, Charles was in the Sixteenth Iowa and William in the Eighteenth. The youngest son of John Geddes was in the Forty-sixth. By the way, Charles Geddes lost a son in the Philippine war. He was a bright young man. He died on the steamer enroute to Manila and was buried in the ocean. This much I learned from a young man who was on the steamer with him.

One of the most pathetic incidents of the war pertaining to Vinton people was this: John E. Palmer was a captain in the Second Iowa and was killed in a battle in the east. About the same time his son, Henry N. Palmer, was wounded at Atlanta, Georgia. When Henry was coming home and as he got off the cars at Marengo he noticed a box at the depot, and curiosity or sympathy led him to look for the name on it. Imagine his horror on finding it was his father's name.

Company G, Thirteenth Iowa Infantry, was recruited in and about Vinton. John Shane was its first captain, and the late Governor Sherman was a sergeant in the company when the "boys" were taken to Benton barracks at St. Louis. While in this place Jas. E. White was transferred from the Third Iowa and made a sergeant in Company G, and Mr. Sherman was transferred to Company E, and promoted to lieutenant. The "boys" were so vexed at this move that, had it been possible, they would have resigned and found some other command, but privates couldn't resign. Jas. E. White was one of the most popular captains that company ever had. He was as brave a lad as ever wore the straps. He was wounded at Atlanta July 22, 1864. The Thirteenth lost 52 per cent in that engagement. Major Walker was killed there.

There were two companies from Vinton in the Twenty-fifth Iowa. I believe Captain Gaston was in one company, and Captain Van Metre served in the Twenty-fourth. Also Sam and George Taggart and L. N. Kirkpatrick were all heroes of that regiment. I doubt if there was in the service a truer or better soldier than Captain H. M. Wilson. Captain Chas. E. Putnam was a member of Company G and was on General McPherson's staff when the beloved commander was killed. Speaking of brave soldiers, there were none could lay it over Craig Shields, Will Amburn, Dan Correll or Geo. Walker. John Shields was captain of a company in the Forty-sixth Iowa, and Eugene Dyke was a lieutenant in the

company. Geo. T. Brown, now vice president of the First National Bank at Hastings, Nebraska, was a member of the company.

W. F. Pickerill was a captain in the Fifth Iowa Infantry and had charge of a Vinton company. The Fifth had a reputation as a fighting regiment. I think A. Rose was lieutenant in that company, but am not sure. City Marshal W. H. Wood was a lieutenant in the Eighteenth Iowa Infantry and was as popular there as he is as guardian of the peace of Vinton. Mayor Marion Evans served in the Twenty-eighth and contributed a leg to his country. His brother Frank was in the Third Iowa Infantry. They had fine records as soldiers. Jacob Hunt was a captain in the Fortieth Iowa. Oscar Kendall, one of the finest young men in Vinton, was killed at Corinth, Miss. Ed. Jones was one of the very first Vinton boys to go to the front. He was a son of Russell Jones, went from Iowa College and was killed in battle.

COMPANY G, I. N. G.

The military spirit aroused by the Civil war refused to die and reappeared in the form of Company G, Iowa National Guard, which was organized as a unit of the state militia September 7, 1871, with C. V. Mount, captain; J. P. Matthews, first lieutenant, and Charles E. Inman, second lieutenant.

The company appeared at the county fair one month after its organization and participated in a sham battle. On May 30, 1872, it assisted in Decoration Day exercises at Cedar Rapids. In 1874 it performed the same services at the same place. On Decoration Day, 1873, the company assisted in the exercises at Vinton. This company acted as guards at the state fair at Cedar Rapids in 1872, and again in 1873. The company was for years considered the best drilled company in the state and won the first prize at Burlington in 1875 and 1876, and at Independence in 1877. After the promotion of Captain Mount, J. P. Matthews became captain, with W. S. Palmer as first lieutenant and E. J. Sanders as second lieutenant.

The man who, above all others, was responsible for the success attained by this company was Charles V. Mount, its first captain. He received a number of promotions and finally became major general, commanding all the militia of the state. General Mount afterwards removed to Shenandoah, Page county, where he became captain of the first company under the reorganization of the state

militia into the National Guard, and subsequently became colonel of the old Third (now Fifty-fifth) regiment.

Captain Matthews commanded the company until his removal to Sioux City in 1896; James G. Ralston succeeded him as captain and was the head of Company G until February, 1898, when James F. Traer was elected captain. Charles P. Young thereupon was promoted to be first lieutenant.

From the organization of the company until the Spanish-American war the following camps were attended: 1888, Cedar Rapids; 1889, Vinton; 1890, Cedar Rapids; 1891, Waterloo; 1892 there was no regular camp, the company attending a three days' celebration on July 4 at Clinton, and in the fall attended the dedication of the World's Fair at Chicago for five days; 1893, no camp was held, but the company drilled for three days about Vinton; 1894, Monticello; 1895, Waverly; 1896, Independence; 1897, Waterloo.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

As Captain Traer failed to pass the required physical examination for active service in the Spanish-American war, Lieutenant Young succeeded him, with Guy Kellogg as first lieutenant and Herbert E. Crawford as second lieutenant. The following were the non-commissioned officers: George W. Sanders, first sergeant; James E. Whipple, quartermaster sergeant; Holland M. Scott, Wm. D. Scott, A. Maurice Thompson and Sherman E. Robinson, duty sergeants; corporals, Edward Carriek, Edward J. Smock, Wm. E. Bickel, Ernest A. Dand, Timothy E. McDonald and Jay Forrester. On account of promotions, deaths and discharges, Carriek and Bickel became sergeants and other corporals appointed at different times were Edward M. Ewen, Charles D. Sheekier, Milo F. Kelley, David A. Lane, Frank Wood, Robert Gilchrist, William H. Ball, Elmo K. Allen, Roy J. Campbell, Clyde H. DeAcres, George M. Pierce.

The following is an account of the part taken by the company in the Spanish-American war campaigns, as well as its subsequent record as a company of the Ohio National Guard, the article being prepared by Captain J. E. Whipple:

"The regiment left Camp McKinley June 11th and arrived at Camp Cuba Libre, Jacksonville, Florida, on the 14th. The regiment was here four months and a half. It was during this time that the company suffered from typhoid fever. This fever raged

fiercely for two months, during which time *Lieutenant Kellogg, Wm. E. Speers, Clarence Dearmin, Emil C. Frahm and Harry W. Kerlin died. The company originally consisted of 106 men. At times during the sickness not more than twenty-five were able for duty. On October 26th the regiment moved to Savannah, Georgia. By this time the fever had abated. We remained at Savannah until December 19th, when we embarked for Havana, Cuba, and on the 23d went into camp nine miles from that city.

"The experiences of the company during the nearly four months spent in Cuba were full of unusual incidents, some pleasant, some unpleasant. Ivan Shotwell died on the 9th day of January, 1899, and his body was buried near the camp. More than a year afterwards the body was taken up and sent to Vinton, where it was again buried. On the 9th of April the company left Havana for the states, and arriving at the mouth of the Savannah river, was held on an island five days in quarantine. On the 16th we went to Savannah and remained there until May 13th, when we were discharged and proceeded at once for home, where we arrived on the 16th, and were the pleased recipients of a grand reception.

"During the thirteen months of its absence the company made a fine record. It was not the fortune of its members to engage in battle, but it underwent all the other unpleasant incidents usually experienced by a military command in war. On account of the death of Lieutenant Kellogg, Lieutenant Crawford was appointed first lieutenant and Sergeant George W. Sanders was appointed second lieutenant. H. M. Scott then became first sergeant.

"On September 21, 1899, the company was reorganized into the national guard. The first officers were: Captain, J. E. Whipple; first lieutenant, Edward Carrick; second lieutenant, W. H. Ball. Lieutenant Carrick resigned the following June and was succeeded by Lieutenant Ball, who was succeeded by G. W. Sanders. Ball resigned a few months later and was succeeded about a year later by John K. Hull. Lieutenant Hull resigned in December, 1902. Lieutenant Sanders was elected first lieutenant and Clyde DeAcres second lieutenant. A short time afterwards Lieutenant Sanders was appointed battalion adjutant and DeAcres was promoted to first lieutenant and Holland M. Scott was elected second

*Lieutenant Guy Kellogg was one of the most popular and worthy young men who ever lived in Vinton, and on August 26, 1898, the auditorium of the Presbyterian church was the scene of a memorial meeting in his honor, as Benton county's first victim of the war. Prior to going to the front he had been stationed at Waterloo as chief recruiting officer. He was married to Miss C. Whipple, daughter of Hon. William P. Whipple.

lieutenant. These gentlemen and Captain Whipple are the present commissioned officers.

"In October, 1902, the number of the regiment was changed from the Forty-ninth to the Fifty-third, which it still retains. The company has attended the following camps: At Cedar Rapids, August, 1900; Dubuque, July, 1901; Cedar Falls, July, 1902; Cedar Falls, August, 1903; Des Moines, August, 1904. All camps in the future will be held at Fort Des Moines, as the state has purchased 160 acres of land adjoining the regular army post, five miles south of the city. The company, together with the companies from Charles City and Independence, attended the fair at St. Louis during the later part of September. Of the forty-nine companies in the state, these were the only ones to attend the fair. The armory has recently been remodeled and the company now has very neat quarters."

The movement which resulted in Company G's fine armory took definite shape in December, 1896, when a corporation was formed, primarily for the purpose of owning and maintaining the military property of the company and, secondarily, for social purposes. J. G. Ralston was first president; Charles F. Young, treasurer, and J. F. Traer, secretary.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR VETERANS.

The Spanish-American War Veterans organized September 8, 1905, as the Guy Kellogg Camp No. 5, with G. W. Sanders as commander and George E. Knapp as adjutant. It has a membership of about twenty-five, and its present officers are: W. E. Klumpp, commander; J. E. Whipple, adjutant and H. M. Scott, quartermaster.

RECEPTION TO CALVIN P. TITUS.

Calvin Pearl Titus was born at Vinton, September 29, 1880, and on July 4, 1901, the people of his native city turned out to welcome and to honor him as one of the heroes of the Boxer rebellion in China. As a bugler of the Fourteenth United States Infantry he had been the first American soldier to scale the walls of Peking and to assist in the rescue of the imprisoned Christians therein, some of whom were reached too late to escape massacre. For that bright day in his life (May 27, 1900) young Titus had been rewarded with a medal and a cadetship in the regular army.

and had received marks of especial honor at the national capital.

Mr. Titus had spent about half his life in Vinton, and the balance at Wichita, Kansas. He was a natural musician and, as such, was identified with Company G. Soon after leaving school he became connected with Evangelical work in Vermont, and was thus engaged when the president called for troops to serve in the Spanish-American war. Enlisting in the First Vermont Regiment, he accompanied the command to Chickamauga, but was stricken with fever and obliged to return to his home in Wichita. In April, 1899, he re-enlisted in the Fourteenth United States Infantry, served in the Philippines until July, and, on the outbreak of the Boxer rebellion, was ordered to China. The march to Peking, of one hundred miles, was attended by hardships and privations, and when the first company of the Fourteenth Regiment approached the wall, which they knew not how they were going to scale, Mr. Titus offered to try, and, as stated was the first foreigner to scale it, there planting the Stars and Stripes. Shortly afterward he was slightly wounded. At the close of the Boxer war the regiment was sent home, and Vinton sent an invitation to Bugler Titus to visit the city, at which time they took the opportunity of giving him a royal reception, with Company G, Forty-ninth Iowa Infantry, as a guard of honor. He was welcomed to his old home as befitting a valiant hero, and the day was made notable by the speeches of gifted orators and the large assemblage gathered to honor the city's guest.

Soon after returning to his regiment Bugler Titus was notified of his appointment by President McKinley to West Point, as a reward of his bravery at Peking, and he graduated from that institution with honors in 1905. He was then appointed lieutenant in his old regiment, but in 1908 resigned and re-entered religious work, which he continued about one year. However, he decided he could be more useful in the army, being so familiar with its customs, and orders were issued revoking his resignation. He received, in 1909, the appointment as chaplain in the army, and all who know him feel assurance he will serve with distinction to himself and honor to his country. As his people have moved from Vinton, he is seldom a visitor to the city, but will always receive a warm welcome from his former friends and associates.

VETERANS ASSOCIATION AND G. A. R.

The Benton County Veterans' Association was organized in

1878. its thirty-first annual reunion being held at Vinton, August 5 and 6, 1909. The membership of 340 comprises all those who were honorably discharged from Civil war service and is drawn from all parts of the union.

Since the thirtieth reunion the following comrade veterans have died: A. Casselberry, Co. F, 51st Pennsylvania Infantry; F. E. McCurdy, Co. G, 8th Missouri Infantry; A. O. Adams, Co. A, 95th Illinois Infantry; E. M. Evans, Co. D, 28th Iowa Infantry; Robert Houlihan, Co. G, 5th Iowa Infantry; D. P. Marshall, Co. D, 8th Iowa Infantry; Wm. McDuff, Co. D, 28th Iowa Infantry; J. P. Johnson, Co. A, 37th Iowa Infantry; J. C. Hannah, Co. I, 132d Ohio Infantry; J. T. Britt, Co. B, 64th Illinois Infantry; August Mehan, Co. G, 2d Iowa Infantry; J. A. McFarland, Co. H, 15th Iowa Infantry.

The officers of the association serving in the fall of 1909 were as follows:

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS—John Gilmore, president, Vinton; H. H. McElroy, vice president, Vinton; S. R. Ferree, second vice president, Belle Plaine; J. L. Bigley, third vice president, Shellsburg; G. D. Schofield, fourth vice president, Urbana; A. M. Rowe, secretary, Vinton; J. A. Butterfield, quartermaster, Vinton; George Barr, paymaster, Vinton.

REGIMENTAL OFFICERS—J. W. Thompson, colonel, Belle Plaine; Wm. Elson, lieutenant colonel, Shellsburg; A. B. Cramer, major, Urbana; M. V. Foote, adjutant, Belle Plaine; Rev. D. Markham, chaplain, Vinton; C. C. Griffin, Sr., surgeon, Vinton.

LIVING CIVIL WAR VETERANS.

According to an Iowa census bulletin issued in 1905, 330 Civil war veterans still lived in Benton county, of whom 264 were connected with the infantry and 57 with the cavalry. Divided by states, 52 had served in Iowa regiments, 49 with Illinois, 29 with Ohio, 16 with Indiana and 9 with Wisconsin. Of this number nine in Benton county were then (1905) over eighty years of age, fifty-three between seventy and eighty and more than two hundred between sixty and seventy.

An examination of the membership of the Benton County Veterans Association substantially verifies these statistics, although as stated, the membership in 1909 was more than 340.

The following indicates the last revised roster by companies

and localities, with the command in which each soldier served in the war of the Rebellion.

Company A, Belle Plaine:—Isaac Hakeman, captain; Stephen Malcolm, lieutenant; S. A. Crawford, orderly. Other members: W. S. Armstrong, M. 22 Penn. Cav.; Wm. Antrim, K, I. Ill. Art.; M. J. Athey, H. 23 Mo. Vol.; Thos. Brand, D, 19 Wis.; L. Butterfield, G, 74 Ill. Inf.; S. A. Crawford, E, 4 Ia. Inf.; S. M. Cook, C, 27 Ia. Inf.; E. M. Ealy, H. 12 Tenn. Inf.; Lyman Eddy, C. 93 Ill. Inf.; S. R. Ferec, A, 12 Ia. Inf.; M. V. Foote, B, 111 O. Inf.; Jno. I. Feeney, 74 Ill. Inf.; A. R. Gaghagen, E, 134 Ill. Inf.; T. F. Greenlee, G, 8 Ia. Inf.; J. D. Harbert, B, 22 Ia. Inf.; M. Hartwell, H, 20 Ia. Inf.; J. P. Henry, C, 10 Ia. Inf.; F. L. Hodges, C, 48 Wis. Inf.; Geo. W. Hall, 1 O. Bat.; C. J. Hoover, K, 13 Ind. Inf.; F. J. Hammond, L, 2 Ia. Cav.; A. W. Hathaway, B, 9 Ft. Inf.; Isaac Hakeman, C, 24 Ia. Inf.; C. E. Kuelper, 2 Ia. Inf.; E. M. Kolb, F 38 Wis. Inf.; Frank Kerner, C, 4 Penn. Inf.; L. N. Kirkpatrick, A, 28 Ia. Inf.; S. C. Leavell, B, 8 O. Cav.; M. B. Lester, A, 124 Ill. Inf.; G. G. Milverstead, 1 Neb.; J. C. Mattox, C, 7 Ia. Inf.; Jno. Montgomery, B, 28 Ia. Inf.; James McKee, F, 54 Ky. Inf.; Ed. Mehan, 5 N. Y. Lt. Art.; T. E. Marshall, E, 60 Colored; W. S. Masker, E, 31 Ia. Inf.; C. H. Norton, H, 13 Ia. Inf.; M. L. Prentiss, Band 41 O. Inf.; M. L. Prentiss, A, 150 O. Inf.; P. W. Pitt, Hd. Artificer, 5 Ia. Lt. Art.; Thompson Rose, E, 88 O. Reg.; G. B. Sipp, B, 65 Ill. Inf.; Nathan Squires, G, 52 Ill. Inf.; B. F. Shurtleff, F, 139 Ill. Inf.; Shurtleff, B. F., A, 151 Ill. Inf.; George Stone, A, 23 N. Y. Cav.; John Swope, L, 2, Ia. Cav.; J. W. Thompson, D, 28 Ia. Inf.; W. A. Vincent, A, 152 N. Y. Inf.; Chris. Wentz, D, 36 Ill. Inf.; Joshua Worley, Asst. Sur., 126 O. Inf.; G. D. Walton, B, 28 Ia. Inf.; Wilcoxon, Geo., D, 62 Ill. Inf.; S. P. Van Dyke, D, 28 Ia. Inf.

Company B, Vinton:—J. R. Wallace, captain; B. Stevenson, lieutenant; Wm. Graham, orderly. Other members: J. Aleorn, E, 11 Penn.; W. Byxby, D, 23 N. Y. Inf. A, 166 O. Inf.; R. E. Rowe, D, 28 Ia. Inf.; Wm. Bordwell, C, 26 Mo. Inf.; H. J. Brown, G, 12 Ia. Vol. Inf.; Wm. M. Brown, I, 10 Ind. Vol. Inf.; J. W. Barr, F, 45 Ill. Inf.; Wm. H. Bowen, A, 28 Ia. Vol. Inf.; E. Bedel, K, 56 Penn. Inf.; Wm. Bingamen, E, 84 Penn. Vol. Inf.; J. A. Butterfield, F, 1 N. Y. Drag.; G. H. Barr, B, 93 Ill. Inf.; Frank Bender, C, 46 Penn. Inf.; W. H. Bell, B, 17 Ind. Inf.; J. W. Barker, C, 4 Ia. Inf.; J. H. Boyden, A, 28 Ia. Inf.; C. D. Barger, L, 13 U. S.

Reg.; W. H. Brown, D, 28 Ia. Inf.; J. B. Brody, C, 47 Ia. Inf. A. Batchelder, A, 16 Ia. Inf.; H. S. Bowers, C, 80 O. Inf.; F. D. Clemmons, H, 11 Ia. Inf.; E. H. Colecord, K, 112 Ill. Inf.; James R. Chambers, 12, O. Vol. Inf.; A. Campbell, G, 5 Ia. Inf.; S. M. Campbell, G, 5 Ia. Inf.; J. W. Cook, 12 Ia. Cav.; Geo. K. Covert, F, 7 Ind. Inf.; G. M. Conklin, D, 46 O. Inf.; James Carrick, C, 83 Ill. Inf.; H. Crawford, D, 38 O. Vol. Inf.; E. G. Chase, D, 91 N. Y. Bat.; D. Cantonwine, G, 5 Ia. Inf.; N. R. DeLong, E, 38 Ia. Inf.; Wm. A. Engledow, A, 31 Ia. Inf.; S. M. Edmonds, D, 18 Penn. Cav.; J. A. Elliott, E, 114 N. Y. Inf.; Joseph Fisher, I, 70 Ind. Inf.; A. B. Forrester, E, 8 Ill. Inf.; Wm. Graham, 30 Ill. Inf.; J. A. Griffith, B, 44 Ind. Inf.; E. Goodwin, D, 23 Ia. Vol.; Samuel Grow, I, 64 O. Inf.; C. C. Griffin, F, 171, O. Inf.; I. M. Garn, G, 11 O. Inf.; E. C. George, 12 N. Y. Cav.; John Gilmore, I, 167 O. Vol.; Wm. Graham, G, 5 Ia. Inf.; G. W. Geater, D, 8 Ia.; G. M. Gilchrist, E, 3 Ind. Cav.; J. W. Hughey, H, 13 U. S. Inf.; H. Hayward, D, 28 Ia. Vol.; Jacob Hite, D, 28 Ia. Inf.; Wm. Henderson, D, 36 Wis. Inf.; Richard Hodge, C, 124 Ill. Inf.; Geo. W. Hadley, C, 41 Wis. Inf.; C. O. Harrington, E, 4 Ia. Cav.; Orman Hunt, G, 152 Ill. Inf.; W. L. Jones, A, 123 Ind. Inf.; Geo. W. Jones, C, 47 Ia. Inf.; J. R. Jones, L, 2 W. Va. Cav.; D. A. Jones, D, 29 Ia. Inf.; James Johnson, G, 5 Ia.; James Kennedy, F, 81 O. Inf.; Wm. Knuth, D, 57 Ill. Inf.; H. H. Kelty, 6, O. Bat.; S. D. Kelty, K, 125 O.; J. King, C, 4 Ind. Cav.; S. H. Lutes, I, 1 Neb. Cav.; Wm. M. Long, E, 140 Ill. Inf.; J. R. Mitchell, D, 28 Ia. Inf.; H. H. McElroy, G, 13 Ia. Inf.; Wm. Maynard, H, 13 U. S. Reg.; A. J. Myers, G, 151 Ind. Inf.; D. T. McGuire, G, 7 Ia. Cav.; S. H. Metcalf, D, 8 Mass. Inf.; I. Mitchell, H, 168 O. Vol. Inf.; D. Markham, C., 18 Mass. Inf.; L. Meskimens, G, 5 Ia. Inf.; S. C. Oppelt, D, 28 Ia. Inf.; J. R. Patton, I, 9 Ill. Cav.; W. H. Pitts, H, 7 Ia. Vol. Cav.; W. L. Parmeter, A, 28 Ia. Inf.; John H. Randall, H, 6 Ia. Cav.; C. C. Ribble, I, 28 Ia. Inf.; I. S. Rozell, A, 28 Ia. Inf.; A. M. Rowe, F, 2 N. Y. Cav.; Austin A. Scott, M, 2 Ia. Cav.; J. W. Smock, F, 16 Ind. Inf.; James Sawyer, F, 22 Wis. Inf.; A. M. Stanger, A, 22 Penn. Cav.; Geo. A. Schoonover, H, 13 Ia. Inf.; J. O. Schoonover, G, 13 Ia. Inf.; W. N. Stickney, C, 2 N. Y. Cav.; B. M. Stevenson, I, 1 Wis. Art.; L. E. Shutts, G, 13 Ia. Inf.; Arad Thompson, K, 20 Me. Inf.; J. L. Tinkham, D, 8 Ia. Inf.; D. S. Tooms, G, 13 Ia. Inf.; W. J. Taylor, K, 8 Ia. Cav.; J. S. Thompson, K, 44 Ind. Inf.; W. H. Wood, D, 8 Ia. Inf.; H, 18 Ia. Inf. C, 9 Ia. Cav.; James R. Wallace, G, 13 Ia. Inf.; Harvey M. Wilson, G, 13 Ia. Inf.; Isaac Wright, G, 66 Ill. Inf.; Sol. White, I,

8 Ill. Cav.; S. Dan Weane, B, 4 Mich. Vol. Inf.; T. B. Wally; I, 13 Ia. Inf.; Geo. Weddle, C, 13 Penn. Cav.

Company, C, north of Cedar river:—S. A. Sawyer, captain; D. N. Lane, lieutenant; J. G. Warriner, orderly.

Vinton:—R. M. Belfield, D, 10 N. Y. Cav.; C. Knapp, C, 8 Ia.; J. M. Kilpatrick, A, 28 Ia. Inf.; D. Tague, H, 5 Ind. Cav.; J. G. Warriner, D, 8 Ia. Inf.; John C. Dine, A, 28 Ia. Inf.; J. Bain, G, 5 Ia. Inf.; B. B. Brown, B, 3 Ia. Inf.; Daniel Carmon, H, 7 Ia. Cav.; L. Hines, D, 8 Ia.; W. E. Hines, D, 8 Ia.; M. Montgomery, I, 5 Ia.; Chas. Smith, B, 53 O. Inf.

Urbana: John Bryson, B, 20 Ia. Inf.; J. C. Black, A, 6 Ia. Inf. John Burk, L, 40 Ia. Inf.; A. B. Cramer, H, 4 Ky.; G. Frink, C, 27 Ia. Inf.; J. T. Heath, D, 8 Ia.; Walt Jameson, I, 77 N. Y.; John Lanless, I, 83 Ind. Inf.; D. N. Lane, D, 40 N. Y. Eng.; A. P. Mossman, D, 8 Ia. Inf.; G. D. Schofield, 1 N. Y. Art.; S. A. Sawyer, D, 41 O.; Jacob Snell, A, 65 Ill. Inf.; W. H. Vandeventer, I, 31 Ia. Inf.

Company D:—E. A. Graves, captain; Riley Barkhurst, lieutenant; E. N. Metcalf, orderly.

Vinton: O. F. Eggleston, 19, Ia. Inf.

Garrison: G. N. Barnhart, B, 18 Ia.; G. W. Dickerson, I, 5 N. Y.; J. C. Fintle, G, 20 Ia. Inf.; E. A. Graves, C, 1 Neb. Cav.; Wm. Gorden, F, 7 Ind. Inf.; H. C. Henkle, D, 28 Ia. Inf.; Geo. Johnson, F, 22 Penn. Inf.; J. M. Kline, G, 3 Mo. Cav.; A. McCamant, F, 3 Wis.; A. B. Merchant, G, 6 Ia. Inf.; A. Merchant, H, 2 Ia. Cav.; E. N. Metcalf, D, 8 Ia. Inf.; Wm. M. Osler, G, 156 Ill.; Thomas Pavey, C, 47 Ia.; A. Robertson, K, 40 Ia. Inf.; W. H. Bristol, 7 Ia. Cav.; A. T. Shaw, D, 45 O. Inf.; H. H. Shaffer, G, 32 Wis. Inf.; A. W. Shaffer, H, 2 O. Cav.; H. St. Clair, D, 18 Penn. Cav.; M. S. Utley, G, 13 Ia. Inf.; G. D. Pegg, I, 8 Ia. Cav.

Company E, Shellsburg:—J. L. Bigley, captain; Wm. Hatfield, lieutenant; O. B. Barton, orderly. Other members: O. B. Barton, D, 28, Ia. Inf.; Wm. C. Benson, I, 90 O. Inf.; I. S. Boles, C, 47 Ia. Inf.; A. M. Parry, A, 9 Ia. Inf.; Jacob Sminke, G, 34 N. Y. Inf.; M. Blauvett, F, 132 Ia. Inf.; A. G. Barnell, I, 20 Ia. Inf.; J. L. Bigley, D, 8 Ia. Inf.; W. C. Elson, H, 20 Ia. Inf.; M. S. Heath, A, 28 Ia. Inf.; W. W. Hatfield, G, 5 Ia. Inf.; James Lahue, A, 28 Ia. Inf.; Geo. Lightfoot, E, 7 Ind. Inf.; Alex. Laugham, I, 16 O. Vol. Inf.; Edwin Murray, F, 18 O. Inf.; G. S. Smith, D, 28 O. Inf.;

Joseph Owens, 35 Ia. Inf.; M. S. Pratt, G, 5 Ia. Inf.; Nelson Rambo, C, 2 Ia. Cav.; Wm. Strawn, B, 9 Ia. Cav.; S. I. Spickler, K, 102 Ill. Inf.; Wm. R. Soden, L, 50 N. Y. Eng.; Scott, D, 15 Ia. Inf.; Miles Strawn, B, 9 Ia. Cav.; A. L. Weatherwax, K, 8 Ia. Cav.; Benjamin White, E, 135 Penn. Inf.

Palo: Bruce Murray, G, 46 O. Vol. Cav.; J. S. Taylor, C, 20 Ind. Inf.; J. C. Wood, C, 20 Ia. Inf.

Atkins: Wm. Blue, Penn. Bat.; Jacobs Nell, E, 152 N. Y. Inf.; Adam Primrose, I, 20 Ia.; John Strong, K, 11; Stephen Sabin, F, 108 N. Y.

Company F:—M. M. McElroy, captain; Levi Sanderson, lieutenant; H. F. Giesking, orderly.

Blairstown: W. H. Crandall, I, 5 Ia. Cav.; Geo. Ditto, I, 6 Ia. Inf.; R. Ferman, D, 112 Ill. Inf.; Geo. Goss, E, 6 Pa. Cav.; H. F. Giesking, L, 12 Pa. Cav.; C. C. Hayden, G, 153 Ill. Inf.; A. L. Hayden, D, 112 Ill. Inf.; J. T. Halstead, C, 3 Md. Inf.; J. H. Kimm, G, 34 N. Y. Inf.; John Lyons, H, 5 N. Y. Inf.; P. H. Lynch, E, 37 Wis. Inf.; H. Miner, K, 40 Ia. Inf.; C. B. Merriman, K, 112 Ill. Inf.; C. Riesser, G, 9 N. Y. Inf.; S. Richart, I, 3 Ind. Cav.; Levi Sanderson, I, 22 N. J. Inf.; Chas. B. Thorp, E, 3 Ill. Cav.; S. Vaughlin, B, 6 Ia. Inf.; J. P. Wood, K, 40 Ia. Inf.; W. H. Wood, K, 40 Ia. Inf.; H. Watkinson, A, 133 O. Inf.

Luzerne: F. M. Cashman, G, 24 Ky. Inf.; A. H. Little, G, 28 Ia. Inf.

Van Horne: H. B. Burns, C, 11 O. Vol. Inf.; Fred Christ, E, 6 O. Vol. Cav.; W. Engleking, B, 34 Ia. Inf.; Geo. Kraft, A, 79 Pa. Inf.; James Hickey, D, 6 Ia. Cav.; Frank O'Connell, B, 34 Ill. Inf.; Spencer Smith, A, 8 Ia. Inf.; G. L. Wittie, D, 34 Ill. Inf.

Company G:—J. W. Rich, captain; A. B. Searls, first lieutenant; John Brannon, second lieutenant; J. R. Christie, orderly.

La Porte: W. H. Pell, C, 93 Ill. Inf.; I. Boombaur, I, 3 Ia. Inf.; B. E. Eberhart, E, 12 Ia. Inf.; N. R. Kennedy, K, 13 Ind. Inf.; H. D. Kabler, H, 45 Ill. Inf.; R. J. Pray, G, 13 Ia. Inf.; J. B. Roszell, A, 28 Ia. Inf.; A. Scott, A, 13 Ia. Inf.; S. W. Schaible, E, 126 Ill.; R. J. Gillespie, F, 98 O. Inf.; J. M. Babcock, A, 46 Ill.

Dysart: S. J. Kerr, D, 1 Ill. Inf.; August Shrader, E, 2 Ia. Inf.

Marion: W. G. Thompson, B, 20 Ia. Inf.; J. R. Christie, K, 40 Ia. Inf.; J. T. Crippen, I, 17 N. Y. Inf.

Traer: J. B. Dennis, B, 184 O. Inf.; Isaac Skinner, I, 4 Mich. Cav.

Watkins: S. T. Sabin, F, 108 N. Y. Inf.; P. Fowler, H, 22 Ia. Inf.; Wm. Delaney, E, 24 Ia. Inf.

Cedar Rapids: C. D. Myers, G, 28 Ia. Inf.; J. P. Skea.

Marshall: D. M. Fuller, G, 2 U. S. Inf.; Wm. Putnam, D, 3 Ia. Inf.; J. H. Gaskins, C, 42 Ill. Inf.; Wm. Betz, I, 13 Ia. Inf.

Walker: F. Reiterman, B, 4 Ia. Inf.

Maryville, Mo.: F. M. Bramhall, C, 92 Ill. Mtd. Inf.

Marengo: M. McElroy, K, 40 Ia. Inf.

Garwin: N. P. Stevenson, C, 10 Ia. Inf.

Tampa: W. H. Stoddard, C, 10 Ia. Inf.

Toledo: A. A. Jones, B, 65 Ill. Inf.

Victor: J. N. Smith, G, 55 Ill. Cav.

Covington: John Hallis, K, 20 Ia. Inf.; A. Hisler, E, 92 Ill. Cav.; J. R. Sutton, 7 N. Y. Cav.; F. N. Bryan, A, 122 Ill. Inf.

Company H:—C. B. Hayward, captain; Wm. St. Clair, lieutenant; Wm. Amburn, orderly.

Mt. Auburn: J. Ayers, F, 160 Ill. Inf.; Wm. Amburn, G, 13 Ia. Inf.; A. Bagley, B, 12 Ill. Inf.; W. W. Buck, G, 13 Ia. Inf.; Daniel Brownlee, K, 24 Ill. Inf.; A. Cowley, K, 9 Ia. Vol. Inf.; J. W. Donley, A, 189 O. Inf.; J. C. Roster, G, 7 Ind. Inf.; T. McLaughlin, G, 5 Ia. Inf.; H. St. Clair, Jr., A, 28 Ia. Inf.; Wm. St. Clair, D, 28 Ia. Inf.; John Tripp, H, 195 Ill. Inf.; James M. Tripp, 10 Ill. Cav.; Geo. H. Walker, G, 13 Ia. Inf.; Joppa Jenks, D, 28 Ia. Inf.

Company I:—S. T. Sabin, captain; Wm. Delaney, lieutenant; J. P. Johnson, orderly.

Norway: Thomas Buchanan, 45 Ia. Inf.; Andrew Conley, A, 15 Ia. Inf.; Wm. Delaney, E, 24 Ia. Inf.; P. Z. Fowler, H, 22 Ia. Inf.; Hugh Humphrey, D, 44 Ia. Inf.

Company K:—R. R. Hanford, captain; O. Inman, lieutenant; J. E. Catlin, orderly.

Vinton: Elias Bechtel, B, 247 Ill.; A. T. Edwards, D, 6 O. Cav.; R. R. Hanford, G, 13 Ia. Inf.; O. Inman, A, 28 Ia. Inf.; Wm. Stauffer; H. M. Wilson, D, 28 Ia. Inf.

Newhall: E. U. Benedict, 27, Ill. Inf.; W. B. Russel, B, 121 Ill. Inf.

Veterans of the Civil war, as well as the Spanish-American

war, are waiting with much interest the forthcoming work of the Soldiers' Roster Board from the adjutant general's department of the state. The work is in active charge of George W. Crosley, secretary of the board, and he states that it will not probably leave the hands of the binders before April, 1911. It will consist of eight large volumes of over 1,200 pages each and embraces a complete history of each Iowa military organization from the time of the admission of the state into the Union, down to the close of hostilities in the Phillipine Islands. It will be a complete military history of the state, showing the active operations of Iowa soldiers in the early Indian wars, the Mexican war, the war of the Rebellion, the Spanish-American war and the operations in the Phillipine Islands, with a personal record of every Iowa soldier opposite his name in the revised roster of the military organization to which he belonged or belongs.

VINTON'S G. A. R. POST.

P. M. Coder Post, G. A. R., of Vinton, was organized September 28, 1882, with the following charter members: H. H. Eddy, D. M. Colwell, U. T. Morris, J. L. Tinkham, Jacob Hoxey, A. O. Adams, E. H. Coleord, G. H. Gordon, J. P. Matthews, L. S. Keagle, M. Meredith, L. H. Starks, C. O. Harrington, Harper Scott, Isaac Pease, E. D. Stedman, George E. Shaw, S. E. Conner, C. R. Wilkinson, S. D. Redfield, D. I. Connett, R. H. Quinn and John W. Barr. The post now numbers 110 members and is officered as follows: J. M. Fisher, commander; Asa Forrester, S. V. and William Byxby, J. V.

CHAPTER XIII.

CHURCHES IN THE COUNTY.

METHODISM IN BENTON COUNTY—FIRST METHODIST CHURCH, VINTON—BUILDING OF THE CHURCH—KIND WORDS FROM MR. KNAPP—WHITE ELEPHANT SLAUGHTERED—A BELOVED METHODIST PIONEER—THE PASTORAL ROSTER—SHELLSBURG METHODIST CHURCH—FIRST M. E. CHURCH, BELLE PLAINE—BLAIRSTOWN M. E. CHURCH—VAN HORNE METHODIST CHURCH—REV. THOMAS C. GOLDEN—OTHER M. E. CHURCHES—VINTON'S NEW SCHOOL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—OLD SCHOOL PRESBYTERIANS—PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VINTON—REV. STEPHEN PHELPS—UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, VINTON—SHELLSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—PLEASANT HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—BLAIRSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—GARRISON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—ATKINS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—CEDAR RAPIDS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION—SHELLSBURG BAPTIST CHURCH—FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, VINTON—GARRISON GERMAN BAPTIST CHURCH—UNITED BROTHERS SOCIETIES—DR. W. B. WAGNER—FIRST DISCIPLES' CHURCH—MT. AUBURN CHRISTIAN CHURCH—HARRISON TOWNSHIP CHRISTIAN CHURCH—DISCIPLES' (CHRISTIAN) CHURCH, VINTON—FIRST SERMON IN BELLE PLAINE—ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, NORWAY—ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, VINTON—OTHER CATHOLIC CHURCHES—BELLE PLAINE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH—LUTHERAN AND EVANGELICAL CHURCHES—BENTON COUNTY SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

It would be impossible to say when the first religious services were held in Benton county, as it was characteristic of the early times to observe some kind of Christian worship whenever half a dozen or more adults could be gathered together. Before the early fifties, missionaries connected with the Methodist church and other of the old established denominations occasionally visited Benton county and gave religious comfort and moral support to the few settlers in this frontier section of the country. The missionaries of this great proselyting Protestant denomination were evidently first in the field.

METHODISM IN BENTON COUNTY.

Methodism in Benton county was introduced almost with the advent of the first settlers. It is known that Elijah Evans gathered a few of the settlers in the northeast part of the county about the year 1847, to hold services in his house, near the present town of Urbana. There is no record of any regular services having been held until the second Sabbath of August, 1850, when Rev. Rood, of Iowa City, held a religious meeting in the first court house at Vinton. This court house, which also served as the first regular church of the county, was a little frame building, at that time unfinished, and therefore without doors or windows except openings left for them. At one end of the unfinished court room was a rude platform of puncheon laid across the sleepers which was constructed in honor of Mr. Wood, the preacher. The little congregation were obliged to content themselves by sitting upon the floor timbers with their feet upon the ground. There is no record of another religious service having been held in the court house, as the structure was destroyed by fire in February, 1853.

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH, VINTON.

About the time of the burning of the court house, Rev. H. Taylor was doing missionary work on the frontier and in the spring of 1853 succeeded in organizing the First Methodist Episcopal church of Vinton, with the following eleven members: Elijah Evans and wife, Elmer Howard and wife, David B. Keys and wife, William Taft and wife, Joseph Morris and wife, and J. D. Tracy. Soon after the organization of this church, the Iowa Conference appointed Rev. H. S. Burleigh to the Vinton circuit, but not being able to find a residence within the town, he secured a small room in a farmer's house, six miles out in the country. Although the denomination thus established itself in Benton county in rather modest and unostentatious circumstances the church of which Mr. Burleigh assumed charge developed into one of the largest in the Upper Iowa conferences. Some time after the founding of the church at Vinton, meetings were held at the homes of the various members; the first to open his house for this purpose being the father of Hon. Marion Evans. In 1855, what is now known as Good Templars Hall was erected in Vinton, and the First Methodist church rented it for religious purposes until the year 1857, by which time the society had increased to about eighty. This encouraging growth called for the erection of a church home.

THE BUILDING OF THE CHURCH.

In 1858, under the pastorate of Rev. John Ridlington, the basement of the church was first occupied, and in 1863 the old brick church was completed over it. Much of the material which entered into its construction—in fact all of the woodwork and timbers—was supplied by Bowe's mill, being hauled from Benton City for that purpose by ox teams, the latter under the "management" of Romanzo E. Bowe.

The period of the building of the church was also the season of hard times, but the faithful Methodists of Vinton circuit labored bravely and unceasingly and, in spite of every drawback, built up a flourishing society. At this period of its history the circuit embraced besides Vinton, Big Grove, Spring Creek, Mud Creek, and Royal's School house. During this trying ordeal for the Vinton circuit, gracious revivals were held at Vinton and in other churches, and the society continually increased in strength, although the building of the church necessarily dragged. Money was not only scarce and hard to collect, but was so unreliable that what was secured one day might be almost worthless the next. The pillars of the church and the hardest laborers of this season were those faithful pastors, Rev. J. M. Rankin and Rev. F. X. Miller. While the former, the preacher of the church, was actually carrying the hod for the workmen engaged on the church building, Rev. Miller was sent east by the board of trustees to secure funds to complete the house of worship. His efforts of about four months resulted in securing enough money to finish the basement, which was used for some time before the superstructure was completed. In a letter written during recent years Mr. Miller gives several members of his congregation hearty credit for their faithful work during this period. "There were some grand good people on the Vinton charge," he says, "Dr. Boyd and wife, Elijah Evans and wife, Rev. Stephen Williams and wife, David Hollingsworth and wife, Hiram Roszell and wife, Martha L. Ralyea and many other good people."

As stated the church was not entirely completed until 1863, when Rev. S. C. Freer was pastor; and his gracious life and faithfulness in the upbuilding of the Vinton society were recorded in one of the church's beautiful memorial windows.

In 1864 Rev. S. A. Lee assumed charge of the circuit, and it

was mainly through his efforts that the first parsonage was secured. By this time the membership had so increased that an addition to the church was necessary. Under the pastorate of Rev. Scaman A. Knapp such addition of the seating capacity was made in the form of a transept which was built at an expenditure of several thousands of dollars, and doubled the church accommodations.

KIND WORDS FROM MR. KNAPP.

Mr. Knapp afterward entered government employ, but recalls these early days of his pastorate at Vinton in the following words: "I vividly recall those veterans of Methodism, every expression of their countenance is clearly photographed upon my memory, and the tones of their voices come to me through the corridor of years as lifelike and resonant as if they were present. Personally I may have forgotten some, but the old guard of the Amen corner I shall never forget. I think those days were the happiest of my life. While the position I now occupy gives me an acquaintance vastly wider and commands a salary much more tempting than the salary of the little brick church in the early days of Vinton, yet it seems to me in some respects the work there was more attractive and more valuable to me than any position I have since held, and I send a kind greeting to all the members of the Methodist church at Vinton."

A few months after this addition, and while the society was enjoying an unusual season of prosperity, the first railroad entered the city limits, and unfortunately was laid within a few feet of the church building. It may be imagined that with the passing and switching of the passenger and freight trains, religious services were apt to be interrupted or at least made unpleasant, but the congregation "suffered all and endured all" for nearly twenty years, and finally, in 1887, under the pastorate of Rev. Dr. M. H. Smith, the present attractive edifice was completed at a cost of more than twenty thousand dollars. It was dedicated on the first Sabbath of January, 1889, by Bishop McCabe (then Chaplain McCabe). In 1905 Rev. Frank L. Loveland was called to the pulpit and during his pastorate the church was re-embellished, a fine pipe organ installed and other improvements added, at a cost of five thousand dollars. About the same time a well furnished parsonage was also built for three thousand dollars.

During Rev. Frank L. Loveland's pastorate the church celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its establishment as a permanent

society; its real founding being dated from the time when it rented Templar's Hall for religious services. Upon this occasion Bishop McCabe, who dedicated the church in 1889, was present as the chief speaker. Perhaps one of the greatest causes of rejoicing upon this occasion was the fact that the debt of the church had been finally liquidated.

WHITE ELEPHANT SLAUGHTERED.

One of the events of the jubilee was also the preparation of a complete and interesting historical sketch of the church, prepared



PIPE ORGAN, VINTON METHODIST CHURCH.

and read by J. E. Marietta, secretary of the board of trustees, from whose paper the following is extracted as a fitting conclusion of this article: "The records of the trustees and official boards of

the past fifty years would all make very interesting reading for this occasion, but those meetings to be chronicled as among the more significant are those which met for the purpose of laying plans for the slaughtering of the White Elephant (as the church mortgage is properly called). The financial depression of the times seems to have thwarted the purpose of the church to dedicate free from debt both on the old and the new.

“The first meeting of the board of trustees was held on the day following the adoption of articles of incorporation and the only business transacted of which a record was kept was the creation of the first White Elephant, and from that time on, through all the years of our history, records appear of the slaughtering of the White Elephant. Some of the members even yet recall the Mt. Vernon debt, the Jacob Stevens loan and the Church Extension Society mortgage, all just and legitimate obligations which were met with Christian fortitude. The burning of the latter mortgage we celebrated through the magnificent labors of our well and dearly remembered John W. Clinton, D. D., the only pastor called to his great reward while in the active pastorate of our charge, and whose Godly virtues we would emulate. Our celebration of the last slaughter on last Sabbath is a fit event for the first day of this Golden Jubilee. During these fifty years of history this church has contributed to church and parsonage building and improvement at least \$40,000.00; to ministerial support and current expenses over \$80,000.00, and for the benevolences of our church more than \$20,000.00, making a total of \$140,000.00. We are now clear of the incubus of debt and may we look for the future achievements far exceeding the magnificent record of the past.

“Verily these founders of early Methodism in Vinton builded even better than they knew. Those beginning days were times of great sacrifice and faithful toil for the building up of the cause of Christ in our midst which cannot be forgotten by those who remain to review the experiences through which they passed, while those who have come after to carry on the work so well begun will not be unmindful of what has been done in other days.

“For nearly one-half of the time since the organization of the charge one of my greatest privileges has been to be an officer of your board on whom has been devolved the duty of keeping the records of the church, and during that time I recall many whose faces we see no more among us. Of all such we would speak in words of praise. Their numbers are too great to particularize.

“‘Gone, but not forgotten.’”

“This may be said of many who once filled places in pulpit and pew of this church. ‘Rich in labors; abundant in sacrifices; precious in memory, they have gone to make a part of the church triumphant, while their work and influence still live to strengthen and cheer the church militant.’”

A BELOVED METHODIST PIONEER.

Mr. Marietta pays the following tribute to the first pastor of the church, Rev. H. S. Burleigh, it being in the form of an extract from one of the church papers upon the occasion of the peaceful death of this beloved pioneer of Methodism: “He was such a little old man—eighty-six years old his last birthday. So crippled with rheumatism, he had to use two canes, and walk so slowly that his wife was in constant terror lest he be run over by the passers-by. For years he had been a minister in the Methodist church, one of the pioneers in a great western state. What stories he could tell of early Methodism!

“Like so many of the old veterans of the cross, they had no means of support when old age came; but a loyal church paid the necessary amount yearly, and the old couple were contented and happy in one of our delightful Old People’s Homes. Their home was but one room now; but they were so thankful for the quiet and peace of that one room in which to spend their remaining days.

“A great sorrow had come to the old man. He was getting blind, so he could no longer see to read or see the faces of his friends. A celebrated oculist was consulted, and for three years the old man submitted to the painful treatment.

“One early spring day the old couple went to the doctor’s office, and the assistant looked into his eyes. ‘We can do nothing for you sir,’ he said. ‘Can’t you, doctor?’ asked the old minister feebly. ‘If you were twenty years younger we might, but it’s no use trying now.’ ‘Well, ma, we better go home then.’

“The quick ears of the faithful wife detected the weary voice, and she led him tenderly from the room. When the door of the office closed behind them she whispered to him: ‘We will go and see Dr. Johns. If anyone can do anything he can.’ They consulted the kind old doctor, and, with tears in his eyes, he said to the aged man: ‘No power on earth can restore your sight.’ ‘Oh, doctor, I want to see again,’ was the cry as the old man sank to the floor.

“Willing hands lifted him up, and after a little a strong man carried him to his carriage, and drove quickly to their home. They laid him on his bed, never to rise from it. He recovered consciousness after a little, and the old-time cheerfulness; but never spoke again of seeing. Many friends visited him during the few days that he lived. His pastor, class leader, and a few friends met for a little service in his room, and he was the happiest of them all. The end came peacefully; and he could see at last.”

THE PASTORAL ROSTER.

The following have served the church from the commencement: 1853, H. S. Burleigh; 1854, Nelson Wells; 1855, S. R. Young; 1856, B. F. Taylor; 1857, H. H. Keith; 1858-9, J. Ridlington; 1860, J. M. Rankin, resigned; 1860, F. X. Miller; 1861-2, S. C. Freer; 1863-4, S. A. Lee; 1865-6, Uriah Ebberhart; 1867-8, S. A. Knapp; 1869, J. C. Cormack; 1870-1, G. W. Brindell; 1872, R. W. Peebles; 1873-4, D. Sheffer; 1875, T. C. Golden; 1876-7, E. L. Miller; 1878-9, J. R. Berry; 1880-1, R. D. Parsons; 1882-3, William Brush; 1884-5, H. D. Church; 1886-8, M. H. Smith; 1889-90, W. A. Pottle; 1891-3, J. W. Clinton, deceased; 1893, R. F. Hurlbut; 1894, J. C. Magee; 1895-6, T. M. Evans; 1897, R. D. Parsons; 1898-1905, Frank L. Loveland; 1906-7, Rev. Dewitt W. Clinton; 1908-, Rev. W. F. Spry. The present membership of the church is 510, making it the strongest religious organization in Vinton.

The first Sabbath school in connection with the church was held in the home of Elijah Evans, about the same time that the adults formed a society. The juveniles gathered in the houses of various members until 1862, when they met in Crowe's Hall, which gave the school better chance to grow. The membership of the Sabbath school increased in excess of the growth of the church, until the completion of the first edifice, when the school became one of the largest in the city, and has since maintained its former rank.

SHELLSBURG METHODIST CHURCH.

Rev. C. S. Burnard, the Methodist minister at Shellsburg, also includes the First Eden congregation in his charge, and the parent church numbers about 125 members. The organization at Shellsburg was effected by Rev. B. F. Taylor in 1856, when fourteen joined the church. The first religious edifice of the Shells-

burg society was built in 1861, at a cost of \$1,200, but the growth of the church membership made a larger structure necessary, and in the summer of 1876 it was erected, being dedicated during the same year by Rev. Mr. Crippen, of Waterloo, who took his text from Mark X:29:30. Succeeding the first pastor, Rev. B. F. Taylor, who remained until 1858, were the following: Revs. D. Donaldson, H. P. Hollensworth, C. W. Brewer, H. W. Beach, George Rains, D. C. Wortz, William Glassner, Joseph Wilkinson, J. Baker, James Leslie, Asa Critchfield, L. Winsett, A. N. Lee, Reuben Ricks, S. Sberin, F. E. Days, J. A. Davis, W. F. Pitner, N. S. Mustrom, William Cobb, J. F. Norton, William A. Allen, George L. Culp, W. F. Spry, W. N. Brown, L. D. Stubbs, James Carson, J. H. Barr, A. B. Fickle and C. S. Burnard.

FIRST M. E. CHURCH, BELLE PLAINE.

The first Methodist Episcopal church of Belle Plaine was organized June 2, 1866, the officers of the corporation being G. D. Blue, president; W. W. Benson, vice-president, and A. N. Twogood, secretary and treasurer. During the same month Messrs. T. Thompson, Benson and Twogood were selected as a building committee, and on July 21st, lot 2, block 3, was purchased for a church site. Soon after a contract was made with D. B. Blue for the erection of a building to cost \$2,484, and the edifice was completed during the later half of the year. The dedicatory services in January, 1867, were conducted by Rev. A. J. Kynett. Among the well known pastors of this church have been Revs. J. B. Taylor, R. W. Milner, G. W. Ballow, F. P. Schaefer, J. A. Davis, O. B. Waite, N. Pye, F. G. Clarke, J. Q. Robinson, L. L. Lockhard and Dillman Smith, 1909.

The fine church now occupied by the society was built in 1888 at a cost of \$15,000 and the \$5,000 parsonage was completed in 1902. Membership of the church about 350.

BLAIRSTOWN M. E. CHURCH.

A class of Methodists was formed in the vicinity of Blairstown in 1858, and in the fall of 1861 it was included in the Hickory Grove circuit under Rev. O. D. Boles. When the church was incorporated at Blairstown in 1868, Rev. S. W. Heald was the pastor in charge of the circuit. In that year the number of members on the circuit, including two other appointments, was seventy-

two. A church edifice was erected and dedicated in the fall of 1878. Present membership of the society eighty-five, with Rev. W. J. Pyle pastor.

THE VAN HORNE METHODIST CHURCH.

A Methodist Episcopal church was organized at Van Horne soon after the town came into existence as a station on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad. Its first pastor was Rev. Uriah Eberhart, who was followed by Rev. John G. Palmer. Then came Rev. W. S. Lewis, who became a bishop in the fall of 1908 and is now engaged in missionary work in China. After Dr. Lewis the following successively filled the pulpit: Revs. Adam Holm, T. A. Trimble, R. A. Miller, S. C. Brettnall, C. E. Logsdon, C. B. Wright, W. H. H. Bunch, William Bartle, H. T. Crawford, S. V. Williams, H. W. Artman and G. W. Dunham. Membership of church about fifty. Mr. Dunham has also under his charge the congregation at Second Eden. The church at Van Horne was for many years in the Blairstown circuit.

REV. THOMAS C. GOLDEN.

Rev. Thomas C. Golden was a prominent Methodist in Benton county for a number of years, after having served as chaplain of the Twenty-fifth Wisconsin Infantry in the war of the Rebellion. He was a man of middle age when he entered the army, his original profession being that of medicine. He was a graduate physician when he came to America from England in 1849, and practiced both in his native country and in the state of Wisconsin. He also entered the itinerant ministry of the Methodist church, served as presiding elder in Wisconsin for ten years, and was several times a delegate to the general conferences. He came to Iowa in 1870 and was pastor of the church at Mt. Vernon for a number of years, as well as presiding elder of the district.

OTHER M. E. CHURCHES.

The Methodist societies at Urbana and Bear Creek are under Rev. W. W. Martin.

Rev. A. M. Ewert is the pastor of the Methodist church at Garrison, which was dedicated in 1874.

The Methodist societies at Norway and Walford are in charge of Rev. T. Y. Williams, a recent graduate of Cornell college. Membership of both charges about forty.

VINTON'S NEW SCHOOL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The New School Presbyterians of Vinton formed an organization June 27, 1852, under Rev. Williston Jones. The original members of the society were James F. Young and Mrs. Mary Young, John S. Tilford and Mrs. Margaret A. Tilford, James Rice, Mrs. Maria Traer, Mrs. Amy Jones, Harrison Bristol and Mrs. Mary Bristol. Rev. John Summer was the first stated supply of the society and was succeeded in the spring of 1854 by Rev. Nelson C. Robinson. After a pastorate of seventeen and a half years he was succeeded by Rev. Stephen Phelps, who not only served the church until its organization was lost in the union of the two churches, June 17, 1872, but continued as pastor of the united congregations.

OLD SCHOOL PRESBYTERIANS.

The Old School Presbyterians formed a society February 25, 1854, under Rev. J. S. Fullerton and Elder William Vaughn, a committee from the Presbytery of Cedar Rapids. Its original members were Francis J. Dobbins and Mrs. Rachel Dobbins, Mrs. Rachel Gwinn, Mrs. Lavina Beatty, Miss E. Jane Watson, Henry Watson and Ezra Watson. Its ministers were: Rev. W. L. Lyons, who was pastor from the spring of 1856 for about a year and a half; Rev. James Kirk, who served for three years from November 1, 1857; Rev. J. S. Dunning, 1863-9, and Rev. J. W. Crawford from the spring of 1869 until the union of the churches in 1872. At that time the First (New School) church had a membership of 200 and the Second (Old School) of 125.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VINTON.

The meetings of the First Presbyterian church were held successively in the old court house, J. S. Tilford's residence, Jones' Hall, Tilford's school house (especially built for the holding of church services) and the Baptist church building, which had been sold and a larger structure erected. The Second Presbyterian society worshipped, previous to the union, at the Tilford school house, and in their frame churches of 1857 and 1866. The united



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, YINTON.

congregation enlarged the latter house of worship and occupied it until October 14, 1877, when they dedicated their present building erected on the site of the Second Presbyterian church.

Dr. Stephen Phelps became pastor of the Presbyterian church of Vinton, which resulted from the union of the New and the Old School societies in 1872, continuing in charge until 1881. In that year he resigned to become president of Coe college. Dr. Eugene H. Avery was then called to the pastorate, and, to the great regret of his parishioners, resigned his charge in 1899 to assume his ministerial labors in California. In the following year Dr. Solomon S. Hilscher was installed as pastor, and remained in charge until October, 1907, when he was succeeded by Dr. P. Marion Simms. The church now comprises about five hundred regular attendants and is among the strongest Presbyterian societies in Iowa.

REV. STEPHEN PHELPS.

At the time that Rev. Stephen Phelps was called to the pastorate of the First Presbyterian church of Vinton, in October, 1871, that society represented the largest organization of the denomination in the state of Iowa. Mr. Phelps was in every way qualified to assume such responsibilities, having already served as moderator of his synod and as delegate to the general assembly of the Presbytery for three terms. A native of Fulton county, Illinois, he was educated at Jefferson College, Pennsylvania, and the Western Theological Seminary, being licensed to preach in the summer of 1861. After refusing several calls from eastern churches, he accepted the pastorate of the Sioux City Presbyterian church, and after filling that pulpit for nearly three years was called to the Presbyterian church of Waterloo, Iowa, where he labored until obliged to resign on account of his health. He accepted the pastorate of the Vinton Presbyterian church in October, 1871, which he held for several years and also served as chaplain of the Iowa State Guards. Although not strictly germane to the subject, it may be added that Myron Phelps, his father, was one of the early settlers in Illinois, locating in Fulton county that state, before the breaking out of the Black Hawk war, and remaining in that section of the state, as a successful merchant, for considerable more than half a century.

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, VINTON.

After a useful existence of about twenty years the United Presbyterian church of Vinton was organized into the congregation known as the Pratt Creek church, to accommodate its many members who resided from five to seven miles from the city. It was organized in 1857 by Rev. Hugh Sturgeon, of the Cedar Rapids Presbytery, and originally numbered seventeen members. The pulpit was filled by the various supplies until 1862, when Rev. S. M. Kier was installed as first pastor. Then came, in succession, Rev. W. A. Pollock, Rev. Mr. Rule and Rev. P. H. Drennan, under whose pastorate the Pratt Creek church was organized and the Vinton congregation disbanded.

SHELLSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The origin of the present Presbyterian church of Shellsburg is found in the Old School Presbyterian society which was organized at the White school house on Sand Prairie, north of town, May 17, 1856. Rev. Walter L. Lyon, of Vinton, and Rev. George Bergen, of Big Grove, formed the society, the former being its first pastor. Rev. James Fullerton succeeded him, and in 1869, when the church was removed to Shellsburg, Rev. Alexander Caldwell assumed the pastorate. Mr. Caldwell's successors were: Rev. A. G. Martyn, 1871-2; Rev. H. K. Kennigh, 1873-4; Rev. D. Medermid, 1875-6; Rev. A. Caldwell, 1877-9; Rev. A. M. Tanner, 1882-4; Rev. J. Kennedy, 1888-9; 1889-92 (stated supply); Rev. L. R. Smith, 1893-5; Rev. J. M. Smith, 1897-8; Rev. G. W. McKenney, 1899; Rev. E. C. Haskell, 1900; Rev. J. C. Patterson, 1900-8; Rev. J. W. Hulme, 1908-9; Rev. Charles C. Brown, 1909. The present membership of the church is about 120. The Pleasant Hill society is in this charge and has a membership of thirty.

At a meeting of the New and Old School Presbyterians held at the Methodist church March 27, 1870, resolutions were passed uniting the two bodies, and in the same year the church was built and dedicated. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. Alexander Marshall, of Marion. The first members to join the united body in March, 1870, were John Parker, Abraham Scott, William Crawford, James Strong, Paul Miller, Mrs. Harriet Elson, Hannah Greenwood and Hannah M. Miller.

PLEASANT HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The Pleasant Hill Presbyterian church was organized June 2, 1860, by Rev. James S. Fullerton, at Pleasant Hill school house. Its original members were Samuel McGrenmahan and his wife, Rebecca; Eliza Johnson and Sarah Thompson; Christopher Fullenweider and Mary T., his wife; Harriet S. Scott; Jacob Kouts; J. W. B. Youel (elder) and his wife Hannah. On the following day (the first Sabbath) David Johnson and Joseph Hagen, with his wife Margaret, joined the church on confession of faith, and there were four baptisms of adults.

Rev. Alexander Caldwell served the Pleasant Hill charge from 1861 to 1869; Rev. D. McDermid, 1875-6; Rev. A. Caldwell, 1877-9; Rev. S. T. McClure, 1881; Rev. A. M. Tanner, 1882-4; Rev. I. D. Barnard, 1885-6; Rev. P. Read, 1887; Rev. J. L. Martyn, 1888; Rev. A. G. Martyn, 1889-90; Rev. J. S. Dunning, 1891-2; Rev. L. R. Smith, 1893-5; Rev. J. M. Smith, 1897-8; Rev. George McKenney, 1898-9; Rev. E. C. Haskell, 1900; Rev. J. C. Patterson, 1900-8; Rev. J. W. Hulme, 1908-9; Rev. Charles C. Brown, 1909.

Five young men who were connected with the Pleasant Hill church have gone into the ministry and had noteworthy success as missionaries, viz:—Rev. Y. G. Barnell (who went into the foreign field); Rev. J. E. Youel, now of Union, Oregon; Rev. Clarence W. Weyer, Hastings, Nebraska; Rev. Robert Countermine and Rev. Charles Countermine.

BLAIRSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The Presbyterians of Blairstown organized themselves into a society May 9, 1864, at a meeting held in the Robertson school house, a few miles east of town, under the ministration of Rev. Alexander Campbell of the Vinton Presbytery. The original members were as follows: H. C. Robertson and his wife, Urid-dice; Ephraim Robertson and his wife, Mary; Alexander Kelly and his wife, Margaret; and William Kelly and wife, Elizabeth. In the spring of 1865 Rev. Luther Dodd, of Vinton, assumed the Blairstown and West Irving charges, and was succeeded by Rev. George D. Porter, who died in December, 1867, while engaged in missionary work. In the spring of 1869 Rev. John N. Wilson commenced his service, being followed by Rev. G. M. Lodge for four years. The society then had a membership of about eighty-five, but for some time after Mr. Lodge left there were no regular

services. Rev. Lewis Hamilton, of Colorado, supplied the pulpit for a time, and in September, 1876, was succeeded by Rev. J. S. Dickey, the church being erected during the pastorate of the latter (in 1877) at a cost of \$2,500. Those who have occupied the pulpit since then included Rev. J. B. Butler, George Ainslie, John Thompson, ----- Smiley and Charles M. Wyse (the present incumbent). Membership of the church over 105.

GARRISON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Rev. L. D. Hughes, a missionary of the Presbyterian church, held meetings in the Methodist Episcopal church, of Garrison, for some time previous to the spring of 1876, and on May 26, 1876, a committee of the Presbytery consisting of Revs. Stephen Phelps and L. D. Hughes and Elders Geo. Horridge and A. H. Hanna proceeded to complete the organization. Dr. LaGrange, Ames Dean and J. S. Stanley were elected elders and Geo. K. Covert, F. L. Bolenbaugh and J. C. Bergen, deacons. The trustees were not chosen until the time of incorporation, some three years later.

There were eighteen charter members, three of whom are still on the roll--Mrs. E. A. Richards, Mrs. Rebecca Bolenbaugh and Mrs. Mark Reeve.

The first building was erected in the year 1879, being dedicated March 7, 1880. Previous to this time the meetings were held in the Methodist Episcopal church. An addition was built on to the original structure about the year 1900, and during 1906 it was entirely remodeled.

The following ministers have served the church: Revs. L. D. Hughes, Samuel LaGrange, D. Banta, A. C. Brown, Jos. Dickey, J. G. Price, J. L. Countermine, A. G. Martyn, U. G. Evans, M. M. Travis, Ed. Chas. Haskell, Robert S. Wienland, Alex. Corkey, Paul Hilegman, Ambrose Wight, Frank A. Gageby, E. S. Genung and J. A. Logan. Of these only Revs. Brown, Dickey, Wienland, Corkey and Wright were installed.

The present elders are: H. L. Beresford (clerk), A. R. McGirr, D. Sloan, J. W. Hanna and W. H. Hanna. The trustees are J. W. Hanna, Mark Reeve, J. C. Shaw, A. J. Donald, John Neve and F. M. Ward.

The Sunday school superintendent is E. E. Heil. Mrs. D. Sloan is president of the Ladies Missionary Society. Mrs. J. W.

Hanna, president of the Aid Society and A. J. Donald is president of the Christian Endeavor Society. The present membership of the church is about one hundred.

OTHER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES.

The Presbyterian church at Atkins has a membership of some fifty with Rev. Jas. A. McKay as pastor and four elders and three deacons. The congregation at Watkins is twenty strong, and there is a flourishing society of nearly one hundred at Garrison under Rev. J. Allen Logan.

CEDAR RAPIDS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

The Baptist churches of Benton county are under the jurisdiction of the Cedar Rapids Baptist Association, which, as a continuance of the Linn and Iowa Valley Baptist associations, is now in its fifty-fourth year. Its second meeting was held at Shellsburg, in 1858, with Rev. J. Woodward as moderator, and since that year the association has assembled at the following points in Benton county: Vinton, 1862, Rev. N. F. Ravlin, moderator; Parker's Grove, 1866, Rev. Amos Pratt, moderator; Shellsburg, 1865, Rev. J. Sunderland, moderator; Vinton, 1872, Rev. N. B. Homan, moderator; 1877, Shellsburg, Rev. John Cauch, moderator; Belle Plaine, 1880, Rev. D. N. Mason, moderator; Vinton, 1882, Rev. John Fulton, moderator; Van Home, 1886, Rev. C. C. Smith, moderator; Parker's Grove, 1890, Rev. J. J. Powell, moderator; Shellsburg, 1893, Rev. A. H. Ballard, moderator; Vinton, 1894, Rev. A. T. Shortess, moderator; Vinton, 1900, Rev. F. M. Smith, moderator; Shellsburg, 1903, Rev. F. M. Archer, moderator; Vinton, 1907, Rev. R. A. Smith, moderator. Each church of the association is represented by at least three delegates, with one additional delegate for every twenty-five members.

SHELLSBURG BAPTIST CHURCH.

The Baptist church of Shellsburg was organized in February, 1855, with about fourteen members. Rev. Richard King, its first pastor, was succeeded by Rev. M. Hazen in 1857, the latter dying shortly after the expiration of his year's pastorate. Rev. Shirley, Rev. John W. Thompson and Rev. J. W. Daniels followed in order. Under the pastorate of the last named, in September, 1876, the

church was dedicated which had been commenced in 1870. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. Mr. Weaver, of Vinton, and the pastor, Rev. Daniels, made a statement of the trials undergone in completing the church, especially commending Simeon Maxon, Robert Heath, Wm. Kreader, Mr. Bixby and others for their great liberality. Arad Thompson was long superintendent of the Sabbath school. The church has a present membership of about one hundred and its pastor, Rev. F. H. Ward, has also the Parker's Grove society in his charge. The latter, organized in 1858, is some sixty strong.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, VINTON.

On March 8, 1856, twelve Baptists, Stephen Chapin, Sr., Stephen Chapin, Jr., James Chapin, Wm. Conwell, Marie Conwell, James Pauley, Margaret Pauley, Ruth Thibb, Mary Kelsey and Pete Crurel met at Vinton, and with Rev. King of Parker's Grove officiating, organized the first Baptist church. Stephen Chapin Sr., was elected deacon and James Chapin, clerk. On April 15th, the first covenant meeting was held. Two weeks later four new members were added and R. Chapin, by unanimous vote, was called as pastor. He was voted a salary of \$200 and the Home Mission aided with \$200. At this time a building was being erected on the present church lot. It was bought for \$1,000 and the earnestness and enthusiasm of the church are evident in that in less than two years from the organization, on November 15, 1857, a place of worship was dedicated. Previous to this, meetings had been held in the Tilford school house and other places.

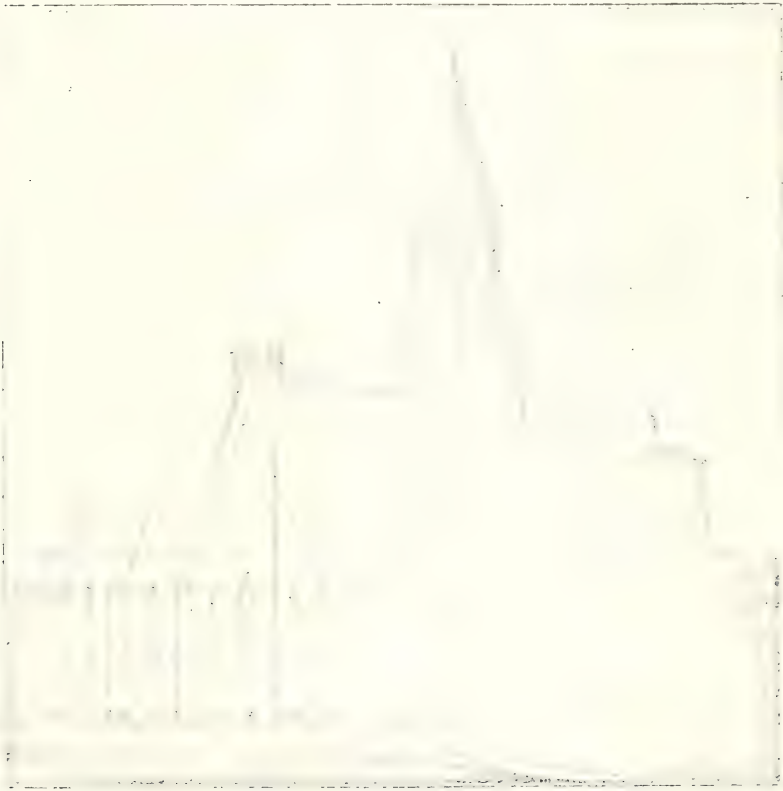
In 1863 Mr. Chapin resigned. Mr. Griffith supplied for three months. The church called Mr. Harris but he shortly gave up his work because of ill health and died November 16, 1865. Peter Freeman supplied until October 6, 1866, when J. Sunderland accepted the call of the church; he remained as pastor for five years, the church still being helped by the Home Mission Society. The members were heavily taxed, for the first parsonage was being built. Then it was that the community expressed their appreciation of the attempted work by giving a donation, at which \$200 was raised for the pastor.

In 1871 Mr. Homan began his work, which continued for five years. From 1875 to 1879 A. Weaver served as pastor. On January 4, 1880, E. English began his pastorate. In the fall of that year, with the support of the members and town people, active

work was begun toward building a new church, which was completed and dedicated March 12, 1882.

Rev. F. N. Elbridge served as pastor for three years. He was followed by Mr. Fuller, who remained until 1889.

Rev. J. B. Edmundson held the pastorate for four years. When Rev. D. Rogers accepted the call in May, 1894, it was to leave his work among the Indians, to which he returned at the end of



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

the second year.

Rev. E. M. Jones came to the church in 1896. During his pastorate the Williams and Alexander meetings were held and over sixty were added to the membership. The new parsonage was also built.

Rev. H. C. Leland began his work in 1900 and served as pastor

until 1902. Rev. J. D. Rumsey became the pastor in February of 1903. An addition was built to the church. On July 15, 1906. Rev. A. W. Caul, the present pastor, began his work. Present membership 200.

Next to the church in importance is the work of the Sabbath school. There is no definite record of its organization; the first date found is 1859, but very probably it was organized soon after the church was dedicated. The first superintendent was James Chapin. It now has a membership of 150; there is money in the treasury and the work is carried on enthusiastically.

The Ladies Aid society was organized in 1876 to accumulate funds to assist the church and general purposes of benevolence. Every lady of the church and congregation, if interested, is a member. The last payment of \$576 on the church building was met by them, besides other material aid has been rendered.

The first mention made of the Mission society is the date of reorganization in 1882, with Mrs. Jones as president. Besides the regular study, two suppers are given each year and the profits equally divided between Home and Foreign missions.

In 1894 under the direction of Mrs. Rogers the Juniors were organized. Meeting each Sunday afternoon, the children not only carry out a certain line of study, but they take charge of the meetings themselves and so become trained for the work which is awaiting them.

The B. Y. P. U. was organized in 1890. Its largest membership was sixty and from these five young men have become ordained ministers, one a missionary in Alaska.

GARRISON GERMAN BAPTIST CHURCH.

The Garrison German Baptist church was organized in 1858 with fifteen members. It now has about seventy.

UNITED BROTHERS SOCIETIES.

A United Brethren church was organized at Vinton as early as 1853, by Rev. William Stiles. In the following year through its trustees, James Richie, James Crowe and William Ludlow, the society purchased of James Crowe a building on Jefferson street for \$725, holding services therein until 1858 when it ceased to exist.

In 1854 Father Newman collected a faithful few into the Prairie church, located about a mile east of Vinton and two miles

south of the County Home, and now consisting of some seventy members, with Rev. J. B. Sullivan as pastor.

The Mount Pleasant congregation, which erected a church in 1877, was the second one organized, and has a present membership of about twenty, while the Fairview church, the third in age, has over forty members and a house of worship built in the early '70s.

For many years previous to September, 1909, the United Brethren church was not maintained at Vinton, but in that month it was revived under the pastorate of Rev. T. G. Brew, and now numbers some forty members.

DR. W. B. WAGNER.

Dr. W. B. Wagner, of Blainstown, became a resident of Benton county, when he was several years beyond middle age. He spent his time in that part of the state as a medical practitioner, the early years of his career being devoted to the ministry in connection with the United Brethren church. He was a man of fine character and wide reading. Born in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, February 5, 1818, Dr. Wagner worked on a farm near Harrisburg, that state, until he was eighteen years of age, at which time his education may be said to have really commenced. At the age of twenty-one he began his preparation for the ministry, and in 1841, two years afterward, entered the conference of the United Brethren church as traveling minister or missionary. In that capacity he faithfully labored for seventeen years, preaching principally in Pennsylvania. In 1856 he moved to Iowa and during that, and a portion of the following year, devoted himself to his religious duties in Muscatine and Linn counties, Iowa. In the meantime, he had commenced the study of medicine, and in 1857, after his removal to Linn county, commenced his entire devotion to the medical profession. In this professional field Dr. Wagner appears to have been even in advance of these early times, as he collected a fine library, comprising professional, literary and religious works. Although he died in active medical pursuits, he retained to the last an abiding interest in the welfare of the United Brethren church, being especially a hearty supporter of the Western College, the denominational school. In the latter connection, he served as one of the board of directors, member of the executive committee and president of the board of trustees.

FIRST DISCIPLES' CHURCH.

In the spring of 1857, under the pastorate of Rev. Julius Stevens, the first organization of the Disciples in Christ, or the Christian church in Benton county, was effected at the Spring Creek school house. Its charter members were Peter Shurts and wife, M. Furry and wife, and F. J. Sefton and wife. Peter Shurts was chosen elder and M. Furry and F. J. Sefton deacons. In 1910, so far as known, the six charter members were all living. Peter Shurts and wife were in Kansas and the other four were still with the Mount Auburn church. After a time the original church disbanded and united with the Prairie Creek church, which was then in a flourishing condition.

MT. AUBURN CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

Some time in the early '60s the society was reorganized in the Mount Auburn school house and has continued its organization ever since. In 1872 M. S. Hall donated property to be used for church purposes and a building was erected under the supervision of J. L. Furry. Among those who ministered to the church in its early history were Samuel Lowe, of Indiana: ----- Coxdner, of Tama City; Jonas Hartzell, of Davenport; ----- Watson, of Clarksville; Josiah Jackson, John Kane, O. E. Brown and G. L. Applegate. Later came J. L. West, W. D. Swain, N. A. McConnell, J. H. Hawley, J. N. Cole, J. K. Cornell, J. M. Crocker, J. P. Martindale, F. A. Sheets, J. H. Carr, J. Y. Nichols, R. B. Brown, C. L. Walker, F. V. Kearns and V. W. Hollet. At present the church is without a pastor, although the membership is about 150. In 1902 the building was remodeled and refurnished.

HARRISON TOWNSHIP CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

The church of the Disciples in Christ of Harrison township was organized May 23, 1858, in a small log school house on Prairie creek, with nineteen members. David McNie and R. Thompson were the first elders. On the 10th of October, 1897, a new edifice was dedicated, the chief speaker at the ceremonies being A. M. Haggard, secretary of the Christian convention. The society is three hundred strong and is in charge of Rev. H. C. Harlow. The pastor of the church at Urbana, founded about the same time, is Rev. A. C. Stewart.

There is a Christian society at Mt. Auburn, but it has no settled pastor.

DISCIPLES' (CHRISTIAN) CHURCH, VINTON.

The first Christian church at Vinton was organized at Doan's Hall, August 18, 1867, by Elder O. E. Brown, with John Furry, J. L. Taylor, John L. Furry and H. L. Randall, incorporators, and the following thirty-five charter members: Joseph Wohlgamuth, Rebecca W., N. D. and Julia Brittell, John and Margaret Furry, John, Jane and Nancy Epperson, J. L. and Mary J. Furry, L. J. and Mary A. Taylor, L. W. Doan, M. J. Marcus, Mary E. McKentyre, Julia Dungan, Susan H. Campbell, Elizabeth Underwood, Catharine Haynes, T. J. and Mary Williams, Martha Hearshar, Mary Speakes, John Campbell, Sarah McKelhaney, Mary Gunn, Melvina Ripley, John and Nancy Heutz, Harrison and Mary J. Leaborn, Mary Leaborn, Martha Goodwin and Emily Davis. For the first two years meetings were held in the court house and afterwards in the Presbyterian church. In 1870 the society built a church in the eastern part of the town, the edifice being dedicated by A. N. McConnell from Marion. Pastors were employed yearly until 1872, when Elder S. T. Shorters was engaged and remained for many years. For the past decade the pastorate has been filled by the following: Rev. J. T. Nichols, from September, 1899, to June, 1905; Rev. Arthur B. Elliott, from the latter date until October, 1908; Rev. E. F. Leake for the succeeding year, and Rev. D. C. Dungan since November, 1909. The church is now most flourishing and numbers about 360.

FIRST SERMON IN BELLE PLAINE.

It is a generally accepted fact that the first sermon ever preached at Belle Plaine was by Elder Holland, a Christian minister, who, in the fall of 1862, held services in the Crider store, then vacant.

ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, NORWAY.

St. Michael's Catholic church is the strongest religious body of Norway and vicinity, numbering about 135 families under the pastorate of Father Joseph Drexler, who has been in charge since June 30, 1903. A small society was formed by Father Urban, of

Iowa City, soon after the platting of the town in 1863. In 1867 an \$1,800 frame church was erected on the southeast corner of the block still owned by St. Michael's. It is a small frame building, fifty by thirty feet, and, in another location, is now used at Norway by the Roman Catholic Mutual Protective Society of Iowa. At the time of the erection of the church, thirty-five families comprised the society, which was in charge of Father William Emonds, of Iowa City. As he said mass at Norway but a few times, the second settled pastor of the local society is considered to be Father P. Zlibeik, who came in 1872. He was succeeded by Rev. P. L. Mikota in 1889 and by Father Francis Schmelar in 1890. Under the latter the substantial brick church was erected which is now known as St. Michael's, its cost being \$15,000.

As stated, Rev. Joseph Drexler, the present incumbent, was called to the prosperous charge at Norway in June, 1903. He has not only been the instrument by which the church society was strongly developed, but energetically superintended the parochial school which so increased in attendance that a fine building was erected in 1905 at a cost of \$12,000. More than one hundred pupils are now in attendance, the courses embracing the studies usually taught in the grammar and high school grades of the public system.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, VINTON.

On the 11th of November, 1878, Rev. Patrick C. Kenny was appointed the first resident pastor by Right Reverend John Hennessy, third bishop of Dubuque. The congregation was organized with about twenty families. Several outlying missions in the northern and western counties also came under the jurisdiction of the pastor of Vinton, who attended them in turn. On October 12, 1879, the church was dedicated under the title of Saint Mary's. The celebrant of the dedication was Rev. Nicholas F. Scallon of St. Joseph's church, Waterloo, Iowa, who also preached the dedicatory sermon. Rev. Clement Lowry, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was celebrant of the high mass, and preached at the evening services. Rev. Paul E. Gillen, pastor of Holy Cross, assisted Father Kenny with the exercises.

The erection of a parochial residence by Rev. Edmund A. Kenny in 1882, made the parish an accomplished fact.

Prominent in the organization of St. Mary's church were the following: Mr. and Mrs. Angus Nichau, Mr. and Mrs. Edward

Meehan, Mr. and Mrs. John Skiffington, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McLaughlin, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McLaughlin, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Michael Donelan, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Michael Donelan, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Henry Springer, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Honlihan, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Rice, Mr. and Mrs. William Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. James Donelan, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Halpin, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Reder, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hyland, Mr. and Mrs. John Fallon, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kelly, Mrs. Patrick Skiffington and Mrs. Patrick Joyee.

The fathers, who in turn succeeded Rev. P. C. Kenny, were Rev. Edmund A. Kenney, Rev. John J. Hanley, Rev. Michael F. McInerney, Rev. Timothy D. Sullivan and the present incumbent, Rev. John Sheehy. Father Sheehy was appointed pastor in 1901, by His Grace, Archbishop Keane, of Dubuque, and has charge also of the Catholic missions in Dysart and La Porte, which include a number of north Benton families. There are at present in Saint Mary's parish, exclusive of the missions, about one hundred and fifty souls.

OTHER CATHOLIC CHURCHES.

The Catholics organized a church at Belle Plaine, about nineteen years ago, and they now number thirty-five families, with Father Henry Meyer as priest in charge.

Rev. Father John Hogan is the priest in charge of the Catholic society at Van Horne and that known as the Holy Cross church, five miles west of Van Horne and about a mile east of Keystone. There are about four hundred communicants.

BELLE PLAINE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

Four Congregationalists of Belle Plaine organized a society in March, 1866, under the encouragement of Rev. S. P. LaDue, a missionary. In October of that year Rev. Daniel Lane, who had been a professor in Iowa College, Grinnell, and identified with Congregationalism in Iowa for a quarter of a century, preached his first sermon as a regular pastor of the church on the 4th of that month. Meetings had previously been held in the living rooms of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Henry, then over a drug store on Main street, but the first sermons were preached in the old school house and the German Evangelical church, which had been formed in

1865. Services at the latter were held from January 20, 1867, to May 8, 1870, the Congregationalists occupying the church for one meeting each Sabbath.

The society purchased the lot owned by Mr. Hibbard on Third street in April, 1869, and the church erected thereon was dedicated on Sunday, May 8, 1870. The edifice now occupied was built in 1905, under the pastorate of Rev. F. E. Henry. A beautiful memorial pipe organ was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Blossom. The value of the church property is about \$15,000; membership nearly 200, and present pastor, Rev. F. E. Henry.

LUTHERAN AND EVANGELICAL CHURCHES.

The first services of the German Lutheran church were conducted at Luzerne by Rev. Mr. Selle in 1856. A society was organized by Rev. J. F. Doescher in 1859, but soon afterward it became almost extinct. It was revived and reorganized by Rev. Philip Studt in March, 1866, and the corner stone of a church building was laid in September, 1868, and dedicated July 7, 1872. A day school was opened by Rev. Mr. Studt in January, 1866. Rev. C. A. Krog is now pastor of the church, which is a substantial society. The parochial school has an average attendance of seventy pupils.

A church of the Evangelical Association was organized about three miles southeast of Van Horne in 1867, Rev. Abraham Leonard being its first pastor and the name of the original charge, New Germany. In 1883 the headquarters of the society were moved to Van Horne. Three charges are now under the pastorate of Rev. Oswald Mehuert, their membership being: Van Horne, 108; Stringtown, 37, and The Bluffs, 5.

The Bethany United Evangelical church of Belle Plaine was organized December 9, 1895, and was dedicated by Bishop R. Dubbs, D. D. Rev. Virgil Urbina occupied the pulpit three years, and Rev. C. H. Stauffeher has served as pastor for about four. The church has a membership of ninety.

In 1895 the German Lutherans of Van Horne organized a church under the pastorate of Rev. Ferdinand Reinhart, the thirty members composing the society now being in ministerial charge of Rev. H. Reikowsky.

St. John's German Lutheran church of Keystone was organized in 1896 at the old school house, by Rev. Philip Studt. The house of worship was erected in 1899. Present pastor, Rev. G.

Franken; membership about thirty.

There is a Norwegian Lutheran church a short distance east of Norway, but it has no settled pastor.

BENTON COUNTY SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

The Benton County Sunday School Association was formed December 1, 1875, for the "more efficient prosecution of Sunday School work in Benton county." The first officers were F. G. Clark, president; Rev. S. Phelps, vice president; H. L. Bassett, secretary; and R. W. Barker, treasurer. Miss Mary French, of Blainstown, was secretary of the association for eleven years. Present officers: President, F. G. Bryner, Vinton, Iowa; vice president, W. Davis, Blainstown; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. C. H. VanDusen, Vinton; assistant, Mrs. F. G. Bryner, Vinton; home department, Mrs. F. M. Springsteen, Garrison; teacher training secretary, Ella Rieke, Blainstown; house to house visitation, A. K. Rife, Shellsburg, and Mrs. Lenard, Van Horne; temperance secretary, Mrs. S. H. Metcalf (Texas); mission secretary, Cecelia Holler, Van Horne; and adult department, J. E. McMillan, Vinton.

CHAPTER XIV.

LAW AND CRIME.

BENTON COUNTY CREATED JUDICIALLY—FIRST DISTRICT COURT TERM A “FIZZLE”—COURT REALLY HELD—FIRST JUDICIAL ACTS—EXIT JUDGE MITCHELL—SECOND SESSION OF DISTRICT COURT—JOEL LEVERICH ELUDES THE LAW—AT LAST, IN THE COURT HOUSE—ADJOURNED TO DRYER PLACE—FIRST CONVICTION OF CRIME—HON. WILLIAM SMYTHE, DISTRICT JUDGE—“DARK AGES” OF BENTON COUNTY—THE IOWA PROTECTION COMPANY—JUDGE CARLETON TO THE RESCUE—COURT AGAIN HELD—BILL AGAINST “UNCLE” WAY—SCAPEGRACE BERRY WAY—FAREWELL TO UNCLE TOM WAY—LIST OF DISTRICT JUDGES—COUNTY JUDGE AS CZAR—FIRST COUNTY COURT SESSION—COUNTY JUDGES BUILD COURT HOUSE—CIRCUIT COURT ESTABLISHED AND ABOLISHED—LEADING MEMBERS OF THE BAR—GOVERNOR BUREN R. SHERMAN—WILLIAM C. CONNELL—HON. WILLIAM P. WHIPPLE—O. L. COOPER—J. J. MOSNAT—FRIENDSHIP MURDER IN KANE TOWNSHIP—SOME LATER CRIMES IN “HELL’S ACRE”—THE NOVAK CASE.

Law is supposed to come to a community with the advent of civil organization; but the two are not always contemporary. The moment half a dozen men are gathered together on any frontier they commence to organize, vote and hold office, but they are not so ready to submit their differences, or quarrels, to judicial authority. They are more likely to hold that courts and judges exist but in the statutes and to be a law unto themselves—to organize Vigilant committees and appoint Judge Lynch to preside over them, with the rifle and the rope as his symbols of office.

BENTON COUNTY CREATED JUDICIALLY.

The act which provided for the organization of Benton county created it into a civil body from March 1, 1846, and constituted it a portion of the third judicial district of Iowa territory. The clerk of the district court for the county (appointed by the judge

of the third territorial district) was ordered to call a special election for the first Monday of April, and he was to see that it was properly conducted and that all other regulations were observed until the sheriff of the new county should be elected and assume these duties. Actions at law commenced in the district court of Linn county prior to the detachment of Benton county from its territory March 1, 1846, were to be presented by the former as if "nothing had happened;" but all crimes committed within the area of the new county prior to that date were to be under the jurisdiction of Benton county, in case proceedings had not already been commenced in the courts of Linn county. It was further provided that the commissioners to locate the seat of justice of Benton county were to meet at the office of the clerk of the district court, take their oaths and proceed to business. The county of Black Hawk was attached to Benton county, by the enabling act of 1846, for "election, judicial and revenue purposes."

William J. Berry was the first clerk of the district court of Benton county, although it does not appear that he was elected at the first polling of votes for county offices on the first Monday of April, 1846, and believed to have occurred at Parker's Grove. A sheriff (John Royal) was, however, chosen to relieve him of some of his responsibilities.

FIRST DISTRICT COURT TERM A "FIZZLE."

The first term of the district court was appointed to commence on the last Monday in August, 1846, another election for county officers having been held on the first Monday of the month; but a clerk of the district court was not elected until the following March. Upon the day named James Downs, the new sheriff, and Jonathan R. Pratt, district clerk pro tem, with eighteen grand and seventeen petit jurors, assembled at the cabin of Thomas Way, two miles northeast of the present court house; but that was as far as the proceedings progressed for the holding of court, as Judge James P. Carleton, who was to have presided, did not put in an appearance. The clerk thereupon adjourned court until the following day, and as Judge Carleton still failed to keep his appointment made the adjournment sine die.

The state legislature (Iowa had become a state in December, 1846) then took a hand and by act of February 17, 1847, provided that the county commissioners should name the place and time for holding the district court. Although there was a county seat, no

court house had yet been built; so "Uncle Tommy" Way's log house was again honored, and a session actually commenced May 31, 1847.

COURT REALLY HELD.

Present, his honor the judge, James P. Carleton of the fourth judicial district of the state of Iowa; James Downs, sheriff; James Mitchell, prosecuting attorney, and Irwin D. Simison, clerk of the district court.

An account of the two days' session of the first district court held in Benton county was written, in detail, many years ago, and is given as follows:

"Way's cabin was in the midst of thick timber, and to make room for the august assemblage, Mrs. Way removed her pots, kettles and other household utensils to the shelter of a neighboring tree. Having done this, she coolly seated herself on a stump near the open door of the cabin, and gazed with respectful wonder at the collection of learned heads assembled within to administer the law to the backwoodsmen of Benton county. The judge was perched on a three-legged stool, behind a rough deal table (the only one in the house) at the farther end of the little room. At the left of his honor, seated on a low milk-bench, with his books and papers spread out before him, was Simison, the clerk. There were also present, Norman W. Isbell (subsequently judge of the supreme court), Isaac N. Preston, John David, D. P. Palmer, John P. Cook and Stephen Wicher, members of the bar from other counties. Benton county had no lawyer then.

"The court was formally opened by the sheriff, and dispatched business with a rapidity that would startle some more modern courts.

"The grand jury summoned was sworn, as follows: Fielding Bryson, James Harmely, Joseph Remington, John Bryson, Charles Graham, Stephen Brody, Jesse Brody, Josiah Helm, David Jewell, William Mitchell, Samuel M. Lockhart, James Polly, Chauncey Leverich, Anderson Amos, James M. Denison, Joseph Bryson, Lyman D. Bardwell and Samuel Stephens. Samuel M. Lockhart was appointed foreman of the jury, which, after being duly charged, retired to the timber to deliberate, in charge of Beal Dorsey, bailiff.

"The first case of entry is the state of Iowa vs. Joel Leverich, for passing counterfeit money, which appears to have been trans-

ferred from Linn county, on change of venue. Leverich was a member of the band of outlaws that infested this region at the time, and he probably thought that he could get a good jury in Benton county. The case was continued to the next term, however, and Ambrose Harland, Elijah Evans, Adison Daniels, Lowell Daniels, Nathaniel Chapman, Isaac D. Worrall and John Perkins were held in \$50 each to appear as witnesses. The accused was not present, and a capias was issued to the sheriff of Linn county for his arrest, returnable at the next term of court. Another indictment against Joel Leverich for having counterfeiting instruments in his possession, was disposed of similarly.

“On the second day of the term, the case of Samuel Finley vs. William Sturgis, of Black Hawk county, assumpsit damages \$100, which was the first civil case entered, was withdrawn by the plaintiff, having been amicably settled by the parties.

“On June 1st, the second day of the term, William Smythe (afterward presiding judge of the same court) was hanging around the door of the court cabin, waiting for admission to the bar. The court appointed Messrs. Preston, David Isbell and Palmer a committee to forthwith examine the said Smythe as to his proficiency in the law, with instructions to report the result. The committee, with Smythe in charge, retired to the timber to discuss matters and things in general, and incidently Smythe’s legal knowledge. Allowing a proper time to elapse, the committee, arm in arm with Smythe returned into court and reported; whereupon William Smythe, was duly sworn and admitted to practice in the courts of Iowa. Smythe remembered what was expected of him when court adjourned.

“James Mitchell, prosecuting attorney, made application for admission to the bar, and Messrs. Preston, Palmer, Isbell and David were appointed to examine him. They reported that the legal attainments of the applicant were not such as to warrant his admission, and his application was denied.

“Immediately afterward, Stephen Holcomb asked leave to file information in the nature of a quo warranto against James Mitchell for intruding into the office of prosecuting attorney. Leave was granted and the necessary papers were issued and served. Mitchell was summoned and appeared before the court by himself and his attorney, I. M. Preston. The relator, Holcomb, appeared by Palmer & Isbell, his attorneys. Both parties waived a jury and after a hearing the court held that Mitchell was guilty, as charged, of intruding into the office of prosecuting attorney, and

that he, the said Mitchell, should be ousted therefrom. But Holcomb, who expected to succeed the ousted officer, was disappointed, for, while he recovered his costs—taxed at \$1.87 1-2—the court held that the relator was not entitled to the office, and appointed I. M. Preston to fill the vacancy.

“The court adjourned January 1, 1847, having been in session two days, and Mrs. Way resumed sway over her natural domain.”

FIRST JUDICIAL ACTS.

It appears from early records that the first judicial proceedings in Benton county were transacted by this same James Mitchell, who was afterward refused admission to the bar and ousted from the office of prosecuting attorney. On March 9, 1847, he was solemnly sworn in as “judge of probate,” and ten days afterward adjudicated upon the estate of William Carter, late of township 85, range 10, by appointing Irwin D. Simison, administrator, and John Hendershot, Charles Cantonwine and George Cantonwine, appraisers. The latter presented their itemized report on the 20th of March and asserted that the “total amount of the hole inventory” was \$232. Mr. Hendershot appears to have been a very close friend of the deceased, as witness the bill which he rendered to the estate:

STATE OF IOWA, BENTON COUNTY,
William Carter, Dr.

	To John Hendershot, August, 1846	
To boarde three weeakes, when sick at my house		\$ 6.00
For work done and debt paid for said Carter to Green		5.00
For expence of keeping and waiting, and attending on said Carter in his laste sickness, in 1847		15.00
		<hr/>
Hole amounte		\$26.00

EXIT “JUDGE” JAMES MITCHELL.

The second and last act of James Mitchell as probate judge was the appointment of Jackson Taylor, of Black Hawk county, as guardian of Lydia Ann Willard. But Mr. Mitchell seemed to never know when he was beaten, for he was a candidate for prosecuting attorney at the special election held April 28, 1847, and

although, on the face of the returns, Stephen Holcomb beat him by two votes—19 to 21—Mitchell successfully contested the election, but was ousted from office at the May term of court as already stated.

D. S. Pratt, former clerk of the commissioners' court, succeeded the latter as probate judge. The first act of the new incumbent, which is dated March 22, 1848, was the appointment of Samuel M. Lockhart as administrator of the estate of F. J. Rigaud, who had been a candidate for the office of prosecuting attorney in the preceding year. Every few months there was a change in the office of prosecuting attorney, John Alexander being the incumbent when the district court met for the second term at Thomas Way's house, April 24, 1848.

SECOND SESSION OF THE DISTRICT COURT.

Judge Carleton presided with John Royal, sheriff, and I. D. Simison, clerk, and the court records show that J. M. Preston, S. A. Bessell, William Leffingwell and William Smythe were present as attorneys. The last named, afterward district judge and congressmen, had been more fortunate than Mr. Mitchell at the first session of the court, since the committee appointed to examine into his fitness for admission to the bar (Messrs. J. M. Preston, N. W. Isbell and D. P. Palmer) had passed him.

The second grand jury was impaneled as follows: John S. Forsyth (foreman), T. B. Spencer, Jacob Remington, Samuel Osborn, Joseph Bryson, Beal Dorsey, Charles Cantonwine, Loyal F. North, George Cantonwine, William Ball, Stedman Penrose, Michael Cantonwine, Jacob Cantonwine, Elias H. Keyes, Michael Zimmerman and Frederick Zimmerman. The jury "retired to the timber" for consultation in charge of the bailiff, David S. Pratt. A petit jury was also impaneled.

JOEL LEVERICH ELUDES THE LAW.

At this term the indictment against that shrewd and seasoned outlaw, Joel Leverich, for passing counterfeit money was quashed, and the jury found him not guilty even on the count of having counterfeiting implements in his possession.

AT LAST IN THE COURT HOUSE.

When the third term of the district court assembled September 18, 1848, the log walls of the new court house had arisen, but no roof had yet been provided. But to carry out the letter of the law it was thought best to hold court in the official county house. So a seat was made for Judge Carleton in the roofless enclosure by placing a board across one corner in the crevices between the logs.

ADJOURNED TO DRYER PLACE.

Court was opened, but although the presiding judge had been provided with a roof formed of boards, thrust into the chinks over his head, the rain which came up was so searching that an adjournment was taken to William Davis' cabin on section 15, where the remaining business of the term was transacted. The accommodations furnished the grand jurors were better than those provided by the "open timber," since a log blacksmith shop in the vicinity was thrown open to them.

FIRST CONVICTION FOR CRIME.

At this term John Lewis received three hundred dollars from Samuel K. Parker for slander and Charles Hinkley, who had been tried for arson, was sentenced to pay a fine of one cent and be imprisoned in the state penitentiary for one year. This was the first conviction for a criminal offense in the county.

HON. WILLIAM SMYTHE, DISTRICT JUDGE.

Judge Carleton's service as district judge in Benton county included the September term of 1853, and William Smythe succeeded him in October of that year; but no court was held in Benton county from September, 1848, to June, 1851. In the meantime counterfeiters, horse thieves and lynchers had held the center of the stage, particularly in the northeastern part of Benton county, known as Egypt or Bell's Acre. To be even more precise, the darkest spot was in the eastern portion of Benton township, about three miles east of old Benton City and about the same distance northeast of Shellsburg, near the Linn county line. There

in a dense timber country, thieves, murderers, and all other varieties of outlaws secreted themselves, and for years did not seek safety in vain.

“DARK AGES” OF BENTON COUNTY.

In the early thirties a band of outlaws, headed by the Brodys, were driven by “regulars” from Ohio to Steuben county, Indiana; thence to Ogle county, Illinois, and in 1839 a remnant of the original band crossed the Mississippi river and settled in the valley of the Red Cedar. John Brody and his sons, John, Stephen, William and Hugh, were among the first to locate in Linn county during that year, where their houses became refuges for their accomplices in villainy. In 1843 Stephen, Jesse and Hugh Brody and David Wilson (whose brother had been shot by a posse of settlers in Delaware county) located in Benton county. Hugh is said to have been the only decent Brody in the county, and even he would sometimes go bail for his disreputable brothers. In Linn county Joel Leverich (whom the reader has already met as a tried and discharged counterfeiter) was a leading spirit of mischief and crime and Chauncey Leverich, who built the first cabin on the present site of Vinton, was also generally suspected of being one of the gang, who operated for more than ten years through Cedar, Linn, Benton and other counties. Horse stealing became so common that a man who owned an animal never presumed to leave him over night in an unlocked stable, and in many cases the owners of horses slept in their stables with rifles by their sides.

THE IOWA PROTECTION COMPANY.

The “dark ages” of Benton county comprise the period from 1848 to 1851, during which no court was held. Horse thieves and other criminals awed both citizens and courts and defied the officers of the law. The organization of citizens who attempted to regulate things, especially to stamp out horse stealing, was called the Iowa Protection Company. It was composed of about fifty good citizens of the county, who were as much opposed to lynching as to thieving, and they had J. S. Forsyth as their president, Elijah Evans as secretary and George McCoy as treasurer. The first article announced that “the object of this society shall be to protect the property of the members of this company, and particularly their horses, from the depredations of robbers and

thieves, and also to trace out the perpetrators of thefts, rescue and restore property stolen, and assist in a due and faithful administration of law and justice." The regular meeting of the society was the "Saturday before the full of the moon." The Iowa Protection Company cut Judge Lynch out of business and made it impossible for the outlaws themselves to pose as regulators, which they had often done during the worst of the dark ages in Hell's Acre.

JUDGE CARLETON TO THE RESCUE.

The ruling spirits of the Iowa Protection Society, controlled by Mr. Forsyth, also bent their energies toward the re-establishment of the district court. It was of the first importance to find a reliable clerk of the court, as in the early years of the county organization he was really its most important executive. Dr. C. W. Buffum, who had been elected to that office in August, 1850, was forced to resign by his sureties because of his dissipated habits. He stepped out of office in March, 1851, and numerous papers disappeared with him, such as indictments and other processes against his friends. He had left the county records, bonds and other public papers in a vacant house, the papers disappearing shortly after Dr. Buffum's enforced resignation and a short time before the time appointed for a term of court. Subsequently the docket was found, but minus all the pages which had any reference to the clerk's official bonds or cases against any of his friends.

Judge Carleton had made several unsuccessful attempts to reach Benton county for the purpose of holding court, although it was generally understood that he would do so at his personal risk. But the people felt that the time had come to assert the power of the civil courts, and quite a gathering of citizens assembled at Marysville (Urbana), soon after the disappearance of the court records, and adopted the following address:

"To the Hon. James Carleton, Judge of the Fourth Judicial District of the State of Iowa:

"We, the undersigned, citizens of Benton county, would beg leave to inform you of our present situation, which is anything but enviable, owing to the management of some of our citizens. We have not, as you know, had any court here for nearly three

years, and the officers who would do their duty, cannot. If a judgment is rendered, it is taken to the district court, there to remain for years. And to cap all, ten days before court was to have been held in Benton county, the clerk resigned without having the cases docketed, and left the docket and papers so that the most important parts have been stolen and concealed or destroyed, and when we attempt to inquire into the matter we are answered with taunts. We are completely without law. Honest men are kept out of their just rights. Besides that, there are acts of the basest character perpetrated with impunity, and the guilty parties cannot be brought to justice. We have done all we could to have a better state of affairs. We have hoped for the better. We have borne it with all the patience we were masters of. But there is a point beyond which forbearance ceases to be a virtue, and we are conscious that we have reached that point. We are a law-abiding people. We love our country and love to sustain the laws; but we are as a branch cut off from the vine, and must wither without nourishment. We know of none to apply to but yourself. We call on you by all that is good, by all that binds man to his fellow-men, to assist us if it is in your power; if not, to inform us where we can get our grievances addressed. If we are left as we are, we know not what may be the result. It may lead to mob violence, which we detest.

“Signed by J. S. Forsyth and many others.”

COURT AGAIN HELD.

It is said that the very next mail brought letters from Judge Carleton, assuring the people that he would be at the court house, Vinton, on the 18th of June, prepared to open court and assist in reorganizing the county. And he was there on time, although he was nearly drowned while crossing Prairie creek. With him also came I. M. Preston, of Marion, long the Nestor of the bar; N. W. Isbell, who afterward served both on the district and supreme court benches, and Wm. Smythe, his successor as district judge. Judge Carleton was in court; so was Sheriff C. C. Charles; but Irwin D. Simison, the clerk elected in April, had been so intimidated by the lawless set that he had not qualified. After earnest persuasion he was induced to accept and was sworn in. As the prosecuting attorney had also failed to report, Mr. Isbell was appointed as a temporary substitute; a grand jury was impaneled, and court was really and truly opened, notwithstanding

that Judge Carleton had been warned that the county officers were in league with thieves and outlaws, and that it would be impossible to hold court, or at least to get an honest jury, at any place but Marysville, the headquarters of the Regulators, or the law-and-order party.

BILL AGAINST "UNCLE" WAY.

The grand jury was called and sworn, in spite of all threats, its members consisting of the following: James Rice (foreman), David S. Brubaker, Lyman D. Bordwell, Abraham Garrison, Charles Epperson, Albert Johnson, H. Mahan, James F. Young, John Royal (ex-sheriff), James Johnson, Thomas Dudzeon, Samuel Osborn, Charles N. Moberly, Samuel Alexander, Joseph Remington, James M. Mickle, Elijah Evans and Fleming Sanders. Notwithstanding the mutilation of the court docket the jury found a number of bills, one of which was lodged against open-hearted Uncle Tom Way for selling liquor to the Indians. Undoubtedly, like many other early pioneers, he was technically guilty, although his more usual custom was to offer his jug and his larder freely to red man and white, minister or horse thief, bond or free. While he lived in the country the log house of Mr. and Mrs. Way was open to all, and this large hearted sociability and liberality more than once threw a suspicion over the character of Uncle Tom that he was a real pal of the outlaws himself; but the cloud never rested on the good old man over night. As testified to by his old neighbor and friend, Mr. Rice, the foreman of the grand jury, which re-established law in Benton county, Thomas Way was "one of the most charitable, open-hearted, generous men I ever knew." He was one of the characters of these times who lightened and braced the hearts of the pioneers and helped to lift them bravely over their hardships and dangers.

SCAPEGRACE BERRY WAY.

But Uncle Tom had a son Berry, and he was a horse thief and desperado; also the cause of the indictment which the grand jury placed against the father. During the election of 1849 Berry Way assaulted Tom Kendrick and nearly killed him. He was arrested and taken before Justice Cox, of Marysville, with whom Uncle Tom arranged to allow his wayward son to plead guilty and pay a fine of five dollars and costs, a goodly portion of which was

to go into the pockets of the squire as fees. Justice Cox assessed the fine accordingly and accepted, in payment, county warrants at their face value, thinking that they would be readily received by the commissioners of the school fund to whom they were legally paid. But when he tendered them, Commissioner E. H. Keyes refused to take warrants at full value which he could sell for only about thirty cents on the dollar, and demanded good yellow gold. Thereupon Justice Cox was wroth. He paid the gold into the school fund, but, as he considered that Uncle Tom was responsible for his loss, he made the complaint against him of selling liquor to the Indians which the grand jury voted as a true bill.

FAREWELL TO UNCLE TOM WAY.

Uncle Way was arrested, as a matter of form, and there was a general stampede among his neighbors to see who could first get on his bail bond. Before the day fixed for the trial, the following year, he had decided to go to California and his family had already started. Uncle Tom was ready to remain and be tried, but his friends urged him to leave, feeling certain that the charge against him would hold and agreeing to pay his bail. He started, but, to the surprise of his neighbors, on the day fixed for his trial he rode up to the court room and dismounted from his horse, being convinced, he said, that he would be acquitted.

On the trial, the principal witness appeared to have had a complete lapse of memory and the jury disagreed. James Harlan, then prosecuting attorney, became convinced that Way could not be convicted, and suggested to the court an assessment of the costs against the defendant. Uncle Tom agreed to this, paid over about thirty dollars, mounted his horse, wrung the hands of his warm friends who had gathered around him, bade them a husky good-bye, and rode away, never more to be seen in Benton county.

THE DISTRICT JUDGES.

When Judge Carleton retired from the bench of the fourth judicial district in October, 1853, the courts were again established institutions of the county. Wm. Smythe, who succeeded him in Benton county, was appointed judge of the entire district, in the following April. He held his first term in Benton county in May, 1854, and his last in September, 1856, resigning at the beginning of the following year to take his seat in the national house of rep-

representatives. He was succeeded by Isaac Cook, of Marion, also of the fourth district, who held his first term in the county in April, 1857, and continued to hold court until the creation of the eighth judicial district in 1858.

Judge G. M. Gilchrist has continued the history of the district court in Benton county in the following words: "In the fall of 1858 William E. Miller was elected judge of the new eighth judicial district, and he held his first term in the county in the spring of 1859, and his last term in the spring of 1862. The September term, 1859, was held by John F. Dillon. N. W. Isbell succeeded him, and held his first term in the county in September, 1862, and his last in February, 1864. Judge Miller is better known as one of the supreme court judges. C. H. Conklin was appointed to Isbell's vacancy in September, 1864, and he held his first term in the county in September of that year, and his last in September following, resigning November 15, 1865. N. H. Hubbard was appointed his successor, and held two terms in the county, the spring and fall terms of 1866. In this fall James H. Rothrock was elected, and held all our courts from the spring of 1867 until November, 1875, about which time he was appointed to the supreme bench, and was succeeded by Col. John Shane, who held his first term in the county in the spring of 1876, and the last one in March, 1882. In the summer of this year he suffered from a stroke of paralysis, and never after was able to command words in which to express himself, though he lived for years and was apparently, as well as ever in other respects.

"James D. Giffin succeeded Judge Shane and held his first term in the county in March, 1883, and his last one in October, 1886, but continued on the bench in the new Linn district for some years after. In the new seventeenth judicial district, formed about this time, were comprised only the counties of Benton and Tama. The first election resulted in favor of L. G. Kinne, because of the political upheaval that two years made Horace Boies governor. Judge Kinne's first term in the county was in March, 1887, and his last for that judicial term was in the fall of 1888. About January, 1889, G. M. Gilchrist was appointed to fill the vacancy created by Kinne's resignation to become editor of a paper in Des Moines. But the new work did not suit him and, giving it up, he returned to Toledo, and in the fall of 1889 became a candidate for the remainder of the term, and was elected over G. M. Gilchrist by a few votes. Hence Gilchrist held only two terms in the county, one in the spring and the other in the fall,

while Kinne held those for 1890 and 1891. In November of the last year Judge Kinne was elected to the supreme bench, and his place was filled by another democrat, John R. Caldwell, who held all the terms of court in the county for the years 1892-3 and 4. In the fall of 1904 George W. Burnham was elected to the district bench. The general election of 1906 resulted in the choice of C. B. Bradshaw, of Toledo, and John M. Parker, of Marshalltown, the latter taking the place of Obed Caswell, deceased.

COUNTY JUDGE AS CHIEF, OR TSAR.

By legislative act of February 5, 1851, the office of county judge was created and the board of county commissioners abolished. By law the new official was invested with their functions and with probate powers as well, and during the nine years' life of the county judgeship its incumbent was supreme in county affairs.

John S. Forsyth was the first county judge, being chosen in the August election of that year, and the first record in his books was a marriage license issued to Lewis Ferguson and Rachael Phidela Jewel on the 19th of that month. Theirs was also the first marriage recorded in the county records.

FIRST COUNTY COURT SESSION.

Judge Forsyth opened his first term of court in the unfinished court house November 3, 1851, with G. W. Vardaman as clerk and C. C. Charles, sheriff. An adjournment was soon taken to the sheriff's house, which was more comfortable, and the court ordered that I. M. Preston be paid one hundred dollars for his services as prosecuting attorney from December 19, 1845, to April 10, 1848, and that Norman Isbell be paid thirty dollars for services rendered at the special term of the district court in 1851.

COUNTY JUDGES BUILD COURT HOUSE.

The old log court house was burned in January, 1853, after being occupied as a store, a school, court room, county headquarters and "what not," and then came the issuing of \$14,000 bonds, their negotiation by Dr. Traer and purchase at par, by Green & Brother of Cedar Rapids. The county judge contracted with the builders, paid them and was altogether the business agent

in the entire construction of the court house. E. E. Downing was the chief contractor, and threw up his \$7,000 job in a huff because Judge Forsyth would not allow him to draw money considerably faster than he earned it.

The court house was therefore no further along than its foundation when Samuel Douglas succeeded Judge Forsyth in August, 1855. The new judge formally annulled the Downing contract, advertising for new proposals, with the stipulation that "a moderate portion will be advanced as the work progresses." In about a year the second court house, a two story brick structure, was completed under the energetic supervision of Judge Douglas. He was not even a lawyer, but was a man evidently of good intentions and considerable ability. He held the office of county judge until it was abolished July 4, 1860. The county judge of the present has the usual powers.

Says Judge Gilchrist: "In the days that the county judge was Tsar in county matters, it is commonly understood that Samuel Douglas had things as he wanted them and did much as he pleased. No one thinks he grafted, except in so far as his bank could make money buying warrants and the county had no funds to pay until so bought. Otherwise his administration was clean, as was that of his predecessors. Douglas was a democrat and a leader of his party. Tom Drummond was the leader of the republicans. These two were expected by the people to antagonize each other, and it is said that after some of their 'meetings' on the streets, and while the air was yet blue with their vituperation of each other, they were in the home of Douglas strengthening the inner man and their real friendship.

"Then came the days when the county judge was shorn of all powers except in matters of probate. John McCartney filled the office for a time, but no one has ever found any of the records he made. The last county judge was G. M. Gilchrist, legislated out as judge and in as auditor. These probate judges seldom had an attorney to appear before them. They were their own clerks, and made out most of the reports required from guardians and administrators. Fully advised of every step taken in any matter of probate, it is questionable if they did not administer such matters in a better and much more economical way than is done today, and at much less expense to the public."

CIRCUIT COURT ESTABLISHED AND ABOLISHED.

A legislative act of April 3, 1868, abolished the probate judge system and established the circuit court, providing for an election of judges in October and an assumption of their duties in January 1, 1869. The act gave to the circuit court exclusive jurisdiction of all probate business, and also of all appeals from justice, mayors, and all other inferior courts, either in criminal or civil cases. Benton county was included in the first circuit of the eighth judicial district.

The first term of the circuit court was opened January 19, 1869, by Hon. William E. Miller, of Iowa City; Henry M. Wilson, sheriff, and B. R. Sherman, clerk. Judge Miller served until the close of the November term of 1870, and was succeeded by George R. Struble, of Toledo, in January, 1871, who continued on the bench until the close of the August term, 1872. William J. Hadcock, of Iowa City, filled out the remainder of the year by appointment and John McKean, of Anamosa, who was elected in the fall of 1872, continued until the close of 1880. The last circuit judge to hold court in Benton county was Christian W. Hedges of Marengo, who was upon the bench when the office was abolished in December, 1886.

LEADING MEMBERS OF THE BAR.

Mention has already been made of such early members of the bar as I. M. Preston, N. W. Isbell and Wm. Snythe. "A little later when the county was rapidly growing more populous, such men as Colonel Shime, Joseph Dysart, John McCartney and C. H. Conklin became members of the bar. These, as most men know, were men of high character and fine legal ability. Two of them graced the district court bench and one was lieutenant governor. This one though fit to preside over the senate of the state, was not able to govern his temper at all times, for on one occasion he destroyed a law book on the pate of opposing counsel. But he is not the only one guilty of contempt of court in that way, for our amiable, even tempered Al Haines, on one occasion belabored Mr. Cody, the opposing attorney, for some insulting remarks and at another time G. M. Gilchrist, only to aid the court in the enforcement of repeated rulings disregarded, threw an ink stand into the

breast of the delinquent attorney. In none of these cases, however, did the court impose any penalty for these rude shocks to its dignity."

GOVERNOR BUREN R. SHERMAN.

The bench and bar of Benton county includes among its most distinguished and honored members Buren R. Sherman, twelfth governor of Iowa, who served the state with marked ability and fidelity for two terms, from 1882 to 1886. He is the only chief executive of the Hawkeye state to be furnished by the county, albeit there may be others on the way. Buren Robinson Sherman, who was a resident of Vinton for about forty-five years, was a native of Phelps, Ontario county, New York, where he was born May 28, 1836, coming with his parents to Tama county in 1855. His earlier years as a youth and young man were devoted to the work of assisting his father in the homestead improvements, only his odd, or "left-over" moments, being applied to his law studies.

Admitted to the bar in 1859, Mr. Sherman had but fairly commenced practice at Vinton before he enlisted for service in the Civil war. He was severely wounded at the battle of Shiloh, and as a reward for his good conduct was advanced to the rank of captain. He resigned from the service in 1863 on account of failing health, and after his return home was elected to the office of county judge, and later, clerk of the district court. Mr. Sherman was elected to the office of auditor of state in 1874, which position he held for three successive terms. He was elected governor of Iowa in 1881, entering upon the duties of his office the following January, and two years later succeeded himself as chief executive. The last years of his life were spent in comparative retirement at his home in Vinton, where his death occurred November 11, 1904.

However agreeable, it would be far beyond the limits of this article to mention in detail the numerous members of the Benton county bar who have made honorable records for themselves on the bench and in public life. Besides those who have already figured may be mentioned J. C. Traer, member of Iowa's first constitutional convention, banker and leading citizen of Vinton; C. H. Conklin, S. P. Vanatta; G. W. Sells and Cato Sells, father and son; W. A. Tewksbury, a highly educated and eloquent lawyer whose mental gifts might have placed him at the head of the early bar; Robert St. Clair, Alfred Haines, George Scrimgeour;

John D. Nichols, who entered the state senate four years after his admission to the bar and still stands among the foremost of the criminal lawyers of the county; Hon. William P. Whipple, perhaps altogether the leading attorney of today; E. F. Brown, his son-in-law, county attorney and M. J. Tobin, who formerly held that office; Tom H. Milner, C. W. E. Snyder, Charles F. Stookey, Charles I. Vail, P. H. Lynch, and—the temptation is too strong not to unite it —“ad infinitum.”

WILLIAM C. CONNELL.

Among the pioneer members of the Benton county bar, and those who were most instrumental in maintaining the local reputation of Vinton for staunch patriotism during the Civil war, was William C. Connell. With Captain Hunt, he was chiefly instrumental in raising Company G, Fifth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, the first organization formed in Benton county for the Union cause. Although commissioned first lieutenant by Governor Kirkwood, he was compelled to resign. He staunchly upheld the cause at home, however, and was also dispatched to the front by the governor to take the soldiers' vote in the field, both during 1862 and 1863. Mr. Connell was born in Ripley county, Indiana, June 18, 1830. Soon after his marriage in Pennsylvania, he started for Iowa with his wife and brother-in-law, the financial backing of this enterprise, so far as he was concerned, being five dollars and forty-five cents in cash. The three journeyed by wagon and arrived at Benton county June 30, 1854, Mr. Connell's capital having been so wisely husbanded that when he arrived upon the ground he had ten cents in his pocket. In the fall of 1854, he located at Vinton and in the following year commenced reading law with Judge Shane, and was admitted to the bar in April, 1857.

HON. WILLIAM P. WHIPPLE.

Of the active class of practitioners perhaps Mr. Whipple would be more generally accorded the leadership, than any other member of the Benton county bar, and among the younger men none are more able or popular than Judge E. F. Brown and M. J. Tobin. Mr. Whipple was born on his father's farm near Vinton, where he commenced practice thirty-two years ago, and has been associated with such men as Hon. Cato Sells, now of Texas; Judge G. M. Gilchrist and Judge E. F. Brown. He has served five terms

in the state senate and the statute books bear numerous evidences of his ability, especially as regards the systematic regulation of its educational institutions. As conclusive proof of this statement and Senator Whipple's general eminence as a lawyer and citizen, reference is made to his more extended biography published in other pages.

O. L. COOPER.

Judge Shane's office seems to have been for many years a sort of kindergarten for the education of young aspiring attorneys of Benton county. Among the many who received the benefits of his kindness and wisdom was O. L. Cooper, who came to Vinton in 1867. Two years later he married Judge Shane's daughter, Annie S., and was admitted to the bar in October, 1871. He was afterward associated with Judge Shane in the practice of the law until the latter went on the bench, and in January, 1878, became a partner of J. D. Nichols, under the firm name of Nichols and Cooper.

J. J. MOSNAT.

J. J. Mosnat, one of the early attorneys at law, who located at Belle Plaine, was also one of the first of the educated and enterprising Bohemians to locate in that city. He was born in that country, September 28, 1849, and came to the United States with his parents when he was fourteen years of age. The family settled at Weston, Missouri, where they remained until 1862, when they moved first to Wisconsin and then to Belle Plaine. The year of his arrival at this place also marked his majority and the commencement of his law studies in the office of Johnson and Tewksbury. He afterward continued in the law department of the Iowa State University, from which he graduated in June, 1874. Mr. Mosnat commenced practice in October, of that year, served as city attorney, and, besides earning a fine practice and professional reputation, became prominent in local banking circles, serving for eleven years previous to his death in June, 1903, as vice president of the Citizens' National Bank.

FIENDISH MURDER IN KANE TOWNSHIP.

In November, 1874, Carl Allers, a farmer living in Kane township, suddenly and mysteriously disappeared. Search was made

for him at the time, but no traces of the missing man could be discovered. Meanwhile his nephew, Fred Allers, remained on the farm, and after the search was abandoned, quietly settled down to work.

More than three years passed, until, in the spring of 1878, a brother of the missing man employed a detective to ascertain his fate, if possible. The detective, A. H. Shoemaker, arrived, and quietly commenced work. He soon discovered circumstances that pointed strongly to the nephew as the murderer of his uncle. He was arrested, brought to Vinton and committed to the city calaboose for examination, which was set for Thursday, June 6, 1878, before W. B. Reynolds, Sr., justice of the peace.

Between the time of the arrest and the day set for examination the German citizens in Allers' neighborhood worked themselves into a state of excitement that threatened mischief to the accused. This excitement seemed to be much increased by the discovery of several forgeries and burglaries, which pointed an accusing finger at him, in addition to the foul murder with which he seemed to be justly charged. Some time in the night of Wednesday they came to Vinton, about a hundred strong, with the evident purpose of meting out swift and condign punishment upon the culprit. Sheriff Smith, however, was advised of the movement, prepared for it, and there were no outward demonstrations. At the preliminary examination, Nichols & Cooper appeared for the state and Traer & Burnham and Tewksbury & Worthen for the defense. Sheriff Smith, the first witness, testified, in substance, that the prisoner, Fred Allers, came to his office with A. H. Shoemaker, May 28, 1878, and said he wanted to talk to him (the sheriff) about his Uncle Carl. He said he killed his uncle at his stable, early in the morning of November 25th, three years ago last fall, by striking him on the head with a hammer; that he covered the body with straw, near a straw-stack, a short distance from the house; that he then went to Belle Plaine with a load of wheat; that on his return, about 1 o'clock, he dug a hole near where the body had been concealed and buried it, together with his clothing, except a pair of boots, which he, (Fred) afterward wore out. The motive for killing his uncle he stated to be, that he owed him money, above \$200, which he could not pay.

W. L. Parmater, deputy sheriff, testified that on the morning of May 29th, he was one of a party who went to the premises of Allers, in Kane township; that he examined the ground indicated by Allers as the place where the body of his uncle was buried; that

on digging a few inches from the surface he first discovered a small piece of bone; next, fragments of clothing; on further digging, a part of a satchel, clothing, a watch, scraps of leather, bones, etc., were found.

Dr. C. C. Griffin, one of the party in search of the body, testified to the finding of the articles mentioned by the former witness; he testified also that the bones were those of a human being; among them were the breast bone, collar bone, bones of one arm, bones of the wrist, shoulder blade and vertebrae, also a part of a thigh bone.

No witnesses were introduced by the defense, no argument made, and the fiend was committed to await trial.

SOME LATER CRIMES IN "HELL'S ACRE."

For several years, in the '70s, one William Hicks and a family named Jones, had been held in bad repute and suspected of being connected with much of the mischief and petty thieving that had been going on in Hell's Acre for years. Unlike the outlaws of thirty years ago, whose principal occupation was stealing horses and passing counterfeit money, their successors were in the habit of stealing anything they could get their hands upon. Having tried the law as a remedy for these petty outrages and failed, the Regulators determined to take the law into their own hands. Anonymous letters were sent to Hicks and Jones, warning them to flee from the wrath to come, and leave the country, but without effect. The suspected parties continued to live in the neighborhood, and still the petty depredations continued, until on Monday night, July 10, 1878, a squad of persons unknown visited Hick's premises and set on fire his two stables and a small frame building near the cabin in which he lived. Aroused by the fire, Hicks came out and was greeted with a volley of musketry. He was wounded in the head and right leg and foot, but "broke" for the brush and made his escape. The Vigilantes then visited Jones and fired several volleys at the house, but failing to bring anybody out, they dispersed. After these demonstrations several suspected persons and families left the Red Cedar region.

On Sunday morning, July 7, 1878, John Mason, who had long sustained a bad character, and well known to the officers of the law, was on his way from Cedar Rapids to the house of his sister, in Benton township. When near Mills Creek, he became alarmed by something suspicious in the brush, and leaped from the buggy. He was fired upon by someone concealed in the woods, and fell

mortally wounded. It is said that Millard F. Tracy was about to fire at the man again after he fell, but was prevented by Henry Fisher, and Mason was taken to Fisher's house where his wounds were dressed. He was then carried in a wagon to Tracy's house, accompanied by G. F. McCoy and Charles Hanover. Between twelve and one o'clock Sunday afternoon, the wounded man was lying on a bed in the southwest corner of the south room in Tracy's dwelling. Hanover was sitting on the east side of the room. Tracy and McCoy, it is said, were seated at a table on the north side of the north room. At this time a party of ruffians, numbering six or seven, disguised by wearing hoods drawn over their heads and coats turned inside out, appeared at the door of the house. Tracy and McCoy testified that the assassin fired a volley at them as they sat at the table, but did not injure them. However this may be, and their testimony is not received with implicit credence, the murderers passed into the south room to the bedside of Mason, and perforated his body with bullets. Five wounds at least, any one of which would have proved fatal, were found by Dr. Langstroth, of Vinton.

Information that a man had been murdered in Benton township, as above stated, was brought to Vinton in the afternoon, and Sheriff Smith, Coroner Kirkpatrick, Dr. Langstroth and others, started for the scene of blood, and found the dead body of the man lying where he had been murdered. The remains were brought to Vinton, arriving about midnight, and an inquest was held in the morning (Monday, July 8th). The verdict of the coroner's jury was, substantially, that the deceased came to his death at the hands of a party of masked men, by wounds inflicted by bullets discharged from revolvers.

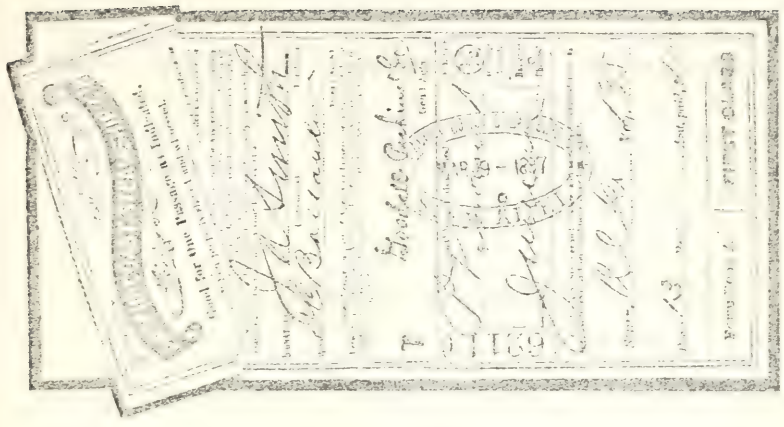
The body lay exposed to public view on a table in the court house yard for a time, and presented a most horrible and ghastly spectacle.

It is stated that Mason had several hundred dollars in money in his wallet, and a watch in his vest. He took the money out of his vest pocket and put it under his pillow when he lay down in the bed in Tracy's house; but after his murder, neither vest, money nor watch could be found.

For cowardly brutality and cold blooded atrocity, this murder of Mason has seldom been equaled in the annals of crime. It was a startling culmination of a long-continued carnival of lawlessness, and awakened the citizens of the county to the necessity of prompt



FRANK A. NOVAK



SENT NOVAK TO PRISON

and energetic measures for the termination forever of this terrible state of affairs that has been so long a disgrace to the county.

It proved to be one of the last terrible blots upon the reputation of Benton county, and was the commencement of the end of "Hell's Acre." The crime which created the most wide-spread interest of any ever perpetuated in this part of Iowa did not originate in "Hell's Acre," or even "Egypt," but in the little town of Walford in the southeast corner of the county, and the cold blooded murder, then so ingeniously committed, is less than fourteen years old.

THE FAMOUS NOVAK CASE.

Perhaps no criminal case in Iowa, certainly none in Benton county, and few, if any, in the west, has attracted so much attention as the murder of Edward Murray by Frank A. Novak. The crime was committed on February 2, 1897. Previous to that time Novak was a well known, popular and dashing young merchant and banker of Walford, Benton county. He had been engaged in a large general merchandise business and was operating a country bank in connection with his business. On the night mentioned, his general store and bank was burned. No one saw Novak during or after the fire. He disappeared as if the earth had swallowed him up. The very badly charred remains of a human body were found in the ruins and by many this body was supposed to be Frank A. Novak. The fire occurred about one o'clock in the morning. Two hours before that, an easy-going and very little known farmer, Edward Murray, was seen with Novak in his store. Nothing was seen of Murray during or after the fire.

For some time it was thought that two human bodies would be found in the ruins. The most diligent search was made but no trace of a second body could be found. The body found in the ruins was burned beyond recognition. Novak was missing, and his friends claimed that the charred remains were Novak. Murray was missing and his friends claimed that the remains were his burned body. Suspicion arose. The officers investigated.

M. J. Tobin, who a few weeks before was elected county attorney, took charge of the case. A coroner's inquest was held. It took three days. It was secret. The public was greatly ex-

cited. Two different sets of people were claiming the one body. A full hearing was given to all. Careful examinations were made by County Attorney Tobin. During the examination he gathered facts which satisfied him that Novak was not dead. Two facts demonstrated beyond question that the dead body found in the ruins was not the body of Frank Novak. These two facts consisted of evidence from Novak's dentist, who appeared at the inquest to identify the body as that of Novak, but after an examination of the teeth he swore that it was not Novak's body; and from the fact that a very small remnant of the shirt worn by the dead person had been preserved, up under the arm-pit. This was found to be a piece of the shirt Murray wore the day of his death.

Further investigation showed that Novak was on the verge of insolvency; that but a short time before he had taken out a large amount of life insurance, aggregating \$29,000.

The county attorney, acting upon these facts, set the machinery of the law in operation and started to run down the murderer. The Thiel Detective Agency was called into service and some of its best operatives were placed in charge. The most intricate work was done by Captain Peterson, of the Chicago office. Step by step Novak was followed in his cunning flight across the country and into the Yukon mining country. This was in the early days of the Klondike and when but very little was known about the country, but the detectives were successful, and found that Novak had left Juneau to cross the trail for Dawson City. When this fact was established "Red" Perrin, a detective of great endurance and courage, was sent to get the man. He found Novak going under the name of J. A. Smith at Dawson City, and in the space of eight months landed him in the Benton county jail.

On November 9, 1897, nine months after the commission of the crime, Novak was placed on trial in Vinton. The character of the crime, the mysteries surrounding it, Novak's wonderful flight to the Klondike in those early days, the remarkable secrecy of the detective's work and the splendid results attained, caused a wide and a deep interest to be manifested in the trial. Newspapers from all over the country had their correspondents present. The state was represented by County Attorney M. J. Tobin, who had co-operated with the detectives and had developed the evidence, he

being assisted by E. L. Boies, one of the keenest and most persuasive lawyers in Iowa. The defense was represented by a large staff of lawyers, headed by Tom H. Milner and J. J. Ney. Hon. G. W. Burnham was presiding judge.

The trial lasted thirteen days. They were days of wonderful interest and excitement, characterized by sharp conflicts between the attorneys and sensational evidence, which the defense did not know anything about until presented. For instance, it was clearly shown at the trial that the skull of the dead man had been fractured, and a large blood clot found which showed the blow was delivered before death, and that blow caused death. The jury retired for deliberation in the afternoon and remained out until after midnight. At all times the jury stood eleven to one for conviction of murder in the first degree. A compromise verdict was finally reached and the jury brought in a verdict of murder in the second degree and recommended that the defendant be sentenced to ten years in the penitentiary. Judge Burnham disregarded the recommendation of the jury and sentenced the defendant to the penitentiary at Anamosa for life.

Novak remained in the penitentiary at Anamosa until that institution was changed to a reformatory, when he was transferred to the penitentiary at Fort Madison. At all times since he has been in the penitentiary, Novak has made a good prisoner.

A few days before Governor Cummins resigned as governor of Iowa, in order to become United States senator, he pardoned Novak, which pardon was to take effect in 1911. So that next year Novak, under the pardon of the governor, will be set at liberty. This action of Governor Cummins has never been explained and it has met with almost universal opposition and condemnation from the people of Benton county. It goes without saying that if Novak was believed to be innocent, his pardon should have been made immediate. On the other hand if Novak was believed to be guilty, on account of the cold-blooded, premeditated and mercenary character of the crime, he should have remained in prison during his natural life.

CHAPTER XV.

THE BENTON COUNTY DOCTOR.

A CONTEST FOR HEARTS—MISSION OF THE FRONTIER DOCTOR—
VINTON'S FIRST PHYSICIANS—FIRST BELLE PLAINE PHYSICIAN—DR.
MARION MEREDITH—DR. C. C. GRIFFIN—DR. STEPHEN M. COOK—
DR. CHARLES B. CHENOWETH—BENTON COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY
—IOWA UNION MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The householder of 1910, whether living in the city or country, especially if he is of this generation, knows little of the warm place into which the faithful old-fashioned country physician settled among the frontier people of the west. In those days circuit rider and country doctor were true brave missionaries together, breasting the heats and blasts of all seasons, breaking through the often woodless and trackless forests, and, when not striving with all the strength of their manhood, to bring succor to the suffering in mind, body or estate, building their cabins and plowing their fields with their widely scattered fellows.

A CONTEST FOR HEARTS.

It was a beautiful contest in the pioneer times of Benton county, as in every other frontier region, between the minister and the doctor—an unconscious contest, on the part both of the principals and those to whom they brought either relief in suffering, or comfort in affliction; it was a Christian strife for the possession of hearts on one side, and oftentimes, an awkward and homely attempt by backwoodsmen and women to show their gratitude for the salvation of souls and bodies dear to them, or their appreciation of unavailing efforts. It is not for us to decide who won the deepest or the warmest honors.

MISSION OF THE FRONTIER DOCTOR.

The year 1910, when medical relief in any part of Benton county can be summoned through the telephone, or telegraph, at half

an hour's notice, is not 1850, when it might mean a wild and breathless ride of miles before the country doctor could even be told that a loved one was lying perhaps at the point of death. Even now the waiting is long and heart beats fast with dread that the shadow may be approaching, but you may jealously guard your treasure to the best of your powers until more skilful help replaces yours; but then someone deeply concerned had to summon the doctor personally, and perhaps it was hours before help arrived. Perchance, after riding miles through forests and over a trackless prairie, a father, brother, or even mother or sister, would route out the doctor's household in the middle of a stormy night, or dreary dawn, only to find that their looked-for savior had been summoned to attend some other distressed family miles away.

But with the safe and successful delivery of the message, and the speeding of the messenger to the waiting ones at home, with what pale, eager, almost awed faces did the family of the wilderness wait for the coming of the country doctor! The dear child of the house is perhaps gasping in the burning waves of a fever, or shaking like a leaf with a malarial chill. The usual household remedies have all failed and the fight between life and death has been submitted to the doctor and to God. The good man is welcomed with open hearts and openly tearful faces. Perhaps he has no medical diploma and would not pass the 1910 board of examiners. But he has "pulled through" a father or a mother before, and may do the same for the blossom of the family.

The good country doctor does not charge for his services by the hour, or keep his watch before him to time his visit. He sees his patient over the danger point, if the stage of the disease is critical. He stays the withering of the blossom, forces back the hot waves of fever or stills the spasms of malaria; the little one falls into a natural sleep; the country doctor puts on his big coat; the man of the house leads his saddled horse from the shack called a barn, and young and old stand at the door to see him off, gratitude beaming from every tired eye. As long as men, women and children are of the human kind, live upon the earth and prefer the warm touch of hands and the kindly light of the loving eye, they will fall down before the faithful doctor who has kept their dear ones here a little longer; and when he so grandly honors his calling and his manhood, as did the physicians of Benton county sixty or seventy years ago they would not go far amiss to look upon him as a worthy brother of the frontier missionary of the Cross.

VINTON'S FIRST PHYSICIANS.

Dr. J. C. Traer was the first physician to locate at Vinton and one of the first in the county. He practiced several years after locating there in August, 1851, but afterward studied law in which he became also prominent. As he was the city's first banker and has a fine public record, Dr. Traer should be awarded the palm, among the pioneers of Benton county, for versatility, ability and all-around usefulness.

Dr. C. W. Buffum, who came to Vinton the same year, gave his time more to politics and the popular "jug" than to his profession. He was elected clerk of the district court in 1850, and in the following year was forced to resign under a black cloud which rested heavily on his moral character.

FIRST BELLE PLAINE PHYSICIAN.

In 1863 Dr. Crawford settled at Belle Plaine as its first physician, and in that year (the town was platted in 1862) built one of its first residences.

DR. MARION MEREDITH.

The late Dr. Marion Meredith came to Vinton in 1866, after having served in the Civil war as surgeon of the Sixty-eighth Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He was a very successful and popular practitioner and at one time held the office of trustee of the Iowa Union Medical Society, and physician for the State College for the Blind. Dr. Meredith was a Hoosier, but received his professional education in the Medical College of Ohio, from which he graduated shortly before coming to Vinton. He died at Vinton December 28, 1904. The doctor was not only prominent in his profession, but assisted in the organization of such institutions as the Iowa Canning Company and the People's Savings Bank.

DR. C. C. GRIFFIN.

Dr. C. C. Griffin has practiced at Vinton continuously for more than forty years, and is one of the pioneers of the profession. He served in the Civil war, after which he took his medical course at

the Michigan University, from which he graduated in 1868. The doctor has since continuously practiced at Vinton.

DR. STEPHEN M. COOK.

Dr. Stephen M. Cook has practiced at Belle Plaine since 1877, first visiting the place in July, 1864, when the Northwestern railroad was being built. He had just been discharged from hospital service in the Union cause, on account of ill health, and was seeking a location; but the place did not then appeal to him as promising anything for an aspiring physician and surgeon.

DR. CHARLES B. CHENOWETH.

Dr. Charles B. Chenoweth has practiced at Newhall since 1884, and is a native of Eden township, this county. His father, Isaac N. Chenoweth, was a cooper and farmer of Indiana, who, in 1852, located on the north half of section 2, that township, and, with the sturdy help of a good wife, founded the homestead there. He built the second house in Eden township, retiring to Vinton in 1886 and dying at that place in 1902. The widow joined him in 1910. Isaac N. Chenoweth was among the leading Republicans of the county, serving as one of its supervisors for ten years and treasurer for two. Dr. Chenoweth has also been active in politics, business and public service at Newhall, having been its postmaster at different times for more than ten years.

BENTON COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The first organization of Benton county, under this name, was formed at Vinton, January 26, 1871, by Drs. Wagner, of Blainstown; Lewis, of Florence; Horton, of Shellsburg; and Lathroy, Boyd, Meredith, Griffin, Clingun and Bergen, of Vinton.

The present Benton County Medical Society was organized at Vinton in the office of the late Dr. M. Meredith on September 8, 1903, the preliminary work having been done by Dr. J. E. Luckey. Dr. Geo. E. Crawford of Cedar Rapids, district organizer, was present, and made a statement of its aims and purposes and the following physicians became charter members: H. A. Angus; O. B. Beller; C. B. Chenoweth; J. R. Bielenberg; I. S. Boles; A. J. Bryant; A. R. Fellows; C. C. Griffin; C. C. Griffin, Jr.; R. T. Jewell; O. W. King; B. F. Kirkland; J. E. Luckey; Geo. M.

Luckey; M. Meredith; Jas. McMorris; G. E. McCorkle; R. Heslop Payne; C. E. Simpson; G. A. Wagner; S. H. Watson; J. P. Whitney; J. A. Williams; J. Worley; G. L. Wykeff; W. A. Vincent.

Dr. M. Meredith was elected president and continued so until his death, when the vice president, Dr. S. H. Watson, became president and continued so by reelection until May, 1909, when Dr. J. P. Whitney succeeded him. Dr. J. E. Luckey has been the secretary of the society continuously since its organization. The society has been represented in the state society by its delegates, Dr. Jas. McMorris, Dr. Chenoweth, Dr. A. J. Bryant and Dr. S. H. Watson, succeeding each other in the order named. The censors for 1909-10 are Dr. Geo. M. Luckey, Geo. Wagner and Dr. E. E. Lashbrook.

The purpose of the society can be best learned from the following extract from its constitution: "The purposes of this society shall be to bring into one organization the physicians of Benton county, so that by frequent meetings and full and frank interchange of views they may secure such intelligent unity and harmony in every phase of their labor as will elevate and make effective the opinions of the profession in all scientific, legislative, public health, material and social affairs, to the end that the profession may receive that respect and support within its own ranks and from the community to which its honorable history and great achievements entitle it; and with other county societies to form the Iowa State Medical Association, and through it, with other state associations, to form and maintain the American Medical Association.

"Every legally registered physician residing and practicing in Benton county, who is of good moral and professional standing and who does not support or practice, or claim to practice, any exclusive system of medicine, shall be eligible for membership."

IOWA UNION MEDICAL SOCIETY.

Many of the physicians of Benton county are also members of the Iowa Union Medical Society, whose officers for 1909-10 were as follows: Dr. A. Crawford, Mt. Vernon, president; Dr. J. B. Kessler, Iowa City, vice president; Dr. F. G. Murray, Cedar Rapids, secretary; and Dr. G. P. Carpenter, Cedar Rapids, treasurer.

CHAPTER XVI.

THE CITY OF VINTON.

INCREASE IN POPULATION—PASSING OF THE RED CEDAR—RATHER “SHADY” FIRST SETTLER—PIONEERS OF VINTON—LOOKING FOR THE COUNTY SEAT—VINTON’S (FREMONT’S) FIRST REAL FOURTH—FREMONT BECOMES VINTON—“VINTON EAGLE” ITEMS 1856-9—MUNICIPAL OFFICERS 1869-1910—OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OF GOOD MEN—VINTON’S FIRE DEPARTMENT—WATER WORKS—ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT—FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY—THE TELEPHONE COMPANIES—“BOOSTER” CLUB OF VINTON—WORLD’S LARGEST CORN-CANNING FACTORY—GREAT EXPECTATIONS NOT REALIZED—MINNE ESTEMA PARK—THE MASONS OF VINTON—THE ODD FELLOWS—KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS—MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA—THE EPWORTH LEAGUE.

When the town of Fremont, now Vinton, was platted as the county seat of Benton county, more than sixty years ago, its site was recognized as the one which nature clearly pointed out as almost ideal for a prosperous and healthful town. Situated on land which gradually rises from the southwestern banks of the Red Cedar river, assuring it comparative freedom from overflows and the pioneer’s scourge, malaria, with a stretch of heavy timber two miles in width on the opposite shore, the little town grew stalwart and fulfilled the early expectations.

INCREASE IN POPULATION.

By 1854 Vinton had, by actual count, two hundred inhabitants. In 1861 the population of the town was 1,010, and of necessity, remained about stationary, or slightly decreased, during the war. Its first railroad entered in 1869, shortly after the incorporation of the city, and within ten years Vinton was a community of some 2,500 souls. In 1885 its population was 2,710; 1890, 2,865; 1895, 3,150; 1905, 3,457; and the census figures for 1910 are estimated at about 3,700. But many influences and persons contributed to the birth of the little frontier town on the Red Cedar and its develop-

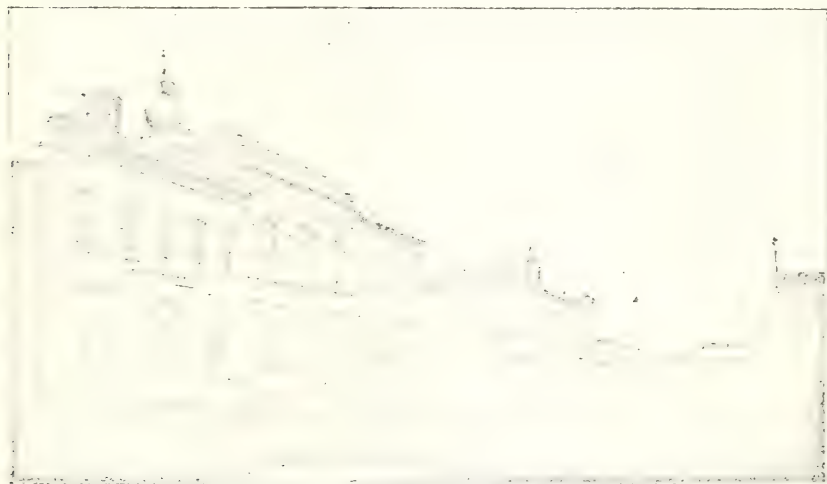


VINTON LOOKING WEST FROM HIGH SCHOOL.

ment into one of the prettiest and best towns in Iowa, and, keeping in mind an avoidance of repetition, an attempt will be made to briefly present them.

PASSING OF THE RED CEDAR.

Several years before Fremont was platted the site of the town is said to have been covered by a grove of red cedar, which was cut down by one Thompson and rafted to the St. Louis market. Somewhat later "Cedar" Johnson had a logging camp further up the stream and in 1845 James Newell cut a raft in Black Hawk county, which is believed to have about exhausted the timber in



WASHINGTON STREET LOOKING SOUTH, VINTON.

this region which gave the river its name. Tradition even pictures as the pioneer logger long antedating Thompson, a creature named Dyer—"a misshapen, hump-backed creature who could neither read nor write."

RATHER "SHADY" FIRST SETTLER.

In 1845, after the site of Fremont had been cleared of its cedar grove, Chauncey Leverich built a cabin near the river, within the present limits of Vinton, but after about a year sold his claim

to Gideon B. White, who, in turn, soon transferred it to James Leverich. All the members of the Leverich family were suspicious characters, to say the least; Joel Leverich, of Linn county, was one of the most notorious outlaws of the late '40s and the early '50s. It is also known that Chauncey, the first settler on the site of Fremont or Vinton, was a resident of West Union, Fayette county, in 1851, and that after building a hotel there he went to Clermont and then to Minnesota. He laid out the town of Austin, in that state, and about 1854 was killed in a drunken saloon brawl in that place. In April, 1849, when the question of removing the county seat from Northport, or Vinton, to a point nearer the river (Fremont), was submitted to the people, the only building on the original town plat was the log cabin and grocery built by this Chauncey Leverich in 1845.

James Leverich was therefore proprietor of the town of Fremont, which was laid out by Irwin D. Simison, county surveyor, on the 24th of November, 1849, and the plat recorded five days later. Not to repeat the various contests between the champions of Northport, Fremont and other localities for the county seat, which, have been detailed in the general history, it is sufficient to remember that Fremont was finally successful and that both Northport and Fremont were finally included under the name of Vinton (which Northport had been rechristened in 1848).

PIONEERS OF VINTON.

James F. Beckett, with his family, settled at Vinton in the spring of 1849, and in the following year was appointed first postmaster of Fremont. H. R. Sanders, Beckett's son-in-law, built a house on the street north of the court house square, and the third building (counting Chauncey Leverich's as the first) was erected on Beckett street by J. R. Beckett, son of James F. Among those who settled in the new town soon afterward were Dr. J. C. Traer, Dr. C. W. Buffum, Cyrus C. Charles (later sheriff of the county), Harrison Bristol, John Alexander, James Crow, W. C. Stanberry and J. S. Tilford. Mr. Charles, who kept a few goods in a little building, was the first merchant to open a store after Fremont was platted. Russell Jones, however, is credited with being the first business man of "any account." As agent for Green & Brothers, of Cedar Rapids—the same firm which bought the bonds which built the second court house—he displayed a fair stock of goods

in the lower story of the old log court house, but evidently changed his quarters before the fire.

LOOKING FOR THE COUNTY SEAT.

Soon after the platting of Fremont an Englishman named James Wood appeared upon the site and, after looking around for a time in an inquiring way, asked how far it was to Fremont. He was informed by one of the Becketts that he stood upon the public square and that the shell of a log building which he thought was a cow stable was to be the court house of Benton county. The Englishman was depressed for a moment, but returned in the following year, established himself as the first blacksmith of the county seat, and, with true pioneer generosity, threw open his shop to the second grand jury which ever sat. His shop and all the first buildings erected at Fremont were supplied with timber from the sawmill erected on Mud creek in 1849 by John Royal and C. C. Charles, both early sheriffs of the county.

The preaching of the first sermon in 1850 and the opening of the first school in 1852 have been already narrated, the old court house being the seat of these honors and many others before it went up in flames. It may be added that the details regarding the founding and growth of the local schools and churches will be found in the chapters devoted to the educational and religious institutions of the county.

VINTON'S (FREMONT'S) FIRST REAL "FOURTH."

The first celebration of Independence day at what is now Vinton occurred in 1852. Thomas Pound then had a store in Fremont and threw it open to the crowd of fifty who represented both the city and country elements of Benton county. James Rice was president of the day; W. C. Sturberry was vice president; John H. Kelsey read the Declaration of Independence; everybody responded, and all went "merry as a marriage bell." The audience was worked up to such a pitch of enthusiasm that the vice president in a moment of hilarity and forgetfulness kissed a comely German woman. Greenbury Luck, the mail carrier, who had done somewhat more than his share of imbibing, but was wide of eye, arose unsteadily, in the midst of the speech making, and proposed three cheers for "the man who had kissed the Dutch woman." The direction of his gaze was unmistakable, and Vice

President Stanberry left the room in confusion, not returning until he had been assured that Luick was fast asleep.

After the speech-making had died of exhaustion, the women present served a dinner, which included the mutton supplied by the sheep which Mr. Vardeman had killed for the occasion. Mr. Pound had brought some lemons from Dubuque, which formed the basis for lemonade, and Dr. Traer furnished some "pop." Outside of Brother Pound's store it is said that a few broke considerably over the limit of "light drinks."

FREMONT BECOMES VINTON.

In January, 1853, the Iowa legislature changed the name of Fremont to Vinton, by which it has since been known. Other decisive steps in the progress of Vinton were the founding of its first paper, the *Eagle*, in 1855; the erection of the Vinton flouring mills by J. F. and W. H. Young, at a cost of \$20,000, in the fall of 1857; the incorporation of Vinton as a city of the second class in August, 1869, and the arrival of its first railroad train over the Burlington and Cedar Rapids line December 12th, of that year.

To recapitulate:—Vinton has been known by the various names of Northport, Fremont and Vinton, a portion of its town site having been selected in 1846 as the seat of justice by the commissioners appointed by the general assembly of the state for that purpose. By these commissioners it was called Northport. Afterward another portion of the town site was laid off by James Leverich, and named by him Fremont. In 1851 John S. Tilford laid off another portion of the town site, to which he gave the name of Tilford's Vinton. The establishment of the postoffice was a matter of controversy between some of the citizens of Vinton. According to John S. Tilford the office was first established about three miles east of the present city, under the name of Vinton, named in honor of a congressman of that name from Indiana. In 1851, according to the same authority, the office was removed to the village, and its name of Vinton, retained, and in 1853, by legislative act, the name of the town of Fremont was changed to Vinton. These statements fully account for the founding of Vinton and its name.

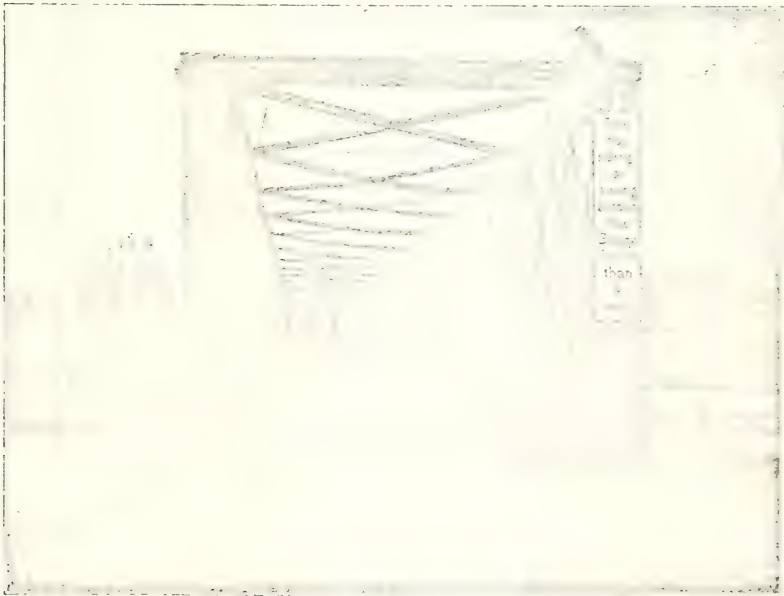
VINTON "EAGLE" ITEMS, 1856-9.

January 9, 1856.—According to a census just taken by Mr. W. Whipple, Vinton contains a population of 765. Of that number

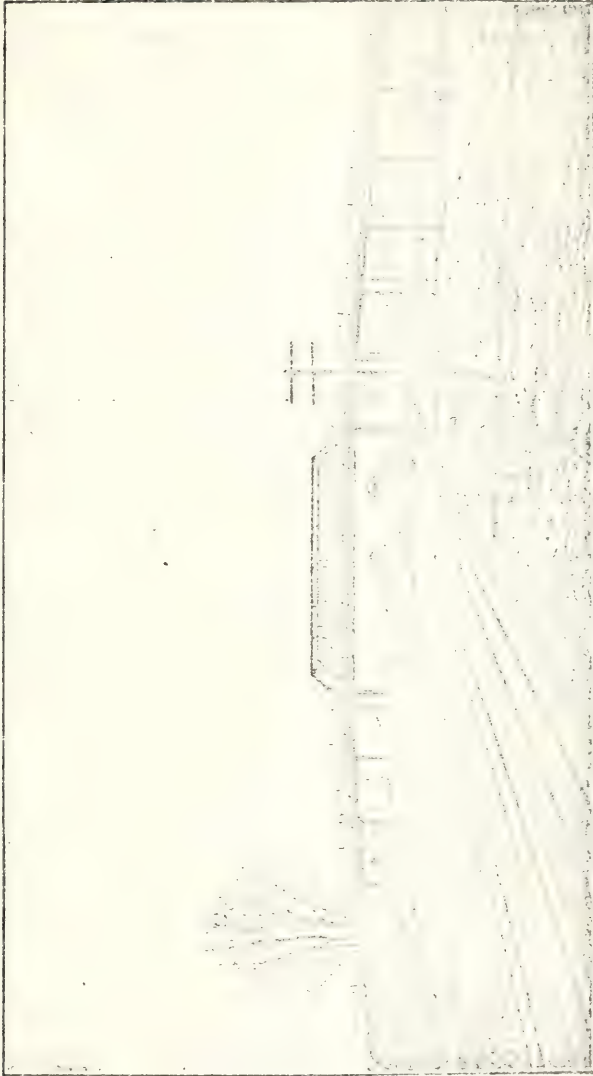
426 are males and 340 females. Of the aggregate 260 are from Ohio; 96 from Indiana; 70 from New York; 56 from Pennsylvania; 19 from New England and the balance from various other localities. The town, by this showing, has increased in population 100 per cent the past year.

April 9, 1856.—Winter is now fairly over and spring has brought with it the usual amount of busy preparation for the improvements of the coming summer. We have no rival town in the county; there are other towns which are improving rapidly but Vinton seems to be the center of attraction. Unlike our neighbors who are quarreling about the location of their county seats, we are able to bring all our energies to bear in pushing our place forward.

November 13, 1858.—Town lots in Vinton range from \$100 upward and farming lands in the immediate vicinity are valued at from \$50 to \$100 an acre. Timber lands exclusively, across the river, bear almost any price from \$100 down. The best lands a mile or so from town, can be had for \$4 cash or \$5 on time. We have seen fine corn in the valley of Genesee, on the Western Re-



OLD WOODEN BRIDGE, FOOT OF MAIN STREET.
(WASHED AWAY BY HIGH WATER).



JAY STREET VIADUCT, VINTON.

serve, and the flat prairies of Illinois, but never any that equaled the present crop of the Cedar valley.

December 11, 1858.— We take pleasure in informing our readers that a Literary Association has been formed in our town. It is the intention of those who have organized it, to have a course of lectures delivered during the winter months.

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS 1869-1910.

1869—James Wood, mayor; W. W. Means, marshal; W. F. Kirkpatrick, clerk; A. A. Wentz, clerk. First Council—Paul Cornell, Nathan Hayes, M. Donelan, J. A. McDaniel, Cornelius Ellis, D. Stick, John Gilmore, H. H. Sterling.

1870—James Wood, mayor; G. M. Gilchrist, solicitor; A. A. Wentz, clerk; W. H. Hanford, treasurer; Levi S. Miller, assessor; Ezra Bigelow, marshal. Second Council—J. L. Tinkham, J. F. Young, Nathan Hayes, M. Donelan, W. A. Gwinn, John Gilmore, C. Ellis, R. N. Young.

1871—J. C. Traer, mayor; G. M. Gilchrist, solicitor; A. A. Wentz, clerk; Wm. H. Hanford, treasurer; Levi S. Miller, assessor; W. W. Means, marshal. Third Council—J. L. Tinkham, J. F. Young, Nathan Hayes, W. B. Reynolds, Geo. W. Ridge, John Gilmore, R. N. Young, Cornelius Ellis.

1872—J. C. Traer, mayor; G. M. Gilchrist, solicitor; A. A. Wentz, clerk; Wm. H. Hanford, treasurer; John A. Bills, assessor; Ezra Bigelow, marshal. Fourth Council—Geo. Horridge, J. F. Young, W. B. Reynolds, Nathan Hayes, Geo. W. Ridge, W. K. Flatt, C. Ellis, D. H. White.

1873—A. Haines, mayor; G. M. Gilchrist, solicitor; A. A. Wentz, clerk; S. E. Keith, treasurer; L. S. Miller, assessor; Geo. Ridge, marshal. Fifth Council—Geo. Horridge, J. M. Crandall, Nathan Hayes, L. S. Miller, W. K. Flatt, R. H. Quinn, D. H. White, C. C. Lawton.

1874—A. Haines, mayor; G. M. Gilchrist, solicitor; G. M. Taggart, clerk; E. Evans, treasurer; John Shaffer, assessor; W. W. Means, marshal. Sixth Council—J. M. Crandall, A. H. Ellis, L. S. Miller, M. Donelan, F. R. Voris, H. Stanton, D. H. White, C. C. Lawton.

1875—W. B. Reynolds, mayor; D. E. Voris, solicitor; C. S. Bennett, clerk; W. H. Young, treasurer; John Shaffer, assessor; John C. Slasson, marshal. Seventh Council—H. H. McElroy, A. H. Ellis, M. D. L. Webb, John Ryder, J. A. McDaniel, H. Stanton, J. B. Locke, D. H. White.

1876—W. B. Reynolds, mayor; D. E. Voris, solicitor; C. S. Bennett, clerk; Geo. Knox, treasurer; Levi S. Miller, assessor; John C. Slasson, marshal. Eighth Council—F. M. Crandall, H. H. McElroy, Nathan Hayes, John Ryder, J. W. Imman, J. A. McDaniel, D. H. White, J. B. Locke.

1877—W. B. Reynolds, mayor; C. R. Clingman, solicitor; C. S. Bennett, clerk; J. W. Smock, treasurer; J. R. Christie, assessor; S. D. Redfield, marshal. Ninth Council—John Stickney, F. M. Crandall, Paul Correll, Nathan Hayes, F. R. Voris, J. M. Imman, G. M. Gilchrist, D. W. White.

1878—Levi S. Miller, mayor; G. W. Burnham, solicitor; C. S. Bennett, clerk; J. W. Smock, treasurer; J. R. Christie, assessor; W. W. Means, marshal. Tenth Council—J. F. Young, John Stickney, E. Forrester, Paul Correll, Daniel B. Corning, F. S. Voris, D. H. White, G. M. Gilchrist.

1879—W. B. Reynolds, mayor; W. P. Whipple, solicitor; C. S. Bennett, clerk; J. W. Smock, treasurer; J. R. Christie, assessor; John C. Haines, marshal. Eleventh Council—A. D. Griffen, J. F. Young, Paul Correll, E. Forrester, R. W. Barker, Daniel B. Corning, Wm. Westover, D. H. White.

1880—S. D. Redfield, mayor; W. P. Whipple, solicitor; C. S. Bennett, clerk; J. W. Smock, treasurer; J. R. Mitchell, marshal. Twelfth Council—J. P. Matthews, A. D. Griffen, E. D. Forrester, Paul Correll, W. C. Lawton, R. W. Barker, W. H. Young, Wm. Westover.

1881—S. D. Redfield, mayor; Jacob Wetts, solicitor; C. S. Bennett, clerk; J. W. Smock, treasurer; J. R. Christie, assessor; W. W. Webb, marshal. Thirteenth Council—A. D. Griffen, J. P. Matthews, C. D. Kimball, E. D. Forrester, Matthew Brown, W. C. Lawton, P. A. Locke, W. H. Young.

1882—L. S. Keagle, mayor; W. P. Whipple, solicitor; C. S. Bennett, clerk; George R. Knapp, treasurer; Stewart Jordon, assessor; Ezra Bigelow, marshal. Fourteenth Council—A. S. Chadbourne, A. D. Griffen, Paul Correll, C. B. Kimball, J. C. Traer, Matthew Brown, G. M. Gilchrist, P. A. Locke.

1883—L. S. Keagle, mayor; W. P. Whipple, solicitor; C. S. Bennett, clerk; Geo. R. Knapp, treasurer; Stewart Jordon, assessor; J. R. Mitchell, marshal. Fifteenth Council—W. S. Palmer, A. S. Chadbourne, C. B. Kimball, Paul Correll, Matthew Brown, J. C. Traer, A. H. Hanna, G. M. Gilchrist.

1884—D. E. Voris, mayor; W. P. Whipple, solicitor; C. S. Bennett, clerk; Geo. R. Knapp, treasurer; L. S. Miller, assessor; Ezra Bigelow, marshal. Sixteenth Council—A. S. Chadbourne, Stinson Robinson, W. H. Brown, C. B. Kimball, J. C. Traer, Matthew Brown, George W. Tannehill, A. H. Hanna.

1885—D. E. Voris, mayor; W. P. Whipple, solicitor; C. S. Bennett, clerk; W. H. Young, treasurer; L. S. Miller, assessor; W. W. Means, marshal. Seventeenth Council—J. W. Barr, A. S. Chadbourne, C. B. Kimball, W. H. Brown, Matthew Brown, J. C. Traer, Wm. Westover, Geo. W. Tannehill.

1886—D. E. Voris, mayor; W. P. Whipple, solicitor; C. S. Bennett, clerk; W. H. Young, treasurer; L. S. Miller, assessor; J. R. Mitchell, marshal. Eighteenth Council—A. S. Chadbourne, J. W. Barr, H. T. Lauderbaugh, C. B. Kimball, A. B. Dowell, Matthew Brown, G. W. Tannehill, Wm. Westover.

1887—L. S. Keagle, mayor; J. C. Traer, solicitor; C. S. Bennett, clerk; W. C. Ellis, treasurer; S. T. Shortess, assessor; J. R. Mitchell, marshal. Nineteenth Council—J. E. Marietta, A. S. Chadbourne, D. W. Mills, H. T. Lauderbaugh, Matthew Brown, A. B. Dowel, William Westover, Geo. W. Tannehill.

1888—L. S. Keagle, mayor; J. C. Traer, solicitor; C. S. Bennett, clerk; W. C. Ellis, treasurer; S. T. Shortess, assessor; J. R. Mitchell, marshal. Twentieth Council—H. B. Kelley, J. E. Marietta, H. T. Lauderbaugh, D. W. Mills, A. B. Dowel, Matthew Brown, Geo. W. Tannehill, Wm. Westover.

1889—L. S. Keagle, mayor; W. C. Connell, solicitor; C. S. Bennett, clerk; W. C. Ellis, treasurer; A. O. Adams, assessor; Homer Holcomb, marshal. Twenty-first Council—A. D. Griffen, H. B. Kelley, J. Q. Montgomery, H. T. Lauderbaugh, Matthew Brown, A. B. Dowel, Wm. Westover, Geo. Tannehill.

1890—L. S. Keagle, mayor; W. C. Connell, solicitor; C. S. Bennett, clerk; W. C. Ellis, treasurer; A. O. Adams, assessor; Homer Holcomb, marshal. Twenty-second Council—J. W. Barr, A. D. Griffen, E. H. Coleord, J. Q. Montgomery, M. Meredith, Matthew Brown, D. H. White, Wm. Westover.

1891—J. D. Nichols, mayor; W. C. Connell, solicitor; C. S. Bennett, clerk; W. C. Ellis, treasurer; A. O. Adams, assessor; Homer Holcomb, marshal. Twenty-third Council—A. D. Griffen, J. W. Barr, Frank Wilson, E. H. Coleord, W. C. Boggs, M. Meredith, W. D. Haskell, D. H. White.

1892—J. D. Nichols, mayor; W. C. Connell, solicitor; C. S. Bennett, clerk; W. C. Ellis, treasurer; A. O. Adams, assessor; H. A. Wilson, marshal. Twenty-fourth Council—H. B. Kelley, A. D. Griffen, E. H. Coleord, Frank Wilson, Matthew Brown, W. C. Boggs, D. H. White, W. D. Haskell.

1893—Matthew Brown, mayor; C. Nichols, solicitor; J. E. Whipple, clerk; Frank G. Ray, treasurer; J. L. Tinkham, assessor; H. A. Wilson, marshal. Twenty-fifth Council—A. M. Rowe, H. B. Kelley, J. E. Ravenscroft, E. H. Coleord, W. C. Boggs, B. Murphy, W. H. Anderson, D. H. White.

1894—Matthew Brown, mayor; C. Nichols, solicitor; J. E. Whipple, clerk; Frank G. Ray, treasurer; J. L. Tinkham, assessor; W. H. Wood, marshal. Twenty-sixth Council—H. B. Kelley, A. M. Rowe, Frank Wilson, J. E. Ravenscroft, B. Murphy, W. C. Boggs, D. H. White, W. H. Anderson.

1895—Matthew Brown, mayor; C. Nichols, solicitor; J. E. Whipple, clerk; Frank G. Ray, treasurer; J. L. Tinkham, assessor; W. H. Wood, marshal. Twenty-seventh Council—A. M. Rowe, H. B. Kelley, J. E. Ravenscroft, Frank Wilson, E. S. Tobey, B. Murphy, W. H. Anderson, N. P. Carl.

1896—Matthew Brown, mayor; C. Nichols, solicitor; J. E. Whipple, clerk; J. L. Tinkham, assessor; Frank G. Ray, treasurer; W. H. Wood, marshal. Twenty-eighth Council—Wm. Westover, A. M. Rowe, Frank Wilson, J. E. Ravenscroft, B. Murphy, E. S. Tobey, N. P. Carl, W. H. Anderson.

1897—Alex. Runyon, mayor; C. Nichols, solicitor; G. K. Covert, clerk; Frank G. Ray, treasurer; Wm. Wallace, assessor; W. H. Wood, marshal. Twenty-ninth Council—A. M. Rowe, Wm. Westover, H. T. Jones, Frank Wilson, J. C. Downs, B. Murphy, W. H. Anderson, N. P. Carl.

1898—Alex. Runyon, mayor; C. Nichols, solicitor; G. K. Covert, clerk; Frank G. Ray, treasurer; Wm. Wallace, assessor; W. H. Wood, marshal. Thirtieth Council—Wm. Westover, A. M. Rowe, Frank Wilson, E. A. Buxton, A. C. Parsons, Wm. Miller, N. P. Carl, W. H. Anderson.

1899—E. M. Evans, mayor; C. Nichols, solicitor; G. K. Covert, clerk; Frank G. Ray, treasurer; J. M. Fisher, assessor; W. H. Wood, marshal. Thirty-first Council—J. E. Marietta, Wm. Westover, E. A. Buxton, Frank Wilson, Wm. Miller, A. C. Parsons, W. H. Anderson, N. P. Carl.

1900—E. M. Evans, mayor; C. Nichols, solicitor; E. L. Stickney, clerk; Frank G. Ray, treasurer; J. M. Fisher, assessor; W. H. Wood, marshal. Thirty-second Council—J. W. Westover, J. E. Marietta, J. M. Ravenscroft, E. A. Buxton, A. C. Parsons, Wm. Miller, N. P. Carl, W. H. Anderson.

1901—E. M. Evans, mayor; C. Nichols, solicitor; E. L. Stickney, clerk; Frank G. Ray, treasurer; J. M. Fisher, assessor; W. H. Wood, marshal. Thirty-third Council—J. E. Marietta, J. W. Westover, E. A. Buxton, J. E. Ravenscroft, Wm. Miller, A. C. Parsons, W. H. Anderson, N. P. Carl.

1902—E. M. Evans, mayor; C. Nichols, solicitor; E. L. Stickney, clerk; Frank G. Ray, treasurer; J. M. Fisher, assessor; W. H. Wood, marshal. Thirty-fourth Council—J. W. Westover, J. E. Marietta, J. E. Ravenscroft, E. A. Buxton, A. C. Parsons, Wm. Miller, N. P. Carl, W. H. Anderson.

1903—E. M. Evans, mayor; C. Nichols, solicitor; E. L. Stickney, clerk; Frank G. Ray, treasurer; J. M. Fisher, assessor; W. H. Wood, marshal. Thirty-fifth Council—J. E. Marietta, J. W. Westover, E. A. Buxton, J. E. Ravenscroft, Wm. Miller, A. C. Parsons, Arthur Grant, N. P. Carl.

1904—E. M. Evans, mayor; E. A. Murphy, solicitor; W. E. Klingaman, clerk; Frank G. Ray, treasurer; J. M. Fisher, assessor; W. H. Wood, marshal. Thirty-sixth Council—Geo. D. McElroy, J. E. Marietta, J. C. Downs, E. A. Buxton, J. M. Beatty, Wm. Miller, L. W. Latham, Arthur Grant.

1905—E. A. Buxton, mayor; Fred Wyckoff, solicitor; W. E. Klingaman, clerk; John Young, treasurer; J. M. Fisher, assessor; W. H. Wood, marshal. Thirty-seventh Council—V. W. Aikley, G. D. McElroy, S. S. Graeber, J. C. Downs, T. J. Wood, J. M. Beatty, C. J. Kline, L. W. Latham.

1906—E. A. Buxton, mayor; Fred Wyckoff, solicitor; W. E. Klingaman, clerk; John Young, treasurer; J. M. Fisher, assessor; W. H. Wood, marshal. Thirty-eighth Council—G. D. McElroy, V. W. Aikley, J. C. Downs, S. S. Graeber, J. M. Beatty, T. J. Wood, C. J. Kline.

1907—E. A. Buxton, mayor; Edward Murphy, solicitor; W. E. Klingaman, clerk; John Young, treasurer; A. M. Rose, assessor; W. H. Wood, marshal. Thirty-ninth Council—G. D. McElroy, V. W. Aikley, J. C. Downs, S. S. Graeber, J. M. Beatty, T. J. Wood, C. J. Kline, George Kelley.

1908—E. A. Buxton, mayor; Edward Murphy, solicitor; W. E. Klingaman, clerk; John Young, treasurer; A. M. Rose, assessor; W. H. Wood, marshal. Fortieth Council—G. D. McElroy, V. W. Aikley, J. C. Downs, S. S. Graeber, J. M. Beatty, T. J. Wood, C. J. Kline, George Kelley.

1909—E. A. Buxton, mayor; Clarence Nichols, solicitor; W. E. Klingaman, clerk; John Young, treasurer; A. M. Rose, assessor; Frank E. Boyden, marshal. Forty-first Council—Charles W. Miller, Dr. Benjamin Schwartz, Harry Allen, W. Stripple, J. C. Downs and George D. McElroy.

1910—E. A. Buxton, mayor; Clarence Nichols, city attorney; W. E. Klingaman, clerk; John Young, treasurer; A. M. Rose, assessor; Frank E. Boyden, marshal. Forty-second Council—Harry Allen, B. F. Schwartz, W. Stripple, J. C. Downs, George D. McElroy, C. W. Miller.

OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OF GOOD MEN.

The special committee of the Vinton city council which reused the municipal ordinances and published them in 1906, also compiled a list of those who have served the corporation since its creation in 1869. Their comments upon it are so applicable that they are reproduced: "Elsewhere in this volume we publish a list of the officers of the city of Vinton, from the date of its incorporation to



ROCK ISLAND DEPOT, VINTON.

the present time. By referring to the same it will be seen that the first mayor of Vinton was James Wood. The other city officers were: Judge G. M. Gilchrist, city solicitor; W. F. Kirkpatrick, city clerk; Levi S. Miller, assessor; Wm. H. Hanford, treasurer; and W. W. Means, marshal. The city council consisted of Paul Correll, M. Donelan, Cornelius Ellis, John Gilmore, Nathan Hayes, J. A. McDaniel, D. Stiek and H. H. Sterling.

"The lives and attainments of this imposing group, lie before

us like an open book. They have left the impress of their strength of character, industry, perseverance and honor upon our city, our municipal institutions, our churches, schools, banks, business enterprises, social functions, and homes, and these institutions are evidences of the high standing of our community.

“Other men whose lives and labors constitute a part of the history of Vinton, whose names are recorded on the early official roster and who are equally as deserving as their predecessors are: J. C. Traer, A. Haines, W. B. Reynolds, Levi S. Miller, S. D. Redfield, Levi S. Keagle, D. E. Voris, and J. D. Nichols, who in turn succeeded each other as mayor; D. E. Voris, C. R. Clingman, G. W. Burnham and W. P. Whipple, who occupied the office of city solicitor; A. A. Wentz, G. M. Taggart, and C. S. Bennett, who filled the office of city clerk; S. E. Keith, E. M. Evans, W. H. Young, Geo. Knox, J. W. Smock, Geo. R. Knapp and W. C. Ellis as city treasurer; Levi S. Miller, John A. Bills, John Shaffer, J. R. Christie and Stewart Jordan as assessor and Ezra Bigelow, John C. Slasson, S. D. Redfield, John C. Haines, W. W. Webb and J. R. Mitchell, as city marshal.

“Many of the above served on the city council at different times and among their associates in that body were: J. L. Tinkham, J. F. Young, W. A. Gwinn, R. N. Young, Geo. Horridge, W. K. Flatt, D. H. White, J. M. Crandall, R. H. Quinn, C. C. Lawton, A. H. Ellis, F. R. Voris, H. Stanton, H. H. McEhroy, M. D. L. Webb, John Ryder, J. B. Locke, J. M. Inman, John Stickney, F. M. Crandall, E. Forrester, A. D. Griffin, R. W. Barker, Wm. Westover, and many others. The longest official service of any one individual officer, was that of C. S. Bennett, who served as city clerk for eighteen consecutive years, from 1875 until 1893. For length of continuous service W. H. Wood comes next. He is now serving his thirteenth year as city marshal. E. M. Evans occupied the office of mayor from 1899 till 1905, which entitles him to first place for length of continuous service in that office. L. S. Keagle, however, served an equal number of years, but his administration was not continuous.

“All those who were active in the organization and early operation of the city government have long since retired from the scene of public and business life, except Judge Gilchrist, who, since the organization of the free public library has been serving an ‘indeterminate sentence’ as president of its board of trustees.”

VINTON'S FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Soon after the incorporation of the city in 1869 the council commenced to earnestly agitate the necessity for a more effectual protection from fire than the means then at hand. Learning of a second-hand Button fire engine at Charles City, it appointed a committee to go there and look it over. The result was that it was shipped to Vinton for trial, in the spring of 1872, but as it did not "throw water" as represented it was not put into active service. In the fall of the year the council purchased a new Button engine, holding the second-hand one for an emergency, and in December the S. H. Watson Fire Company was organized, with C. E. Porter as foreman. This was the nucleus of Vinton's present paid department.

The company received its name in honor of Mr. Watson, who had presented the boys with one hundred dollars for the purchase of uniforms.

About the time of the organization of the pioneer fire company with some forty members, Rescue Hook and Ladder Company was formed. W. D. Reynolds was its foreman for many years and the first hook and ladder wagon was built by J. M. Crandall at his home.

In 1877 the council appointed Mr. Stedman as chief engineer of the department and Mr. Reynolds, his assistant. In that year the building for the housing of the apparatus, which had been erected in 1873 on the northwest corner of Main and Market streets, was moved to the city lot, southwest corner of Washington and Concord streets.

Vinton's department now consists of a modern engine, hook and ladder, three hose carts and a wagon, and an efficient force of about ninety men.

WATER WORKS.

The Vinton Water Works comprise two artesian wells, 1,287 and 1,425 feet in depth. The former, which has a capacity of sixty-two gallons per minute, was sunk in 1889 and the latter, with a supply of fifty gallons, was bored in 1892. In the spring of 1908 the casing of the larger well so far crumbled away as to threaten the city's supply, and, after a local contractor had failed to repair the damage, the services of an expert Chicago concern were en-

gaged. Since the fall of 1909 the wells have both been in good order, and an air lift has been added to the plant to assist the natural flow of water.

ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT.

The City Electric Light plant was completed and accepted March 20, 1896, at a total cost of \$17,000. It furnishes some nine arc lights in the business center and about 150 32-candle incandescent lights in the business portion of the city. Improvements are under way by which the plant will be so increased as to furnish commercial and street light generally. The plans, if completely carried out, involve a virtual remodeling of the power house.

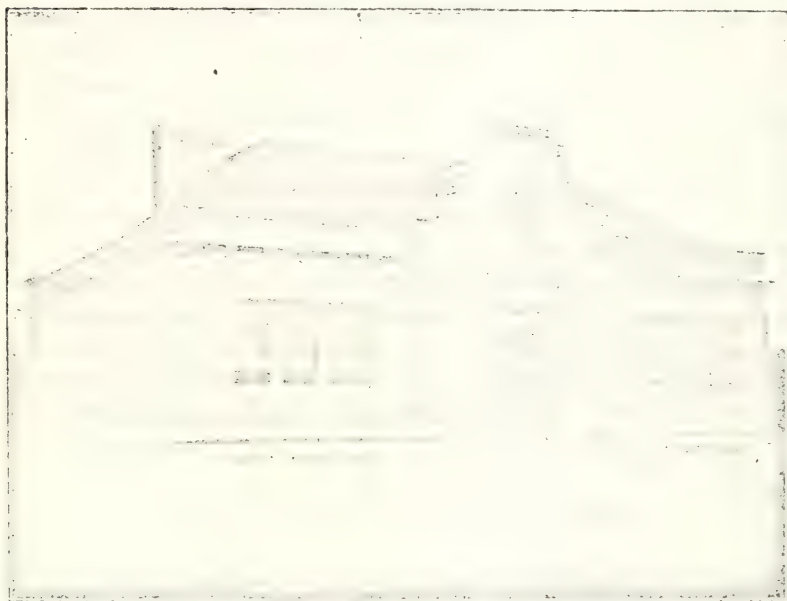
FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

More than forty years ago--to be more exact, September 29, 1869--the citizens of Vinton organized a library association, with Rev. W. R. Chamberlain, president, and Dr. J. C. Traer, secretary. A few days afterward another meeting was held at which these gentlemen, with T. S. Palmer and M. Meredith, were appointed a committee to draft a constitution and by-laws. As is quite likely to be the case, as the years passed it was the women of Vinton who kept the library idea alive, and on the 4th of July, 1897, those especially connected with the churches gave a union dinner and raised the first money for a free city library. Finally, in 1902, the Federation of Women's Clubs transferred the nucleus of the present library to the city of Vinton.

The Vinton Library Association celebrated New Year's day of 1902 by opening reading rooms over Bill's jewelry store, and the first books were issued on March 1st. In the same month the city election was held which assured a two-mill tax, or \$1,400 annually for the support of the library. S. S. Lichty had already opened negotiations with Carnegie, who had agreed to donate \$10,000 toward the erection of a building, provided the city raised at least \$1,000 a year for maintenance expenses and furnished a suitable site. The latter requirement was met by C. Ellis and W. C. Ellis, father and son, after which a building committee was appointed consisting of the latter, J. E. Marietta and Hon. G. W. Burnham. On August 25, 1904, the handsome edifice now occupied was formally dedicated. Its total cost was \$15,000. Among the most liberal donators to the collections were George Horridge, who

presented the books on United States history; Mrs. Virginia Gay, who specialized on literature, and the Smithsonian Institution which donated zoological specimens.

The Vinton library has now more than 7,000 well selected volumes, as well as all the standard periodicals of current literature. The rooms are open week days, afternoon and evening, and



FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, VINTON.

Sundays from 2:30 to 4:30 P. M. The librarian is Miss Mae E. Williams, daughter of one of Vinton's most prominent pioneer bankers, business men and citizens.

THE TELEPHONE COMPANIES.

In 1884 the Iowa Telephone Company, whose headquarters were at Des Moines, established a branch office at Vinton. Its business was absorbed by the Bell interests in 1905 and in October, 1907, its lines were completely abandoned.

In the meantime (January, 1899), S. S. Lichty, of Waterloo, Iowa, had looked over the Vinton telephone field with the idea of determining the feasibility of opening a second exchange. In

February the outlook seemed to warrant the incorporation of another enterprise, and the Vinton Telephone Company came into existence. Its charter was granted by the city March 27 and the first poles were set April 20th. Mr. Lichty became first manager of the company, its other incorporators being F. G. Ray, A. S. Chadbourne, W. P. Whipple, G. M. Gilchrist and W. S. Goodhue.

In September, 1906, the company was reorganized as the Vinton and Benton County Telephone Company—S. S. Lichty, president; G. M. Gilchrist, vice president and Glenn M. Averill, secretary. Mr. Lichty continued as the active manager and, within a year from the reorganization the line was extended from Vinton so as to include many of the farmers of the county. In 1909 a consolidation was effected with the Corn Belt Telephone Company, which also anticipated a similar arrangement with the Farmers Mutual Telephone Company.

On March 31, 1902, the Farmers' Telephone Company's franchise was carried at the city election held at Vinton, and John Bunton was chosen first president. Soon afterward he was succeeded by Milo Whipple, the present incumbent. Its vice president is Wilmer Burke; secretary, John Beatty; treasurer John Lorenz, and manager, Charles Parcell.

“BOOSTER” CLUB OF VINTON.

In its name The Booster Club of Vinton fully expresses its objects; and it has been the best organized promoter of the city. It was founded in November, 1906, and there has been virtually no change in its officers from the first, viz: M. J. Tobin, president; S. S. Lichty, first vice president; Dr. B. F. Schwartz, second vice president; George N. Urice, secretary, and Arthur B. Allen, treasurer. The club has raised \$75,000 to furnish Vinton with another railroad, vigorously pushed an electric interurban company; improved sewerage and paving conditions and otherwise “boosted” the city. The railroad scheme involves the building of thirteen miles of railroad connecting Vinton (now included in the Rock Island railroad system) with the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul line to the south. Electric connections with the city are being promoted by the Booster Club through the Iowa Power and Traction Company, which for a number of years has been extending its system from the south, via Fairfield and Marengo.

WORLD'S LARGEST CORN-CANNING FACTORY.

The largest manufacturing enterprise in Benton county, and the leading plant of its kind in the world, is the Iowa Canning Company which puts upon the market an average of eight million cans of corn per year. It was organized in 1892 by W. C. Ellis, Frank G. Ray and H. B. Kelley, as the Kelley Canning Company. The raw material is grown on a thousand acres of land near Vinton, and the company has branches at La Porte City, Garrison and Shellsburg, these being founded soon after the reorganization of the company under its present name in 1895. Dr. C. C. Griffin is now president; W. C. Ellis, vice president; George Knox, treasurer, and Frank G. Ray, secretary.

The Vinton plant was the first factory for the canning of corn west of the Mississippi river, and it is mainly responsible for the growth and development of the canning industry in Iowa, most of the plants being practically outgrowths of this one. The product of the factories controlled by the company is distributed throughout the middle and western states, little being shipped east of the Mississippi. Besides the factory, the Vinton plant contains fine and well managed ware-rooms, this being an important feature of the enterprise, and in the canning process the most modern and best improved machinery is used. This venture has been most successful from a financial standpoint, and has been managed in a most business-like manner. The company owns three fine farms and rents other land, amounting, as stated, to about one thousand acres in cultivation. The building site and other necessary space requires some fifteen hundred acres more. A regular force is employed throughout the year and during the active canning season some two hundred to two hundred and fifty are kept busy. Thus the enterprise is of importance from an industrial point of view. The management of the institution is such as to inspire confidence, and the business is constantly growing in proportions. Most of the men connected with the business are also interested in other financial enterprises and are men of influence and prominence in the community.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS NOT REALIZED.

Vinton participated in the great expectations of wealth to be realized from the industrial utilization of the pearl products obtained from the fresh-water mussels of Iowa. S. S. Clark organ-

ized a company to establish a factory at that point in 1898, planning to put in operation the largest plant in the state, capable of turning out 3,000 gross of finished buttons daily. The factory was built, although not on as large a basis as originally contemplated. It was not fairly installed until July of 1904, the business having been incorporated as the Vinton Pearl Button Factory in the previous April. In September, 1906, the enterprise was abandoned, so far as Vinton was concerned, and moved to Amsterdam, New York.

MINNE ESTEMA PARK.

Vinton is a pretty place, but, like others which have grown to considerable proportions, must have its special summer resort. This is known by the romantic Indian name of Minne Estema (Sleeping Waters) Park, and comprises forty acres of land, picturesquely wooded or richly grassed on the eastern shores of a beautiful lake; has a good summer hotel, cottages, fishing, boating and bathing conveniences, as well as grounds for archery and out-door games, dancing pavilion, etc. It was platted as a town by George R. Knapp, Vinton's veteran abstractor and real estate man, in May, 1897, and he has since been improving the property to good purpose.

THE MASONS OF VINTON.

Vinton Lodge No. 62, A. F. & A. M., was instituted under dispensation granted May 11, 1854. The first officers were: Elijah Evans, worthy master; W. C. Conrad, senior warden; John McCartney, junior warden; H. Berry, treasurer; J. S. Epperson, secretary; A. Johnson, senior deacon, and H. J. Burley, junior deacon. The first report to the grand lodge embraced the names of James Wood, Jacob S. Hunt, John Ferguson and William Jones, master masons. Under the charter of June 6, 1855, the first officers were: Elijah Evans, worthy master; William C. Connell, senior warden; John S. Epperson, junior warden; Harrison Berry, treasurer; James Woods, secretary; William Jones, senior deacon; Jacob S. Hunt, junior deacon; John Ferguson, tiler. Master Masons whose names appeared in the first annual report: Alexander Johnson, John McCartney, S. P. Brainard, N. M. Wilson, James Sullivan, Robert H. Wilson, Peter B. Smith, Sanford Moberly, Robert Downs, Payton B. Culver, Samuel Osborn, James Hankins.

Charles M. Hare, Hugh B. Jones, Elias H. Bowen, James Thompson, William Kellison, Rev. John Wright, Thomas S. Palmer and Wesley Whipple. The present number of members is about 150, with W. C. Hulse, worthy master; F. G. Bryner, senior warden; E. E. Strait, junior warden, and W. E. Bickel, secretary.

Admiral Chapter No. 15, R. A. M., was organized July 22, 1856, and chartered June 1, 1857; original charter members, W. R. Lathrop (high priest), Elijah Evans (king), J. M. Spafford (scribe), W. C. Connell, C. M. Hare, W. C. Stanberry, R. M. Forsyth, E. P. Forsyth and A. G. Green. The chapter, as now organized, numbers 110 members with officers as follows: I. M. Reeve, high priest; F. G. Bryner, king; W. C. Hulse, scribe, and W. E. Bickel, secretary.

Cyphus Commandery No. 37, K. T., was organized October 6, 1880, with Edwin A. Hewes, eminent commander; Abram Rose, generalissimo, and Marion Meredith, captain general. Its incorporators were Governor B. R. Sherman, Marion Meredith, Edwin A. Hewes, J. A. Colcord, J. A. Bills, D. M. Withrow, W. B. Reynolds, W. C. Boggs, W. A. Tewksbury, Dr. C. C. Griffin, I. N. Chenowith and S. S. Reynolds. W. E. Bickel is now serving as eminent commander; W. H. Thompson as generalissimo; Arad Thompson, captain general, and J. E. Marietta, recorder. Strength of the commandery, about ninety.

Vinton Lodge No. 90, Order of the Eastern Star, was organized September 11, 1890, with E. S. Hubbard as worthy patron; Mary Whitney, worthy matron, and Myra Gaasch, associate matron. Its charter members were E. B. Felker, J. C. Traer, George W. Speers, B. M. Bills, Tilla Hoover, S. P. and Mary E. Van Dike, A. B. and Antoinette Forrester, J. B. Crane, J. G. Mallory, J. B. Bunten, D. D. Johnson, T. F. Tobin, M. Gaasch, E. Felker, Mary Speers, F. M. Hoover, and Mattie Jenkins. The lodge has a membership of about 100, with I. M. Reeve, worthy patron; Blanche Watson, worthy matron, and Cora F. Bowman, secretary.

THE ODD FELLOWS.

Vinton Lodge No. 83, I. O. O. F., was organized February 6, 1856, and chartered October 8th of that year. According to the minutes in the lodge record book, entered under the former date, "Deputy District Grand Master L. H. Keyes, agreeable to appointment, appeared and duly instituted Vinton Lodge, No. 83, I. O. O. F. Immediately after the institution, M. D. L. Webb was elected

noble grand; J. W. O. Webb, vice grand; J. H. Shutts, secretary; G. W. Sells, treasurer. All were duly installed into their respective offices by the deputy grand master, assisted by Samael Jack, as grand marshal." As stated the charter bears date of October 8, 1856, and the charter members were: M. D. L. Webb, J. W. O. Webb, Geo. W. Sells, J. H. Shutts, Thos. S. Palmer, Hugh Jordon, H. B. Smith, J. L. Pauley, Jesse Amburn, S. F. McCoy and M. Lathrop. Vinton Lodge No. 83 has always been one of the strongest secret and benevolent bodies of the city. Its officers are now: S. B. Tilson, N. G.; H. A. Grant, V. G.; E. M. Garn, secretary; F. S. Jameson, financial secretary; J. A. Bills, treasurer; C. E. Gerberich, warden; A. P. Rose, con.; W. D. Scott, I. G.; J. E. Marietta, R. S. N. G.; I. M. Garn, L. S. N. G.; J. K. Spike, R. S. V. G.; M. Nissen, L. S. V. G.; A. R. Fellows, chaplain; V. W. Aikley, R. S. S.; C. E. Bowen, L. S. S.; and W. Stripple, O. G. J. A. Bell has the distinction of having continuously served as treasurer of the lodge since 1863.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.

Fidelity Lodge No. 47, K. of P., was instituted May 23, 1872, and chartered February 11, 1880. Its original members comprised Henry Berharen, John Knapp, T. R. Williams, J. L. Tinkham, M. Stern, A. B. Moon, John G. Edmonds, C. B. Rose, G. D. Bacon, Wm. Murphy, Wm. Wilson, R. H. Rickard, J. A. Kemp, M. Shockley, W. T. Seward, W. C. Boggs, A. A. Wentz, John Furry, C. L. White, C. B. Kimball, J. W. Smock, C. W. Miller, W. J. Taylor, F. M. Baker and Frank R. Ralyea, the five last mentioned being still residents of Vinton. John Knapp was the first chancellor commander and T. R. Williams, vice. Mr. Miller was keeper of records and seals, Mr. Taylor master-at-arms and Mr. Smock master of the exchequer. The present officers of the lodge, which has a membership of nearly 200, are as follows: E. T. Bryant, chancellor commander; R. T. Dunham, vice commander; E. E. Strait, prelate; F. C. Waterstradt, master of work; F. L. Gerberich, keeper of records and seals; George D. McElroy, master of exchequer; M. J. Silverman, master-at-arms; M. J. Smetzer, inner guard, and I. Bruce, outer guard. Bernard Murphy is past grand commander and supreme representative of the state.

MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA.

The Modern Woodmen of America have a strong lodge at Vinton (No. 56), consisting of about three hundred members. It was organized March 2, 1889, with officers as follows: S. A. Wagner, counselor; H. Wilcox, adviser; E. J. Sanders, banker; Joseph Eastwood, clerk; J. C. Haines, escort; D. M. Farnsworth, watchman; H. S. Snyder, sentry; and Dr. J. P. Whitney, physician. The present officers are: E. H. Bassett, counselor; I. M. Garm, banker; F. S. Jameson, clerk; J. H. McAndrews, escort; H. A. Grant, watchman; H. Starbird, sentry, and Dr. C. C. Griffin, Jr., physician.

The Royal Neighbors lodge (auxiliary to M. W. A.) was instituted in April, 1899, has a membership of fifty and the following officers: Mrs. Eugene Garm, oracle; Mrs. Leone Lockman, vice oracle; Mrs. F. S. Jameson, past oracle; Mrs. Call Thompson, secretary, and Mrs. I. M. Reaves, treasurer. The first officers were Mrs. J. F. Allen, oracle; Mrs. James Bauman, vice oracle; and Mrs. Ed. Sanders, secretary.

THE EPWORTH LEAGUE.

The Epworth League at Vinton, which now numbers seventy-five members, was organized in 1889. Present officers: Charles Reed, president; C. C. Hitchcock, vice president; Mrs. E. M. Bardo, second vice president; Mabel B. Miller, third vice president; Mrs. E. E. Strait, fourth vice president; Elizabeth Jameson, secretary; Fae Mossman, treasurer; Constance Blair, pianist; F. G. Bryner, Jr., superintendent.

CHAPTER XVII.

LEADING VINTONITES.

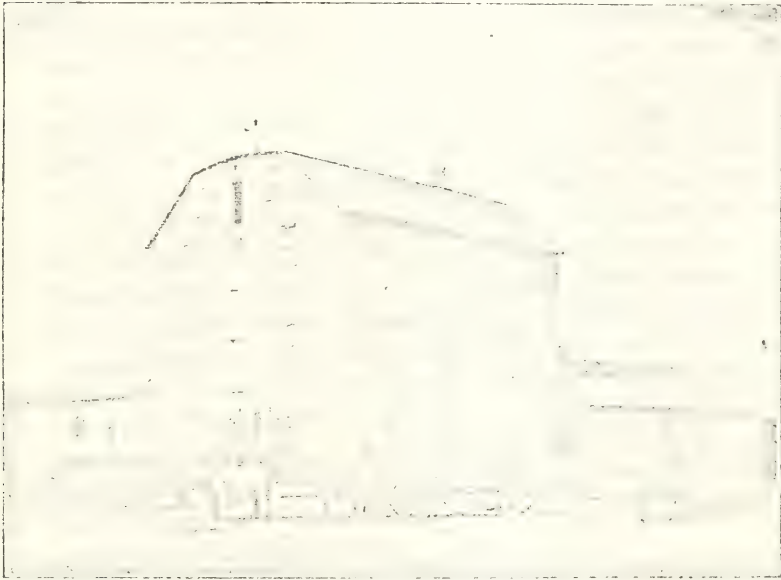
JAMES F. YOUNG, MILLER—ELIJAH EVANS, EARLY OFFICIAL--
MARION EVANS, EX-MAYOR—CYRILLUS T. WHEPPLE, WEALTHY
LAND OWNER—W. F. WILLIAMS, BANKER AND CITY PROMOTER--
JOHN KNAPP AND HIS LUCKY NUMBER--CORNELIUS ELLIS, PIONEER
LUMBERMAN—PAUL CORRELL, OLD-TIME MERCHANT--GEORGE HOR
RIDGE, LEADING BANKER--C. O. HARRINGTON, EARLY BANKER--
FIRST TO MARRY IN VINTON—J. J. LOIZEUX, SETTLER OF '54--
ROBERT A. HARTER, ALSO OF '54—THE YOUNGS OF '55—OCTOGE-
NARIANS IN RETIREMENT—LEVI S. MILLER, VETERAN BUSINESS MAN
—PALMER BROTHERS, OLD DRUGGISTS—JOHN O. BILLS, PIONEER
JEWELER—DEAN OF INSURANCE MEN—"RALYEA" STANDS FOR
"HOTELL"—CAMBRELL, THE CONTRACTOR--W. W. MEANS, OLD CITY
MARSHAL.

JAMES F. YOUNG, MILLER

James F. Young was one of the earliest and best known millers in Benton county; also a prominent business man generally and a citizen of public spirit, generosity and kindly heart. Born in Johnson county, Indiana, he first came west to Iowa in 1848, when he was twenty-three years of age. He spent the winter of this year in Cedar Rapids and in December, 1849, located in Big Grove, Benton county, the first settler in that township. After engaging in farming for six years, in 1855 he located at Vinton, and built the first grist mill in that county that would grind wheat. It was one of the best known mills in this section of the state, and an illustration of it, as it appears in its later years, is here given. Mr. Young also engaged in the furniture business, being well known as senior member of the firm of J. F. Young and Company; he also held various town and school offices and was one of the citizens of Vinton who really assisted the place in its early growth.

In the summer of 1848, when Mr. Young came to Benton county from his Indiana home, he entered sixty acres of land in Round Grove and one hundred and sixty in Big Grove. The next summer he returned to Indiana on horseback; was married to Mary Bergen, and with his bride came to this new country in a lumber wagon and settled in Round Grove in a log cabin. Two

After the death of his first wife in 1855 he left his farm and came to town. At the earnest request of many citizens and with the promise of financial aid, he commenced in 1856 the erection of a



YOUNG'S OLD FLOUR MILL, VINTON.

three-story flouring mill at the north end of Benton street. The hard times coming on prevented much of the promised help materializing. With one exception this was the only mill this side of Cedar Rapids. A large business in grain and flour was carried on. Later he added a saw mill, where many thousand feet of oak, black walnut and some red cedar were sawed. Mr. Young built the first elevator and when the railroad was completed to this place the company was furnished room in it for station free of cost until a depot could be built. In 1873 he bought a half interest in the furniture business of G. W. Freeman. He remodeled the store and added a steam manufacturing plant, where the lumber from

his saw mill was made into furniture. In these various enterprises he furnished employment to many men and kept a large amount of money in circulation, thus doing more for the building up of the town in the first thirty years of its existence than any other person. He gave hearty encouragement and financial aid to whatever would benefit the town.

He was a charter member of the first fire company and served ten years as an active member. When the war broke out he desired to enlist, but there was no one to take the mill off his hands and no other mill near. Whenever he heard a man say "I would enlist if my family could be cared for," Mr. Young would answer, "Go on, I will care for them;" in that way he made it possible for many to volunteer. In 1859 he built the modest home where he still resides. Mr. Young was a charter member of the First Presbyterian church, and one of its first elders, which office he filled over forty years. He subscribed for the first issue of the *Vinton Eagle*, which has been a regular visitor at the home from that day to this.

Miss L. L. Fellows was born in New York, September 26, 1829. Her father, Rev. L. H. Fellows, was for thirty years pastor of the Congregational church, in the mountain home where the first quarter century of her life was spent. In June, 1855, she landed in Vinton, coming by stage from the Mississippi. She taught a school for girls in the little building, which has been erected where Mr. Cesner's house afterward stood. This building was also used for church services on the Sabbath by the Presbyterians in the morning and the Baptists in the afternoon. In September, 1857, Miss Fellows was united in marriage to J. F. Young. Three children were born to them.

ELIJAH EVANS, EARLY OFFICIAL.

Elijah Evans was one of the prominent and sociable men of Harrison township and Vinton from 1848 to 1870. He was a native of Kentucky, born in 1815. In 1836 he went to Indiana to live, remaining there till 1842, when he removed to Marion, and in 1846 onto his farm in Harrison township, this county, where he lived till the spring of 1853, when he moved to Vinton and went into the mercantile business. He was engaged in this till the spring of 1858, when he sold out and moved back to the farm in Harrison township. He came to Vinton again in the spring of 1861 and engaged in the harness and saddlery business.

In May, 1870, Mr. Evans moved by team to Southern Kansas,

locating at Independence. Three years later he moved to Wellington, where he lived till his death, which occurred June 30, 1883. In 1838 he was married to Anazette H. Forsyth, a daughter of John S. Forsyth, who was the first county judge of Benton county. They had nine children. Mrs. Evans died at Wellington December 2, 1881. Five of their children are still living.

Elijah Evans held many official positions during his life, such as commissioner's clerk of Linn county, when Benton county was also included; police judge of both Independence and Wellington; probate judge of Sumner county, Kansas, as well as smaller offices, such as justice of the peace, school director, etc. Mr. Evans and wife were active members of the Methodist church. He was a man of strong convictions and always had the courage to stand by them. Mr. and Mrs. Evans were always known as generous entertainers and it was a rare thing to find the family alone at home, such was their desire to have their friends come and visit them.

MARION EVANS, EX-MAYOR.

Marion Evans came to Benton county with his parents in 1846 and for a number of years, before coming to Vinton, lived in Harrison township. He was married to Miss Sadie Merritt, of that place, December 31, 1868, and the following year they moved into the home which they still occupy. Mr. Evans was mayor of Vinton from 1899 to 1904.

CYRENIUS T. WHIPPLE, WEALTHY LAND OWNER.

Cyrenius T. Whipple, father of Hon. William P. Whipple, entered 210 acres of land in Taylor township during the winter of 1850. He was then twenty-three, a resident of Indiana who had been engaged for some years in the Mississippi river trade with New Orleans. Mr. Whipple located permanently on his land in August, 1854, having also entered land for his parents who accompanied him. Cyrenius T. married into the pioneer Cline family in 1856. He became the father of five children, the youngest of whom, Cora J., is the widow of Lieutenant Guy Kellogg, a typhoid fever victim of the Spanish-American war. At his death in 1900 the father left one of the largest landed estates in Benton county, comprising nine hundred acres in Taylor township.

When Mr. Whipple located permanently in Benton county (in 1854) he located on land adjoining Vinton and built a house

costing about one thousand dollars, which was then considered quite a large sum to be expended on a residence. Mr. Whipple engaged in farming in 1800; bought land still nearer the town site, for which he paid fifty dollars an acre; and eventually he became the owner of nearly one thousand acres, much of it adjacent to Vinton and very valuable.

W. F. WILLIAMS, BANKER AND CITY PROMOTER.

W. F. Williams, one of the first bankers of Vinton and for years one of the most enterprising citizens of the place, settled in Benton county in 1856. He was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, May 22, 1830, and in 1849 went to California, via Panama, and for about seven years was a trader at Marysville and vicinity. In 1856 he located in Benton county, near Vinton, entering 500 acres of land and improving his farm to some extent during the succeeding summer and fall. Mr. Williams then returned to the Pacific coast, spending seventeen years in California and returning to Vinton in April, 1867. It was in that year that he engaged in the banking business as a member of the firm of Traer & Company, continuing alone both in that line and as a large dealer in both farming lands and city real estate. In the years of his greatest activity, no man in Vinton or Benton county made more property improvements than Mr. Williams. He married Miss Frances E. Fielding, a native of Lancaster, Ohio, born January 26, 1860, and they had four daughters—Mae Ella, Lizzie, Maud and Jennie. The eldest has served for a number of years as librarian of the Vinton Public Library.

JOHN KNAPP AND HIS LUCKY NUMBER.

The title and abstract office of George R. Knapp, at Vinton, represents the oldest business house in uninterrupted activity in Benton county. It was established by his father, John Knapp, who became a resident of Vinton in the spring of 1857, at that time engaging both in farming and in making abstracts of title. Possessed of the characteristic instinct of the Pennsylvanian, both a maker and a saver of money, the elder Mr. Knapp came to this community without a dollar in his pocket. Before his death he had not only built up a large abstract business, but become the owner of three hundred and forty-five acres of farming lands in Cedar township, where he passed his last years.

Previous to coming to Iowa, John Knapp had had an interesting and remarkable experience. A native of Philadelphia, born September 9, 1829, he was wont to say that nine was his lucky number, as he was born on the ninth day of the ninth month of the twenty-ninth year of the nineteenth century. He lived in Philadelphia until his fifteenth year, when he went to the south, residing in Tennessee and Mississippi until the outbreak of the Mexican war. He was therefore about seventeen years of age when he enlisted in the First Mississippi Rifles, passing from that command to the Second Mississippi Rifles, and serving with credit throughout the entire war. He was in the battles of Monterey and Buena Vista, being wounded in the latter engagement and was discharged at Vicksburg, Mississippi, July 29, 1849.

As Mr. Knapp left the service with a fine record as a soldier, it may be inferred that the "nine," which again entered into the date of his discharge, continued to stand as his lucky number. In 1850 Mr. Knapp first came to Iowa, but after remaining only a short time in the state, went to St. Paul, Minnesota, for the purpose of volunteering in the Indian war. After a few months' service against the Sioux and other unruly tribes in the northwest, he returned to Philadelphia and married an old acquaintance, Hannah Kimley, of Berks county, Pennsylvania. They resided in the City of Brotherly Love for about six years after their marriage; came overland to Iowa in 1856, and in the following spring made their home in Vinton. Besides making a fine record as a business man and farmer, John Knapp was repeatedly called to serve his neighbors and wider circles of citizens in various offices of public trust. He held the supervisorship of the county from 1865 to 1869, and from 1871 to 1875, and was honored with minor offices connected with the township and school board. He was one of the first and most prominent members of the old Mt. Auburn Methodist church, and became the father of nine children (lucky number again) all but two of whom, daughters, reached maturity and acquitted themselves with the utmost credit as useful men and women.

CORNELIUS ELLIS, PIONEER LUMBERMAN.

Cornelius Ellis, who died at Vinton June 3, 1909, came from his father's farm near Indianapolis in 1856, being then twenty-nine years of age. With his brother, A. H. Ellis, he established the Ellis lumber yard in 1864. It is claimed this is the oldest

concern of the kind in the county. The elder Mr. Ellis developed many other business and financial enterprises, his successor in these various interests, as well as his most active assistant during life, being W. C. Ellis. The latter controls several banks and is vice president of the Iowa Canning Company, the largest corn-canning establishment in the world.

PAUL CORRELL, OLD-TIME MERCHANT.

Paul Correll, of late years president of the State Bank of Vinton, is also one of the substantial citizens and Fremont Republicans of the county seat. When thirty-two years of age he came to Vinton from Chicago, where he had been living for seven years as an employe in Potter Palmer's store. His first business experience was obtained in his native state of Pennsylvania. Mr. Correll conducted a general store in Vinton, farmed extensively in Big Grove and Taylor townships, and finally, as stated, largely centered his interests in the banking business at Vinton.

GEORGE HORRIDGE, LEADING BANKER.

George Horridge, one of the old and prominent bankers and citizens of Vinton, has been a resident of the county seat since 1858. As a hardware merchant, a banker, a generous supporter of the public library and a citizen of public spirit, Mr. Horridge's personality is fully set forth elsewhere in this work. He is one of the oldest Republicans in Iowa, voting for Fremont in 1856, and it is said that nothing has been able to keep him away from an election since.

C. O. HARRINGTON, EARLY BANKER.

C. O. Harrington, who has been identified with the banking of Vinton for nearly forty years, has been one of the best friends who have been devoted to the College for the Blind. He was a teacher in that institution for two years and a trustee for sixteen.

FIRST TO MARRY IN VINTON.

M. D. L. Webb, a Kentuckian who lived in Franklin, Indiana, from the time he was fifteen until he was twenty-six years of age, came to Vinton with his father's family October 10, 1851, being

therefore among the real pioneers of that place. He engaged in farming, stock-raising and mercantile pursuits, but his chief claim to local distinction was the fact that when he married Miss Mary J. Neckett, April 5, 1853, he enrolled himself as the first husband to assume the proverbial "bonds" in Vinton. Evidently Mr. Webb was fairly well satisfied with his change in life, or else he was not of a roving disposition, for the local annals have it that after he had commenced housekeeping he continued to reside in the same place about a quarter of a century. Mr. Webb's chief business associates in the early days were Dr. Traer and Russell Jones. The story goes that they had such a monopoly of business in the town that they could easily gather together all the money in Vinton in twenty minutes.

J. J. LOIZEUX, SETTLER OF '54.

The late J. J. Loizeaux, father of Leon S. Loizeaux (president of the Cedar Valley Land and Investment Company), was a native of France who entered land in Jackson township, west of Vinton, in 1854 and lived upon his homestead until his death in 1887.

ROBERT A. HARPER, ALSO '54.

Robert A. Harper is a retired farmer of Vinton, who was brought by his parents from Indiana in 1854, being then three years old. His father, John Harper, was born in Scotland, and in that year entered a quarter section of land in Polk township upon which he located the family homestead. A brother, J. Wilson, lives on his farm in Harrison township, and has also retired in prosperous circumstances.

THE YOUNGS OF '55.

Thomas and John Young settled in Canton township in 1855, coming from La Porte county, Indiana. In the following year the brothers were joined by their parents, Thomas having brought them from the old New York home. All became widely known. At the time of his death, in 1893, Thomas Young was the owner of 2300 acres in Benton and Linn counties. John Young retired from farming during that year, moved to Vinton, and has been president of the People's Savings Bank since 1901.

OCTOGENARIANS IN RETIREMENT.

Samuel E. Keith, now in his eighty-third year, is one of the pioneers of breadth and energy who have founded Vinton on a solid basis. Direct from his Pennsylvania home, while investigating the new western country in the spring of 1856, he stopped at Iowa City, then the terminus of Iowa's first railroad. Falling in with Harvey Gay, William Loree, Silas Osgood and John A. McDaniel, he joined the party of young men bound for Vinton. They all labored and won substantial places there, but Mr. Keith alone survives of that little ambitious band of 1856.

Walter B. Van Horn, now in his eighty-first year, has been a retired business man of Vinton for thirty years or more. He is a settler of 1856 and conducted a combined hardware and drug business for nearly a quarter of a century. A native of New York he came to Vinton from Cedar Rapids, where he had been engaged in business for three years.

LEVI S. MILLER, VETERAN BUSINESS MAN.

Among the early business men of Vinton well remembered by its pioneer citizens was Levi S. Miller, long the junior member of the firm of Tinkham & Miller, grocers. He was a merchant tailor in his early years, following the trade in Ohio and thence coming to Marysville, Benton county. After clerking in a store there a short time, he located at Vinton in 1858. Besides being a tailor, insurance man and grocer, Mr. Miller had varied experiences in local political life, being town clerk, city assessor, township assessor, and mayor of Vinton.

PALMER BROTHERS, OLD DRUGGISTS.

Two of the old-time druggists, whose names will be recalled with pleasure by early settlers of Vinton, were T. S. and H. N. Palmer. They were brothers, both natives of Richland county, Ohio. T. S. lived at home until he was of age, when after traveling for a time in the south, in April, 1848, located at Burlington, Iowa. In the following spring he joined the tide of migration toward the Pacific coast. After two years of experience among the California gold-diggers, he was ready to return to civilization and to the Buckeye state. He remained two months at home, and came west again; located at Vinton in April, 1852, and engaged

in the drug business in 1855. H. N. Palmer, the younger brother, came to Vinton in 1854, when he was only twelve years of age, and engaged in the drug, book and stationery business in 1866.

JOHN O. BILLS, PIONEER JEWELER.

John O. Bills, one of the pioneer citizens of Vinton, and among its first jewelers, came to that city September 10, 1856, and at once engaged in the business which he had pursued since his early boyhood. He is a Vermonter, born at Montpelier, February 20, 1831. He lived in the Green Mountain state until he was twenty years of age, when he located at Lowell, Massachusetts, and learned the jewelry business, being employed subsequently in the famous Waltham Watch factory at Roxbury and Waltham, Massachusetts. In May, 1861, after having established himself as a jeweler at Vinton, he became very popular among its citizens, and was appointed postmaster of the place, holding that office for fourteen years, from 1861 to 1875.

OLDEST ACTIVE DRUGGIST.

Joseph S. Brubaker, of Vinton, is the oldest active druggist in Benton county, having established his business at that place in 1869.

DEAN OF INSURANCE MEN.

John E. Marietta is the dean of insurance men in Benton county, having established himself at Vinton in that line of business in 1875. He is also a man of municipal affairs; is one of the founders of the public library and water works, and one of the leading Methodists in the state.

“RALYEA” STANDS FOR “HOTEL.”

For nearly half a century the name “Ralyea” has been associated in the minds of Vintonites with the hotel business. The pioneer of the family, L. Ralyea, lived in his native state of New York for twenty-five years, engaged in the dairy and railroad business. In 1854 he became a resident of Vinton, and for a number of years engaged in buying and shipping grain, produce and game. In 1862 he founded the Tremont House, was then in the livery business for a

number of years, and in 1874 built the Ralyea House, then the largest and most complete hotel in Benton county. The Ralyea House is still run as a first class hotel by the son, Frank R., who is now a middle-aged man.

CAMPBELL, THE CONTRACTOR.

Samuel M. Campbell, still a well known street contractor of Vinton, although he is sixty-nine years of age, has been a resident of the county seat since 1854.

W. W. MEANS, OLD CITY MARSHAL.

Among the best known in connection with the city's activities at Vinton was W. W. Means, who served about a dozen terms as city marshal. He was one of its early settlers, being a native of Portage county, Ohio, and learning the trade of the carpenter and joiner while a resident of Indiana. He came to Iowa by wagon, being five weeks on the way, and upon his arrival at Vinton, July, 1855, went to work at his trade. He was in the ranks of the Twenty-eighth Iowa Infantry Regiment, Company D, and soon after his return to Vinton commenced his long service as city marshal.

EARLY DAYS IN

WISCONSIN

History of Founding and Settling of City Given By J. C. Hutton, Son of Founder.

Some small towns are now being built up in the early days of settlement. It is the founding of Belle Plaine, an effort was made to a certain extent, a committee of the township of Belle Plaine but the effort was made with indifferent success.

It was Mr. Thomas Lawrence who came from the first to do business in Belle Plaine, and was the first settler for living testified himself in the matter. A correspondence with Mr. J. C. Hutton, son of Frederick Hutton, a founder of the town now living at Wood, informed it developed that Hutton had a very clear recollection of the matter. At the request of Lawrence, Mr. Hutton was prevailed upon to write an account of founding and the story as written by Mr. Hutton has been before the Literary Club of the nearby village Tuesday, is presented herewith.

The article is quite complete in itself and is a valuable addition to early history of Belle Plaine and should be preserved in the archives of the city for the benefit of posterity.

In the fall of eighteen thirty-five, a gentleman by the name of Frederick Hutton, a

CHAPTER XVIII.

BELLE PLAINE.

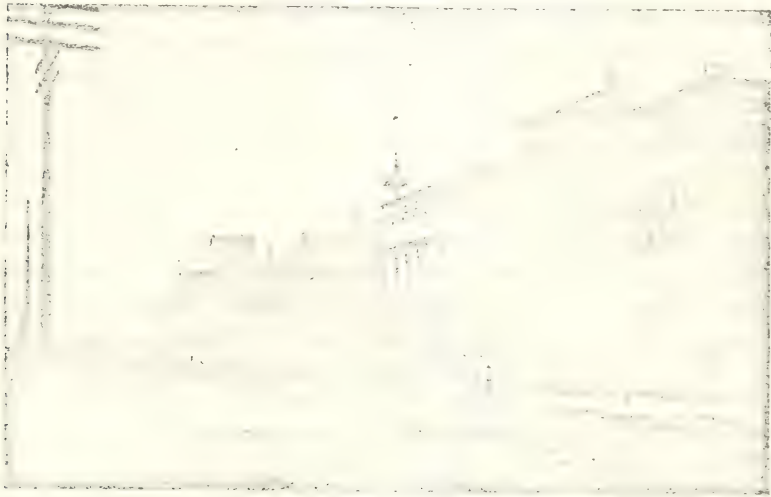
BUSINESS START--THE RAILROAD PLAT--BAD BUSINESS OUTCOME--EARLY GROWTH OF BELLE PLAINE--FIRST FOUNDRIES--CHICAGO AND NORTHWESTERN PLANTS--CORPORATION OF BELLE PLAINE--THE FIRE DEPARTMENT--THE GREAT FIRE OF 1894--LIGHT AND POWER PLANT--ARTESIAN WATER WORKS--THE TELEPHONE SERVICE--PUBLIC LIBRARY--THE BELLE PLAINE OPERA HOUSE--HERRING COTTAGE--THE BAILEY HOUSE--FOUR LEADING ESTABLISHMENTS--MASONRY IN BELLE PLAINE--ODD FELLOWSHIP IN BELLE PLAINE--KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS--THE "GRAND ARMY" POST--LEGION OF HONOR--MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA--IMPROVED ORDER OF RED MEN--BOHEMIAN SOCIETIES--RAILROAD UNIONS--WOODMEN OF THE WORLD--MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA--HIGHLAND NOBLES AND C. C. C.

Belle Plaine is to the southern part of Benton county--the old Southern Slope--what Vinton is to the northern portion, minus only the dignity which attaches, more or less to the city which is the seat of justice and politics. The site of Belle Plaine was laid out in 1860 by Presley Hutton, the original plat being made shortly before the completion of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad to this point. Its site on the northern bank of the Iowa river is not unlike that of Vinton on the southwestern shores of the Red Cedar, and the population of the cities is not far apart. Toward the southwest the country gradually rises from an elevation of more than eight hundred feet toward a more hilly region. It is considered one of the charming stretches of interior Iowa, and may well account for the "beautiful plain" by which the town is known.

BUSINESS START.

Shortly before and shortly after Mr. Hutton had platted the town, William White and I. N. Isham erected stores upon the site

of Belle Plaine, and a Mr. Crider and H. H. Smith arranged their little stocks of goods therein. They were its first merchants. About the same time George Lowe completed a grain warehouse, but did not put anything into it, as there was a wrangle between the Construction Company and the Railroad Company over the best location for the town. The latter wanted it at Belle Plaine; the Construction Company insisted the best location was three miles east, and there they laid some switch tracks and called their



MAIN BUSINESS STREET, BELLE PLAINE.

child Buckeye. The fight went on for several years, and it was not until 1867 that Buckeye went really out of existence in favor of Luzerne, the station midway between Belle Plaine and Blairstown.

THE RAILROAD PLAT.

The certainty that the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company was solidly behind Belle Plaine gave it an early prestige and inspired confidence, and there appears to have been a second platting of the town in March, 1862, by John I. Blair (the capitalist and Chicago & Northwestern railway magnate). Mr. White, who had built a store in the previous fall, erected the first dwelling house on the new site, and D. C. Forbes, Mr. Crider's clerk, followed his example. Shortly afterward a house was removed from

the old town site of Guinville (platted in 1856 and now included in Belle Plaine) and several dwellings were erected in the summer and fall of 1862; so that, with the two stores, Belle Plaine was making quite a showing as a settlement. In July, of that year, the postoffice was also moved from Guinville to Belle Plaine and Mr. Forbes appointed first master of the mails.

BAD BUSINESS OUTCOME.

From the fact that Elder Holland preached Belle Plaine's first sermon, some time in the fall of 1862, in "Crider's vacant store," it is self-evident that there was not business enough for two at this particular time. In fact, to make a sad story short, Mr. Crider's creditors took possession of his business in 1863 and sold his goods at auction.

As near as can be ascertained, the business interests of Belle Plaine in the fall of 1863 were represented by E. G. Brown, who had purchased Mr. Isham's general store; Andrew Hale, grain and stock dealer; James Smart, lumber dealer; Carter Buckley and George Watrous, grain buyers; J. B. Daniels, harness maker. William Shaffer was the first station agent.

EARLY GROWTH OF BELLE PLAINE.

The selection of Belle Plaine as the terminus of the Clinton division of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad soon had its effect in stimulating the growth of the town, and at the close of 1868 it had seven general stores, eight groceries, four agricultural implement houses, three hardware stores, five lumber dealers, two furniture stores, three drug stores, one book store, two millinery shops, five tailors, six physicians, six attorneys, two jewelry stores, one music store, three dentists, four wagon shops, four blacksmith shops, three hotels, one livery stable, nine saloons, four boarding houses, four shoe shops, three harness shops, two auctioneers, one flouring mill, one planing mill, two painters, one bakery, two dozen carpenters, one tobacco store, five drays, one newspaper and several grain buyers. Its first bank was established in July, 1869.

In 1885 the population of Belle Plaine was 2,092; in 1890, 2,623; 1895, 3,256; 1900, 3,283; 1905, 3,322; 1910, 3,500 (estimated)

FIRST FOUNDRIES.

There were four blacksmith shops at Belle Plaine in 1869, but no establishments up to that year which could be dignified as foundries. Messrs. Chase, Fletcher, Hale and Palmer (Albert) started the first foundry in that year, and in 1877 the firm of A. Palmer & Son was formed—the son being Eugene Palmer, of Palmer Brothers, Belle Plaine foundrymen of today. C. J. Palmer came to Vinton in 1884 and soon afterward became a partner of Eugene. The present foundry of Palmer Brothers, employing fifteen or twenty men, is the only establishment of the kind in Belle Plaine, its specialties being radiation boilers and heating apparatus (steam and hot water).

CHICAGO & NORTHWESTERN PLANTS.

The round house of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company at Belle Plaine was completed in 1884. It has thirty locomotive stalls, and one hundred and twenty workmen are em-



CHICAGO AND NORTHWESTERN DEPOT, BELLE PLAINE.

ployed in the shops and yards—seventy-five on the day force and forty-five on the night shift.

The fire of July, 1894, burned the old Northwestern Railroad depot, the structure now occupied being completed in the following

December. It is of red brick, two stories and basement, the general offices being in the second story, and well built and arranged.

CORPORATION OF BELLE PLAINE.

Belle Plaine was incorporated as a city of the second class in 1868, the municipal officers chosen at the organizing election of May 22d being as follows: D. A. Kennedy, mayor; J. P. Henry, treasurer; J. F. Roberts, marshal; E. A. Bird, E. G. Brown, D. C. Twogood and J. Fohls, councilmen. The council held its first meeting at Howard & Johnson's office, June 26, 1868, and after perfecting its organization passed ordinance No. 1 providing for the election by the council of a marshal, street commissioner and treasurer. At the same meeting K. D. Shugart was elected treasurer and Joseph Daniels, marshal and street commissioner. Ordinance No. 2, prohibiting stock from running at large and ordinance No. 3, concerning licenses, were then passed; after which Belle Plaine's first council adjourned.

The present municipal officers of Belle Plaine are: J. H. Irwin, mayor; Harvey Slack, clerk; I. W. Van Niec, treasurer; J. E. Livings, chief of the volunteer fire department; J. A. Ruhl, city marshal; J. W. Leimberer, street commissioner. The two aldermen-at-large are James A. Williams and Luther Fisher, while the first, second and third wards are represented respectively by W. D. Barnard, G. W. Blanche and J. W. Rucker.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The first meeting to organize Pioneer Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 was held June 24, 1873, when James Cellister was elected foreman; C. H. Schnoor, first assistant; W. P. Tuttle, second assistant; S. S. Sweet, treasurer; Tom Lawrence, secretary. By the 14th of the following July twenty-seven of the thirty members had purchased uniforms, without which the average "fire laddie" does not consider he is a regular member of his company. In June, 1877, occurred the first death in the department, the company attending the funeral of Mr. Schnoor on the 19th of that month.

One of the first fires which Pioneer Hook and Ladder was called upon to attend was that which started in the law office of A. F. Bell (July 16, 1874) and burned several small buildings before it

was controlled. Two or three buildings were torn down to stay the progress of the flames.

The Belle Plaine fire department is still purely volunteer and consists, as to apparatus, of one engine, one hook and ladder and two hose carts.

THE GREAT FIRE OF 1894.

Belle Plaine's most destructive fire occurred on the late afternoon and the evening of July 28, 1894, sweeping up and down First street and for nearly two blocks east of the round house from Second street to the railway. About two solid blocks of brick and frame buildings were consumed in a few hours; eighty business firms were made stockless and homeless and the half a million of dollars which went up in smoke and flames was not insured for more than \$200,000. It was a terrible blow to the advancement of Belle Plaine, but, like other plucky western towns, she fully recovered and replaced the ruins with a far better class of buildings than the old.

At 5:30 Robert Liddle, the blacksmith, was setting ties on wagon wheels, on Beech street near Second. At the same time C. H. Kroh was raising a bale of rye hay into his feed and sale stable near by. With the unaccountable perversity of those inanimate objects to be attracted to each other whose union will cause the most mischief, a spark from a red hot tire shot into the dry bale of hay which was being pulled into Mr. Kroh's loft, and when that gentleman turned over the bale it burst into flame so quickly that he was driven away.

The fire then spread rapidly and vigorously to the City Hall and Wheeler's livery stable, and thence in four directions. To the west it raced through residences, warehouses, offices and a \$30,000 opera house. Like mad, it swept up and down First street, taking in its path the best brick buildings in the city. At this stage of the fight both the depot and Henry's lumber yard, on the south side of First, were burned to the ground, as well as "Old Rescue," the fire engine, which seemed transformed into a human hero. A hose cart was also lost to the enemy before assistance arrived from Blairstown, Tama and Cedar Rapids.

At 7 o'clock in the evening the wind changed from the northwest to the east. The Burley House was saved but the hook and ladder companies were forced to tear down several dwellings on

Second street which menaced the balance of the buildings on First street.

The heaviest losers in the fire--those who suffered a loss of \$10,000 or over--were as follows: Opera House Block (T. F. Greenlee), main building occupied by Shaw & Bowman as a department store, \$25,000; Shaw & Bowman, \$30,000; W. H. Burrows & Company, clothier, \$17,000; J. D. Blue, dry goods merchant, \$14,000; Van Metre & Cox, druggists, \$13,000; Robert Nicholson, grocer, \$12,000; Hartman Grocery Company, \$10,000; J. J. Mosnat, building and law library, \$18,000; Sol. Wertheim, clothier, \$18,000; L. Grossman, dry goods merchant, \$16,000; Wm. P. Hanson, Opera House, jeweler and hardware dealer, \$29,000; Nichols & Marr, \$16,000; and T. Lawrence, building and dry goods stock, \$23,000. The Knights of Pythias and Masons also were burned out and the Herring Hotel was also destroyed at a loss of \$8,000.

LIGHT AND POWER PLANT.

A plant to furnish Belle Plaine with light and power was erected in 1881. William A. Hunter being its proprietor. In



"JUMBO" WELL IN ACTION, BELLE PLAINE.

August, 1884, a larger building was completed, and under the management of S. S. Sweet the enterprise progressed until 1894. In that year G. L. Thayer became a partner, and in August, 1899.

G. R. Ahrens and H. W. A. Mahl purchased Mr. Thayer's interest in the plant. The parties now in interest are the Sweet estate and Messrs. Ahrens and Mahl, the last named being active manager.

ARTESIAN WATER WORKS.

In June, 1904, the citizens of Belle Plaine voted \$30,000 bonds for an artesian system of water works and in January, 1906, the contract was let to the Miller Artesian Well Company, for the construction of works capable of supplying 200,000 gallons every twenty-four hours. Belle Plaine is the center of one of the most noted artesian belts in the west, whose remarkable natural features and practical development for water-supply purposes are fully described in the chapter on the physical aspects of Benton county.

THE TELEPHONE SERVICE.

In 1890 the Belle Plaine Telephone Company was organized by S. H. Walters and Otto Wettstein. Its capital has remained at \$9,000. It has sixty subscribers and the following officers: Sol. Wertheim, president; C. A. Blossom, treasurer; Edward Nichols, secretary.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

A well assorted collection of about one thousand volumes is housed in the basement of the Congregational church and comprises the public library of Belle Plaine. Miss Mayme Fisher is librarian.

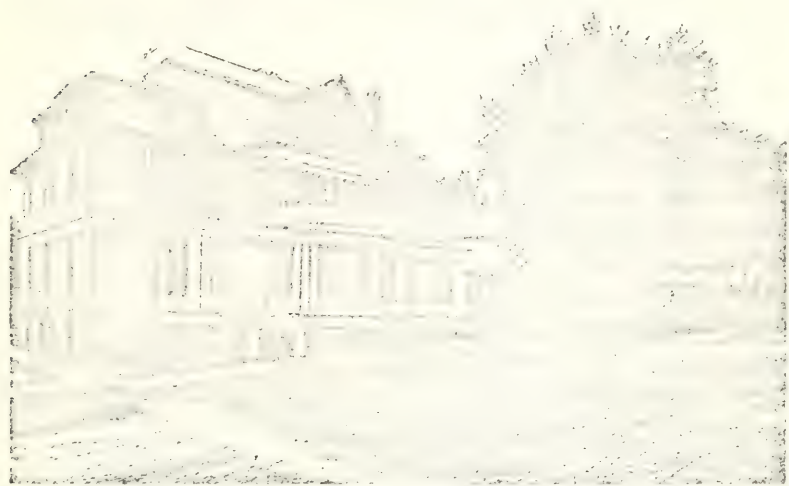
THE BELLE PLAINE OPERA HOUSE.

In 1895, the year after its destruction in the great fire, Belle Plaine's opera house was rebuilt by Francisco Guthrie at a cost of \$24,000. The auditorium is tastefully decorated and furnished and seats about eight hundred people. J. C. Milner has been manager of the opera house since 1897.

HERRING COTTAGE.

The Herring Cottage is the leading hotel of Belle Plaine and is one of the most home-like places of public entertainment in Iowa.

Its proprietor, Will P. Herring, is the father of the cottage. Twenty years ago he was running the old Tremont House near the round house. He was one of the victims of the 1894 fire, but was so instinctively a landlord that he commenced renting cottages



THE HERRING COTTAGE.

around town and letting them out to transients. The scheme and the man "took," and in 1899 he erected the Herring Cottage, which now has a wide reputation for hospitality and good service.

THE BAILEY HOUSE.

This hotel, erected by one of Belle Plaine's pioneers, is the oldest public house of entertainment in the city. Its proprietor is Mrs. F. A. Armstrong, daughter of its builder and original proprietor. The hotel is now largely patronized by railroad men.

FOUR LEADING ESTABLISHMENTS.

Belle Plaine has two lumber and coal yards. J. P. Henry started the first lumber yard in the place during 1865. He was alone in business until 1899 when his son, F. H. Henry, became associated with him. The "Eclipse" coal and lumber yard was established about five years ago by C. W. Burnham.

The so called Tappan & Crawford elevator, with a capacity of 25,000 bushels, has been under the present management since February, 1902.

In 1907 the Belle Plaine Broom Company was organized by J. H. Irwin, J. E. Graf, C. J. Snitkay, I. W. Van Nice, W. J. Guin, Eugene Smith and C. W. H. Snyder. Mr. Snyder controls the business which amounts to about \$20,000 annually.

MASONRY IN BELLE PLAINE.

Hope Lodge No. 175, A. F. & A. M., of Belle Plaine, held its first meeting at Blairstown, under dispensation, March 11, 1865, at which time William C. Smith set as worthy master; H. C. Rider, senior warden, H. Guinn, treasurer, J. W. Filkins, secretary; S. A. Wilcox, senior deacon; John A. Dudgeon, junior deacon and Philip Parks, tiler. K. D. Shugert, James Collister and John Caltron were also present as charter members. A charter was issued in June, 1865, by E. A. Guilbert, grand master, and the lodge was constituted by James McQuinn, special deputy for the occasion. A new Masonic hall was dedicated October 29, 1873, the ceremonies being conducted by A. R. West, deputy grand master. The Masonic Temple of the present was completed in the later portion of 1894 to replace the building destroyed by the great fire of July. Hope Lodge has a membership of 135 and the following officers: James Park, worthy master; L. E. Cox, senior warden; C. A. Schringeur, junior warden; J. D. Wilson, senior deacon; L. Grossman, junior deacon; C. A. Sweet, secretary.

Mount Horeb Chapter No. 45, R. A. M., Belle Plaine, was organized, under dispensation, by B. H. Hemenway, grand high priest, on the 11th of July, 1868. E. A. Bird was named as high priest; James McQuinn, king; and E. W. Stocker, scribe. The chapter was constituted by P. C. Wright, grand high priest, November 7th, of that year.

ODD FELLOWSHIP IN BELLE PLAINE.

Belle Plaine Lodge No. 151, I. O. O. F., was organized July 11, 1867, by Benjamin Rubert, of Dubuque, grand master, assisted by M. A. Newcomb, of Tama City, and A. A. Lindley, Cedar Rapids. E. M. Dodge was elected noble grand; J. C. Kirkwood, vice grand; S. Wyman, recording secretary; J. J. Daton, permanent secretary; J. B. Marston, treasurer. An address was given before the lodge

by W. A. Tewksbury July 2, 1869, on the occasion of the installation of officers at Wilson's Grove, two miles northeast of Belle Plaine. For some time the German Odd Fellows attached themselves to the Luzerne lodge as well as with the so called Berlin lodge of Belle Plaine, but these bodies are now consolidated under the Belle Plaine organization.

The first exclusive Odd Fellows Hall was dedicated June 1, 1876, delegations being present from the lodges at Blairstown, Luzerne and Chelsea. The Odd Fellows block, where the different bodies of the order now meet, was erected in 1907. The assembly hall is large and well furnished, and the adjoining rooms comfortable and convenient. Present membership of Lodge No. 151, 200; Charles Kratoska, noble grand; John Pecenka (one of the charter members) vice grand; J. A. Ruhl, recording secretary; A. W. Moderwell, financial secretary; G. R. Ahrens, treasurer.

On April 26, 1887, the Odd Fellows of Belle Plaine formed the uniformed rank of their order, known as Patriarchs Militant. This was largely through the influence and work of M. A. Raney, long among the leading Odd Fellows of Benton county and for several years past the generalissimo of the entire order.

Home Encampment No. 48, I. O. O. F., was organized April 20, 1870, and instituted October 16, 1872, with fourteen members. Its charter members were Wesley Camp, E. A. Stocker, J. B. Marston, J. J. Dayton, A. J. Gwinn, W. P. Hanson, D. A. Kennedy, E. S. Johnson and R. H. Petter.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.

The Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 147 was chartered October 7, 1886, with twenty-three members. It has now a membership of 104 and officers as follows: A. J. Keyser, chancellor commander; A. W. Byers, vice commander; C. D. Douglass, master-at-arms; J. H. Welch, prelate; J. A. Wheeler, keeper of records and seals and master of finance; I. W. Van Nice, master of the exchequer; J. N. Hodson, inner guard; J. A. Ruhl, outer guard. Dr. James Mc-Morris and John Montgomery are charter members who have passed through all the chairs of their lodge. The Grand Temple (women's auxiliary) was organized August 11, 1892.

THE "GRAND ARMY" POST.

The John B. Hancock Post No. 314, G. A. R., Belle Plaine, was originally chartered April 21, 1884. It consisted of twenty members of whom the following still reside in Belle Plaine: John Montgomery, S. C. Leavell, S. R. Ferree, J. P. Henry, Joe Harbert, Thomas Brand, C. Wenz, and M. V. Foote. E. E. Blake lives in Chicago; J. C. Mattox, H. H. Greenlee, M. L. Prentiss, J. R. Cruson, A. Vosburg, J. G. Walker and C. C. Sullenberger are, so far as known, still alive, and James Rucker, Noah Winslow, F. E. McCurdy and J. J. Chown are dead. The post now has a membership of thirty-four with the following officers: M. J. Athey, commander; S. C. Lavall, chaplain; S. R. Ferree, quartermaster; and Myron Hartwell, adjutant.

LEGION OF HONOR.

Belle Plaine Legion of Honor No. 51, which was founded in the winter of 1879, had the following original officers: Rev. H. A. Brown, president; H. A. Bickford, vice president; George Swinney, recording secretary; R. M. Bailey, financial secretary. Some 150 members now belong to the Legion, which has paid about thirty thousand dollars in beneficaries since its organization. Present officers: George A. Ferree, president; C. H. Bailey, vice president; A. J. Keyser, secretary, and Dr. C. J. Snitkay, treasurer.

MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA.

Modern Woodmen of America, No. 795, was organized in November, 1883, and has now more than 120 members, with the following officers: A. Carlson, vice commander; G. E. Westman, worthy adviser; M. D. Dodd, banker; J. A. Ruhl, clerk; W. T. Antrim, escort.

The Royal Neighbors of Belle Plaine (auxiliary to the Modern Woodmen of America) organized in March, 1907. They number about twenty and their officers are: Mrs. Laura Schmitz, oracle; Mrs. Alice Lyons, vice oracle; Mrs. Cora Crittenden, recorder; and Mrs. Myra Black, receiver.

IMPROVED ORDER OF RED MEN.

Minnehaha Tribe No. 33, of Belle Plaine, Improved Order of Red Men, is officered as follows: W. W. Livings, sachem; Andrew J. Keyser, senior sagamore; W. A. Crawford, junior sagamore; George R. Ferree, prophet, and S. Ferree, keeper of records. The tribe was organized September 12, 1891, by forty-four charter members, including the following: E. M. Ealy, J. N. Greenlee, E. M. Kolb, J. W. Miller, James Mattox, F. H. Milner, William O'Neill, Claus Peters, W. A. Rusk, F. P. Stephen and G. D. Waltron. The first sachem was E. M. Berger.

The Haymakers Association (Minnehaha Lodge No. 33 1-2), comprising members of the Red Men who have reached the third degree, was formed August 24, 1908. It has thirty-five members; Frank Hadima, chief haymaker.

BOHEMIAN SOCIETIES.

Belle Plaine has a large Bohemian element and it is thrifty, substantial and eminently social and helpful. Perhaps the strongest of the Bohemian societies of Belle Plaine is Zapadni Cesko Bralske Jednoly (Western Bohemian Benevolent Society), which was organized May 31, 1903.

Cesko Slovanskyeh Podporujicich Spolku (Bohemian Slavonian Benevolent Society) was organized at St. Louis, Missouri, in 1854. The Belle Plaine lodge (Red Kruh Bratrstva No. 186) was formed some years ago. It now has a membership of thirty and these officers: Joseph F. Cerny, president; M. Bender, Jr., vice president; Anton Despiva, recording secretary; Joe Pech, financial secretary, and Charles Kratosky, treasurer.

RAILROAD UNIONS.

Because of the Northwestern round house and shops at Belle Plaine, the local railroad unions are quite strong. These include brotherhoods of trainmen, carmen, conductors, firemen and engineers. The Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen has also an auxiliary, organized by the women in April, 1899. The first union of the railroad men to be organized in Belle Plaine was the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, No. 212, May 4, 1886.

WOODMEN OF THE WORLD.

Big Four No. 220, Woodmen of the World, was organized August 19, 1898, and reorganized March 9, 1907. It has a membership of about sixty and the following officers: J. F. Miller, council commander; J. H. Ortscheid, advisory lieutenant; P. Lequette, clerk; F. B. Cerny, banker; S. R. McCune, escort; John Veverka, watchman; Dr. George W. Yavorsky, physician; J. F. Cerny, local deputy; W. A. McCune and M. Benda, trustees.

MODERN BROTHERHOOD OF AMERICA.

The Modern Brotherhood of America organized February 28, 1898, with A. K. Smith as president and Anna Bangs, secretary. The lodge has a membership of about ninety. Mrs. H. Edwards is president; E. M. Ely, vice president; Anna Bangs, secretary; and Mrs. W. D. Barnard, treasurer.

HIGHLAND NOBLES AND C. C. C.

In 1905 the Highland Nobles and the Court of Columbian Circle consolidated their interests. They are now known as the 3 C order and have their society home in C. C. C. castle.

(EDITOR'S NOTE—Should the reader of this chapter be specially interested in the schools or churches of Belle Plaine, he is referred to the chapters which cover those topics in detail.)

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CHAPTER XIX.

BLAIRSTOWN AND SHELLSBURG.

BLAIRSTOWN FOUNDED—FIRST RELIGIOUS SERVICES—SUPPORTER OF SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES—THE FIRST BLACKSMITH—THE TOWN IN 1862—THE TOWN IN 1868—CHAMPION OF THE SOUTH SLOPE—BLAIRSTOWN AS A CORPORATION—ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER PLANT—BLAIRSTOWN ELEVATORS—LOGGES OF BLAIRSTOWN—WHY SHELLSBURG?—A STAGE STATION—FIRST LANDLORD—CANTONWINE'S PLACE—FIRST SHELLSBURG CHURCH—GETS A RAILROAD—INCORPORATED AS A VILLAGE—AN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT—SHELLSBURG'S FIRST MAYOR—THE FIRST BANK—FARMERS' MUTUAL TELEPHONE COMPANY—MASONS OF SHELLSBURG—INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS—THE G. A. R. POST—KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS—MODERN WOODMEN.

Blairstown, a place of about 650 inhabitants, in the eastern part of LeRoy township, is situated almost midway on the Chicago & Northwestern railroad as it passes through the southern tier of townships. It is about twenty-two miles south of Vinton and lies on a high and healthful rise of ground just south of Prairie creek. Originally, a fine body of timber skirting the Iowa river came up to within a mile of Blairstown, and this fact largely determined the location of the town.

BLAIRSTOWN FOUNDED.

In November, 1861, the Chicago and Northwestern road was completed to this point. A portion of the site was laid out in February, 1862, with Isaiah Morris and Eli Hill as proprietors, and somewhat later the survey was made by the railroad company, John I. Blair appearing in the records as proprietor. Mr. Morris donated a number of lots to those seeking a location. The first house erected after the plat was surveyed was that of Philip Buck, a plasterer, and not long afterward G. R. Dickinson erected a store

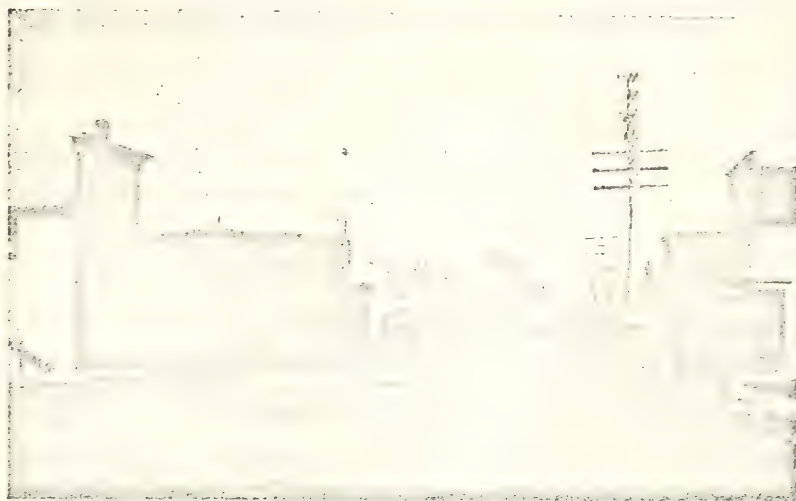
and established himself as the first merchant of Blairstown. H. M. Hanford erected the second business building and that was quickly followed by the grain warehouse, built by W. T. Watrous and J. J. Snouffer. Mr. Morris, one of the proprietors of the town, kept the first hotel, the Howard House. Bryant and Green were the first blacksmiths and L. E. Watrous was the first station master, express agent and post master.

FIRST RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

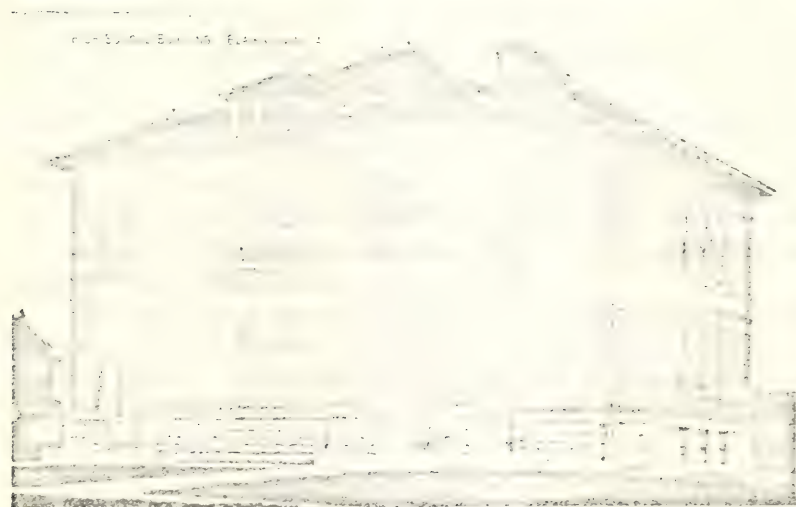
The first religious services were held by the Christian denomination, Revs. Hugh Beardshear, Luther Keller, Steenbarger and Bradshaw holding forth at various times in the log school house. Miss Eunice Ramstead taught the first school in the summer of 1862, and was succeeded the following year by Hiram Black. But the particulars of the establishment of schools and churches at Blairstown, with the progress of subsequent years, are given elsewhere in the special chapters devoted to such topics.

SUPPORTER OF SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES.

George Herring contributed much to the educational and religious well-being of Blairstown and vicinity. He was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, in 1822, and when only thirteen years of age joined the Evangelical Association, remaining a faithful member of that denomination until his death in 1877. He came to Iowa in April, 1863, and was among the first settlers in the vicinity of Blairstown. After being here some time he was licensed as a local minister, in which capacity he served the church faithfully until his death. He not only contributed liberally toward the building of his own church, but gave to the extent of his abilities toward the organization and maintenance of the Blairstown Seminary. Notwithstanding his philanthropy and generosity, he accumulated a large property through his real estate dealings, but failure of health obliged him to remove to Texas in the spring of 1875. Failing to realize any benefits from this change in climate, he returned to the north and located at Alton, Illinois, where he remained until May, 1876. He then returned to Blairstown, where he died August 8, 1877.



MAIN STREET, BLAIR'S TOWN.



THE FIRST BLACKSMITH.

James Brian, the first blacksmith to open a shop in Blairstown, was an Ohio man who came to Linn county, Iowa, in 1852. He remained in that section of the state until 1855, when he moved to Blairstown and built and ran the pioneer blacksmith shop. He was afterwards elected to the town council, held various school offices and became quite well known. He served during the last year of the Civil war and was honorably discharged.

THE TOWN IN 1862.

At the close of 1862 the following included the population of Blairstown: I. Morris, E. Hill, G. B. Dickinson, P. Buck, W. D. Watrous, L. E. Watrous, J. J. Smouffer, H. M. Hanford, J. Bryan, J. F. Greer and S. B. Gill. The last named had come from Kansas, having served through all the stirring free-soil campaigns under old John Brown. It was even said that he had barely escaped hanging in Virginia, because he had engaged to teach a district school in Kansas just before the Brown raid upon Harper's Ferry, and the commissioners would not release him from his contract.

THE TOWN IN 1868.

In 1868 the population of Blairstown was estimated at about 1,000, and the business and professional life of the place was represented by the following: Six general stores, two groceries, two hotels, two lumber dealers, five blacksmith shops, one farm implement house, two hardware stores, one flouring mill, three harness shops, two tailor shops, two painters, two shoe shops, two druggists, one jeweler, two milliners, one photographer, two barbers, two attorneys, four physicians, one meat shop, several carpenters, one cooper shop and one livery stable.

The business at the railway station for 1868 was represented by the following figures: Freight forwarded, 12,114,470 pounds; freight received 12,715,800 pounds; amount of passenger tickets sold, \$29,989.65; cash received for freight and tickets, \$68,244.10; actual earnings, \$83,313.88; lumber received, 477 cars; grain shipped, 511 cars; stock shipped, 77 cars.

By 1871 Blairstown had also become quite a shipping point for strawberries and raspberries, the principal growers being C. Carter, A. Dean and W. S. Snow.

In 1869 Messrs. Allen and Amidon established at Blairstown one of the pioneer banks of the county—an institution which still flourishes and whose extended history is given in the financial chapter.

CHAMPION OF THE SOUTH SLOPE.

Blairstown early took its place as the champion of all South Slope interests, whether railroad, political or social. In February, 1869, the Central South Slope Old Settlers Association was organized at the residence of James Bryan. The pioneers had assembled previously for a reunion, and the society, which was an after-thought, was formed with the following officers: A. G. Hanna, president, and A. Dean, secretary. Interest in the organization and its objects continued for several years.

BLAIRSTOWN AS A CORPORATION.

Blairstown was incorporated in September, 1868, and at the first election the following municipal officers were chosen: J. Houck, mayor; W. H. Eldred, recorder; John Book, treasurer; A. J. Tongeman, Philip Hoebel, J. Bryan, D. W. Moore and John Book, trustees.

Present city officers of Blairstown: Mayor, P. H. Lynch; recorder, B. F. Paul; aldermen, D. R. Pingrey, M. A. Goodell, R. M. Moore, Thomas Combs, A. J. Wilson and David F. Newton.

Enterprise Fire Company No. 1 was organized January 19, 1875, by the adoption of a constitution and by-laws and the election of John T. Brewster, president, and John Van Metre, secretary. The Blairstown Hook and Ladder Company was formed about the same time, but reorganized in 1878, when S. P. Silliman was chosen foreman; Henry Hartung, first assistant; J. D. King, secretary; and H. L. Bassett, treasurer.

At times the fire company has also voluntarily performed police duty, as during the summer of 1877, when Blairstown was visited by an epidemic of tramps.

ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER PLANT.

The Blairstown electric light and power plant was erected by Jacob Hunt in May, 1907, at a cost of \$12,000. A gasoline engine

operates a windmill which pumps the water supply into a tank whence it is distributed to villagers. The plant furnishes about 600 lights.

BLAIRSTOWN ELEVATORS.

The 12,000 bushel elevator at Blairstown was built by W. C. Yeisley in 1902, and he has since operated it, as well as a coal and grain business.

The Western Elevator Company of Winona, Minnesota, operates an elevator at Blairstown with a capacity of 40,000 bushels. A. J. Dahn is the local manager of the company's interests. The original building was erected in 1866, and an elevator was built at a still earlier date by the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company about the time its line reached Blairstown (1861).

LODGES OF BLAIRSTOWN.

Lincoln Lodge No. 199, A. F. & A. M., Blairstown, was chartered June 5, 1867, the following being its first officers: W. S. Bates, worthy master; W. D. Watrous, senior warden; and H. L. Bassett, junior warden. The lodge has forty members and the following officers: Dr. S. H. Watson, worthy master; P. H. Lynch, senior warden; B. F. Heck, junior warden; E. E. Brown, secretary; W. H. Wood, treasurer.

The Eastern Star lodge was formed October 26, 1899; worthy matron at present, Mrs. William Hoebel.

The Modern Woodmen of America have a strong lodge of seventy members at Blairstown, known as Olive Camp No. 2267, which was organized January 18, 1895. Present officers: B. F. Heck, vice commander; Henry Dolge, worthy adviser; Wm. Hoebel, banker; John Heck, escort; S. G. Prantz, clerk; R. M. Moore, sentinel, and Frank Crandall, watchman.

Eureka Legion of Honor No. 4 was one of the early societies to be founded, its record dating from March 20, 1879.

The G. A. R. Post No. 341, which was organized July 11, 1884, has not surrendered its charter, but death has so reduced its membership that the few remaining comrades no longer meet as a society. The soldiers monument at Blairstown was erected by members of the post and other citizens, and commemorates the patriotism of the Civil war soldiers who went from the city and vicinity. Many of them are buried at Pleasant Hill cemetery.

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Phoenix No. 292, Knights of Pythias, has a membership of about thirty, with B. F. Paul, C. C.; N. C. Ransom, V. C.; Jacob Hunt, prelate; and Ralph Yacom, keeper of records and seals.



Jewell Lodge No. 43, Modern Brotherhood of America, was formed July 12, 1897.

WHY SHELLSBURG?

Why "Shellsburg?" A stranger to the town instinctively asks the question. The accepted explanation is that John Sells, a pioneer of Canton township, desired to have his name attached to the place, when it was laid out by Jacob Cantonwine and Emanuel S. Flake in 1854. The proprietors preferred another name; perhaps they did not think Mr. Sells of sufficient importance to be

thus honored. But they respected the old gentleman and did not wish to offend him; so they compromised and called the town Shellsburg. Messrs. Sells and Floke afterward removed to Missouri and Cantonwine to Oregon.

Shellsburg was the third town surveyed in Benton county. The original plat contained twenty-four lots and two streets, Main and Pearl. Technically, it was on the southwest quarter of section 11, and partly on the northwest quarter of section 14, township 14, range 9, and was laid out by H. M. Drury, deputy county surveyor, June 16, 1854. It is now a town of some six hundred people, in the eastern part of the county, twelve miles southeast of Vinton and on the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific railroad. To the southeast, south and west of Shellsburg is a beautiful, fertile prairie, the timber lands lying toward the north and east. The farmers are mostly American born citizens in good circumstances, and the town has several good general stores and also provides the farming community with reliable banking facilities.

A STAGE STATION.

In the early days, before the coming of the railroad, Shellsburg became quite well known as a thriving station on the Cedar Rapids and Vinton stage line.

FIRST LANDLORD.

John White, now deceased, opened up the first tavern, where for many years the travelers, who passed through on the stage, as well as the prospective locators, stopped and received the best of hospitality that was on the menu at that early date in the town's history.

CANTONWINE'S PLACE.

Cantonwine was first to engage in trade and kept an article of stock, which at this stage of the temperance cause is not permitted except in well regulated drug stores and then only by the permission of the court. At the time when Cantonwine "set up" the first store at Shellsburg, Vinton was strongly prohibitory in sentiment, and the thirsty ones at the county seat—in particular the old-timers who had not yet become converted to the New

Thought—found Cantonwine's store a haven, a refuge and an oasis, all combined.

The story runs that "during the winter of 1855-6 a lawyer and an editor of Vinton invited their wives to accompany them on a sleigh ride to Shellsburg, supper to be taken there. They came; the men went to Cantonwine's to see a man; and the ladies can tell who drove home to Vinton."

Other early settlers at Shellsburg, besides Cantonwine and others mentioned, were David Robb, the second clerk of Benton county; B. R. Dwigans, D. M. Sterns, Royal Storrs, Russell Bowe and E. H. Carroll.

FIRST SHELLSBURG CHURCH.

The first church organization at Shellsburg was of the New School Presbyterian, which was formed at the "white school house," a mile east of the future town, in 1859, and four years afterward was removed to the village which had been platted during the preceding year. (For a detailed statement of the churches of Shellsburg and vicinity, see chapter devoted to the religious institutions of the county.)

In June, 1860, the town had about one hundred and fifty people, a flouring mill having been erected a short time before by Clark and Oyler and a pottery was being operated by Denison and Hadley.

GETS A RAILROAD.

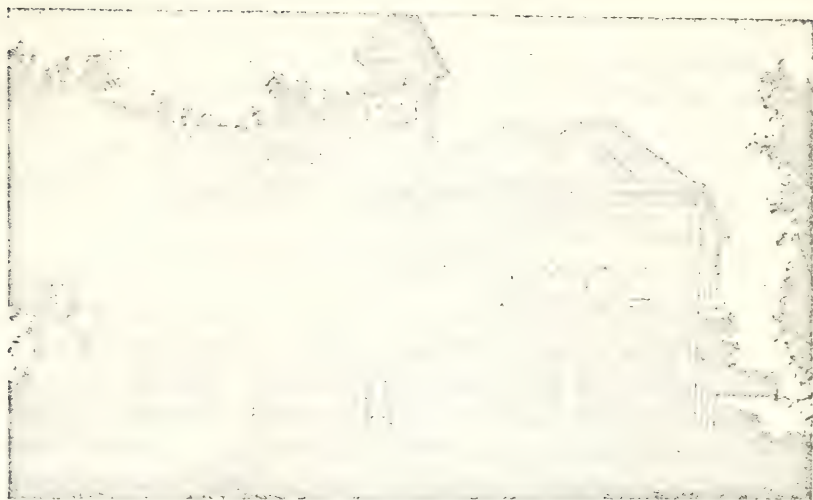
For a number of years before the coming of the railroad to Shellsburg, the cutting and shipping of the timber east of town comprised quite a brisk business, hundreds of carloads of railroad ties and bridge timber being sent to eastern points. In the summer of 1870 she secured the long-desired communication, through the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern line—now a part of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific system.

Since that time her growth has been that of a substantial country town; and her progress has been to her especial credit, since she has suffered from several destructive fires. The worst conflagration was that of April 12, 1872, by which eighteen buildings were burned to the ground.

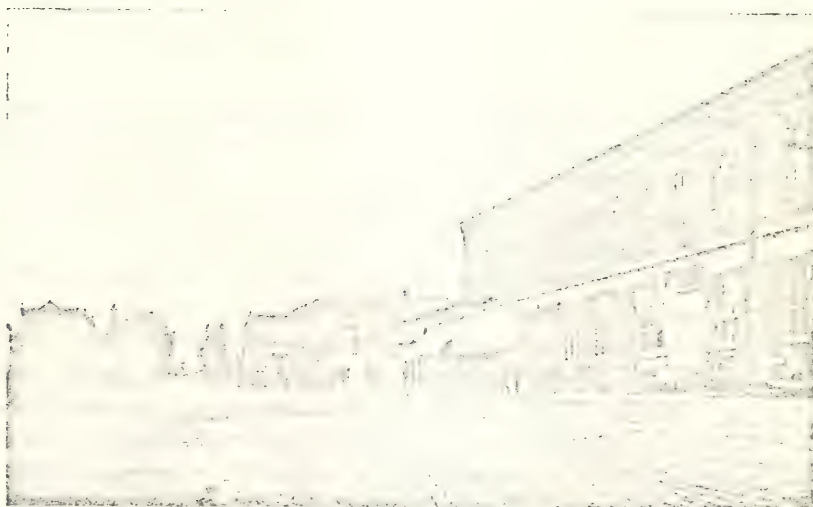
Norway- Board of Education

N.H. Blakey

should be W.H. Blakey



HIGH SCHOOL, SHELLSBURG.



PEARL STREET, SHELLSBURG.

INCORPORATED AS A VILLAGE.

In the spring of 1870, shortly before the railroad reached Shellsburg, the place was incorporated as a town, or village, of the third class. Its first officers were: J. C. Summers, mayor; J. Y. Stier, treasurer; F. P. Sterling, marshal; A. J. Dickinson, Z. Blackburn, Elias Adams, E. H. Cowell and I. P. Noe, councilmen.

AN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT.

The election to form the Independent school district of Shellsburg was held March 10, 1870, only one out of nineteen votes being cast against the measure. On the 21st of the month D. P. Marshall was elected president of the district; J. H. Miller, Wm. Kreader, Alexander Runyan, D. M. Howell, and William White, directors; J. P. Skea, secretary; and T. Gray, treasurer. The first teachers employed by the Independent district were H. E. Warner and Miss Haines. But matters connected with the Shellsburg schools will be found fully treated in the educational chapter of this work.

Shellsburg's present municipal officers are as follows: Mayor, H. Strawhecker; clerk, Dell G. Files; treasurer, C. L. Penny; councilmen, L. A. Dickinson, W. W. Hatfield, W. M. De Foe, G. W. Holmes, J. F. Robbins and Dr. I. S. Boles.

SHELLSBURG'S FIRST MAYOR.

Colonel J. C. Summers, first mayor of Shellsburg and prominent both in military matters during the Civil war and in times of peace, was born in New Jersey, December 3, 1832. When he was ten years of age his parents brought him to Warren county, Illinois, and in 1852, he became a resident of Benton county. Soon after the outbreak of the Civil war he enlisted in the Twenty-eighth Iowa Regiment and after active service, both in the southwest and in the campaigns of the east under Sheridan, he was mustered out of the service as first lieutenant of his company. Colonel Summers was wounded at the battle of Winchester, a musket ball breaking his shoulder blade. He only took a sixty-days' leave of absence, however, and returned to his regiment, which spent the later portion of the Civil war in garrison duty at the city of Savannah, Georgia. After the war he continued his interest in military matters and was promoted from the rank of captain of Company G, I. N. G., to that of major and colonel of

the regiment. As stated, Colonel Summers was chosen first mayor of Shellsburg, and also became prominent as a leader of the old Greenback party.

THE FIRST BANK.

The Farmers' Exchange Bank of Shellsburg, which opened for business October 9, 1874, was the town's first financial institution, and a history of this, as well as the other banks in the county, will be found in a special chapter.

FARMERS' MUTUAL TELEPHONE COMPANY.

The Farmers' Mutual Telephone Company of Shellsburg was organized in 1901, and has now 225 subscribers with these officers: J. D. Hagan, president; Dr. J. S. Boles, secretary; and J. A. Viles, treasurer.

MASONS OF SHELLSBURG.

Benton City Lodge No. 81, A. F. & A. M., was formed under dispensation October 31, 1855. In 1858, with the decline of Benton City, it was moved to Shellsburg. The first officers of the lodge were: W. V. Denslow, worthy master; A. G. Green, senior warden; W. C. Stauberry, junior warden; C. C. Charles, treasurer; J. K. Turk, secretary; J. M. Safford, senior deacon; R. L. Johnson, junior deacon; Isaac Featherby, tiler. The present membership of the lodge is fifty and the principal officers are: O. C. Bergen, worthy master; C. E. Beatty, senior warden; A. J. Budd, junior warden; W. W. Hatfield, treasurer; C. L. Penny, secretary.

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS.

Shellsburg Lodge No. 171, I. O. O. F., was chartered January 22, 1869, the following being the original members: C. T. Horton, E. M. Wilkinson, Henry E. Parker, A. Clarke, A. Greenwood, D. P. Marshall and J. F. Crawford. The lodge has now 110 members and the following officers: Mervin Speak, noble grand; E. M. Bratton, vice grand; A. K. Rife, secretary; J. A. Burns, financial secretary, and J. E. Wiant, treasurer.

THE G. A. R. POST.

J. C. Summers Post, G. A. R., being named in honor of Colonel Summers, Shellsburg's first mayor, was organized April 3, 1884. The following were its charter members: C. T. Horton, now living in Texas; Dr. I. S. Boles; W. Y. Porter and H. E. Parker, both deceased; J. L. Bixley; Romanzo E. Bowe, a resident of Vinton; Morgan S. Pratt, now of Cedar Rapids; J. W. Moody; Arch. Race and James K. Soden, deceased; F. D. Clemons, Vinton; Abram Dispennet, dead; S. P. Bratton, who lives somewhere in the west; John Durham, of Kansas; J. M. Elson, P. A. Jenkins, R. E. Moore and James M. Jones, all deceased; Merrit S. Heath and O. B. Barton; Alexander Langham, of Vinton; J. R. Porter, now deceased, and W. W. Hatfield. Unless otherwise designated the charter members of Shellsburg's existent G. A. R. post are living in that place. There was a much earlier organization of the boys in blue, formed in 1867, with J. E. Elson as commander, but it disbanded in 1870. Miles Strawn is the commander of the present post, which has dwindled to about a dozen members.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.

Ola Lodge No. 120, Knights of Pythias of Shellsburg, was organized in 1889, and has a present membership of 60 with the following officers: C. J. Kellogg, commander; Dr. E. E. Lashbrook, vice commander; Walter Graham, prelate; and J. A. Moore, keeper of records and seals.

MODERN WOODMEN.

Evergreen Camp No. 4451, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized in the spring of 1897 and has more than sixty members. W. O. Penrose was its first consul and W. C. Youel, clerk. W. H. Graham is the present consul.

CHAPTER XX.

GARRISON AND NORWAY.

FIRST OWNERS OF GARRISON—THE GARRISON OF TODAY—ELEVATORS AND TILE FACTORY—TELEPHONE COMPANIES—MODERN WOODMEN AND ODD FELLOWS—VILLAGE OF NORWAY—OSMAN TUTTLE, FOUNDER OF NORWAY—PIONEER SETTLERS—FARMERS' ELEVATOR COMPANY—NORWAY LODGES.

In April, 1873, the town of Benton was laid out on the farm of Jonathan Barkdoll by Surveyor C. G. Johnson. The plat was filed for record on July 22d, and for some time about all the evidence of a town which appeared was a sign-board ten feet long, conspicuously bearing the name of Benton. With the extension of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern line westward from Vinton, it took the name of its postoffice, Garrison, which was established December 12, 1873.

FIRST OWNERS OF GARRISON.

The Barkdoll family, which comprised several brothers, came from Allegany county, Maryland, in 1854, to this locality in Benton county, and all took up large tracts of land at and near what is now the town of Garrison. One of the sons of Jonathan, William Barkdoll, who was born about the time the family located in Benton county, is now a prosperous lumber and coal dealer at Garrison.

THE GARRISON OF TODAY.

Garrison has now a population of more than five hundred people, and is one of the flourishing stations on the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific line in Benton county. It has a good graded school, three churches, two banks, well-supported weekly paper, two elevators, brick and tile works, canning factory and a thorough telephone service. Its canning plant is a branch of the Vinton establishment and was founded in 1901.

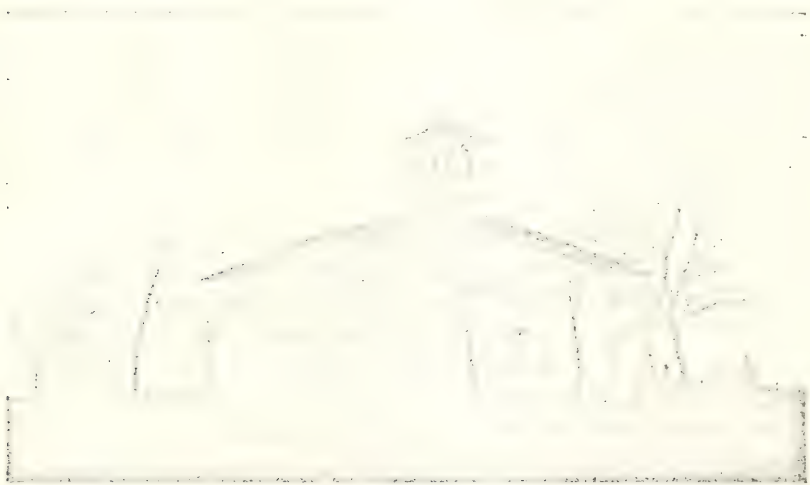
ELEVATORS AND TILE FACTORY.

The two grain elevators at Garrison are owned and operated by the Stockdale-Dietz Company of Estherville, Iowa, and the Garrison Grain and Lumber Company. The latter is a corporation composed of local farmers and business men, which was organized in July, 1909. As its name implies, it also conducts a lumber yard.

In June, 1901, Frank Dautemont established the Garrison Brick and Tile Works, whose proprietor and manager is Casper C. Gross.

TELEPHONE COMPANIES.

In 1902 the Garrison Mutual Telephone Company was organized. It now operates about ninety instruments, with S. L. Gulick, president, and John Baun, secretary.



PUBLIC SCHOOL, GARRISON.

The Farmers' Telephone Company is reported to have a list of some 300 subscribers. Its president is Dr. F. C. Carle; secretary, Charles E. Bryant, and treasurer, Frank Naeve, Garrison.

MODERN WOODMEN AND ODD FELLOWS.

Garrison's two flourishing lodges are the Modern Woodmen

No. 3817 and the Odd Fellows, No. 655. The latter was organized in March, 1906, and has a membership of more than forty, with the following officers: Fred Roumann, vice grand; Phil Hardinger, vice commander; C. C. Hardinger, secretary; and B. T. Grayson, treasurer. The Woodmen lodge, which numbers over eighty members, was founded April 25, 1896, by the following: Julius E. Bachman, Charles G. Barkdoll, John G. Barkdoll, Joachim Blocker, Thomas H. Galloway, Nichalaus Gross, S. L. Gulick, John F. Harmon, Austin N. Irwin, James Merchant, Elmer E. Shafer, H. W. Stoecker, Frank S. Uery and Frederick Wiegold. Present officers of the Woodmen lodge of Garrison: J. F. Harriman, vice counselor; George Gordon, worthy adviser; C. F. Irons, banker; H. L. Harriman, escort; and S. L. Gulick, clerk.

The Royal Neighbors of America (Emma No. 1655) were instituted as a lodge April 29, 1898. They are auxiliary to the Woodmen order.

VILLAGE OF NORWAY.

Norway is a village of nearly six hundred inhabitants, located on the Chicago & Northwestern railroad, twenty-four miles south of Vinton, in Florence township, the extreme southeastern section of Benton county. Although founded forty-seven years ago, the population of the town and vicinity is still largely Norwegian (or at least Scandinavian) and German, and no more industrious, substantial and law-abiding class of people can be found. Norway contains two good banks, a flourishing elevator company, a well-conducted newspaper, neat opera house, several flourishing stores and one of the strongest Catholic churches in the county.

The first school in Norway was built in 1874, on the high bank in the northwest part of the town. In 1908 was erected the Union school now occupied by the four high school and the eight grammar grades. It is two stories and basement and contains four rooms. Attendance about 150. Principal, J. W. Dickman, with three assistants. Norway school board: President, A. Hougen; secretary, L. Jurgemeyer, and treasurer, John T. Smith; other directors, N. H. Blakely, C. E. Simpson and Shure Larson.

OSMAN TUTTLE, FOUNDER OF NORWAY.

The village, which is incorporated, was not platted until two years after the Chicago & Northwestern railroad had reached that

part of the county. In 1859 Osman Tuttle, a farmer and a Norwegian by birth, located on section 17, Florence township, and although then in his sixty-second year accomplished much in the founding of the present village. He appears to have been a man of some property when he became a resident of Benton county. Mr. Tuttle first came to America in 1836, returned to Norway in 1855; again became a resident of the United States in 1856, and located on section 17, adjoining the present site of the village to the north.

Eventually Mr. Tuttle owned a square mile of land near his original purchase, and in the spring of 1863 donated eleven acres to the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company for depot and right-of-way, on condition that the new town should bear the name of his native country. Then, as now, the name of the township was Florence. The railroad acceded to Mr. Tuttle's offer, and in June, 1863, the county surveyor, P. P. Smith, laid out the new town north of the tracks, on the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 29, and it was duly recorded, in the following month, as Norway. Its proprietor helped to build the first school house in town. Both he and his wife were earnest members of the Lutheran church, whose establishment in the southeastern part of the county owes much to their labors.

In the course of a few years after the platting of the town, the inhabitants secured a change of name to conform to that of the township; but, although the post office was Florence, the railroad company stood by its contract with Mr. Tuttle, and kept Norway upon the depot sign; and thus it is today.

PIONEER SETTLERS.

The first settler upon the town site was O. B. Dutton, of Masonville, the station agent. He was also the first merchant, and lived in a freight car while his home and store were being built. Joseph Smith (a blacksmith) and W. L. Harper came next. In the spring of 1865 W. F. Atkinson, an Illinois farmer and a Union soldier recently discharged from Confederate prisons, erected the second store at Norway and continued in business there for twelve years. He afterward served as supervisor of Benton county, having retired to his farm in the southeastern part of the township.

It is said that the first death was that of Mr. Dutton's little son, and that Mr. Harper's daughter, Margaret, was the first child born at Norway, or Florence.

As early as the seventies Norway had a steam flouring mill, and was represented in a business way by several well-stocked stores. It is now one of the best small towns in the county, its school, banks and churches being properly described in other chapters. Norway's opera house was thrown open to the public in 1901.

FARMERS' ELEVATOR COMPANY.

The Farmers' Elevator Company of Norway is a co-operative grain and stock concern, with a capital of \$8,000 and over forty members. The elevator which it controls has a capacity of 15,000 bushels and was built by the Wells-Fjord Grain Company in the fall of 1902.

NORWAY LODGES.

St. Clair Lodge No. 164, A. F. & A. M., was chartered June 3, 1863. Its first officers were: James McQuinn, worthy master; Charles G. Turner, senior warden; Samuel Springer, junior warden; W. Alspaugh, treasurer; Thomas H. Springer, secretary; Jacob Springer, senior deacon; L. W. Stocker, junior deacon; J. Wheeler, tiler. The lodge has a membership of about forty. Charles Buchanan is worthy master; Dr. C. E. Simpson, secretary, and James Pirie, treasurer.

The Modern Woodmen of America, No. 4044, was organized in 1893. It has now about twenty members, with Alexander McGregor as V. C., J. W. Pirie, W. A., and H. L. Pirie, banker.

CHAPTER XXI.

VAN HORNE, KEYSTONE AND LUZERNE.

VILLAGE OF VAN HORNE—TWO FLOURISHING INSTITUTIONS—FARMERS CO-OPERATIVE COMPANY—VAN HORNE GRAIN AND LIVE STOCK COMPANY—THE LOCAL BANKS—ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY—VAN HORNE'S TELEPHONE COMPANIES—LODGES AT VAN HORNE—PROSPEROUS, COMFORTABLE-LOOKING KEYSTONE—KEYSTONE BANKS—KEYSTONE MERCANTILE COMPANY—SECRET SOCIETIES—LUZERNE'S HISTORY AND PRESENT—PIONEER MERCHANT—WORTHY RETIRED PIONEERS.

Van Horne, a growing town of five hundred people, on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul line, in the northeastern part of Union township, is fourteen miles southwest of Vinton, and is a product of the railroad named. It was founded in October, 1881, when the road reached that part of the county, and was named in honor of William C. Van Horne, then general superintendent of the company, who has made an international reputation as a railroad builder, manager and promoter. For the past twenty-eight years he has been the great force in the development of the Canadian Pacific systems; is president of the company which is throwing a net-work of rails over Cuba, and has been knighted by the British government for his splendid services in the expansion of Dominion interests.

VILLAGE OF VAN HORNE.

If it lives up to the reputation of its godfather, Van Horne is destined to be a big place. It has the highest altitude of any of the larger towns in the county, 943 feet; has a rich country from which to draw its business and commerce; is settled by a sturdy, industrious class (mostly Germans), and has every qualification for continued growth. Van Horne was originally a section rail-

road town, the remnants of this former glory being a two-story hotel on one side of the track and a round house on the other. Van Horne has now two banks; a good newspaper; a well organized school of more than a hundred pupils founded in 1882, soon after the platting of the town; four churches - Lutheran, Evangelical Association, Methodist and Catholic; several stores, with large stocks of goods, two elevators and two telephone companies.

TWO FLOURISHING INSTITUTIONS.

The two most flourishing business institutions of Van Horne are the Farmers Co-operative Company, with a capital of \$20,000 under the management of Charles Van Deusen, and the Van Horne Grain and Live Stock Company, of which U. S. Fry is general manager.

FARMERS' CO-OPERATIVE COMPANY.

When Van Horne was founded one of the first buildings to be erected was the grain warehouse which was completed by J. W. Stanley in the fall of 1881. In 1884 what is now known as the east elevator and owned by the Farmers' Co-operative Company, was built by the railroad. This has a capacity of 50,000 bushels. In February, 1908, 116 farmers chiefly living along the line of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad between Newhall, Van Horne and Keystone, organized this co-operative enterprise. Its operations involve extensive dealings in grain, lumber, coal and tiles.

VAN HORNE GRAIN AND LIVE STOCK COMPANY.

The west elevator, built by S. Weam & Son in 1881, has a capacity of 30,000 bushels and is operated by the Van Horne Farmers Grain and Live Stock Company. In a way the business of the two companies is divided, as this enterprise includes dealings in live stock but not in lumber. The company was organized March 11, 1908, with \$15,000 capital, and the following are its officers: O. O. Baumgardner, president; Fred Hagen, vice president, and U. S. Fry, secretary and treasurer.

THE LOCAL BANKS.

The Van Horne Savings Bank was established March 7, 1908, with a capital of \$12,000, as now. Officers: Henry Kerkman, president, Wm. Baumgardner, vice president, and J. P. Kroelmeke, cashier.

The Farmers Savings Bank of Van Horne, was organized December 7, 1897, the banking of the place for ten years previous having been conducted by the Benton County Bank of Blairstown. Originally, the capital of the Farmers Savings Bank was \$12,000, and its officers: G. W. Welsh, president; P. D. Bell, vice president and Charles H. Hartung, cashier. In 1907 the capital was increased to \$25,000, and the present management of the bank comprises the following: William Jewitt, president; Michael Kelly, vice president, Charles H. Hartung, cashier; L. A. Fry, assistant cashier.

ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY.

In 1905 John Holler and Charles H. Hartung founded the Van Horne Electric Light and Power Company, and built quite a complete plant for \$13,000. What was lacking—a good storage battery—was added by Mr. Holler in 1906, after he had purchased his partner's interest. The plant supplies about 800 incandescent lights, besides furnishing power to the hotel, newspaper, churches, farms, etc., in the pumping of water and operation of machinery. It is one of the most successfully operated plants of the kind in Benton county.

VAN HORNE'S TELEPHONE COMPANIES.

The town and surrounding country are brought into business and social communication through the Farmers Telephone Company and the Iowa Telephone Company (Bell). About 160 subscribers patronize the former. In 1898 the Benton county Telephone and Telegraph Company first came into the local field, but failed to build up much of a business. In January, 1907, the Farmers Telephone Company was organized. It is now a substantial concern, with O. P. Tyler, president; John McLaughlin, vice president; H. L. Weam, secretary, and E. S. Thompson, treasurer.

LODGES AT VAN HORNE.

The Odd Fellows lodge, at Van Horne, No. 249, was organized in January, 1884, and its officers are U. S. Fry, N. G.; H. L. Weam, V. G., and Felix Bochman, secretary. Mr. Weam is also protector of the Highland Nobles No. 87, and Aura L. Weam, secretary. The latter lodge has a membership of forty.

Union Lodge No. 36, Modern Brotherhood of America, Van Horne, was organized in 1897. It now has thirty members.

PROSPEROUS, COMFORTABLE-LOOKING KEYSTONE.

Keystone, in the eastern portion of Kane township, is the last station on the Chicago Milwaukee & St. Paul road in Benton county, and was founded in 1881. Its first settlers were Germans and Pennsylvania Dutch, and they still comprise virtually its entire population of four hundred souls. A stranger, if suddenly dropped from an airship into Keystone, would find it difficult to believe that he had not landed in Holland or Germany. Especially would the gatherings of retired farmers and villagers at the Keystone House, with its big sitting room in front and its dance hall in the rear of the hotel, tend to carry out the delusion.

Keystone is a comfortable-looking, prosperous, neat, moral and sociable town, but not a supporter of churches. The German Lutheran church is weak in membership and Catholicism has never obtained a foothold in the community.

KEYSTONE BANKS.

Keystone is surrounded by a good farming country, and its residents are industrious and generally well-to-do. Two banks are substantially maintained—the German State and the Farmers' Savings Bank. The former was founded by A. F. Allen, of Blairs-town, S. S. Sweet, of Belle Plaine, and Charles W. Shireman, of Keystone, in 1891. It was incorporated under its present name in 1905, with Eggert Offt as president; Jacob Pohlmann, vice president; Charles W. Shireman, cashier, and O. W. Allen, assistant cashier. Its present financial status is indicated by the following items: Capital, \$25,000; undivided profits, \$6,950, and deposits, \$275,000. Officers now serving: Jacob Pohlmann, president; F.

A. Greulich, vice president; Russell Shreeves, cashier, and Charles W. Shireman, assistant cashier.

The Farmers' Savings Bank was organized May 1, 1905, its first officers being: Henry J. Meyer, president; P. J. Schoelerman, vice president, and William Krombach, cashier. Since April 1, 1906, the following have served: Henry J. Meyer, president; George Harder, vice president; J. H. Rozema, cashier; Miss Anna Schuette, assistant cashier. The capital stock of the concern is \$15,000, undivided profits \$5,500, and deposits \$275,000.

KEYSTONE MERCANTILE COMPANY.

The Keystone Mercantile Company is a prosperous organization of about eighty farmers and business men, who hold shares in its capital stock of \$20,000. Grain, feed, lumber, coal, brick and tile are all handled. The company controls an elevator of 25,000 bushels and has the following officers: F. Schluntz, president; Geo. Harder, vice president; R. W. Bernstorff, secretary-treasurer and general manager.

Keystone is lighted from an electric plant built in 1899, by Otto Krohman, and is still owned and operated by him. It furnishes the town and near-by residents with 1,200 lights.

SECRET SOCIETIES.

The social side of Keystone is illustrated by the flourishing condition of its lodges. The Odd Fellows (Lodge No. 35) organized April 15, 1897, with the following charter members: Wm. Bender, Jr., Claus P. Jordan, A. C. Bielenberg, Wm. Bender, Sr., Theodore Klappholz, Leonard Kimm and Jacob Jacobs. The lodge has a membership of seventy-five. Claus Engelbrecht is noble grand; Claus P. Jordan, vice grand; F. W. Schenken, recording secretary; J. P. Feuerbach, financial secretary, and Peter Henningsen, treasurer. In September, 1905, the Odd Fellows of Keystone completed their temple at a cost of \$5,000.

The Rebekahs (auxiliary) No. 135 effected an organization October 20, 1898.

The Loyal Legion, No. 189, was organized in 1894. It has about fifteen members, officered as follows: Peter Henningsen, president; William Schuette and Henry Thiessen, secretaries.

Lodge No. 4560, M. W. A., was chartered February 18, 1897, with twenty-three members. Its strength is now thirty, and J. F.

Feuerback is consul; Payson A. Snow, adviser; Henry Harder, banker, and Theodore Klopoltz, clerk.

A lodge of the Modern Brotherhood of America was also organized at Keystone, January 10, 1898.

LUZERNE'S HISTORY AND PRESENT

Luzerne is a town of less than two hundred people, which owes its existence to the desire of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway Company to have a station between Belle Plaine and Blairstown. Accordingly in October, 1867, the station at Buckeye was removed to the open prairie on the line between Leroy and Iowa townships. Its site is healthful and elevated, being among the highest in the county.

Some of the first houses erected in Luzerne were moved from Buckeye. Isaac B. Howe and his wife, Hannah R., proprietors of the town, recorded the plat April 17, 1868, and for a couple of years the growth of the place was quite noticeable. In 1870 it had about forty buildings of all descriptions, including a fine public school house finished that year and a flourishing Lutheran church. During that year Luzerne shipped more than 100,000 bushels of wheat, 30,000 pounds of butter and eggs and nearly as much pork, besides nearly 1,000 live hogs. The population of the village in the late seventies was about three hundred, mostly Germans.

Luzerne has now about a dozen business places, including two general stores, two cream stations, an elevator, a blacksmith shop, bank and hotel. The town school is attended by forty pupils, while about twice that number are enrolled in the parochial school connected with the German Lutheran church. Residents of the place, young and old, are intelligent and industrious, and although Luzerne has not materially grown for some time past, its people appear happy and contented.

PIONEER MERCHANT.

E. J. Ditzler, who erected the first store at Luzerne, was a Pennsylvania Dutchman, who resided for several years in Ohio and Illinois before he came to Iowa in the fall of 1856. He first located at Cedar Rapids, where he engaged in the draying business. He continued in this line for a number of years in various towns

in Iowa until 1867, when he established himself as Luzerne's pioneer merchant. His was a real old-fashioned general store, as he carried a full line of staple and fancy drygoods, groceries, hardware, ready-made clothing, hats, caps, boots and shoes, besides dealing in grain and general produce. He was also the first postmaster at Luzerne and held the office for a number of years.

WORTHY RETIRED PIONEER.

Luzerne has a number of able and substantial retired farmers, but none more esteemed than Henry Wehrmann. He came with his parents to the United States in 1851, being then eighteen years old, and after farming four years in Illinois the family decided to locate on lands west of the Mississippi river. Family and family goods were loaded into a box car for the terminus of the road at Rock Island, but before that place was reached the train was wrecked and wife and mother fatally injured. The sad but not discouraged widower moved bravely on toward his far western home, the son Henry, then twelve years of age, faithfully assisting his father during the following decade to found another homestead in Iowa township, Benton county. He entered a quarter section himself in 1859, which was the basis of his life competency. In 1890 he and his wife moved to Luzerne to enjoy the good things which they had earned—not only the comforts of industry but the honors of moral excellence.

CHAPTER XXII.

OTHER BENTON COUNTY TOWNS.

MARYSVILLE BECOMES URBANA—INTERESTING OLD-TIMER—
URBANA'S MOST STIRRING EVENT—MOUNT AUBURN—CEDAR TOWNSHIP
PIONEER—NEWHALL—FIRST NEWHALL MERCILANT—ATKINS—
WALFORD—WATKINS—FOUNDERS OF WATKINS.

Urbana was originally founded as "Hoosier Point" and Marysville, and is therefore the oldest town in Benton county. Hoosier Point was simply a fairly condensed settlement of the pioneers of Benton county, but Marysville was regularly platted. May 5, 1847, on the north twenty acres of the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 34, township 86, range 9. Joseph Remington was the original proprietor and E. J. Rigaud, county surveyor, ran the lines and drove the stakes of the new town. Although it was surveyed nine months before Vinton, its first postmaster, John S. Forsyth, was not appointed until September 21, 1848, nearly two years after Stephen Holcomb assumed similar duties at the county seat.

MARYSVILLE BECOMES URBANA.

In March, 1857, Manathea was laid out on parts of sections 26 and 35, adjoining the original plat to the northeast, and was considered an addition to Marysville. The postoffice of Urbana was established November 27, 1857, but the town until long afterward was popularly spoken of as Marysville. At the time the government gave it the name by which it is now known, there were four steam saw-mills in the immediate vicinity; several thrifty business concerns appeared to be well established, and the people were considered noticeable enterprising. In 1857 they even offered a bonus of one thousand dollars as an inducement for some one to erect a steam flouring mill; but that proposition fell on barren

ground. For a number of years after the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern road gave Urbana and Benton City the cold shoulder, in favor of Shelburne and Vinton, the saw-mill afforded Urbana a fair trade. But, on the whole, her prospects have steadily declined since 1870. The place has, however, a good general trade with the farmers of the northeastern section, and also has a well-sustained savings bank. The Urbana Creamery Company is one of its best business institutions.

INTERESTING OLD-TIMER.

One of the interesting old-timers of Benton county is Robert Berry, a retired citizen of Urbana nearly eighty-two years of age. He commenced farming in Polk township in 1852. Ten years afterward he was one of the hundreds who started for "Pike Peak or bust." He was among the lucky ones, on the whole, but finally settled down to the more dependable work of getting riches from the soil of Benton county.

URBANA'S MOST STIRRING EVENTS.

Urbana has, as a rule, passed an uneventful, even peaceful life. It was never more stirred than during the fall of 1899, when several incendiary fires occurred. The exciting episodes culminated, November 11th, in the wrecking and burning of the *Monitor* newspaper office and the Burrell store, with the death of Clarence Burrell. At the sound of the first explosion, J. D. Burrell, with his wife and two sons, started for the store, which they found partially wrecked by dynamite when they arrived in front of it. While standing before the building a second explosion occurred, which hurled Clarence half way across the street, killing him instantly and resulting in the fire which completed the destruction of the store. The youth who thus met his fate would have been nineteen years of age within a week, and his death was deeply deplored. In the second story of the wrecked and burned store building were the lodge rooms of both the Odd Fellows and Masons.

Urbana's worst fire occurred November 14, 1905. It commenced in L. A. Kely's implement store, and burned two buildings owned by him, and three by Cone Brothers of Windom, Minnesota, as well as the postoffice and the Urbana Savings Bank.

MOUNT AUBURN.

In 1870 a turn-table and side-track of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern (Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific) road was built at Mount Auburn, eight miles northwest of Vinton and then the terminus of the line. This was the commencement of the place, although soon, with the extension of the road, the turn-table was removed to La Porte. The site of the place was originally owned by Milton S. Hall and Thomas D. Lewis, and its plat was recorded June 19, 1871. Mr. Soesbe, its first merchant, was also its first station master, and its first grain warehouse was built by Mr. Gudgel. The latter was the scene of a fatal accident September 15, 1871, when the young son of Postmaster Lewis was smothered in the elevator hopper.

About the time Mount Auburn was surveyed a school house was built, at which the teachers of Cedar township held a successful institute January 20, 1872. In July of that year the Methodist church was dedicated for worship and in March, 1873, the Christian church was opened. The latter is still alive, although at last accounts, without a pastor.

In 1873 a cheese factory was established at Mount Auburn by a stock company, of which A. Kile was president and manager.

The place has a weekly paper, *Mount Auburn News*, H. B. Lizer, editor; a good savings bank; several substantial business houses and a well managed telephone exchange.

CEDAR TOWNSHIP PIONEER.

Henry J. Lamb, who has been engaged in business at Mount Auburn for nearly thirty years, is of an old pioneer family. His father, S. T. Lamb, who was one of the founders of Frankfort, Indiana, where he was a business man and manufacturer for years, came to Benton county in 1852 and entered eight hundred acres in Cedar township. After spending a winter in Vinton, he returned to Indiana, but finally located in Chicago where he spent the last few years of his life previous to 1903. Henry J. came to Benton county from Chicago and carried on his father's farm in Cedar township for about ten years before he located at Mount Auburn.

NEWHALL.

Newhall is a town of about 260 people in the eastern part of Eldorado township, and is a station on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad between Van Horn and Atkins. It has a number of stores, an elevator and tile and butter factories. The latter have been in operation some ten years, E. H. Morrow being proprietor of the tile factory and Gardiner & Jurgelaus of the butter factory. The Lutherans have a church at Newhall, of which Rev. Mr. Mathaidetz is pastor.

FIRST NEWHALL MERCHANT.

E. H. Morrow, by general consent, is called the pioneer merchant of Newhall. In 1881, having just attained his majority, he established a lumber yard at that place, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad being then in course of construction. He afterward branched out in many other lines, but for the past few years has centered his efforts in the building up of a hardware and implement business. For sometime he also owned the tile factory at Newhall. He possesses lands and buildings; is interested in the local savings bank and in all local affairs of a public nature.

ATKINS.

Atkins is a station on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul road, in the eastern part of Benton county, and has a population of about two hundred. The town has a dozen business houses of various kinds, a bank (Atkins Savings), a cement and tile factory, and an elevator operated by the Atkins Grain Company. It has three schools, including the one connected with the Lutheran church. Besides that society, in charge of Rev. C. A. Krog, is the Presbyterian church, of which Rev. J. A. McKay is pastor.

WALFORD.

Walford is a station on the branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul road which cuts through the extreme southeastern corner of Benton county, and has a population of less than one hundred. It is surrounded by a good farming country, however,

and has a savings bank (The Farmers) which accommodates both local merchants and the farmers in quite a large adjacent territory. The two elevators at Walford are controlled by the Neola Elevator Company and the Jackson Grain Company. There are also two hardware and implement houses and a general store.

WATKINS.

Watkins, which is now hardly more than a name, is a station on the Chicago and Northwestern railway midway between Blainstown and Norway. It was laid out in the fall of 1873, on the northwest quarter of section 26, St. Clair township, and was named in honor of Superintendent Watkins, of that road, who was killed in a railway collision in October of that year. The site of Watkins was formerly the farm of Charles G. Turner and the town plat was filed for record August 16, 1874. For a number of years after its founding, Watkins was quite a growing shipping point for grain, 118,000 bushels being shipped in 1878. Of this amount 41,000 bushels consisted of wheat, and 53,000 bushels of grain were credited to George Danskin alone.

FOUNDERS OF WATKINS.

C. G. Turner and George M. Danskin were among the best known pioneers and founders of the village of Watkins, St. Clair township. Mr. Turner was a Virginian, who moved to Pennsylvania when a young man of twenty-two and came to Benton county in 1800, being then in his fifty-second year. During thirty years of his early life he followed the trade of a carpenter, but in 1854 entered a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, and thus familiarized himself with the pursuit in which he made pronounced success as a citizen of St. Clair township. When the village of Watkins was laid out, in the fall of 1873, a part of Mr. Turner's farm became its site. Several years before the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad made Watkins a station, Mr. Turner raised five thousand dollars by subscription to establish the depot there. He finally gave the railroad company seven acres of land for the depot and the right-of-way through his property. He also spent a large sum of money to establish the postoffice at Watkins, and was appointed its first postmaster. He founded the first Masonic lodge in this section of the county, held the offices of

justice of the peace, school director and others, and for many years was esteemed one of the leading citizens of the Southern Slope.

Mr. Dauskin built the first dwelling house and the first store in Watkins. He was the first man to establish himself in business there, erected a large warehouse, established a lumber-yard, dealt in grain, and was in every way its leading pioneer business man. In addition to these varied business interests, he was also station agent of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway Company.

CHAPTER XXIII.

TOWNSHIP RECORDS.

TWENTY TOWNSHIPS IN 1860—A SETTLER OF 1845—BENTON TOWNSHIP, '49—JAMES RICE AND EBENEZER BERRY—SETTLERS OF 1852—GARRIHER INTRODUCES HORSES—BIG GROVE TOWNSHIP PIONEERS—JOHN P. CHINN AND ELIAS DOAN—THE HANNAS OF BIG GROVE—HELPED ORGANIZE THE TOWNSHIP—FOUNDER OF TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS—THE AULB FAMILY, '54—TYPICAL "SEMI-DUGOUT"—SHUTTS, FATHER AND SON—BRUCE TOWNSHIP PIONEERS—SETTLERS OF 1858—CANTON TOWNSHIP PIONEER WOMAN—FIRST ELECTION IN TOWNSHIP—MR. AND MRS. DAVID HITE, 1850—HOUSELESS FOR FIFTEEN MILES—SHELLSBURG, ONE LOG CABIN—ERECTED MANY OF THE FIRST BUILDINGS—NOTED HORTICULTURIST—MR. AND MRS. WALKER, 1856—LIVED ON FARM FIFTY-SIX YEARS—JOHN RICKART, 1855—CEDAR TOWNSHIP PIONEERS—FIRST SETTLERS OF EDEN TOWNSHIP—FIRST POSTMASTER—SETTLERS OF 1853—PIONEER FRUIT RAISER—THEY CAME IN 1854—JOHN A. DILING, 1855—OTHER SETTLERS OF THE FIFTIES—ELDORADO'S FIRST SETTLER—EMANUEL BAKER, 1855—THESE CAME IN 1856—FIRST HOUSE IN FREMONT TOWNSHIP—ADDITIONS IN 1854 AND 1855—ALEXANDER JOHNSON, 1855—PIONEERS OF HARRISON TOWNSHIP—EARLY SETTLERS OF HOMER TOWNSHIP—FOUNDER OF REPUBLICANISM—THOMAS COLLINS, 1857—FIRST CLAIM IN IOWA TOWNSHIP—JOHN SCHILD, 1852—EARLY SETTLERS IN JACKSON TOWNSHIP—JAMES W. ATHEY, 1850—A KANE TOWNSHIP VETERAN—"LONE TREE" FARM—CONRAD TATGE, 1852—RHESA CONLEY, 1850—POLK TOWNSHIP PIONEERS—THE BEYSONS AND REMINGTONS—SETTLERS OF THE EARLY FIFTIES—EARLY COMERS TO TAYLOR TOWNSHIP—A UNION TOWNSHIP PIONEER.

As near as can be ascertained from the imperfect county records, the first townships created in Benton county were Polk, Benton and Canton. At a meeting of the commissioners' court held in April, 1847, Anderson Amos was appointed supervisor of Polk township, which contained Marysville, and David Jewell, of Benton; John Royal and George Cantonwine, supervisors of Can-

ton township, and Thomas Way, supervisor on a certain road "commencing at the corner of Harrison's field and running to Edward's Ford across the Cedar river."

Prior to 1851 it is evident that Taylor and Harrison townships were also created by the board of county commissioners, as their names are used in various official documents although there is no formal record by which it may be known exactly when they came into civil being.

The order for the organization of Cue township is dated January 1, 1855, and signed by Judge John S. Forsyth, the county judge having assumed, according to the state law of 1851, all the functions formerly enjoyed by the commissioners' court.

TWENTY TOWNSHIPS IN 1860.

The creation of Cue township, in 1855, divided the county into ten townships, and by 1860 the number had been increased (as now) to twenty. Cue township was changed to Florence in 1862.

Jackson, Eden, Bruce, Big Grove and LeRoy townships were all organized in 1856.

Other details connected with the townships of the county will be found both in the pioneer and political chapters of this work. The special purpose of this article is to present numerous strong characters who have been chiefly identified with the early settlement, development and civil government of the county, outside of its larger centers of population. Some are deceased; some are still living on the old homesteads which they founded years ago and which are so dear to them and their children's children; and still others have retired to villages and cities in the neighborhood of their old-time labors and successes. The sketches of these worthy and interesting builders of the county are arranged according to townships, and generally in alphabetical order.

A SETTLER OF 1815.

It will be remembered that Benton City was one of the very first towns in the county to be platted (1856), and also that it now exists but in name. Some of the earliest settlers in the county located in Benton township, at or near the city by that name. Among these was Beal Dorsey, a Kentucky farmer and stock-

raiser, who took land in section 31 during the fall of 1845. He proved his worth both as a farmer and a politician. In the late seventies he was the owner of a three hundred-and-fifty acre farm valued at ten thousand dollars which, in those days, would have fixed a man's standing among the prosperous, not to say wealthy farmers.

When Mr. Dorsey came to Bentown township in 1845, there was not a house at Vinton; in fact, the site of that city was not surveyed until the following year. At that time there were also but four families in the neighborhood where he settled—a young man of twenty-two, possessed of about one hundred dollars in cash, a team of horses, an old dray, one plow, two cows and five hogs. Mr. Dorsey was, of course, at the first election in Benton township, held at John Pougue's cabin, as in order to hold an election of any kind it seemed absolutely necessary for every ambitious voter to be present; otherwise the offices to be filled might exceed the voting strength of the county.

JOHN PARKER, BENTON TOWNSHIP, '49.

John Parker, an Irish farmer who settled on section 36, Benton township, in the fall of 1849, became a large land owner in this part of Benton county, and was for many years president of the Farmer's Exchange Bank of Shellsburg. When he first came thither Mr. Parker worked for a man by the name of Thomas P. Johnson, for twelve dollars a month. He returned to his home in Ohio in the spring of 1851, but after a year located permanently in Benton township, took up land and became the owner of various tracts which aggregated over six hundred acres.

It is said that when Mr. Parker first came to Benton township he could have purchased Parker's Grove, six hundred acres, for seven hundred dollars. In the late seventies, some of the timberland in that locality, which was then considered the least valuable, sold for fifty dollars an acre. Mr. Parker was not only very successful as a man of the world, but did much for the cause of religion, especially for the advancement of his church, the Presbyterian. It was largely through him that Rev. Dr. Wood from Iowa City was induced to come to Vinton to preach, in the old court house, the first sermon ever delivered at the county seat.

JAMES RICE AND EBENEZER BERRY.

Other 1849 pioneers of Benton township, worthy of mention, are James Rice and Ebenezer Berry, who both located their homesteads on section 12. Mr. Rice, although a Virginian, hailed from Tennessee, having lived in that state fourteen years previous to his location in the township, April 18, 1849. He bought a claim from Jesse Brody. One of his great hardships, in common with those endured by all of the early farmers, was the fact that the markets for his farming produce were so distant. Mr. Rice carted his first crop of wheat to Muscatine, Iowa, where he sold it for fifty-seven cents a bushel. These journeys were so long and tedious that those who lived anywhere near each other would often arrange to take them in company. At one time Mr. Rice and his companions, F. Bryson and A. Johnson, were absent from home for two weeks. That Mr. Rice was highly thought of is evident by the fact that he was honored with not a few political offices. In 1851 he was elected county commissioner; represented his town in the board of supervisors for eight years; held the office of justice of the peace for twenty years, and served in other local offices. He was married three times and two of his sons were killed in the Civil war, namely, Nathan Rice, captain of Company C, Ninth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, who was fatally shot at the battle of Pea Ridge, and Fielding Rice, of Company A, Twenty-eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, who was killed at the battle of Cedar Creek.

Ebenezer Berry, who became a resident of Benton township in October, 1849, lived in the state of Vermont thirty-nine years before he came to Iowa to locate on section 12, even a poorer man than his neighbor, Jame Rice. That he must have been very poor is plain, for the first wagon he ever possessed he made himself, it being a rude ox cart in which iron was not used in any form. After he had made this rude conveyance, he was obliged to sell his wheat at fifty cents a bushel and his dressed pork at two cents a pound, and spent two or three days in going to the mill to have his grain ground. But in spite of this, and numerous other drawbacks, he prospered.

SETTLERS OF 1852.

The settlers of Benton township who came in 1852 included Daniel Elson, who located on section 36; John C. Dine, whose

farm was in section 12, and J. H. Stephens, who took up land for a homestead in section 31. All of these prospered and became local office holders and highly respected citizens. Mr. Dine served for eighteen months as a private in Company A, Twenty-eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and was severely wounded at the battle of Port Gibson. One of Mr. Stephen's brothers, who saw service in this regiment in the southwest and during the Wilderness campaign in Virginia, received a shot through the hip which caused his death.

GARRIHER INTRODUCES HORSES.

Joseph Garriher, a young Pennsylvania farmer who located on section 31, Benton township, in 1853, when twenty years of age, brought into Benton county twenty-seven head of horses, the first ever introduced here for the purpose of being fed and raised. During his many years of residence in that part of the county, Mr. Garriher made a specialty of raising horses and dealing in them, being considered the pioneer stock man in that line. The second year of his residence in Benton township he also went to Missouri and brought with him the first steers which were ever fed here.

BIG GROVE TOWNSHIP PIONEERS.

Big Grove township, known by the surveyors as town 84, range 11 west, was organized in 1856 by order of the county court. Its first trustees were Elias Doan, John Ruffcorn and George Bergen; and James Shultz and H. S. Bailey were the first justices of the peace. James F. and Robert Young were the first settlers of the township, locating in 1849. They afterward moved to Vinton, and their sketches appear in connection with the history of the county seat.

INDIANS AS SCAPEGOATS.

Previous to 1849 various squatters had temporarily stationed themselves in the township, and one Adams had built a log cabin on section 10, which horse-thieves and their co-workers who were foraging westward, found a convenient station.

Mr. Doan, one of the first trustees, settled in 1850, as did

Dennis Kennedy and John P. Chinn. Mr. Kennedy settled on the east part of section 4, and when he located there were about forty Indians in the vicinity. His dusky neighbors were accused of committing some depredations on the scattered settlers, but Mr. Kennedy always insisted that the thieving was generally done by "white scalawags, who wanted to shield themselves by laying it off on to the Indians."

In 1854 the settlers moved the old log cabin of Adams, which had harbored so many "scalawags," to another part of section 10, and fitted it up for a school house, in which Miss Margaret Connolly (afterwards Mrs. Jonas Wood, of Traer) taught the first class in the township during the summer of that year (1854).

The first sermon was preached in the house of J. F. Young by Rev. William Jones, a Presbyterian clergyman, in 1850.

JOHN P. CHINN AND ELIAS DOAN.

As stated, among the settlers in Big Grove township of 1850 were John P. Chinn, who located on section 11, on June 19th, and Elias Doan, also a farmer and stock-raiser, who established his homestead on section 12. These two were long the oldest living settlers in the township. When Mr. Doan arrived on the 24th of June, he came direct from his native county of Washington, Indiana. He made the journey by team and was three weeks on the trip. At that time Taylor township extended to the Iowa river, and he was instrumental in dividing it and helping to organize the town of Big Grove. One of the stories which Mr. Doan told illustrating the thin settlement of the country in 1850 was that in making his trip to Cedar Rapids for family provisions he was able to make the journey without striking a fence. Both Mr. Chinn and Mr. Doan, although poor men when they came to Big Grove township, became large landowners and prosperous in every way.

THE HANNAS OF BIG GROVE.

Alexander H. Hanna, an Ohio farmer, entered land in Big Grove township during September, 1850, at one dollar and a quarter per acre, but did not bring his family to occupy it until March, 1857. For about twenty years previous to his death in 1903, he had passed a retired life at Vinton, but died at the home

of his son, John W., on the old homestead in Big Grove township. Another son, William H. Hanna, also a farmer, has served in the State legislature.

HELPED ORGANIZE THE TOWNSHIP.

J. W. Bowen may be mentioned as one of the earliest pioneers of Big Grove township, as he settled in section 14 during the fall of 1852. Although a Virginian, he was brought by his parents to Columbus, Ohio, when he was but four years of age, and lived in that city until 1828, moving then to a farm near Indianapolis, Indiana, upon which he resided until he came to Benton county. He was one of the voters at the first election held in Big Grove township, and took part in its organization. At that time there were not to exceed five buildings on the present site of Vinton.

FOUNDER OF TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS.

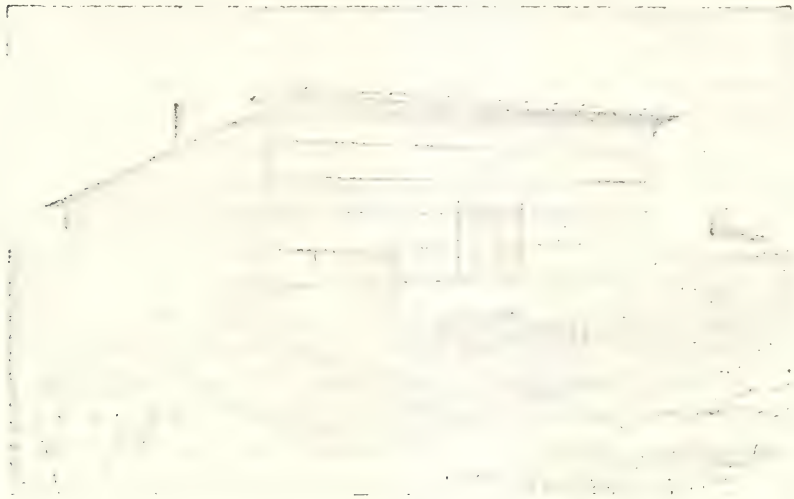
None of the pioneers of Big Grove township devoted themselves more faithfully or effectively to the building up of its schools and churches than A. V. Vannice, who came to this section of the county in 1853, and commenced life as a farmer and stock-raiser. He was a Kentuckian who migrated to Iowa from Indiana. He was a voter at the first township election and helped to organize the first school district, being secretary of the board which levied and collected the first township taxes. Mr. Vannice donated the land for the first school house which was built in district number 1, and also gave several tracts of land for the Presbyterian cemetery, church and parsonage.

THE AULD FAMILY, '54.

In 1854 Mr. and Mrs. John Auld, with their son, George W., and other members of the family, traveled from Pennsylvania to Washington county, Iowa, and in 1856 settled on the west quarter of the land which is still the property of the heirs of George W. Auld. Arthur J. Auld, who was born on the farm in Big Grove township, is part owner of the old homestead, and prominent among the younger generation of citizens.

TYPICAL "SEMI-DUGOUT."

George L. Palmer, a son of York state, where he was well educated and taught school, has been a farmer in Big Grove township since 1855. In the fall of that year he brought his wife to their new cabin home, which he describes as a "semi-dugout: four feet of which was underground; three logs high on the ends



GEORGE L. PALMER'S "SEMI-DUGOUT."

and back side and boarded in front; with a shed roof, ten by fourteen feet. It was one of the first homes on the prairie, boarded up inside, and floored." Mr. Palmer's house is so typical of pioneer life that it is substantially reproduced as an illustration.

SHUTTS, FATHER AND SON.

Peter Shutts, who died in 1905, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. LaRue, in Big Grove township, at the age of ninety-three, came to that section of Benton county from his home in New York during the year 1858. His son, Louis E., has lived in the township since he was a boy of ten, being an old soldier and a successful farmer, as was his father before him.

BRUCE TOWNSHIP PIONEERS.

A number of well known and prominent citizens settled in Bruce township in the early fifties. George Buchan came in 1854 and settled on section 10, where he engaged in farming for many years. He was a typical Scotchman.

In 1855 came William Boyd, who settled on section 32, and C. B. Hayward, whose quarter-section farm was located on section 19. Mr. Boyd was long admitted to be the oldest settler in his neighborhood. Mr. Hayward not only conducted his farm with profit, but became quite prominent in the public affairs of Bruce township. He was highly respected by all his neighbors and associates, especially as he had become quite broken in health on account of his faithful service in the Civil war.

Another old soldier and farmer was A. C. Somers, who in 1856, came to Bruce township and settled on section 11.

FIRST SUPERVISOR OF TOWNSHIP.

George Treanor was a large land owner in section 20, who came from New York state to Bruce township in June, 1857. He was the first county supervisor to be elected from the township and held numerous other public offices.

SETTLERS OF 1858.

When M. B. Van Deusen located in Bruce township, moving hence from Medina county, Ohio, in 1858, he was twenty-two years of age. He was a young man entirely dependent upon his own resources for advancement, and the first year of his residence in Benton county worked for other farmers at twelve dollars a month. Within the succeeding fifteen years he applied himself with such success in all matters which came to him that he became owner of between four and five hundred acres of valuable land, and also attained standing as a public official, holding such offices as justice of the peace, sheriff and school director for many years.

Another settler of 1858, who located on section 11, and who had much the same record as Mr. Van Deusen, was James W. Van Duyn.

Moses W. Rice also located in Bruce township, on section 15, in the same year (1858). He served for three years in the Thir-

teenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and afterward held many township offices, becoming, like Messrs. Van Deusen and Van Deyn, a large and prosperous farmer and land-owner.

CANTON TOWNSHIP PIONEER WOMAN.

Mrs. Mary Kenyon, who, with her husband, came to Benton county in 1840, was one of the very first women to brave the hardships and dangers of this section of Iowa. She was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, May 3, 1808, and when she reached the vicinity of Shellsburg was engaged by Joseph Strawn to keep house for him in the log cabin which he had just erected. For months after her arrival Mrs. Kenyon lived in this wilderness without seeing a face of a white woman; but the "red faces" often came to her shanty and sat down at the table with the family, consisting of Mr. Strawn, herself and husband. Mr. Penrose, (Mrs. Kenyon's first husband) went to California in 1848, and died on the coast in 1850. Afterward the widow married a Mr. Kenyon. William Penrose, a son by the first marriage, was the first male child born this side of Cedar Rapids. He enlisted in the Eighth Iowa Infantry and was killed at the battle of Shiloh.

Mrs. Kenyon's fund of anecdotes was large, and the old settlers thoroughly enjoyed her stories of the first days she spent in the wilderness of Canton township. When Mr. and Mrs. Penrose first came to the country they were very poor, their chief wealth consisting of one cow. Otherwise their source of sustenance for the winter consisted of a small quantity of buckwheat, which was ground in a coffee mill. At one time the family were in such straits that Mr. Penrose was obliged to pawn nearly all of his clothing to get provisions, and even after making this sacrifice was obliged to go to the Mississippi river for his supplies.

SUSPICIOUS INDIAN ACTIONS.

It is related that one night a party of eight Indians entered the log hut and were allowed to sleep on the floor. As the night progressed one after the other would leave the room for out-of-doors, which caused Mr. and Mrs. Penrose much anxiety, as they feared some trouble and possibly a massacre. Investigation proved that nothing more serious was contemplated by the

savages than recourse to a jug of whisky which stood outside of the door, and which they wished to have all to themselves.

FIRST ELECTION IN TOWNSHIP.

Of the real pioneers connected with the history of Benton county mention must here be made of William K. White, who migrated from Carroll county, Ohio, in the fall of 1849, and settled on section 10, not far from Shellsburg. There he entered two hundred acres of land, which he transformed into a good homestead. When Mr. White attended his first election there were only three voting precincts in Benton county, that in which Canton township was located polling only nine votes.

MR. AND MRS. DAVID HITE, 1850.

In 1850 Mr. and Mrs. David Hite, the parents of John W. Hite, the Benton county auctioneer, traveled overland from Pennsylvania to the frontier state of Iowa, and when they reached their destination found only three houses on the present site of Vinton. Settling on a farm seven miles southeast of the county seat (on what is now known as the Fry place) they prospered and also became acknowledged as among the staunchest friends of the United Brethren church in the pioneer period of its struggles for recognition in the county. David Hite died in 1868 and his widow in 1894.

HOUSELESS FOR FIFTEEN MILES.

In November, 1852, James L. Selbeck located on section 36, and was the first settler in the southeast corner of Canton township. He came from New York city as a young man of twenty-four years, and during the succeeding quarter of a century increased his possessions from nothing to property valued at twenty thousand dollars. He often said that when he first came to this part of the county he could ride fifteen miles, west and south, without seeing even a log house.

SHELLSBURG, ONE LOG CABIN.

When Nelson B. Case took up land in section 9, Canton township, not far from Shellsburg, there were only two log cabins within

sight of his homestead, one of which represented the future village. Within four years of the time he located here, however, many settlers arrived and nearly all the government land was taken up. Mr. Case was a Pennsylvanian, born in Washington county, and although he came to Benton county in 1850, he remained but a short time during that year, and did not consider himself a permanent resident until his return in 1854. Like all early settlers of character and ability, he was given his full share of local offices.

ERECTED MANY OF THE FIRST BUILDINGS.

William Fry, of Canton township, has been a resident of Benton county since the spring of 1850, when, as a youth of seventeen, he formed one of a large party which migrated from Pennsylvania to this part of Iowa. Mr. Fry and his uncle, Joseph Onstott, first settled on a farm just west of Shellsburg, and in 1854 located on section 6, Canton township. He has lived in that locality most of the time since, the exception being the several years of his residence at Vinton. Several years ago Mr. Fry divided his farm among his sons and retired to pass the remaining years allotted to him on the old homestead.

In years gone by Mr. Fry has been engaged both in farming and carpenter work, in the latter being associated with John A. Dilling. When he first settled near Shellsburg there was but one house on the town site, and only two cabins between there and Vinton; so that he has had the honor of erecting not a few of the first residences and stores in the eastern part of the county.

NOTED HORTICULTURIST.

Professor Joseph L. Budd, who came to Canton township from New York in 1856, was a skilled and scientific nurseryman and horticulturist, who attracted such widespread attention that in the early seventies he was appointed to the chair of horticulture of the Iowa Agricultural College. He served thus for twenty-two years, dying at Phoenix, Arizona, December 22, 1905, at the age of seventy. The last years of his life were spent mostly in travel, on account of ill health.

MR. AND MRS. WALKER, 1856.

Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Walker migrated from Chautauque county, New York, to Canton township, section 36, in 1856. The homestead was afterward removed to another portion of the township, where the widow resides. The grandsons operate altogether more than 1,200 acres of the estate left by C. N. Walker to his only child, Fred.

LIVED ON FARM FIFTY-SIX YEARS.

Nelson B. Case, retired farmer, still resides on his quarter-section farm in Canton township, having lived thereon continuously since 1854. He secured his homestead by purchasing a land warrant of a Mexican war soldier for \$125. Soon after his marriage he located in Canton township and commenced housekeeping in a one-room log house which he built after his arrival in the wilderness. There their children were born, with the exception of one. A son and a grandson now operate portions of the original homestead. Mr. Case's wife died in 1872.

JOHN RICHART, 1855.

John Richart, an aged, retired farmer of Benton township, came to that section of the county with his parents in 1855, being then twenty-two years of age. He returned to Ohio in 1858 and remained there ten years but has been a permanent resident of Benton township since 1868. He has two sons who live on the homestead and one who is a resident of Shellsburg.

CEDAR TOWNSHIP PIONEERS.

Hugh St. Clair was a Pennsylvania farmer who came to Cedar township in 1857 and his son Archibald, who was then nine years of age, operates the elevator at Mt. Auburn. With his brother, Hugh, the latter has been successfully dealing in lumber and grain since the early eighties. John M. and William M. St. Clair, other brothers, have also been similarly engaged. In fact, no family has been more prominent in the business interests of Mt. Auburn than the St. Clair Brothers.

Since the late fifties the Lormors have been large land owners

and prosperous citizens of Cedar township, the family being established in that section of Benton county by John W., the father of Frank. The older man a New Yorker, purchased a quarter section of his brother in 1859, brought his family from Illinois, and later occupied his land as a homestead. At his death in 1907 he owned 1,750 acres of land, and his son Frank, who was an infant less than two years of age when the family settled in Benton county, has prospered like his father.

FIRST SETTLER OF EDEN TOWNSHIP.

V. Bogle, the first settler of Eden township, also helped to organize the town, and, in view of his position as first pioneer, had the honor of christening it. He was a Virginian who came, with other members of the family, to Washington county, Indiana, when he was eight years of age. At eighteen he moved to Cedar county, Iowa, and in the spring of 1852, when in his twenty-sixth year, located in section 1, of Eden township. For about a year he was the only resident in that section of the county, there being at that time not a single house between his hut and the village of Blairstown.

MILLER, MONEY AND FLOUR—ALL GONE.

As an illustration of the business and family trials of the pioneer days, Mr. Bogle relates that when he first settled in Eden township he was obliged to haul his wheat to Iowa City, where he received the market price for it, from thirty to forty cents a bushel. Upon one occasion, having hauled his load to this place, he found that he could not dispose of it at any price, and left it with a miller to be ground into flour. He then returned home, telling the miller that he would call again for his money; but the next time he went to Iowa City he could find neither miller, money nor flour.

FIRST POSTMASTER.

J. B. Sanders, a farmer and stock-raiser who located on section 11, Eden township during 1852, was the first postmaster to be appointed in the township. At that time there were only three houses in Vinton. Mr. Sanders eventually moved from his farm

to the village of Vinton, in order to give his children a better education than could be obtained in the district schools. His widow is now a resident of Vinton and his son, John B., who was born in the township, is a prosperous stock-farmer in that section of the county.

SETTLERS OF 1853.

Peter Kuhn accompanied the Boggs family to Eden township from the state of Ohio, in 1853. He afterward married and his son, Henry Kuhn, who is a substantial farmer, stock-raiser and citizen of Eden township, was born in Benton township. It is claimed that Peter Kuhn built the third house in Eden township.

PIONEER FRUIT RAISER.

I. N. Chenoweth came to Benton county from Indiana in the fall of 1853 and located on section 2. He was one of the first and most successful fruit raisers of the county and eventually had a beautiful orchard of twenty-five hundred trees. He attended the first election held in Eden township, at the log house of J. M. Inman, and during the many years of his residence in this part of the county held such responsible offices as supervisor and county treasurer.

THEY CAME IN 1854.

One of the first dozen settlers to come to Eden township was W. O. Ellsworth, a New York farmer and stock-raiser, who migrated thither from Stevens county, Illinois. The year of his location in section 13 was 1854.

Robert N. Downs and Nathan Downs, brothers, came from Delaware in the fall of 1854. Nathan was drowned in the Cedar river, near Vinton, in the early sixties. Robert N. became a large land owner and a prosperous farmer in Eden township. He became the father of eight children, two sons and one daughter, all married, being well-to-do residents of the township.

JOHN A. DILLING, 1855.

John A. Dilling, a retired farmer of Eden township, who

came to Benton county with his brother Henry, has lived on the farm which he now occupies since shortly after his marriage in 1855. Both he and his wife are among the oldest members of the United Brethern church in the county.

OTHER SETTLERS OF THE FIFTIES.

James F. Crawford, a settler of March, 1856, was one of the first half a dozen to make their homes in Eden township. He came direct from his native place, Elkhart, Indiana, when he was twenty-two years of age, and in 1851 his father entered the land in section 12, where he and his brother long resided. Mr. Crawford was at the first election in the township, cast his first vote for John C. Fremont, and afterward held all the offices of the township, besides serving for many years as a director of the Eden Fire Insurance Company of Benton county.

Frederick Lowe located in Eden township in 1857, and farmed there until his death in 1905. His widow is still living and his son, Frank Lowe, carries on the old farm.

David Beller was another old settler of the county who lived on a farm in Eden township from 1857 to 1899, spending the succeeding seven years of his life as a resident of Vinton. His six sons were all born in Benton county and four survive as substantial citizens of the west, M. B. Beller owning and operating a part of the old homestead.

ELDORADO'S FIRST SETTLER.

The first settler in Eldorado township is said to have been David Calkins, who, in 1854, located on section 2. Mr. Calkins was also a blacksmith and a skillful mechanic in general, who had passed the years of his boyhood and early manhood in Michigan. In 1852 he left that state to cross the plains to California, and for about fifteen months before returning east and settling in Iowa engaged in blacksmithing, sawmilling and mining. After locating in Eldorado township, he farmed, followed his trade and held various township offices.

EMANUEL BAKER, 1855.

Emanuel Baker was also among the first settlers of Eldorado

township, locating on section 32 in 1855. He was a Pennsylvanian who had lived one year in Illinois before moving to Iowa, and although he was by trade a carpenter and builder abandoned that avocation when he came west, in favor of the more profitable calling of agriculture.

THESE CAME IN 1856.

In 1856 A. Gibbins, a harnessmaker by trade, moved from Ohio to section 1, Eldorado township, where he was a successful farmer for many years. In 1856 also came Samuel and John H. McGranahan, father and son, and both natives of county Derry, Ireland. They settled on section 14, serving both township and county in various political capacities. The McGranahan family supported the Presbyterian church with all the ardor of the typical Scotch-Irish, and the first sermon that was preached in Eldorado township was delivered in the barn of the elder Mr. McGranahan, by the Rev. John Beatty.

Eldorado township also numbered among her settlers of 1856, Mr. and Mrs. William Thompson, who drove through from Richland county, Ohio, to Benton county, Iowa, and located an eighty-acre farm of raw prairie land in section 30. He was industrious, but generous, and died in prosperity and honor, passing away in 1902 and surviving his wife more than thirty-six years. His two sons, John and E. S., are well known farmers of the township.

FIRST HOUSE IN FREMONT TOWNSHIP.

William A. Stewart is credited with building the first house in Fremont township. His location in that section of the county dated from the early part of 1854. He helped to organize both the townships of Florence and Fremont. Mr. Stewart's homestead comprised about four hundred acres of land in section 28.

ADDITIONS IN 1854 AND 1855.

The years 1854 and 1855 brought to Fremont township quite an influx of new settlers. In 1854 George Pawcett located seven hundred and sixty acres of land in section 5. At that time only three families resided in the township. In 1854 David Johnson established his homestead of four hundred acres in section 14,

and James M. Jones came in the fall of 1855 to the same section. Mr. Johnson's farm was noted throughout the county as being a beautifully watered piece of land, and suggestions were often made that it could be made into a fine trout farm.

Charles Conley, an English iron worker, came to Orinda county, New York, in 1852, and two years thereafter located with his family on a small farm in Florence township. His son, Andrew Conley, now seventy-two years of age, is a leading farmer of the same township.

John A. Houghton, who died on his homestead in Florence township, January 31, 1904, in his seventy-second year, had lived in that locality since 1854. He was an intelligent and a good man. His widow survives him, and three of his children are living in Benton county and honoring their parents.

In the spring of 1855 Joseph Humphrey sold his property in Pennsylvania and invested some of the proceeds in 246 acres of land in Florence township. He fought his way to comfort and an honorable standing, and died in 1891. The widow, to whom equal honor is also due, survived him until 1909. Their son, Hugh Humphrey, has farmed continuously in Florence township since his honorable discharge from the Union Army, in the fall of 1864. His record as a leading Republican dates from the year after the war, and he has enjoyed long service as county supervisor, justice of the peace and member of the school board.

ALEXANDER JOHNSON, 1855.

Alexander Johnson was a prosperous Irish farmer who passed the first few years of his American life in Ohio, but was still a young man when he located in Fremont township in 1855. From 1866 until his death in 1897 he farmed in Canton township, where he died prosperous and respected. His son, David K., operates a part of the family estate, the widow residing in Shellsburg. Mrs. Johnson was a Kirkpatrick, her father David, who died in 1874, being a middle-aged man when he moved from Ohio to Canton township in 1852. He had been a business man and a school teacher, and continued to teach after he became a resident of Benton county with twelve hundred acres of land. He also loaned out money; was an ardent Whig and Republican, and altogether a man who had the faculty of acquiring a fortune, friends and a good name, at the same time. Mrs. Johnson's mother died in 1870.

PIONEERS OF HARRISON TOWNSHIP.

In 1831 Alexander Harper moved with his parents from Philadelphia to the state of Indiana, and in 1856, when twenty-eight years of age, moved with his wife to Harrison township. While he was away at the front, in the Civil War, his wife no less bravely cared for the five children. In 1867, after living for a time at Vinton, the family occupied the farm, and both parents died upon it—the father in 1893, the mother two years before. Of their children, Alexander P. resides at Vinton; R. S. lives on the old homestead; J. Edward is also a farmer of Harrison township; Charles S., one of the solid agriculturists of this section, is a director of the Benton County Agricultural Society.

Nehemiah Vanskike attained prominence both as a pioneer farmer and public man of Benton county. He came from Indiana in 1858 and started life in this part of Iowa as the owner of a quarter section in Harrison township. He cultivated and improved his farm until 1884, when he moved to Vinton where he died in 1893. Mr. Vanskike served two terms as county supervisor, held numerous township offices and was one of the best known of the early-time Republicans. His son, Wm. N., who was born on the old farm in Harrison township, has repeated his father's fine record.

EARLY SETTLERS OF HOMER TOWNSHIP.

Homer township, in the western part of the county, was among the sections which were settled at a comparatively late date. In this township the early fifties was considered a pioneer period. H. S. Harmon and John H. Kirchner, farmers who settled respectively on sections 1 and 23 of that township, were therefore pioneers. The former was among the early Methodists of this section of the county and the latter, a German Lutheran. They both were honored with local office, and stood high in their communities.

FOUNDER OF REPUBLICANISM.

Charles Twogood, a New York farmer who came from Michigan to Homer township in 1856, is chiefly remembered for his earnestness as a Republican. He came to this locality in 1856, the

year when that party was founded, and worked for its success early and late, representing it in numerous township offices. Although he made quite a success of politics, he does not appear to have made great advancement as a farmer, although he was fairly well-to-do, and was the father of a large and respectable family, various members of which have made most creditable records for themselves in the county.

THOMAS COLLINS, 1857.

In the spring of 1857 Thomas Collins, a native of Ireland, twenty-two years of age, who had been employed in various lines of work in the south and west, settled on a forty-acre farm in Homer township. Before his death in 1892 he owned 560 acres and was looked up to as a successful and honest man. Martin J. Collins, his youngest son, is the well known business man and banker of Garrison.

FIRST CLAIM IN IOWA TOWNSHIP.

H. Guinn, long one of the largest land owners in Benton county, whose homestead was on section 34, Iowa township, moved to that locality in 1846, from Greene county, Tennessee. He entered the first claim recorded in Iowa township, and was one of the board of trustees appointed for the purpose of organizing it. At its organization he was elected one of the first board of trustees, which office he held many years; was also county supervisor seven years, and held other township and school offices.

JOHN SCHILD, 1852.

Andrew W. Schild, a well known farmer living in section 16, Iowa township, is the son of John Schild, who, in 1852, when a youth of seventeen, came with his parents to that part of Benton county. Andrew W. is a native of the township.

EARLY SETTLERS IN JACKSON TOWNSHIP.

John Robertson, a Scotchman, came from Kane county, Illinois, in the spring of 1854, and located on 240 acres in section 20, Jackson township, where he died June 1, 1884. Andrew Robertson,

the son, who has since owned the old homestead, was a lad of fifteen when he and his father drove overland with ox teams from Illinois to Iowa.

David Tilson located in section 12, Jackson township, in 1855 and died at Vinton, where he had lived retired for many years, in 1900. His son, Everett, owns the old farm upon which he was born in 1858.

JAMES W. ATHEY, 1850.

James W. Athey attained his majority four years after coming to Iowa county, state of Iowa, and at that time (1850) purchased a small claim on Walnut creek, near Belle Plaine, but just over the line of Benton county. In November, 1852, he took possession of the 200 acres of land which his father had entered for him in LeRoy township. His nearest neighbors were then at Big Grove, seven miles north. Mr. Athey prospered and in 1904 turned over his large live-stock business to his two sons, John M. and Roy. The father still lives on the old farm which has been his home for nearly sixty years.

A KANE TOWNSHIP VETERAN.

Eleezer W. Stocker was a New Hampshire man of twenty-four when he found himself stranded in the lead mines of western Wisconsin. In the spring of 1849 he started overland for California, and five years afterward packed back to West Point (now Kansas City) and thence to Kane township, Benton county, where in September, 1854, he entered 480 acres of land. He was then thirty, and the dire experiences which he shared with W. S. Snow before he secured a foothold in the new country are narrated in detail elsewhere; and the true story is worth reading and considering as an illustration of the real heroism demanded of the pioneer who makes a success of himself and an asset of true value to the community in which he settles. In 1857 (as stated in Mr. Stocker's biography) he was commissioned by Judge Douglas to organize and name the township, and the fact that he was an enthusiast over the achievements of the Arctic explorer accounts for "Kane." Mr. Stocker served four terms on the county board of supervisors and filled many minor offices; is one of the pioneer Masons of the county and, although in his eighty-seventh year, "has it in him"

to still further extend his long record of activity and usefulness. He still owns an estate of 500 acres in Kane and Union townships, and, although he has attempted to retire to Blairstown, finds country life more congenial and intends to pass his last years on the old homestead in Kane township. Mr. Stocker was one of the first to organize Masonic lodges in Belle Plaine, and elsewhere in the township, and was also among those wise pioneers who commenced to plant trees at an early date, thus forestalling, by several generations, the founding of "Arbor Day" in Nebraska and other so-called prairie states.

"LONE TREE" FARM.

It is said that when H. W. Van Dike settled on his farm in section 19, Kane township, that outside of his land there was not a sizable tree in this section of the county. As he himself boasted of this treasure of the early days, his homestead became widely known as the "Lone Tree Farm." This tree, which was quite a curiosity, stood for many years near Mr. Van Dike's residence. As the years passed, however, orchards and groves were planted and flourished, so that he lost standing as the tree monopolist. Mr. Van Dike settled on his "Lone Tree Farm" in 1855, and eventually became the owner of nearly three hundred and fifty acres of land in that vicinity. He also held many local offices and was one of the first to assist in the organization of the township schools.

CONRAD TATGE, 1852.

Conrad Tatge, German-born, came to America with his young bride in 1852, and three years afterward settled on an eighty-acre farm in LeRoy township. Three decades afterward he retired to Luzerne, comparatively a wealthy man, and died there in 1884. One of his sons, Henry W., is now a resident of Keystone, while the second, August F., after managing the home farm for fifteen years after his father's death, established himself at Luzerne as an all-round business man and enterprising citizen.

RHESA CONLEY, 1850.

One of the first settlers of Monroe township who located on section 12, in 1850, was Rhesa Conley, a farmer. Pioneers of 1854

were Kimble Bates, who located his land in section 14 and was one of those who signed a petition for the organization of the township; and Samuel Miskimin, a farmer of section 15 who came during the same year, serving his county as supervisor for three years and conducting himself as a generally useful citizen of the township.

POLK TOWNSHIP PIONEERS.

Readers of the early history of Benton county remember that the first settlements were made in the northeastern section, many of them in the vicinity of the present village of Urbana, Polk township. Among the settlers of 1840, not already mentioned were Hugh Brody, who located on section 3, coming from Richland county, Ohio, and eventually becoming the owner of some six hundred acres of fine land; and A. J. Wyckoff, an Illinois farmer and stock-raiser, who established a valuable homestead on section 33, and was one of the early supervisors of the county.

THE BRYSONS AND REMINGTONS.

Both the Bryson and the Remington families were among the first pioneers to come to Benton county. Fielding Bryson entered land in Polk township as early as 1841 and later his son, Joseph, came and did likewise. The latter seems to have been rather a land speculator than a patient farmer, and finally died in Kansas in 1905. He had married a daughter of Joseph and Mary Remington, farmers from Indiana who settled near Urbana in 1842. W. G. Bryson, their third son and child, moved to Kansas with his parents in 1873, but returned to Harrison township in 1897, and has since lived there.

THE JOHNSON FAMILY.

The Hoosier family of Johnsons was founded in Polk township in the late forties, Alexander taking up land in 1847 and Albert in 1848. They are the grandfather and father of James Johnson, who retired to Vinton in 1904, after he had been engaged in farming in that part of the county for nearly forty years. The latter is an old soldier, an ex-supervisor and a good citizen.

SETTLERS OF THE EARLY FIFTIES.

In 1850 Elijah Wyckoff, a younger brother of A. J., already mentioned, located his homestead on section 4, Polk township. Mr. Wyckoff took a deep interest in school matters and was for some years district treasurer. He also did much to further the cause of the Methodist church in this part of the county.

In 1852 Polk township received among its new comers Abraham Brown, who located on section 4, and James Ketterman, who took up land and founded his home in section 28.

Among the first German Catholic pioneers to settle in Benton county was Ferdinand Smith, a Prussian, born in 1828, who emigrated to America in 1852, and three years thereafter located on section 14, where he became a well-to-do farmer and to some extent a local office holder.

William J. Long, the well known agriculturist of Harrison township, is the son of Woodson P., a Kentuckian, who brought his family (William J. was then four years old) to the farm which he located in Polk township in 1855. He finally sold his land and moved to Urbana, where both parents died—Mr. Long in 1907.

Abraham Brown migrated from Indiana to his forty acre farm in Polk township during 1852, his son James, who now operates a farm of 112 acres, being at that time five years of age.

Victor G. Spencer, the well known stock farmer of Polk township, is occupying land which his father, Charles H., entered in the early fifties. The latter was one of the many who tried California in 1852 and decided it was best to return to the fertile fields of Benton county. He died in 1904 and his wife survived him three years. Victor G. is not only one of the most advanced farmers in Benton county, but one of its most intelligent men—a good writer, a great reader and an extensive traveler.

EARLY COMERS TO TAYLOR TOWNSHIP.

Isband Noble entered a quarter section of land in section 4, Taylor township, in 1850, coming for that purpose from Ontario, Canada. He did not settle permanently thereon until 1852, having in the meantime farmed in Minnesota and returned to Canada for a wife. But once settled, he lived in that section until his death in 1900, when he left a large estate, an honored name, and a family whose members have also earned high standing.

The Kearns family located in Taylor township, through Archibald Kearns, the father, in the year 1855. Hiram W. and Perry N., two of his sons by a second marriage, are well known farmers in Benton county - the former of Taylor township and the latter of Jackson township.

A UNION TOWNSHIP PIONEER.

Michael Kelly was one of those sturdy, industrious Irishmen who contributed so much to the advancement of Benton county in the early years. In 1854, the year after his emigration with his wife and family, he drove his ox teams from Kane county, Illinois, to Union township, Benton county. There Mr. Kelly entered one hundred acres of land, put up a tent in which his wife cooked, sowed sod corn and potatoes, made his wagon into a bedroom, built a log cabin soon, but did not occupy a frame house until 1855. In 1894 this hardy couple were able to retire to Van Horn in more than comfortable circumstances. Michael Kelly, their first born, has proved a worthy son and citizen, his interest and long service in school matters having been especially conspicuous.

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