

Government and Formation



Iowa's Flower—Wild Rose
Iowa's Bird—Goldfinch

submitted by Lucinda Stratton

CHAPTER 1

In the year of 1854, Howard County was an unbroken wilderness of green prairies, groves and streams. To this wilderness about this time came settlers searching for land to build homes upon.

In 1854, a settlement was made along the little Wapsipicon by W. S. Pettibone, James or Joseph Hall, Martin Boardman, Lemuel Potter, Archibald Pooler, Edward Butters and Wm. P. Hough. Pettibone was a noted character in the early days and his Hotel Busti was known for many miles west.

The original plat of Howard County shows the southwest corner as one township.

The territory of Iowa was originally only two counties: Des Moines, the southern half and Dubuque, the northern half. Prior to 1855, Howard was attached to Chickasaw County for election purposes and to Floyd for judicial and revenue purposes. After 1855, Howard County was divided into two election districts, Howard and Afton, with a line drawn up the center of the county. An election was held in 1855 to elect Justices of the Peace and Constables in each precinct. In the western district the election was held at the home of W. S. Pettibone. The tally list was as follows: Justice of the Peace—Wm. S. Pettibone, 6 votes; Constable—A. S. Butters, 6 votes.

A state road was built through the southern part of the county during 1857. Prior to this time, roads existed merely as trails and footpaths. These most often were not marked; but wound rambling away across the prairies and through the timber.

From the paper of J. W. Conway, written in 1927, is this list of land entries in 1854 to 1856.

In Howard Township:

January 10, 1854	John A. Patterson
June 19, 1854	Hiram B. Sowles
June 27, 1854	Mathew A. Stevenson
November 27, 1854	Thomas Griffin
December 11, 1854	Robert Lockie and Alex Hutton

In Afton Township:

August 21, 1854	Archibald Pooler and William S. Pettibone
October 25, 1854	Thomas Kildee and John Irvin
November 22, 1854	Christian Reckner
December 16, 1854	John McMadden
March 22, 1855	Thomas McGrane
April 20, 1855	Henry Hazelton
May 16, 1855	James Hall
June 13, 1855	James Glass*
June 14, 1855	Lemuel Potter
December 26, 1855	James Mead
January 24, 1856	Louisa Patrick
February 8, 1856	Patrick McGrane
April 9, 1856	August Beadle

*This was the man frozen to death in the following story.

On November 14, 1927, J. W. Conway gave this historical sketch before the Howard County Historical Society at Cresco. J. W. Conway was a member of the Pioneer Club of Elma and was the grandfather of pres-

ent Elma area residents Bob and Jim Conway and Harold and Bob Stapleton. His sketch gives us an insight into the early days.

At the age of five I came with my parents from northern New York and we took up our abode in Afton Township on May 10, 1863.

Howard Township was constituted in 1856 and was taken from Vernon Springs precinct. The precinct organization was abandoned about 1858 when precincts were superceded by townships.

The first post office established was Busti, and was located at the old town one mile north of the present town of Elma. The old town was originally called Howard, but was changed to Busti when the post office was established there. The first postmaster was W. S. Pettibone, who was succeeded by James Hall. This was under Buchanan's administration. During Lincoln's administration, the post office was moved to one-half mile north and one and a quarter miles west of town on the farm of Royal T. Sutton who had been appointed postmaster. This was over into Afton Township. Mr. Sutton held the office about one and one-half or two years and resigned and a Mr. Pierce was appointed postmaster and moved the office to one-fourth mile west of the town of Busti. Mr. Pierce held the office but a short time when he moved to Riceville where he had bought the grist mill and the post office was then moved to the town of Busti and there remained



Oak trees were plentiful in the area providing heat and building materials for early pioneers.

*The four photos in this chapter are from the family album belonging to Charles and Elma Brandmill showing Elma in its early days.

until it was moved to Elma in 1886 and designated as Elma Post Office. J. E. Roche was the first postmaster at Elma.

When we arrived here in 1863 the country was sparsely settled and had very few established roads. The early settlers built along the streams where they were convenient to wood and water. The first houses and stables were built of logs and when they could not secure lime they often plastered between the logs with mud. The roads wound around the high land as much as possible to avoid the sloughs which were often impassable, and parties going to market often went with others and had to use several teams to pull the loads through the sloughs. There were very few bridges and those that were built were made of logs and not fastened to the ground in any way, so when the streams were high they were often swept away.

McGregor (80 miles from here) was our nearest market and if those going to market drove oxen, it took from ten days to two weeks to make the trip. In summer time they slept under their wagons to save hotel expenses, and farmers living along the roads often served meals and offered lodging as there were but few hotels. Farmers west of here often had to haul their produce 125 miles, and prices before the war were so low that some of those had very little left after marketing a load of wheat. If they had to hire it hauled, the wheat would not pay the expense.

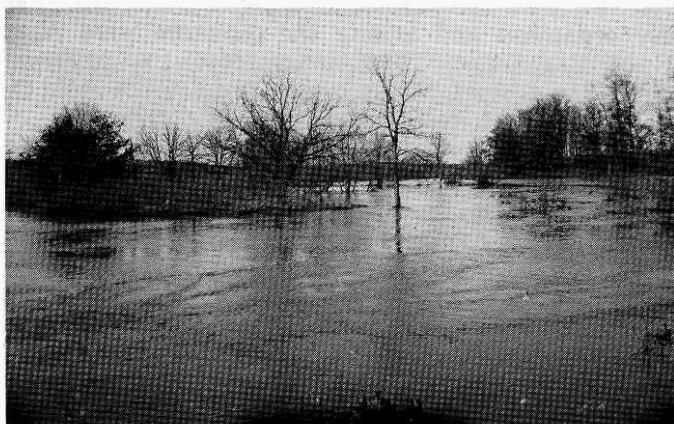
The winters were severely cold with deep snow, and the stock were sheltered in sheds made of poles and covered with straw by threshing a setting of grain over them, leaving a small opening for a door. On January 8, 1873, occurred the worst storm ever recorded here. It lasted for three days. We had to close the stock building and could get no feed or water to them until the third day, and the only way we could get to the creek for water for the house was to tie a clothes line to a tree at the edge of the grove near the house and one carried the water and the other one handled the line. This stream was only about four rods from the grove. Many persons were frozen to death during this storm, and in homes where they were short of fuel they burned the steps leading to the upper floor or articles of furniture.

Before we came to Howard County, there was a Mr. Glass who lost his way in the storm and was frozen to death and buried on a small plot of ground on the S.E. corner of the N. $\frac{1}{2}$ of the N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 25-98-14 and two small stones of the boulder variety still mark his grave. This small piece of ground has never been disturbed. Mr. Glass was a former silk merchant in New York City. How little we know where our last resting place will be.

In the winter of 1862 or 63, August Beadle and Joe Slee lost 1300 sheep by being smothered in a straw shed when the snow drifted on them. In the fall of 1863 six hundred mules were driven by our house, going east. They were returning from Minnesota where they had been used in hunting the Indians during the uprising of the Sioux and known as the Minnesota massacre. The mules were in the charge of a sub officer and

two privates. They stopped at the Pettibone Hotel overnight and I am sure the guests had very little sleep that night, as the lead mule had a bell on and the rest all followed.

W. S. Pettibone was a noted character here in the early days, and his hotel was known for two hundred miles west of here. He was instrumental in having several horse thieves arrested as they were quite numerous in this vicinity at the time. One noted character, Orin D. Goff, living near Riceville, was arrested by John Sisco and the Axtel brothers, all of Afton Township. He had been arrested and tried on two previous occasions and freed for want of evidence. After being freed the second time he was taken by the Vigilance Committee and drawn up on a tree with a rope around his neck and given thirty lashes and ordered to leave the county. He was later taken to Freeport, Illinois, by John Sisco and J. A. Daniels. "Goff" was an alias and his right name was Doud.



Spring floods were a common occurrence in the streams of the area.

Game was plentiful and most any morning I could see from three to six deer crossing the clearings between patches of timber where part of the town of Elma now stands. The Indians used to come from the northwest every winter and hunt deer. They camped south of Elma along the Little Wapsie and in 1869 the deer were mostly driven out of the woods and sought the small groves on the prairie where they fed on the haystacks that the farmers had put up the previous summer. There were large flocks of pigeons. I do not know whether those were passenger pigeons or not. They would start at the edge of a field where the farmer had sown his wheat by hand and would fly over the one ahead thus crossing the field and taking practically all the wheat. The farmers had to keep a harrow going as fast as the wheat was sown to cover as much as possible. Those pigeons disappeared from here about the year 1869.

There were prairie chickens, quail, ducks and geese by the thousands and in the spring quite a few buzzards. Frequently during the hard winters white owls made their appearance here. This was surely a hunter's paradise then.

For three days during the fall of '63 the air was so densely filled with smoke that the report was cir-

culated that Indians had set fire to the pineries of Minnesota. We often had reports circulated that the Indians were on the warpath again and we did not venture out after night. This was just to scare the children, I presume, so that they would stay at home at evenings.

In 1860 Frank Pooler drove to Pikes Peak during the gold excitement. He made two trips there by team but did not find the gold so plentiful as reported. Mr. Pooler was one of the early settlers of Afton Township.

In 1860 the population of the village of Howard was 67. Afton Township was constituted in 1858 and in 1859 the population was 304. In 1860 it was 293 and in 1863 it was 303. In 1867 to '69 it decreased in population to 55. Afton had three post offices within her borders, viz Busti, Cecelia and Acme which are all discontinued. P. L. Conners was the first postmaster at Cecelia and Bert Stevens at Acme, which was then called Lowther.

On June 21, 1860, Howard County Agricultural Society organized and among the directors were Aug. Beadle of Afton and G. W. Ostrander of Howard Township. Among the premiums awarded were to John G. Sisco, H. Axtel and Aug. Beadle, all of Afton.

In 1860 the Axtell brothers of Afton harvested 3000 bushels of wheat, and as McGregor was the nearest market they had several hundred bushels ground at the mill at New Oregon and sold the flour.

The Northern Iowa Railroad Co. was organized and Aug. Beadle was elected a director and member of the executive committee in February, 1861. This road was to run from McGregor through and near the center of Howard County.

The county supervisors report for February, 1861, shows Afton Road Tax \$125.74, Teachers \$423.81 and Schoolhouse \$456.39.

In 1857 a portion of Afton and Howard constituted one school district. This was the only school in either township.

Those who entered this land practically all settled on and developed and built up homes and most of them died on those farms. None of them are living today and but very few of their children are living here today. There are only two who came here with their parents in the fifties living in Afton Township today. They are Thos. H. Roche and Stephen Riley and I do not know of anyone living in Howard Township who came here in the fifties.

It was claimed that in the fifties Mrs. Aug. Beadle drove to Dubuque with an ox team for family supplies, making the round trip, about 300 miles.

Owen Monaghan came to Afton Township about 1860 from Clayton County and it took three weeks to make the trip with seven yoke of oxen and one wagon.

The gray wolf, much like the coyote of the western plains but larger, were very numerous and the farmers usually kept two or more dogs to keep them from raiding the poultry flocks at night. Now they keep dogs to prevent the human wolves from raiding their poultry yards.

The first church in Afton Township was built in 1860

by Catholics of that community at the present site of the Cecelia church. About 1875 the people of Howard Township erected a church. This was called a community church and had no regular pastor and was served by a Mr. Nelson who was not a regularly ordained minister. He married Miss Mary Boggess, one of our most highly esteemed young ladies. This church was later sold to the Lutheran congregation and was moved to Elma.



A tranquil stream meanders through wooded prairie.

There was only one buggy owned in this vicinity for many years after we came and the farmers used their farm wagons to transport their families. There were no spring seats, just a board across the box to sit on. We made a spring seat by taking two ash poles and squaring them about 2 inches by 2½ inches and about 8 feet long and running a half-inch rod through the end of each just in front of the back bolster and having two hooks fashioned to hook onto the box and the one end of the hooks turned up to allow the hewn poles to rest on them. We made a seat out of boards and attached it to the other end of the poles. By pushing the hooks toward the rear of the wagon box it would raise the seat to the required height. This seat was for the parents and the children sat down in the bay in the box.

We could not buy mittens and had to make them out of sheepskin with the wool on the outside. Those were made gauntlet style and were very warm. Little boys 10 or 12 years old could cut out and sew those mittens. Sometimes we made moccasins out of calfskin with the hair on the inside. Our mothers knit all our stockings and mittens and made our clothes by hand and often washed our shirts and other clothing after we were in bed and had them dry and ready to wear in the morning.

The neighbors were very kind and helpful when in need or sickness. Often I have known father and mother to drive 10 or 15 miles to see a sick neighbor. Those living at that distance were considered neighbors.

There was no doctor nearer than McGregor and we

seldom needed one as we were very healthy and could endure very severe weather without overshoes or overcoats. We took our wool to Mitchell and had it carded into rolls and our mothers spun the yarn on the old spinning wheel, and many nights we were lulled to sleep by the hum of that old wheel. Then the tiresome job was when we had to hold the skein of yarn on our arms while mother wound it into a ball. When the farmers were ready to butcher, some of the neighbors helped and it was nothing uncommon to dress 30 or 40 hogs. They were left out until frozen and put away in the granary and later hauled to McGregor while frozen.

In winter we had plenty of fresh meat, but in summer we had to depend on salt meats, except when one of the neighbors butchered. Then all the other neighbors were sent a portion of it. During the game season we usually had plenty of meat from that source. Fish were plentiful and we used to build small dams across the streams and put in a fish trap where we caught some very fine pickerel and redhorse.

Rattle snakes were very numerous in the early days and during harvest in 1863 my father killed 33. The remedy for snake bites was whiskey, but later when the snakes became scarce it was difficult to find a snake to bite those who were looking for them. I attended school with Andrew Volstead in Decorah. I little thought that he would be the St. Patrick of the U.S. I still believe that the rattlers either became disgusted and left or were killed off from biting persons that were drinking hootch. However, our native simplicity kept us from looking for snakes to bite us in those days.

In those days we never had to lock our houses or granaries to prevent thievery as there was none except a few cases of horse stealing and our vigilance committee took care of those cases.

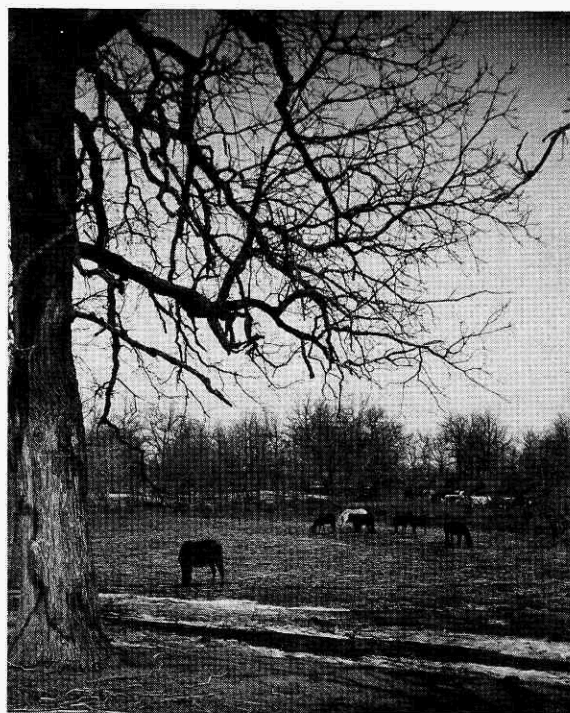
We often walked five or six miles to a dance or spelling school and it was considered quite an honor to spell down some neighboring school. We had some excellent spellers in those days, but for some years later it seemed to be a lost accomplishment. However, I note that there is more attention given to this branch of study at present.

In the early days the families unable to provide schoolhouses often had school taught in part of a dwelling or in vacant houses and in the summer of 1863 we had school in an old log building on the R. T. Sutton farm where Mr. Sutton and Lemuel Potter formerly kept a general store and on the wall was a sign as follows: In God we trust, all others cash. Our teacher was a Miss Gifford from Nashua. Most of our teachers were from the young ladies Seminary, a brick structure just south of the Little Brown Church and now used as a farm residence. Our textbooks in those days were McGuffey's readers and spellers. We had Ray's arithmetic, and we bought foolscap paper and our teacher wrote a copy for us on the top line for us to rewrite and the last line on the page was harder to decipher than the handwriting of one of Cresco's attorneys.

If we had the silly notion to study grammar and could not be dissuaded from doing so by our parents,

we bought a Pinneos or Clark's grammar and with the latter we made little pig pens in diagrams. But the last traditional straw was broken when we commenced the study of physiology, hygiene and anatomy of the human body. We had slates and pencils and plenty of saliva to erase the figures we made.

Teachers were paid from \$20.00 to \$25.00 per month and labored under difficulties as we did not have a uniform series of textbooks and the pupils brought any old kind of a book. We spelled orally and our teachers had us stand up in a row with our toes all lined up to a crack between the floorboards, and the one who missed a word, the next one below was given a trial and so on down until the one spelling the word correctly could take his place above the one who first missed it, and if he succeeded in getting to the head of the class when the last spelling exercise was finished he received a mark called a head mark and he took his place the next day at the foot of the class. The one having the most head marks at the close of the term received a prize.



Horses and cattle graze in open clearings.

About 1873 or '74 Frank Kyte, a resident of Afton Township, was elected on a Peoples ticket as treasurer of Howard County and two years later was re-elected. When he was first elected, the *Plain Dealer* had a cartoon of a kite sailing away over the moon as Kyte's opponent was M. M. Moon. The cartoon showed a Mr. Gates (who was a cripple all but his tongue) holding the string to the kite with a large ball of string still at his feet, indicating that he could let it sail higher. The summer following Kyte's last election the string broke or Mr. Gates let go, and the Kyte was never found and the records showed he had defaulted for quite a sum.

The first tornado that we have any account of in Af-

ton occurred in the summer of 1867 and was not cyclonic and did not damage any heavy buildings, but carried hayracks and wagons, etc., for about 50 rods.

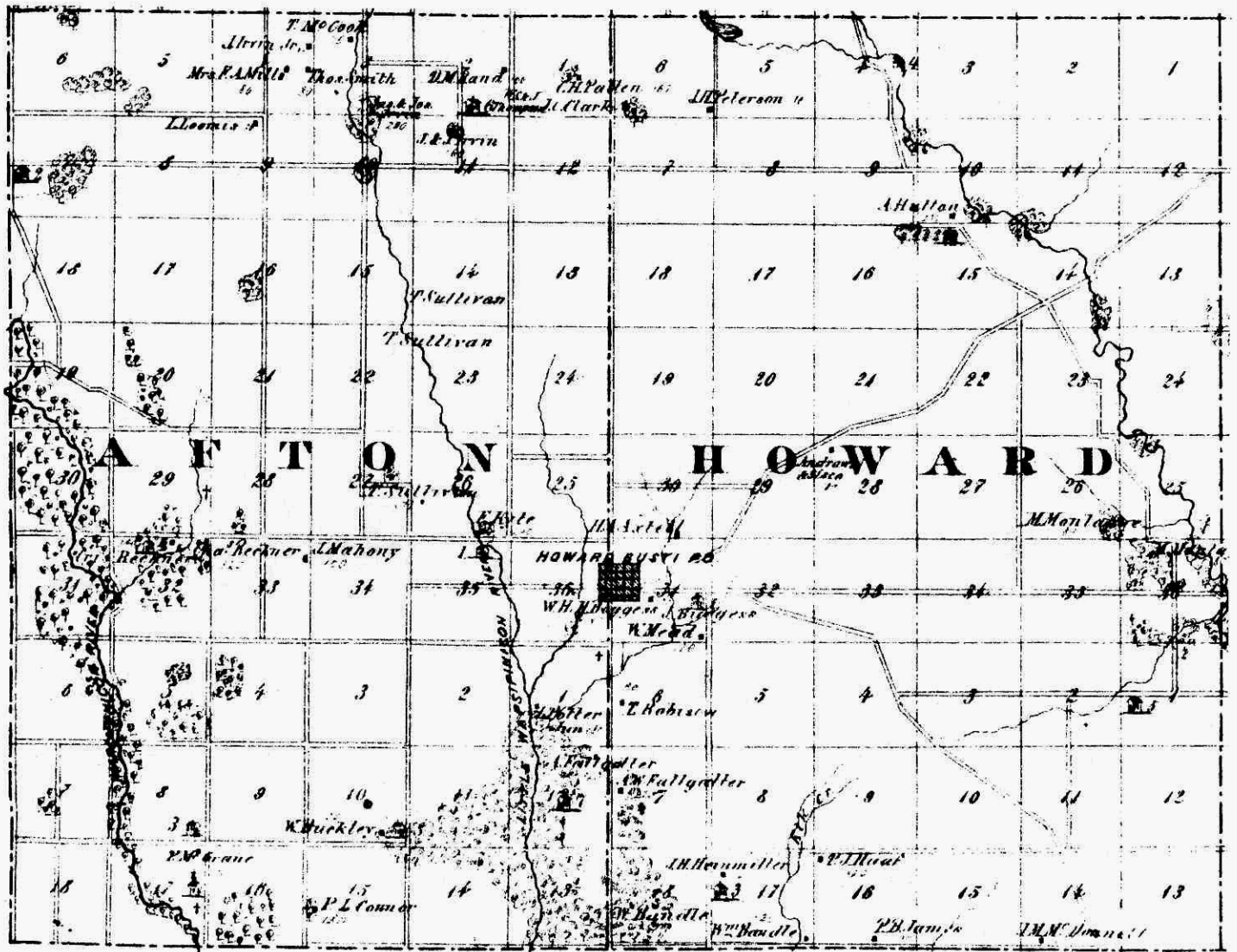
Another view of early life is given in this letter written by Darius Potter, half brother to Lemuel, to his family in New Hampshire.

Howard County, Iowa
April 8, 1855

At present we are in good health and excellent spirits, and every day's experience makes us prize our situation more highly. Lemuel has been busy the past week in looking at land, and we hope you will please form some little idea of our good situation from the fact that he has extended our little farm out to a strip one-half mile wide and one and three quarters mile long. My lady and I have just returned from a pleasant ride over the land. Two beautiful little rivers divide our land into three parts. One of them is large enough to carry a mill. We also have a beautiful little pond containing about half an acre and filled with otter and

clams. Game here of almost every kind is very plentiful. Lemuel lives with Mr. Hazelton this summer. Our houses are about 80 rods apart on two elevations of land and we can stand at our doors and see all over our farms.

Perhaps you may think it rather dangerous living here, but we don't think so. When we look back only five years and view this very spot where we now are inhabited by the red men, we almost envy them their comfort in the majestic buffalo, the noble elk, and panting deer. The buffalo is slowly retreating from the paleface, but the elk and deer seem to hold undisputed possession still. Although the red men are gone, their tent poles are still standing, the bones of their game lie bleaching in the sun, and Lemuel found one of their knives as they left it by their tent. The palefaces are fast settling in. Within a few weeks some 3000 acres of land have been taken in our township. We had a village laid out within one-half mile of us, and two men came in last week with lumber to start building. We expect to have a small sawmill here this summer. Monday



This map is from an Atlas of 1875.

BUSTI Post Office—Howard and Afton Townships

Scale 20 Rods to an Inch



This map is of BUSTI. The park in the center is now the site of the Ivan Schroeder home. State Street is the road which goes west to the Double Bridges and east between Schroeders and Francis Zeimetz's home. The post office was not always at this same site.

morning, while I am writing, five emigrant teams are passing by driving along cows, sheep and hogs, for you must remember we live on a very public road.
Yours, D. E. Potter

Note: Darius Potter and Henry Hazelton seem to have sold out to Lemuel Potter. Darius went to South Dakota, and Henry Hazelton and his wife, Elvira Potter, went to Minnesota. (Elvira was a sister of Lemuel.)

The following is an 1875 list of Patrons of Howard and Afton Townships.

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------|-----------|
| | Afton | |
| Blakely, W. J. | | Busti |
| Boggess, W. H. and Mary | | Busti |
| Buckley, Wm. and Margaret | | Busti |
| Conner, Patrick and Margaret | | Busti |
| Fallgatter, August | | Busti |
| Irving, Jas. and Jos. | | Riceville |
| Irvin, John and MarthaJane | | Riceville |
| Jones, James C. | | Riceville |
| Kyte, Frank | | Cresco |
| Loomis, Lemuel and Sally | | Riceville |
| Loomis, Elmer | | Riceville |

Mahony, Jerry and Catherine
 McGrane, Patrick and Elizabeth
 Potter, D. E.
 Patten, Chas. and Dora
 Rand, D. M.
 Reckner, Carl and Louisa
 Reckner, Christian
 Smith, Thomas and Mary Ann
 Sullivan, Thomas and Bridget
 Thompson, Wm. and John

Howard

Axtell, Henry
 Axtell, Elenor
 Burgess, Joseph
 Bandle, Wm.
 Clark, John and Elizabeth
 Fallgatter, August
 Hutton, Alex and Euphemia
 Heinmiller, John
 Haaf, Peter
 James, Preston B.
 Mead, Willis and Lodana
 McDonnell, John M.
 Peterson, J. H.
 Robison, Truman and Susan
 Levi, Sisco
 Andres and Sisco

Busti and Howard

Busti is often considered to be the "Mothertown" of Elma. Busti was located on the old Military Trail, one mile north of the present town of Elma. A post office was established there on April 11, 1860. The first postmaster there was Theophilus K. Dana.

A post office also existed at Howard—this location is uncertain—although, postal records state it was at a site within the city limits of what is now Elma. The Howard post office actually began before Busti's. It was established on January 8, 1856, with William P. Hough as postmaster. It was discontinued on July 23, 1863, due to the Busti Post Office being so close that the two could not long operate simultaneously.

On September 22, 1886, the post office in Busti closed and the one in Elma was established. The first postmaster in Elma was Jeremiah E. Roche. At right is the Post Office Department letter transferring the post office from Busti to Elma.

When the Minnesota & Northwestern Railroad extended their line from New Hampton north to Minneapolis, the rails missed Busti by one mile. A depot was placed at this point, one mile south of Busti and almost immediately the building of the town began. The town was plotted on the farms of Lemuel Potter, August Fallgatter and Truman Robinson. Several homes and businesses were moved from Busti to the new town site. By fall, numerous residences, a good many stores and a hotel had been started or completed. Mr. Potter had considerable influence with the railroad. The railroad honored him by asking permission to name the town after his youngest daughter, Elma.

Busti
 Busti
 Busti
 Riceville
 Riceville
 Busti
 Busti
 Riceville
 Busti
 Riceville

Busti
 Busti
 Busti
 Busti
 Riceville
 Busti
 Saratoga
 Busti
 Busti
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 Busti

1019, New Series., Post Office Department,
 OFFICE OF THE FIRST ASSISTANT P. M. GENERAL,
 WASHINGTON, D. C., July 13, 1886

Before the Postmaster General decides upon the application for a change of the site of the post office at Busti, in the County of Howard, State of Iowa, to Elma, in the County of Howard, State of Iowa, the following statement be filled, and the questions carefully and correctly answered, verified by your signature, certified by a neighboring postmaster, and returned to this Department, addressed to me. The contractor should be informed of this application; and if the site proposed be off the mail route, you will forward his certificate as to the practicality of supplying it, and also as to the increase of distance. Be careful to designate the post offices by their true official names; and answer the subjoined questions fully and accurately, or the case will not be acted upon.

Very respectfully,
 A. E. Stevenson
 First Assistant Postmaster General.

To Mr. Postmaster
 care of the Postmaster of Busti, who will please forward to him.

STATEMENT.
Busti in Iowa Elma

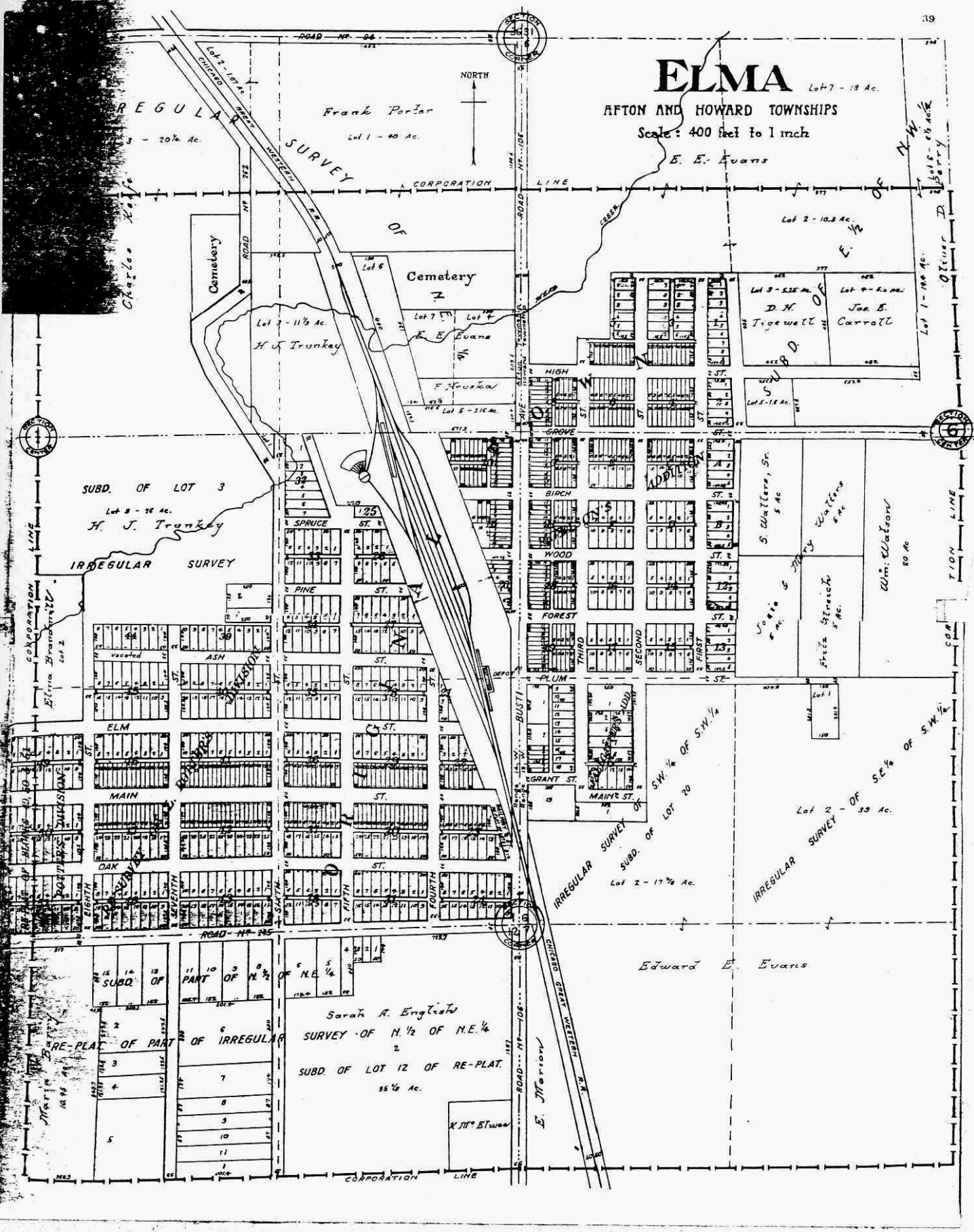
Select a short name for the proposed office, which, when written, will not resemble the name of any other post office in the United States.

The new site will be situated on the SE quarter of Section Six, Township Twenty seven Range Twelve, in the County of Howard, State of Iowa.
 It will be on or near route No. 27566, being the route from New Hampton to Busti on which the mail is now carried three times per week.
 The contractor's name is R. R. Ritter.
 Will it be directly on this route?—yes.
 If not, how far from, and on which side of it?—in this other
 How much will it increase the travel of the mail one way each trip?—none, it increases route address
 Where will the mail leave the present route to supply the proposed site?—at
 Where intersect the route again?—at
 What post office will be left out by this change?—none
 The name of the nearest office to the proposed site, on the same route, is Alta Vista
 its distance is 4 1/2 miles, in a southeast direction.
 The name of the nearest office on the same route, on the other side, is there is none Busti is the and
 its distance is _____ miles, in a _____ direction from the proposed site.
 The name of the nearest office to the proposed site, not on this route, is ounded
 distance by the most direct road 8 miles, in a southwest direction.
 The name of the most prominent river near it is Happisburg
 The name of the nearest creek is Wapasha
 The proposed site will be _____ miles from said river, on the _____ side of it, and will be _____ miles from said creek, on the _____ side of it.
 The name of the nearest railroad is Minneapolis and North Western and will be _____ miles from the station—on the east side, 30 rods from track, house probably
 What will be the distance from the proposed site to the nearest station?—unknown
 State name of station: unknown
 What will be the distance from the proposed site to the nearest station at which mail trains make regular stops?—19 miles
 State name of station: New Hampton
 If the proposed office is located where it can be supplied from a crane or flag station, or located over 80 rods from the station where mail trains make regular stops, will the mail be carried to and from the proposed office without expense to the Department?—no
 If it be shown that the number of inhabitants—building just begun
 Also, the population to be supplied by proposed office—about 2 or 300 families
 A diagram, or sketch from a map, showing the position of the proposed new office, with neighboring river or creek, roads, and other post offices, towns, or villages near it will be useful, and is therefore desired.
 A correct map of the locality might be furnished by the county surveyor, but this must be without expense to the Post Office Department.

All when I certify to be correct and true, according to the best of my knowledge and belief, this 13th day of July, 1886.
 (If Sign full name.)
 I CERTIFY that I have examined the foregoing statement, and find it to be correct and true, to the best of my knowledge and belief.
 Aug. Beadle
 Postmaster at Coosco Iowa.



Elma's namesake, Elma (Potter) Brandmill—February 8, 1862 to January 10, 1944. She was a young bride when the town of Elma was formed.



Map of 1886 shows the new town of Elma.

The town of Elma was incorporated in July, 1891 after a very close election. The vote standing was 69 to 61 in favor of the proposition. The petition praying for incorporation was presented to the courts and was signed by the following:

L. H. Sisco	F. H. Hunt
A. Armagost	W. C. Newcomb
H. L. Spaulding	James Devereaux
E. E. Evans	H. H. Buell
John Ferguson	S. H. Bursell
Charles Lamke	Charles Gallagher
W. C. Bowman	William H. Mereness
G. F. Tierney	S. J. Long
E. E. Overfield	M. H. Bailey
E. K. Fluke	J. F. Andrews
F. J. Gunn	G. A. Chambers
C. Brandmill	C. M. Quinby
W. E. Hoyt	Leo C. Wachtel
S. C. Jordan	J. H. Martin
J. F. Torpey	E. D. Helty
J. F. Ayers	A. E. Pelton
L. Potter	E. Brown
G. A. Burgess	

Elma was a chief trading center for the southwestern portion of the county and the northwestern part of Chickasaw County. When the railroad shops were located at Elma, the town boasted a population of 1500. Following is a table of the population from 1895 to 1930.

1895	939	1915	871
1900	976	1920	874
1905	944	1925	841
1910	807	1930	771

Town Minutes

1899

Mayor: F. W. Church; Council Members: W. A. Gesell, C. M. Quinby, L. Martin, L. H. Sisco, J. W. Conway and T. F. Roche; Street Commissioner: Frank Devereaux. L. C. Wachtel operated the printing press in town. Ordinance granted to the Northern Iowa Telephone Company of Cresco, Iowa, the right to erect and maintain its poles and wires on the streets and public ways of the Incorporated Town of Elma, Iowa. Bought a streetscraper for \$6.00 from Church & Hoyt. Ed Kress received wages of \$40.00 per month for running the Electric Light Plant from July 1, 1898 to July 1, 1900. Moved and carried that the City keep an ark lamp at the railroad crossing and purchase two more lamps. Wm. Cusack was paid wages of \$12.00 per month for firing the boiler at the Electric Light Plant. A special tax levy of 5 mils to pay off indebtedness on Electric Light Plant and building. Rate of residence lighting:

10 lights	\$.25 each
12 lights	.25 each
14 lights	.24 each
16 lights	.22 each
18 lights	.20 each

E. E. Evans was given the contract for putting a stone crossing from Rices corner to Tidgwell corner across Busti Avenue for \$20.00 and to furnish stone for Bonds crossing for 6 cents per square foot. It was moved that collecting for electric lighting be part of the Marshall's duties, without extra compensation. Ordinance passed that sidewalks must be clear of snow and ice.

1900

It was submitted to the voters to bond the Town for \$2,500 to pay our floating debt, purchase new boiler for the Electric Light Plant and make other necessary improvements. Decided to just pass ordinance for \$1,300 instead of a vote. Paid Dick Weers for building chimney on the jail, \$3.50. Electric rate adjusted to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a cent for 16 candle power. Permit was granted to erect stairway on east side of building, Lot 9, Block 29 (old Bank Building on west side). City Council met in H. L. Spaulding office. T. E. Kelly, Street Commissioner; D. I. Nemire, Office of Marshall. L. H. Sisco received \$15.00 for garbage lot. Petition for a crossing to be laid from Mrs. Madden's corner west to Mr. Bechtel's corner and a sidewalk be built in front of the Sabin property on said street. Met in Mayor's office to raise quarantine of Tyler family for smallpox; Dr. J. F. Torpey, Physician. Ordinance #27. Established fire limits and provided that only buildings with outer walls of noncombustible material be constructed. All of said City lots fronting on Main Street between the Railroad and 5th Street and all lots fronting on Busti Avenue between Birch and Plum Streets are declared within fire limits. Fifty property owners presented a petition asking that the question of establishing, maintaining and operating a system of water works be submitted to a vote of the electors. Set the election for August 17, 1900. Chicago Great Western Railroad Company sought permission to put in a cinder walk in front of the Club House. Allowed providing plank or stone be used on side of walk for curbing to hold cinders in place. Petition presented to set a curfew. The following are the results of the August 17, 1900 election for water works: 87 against, 74 for—Defeated.

1901

Rent of \$17.50 per six months was paid to Wm. Burk for office rent for Council meetings. Set salary of Council members and Mayor at \$12.00 per year and Recorder at \$15.00 per year. Lighting for Opera House set at \$1.00 per hour extra after 12:15 a.m. Chicago Great Western Railroad Company was given notice not to raise its grade at intersection of Main Street and Busti Avenue. Council dealt with question of vacating part of Busti Avenue south of Main Street and providing, by ordinance, for an underground crossing at the intersection of Main Street and Busti Avenue. Object of meeting to consider and take action upon application of Chicago Great Western Railroad Company for authority to raise its tracks in said town and construct a subway upon Main Street under its tracks

and for the vacating of a small portion of Busti Avenue and the establishment of change of said Avenue as explained. Given permission to raise 4½ feet above the present grade of said tracks and maintain and use the same at said elevation. Chicago Great Western Railroad Company must build and maintain at it's own expense an iron or steel bridge supported on stone abutment and steel posts over and across Main Street. Said bridge shall be built to allow roadway of 27 feet in the clear and one sidewalk on each side 6 feet wide. Height as to provide a minimum head room of 12 feet. Said head room to be provided by raising the tracks 4½ feet above the present grade and by excavating Main Street and Busti Avenue to necessary depth. The approaches shall be 30 feet wide and two sidewalks, each six feet wide, which shall conform to the material and construction of Main Street. The roadway under said railway bridge and the approaches shall be macadamized by said Railway Company and suitable and adequate drainage provided to keep the same in passable condition at all times. Petition to propose to voters for a good and efficient fire protection; to purchase a combined chemical and water fire engine and the building of a masonry cistern or a steel tank and all necessary apparatus (hoses, fixtures, etc.) and laying of water pipes from the Electric Light Plant to the corner of Busti and Forest and the corner of Main and 5th Street. Cost not to exceed \$3,000. The results of the election of November 1, 1901 (considering the fire protection measures) were as follows: votes by men: 104 for, 57 against, 20 spoiled; votes by women: 61 for, 18 against, 5 spoiled. Street lighting was \$300 per year, paid from the Town to the Light Plant. Plank sidewalk east side of Lot 1, Block 30. Sidewalk to be two inch plank, laid on three 2 by 6 stringers. Sidewalk to be five feet four inches in width. Specifications for a system of water works and fire protection at Elma Plant shall be considered under the following heads

1. Fire engine hose and hose cart
2. Storage cistern
3. Triplex Power Pump
4. Distributing system, hydrant and valves.

Engine shall have capacity of two to four barrels per minute. Two six inch brass cylinders with 6½ inch stroke. Engine shall be provided with a 60 gallon tank for chemicals; 30 foot 3 inch suction hose; 750 feet of 2½ inch rubber lined cotton fire hose. Also, hose reel to carry 750 foot of hose. Engine to be mounted on a strong four wheel carriage cut under so as to turn in its own length and include all supplies usually furnished with such equipment. Storage tank reservoir fifteen feet deep and twenty feet in diameter located as selected by the Council. Shall be excavated to depth of sixteen feet and walled with brick and cement mortar to be twelve inches thick. There shall be a post 12 inches square 15 feet long set in the center of this reservoir on flat stone and this post shall support the center of a stringer made of four 2 by 12' spiked together to reach across this reservoir and set in the walls so that the top of the stringers shall be level with the top of the wall to support the planking for the cover. Power pump capac-

ity of 250,000 gallons in 24 hours. Engine belted with six inch oak tanned leather belt. Six inch mains.

1902

Thomas Kelly was made Town Marshall. Ordinance granting permission to the Chicago Great Western Railroad Company to maintain a sewer along and in streets and alleys in Elma. Rev. Gunn paid \$6.25 per month for 102 lamps in the Catholic Church. To keep a bowling alley or 10 pin alley must get license by paying \$5.00 for each and every alley. Reward for arrest and conviction of the parties who broke the schoolhouse windows. Electric Light Commission was instructed to repair and clean up the jail. Moved and carried that the band have privilege of using three electric lights in the band hall gratis two nights a week for band practice only.

1903

Moved that the Mayor instruct the Marshall to keep better order around the saloons, livery barns and streets. Removed Thomas Kelly as Marshall and replaced him with Sam Croft. Moved and carried that the Clerk notify the Railroad Commission to investigate and compel the Chicago Great Western Railroad Company to begin work at once on the viaduct crossing. Frank Devereaux appointed Town Marshall. Appointed a committee to look over the Opera House and see if it is unsafe. Bill of Thomas Clark for \$5.00 for hauling man to calaboose cut to \$1.00 and allowed. Committee decided to close Opera House to the public until same is repaired and an outside stairway built. Electric lights to IOOF and Masonic Halls lowered from 3 to 2½ cents per night.

1904

Ordered the business of Will Collins, James Murphy, Joe Devereaux and T. E. Kelly to close. Notify Chicago Great Western Railroad to build a crossing between Wood and Pine Street and use of ground to 4th Street and Ash Street. Choose Health Physician from E. E. Overfield, Dr. Gillespie and Dr. Mulick. Dr. Mulick was chosen.

1905

The Council voted whether to keep a salaried Marshall (5 naes and 2 ayes). Gave \$25 to GAR for Decoration Day ceremonies from General Fund. All sidewalks must be cement or fire brick. Main Street and Busti Avenue sidewalks must be 8 feet wide. D. R. Conway, Marshall wages: \$40.00 per month.

1906

Motion to make sidewalks 6 feet wide rather than 8 feet wide. E. E. Overfield, C. Keefe and J. Mahoney called for license fees for games and stands on July 4, 1906. Motion for electrical lights to be donated to Immaculate Conception Church was not granted. Placed

contract for unloading coal at 25.9/ton for a year. Recommended F. Kane for office of Street Commissioner.

1907

Chas. Keefe, C. H. Unger, E. E. Overfield and Wm. Diekmann named judges for Municipal election to be held in the Church & Hoyt Building. Frank Gue Jr. hired as electrician for one year at \$55.00 per month. Services of G. H. Garrett as Town Marshall to be terminated. Light rates are as follows: residential, \$.50 for first four lights and \$.35 each additional; business, \$.50 straight. These are monthly rates. Thomas Sculley appointed to Council to fill vacancy of C. H. Unger.

1908

William Diekmann to settle with John Clavt for cement walk Block 18.

1909

Council salaries set at \$12.00 per year. Clerk at \$50.00 per year. To draw up ordinance regulating speed of autos in the city limits. Hired an electrician for one year at \$65.00 per month. Paid \$5.00 for use of coal lease shed for one year.

1910

Election held in Hayden Hall with seventeen votes cast for Councilmen, Assessor and Treasurer. C. Foley becomes Mayor and E. Peterson the Street Commissioner. Bids for building sidewalks. R. C. Ebert and H. Perry were low bidders. Business district/\$.10 per foot. During this year a large number of sidewalks were erected in town.

1911

Town put cement crossway south of 5th and alley on east side of property of Pat Smith and Charles Keefe. Town hired A. Buchholz to build three crossings. One at Heinimiller to Elwood, Elwood to Whalen and J. Keefe corner south. Light Fund Assessments on lots varied from \$.50 to \$1.50 per year.

1912

F. Devereaux was hired as Town Marshall. Election for Mayor and Council held. William Weers asked for removal of fence between Weber & Tyler property. Chicago Great Western Railroad Company agreed to put an extension across railroad track on Elm Street to Busti Avenue.

1914

The resignation of F. Gue as electrician was accepted. Carl Huber was hired as electrician for \$75.00 per month. Special bond issue for waterworks. Election on June 8, 1914, the bond was passed. Awarded

George Bechald of Davenport sale of bonds (\$13,000 at 5% per annum.) Contract with Des Moines Bridge & Iron Company for \$11,875 (low bid) for erection of water works system. Material according to specifications. City to purchase a generator for light plant. G. E. Company \$972.00 from factory. John Condon and H. L. Spaulding given permission to lay two inch galvanized pipe commencing at west end of 8th and Main to 9th at \$.30 per foot. After three years the Town will pay Condon and Spaulding cost without interest beginning November 9, 1914. Lights shall run from 5:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m. City to hire Max Mueller for six months at \$40.00 per month.

1915

Submit contract to Alta Vista to furnish them with electricity at \$.08 first 100 kilowatts and \$.06 next 500 kilowatts. Ten year contract.

1916

Town election held in MWA Hall. R. Cunningham elected Mayor. Held election July 10, 1916, at Woodman Hall. Sold Electric Light Plant to H. H. Dodd for \$15,000 (99 years).

1918

D. J. O'Donnell elected Mayor.

1920

Thomas Kennedy elected Mayor.

1924

Frank Howard elected Mayor.

1927

Mayor P. N. Noonan informed the Council on condition of outside toilets in the Corporation. Ordered twenty-nine parties that their toilets were unsanitary. Must be cleaned and taken care of or will be dispersed of. Fred Climp given contract for hauling 500 yards of gravel for streets from Webb pit for \$1.15 per yard.

1928

H. D. Cook hired as Town Clerk at \$15.00 per month. J. W. Conway was hired as Town Marshall at \$50.00 per month. Hired Metz Construction Company of Springfield, Nebraska to pave 900 yards of cement under the viaduct at \$2.75 per yard.

1929

Dr. J. C. Hastings asked for permit to build a one story hospital (30 x 65 ft.) on Block 29. Granted.

1930

Power Corporation ordered to place six more street lights on Main Street. Christmas lights: Town to pay

\$25.00 and have charge of them. J. W. Conway was hired as night watchman from 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. and Sunday afternoons at \$75.00 per month.

1931

J. D. Fogarty given the job of grading from Miller's corner to the Public School—4 man teams \$.60 per hour, 1 man team \$.50 per hour, Fogarty \$.50 per hour, Johnson less man \$.35 per hour. Jack Enright granted contract to paint City Hall and outside for \$43.00. J. P. Kelly hired as Town Marshall at \$45.00 per month. Hired Frank Pierce for \$150.00 to revise ordinances. J. W. Conway named Assessor of Elma upon the resignation of William Whalen (effective January 1932).

1932

G. G. Robison, Mayor. Appointed Louis O'Toole to fill Councilman position of Jas Hruska. H. D. Cook rehired as City Clerk at \$10.00 per month. T. E. Kelly hired as Town Marshall and Street Commissioner at \$71.37 per month. Authorized water supply septic tank repair.

1933

E. R. Bellis issued a permit to sell beer (Class B license) at \$100.00. Also Jack Braden. T. E. Kelly's salary reduced to \$60.00 per month. George Evans asked permission to fence the ground used as dumping ground across from the Calvary Cemetery. E. H. Bentrup asked for permission to build a gas station on Lots 1, 2, 3, Block 10, Northeast end of Town. Carl Petersen asked for permission for a roller skating rink. Permit was granted at \$20.00 per month.

1934

Walter Clark was issued a beer permit. Arlyn Weers was appointed Assessor. Hired R. L. Graham to paint the water tower at \$150.00. Henry Vick issued beer license. Curb and Gutter was discussed and turned down. Clem Cashman was issued a beer permit. Jim Kane was appointed Assessor for Elma.

1935

T. E. Kelly's salary was set at \$75.00 per month. Board of Health questioned Town water supply. It might be turned off. Gave property owners notice to remove outside toilets and place cement vault under same. Town to buy Block 35 for park. (This was not the present site, but 1 block west of the City Hall.) Chicago Great Western Railroad Company was authorized to put a sidewalk along the Chapman Elma Lumber Yard. Purchased land from H. D. Cook (now known as Elma Park) for \$1,500.00 (\$700.00 to be paid in cash).

1936

Notify Harry Borg to clean junk and car bodies from street passing his property on south. Town purchased a used Allis Chalmers grader from Gibbs Cook for \$953.00.

1937

Poll tax for year 1937 set at \$3.00. Public School rented grounds known today as the ballpark for \$100.00. For years this property was owned by the City. Robert Graham was given contract to clean and paint the water tower (two coats inside and outside) for \$135.00

1938

Council members were paid \$16.00 per year, Mayor \$32.00 per year. T. E. Kelly's salary raised to \$90.00. Discussion of placing calcium chloride on streets to hold dust down. Town officials meet with the Board of Supervisors in regard to lots 10, 11 and 12, Block 34 so County could build a Maintenance Garage. Accepted. \$18.50 taxes cancelled.

1939

Mae Kelly appointed Assessor to fill the vacancy created at the time of her husband's death. Dr. Hastings ordered the well on Herman Buchholz property condemned. Letter from V. G. Kinnamon was read. Wanted permit to erect storage petroleum tanks across the tracks east of the depot. Granted. Francis Fogarty issued beer and cigarette license. Mayor stated that Robert Graham had been hired for repair work on the water tower. Met to discuss buying a new fire truck if \$1,000.00 could be raised by subscription. Firemen raised the \$1,000.00 toward a new fire truck. Contract was signed.

1940

Mike Fogarty Sr. was paid \$35.00 in payment for the water line running from intersection to his property. W. H. Diekmann was appointed Town Clerk. Beer permits were issued to Smith Tavern, New Bar Tavern, Home Cafe, Jerry's Tavern, Tuckek's Tavern and Trolley Inn. Eclipse Lumber Company was granted a permit to construct a warehouse and office (64 ft. x 142 ft.) on railroad property on Busti Avenue. Town to enter into contract with National Maintenance Corporation of Des Moines for annual maintenance on the water tower at a cost of \$143.00 yearly. Rural fire calls made by nonmembers would be charged \$20.00 per call. Membership for life of truck set at \$25.00. Harry Murray granted permit to erect a building (24 ft. x 36 ft.) for a car repair shop. V. G. Kinnamon granted a permit to build a service station, Block 14 (now Mort's Amoco). H. G. Addie, General Manager of Northern Iowa Telephone Company, is to rebuild its telephone plant in Elma, replace its overhead construction with underground cables, replace present equipment with new equipment, to use alleys and streets for construction and maintain operation of phone systems for twenty-five years. Merle Schroeder purchased Lots 23 and 24, Block 29 for \$25.00 per lot. Permit to erect filling station (24 ft. x 24 ft.) on lots approved.

1941

Motion to extend blacktop from state highway past adjoining businesses. Property owners to pay half.

1942

Herm Lammers appointed Town Marshall at a salary of \$75.00 per month. T. E. Kelly appointed Street Commissioner at \$75.00 per month. Faulty sidewalks must be repaired. Bob Galligan appointed Town Clerk. New walks to be built south of Enloe garage. T. J. Miller, contractor. L. J. Beaver to be appointed Assessor to fill vacancy of Mae Kelly. Bill Regan to fill vacancy of Town Clerk.

1943

Raise Street Commissioner salary to \$90.00 per month. City to drill new well, contractor to be L. F. Winslow, Decorah. Salary of Clerk raised to \$15.00 per month. To tell County Engineer the poor condition of the bridge north of Art Gansen's.

1944

Frank Sullivan appointed Town Assessor.

1945

Discussed organizing a Town band. E. O. Longstreth hired at a salary of \$12.00 per month. Town received a letter from the Chicago Great Western Railroad Company on the extension of storm sewer under viaduct. R. F. Tucheck granted a beer and cigarette license.

1946

Leo Tonn granted a cigarette license. Hi Erion appointed Town Assessor. Sold lots 11 and 12, Block 41 to Leo Hieneman to build residence. Raise T. E. Kelly's wages to \$125.00 per month and H. Lammers to \$100.00 per month. Town accepted offer from National Tank Maintenance Corporation to paint water tower and tank for \$296.00.

1947

Marshall Lammers resigned. Frank Panoch hired as Town Marshall. Elma Coop Creamery granted permission to build a new plant, Lots 4 and 5, Block 22. Clem Cashman granted permission to build a new building in Block 20. Purchased used Chevrolet truck from Herman Lammers. Eliminated poll tax in Elma. Legion to sponsor an ice skating rink north of the Public School. Raised Street Commissioner's salary to \$175.00 per month.

1948

Salary of Mayor raised to \$100.00 per month; Councilmen paid \$2.00 per meeting. Clarence Darrah applied for cigarette license. Cliff Heried's refunded. Dr. Longstreth to be paid \$20.00 per month for seven months to conduct the Town band. Due to deficit in

Park Fund, a charge of 10% net earnings of all organizations using the park for financial benefit will be incurred. This money will be used for upkeep and improvements to the park. Call for an election for erecting and equipping a memorial hall and issuing bonds in the sum of \$23,000.00 to cover expenses. Election was held September 7, 1948—185 in favor and 76 against. Raise quarterly minimum charge for water to \$2.25, effective January 1, 1949.

1949

Jim Conway appointed Town Clerk. Paul Shannon appointed Town Marshall at \$150.00 per month. Charles Hilsman hired as Town Marshall at \$125.00 per month. Town purchases the State garage for the sum of \$2,750.00. Bids accepted for building Memorial Hall. Otto Lentz submitted low bid of \$19,557.50. Accepted. Council agreed to purchase 1941 International truck with box for \$375.00 from Bissonette Chevrolet in Charles City.

1950

Harley Jensen of Albert Lea, Minnesota asked for permission to set up a roller skating rink north of the Public School for the summer months. James Chambers issued a beer and cigarette license. Town election set for March 27, 1950. The following lots were sold for residential use: Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, Block 27 sold to Joe Showalter; Lots 8 and 9, Block 30 sold to Arnold Maravetz; Lot 16, Block 30 to C. Stratton; Lots 17 and 18, Block 23 sold to Frank Mitchell. Jerome Heying hired as Street Commissioner and Town Marshall at \$175.00 per month.

1952

Town to purchase used No. 1241 Caterpillar road grader with plow and wing from Herman Brown for \$4,000.00. Discussed shovelling walks. Property will be assessed if Town does it.

1953

Vince Lentz issued a beer permit. To hire Mrs. Ray Kuhns to direct the Town Band for the months of June, July and August at \$80.00 per month. Petition was presented to purchase the Hastings Hospital to serve the Community. Canvass vote on hospital election. Approved, \$15,000. Bids to build an addition on the east side of the Maintenance Shop. Dave Lohuis awarded the contract for \$2,024.00.

1954

Authorize Town employees to help in cleanup after fire. Town gave Community Club \$150.00 for street decorations.

1955

Town raised firemen wages from \$1.00 to \$5.00 per fire. Sold Lot 16, Block 50 to Charles Garmen Jr. for

\$150.00 under the condition that he and Francis Meirick finish digging for water on Oak Street from 8th to 9th Street. Town would dig from 7th to 8th Street and put a fire hydrant at Oak and 9th Street at the expense of the Town. Jerome Heying resigned as Street Commissioner. Emmett Burke hired at \$225.00 per month. Clifton Tierney hired for summer months. Alvie Johnson hired as Town Marshall. Town to purchase a new Town fire truck for a price of \$5,167.00 plus \$2,125.00 for chassis.

1956

T. E. Kelly's services dispensed due to age. Town will do it's own spraying this season.

1957

Jack Althof was hired March 4 as Town Marshall at \$150.00 per month. On September 3 Don McAllister was hired as Town Marshall and extra help.

1958

Jerome Heying was rehired as Street Commissioner by the Town. Jim Conway resigned as Town Clerk and Dan Conway was hired.

1959

Lee Shannon hired as Town Marshall. Jerome Heying resigned as Street Commissioner and Francis Havlik was hired at \$300.00 per month.

1960

Glenn Lubbert permitted to move two buildings to west edge of Town. Town purchased a used truck from Oral Phippen for \$700.00 and a dump box from Gene Schwade for \$185.00.

1961

Frank Berka hired as Town Marshall.

1962

Mary Heying hired as Town Clerk. Purchased heaters for the Hall at \$1,195.00.

1963

Larry Voves hired as Street Commissioner. Started issuing liquor licenses for liquor "by the drink."

1964

Hired John Schroeder as Street Commissioner at \$325.00 per month.

1965

Frank Berka, Town Marshall. Mary Heying, Town Clerk. Mayor Meirick and the Town Council will permit owners of pool establishments to use their own judgement as to permitting minor pool playing after

8:00 p.m. Vic Streich appointed to fill Frank Schnurr seat on Town Council due to resignation. John Schroeder's Street Commissioner salary was raised. Set an amount on Water and Sewer rates for persons living in trailer houses. Raised Mayor's salary to \$200.00 per year and the Council Members to \$5.00 per meeting.

1966

Tom Smith, President of the Boosters Club, presented information from Natural Gas to the Council for their permission to canvass the Town as to whether they want it or not. Purchased a car from Kratz Motors, Cresco. Property owners will be responsible for Water and Sewer lines from the meter to the street main. Jim Conway met with the Town Council concerning their intention of discontinuing ambulance service as of January 1, 1967.

1967

Contract signed in agreement with Reich Ambulance for ambulance service (known as Chickasaw Ambulance Service). Lee Moorman hired as Town Marshall. Motion to hire Stanley Heuberger of Riceville to dismantle the old bank building. Issued Myron Krambeir a beer and liquor permit.

1968

Town applied for funds for a swimming pool. This was not approved due to lack of funds. Filed for Federal Disaster Funds due to the tornado. Leo Tonn hired as Town Marshall. Clarence Turnis resigned as Mayor because of moving out of Town. Installed John Hayden as Mayor. Notice for removal of junked vehicles to be published. Purchased a new Chevrolet pickup from Hart Chevrolet Company for street work. Marvin Nielsen hired for Street Commissioner.

1969

Council approved running a two-inch water line from Ash and 4th Street to Ash and 6th Street. Town assumes responsibility for old telephone office for a library.

1970

Move the ready-lite from behind City Hall to the front of the Fire Station. To look into the possibility of a swimming pool in Town. Mary Heying resigns Town Clerk position. Art Rimrodt hired as Town Marshall part-time. Hired Ed Havlik as Assistant Maintenance man. Jerry O'Donnell hired as new Town Clerk. Council approves that future Senior Citizen Organization be allowed to use City Hall for meetings when the library moves.

1971

Hired Bederhoff Construction Company for summer street work. Marvin Nielsen resigned as Street Commissioner.

1972

Delbert Burris sworn in as new Mayor. Council to put notice up regarding sidewalks and parked cars on snow days. Don Fausnaugh hired as Street Commissioner. Booster Club asked for permission to survey for the need for low income housing project. Motion that Elm-Go Corporation be given permission to go ahead with a low rent housing unit to be built on the Elwood lots. Motion for Town to approve Neighborhood Youth Corporation workers for summer. Approved. Jerry O'Donnell resigned as Town Clerk. Appointed Lucille Murphy to the post. Purchased a John Deere diesel tractor for street work.

1973

Council met to discuss landfill proposal with Lee Hall of Nashua. Marvin Nielsen was present as owner of sanitation truck. It was decided to make weekly pickup and deliver to Hall's Sanitary Landfill. Given a year contract. To close City dump May 1, 1973. Council looks into the bridge on Immaculate Conception Cemetery road. This bridge had been out for some time. Decided to reconstruct the bridge and to construct a portion of the road. Purchased a new Chevrolet pickup from Hart Chevrolet Company for street work. New Elm-Go unit to be built on the Lutheran Church lots on east side of Town.

1974

Town of Elma in agreement for the purpose of constructing a new bridge and highway, with the contribution of \$6,000.00. Howard County to pay 75% and the Town 25% of all costs and expenses on land acquired. Dennis Austin hired as Town Marshall. Council met in special session to discuss the erection of a new fire station. A frame building for four trucks. Concrete floor. To be built on present site. Hired Lee Shannon as Town Marshall.

1975

Avis Roethler appointed as temporary Town Clerk due to the death of Lucille Murphy. Council motioned to have a survey conducted by Colonial Manor for a nursing home. Patty Streich appointed Town Clerk. Discussed buying a new fire truck.

1976

Signed a two year contract with Paul Wheeler and the town of Elma for garbage pickup. Discuss flood control at special session with representatives of the Soil Conservation Commission. Mayor Showalter resigned due to health problems. Lyle Streich appointed Mayor. Agreed to extend Water and Sewer line to the Colonial Manor Nursing Home. Lee Shannon resigned as Town Marshall.

1977

Contract with Great Plains Supply for fire building. Rural to pay half. Hired Warren Leeps as Town Marshall. Met in special session on the fire building contract. Building permit with Elm-Go for two housing

units on South 7th Street approved. Warren Leeps to replace Ed Havlik as Street Commissioner.

1978

Ed Havlik rehired as Street Commissioner. Patty Streich resigned as Town Clerk. Ramona Schroeder hired as Town Clerk. Town will hire a deputy to come into Town and patrol streets. Ramona Schroeder resigned as Town Clerk and George Saip hired for that position.

1979

Lyle Streich resigned as Mayor. New Mayor was Clifford Stratton. George Saip resigned as Town Clerk and was replaced by LaVern Worple.

1980

Final fire building settlement approved.

1981

Purchased new Chevrolet pickup from Hart Chevrolet Company. Discussed purchasing a new fire truck. Mayor Showalter resigned, James Gansen assumed this office.

1982

Discuss a roller skating rink in the Memorial Hall. Purchased a new fire truck.

1983

To declare 1986 as Elma Centennial year and form committees. Cablevision representative met with the Council to discuss possibility of cable television for Elma. Kenneth Stevenson presented proposal for memorial stone located north of Memorial Hall for Veterans.

1984

Council approved Cablevision. Hired Jerome Heying Jr. as Town Marshall and street work. Town purchased a Ford tractor and backhoe. Hired Kevin Booker as Police Officer part-time, if it proves beneficial would be full-time July 1985.

1985

Lynn Stevenson resigned as Mayor and Jerome Heying assumed his office. Gerald Thiele hired as Town Marshall. New shelter house erected in the Elma Park. Gerald Thiele resigned position of Town Marshall. Approved contract with Howard County Sheriff for police protection. Vehicles are to be parked off of streets within twenty-four hours of snowfall until cleared.

1986

\$2,500.00 from revenue sharing to Elma Community Club for centennial purposes.

TOWN INCORPORATED IN 1891

MAYORS OF ELMA

F. W. Church	1891-1893	W. D. Enloe	1944-1945
L. H. Sisco	1893	George Evans	1945-1947
T. Robison	1893-1895	Dinsmore Brandmill	1947-1949
E. E. Overfield	1895-1897	Paul Shannon	1949-1950
E. W. Flynn	1897-1898	Gaylord Robison	1950-1952
F. W. Church	1898-1902	William Landholt	1952-1954
F. D. Elwood	1902-1906	Arthur Weers	1954-1956
J. W. Mahony	1906-1907	Clifford Stratton	1956-1958
J. P. Whelan	1907-1909	Elmer Heying	1958-1960
J. W. Conway	1909-1910	John Freidhof	1960-1962
Coleman Foley	1910-1914	John Kane	1962
R. Cunningham	1914-1916	Francis Meirick	1962-1966
F. W. Church	1916-1918	Kenneth Schroeder	1966-1968
D. J. O'Donnell	1918-1920	Clarence Turnis	1968
Thomas Kennedy	1920-1922	John Hayden	1968-1972
Frank Howard	1922-1926	Delbert Burris	1972-1974
Pat Noonan	1926-1928	Clifford Stratton	1974-1976
Earl Hayden	1928-1930	Harold Showalter	1976
Pat Noonan	1930-1932	Lyle Streich	1976-1979
Gaylord Robison	1932-1933	Clifford Stratton	1979-1980
Dinsmore Brandmill	1933-1936	Harold Showalter	1980-1981
Frank Fencil	1936-1942	James Gansen	1981-1984
George N. O'Donnell	1942-1943	Lynn Stevenson	1984-1985
Gaylord Robison	1943-1944	Jerome Heying	1985-1986
		Pat Palmersheim	1986

ELMA TOWN MARSHALS

J. W. Conway	1920's	Cletus Offerman	1958-1959
A. D. Conway	1920's	Lee Shannon	1959-1961
J. P. Kelly	1931-1932	Frank Berka	1961-1967
T. E. Kelly	1930's-1940's	Lee Moorman	1967
Herm Lammers	1942-1947	Leo Tonn	1968
Frank Panoch	1947-1948	Art Rimrodt	1970
Paul Shannon	1948-1949	Lee Shannon	1975-1977
Charles Hilsman	1949-1950	Warren Leeps	1977-1978
Alvie Johnson	1955-1957	Kevin Booker	1984-1985
Jack Althof	1957-1958	Gerald Thiele	1985-1985

STREET COMMISSIONERS

M. Silver	1920's-Early 1930's	J. Schroeder	1965-1967
T. E. Kelly	1932-1950	M. Nielsen	1968-1972
J. Heying	1950-1955	E. Havlik	1970
	1958-1959	D. Fausnaugh	1972-1974
E. Burke	1955-1963	W. Leeps	1977-1978
F. Havlik	1959-1962	J. Heying Jr.	1984
L. Voves	1963-1965		