

gan, West Virginia, Kentucky and Missouri. Trade and commerce were paralyzed and the scenes of devastation and murder were unparalleled in the previous history of this country during an era of peace. The immediate cause of this strike was a reduction of ten per cent in the wages of engineers and firemen. It was the first violent demonstration of that anarchistic movement, which was imported to this country by Johann Most and Justus Schwab, and that continued to grow until it received its quietus by the execution of Spies, Parsons, Engel and Schwab, ten years later at Chicago.

HARD TIMES—SECOND PERIOD, 1873-1877.

The period from 1873 to 1877 was one of hard times throughout the commercial world. The hard times experienced by the residents of Pocahontas county during this period were not incident to a peculiar condition of things in this section of the country, nor even in our own land, for the people in the various countries of Europe experienced the same unfavorable conditions that affected us. The laws of trade and the ways of commerce seem to have been obstructed or disturbed, and the whole world was struggling under the same wet blanket that covered us as a nation. It may be truthfully said, however, that on the frontier the trials of this period were more severely felt than in other sections of the country, by reason of the repeated ravages of the grasshoppers and the greater distance of the settlers from all sources of supplies.

To those who suffered the loss of their crops the preceding year, even the prospect of commencing the ensuing summer's work on the farm was gloomy, for they had no money in hand and nothing that might be exchanged for the necessaries of life. Only those who are in this position,

and have the loving and innocent eyes of a family looking to them for support and such comforts as others enjoy, can appreciate this situation.

In this school of experience on the frontier many learned that the real necessities of life are few; that for health, strength and comfort, but few things are absolutely needed, and these are within the reach of every honest and industrious tiller of the soil, no matter how low his stock of provisions might be reduced. They learned to be content with such things as they had or to which the necessities of the situation confined them. They realized that fine clothing was not necessary for the comfort and respectability of the family, and that we live in an age and country where the texture of the wearing apparel does not establish the standard of intelligence, morals or refinement. They learned to live economically and contract as few debts as possible, by making the products of the cows and chickens supply their table and even meet other demands.

It has been said, "A German will live on what an American throws away; a Jew on what a German throws away, and a Chinaman on what a Jew throws away;" and yet all these classes enjoy just as good health, are able to perform as much hard labor and enter as fully into the pleasure and zest of life as the American.

The lessons and experiences of this trying period are now recalled by the early settlers with a good deal of pleasure and delight, a fact that is very neatly expressed and illustrated by the following incident:

A poor old Scotch woman having nothing to eat, knelt on the floor of her little cabin, built close against the rocks of a hillside, and prayed for bread. A roguish boy of the neighborhood chancing to pass that way, heard her voice and listened at the door. He hurried home and, quickly returning with a loaf of bread, stepped

from the rocks to the roof of the cabin and then dropped the loaf down the chimney. It rolled from the empty fireplace to the chair beside which the old lady still knelt earnestly praying. There was a moment's pause and then her supplications were changed to thanksgiving. "You need not be thankin' the Lord for that loaf, I brought it," shouted the youngster down the chimney. "Ah, my laddie," she answered from below, "it was the Lord that sent it, even if the devil brought it."

OTHER CAUSES OF HARD TIMES.

No account of the hard times experienced by the sturdy pioneers of this county would be complete that did not include some reference to the numerous destructive prairie fires that occurred during the period now under consideration, and of the depredations committed by the gophers and black-birds.

PRAIRIE FIRES DURING THE '70's.

Prairie fires occurred before, and occasionally afterward, but it was during the 70's that the aggregate amount of losses from this cause was the greatest to the early settlers of Pocahontas county. The first settlers, locating their homes along the streams and timber belts in the eastern part of the county, found in them a natural protection from the devouring flame of the prairie fire, but when the prairies became dotted with scattered homes without any natural protection, they were exposed to this danger, and the losses sustained from this cause were very severely felt.

About October 1, 1870, a fire was started one afternoon on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 29, Cedar township, (now Hawley farm) by the hired man employed by T. J. Curtis and, the wind from the northwest becoming strong, it was soon beyond his control. In a very short time it had reached the premises of Jacob Snyder, on Sec. 31, now the Stafford farm. Mr. Snyder had gone to Sac City and when he returned he found the stable, which contained one horse and two cows, in ashes, and

just outside the door of it lay the charred and lifeless bodies of his wife and little child, the latter amid the ashes of the buggy. The circumstances indicated that when Mrs. Snyder saw the fire approach the stable, she hastened thither carrying her babe in her arms, and placing it in the buggy, undertook to remove the stock from the stable, and while thus engaged both became enveloped in the flames and perished. Their bodies were first buried on the farm, and afterward sent to Wisconsin. Their house was not burned and Cedar creek prevented the fire from spreading farther east. This sad loss of life and property led the new settlers in the southwest part of the county to adopt the practice of surrounding all their buildings with fire-guards made by plowing two sets of furrows a rod or two apart around them and either mowing or burning off the intervening space.

The summer of 1871 was unusually dry throughout the Upper Mississippi Valley, and the autumn of that year has become historic for the great fires that occurred at that time. On Oct. 8-9th, the great fire in Chicago occurred that burned 18,000 buildings, covering 2,124 acres and valued at \$200,000,000. Terrible forest fires that same year caused great destruction of property and some loss of life in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

On Sabbath evening, October 8th, 1871, which was the very time of the Chicago fire, there passed over Pocahontas county a prairie fire that is said to have been the most destructive one in its history. It came from the southeast, the vicinity of Twin Lakes, Calhoun county, and with a broad front that in the shades of evening resembled an ocean of fire. Sweeping over Bellville, Colfax and Cedar townships on the south it sped northward across the county, consuming everything that was not carefully protected,

Where the prairie sod had been broken or the ground newly cultivated during that and the two preceding years, there had grown a great lot of tumble weeds that were then dry as tinder and loose at the root. These miniature haystacks (see frontispiece) rolled over the prairie, before the wind that drove the fire, like flocks of sheep, carrying the flames over the barriers that were supposed to be proof against the progress of any fire.

When the farmers the next day looked for their stacks of hay on the prairie and of straw or grain in the field, they saw only the place where they had served as fuel for the flame. Where the fire passed through the groves and orchards, most of the young trees were killed. Numerous bins, stables and other buildings, together with their contents or stock enclosed therein, were burned. Some of the hogs that escaped sustained the loss of their bristles, and others the loss of their ears or other extremities. There was no place for miles around where this fire did not spread, and in many instances the home was the only building saved.

Some indeed were not even so fortunate as to save their homes. One of those who lost everything by this fire was Andrew Jackson, of Grant township, who at this time was occupying the dug-out of his neighbor, Stephen W. Norton. Mr. Jackson and family at the time of the fire were in Sac City. When he returned and found his stacks, stable, own cabin and furniture, representing his year's crop and improvements, all destroyed he was completely discouraged and left the county.

In September, 1873, another destructive fire swept northward through the central part of the county, that burned all the buildings of John B. Joliffe and his neighbor, Mr. Rowley, residing in the northeast part of Powhatan township. Messrs. Clemons,

Achor and others of their neighbors living north of them in Palo Alto county sustained similar losses on this occasion. This was one of the hard years to the settlers of this county when the fire consumed what the grasshoppers had left.

On Tuesday, October 13, 1874, a fire was started near the Fonda creamery that ran first northward to Dover township, and then westward, destroying a considerable amount of property. A farmer of Dover township lost his hay by this fire, and many of his cattle starved to death the ensuing winter.

On October 6, 1875, another fire from the south burned over the western portion of the county, destroying a large amount of the hay and unthreshed crops of that year, which were the least injured by the grasshoppers during the period of their visitations.

About this time the cattle raisers in other counties south of this one began to send here, in the spring of the year, great numbers of cattle that were herded on the unoccupied prairies in this section during the summer. The close pasturage of the prairies proved a public benefit, for by this means the areas that had previously been sources of danger every recurring fall and spring, were now transformed into real barriers to the spread of the prairie fire, and to this extent lessened the danger of losses from this cause.

On Monday, October 6, 1879, another general and destructive prairie fire occurred that is worthy of special mention. It began in the vicinity of Lake City, where it burned slowly for several days, the weather being calm. During the afternoon of the third day a strong wind from the south arose that drove it northward at a rapid rate through Williams township and that portion of Pocahontas county that is west of Cedar creek. When the fire came sweeping over their

farms in Williams township, Martin Welsh, Wm. Wykoff, O. O. Brown and others were attending a meeting of the school directors, one mile east of Cedar creek. Martin Welsh and family were living on the east side of section 8, and their stable was located on the east or opposite side of the road on section 9. When Mrs. Welsh became aware of the near approach of the fire, the wind was so strong it lifted and carried burning brands in mid-air, so that the thatch roof of the stable was already ablaze although the fire on the ground had not yet reached it. Hastening, with only stockings on her feet, to rescue the stock at the stable, consisting of two horses and two cows, she succeeded in saving the horses but her feet were so badly burned she fainted and fell helpless on the road. At the home of Wm. Wykoff the fire leaped over a strip of plowed land three rods in width, and consumed his stable, wagon, hay and granary, including the crop threshed three days previous, consisting of wheat 100, barley 90, flax 60, rye 100 and oats 225 bushels.

On the approach of this fire to Fonda, the people turned out en masse to fight it but they were powerless in front of the head-fire. It crossed the railroad west of the Cedar bridge, and its movement, northward, as John Lemp found while chased across the open section south of the farm of R. P. Thompson, was nearly as fast as his team could travel. This fire destroyed not only a great deal of hay in the stack and grain in the bin, but numerous groves and orchards. Among the losers on this occasion were John Lemp, six stacks of grain; Frank Hanke, barn and stacks; Eugene Evans, barn and cribs; Samuel McDeid, thirty tons of hay, and Geo. O. Pinneo among other things, his nursery. The latter had planted 20,000 fruit trees, 2,000 shade trees and 200 evergreens. The grasshoppers, by devouring their

foliage, killed many of them, but after this fire only a remnant of about 100 trees remained.

Since 1880, prairie fires have not been so extensive or frequent in their occurrence. Cultivated fields, herded pastures and graded roads have taken the place of the open prairie with its treacherous covering of dry grasses, and the danger from this source has been no greater than is incident to any other agricultural section. But during the '70's when it was an annually recurring event, the prairie fire, in dry seasons, was dreaded more by the settlers than blizzards and cyclones; in fighting it men exhausted themselves, women fainted and some even lost their lives.

GOPHERS.

The gopher is well remembered by every old settler, both for his friendly manner and troublesome depredations. An occasional one (of the little striped gophers) may yet be seen on the virgin prairies but during the '70's, before the boys began the work of their destruction, the prairies were full of them.

The gopher is a burrowing rodent having a stout, rat-like form and strong fore legs, that are adapted for digging in the ground. Three varieties of them were found in this county, namely, the pocket, gray and striped. The pocket gopher has two cheek pouches that open outside of the mouth and are used for carrying the ground to the surface while digging its hole. This and the gray gopher are about the size of a gray or fox squirrel. The striped one resembles a ground squirrel but is much longer, and when alarmed stands upright to see the cause of danger.

These occupants of the prairie were ever on the alert to share with the pioneer farmer not merely the fruits of his labor in the time of harvest but also the precious seed at seed-time. When the corn was planted, the ker-

nel was an appetizing morsel to be diligently sought after by the industrious gopher and, if perchance, he did not succeed in scenting it beforehand in the furrow, he was sure to go for (gopher) it as soon as it came peeping through the soil. The loss of the seed of course meant the loss of the crop, and so serious were their depredations that at last the farmers felt the necessity of doing something for their utter extermination.

On January 5, 1877, a petition was presented to the board of supervisors of this county asking that a bounty be offered for killing pocket gophers, and in response thereto the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the board of supervisors offer a bounty of five cents each for killing pocket gophers and gray gophers, and two and a half cents each for killing striped gophers, when presented in sufficient amounts to be entitled to \$1.00 bounty; and the county auditor is hereby authorized to draw warrants on the county fund, when presented in accordance with this resolution.

The effect of this premium on the heads of the little gophers made their capture very interesting. The boys not otherwise employed went forth with a string, provided with a slip-noose at one end, and made general havoc of them. They then realized how numerous they were and how rapidly they multiplied.

On June 7th, five months after the payment of a bounty was proposed, A. O. Garlock, the auditor, reported to the board of supervisors that from April 1st to that date, warrants for gopher bounty had been issued to 72 persons and the amount of them was \$234.68.

It will be perceived that the first action of the board required that the captured gophers be brought to the auditor, and after the payment of the bounty on them they were naturally left in his hands. This was a new and

unexpected experience, and when the above report was made, the board for his relief ordered that all parties claiming bounty on gophers should "take their tails to the nearest justice of the peace and by him be sworn to the fact of having destroyed the gophers in Pocahontas county." The justice of the peace was to destroy the tails and certify the fact and number of each kind destroyed. Upon the presentation of his certificate at the regular session of the board, the bounty previously provided was then to be allowed.

Thirty days later, or on July 2, 1877, the auditor reported certificates and the board issued warrants ranging from \$1.00 to \$13.66, in favor of 63 persons, William Brownlee, of Bellville, receiving the largest one.

It will be perceived that gopher hunting had suddenly become immensely popular. The times were hard, employment scarce and the bounty offered made the capture of the gopher not merely an interesting sport but a lucrative employment alike to men and boys. The board of supervisors was surprised at the interest awakened and became a little alarmed at the results, for the warrants issued amounted to several hundreds of dollars, and no tax had been levied to meet this demand. On that day, therefore, the board ordered that after July 20, 1877, no more bounty should be paid until the people should have an opportunity of approving its payment and vote a tax for that purpose. At the general election that fall a tax of one mill for gopher bounty was approved, there being 206 votes in favor and only 31 against it.

At their next meeting, January 11, 1878, the board renewed the bounty on gophers. That fall there were 382 votes for, and 35 against; and in the fall of 1879, which was the last time it was submitted, there were 280 votes for, and 204 against, a gopher bounty

tax. The payment of the bounty was continued until June 1, 1881, and several hundreds of persons were gladdened by it. Among those whose industry was rewarded by the largest warrants, we note in 1878, Warren Smith, \$10.35; C. C. Herrington, \$10.95; K. H. Mathers, \$14.63; George and Albert Gilson, \$15.00; in 1879, H. Young, \$12.27; and in 1881, Dennis Ragan, \$11.80; Geo. Gilson, \$13.85; Wallace, Noah and Ralph Hallock, \$13.90; Wm. Whitteley, \$14.10; T. L. Dean, \$19.57 and James Quinn, \$38.37.

"It matters not what may have been
fortune's dole,
The dream of youth is clear, and when
again
He sees the prairie he looks for the
gopher's hole."

Experience proved that the bounty was a wise means of getting rid of these pests. In winter they gnawed the roots of grape vines and young trees; the amount of grain destroyed by one of them in a year is not likely to be overestimated, and by avoiding these losses the welfare of the farmer was promoted. The bounty had the good effect of unifying the efforts of all the farmers at the same time for their extirmination, and this is the only way such a result could be accomplished.

THE BLACKBIRDS.

Another friendly visitor and robber of the pioneer was the blackbird, and he was sure to call twice a year. Blackbirds are neither lonely travelers nor solo singers, but choral songsters that make their trip to the sunny south in the fall of the year in flocks of such countless numbers, that they thrill the air with the movement of their wings and cover an acre of ground when they alight.

In the spring they were accustomed to alight upon the freshly broken prairie where they naturally picked up the seed that had been only half covered. In the fall they were delighted in finding the oats in the

shock, the buckwheat in the patch and the corn ripening on the stock. Farmers that lived in the vicinity of Sunk Grove in the early '70's state, that their loss from the depredations of the blackbirds would sometimes amount to nearly one third of the crop. After their departure many a stock of corn would have only a red cob instead of an ear of golden grain.

Blackbirds are not thieves, they disdain to act like a thief. They are rather roguish and entertaining visitors that entertain the husbandman with a delightful open air concert while they help themselves to the fruits of his toil. In the fall of the year as they move southward they sing merrily together, and when they settle upon a field where food is plenty, they give manifest expression to their hearty enjoyment, by blending their myriad voices in one grand chorus of delight that is always charming to the human ear. Although the losses sustained from the depredations of the blackbirds were deeply felt, nevertheless their autumnal chautauquas were so friendly and interesting to the lonely pioneer, that he usually enjoyed rather than begrudged them their free entertainment.

THE BLIZZARDS.

The snow lies thick around us

In the dark and gloomy night,
The cold blizzard wails above us,

And the stars withhold their light.

Another cause of hardship to the pioneer of the '70's is found in the severe snow storms that then occurred and caused a great deal of privation and suffering. The word "Blizzard" was coined by O. C. Bates, founder of the Vindicator at Estherville, to designate the storms of wind and snow that were once peculiar to this treeless and desolate region. The blizzard usually found the pioneer unprepared for its coming, and always left him "snowed in."

The old settlers affirm that the climate of this section has changed considerably since its settlement. The winters generally are not so severe and the summers are drier. The drainage of the soil has left it not only drier but warmer, and it is possible that these changes occurring over a large section of country affect the atmosphere in the same way.

The blizzards usually lasted three days, and during this period the snow would fall so rapidly and in flakes so fine as to suggest that the cloud had descended to unload its burden. It would sometimes be ushered in by a cloud in the western sky that promised only a gentle fall of snow. On the first day the snow would commence to fall gently, with a slight movement from the southwest; but about noon or evening the temperature would commence to fall rapidly and the wind, changing its course, would come from the north or northwest in whirls, blasts and sweeping gales, with constantly increasing force, until about the morning of the third day.

Where the fire had swept over the prairie the previous fall there was nothing left to hold the light, feathery snow drifting before the driving wind, and this mingling in the air with that which was constantly coming from above, formed a white cloud so dense that at a distance from the belts of timber one could not see ordinarily more than a few rods, and sometimes only a few feet. "We could scarcely see the road just ahead of us," was a common remark. Trails on the prairie were soon covered and but few grades existed; the sharp, frozen particles of snow hurled fiercely in the face and eyes caused a blinding and suffocating sensation and the extreme whiteness of the snow made the ground and sky one color thus producing a kind of color blindness that resulted in bewilderment. In a few hours

large drifts were formed in the hollows, sheltered nooks and along bluffs so that the roads in these places were soon buried several feet deep. To pilot one's way in the day time was bad enough, but after the darkness of night set in the benighted traveler was usually forced to stop and make the best possible provision for the night.

It must be remembered that these were days of long distances to the mill, store and post office and the farmer could not always anticipate where or when he might be overtaken in the storm. Sometimes a pioneer would be overtaken at the home of his neighbor and not be able to return to his own without getting lost on the way. Some even got lost on the way from the house to the barn. It was impossible to see the buildings and if one happened to wander a little from the right direction it was difficult to find their location. The constant and loud roar of the wind made it impossible to hear the cry of a lost one and, when a row of young trees had not been planted for that purpose, a guide-line of rope or wire from the house to the barn was sometimes used to insure a safe return while passing to and fro. Familiar instances of bewilderment in going short distances in this section are those of John Lemp and George Fairburn; the former while going from his cabin to the stable, the latter while going from the depot to his home in Fonda. Children were liable to become bewildered and perish on the way from school. The stables or stock pens that were not wholly enclosed would sometimes be filled to the roof with snow and unsheltered stock would be driven for miles before the chilling blasts and then perish.

About the third day the storm would abate and the sun show signs of reappearance, but the cold wave would

hold sway until the morning of the day following when it would register 25 to 35 degrees below zero. A few days of calm weather usually followed the blizzard and then the sun shone from an exceedingly clear sky with unstinted brightness, as if the eye of heaven would look in cheering sympathy upon a bleak, dreary scene where the elements had held high carnival, upon a world enshrouded beneath a glistening robe of snow.

One who occupied a loghouse in the eastern part of this county, and sat by a warm stove while one of these old-time blizzards was raging, states that he remembers how he listened with a feeling of awful security to the clatter of the shingles and the howling of the night wind. Every little while the winter hurricane would swell with accelerated rage and shake the solid structure over him to its very foundation.*

One who was detained at Pocahontas by a blizzard left behind him the following suggestive lines:

"Oh, thou howling, screeching blizzard!

You fairly freeze our gizzard.
You come from the north pole,
And really make our soul
Long for the balmy summer shades,
And wish you were in far off hades.

You pile up the snow in cold disdain,
And from blowing you scarce refrain;
Business quails in your path,
And at railroads you only laugh.
We dread thy fierce blast and song,
That maketh a board bill one mile long.

We long to see thee no more."

On March 14-16, 1870, there occurred a snow storm that is remembered as the "big blizzard." The weather for some time previous had been mild and pleasant and the forenoon of the 14th was so warm that the snow at first fell in large flakes. Toward evening a strong northwest wind arose that

*John M. Russell, Lizard.

continued to grow strong and as the cold increased the snow became fine as dust, so that at nightfall the air was completely filled with it. On the morning of the 15th the temperature was 20 degrees below zero and the snow, tossed and driven by the wind, was falling more rapidly than ever. During that day the wind was so furious and the air so densely filled with snow that one could not see more than a few feet distant. The storm did not subside until the close of the day following. Subsequent storms have been as cold and long but none so blinding as this one during the second day of its continuance. On beds and cabin floors the snow lay from one to three inches deep and many stables were filled. Families that lacked fuel went to bed to keep warm, and live stock were uncared for until the fury of the storm had passed. At this time there were but few settlers and very little stock in the western part of this county. The snow lay in drifts fifteen feet deep in the low places along the streams and eighteen persons perished from exposure in northwest Iowa.

On March 25-27, 1875, a severe blizzard occurred that detained the school board and a number of others from Center township, three days in the courthouse at Old Rolfe. They got their meals at the home of A. O. Garlock, a few rods distant, but they could not obtain bed clothing sufficient for all and the nights were so cold that, in order to keep warm, they had to appoint one of their number to stay awake and put wood in the stove about once every hour. The wind was so strong that a furious blast of it wrecked the building badly and caused a considerable part of the plastering to fall from the ceiling. It fell with a loud crash at night while the men were sleeping and it thoroughly aroused them very suddenly. Among the num-

ber of those who were in the court house at this time were Wenzel Hubel, Joseph Stverak, Joseph Stoullil, directors, and Wm. A. Hubel, interpreter.

The winter of 1880 and 1881 is remembered for the large amount of snow that fell and the uniformly low temperature that prevailed. On Oct. 15, 1880, the snow fell to such a depth as to fill the cornfields and prevent the husking of that crop that fall. Other snow storms followed this one from time to time during that winter until the depth of the snow was very unusual. The ground was completely and constantly covered with snow from the time the first storm came until the 15th of April following, when a heavy rain melted it and caused floods that washed away many of the bridges.

The storm of Oct. 15-17th, 1880, was general throughout the Mississippi Valley and in many places was attended with serious results. It rained on the 15th and at night, the temperature falling, the rain changed to snow and the wind became fierce. Chimney tops were thrown down, trees were uprooted and considerable stock was killed by the overturning or destruction of outbuildings, Col. Elandon of Bellville losing several of his best steers and J. E. Metcalf seventeen. The corn crop was left flat on the ground, every line of telegraph wire in the entire northwest was thrown down and the western railroads were blockaded generally, the Illinois Central from Saturday noon until Monday night.

On Jan. 20-22, 1881, another snow storm occurred and the weather was colder than for twelve years previous. The Cedar was frozen to the bottom and considerable stock perished.

On Feb. 4-6, 1881, there occurred another three days fall of snow from the southeast that drifted greatly and blockaded the Ill. Central R. R. from Saturday, Feb. 5 to the 11th—six full

days. Drifts were fifteen feet deep and in some instances cattle sheds were completely covered. S. E. Heathman and Geo. Henderson of Powhatan, each lost stock to the amount of \$100 and many others less amounts. The first train from Sioux City on the 11th was overtaken by another blinding snow storm from the northwest before it arrived at Fonda, and at Pomeroy it was compelled to remain from Friday night until the following Tuesday morning. The road west of Fonda was not opened until a couple of days later. On Saturday morning, the 19th, just when the road had been fairly opened, a violent wind from the north began to blow that immediately filled the cuts and again blockaded the trains. On Monday night the first train from Sioux City passed and Tuesday morning the wind again filled the cuts and stopped all trains until Thursday. This was the third time in succession, that within a few hours after the first Sioux City train passed Fonda, the railroad was again completely blockaded with snow.

The Pocahontas Times, as a result of this last blockade, was unable to receive the usual supply of paper for its weekly issue, and on Tuesday, Feb. 24, 1881, in order to maintain the regular publication of its legal advertisements, there was issued a small four page paper of which most of the copies were printed on brown wrapping paper. It is remembered as the blizzard issue of the Pocahontas Times. It was issued on the last day of the blockade and in it the editor expressed his sympathy for the railroad men by observing that "If the railroad men get through this winter, without the use of exclamations not taught in the Sabbath schools their hereafter will be assured."

During the fall of 1880 and the winter following, the demand for coal in northwestern Iowa was greater than the supply, so that at Fonda and other

stations along the Ill. Central R. R. cars that were temporarily sidetracked were unloaded and sometimes the railway company was compelled to confiscate the contents of private cars to supply their engines. In Fonda the schools were kept open by means of fuel furnished by private citizens, but in Swan Lake township and other places the schools were closed during the entire winter because they had no coal. On Dec. 8th Geo. Fairburn went to Fort Dodge and succeeded in making arrangements for the shipment of one car of coal a day to Fonda, which was then the only railroad station in this county. During the blockades in February a coal famine at Fonda was averted by securing possession at one time of four cars and at another three cars of coal that, while on the way to stations further west, were providentially sidetracked at this place.

This coal famine in the fall of 1880 was not due to snow blockades but rather to a greatly increased demand as a result of the large immigration that year and the fact the Fort Dodge Coal Co. could not obtain a sufficient number of men to mine the coal. In response to numerous appeals for relief the Iowa state railway commissioners, on Feb. 12, 1881, sent the following response: "All communities in those portions of the state where coal is the principal article of fuel ought to procure their winter supply before the earliest date of winter's opening. The unexampled demand suddenly precipitated upon the state by the early and continued cold weather of November and December could not be wholly and promptly met."

On Monday, Jan. 30, 1883, another great snow storm occurred, lasting three days, that blockaded all the railways for many days so that supplies of coal and flour were exhausted in the towns as well as in the rural districts. The removal of the blockade on the

C. R. I. & P. railroad was so long delayed that the citizens of Gilmore City, on account of their immediate need of supplies of fuel and bread, sent a petition to Gov. Sherman, requesting him to take steps to have that railroad opened for their relief.

During the winter of 1885 two great snow storms occurred that blockaded the railroads for several days, namely on Jan. 15-18 and Feb. 9-13, the blockades in the south part of the county lasting three and four days respectively.

The year 1886 was not only ushered in, in this county, with an ever memorable blizzard, but was rounded out with another of the same proportions in November.

On Saturday afternoon, Jan. 2d, the snow began to fall, accompanied with a high wind and the storm continued with unabated fury until Monday night. The drifting snow was left in great artistic piles upon the streets, in the front yards, and every railroad cut was filled. On Wednesday night following, the railroads south and east of Fonda had been opened but before the first trains had passed over them another three days blizzard from the northwest commenced that night that made the blockade worse than ever. On the two roads at Fonda the blockade continued longer than on any previous occasion. On the Ill. Cent. it lasted ten days, from noon Jan. 3 to the 13th. Fortunately the dealers at Fonda had a full supply of coal and breadstuffs.

It was on this occasion that the board of supervisors and the editors of the local county papers held their merry winter chatauqua at Pocahontas and published their sayings and doings in *The Daily Blizzard*, the first daily paper issued in Pocahontas county. The board this time was not able to get together until late on Tuesday and the second storm commenced after the arrival of the editors the

next day.

On Friday the visiting editors and printers, organizing under P. C. Barron, editor-in-chief, took possession of the office of the *Pocahontas Record*, and on Saturday morning, Jan. 9, 1886, issued the first copy of the famous little daily. The other members of the editorial staff consisted of George Sanborn, assistant editor; Will Chiquet, boss reporter; Supt. J. P. Robinson, farm editor; Ed. Donohue, city editor; Will Hodges, society reporter; and Rufus Thornton, foreman. Its motto was,

Laugh and the world laughs with you.

Weep and you weep alone.

Laugh till you shake like ague,

And your wife will stay at home.

This paper was the occasion of considerable merriment, especially to those whose "sayings and doings" were not reported. The following statements are gleaned from its introductory editorial: "This is a great newspaper. We make this solemn statement for fear you would take this great paper for a patent medicine advertisement or a soap box label. Every great paper should have an object and the object of this one is to benefit mankind and elevate them from the slough of despond. What grander, nobler object could any man ask for? As we unfurl our banner to the breeze we desire to inform our unsuspecting victims how this great aggregation of brains, and stupendous constellation of intellect associated together to throw forth this sheet to the world. It was a blizzard!"

On Nov. 15-17, 1886, a blizzard occurred that blockaded the trains on the Illinois Central railroad eight days. The train west on Tuesday, the 16th, struck the snow at Storm Lake and remained there till the road was opened. The severity of this storm was felt most seriously in northwestern Iowa, but all railroad business and traffic was suspended throughout the

state on the 17th. The temperature fell to 20 degrees below zero.

On Jan. 12-13, 1888, another severe blizzard occurred that caused a blockade of several days. It was 27 degrees below zero and John, a son of Richard Olney, aged 16 years, froze to death about two miles west of Laurens. This storm extended to the Gulf of Mexico and more than 100 persons perished in Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska and Iowa. This large loss of life was due to the fact that the storm in Dakota caught many of the teachers and their pupils either in school or on the way home, and many farmers and their wives trading in town, and they perished in the effort to return to their homes. Two little girls of A. H. Strouse of Swan Lake township were so badly frozen that one of them lost a hand. Samuel Tibbits, his daughter and child, encountered the storm near Laurens and the team refusing to face it, he unhitched them, overturned the sleigh and all sought refuge under it. They remained on the open prairie with no other protection, while the storm was raging, for fourteen hours and were very much frostbitten.

These accounts of the snow storms during the 70's and 80's have been given with considerable fullness, for they were events that affected the welfare of every resident of the county in those days. It remains to be said, that these great snow storms were not peculiar to this section but prevailed over a large part of this country. Their severity, however, was felt far more keenly by the early pioneers in their humble and unprotected cabins than by those living in older communities, and the railroads suffered more then than now for they were also almost wholly unprotected. The situation is now so greatly changed, both with respect to the railroads and the homes of the people, that, although similar storms may occur in the future, nevertheless their

severity will never again be so seriously felt by the people, and the railroads may never be so badly blockaded.

The reasons for these observations are obvious. An era of better times has been ushered in, the settlement of the country has been completed, the people now live in comfortable homes that are protected by artificial groves and the dealers have ample facilities for carrying abundant supplies. Besides the snow no longer drifts for miles over an open prairie but is held by numerous fields and fences; and the railroads, profiting by their experience and observation, have perfected the means for their complete protection against a blockade.

TREE EXEMPTIONS.

In order to encourage the planting of artificial groves for the natural protection of the homes of the lonely pioneer on the prairies, and to alleviate the burden of taxation to all who were actual residents of the county during the period of hard times, the board of supervisors on Jan. 2, 1872, authorized an exemption, except for state purposes, on the real or personal property of each and every taxpayer who should within the county plant and suitably cultivate one or more acres of forest trees. The amount of this exemption was \$250 for each acre of forest trees planted not more than eight feet apart each way and properly cultivated.

On April 1 following, the board increased the amount of this exemption to \$350 an acre and the treasurer was authorized to deduct this exemption from the assessor's returns for the year 1871. This measure had the effect of ascertaining in an official way the names of those who were pioneer tree planters in this county. A few of these names are as follows:

May 6, 1872, A. M. Thornton of Thornton, Greene & Co., Marshall township, $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres, consisting of one acre of timber, one acre of orchard and one half mile of hedge.

June 3, Wm. Lynch, Cedar, 2 acres of timber.

Nov. 12 W. J. Curtis, 3 acres, John A. Hay, Harvey W. Hay and John Brown each 2 acres; Henry Shields, A. Brown, D. W. Brown, Eliza Forey and Geo. E. Thompson each one acre.

On Jan. 6, 1873, the following persons were added to the list: Wm. Bott and H. C. Tollefsrude each 3 acres; Theodore Dunn, Wm. Stenson; W. Richards, J. C. Strong and Marcus Lind, each 2 acres; Geo. Wallace, H. H. Wallace, John Dooley, P. Shea, H. B. Vaughan, B. McCartan, R. C. Brownell and M. E. Owens each one acre.

April 7 and later in 1873, J. W. Brown, Wm. Snell and Michael Wiese each 3 acres; A. O. Garlock, W. E. Garlock, John Wiese, Edward Tilly, and Samuel Booth each 2 acres; E. D. Seeley, R. L. Sherman, John Proctor, G. G. Wheeler, C. M. Saylor and A. Hoover each one acre.

In 1874 the following additional persons: C. H. Tollefsrude, A. F. Hubbell, Fred Gintz, J. D. Adams, N. Keefer each three or more acres; John Soder, Wm. Orcutt, David Slosson and Nancy A. Hancher (for 1871) each two acres; David Wallace, B. F. Osburn, Ephraim Garlock, W. B. Harris, Robert Dixon, Hans Leib, Geo. O. Pinneo and O. I. Strong each one acre.

The exemption on forest trees was discontinued on trees planted after Sept. 1, 1874 and on Feb. 2, 1875 the exemption on fruit trees was reduced to \$250 an acre. Those who received this exemption for fruit trees in 1875 were Mrs M. E. Wagner, Peter Peterson and Henry Elsen each on one acre for the years 1871, 1872, and 1873; Peter Wendell two acres and J. B. Thomas one, both for the years 1872 and 1873; M. Byrne, A. C. Blakeslee, E. Mullen and H. Falconer on one acre each for 1873; C. H. Booth, J. H. Johnson and J. F. Clark on one acre each for 1874; John Lampe, J. D. Hilton,

Wm. Gilson, S. E. Heathman and H. Heathman one acre each for 1875; and J. T. Cary for 1872 and 1873. In the fall of 1876 the exemption on forest trees was renewed and in 1877 W. J. Busby, N. C. Synstelien and a host of others received it.

Encouraged by these exemptions the settlers on the prairies planted groves and orchards, some on a scale so liberal that they soon became not only objects of beauty and convenience but of great value for the shelter they afforded. Those that protected their young trees from live stock and prairie fires, and gave them proper cultivation began to have a beautiful grove in a half dozen years. The soft maple makes a very rapid growth but the black walnut, after the lapse of ten years, grows nearly as fast and its timber is more valuable. The elm, oak, white ash, honey locust, cottonwood and willow have been planted with good success for their timber, and the white pine, cedar, fir, spruce and box elder for ornamentation and windbreak. The broad prairies have been relieved of their wild magnificence by intelligent industry and made more beautiful by these serviceable ornamentations—the handiwork of industrious settlers.

PRAIRIE WOLVES.

Another means of cooperating with the pioneer and at the same time promoting the public welfare was the payment of a bounty on prairie wolves. The state which now pays a bounty of \$5 for the scalp of an adult wolf, during the '70's and '80's paid only \$1, but during the year 1871 this county offered an additional bounty of \$2 and the lucky recipients that year were A. O. Garlock and Joseph Clason, who reported the capture of one and two wolves respectively. Others who were fortunate enough during the '70's to win the state bounty by the capture of one or more wolves were Edward Calligan, Nelson Palmatier, Philander

Strong, Oscar Brown, John Freeman, A. Baker, E. P. Gorton, Charles Nemick, Frank Payer, Wm. Lynch, C. H. Tollefsrude, T. Shimon, C. L. Van Alstine, G. J. Gibson, J. Kregci and F. Hronek. In 1879 a boy of John Soders caught eight little wolves in one day, and in 1881 Harold and John Shull captured 23 wolves and a number of otter and mink in Swan Lake township. During the years 1884 and 1885 the county bounty on wolves was renewed but not to exceed \$2.50 including the state bounty.

The prairie wolf was about the size of a large cat and the timber wolf considerably larger. Both were of a gray color and they carried their ears erect. Their movement was similar to that of a dog and their howl was usually preceded by two barks similar to those of a pug dog. They lived in the banks along the streams and sauntered forth after nightfall in packs of a half dozen or more in search of their food. They were very fond of chickens, and if a pioneer located his cabin near their haunts, they would sometimes surround his premises during the night and favor him with a howling serenade. Early one morning when Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Woodin of Dover were bringing a lot of live chickens to Fonda, two timber wolves followed them a distance of two miles from the creek south of the Hubbell farm. In November 1876, W. S. Fegles shot a timber wolf along the north branch of Lizard creek that had followed Charles Keeler about two miles.

They were very timid, never hurt anybody and nobody was afraid of them; nevertheless their peculiarly doleful howl around a settler's cabin, especially on a rainy or stormy night, tended to produce a feeling of uncomfortable loneliness.

MUSKRATS.

The surface drainage of this section of country did not begin until after 1880, and during the '70's it continued

to be covered with numerous ponds and sloughs where the muskrats multiplied rapidly from year to year until about the close of this period. The sloughs were so dotted with their houses that they presented the appearance of a hayfield thickly set with piles of hay partially submerged with water.

The muskrat, as a providential helper to the pioneers of this section during the '70's, performed a more important part than is ordinarily accorded to him. If the negro was slighted and few persons appreciated his claim to recognition until Harriet Beecher Stowe espoused his cause and wrote that familiar volume, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," something like this is true of the muskrat. Like the native grasses on which he lived he was a natural product of this section, and, all unconscious to himself was as helpful and profitable to the early pioneer during this period as the ravens to Elijah, yet, comparatively few care to acknowledge his worth to them in the time of their greatest need.

The muskrat lived where he destroyed nothing valuable and his fur was always in demand. In 1857 when the banks suspended specie payment and issued their own notes for money, the people called it "wild cat" and "red dog" money, because the farmer found that much of it became worthless in his pocket the next day after he got it. Every old settler, however, remembers that when there was no other money in circulation on the frontier the "muskrat hide" was always to be relied on: and during the grasshopper period it was about the only money, or reliable source of income, that some of them had.

In those days the trapper was as jealous of his trapping claim as of his homestead, and this right was enforced, when necessary by an appeal to arms if the trespasser did not leave within two or three hours after a proper notice had been given. Several

instances of this sort occurred in Swan Lake township and the number of persons involved made the danger of a pitched battle quite imminent.

A half dozen persons from a distance located at the northwest part of Swan Lake and by their trapping trespassed on the territory claimed by John B. Strouse and David Hays, settlers in that vicinity. These two men notified the trespassers that if they did not leave within two and one half hours they would return with others, divide their furs and throw their traps in the lake. In this instance the notice was promptly obeyed.

About the first of December, 1878, four trappers from Sioux Rapids took possession of the vacant house of Rev. Wm. McCreedy in Washington township and began to trap in the sloughs in that vicinity, that had already been flagged by the settlers, who discovered what was going on and politely requested the intruders to go to some other locality. The trappers defiantly boasted that they would not leave and if it became necessary they would throw lead. The next day eight men headed by J. C. Strong as captain made their way to the trappers' cabin and found them supplied with spars, knives and firearms. Capt. Strong now ordered them to gather their traps and leave immediately. This brought matters to a dangerous crisis, but fortunately a conflict was avoided by the trappers beating a hasty retreat.

The trapper usually placed his steel traps in or near their houses, and this was the principal method of catching them. In the fall of the year when the ice was clear, it was great sport to spear them through the ice, and one man in this way has caught as many as 75 in a day. Their pelts or hides seldom brought less than fifteen cents each, and sometimes they were worth two or three times that amount.

Two trappers from Omaha two seas-

ons in succession, 1868 and 1869, occupied a dugout on Devil's Island on section 9, Grant township. They brought their supplies with them and when they returned in the spring they took with them wagon loads of furs. After a terrible snowstorm in January, 1870, they found a man frozen to death two miles north of that place. He was driving an ox team from Sioux Rapids to Fort Dodge and, becoming bewildered, had lost the road.

Herkimer L. Norton, a resident of Fonda but then of Grant township, realized \$105 from furs obtained by trapping at Devil's Lake in one month, February, 1870, and about \$500 from his catch during that winter, which included a few otter and mink. John W. Wallace and I. E. Parrish by trapping six weeks in Grant township the same winter obtained 1,835 muskrat hides that brought them about \$300. The trapping that year was splendid. Later Wm. F. Bridges received \$96 for one lot and some pioneers built their houses from funds thus obtained.

In the fall of 1878 the price of their fur was high and the drought of that season made it easier to catch them. Theodore Dunn at Fonda in one day from one set of trappers received 2,000 muskrat hides, and on March 1, 1879, it was found that the number of hides received and shipped from Pomeroy the previous fall and winter was 57,000. The fact that this section of country was once very full of them is commemorated by the name given to "Muskrat Slough" in the northwest part of Colfax township.

During the winter of 1870 and 1871, John W. Wallace, L. M. Schoonmaker, A. R. Vansickle and two others spent six weeks in hunting and trapping in Osceola county. They built a hunter's shanty on Ocheydan river, which consisted of an underground room so dug out that the frozen ground overhead was left undisturbed except in one corner where a hole was made for the

chimney. They lined the inner wall of this hunter's parlor with willow poles laid one on top of another and covered the floor with dry prairie grass. The fire was always made on the ground in one corner of the room and their fuel consisted of dry prairie grass and green willows. During their stay in that section they saw the large drove of elk in that vicinity and following them until dark two men got close enough to shoot at them but killed none. This pursuit took them fifteen miles from their underground parlor, and they were compelled to erect a tent they had with them for the night. They did this upon the ice in a slough of tall grass, making a fire of slough grass at the door of the tent. The next morning they found they were only a half mile from the cabin of a Polander, who gave them their breakfast, the first meal they had after taking their previous noon lunch, and it consisted of coffee and brown bread spread with lard. They caught two beavers and a large quantity of muskrats but their hunt was not so successful as they anticipated.

While the otter lives on fish and snapping turtles the beaver and muskrat live on a vegetable diet. When other game was scarce it was not an unusual thing for an early settler to make use of the hind quarters of the latter for food, and sometimes jokes were perpetrated on those who could not bear the idea of "eating a rat." Such an instance has been related as having occurred as follows: A certain new settler had occasion to call upon a neighbor before breakfast. He partook freely of the family meal and supposed at the time he was eating chicken, but as he rose from the table his astonishment and horror can be better imagined than described when the neighbor said to his wife: "Wife you got an extra good fry on the muskrats this morning."

This incident reminds one of the

first experience with the, oyster concerning which it has been said, he must have had a palate covered over with brass or steel, who on the rocky shore,

"First broke the oozy oyster's pearly coat,
And risked the living morsel down his throat."

BEES AND RABBITS.

In the early days there was current a tradition to the effect that the Indians have said "when bees and rabbits appear in the timber it is time for them to depart." In the timber along the Des Moines river in the northeast part of this county, there were no wild bees until Perry Nowlen, the pioneer bee keeper of Des Moines township, brought bees to that section. No rabbits were seen in that township, or even the sign of any, until the season of 1860 and quail did not make their appearance there until 1867, although prairie chickens were very abundant. The large jack rabbit or hare did not make his appearance in this county until 1885, when two of them were caught, one west of Fonda and the other west of Pocahontas. In 1888 Thomas Reamer of Grant township caught a rabbit weighing eight and one-half pounds that was perfectly white in color and differed materially from the jack rabbit. It was of a species not seen in this section until that year and its flesh had the rich flavor of the English hare. Others of the same species were caught that year.

BEAVERS.

The beaver is the most industrious and sagacious of all fur bearing animals. A colony of them still exists on the south branch of Lizard Creek. The residents of the neighborhood, where for years they have made their abode, guard them from trappers with jealous care. Every fall they build anew their dam across the creek. The dam built in 1895, the season of

greatest drought in this section of country, was larger and higher than any of its predecessors, being about four feet high and ten feet wide at the base. It tapered to a narrow width at the top. Trees, eight inches in diameter, were gnawed off by their sharp teeth and formed into a foundation for the dam. This was overlaid with the branches of the trees and the slender willows in the vicinity, so as to form a firm and suitable base for their mortar which consisted of mud. The dam thus built from these crude materials by means of their paws, noses and powerful jaws awakened the surprise of all who saw it, and it backed the water in the creek for a considerable distance.*

ELK.

This section was once the home of the highest types of wild animal life known to the American continent—the buffalo, elk and deer. The buffalo, wildest by nature, finding that the hunter was after his hide and horns, fled first; the elk and the deer lingered a few years longer.

A considerable drove of elk, numbering 200 or more, found feeding grounds and comparative security for rearing their young, in the unsettled region of northwestern Iowa around the head waters of the Little Sioux and Rock rivers, in Osceola and neighboring counties. The new settlements of 1869 and 1870, in southern Minnesota and Iowa, forced this herd to take refuge in the valley of Ocheydan river, a tributary of the little Sioux. There they remained in comparative security until July, 1871, when the entire herd was driven southward from its place of seclusion, and scattered into fragments that were overtaken and killed before they reached the Missouri river.

One of the fragments of this herd containing about eighteen elk passed southward through Pocahontas county following in general the course of

*Manson Democrat.

Cedar creek. They were seen on sec. 19, Marshall township, and on sections 1 and 10, Cedar township, by L. C. Thornton, Wm. Lynch, David Wallace, sr., and his son Samuel, respectively; and by several persons at intervening points.

A few years previous a drove of a half dozen elk sauntered near the home of Ora Harvey in Clinton township and his wife who was alone, mistaking them for Indians, hastily ran into the house and locked the door. Mrs. C. M. Saylor and others, while riding to old Rolfe in a sleigh, saw about the same number and in all probability the same lot. Seeing at first only their antlered horns above the snow beyond the brow of a little hill, they also thought they were Indians by reason of the resemblance of their horns to the tops of tepee poles.

In the fall of 1868, John W. Wallace and Garret Schoonmaker killed an elk on the west branch of Lizard creek near the center of Lincoln township. It weighed 400 pounds and, as it had been seen a day or two previous, it was the special object of their hunt.

DEER.

During the early '70's, deer were quite plenty in the central part of this county and during the summer when they were undisturbed they would even linger in the vicinity of the home of the settler, mingle with his cattle and feed in the unprotected corn fields. During the first two seasons that D. M. Woodin was a resident of section 24 Dover township, five deer frequently mingled with his cattle in the open pastures and three of them were killed by Garrett Gibson, who, in the fall of 1873 and winter following shot eighteen deer in this county. Nearly all of the deer then killed were captured in Grant township, and the other most successful hunters were Herkimer L. Norton and Geo. E. Hughes.

When Nelson Palmatier was building the schoolhouse in the Tollefsrude district, Grant township, he expressed a desire to see some deer. Mr. Norton took him to Devil's Island and they killed three deer that day, and on a subsequent afternoon Mr. Norton and Robert Russell shot three more. As late as the fall of 1877 Messrs. Norton and Hughes killed four deer in five days, and the next season five deer in six days, in Grant township. These instances show that a number of deer lived here, and that these men met with as good success, as those who make deer hunting a specialty. While Mr. Hughes was recognized as the best shot in all this section, he was free to attribute their success in killing deer to his friend Norton, who, he said, "was a scientific hunter and experienced in killing deer; rather slow on the trail but sure to overtake them." They killed one after the severe snow storm in October, 1880 and another one in 1882; and these seem to have been the last ones killed in this county. C. H. Tollefsrude and his brother Elisha, by concealing themselves in an old well, partly filled and located between a great stretch of tall slough grass and a patch of buckwheat, had the pleasure of capturing a deer in the winter of 1874-75.

WILD DUCK AND GEESE.

In 1869 and 70 this section of the country, twice a year, was not only full of wild ducks, brandts and geese, but their tameness was the subject of frequent remark. At that time one could shoot at them in the sloughs and, missing them, could reload and shoot a second time before they would fly away. This statement is made by the men who laid the track on the Illinois Central railroad and by Rufus Greene, a resident of Marshall township.

THE CRANES.

"Of homely form and solemn mien,
With dagger beak and legs so slim,
One thinks of him as visions seen

In olden dreams, now vague and dim."

In the early day as many as one hundred cranes would occasionally be seen in a flock. On one occasion about twenty alighted near the home of Rufus Greene, and his little daughter about six years old went out and played among them a considerable time, many of their heads being higher than hers.

The cranes, when dancing on the prairie, presented a very ludicrous appearance. Some, who saw them and were familiar with the figure, said their movements resembled a "French Four." They danced at other times but the finding of a little snake was sure to be the occasion for a lively dance. One crane would catch the snake and fling it into the air, sometimes as high as ten feet. Another one would then give it a fling, and while they continued to repeat this snake performance, it was perfectly comical to see them stepping around fantastically on tiptoe.

"A weird shape winging hurriedly,
A fleeting shadow—nothing more."

OTHER NATIVE BIRDS.

The mellow goose and mallard duck, the swan and the crow, used to come from southern lands to watch the cornfields grow; the hungry hawk and "thunder pump" came along, to join the cheerful racket with the frog's tuneful song. Numerous hunters

"Had watched the beaver build like
men,
Killed the wild duck and marsh hen;
Caught wolves and badgers, lynx and
raccoon,
And shot on Lizard lake the lofty
loon."

It remained, however, for Charles E. Whitehead of New York City, president of the Des Moines and Fort Dodge, now Rock Island, railway company, to place the names of some of the most numerous and favorite birds of this locality in an historic setting. When this line of road was built through this county, he was assigned

the privilege of giving names to the towns on it north of Rolfe. He was fond of hunting and named them Plover, Mallard, Curlew and Widgeon, in honor of favorite native birds of this section. When other members of the railway company proposed to call the new town in Clinton "Whitehead" to commemorate his own name, he politely declined the honor and, transferring the name of the first county seat, called it Rolfe.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

The increase in the population of this county in 1870 resulted not merely in the organization of new townships and an increase in the membership of the board of supervisors, but quickened interest in the public improvement of the county, which consisted chiefly in the establishment of new highways and the erection of bridges across the streams and sloughs. In 1871, on the petition of David Slosson and others, the board of supervisors established highways on all the section lines of the county except a few that were named, but many of them were not opened until they were needed ten or fifteen years later. That same year arrangements were made for the erection of bridges across the Cedar at Fonda by B. B. Moore, across the same stream four miles north on the Bell and Hanson road by J. H. Vosburgh, across Fast creek, near Garlock's by John A. Hay and across the north and south Lizard streams by B. B. Moore. In May following the last one was washed out and it was then replaced by J. J. Bruce.

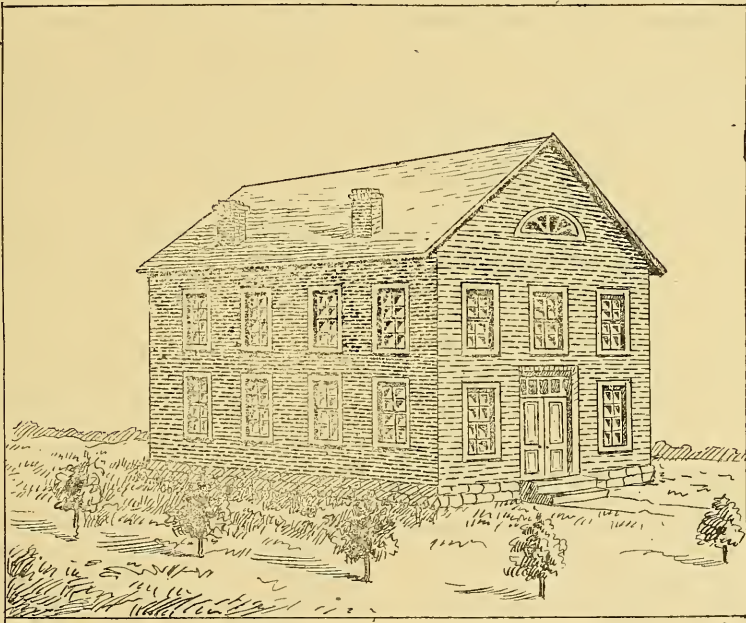
On January 2, 1872, it was decided to change the method of contracts for the erection of bridges by arranging that the county furnish all the materials used during that year, and Thos. L. MacVey was appointed a commissioner to locate all bridges that might be deemed necessary, to furnish the plans for them and inspect them when completed, to purchase the lumber and

employ all workmen needed in their construction. He held this position until April first following when he resigned so far as related to the purchase of material and the employment of labor.

In 1874 the first pile driver was purchased by the board of supervisors for the use of the county in building bridges. In 1881 the board directed that all bridges across the several streams in the county be bridged by piling, and in January, 1882 that all

a great improvement, and, at the rate of \$1.95 per lineal foot, erected bridges in 1882 over the Des Moines river, Cedar (Woodin's) and Pilot (Rolfe) creeks, two on Beaver creek (Hancher's and sec. 9, Des Moines township) and three on the north branch of Lizard creek, in Lake, Center and Washington townships. He was also accorded all the repair work on the old bridges.

In 1889, two wrought iron bridges were built, one over Cedar creek at Fonda and the other over the Des



THE FIRST COURT HOUSE 1860—1876, OLD ROLFE.

contracts for their construction be upon the basis of the number of feet in length, the county to furnish all the material and the contractor to furnish all the labor and erect all the bridges needed that year.

The first contractor under this new arrangement, and for a number of years afterward, was N. B. Post of Fonda. He introduced the use of cedar piling instead of pine, which was

Moines river in the northeast part of the county.

CHANGE OF COUNTY SEAT.

As early as June 3, 1873, petitions were presented to the board of supervisors asking that a vote be taken for the removal of the county seat to the northwest corner of the sw $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 18 of Lincoln township. These petitions were rejected because of certain defects in the signatures, and the lack

of affidavits to establish their genuineness.

On June 8, 1875, in response to a petition signed by a number of the legal voters of the county asking that the county seat be changed to the village of Pocahontas Center, situated on section 31 Center township, it was ordered that the question be submitted to the people at the next general election, and it was approved.

The contract for the new court house at Pocahontas was let by the board of supervisors in January, 1876, to J. L. Gould for \$2,600.

The board of supervisors held its last session at old Rolfe on September 6, 1876, and the circuit court its last session on September 14, 1876, Judge J. R. Zouver presiding. The attorneys in attendance were J. D. Springer and Capt. J. A. O. Yeomans of Fort Dodge, J. McDaid of Sac City, A. E. Clarke of Humboldt, and members of the bar residing in this county. The most important case tried at this session of the court was that of E. E. Roosa vs. John H. Johnson for slander. It occupied two days, developed some peculiar phases of human life and the jury rendered a verdict of \$150 in favor of the plaintiff.

On Oct. 6, 1876 the board of supervisors held their first meeting at Pocahontas, first as a committee of the whole to inspect the new building and then to let the contracts for the erection of certain bridges.

On Dec. 3, 1876, the first session of the district court was held in the new court house at Pocahontas, Judge C. H. Lewis presiding, J. W. Wallace serving as clerk of the court and Joseph Breitenbach as sheriff.

The board of supervisors consisted of J. C. Strong, Bernard McCartan, Wm. Brownlee and Wm. Stenson. The other public officers were A. O. Garlock, auditor; W. D. McEwen, treasurer; Andrew Jackson, recorder; J. F. Clark, superintendent and Wm.

Marshall, surveyor.

On Jan. 2, 1877 the court house at old Rolfe was sold to Rev. Wm. McCready for the use of the M. E. church for \$150. This sale was not approved, and on the next day the court house and grounds, known as the Stockdale reservation, were sold at public auction to James J. Bruce for \$200. It remained until July, 1882, when the purchaser used the material in it for the erection of the Tremain house in the new town of Rolfe.

Pocahontas, the new county seat, is located at the geographical center of Pocahontas county on the south half of section 31, Center township. The land was owned by Warrick and Buelah Price of Cleveland, Ohio. On November 4, 1870, they had it surveyed and platted, and arranged the lots, blocks, avenues, streets and alleys as they appear in the original survey. The plat, which included one hundred acres, and was called the village of Pocahontas Center, was surveyed by Fred Hless and approved by Judge J. M. Snyder of the circuit court at Humboldt, November 9, 1870. They set apart for public use, as a court house site and public park, a rectangular plat 600x800 feet in the center of the plat, provided the people of Pocahontas county should accept it for that purpose within five years from that date.

The court house site is 400x600 feet, surrounded on each side by a court or park place 100 feet in width; all enclosed within a larger rectangle 1200x1400 feet. The latter has two large avenues 100 feet in width, one of which, called "Buelah Avenue" after the name of his wife, runs north and south from the center of the court house site, and the other called "Warrick Avenue," to commemorate his own name, runs east and west from the same point. From each of the four corners of the court house park, extending diagonally through the first tier of blocks, are four streets 71 feet

in width that were named in memory of their four daughters as follows: The one at the northeast corner, "Otterlia;" northwest, "Theo;" southwest "Elizabeth" and southeast, "Laura." The two avenues north and east of the court house park are called "Park Place" and those west and south "Court Place." The street running east and west one block south of the court house was called "William" and the corresponding street one block north of the court house "John" in memory of their two sons. The corresponding streets one block distant from the east and west sides of the court house site are called "East" and "West" streets respectively.

In the spring of 1879 the board of supervisors had the park around the court house planted with trees. The trees, which consisted of 50 evergreens, 50 basswoods, 100 elms, 100 cottonwoods, 200 box-elders, 400 ash and 700 soft maples, were furnished by W. D. McEwen and they were planted under his direction by John W. Wallace.

FAREWELL TO OLD ROLFE.

The Pocahontas Times, in its issue of October 10, 1876, because of the removal of the county records and offices to Pocahontas, thereby compelling it to follow suite, very affectingly bade adieu to (old) Rolfe. "We leave (old) Rolfe with many regrets. For over twelve years we have been actively engaged in business in that town and formed many friendly relations with the people which it is hard to sever. We look back on these years of toil with feelings of pleasure because we remember that there were always kind friends to advise and willing hands to aid whenever assistance was wanted."

"In July, 1869, in partnership with J. J. Bruce, we commenced the publication of the Pocahontas Journal, the first newspaper published in the county, but after the lapse of two and

one half years it expired in January 1872, without a groan. In April last (1876) we purchased the Pocahontas Times of M. D. Skinner, Fonda, and have published it at Rolfe since that date. We have now built a new office at Pocahontas Center and shall gather up our household traps and remove thither this week. Farewell to old Rolfe."*

SCHOOL LANDS AND BOOKS.

The school lands of the county, which embraces all of section 16 in each township, by direction of the board of supervisors were appraised and put upon the market for sale during the latter part of this period. As early as June 8, 1869, the auditor was directed to notify the trustees of the townships then organized to divide section 16 into suitable tracts and appraise them according to law on or before the 28th day of that month. On that day the trustees of Lizard township, A. H. Van Valkenburgh, Henry Steckleburgh and Joseph Breitenbach, reported an appraisement of their lands at \$3, \$4, \$5 and \$6 an acre; D. W. Hunt, Joseph Clason and A. H. Malcolm, trustees of Clinton, those of that township at \$1.25, to \$2.50 an acre; Wm. Jarvis, Oscar Slosson and Robert Struthers, those of Des Moines township at \$1.25 to \$1.50 an acre; and Samuel Booth, Henry Tilley and Geo. Van Natta, those of Powhatan township at \$1.25, \$2.00 and \$2.50 an acre.

The auditor was then directed to sell these lands to the highest bidder, but in no instance for a less amount than their appraised value. The conditions of payment were one third of the whole amount in cash and the balance in ten years with interest at ten per cent.

Notwithstanding the apparently low valuation put upon them and the long time allowed for payment these lands sold very slowly. As the sale of these lands was of no special interest to any

*W. D. McEwen, editor and proprietor.

one except the county auditor, those from a distance who came to buy land did not ordinarily have their attention called to them unless they met that officer, to whom alone their sale was entrusted.

The school lands of Dover township were not appraised and exposed for sale until May 15, 1878. As late as June 6, 1882, some of the school land in nearly every one of the townships in the county remained unsold, and by request of the board of supervisors, another report of an appraisement of their unsold school lands was made by the trustees of Cedar, Center, Des Moines, Grant, Lake, Lincoln, Washington and Powhatan townships.

On Jan. 8, 1879, the permanent school fund of the county was \$5,466.67, the number of school children enrolled was 1187 and the amount of school funds received from the state, at the rate of twenty-five cents each, was \$296.75.

During that year an effort was made to secure uniformity of text books in all the schools of the county. This movement was inaugurated by R. M. Wilbur of Pomeroy, agent for the publications of A. S. Barnes & Co. He first visited the county institute and secured from the teachers a report commending the movement to the directors of the several townships in the county. The plan was adopted by Bellville, Center, Clinton, Des Moines, Grant, Lincoln and Lizard townships. The books were introduced at a greatly reduced price and, what seemed a very commendable feature at that time, many of them "at an extra cost of 5 or 10 cents each, were bound with an iron binding that made them so strong no two boys could tear one apart."

OUT OF DEBT CENTENNIAL YEAR.

A comparison of the conditions existing in 1879 with those of 1874 shows that some progress was made even though the times were extremely dull. In 1874 the amount of taxes levied in

the county was \$42,000 and 40 schools were in session; in 1879 the taxes levied were only \$35,000 and over 60 schools were in session. On Jan. 1, 1874, the outstanding warrants awaiting payment amounted to \$5,000 and there was no money in the treasury; but on June 1, 1879, there were no outstanding warrants and there were funds on hand as follows: County, \$1,900; poor, \$1,000; gopher, \$1,000; bridge, \$3 200; total, \$7,100. During the six years included in this period an unusual amount of money was spent in permanent improvements, such as the erection of the new court house at Pocahontas, the purchase of a burglar proof safe and the construction of fire proof vaults for the preservation of the public records.

The statement that showed the removal of the last vestige of this county's indebtedness was the one rendered by W. D. McEwen, county treasurer, on June 1, 1876. This statement not only showed for the first time a clean balance sheet for the county but also that all except two of the townships, Cedar and Lizard—whose indebtedness was but a trifle—were also free from debt. The fact that many of the counties of northwestern Iowa had been involved under heavy debts that generally represented no value received but only the work of a set of public swindlers, caused many land buyers to avoid for awhile this section of country, but happily for this county the centennial year found it free from debt. All the taxes collected, after the payment of current expenses, had been honestly and legitimately used in making public improvements so that each township, as it was settled, was supplied with good substantial school houses that were paid for as they were erected.

As late as Jan. 1, 1882, of the nineteen counties in northwestern Iowa only two, Pocahontas and Calhoun, were free from debt, the indebtedness

of the others ranging from \$16,000 in Kossuth to \$200,000 in O'Brien county. Foremost among the men who labored to get this county out of debt and keep it so were Messrs. W. D. McEwen, A. O. Garlock and J. J. Bruce.

W. D. McEwen, from the time of his first identification with the public interests of this county as a deputy in the recorder's office in 1865, exerted a strong and positive influence in favor of a rigid economy in the administration of all public matters. His excellent business qualifications and keen foresight, utilized through many successive years of continuous public service, were of great advantage to this county. He took so much pride in the county's welfare that, when serving as treasurer collections were slow and outstanding warrants could not be paid, possessing ample means, he did not hesitate to make use of his own private funds to bridge over the occasion and thus maintain the credit of the county.

A. O. Garlock has already received well merited recognition for his efficient services as a public officer and constant aim to promote the interests of this county. The board of supervisors acknowledged its indebtedness to him while serving as county auditor, for his wise and prudent counsel, always modestly given. He never faltered when it became necessary for him to protect the rights and interests of the county, and his careful management of the school fund made it a source of profit to the county. He was uniformly courteous, a good judge of character and probably no other man during this period induced so many families to settle in this county.

J. J. Bruce, who as county superintendent and member of the board of supervisors in 1868 began a long continued official career in this county, was another who rendered faithful cooperation in the effort to secure an honest and economical administration

of its affairs. His education and legal training enabled him to prepare the copy for the printed forms of this county twenty five years—1870 to 1895—and were of great advantage to him and the public he served as a member of the board of supervisors. He was an indefatigable worker for the best interests of the county and no respecter of persons in resisting or exposing plans for personal aggrandizement at the public expense. On March 13, 1873, while serving as treasurer, the county safe was burglarized by some experts. On this occasion there was offered him the opportunity to have left the county suffer a considerable loss by affirming the loss of public funds, since the treasurer and his bondsmen were not liable for money stolen from the county safe by burglary. He reported there were no public funds in the safe at the time of the burglary and the county did not lose a dollar. Another instance of his honest and honorable method of procedure occurred on Oct. 10th following, when M. E. Owens, who two years later was a fugitive from justice, during a meeting of the board of supervisors made known the discovery that the official bonds of the county treasurer and sheriff had been abstracted from the auditor's office and bond record book. This was near the end of the first year of his second term as treasurer of the county and as soon as his attention was called to this discrepancy he came forward promptly and, placing his property real and personal at the disposal of the board of supervisors by the execution of a trust deed, gave assurance he would prepare and file a new bond with the same bondsmen within a reasonable time.

The editor of the Newell Mirror in 1876 having occasion to make a personal investigation of some matters in this county wrote as follows; "We do not believe there is a county in

northwestern Iowa that has been conducted on more economical principles than Pocahontas under its present management; and the taxpayers have stood by their public officials, because they have always managed so as to lessen the taxes, as much as possible, and maintain their outstanding warrants at par value until the last one of them has been paid."

DELEGATE TO THE CENTENNIAL.

After the announcement that Pocahontas county was free from all indebtedness, W. D. McEwen was appointed a delegate to represent it at the Centennial in Philadelphia. On this trip he was accompanied by W. S. Fegles and from his own graphic account of what they saw we glean the following paragraph.

"By many the main building, which was 70 feet in height, sides and ends of glass set in an iron frame work, covering $21\frac{1}{2}$ acres of ground and costing \$2,000,000, would not be regarded as a beautiful building, but I must say it looked to me grand and caused a thrill of admiration. Standing in one of its galleries W. S. Fegles and I gazed upon such a sight as the world never before furnished. Spread before us was a wide expanse dotted with structures, strange in shape and color, and extending so far that all distinctness is finally lost. It is a brilliant and inspiring scene, one that must satisfy all save the most captious. I cannot conceive that any one could look upon it and not be deeply impressed. It is a scene to fascinate the imagination and stir the soul to its depths. You look in wonder and ask yourself whence this grand display, this conglomeration of widely differing shapes and glowing colors, destitute of all harmony and deriving a considerable portion of its charm from its very strangeness. Almost oblivious of every thing else you draw on your imagination pictures of the Arabian

Nights or dream of fairyland until you arouse to the agreeable reality that you are viewing the Centennial Exhibition."

The Centennial was the greatest exposition the world had ever seen until that date, and it was opened May 10, 1876, in the presence of 200,000 persons. Its object was very neatly expressed by President Grant in the opening of his address on that occasion. "It has been thought appropriate to bring together for popular inspection specimens of our attainments in the industrial and fine arts, literature, science and philosophy, as well as the great businesses of agriculture and commerce, that we may more thoroughly appreciate the excellences and deficiencies of our achievements, and also give an emphatic expression to our desire to cultivate the friendship of the great family of nations. The enlightened agricultural, commercial and manufacturing people of the world have been invited to send hither corresponding specimens of their skill, to exhibit on equal terms in friendly competition with our own. One hundred years ago our country was new and but partially settled; our necessities have compelled us to expend every means in felling trees, subduing prairies and building dwellings, factories, ships, docks, warehouses, roads, canals, machinery, etc. Most of our schools, churches, libraries and asylums have been established within a hundred years. Our achievements have been great enough to make it easy for our people to acknowledge superior merit wherever found; and now we hope a careful examination of what is about to be exhibited to you will not only inspire you with a profound respect for the skill and taste of our friends from other nations, but also call forth your highest admiration as you note the attainments and progress of our own people during the last one hundred years."

MAIL ROUTES AND POSTOFFICES.

After the removal of the county seat to Pocahontas, several new mail routes and postoffices along them were established in this county. On Nov. 1, 1877, A. O. Garlock was the postmaster at Pocahontas and the people of that vicinity called at the auditor's office for their mail. The new routes are indicated by the following schedule prepared by him for that point on the above date.

The mail arrives at Pocahontas from Fonda and the south on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 12 o'clock m., and departs for Fonda and the south at 1 o'clock p. m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The mail arrives from (old) Rolfe and the north on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays each week at 12 o'clock m., and departs for (old) Rolfe and the north on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 1 o'clock p. m.

The mail arrives from Sioux Rapids and the northwest every Thursday at 5 o'clock p. m. and departs for Sioux Rapids and the northwest every Friday at 7 a. m.

In March, 1878, another mail route was maintained between old Rolfe and Humboldt, and a postoffice was located at the home of Sewell Van Alstine in Clinton township. Mr. Van Alstine was appointed postmaster, the name of the office was called "Blooming Prairie" and the mail was carried by Ira Scranton once a week from old Rolfe until February, 1879, and then from Pocahontas until Gilmore City was founded, when this route and postoffice were discontinued.

On Nov. 1, 1877, a new postoffice by the name of "Swan Lake" was established in Swan Lake township on the route from Pocahontas to Sioux Rapids and Charles L. Strong was appointed postmaster. On Nov. 22d following, the name of this postoffice was changed to "Garlock" in honor of A. O. Garlock, the popular county auditor at

that time. Mr. Strong resigned June 20, 1879.

On Dec. 30, 1877, a new postoffice by the name of "Luella" was established on the same route at the residence of J. C. Strong in Washington township, and he served as the postmaster. The name of this office was derived from that of Myrta Luella, the youngest daughter and only member of Mr. Strong's family that was born in this county.

On Jan. 26, 1879 another postoffice was established near this route at the home of D. P. Frost in Powhatan township and he was duly appointed postmaster, but owing to the fact that he lived about two miles from the mail route and no provision had been made for the extra distance on the part of the mail carrier no mail was received or distributed at this office, which was called "Mayview."

In the spring of 1882, when the towns of Havelock and Laurens were founded along the line of the Toledo & Northwestern railway, the "Garlock" and "Luella" postoffices were discontinued.

In the spring of 1876, when the Pocahontas and Fonda mail route was established, a postoffice was located at the home of C. H. Tollefsrude on section 28, Grant township, and called Shirley in honor of Maria G. Shirley, his wife, he being appointed postmaster. In 1879 another postoffice was established in Grant township at the home of H. H. Felch on section 36, (Crummer farm) on the Pocahontas and Pomeroy mail route. This office was called "Learned," in commemoration of the place in Colorado where he previously resided, and Mr. Felch remained in charge of it until the spring of 1881 when he removed from the county. When this last postoffice was established there were only 130 residents in Grant township, and while both were maintained there was not another township in the state having

so small a population, that enjoyed the luxury of two postoffices.

After the removal of Mr. Felch "Learned" postoffice was discontinued. Mr. Tollefsrude continued to serve as postmaster at Shirley until Dec. 1, 1881, when Herkimer L. Norton became his successor, receiving and distributing the mail at his home from that date until the spring of 1890, when this office was also discontinued. There was no postoffice in this township from that date until Feb. 7, 1894, when E. O. Christeson became postmaster at Rusk.

On July 12, 1877, M. F. Seeley, who had charge of the mail route from Fonda to old Rolfe via Pocahontas, relinquished his contract to Samuel Post of Palo Alto county and Frank Thompson served as driver.

At old Rolfe in 1876 before the removal of the county seat, W. D. McEwen was postmaster and the mail was carried north on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week, and south on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

In 1865, twelve years previous, according to Colton's map of Iowa, the mail routes in this vicinity radiated from Fort Dodge and were as follows: (1) Fort Dodge to Sioux City via Twin Lakes, Sac City, Ida Grove and Correctionville; (2) Fort Dodge to Council Bluffs via Lake City, Grant City, Denison and Shelbyville; (3) Fort Dodge to Cherokee, a direct line between these two points, entering this county near the southeast corner of Bellville township and leaving it about the center of section 7, Cedar township. This route passed about four miles north of Stormy (now Storm) Lake, and there was not a village along it between the two points named. West of Cherokee it passed through Plymouth, now Merrill, and Melbourne, now Hinton. Lake City was then the only village in Calhoun county, Sioux Rapids in Buena Vista county; and West Bend,

Fern Valley and Emmetsburg the only ones in Palo Alto county, and they were on the mail route from Fort Dodge to Estherville and Spirit Lake via (old) Rolfe.

THE POCAHONTAS TIMES ESTABLISHED.

The period now under consideration was the one in which, after three unsuccessful ventures, the Pocahontas Times was established as the first permanent newspaper in the county. Its predecessors were the Pocahontas Journal, the Cedarville Herald and the Pocahontas Times during the period of its publication by M. D. Skinner.

The Pocahontas Journal was established by W. D. McEwen and J. J. Bruce in the year 1869, when the former was serving as auditor, clerk of the court and county judge, and the latter as county superintendent and member of the board of supervisors, both of whom, after December 1st, that year, were residents of old Rolfe. The first issue of this paper was printed on Tuesday, June 15, 1869, and the second one on Friday, July 25th following, on the press of B. F. Gue at Fort Dodge. After the lapse of two years, or in July, 1871, W. D. McEwen relinquished his editorial interest in this paper to Thomas L. MacVey and its weekly publication was continued by Messrs. Bruce and MacVey until February 1st, 1872. About this date the legislature repealed the law providing for the publication of the general laws in each county and this left them under the necessity of publishing the paper at a pecuniary loss or of abandoning the enterprise. The paper was therefore discontinued. After its establishment in 1869 it was made the official paper of the county and for advertising the sale of the school lands and printing the proceedings of the board of supervisors and delinquent tax list that year received \$237.00. In 1870 and also in 1871 it was the official paper of the county and, in addition to the other public printing, published

the general laws of the 13th (1870) General Assembly of Iowa.

The Cedarville Herald was a small weekly published at Fonda by W. S. Wright, express agent and postmaster at Fonda, during the spring of 1871. It was printed at Storm Lake and was discontinued after the lapse of a few months.

The Pocahontas Times, about the fall of 1872, was established in Fonda by M. D. Skinner, and its publication as a weekly newspaper was continued until about the fall of 1875, when it was also discontinued as an unprofitable enterprise. It was made the official paper of the county for the years 1873 and 1874 and received for the public printing done during those years \$171 and \$420 respectively. In the year 1873, by direction of the board of supervisors, it published certain statements of the finances for the years 1866, '67, '68, '69, and '70, and a copy of the paper was sent to every taxpayer in the county.

On Dec. 8, 1874, the board of supervisors decided to print semi-annually, in pamphlet form for distribution among the voters of the county, the proceedings of the board and the reports of the auditor and treasurer of the county. This contract for the year 1875, at the rate of 30 cents per square, was given to Messrs. White & Son of Fonda, publishers of the Northwestern Hawkeye, and they received \$132.50 for the public printing in this county during that year.

It is a matter for regret that no files of the Pocahontas Journal, Cedarville Herald and of the Pocahontas Times during the period of its first venture, have been preserved for the historian, the last ones being destroyed by the fire in Fonda Oct. 15, 1883. The little pioneer county paper was the one that contained the record of the local happenings, the marriages and divorces, the births and deaths, the arrival and removal of families, the account of

those events that denote social and material progress and it was read with more interest than any other paper.

The Pocahontas Times, established at old Rolfe by W. D. McEwen as editor and proprietor, and of which volume 1, number 1, was issued Thursday, April 6, 1876, is the oldest newspaper in Pocahontas county that has been preserved and its publication continued until the present time. This paper was first issued as a five column weekly, containing four pages 12½ by 19½ inches, and its unpretentious motto was,

“He who by his biz’ would rise,
Must either bust or advertise.”

In his introduction the editor very modestly made his bow to his readers in the following words: “In taking charge of a newspaper, we fear the many difficulties that beset our way, especially after having engaged actively for five years in other business. We commence again the publication of a newspaper, feeling that Pocahontas county has been too long neglected by reason of the lack of a live one. As there is no one disposed to embark in this enterprise we have established the Pocahontas Times and propose to make it a success, if possible. Our little sheet is not what we would like our first number to have been, but if our friends will have patience we will soon enlarge it to twice its present size. With our long acquaintance with the people of the county, we feel satisfied that we shall receive a full share of support and the Times will be devoted to developing the resources of Pocahontas county. Since there can be no reform without discussion, we invite farmers to send us their observations in the matter of improvements, that your neighbors may be benefited by your experience, your light burning none the less brightly while lighting another. We propose to chronicle faithfully and impartially the events of the day, domestic and

foreign, in addition to the local item that may come under our observation. We shall uphold and advocate the principles of the republican party and aim to promote truth, justice and good will to all."

The first issue contained the proceedings of the board of supervisors at their April meeting, (1876) and the professional cards of the following persons in Pocahontas county: Rev. Walter L. Lyons, Presbyterian, services in the brick school house at old Rolfe every other Sunday at 11 o'clock a. m. Rev. Wm. McCready, M. E., alternate Sundays same place at 10:30 a. m. Rev. A. R. Whitfield, M. E., in school house at Fonda, alternate Sabbaths at 11 a. m. W. D. McEwen, attorney at law, Rolfe; Alexander Younke, attorney, Rolfe; W. D. McEwen & Co., dry goods and groceries, Rolfe; A. O. Garlock, real estate and tax paying agency, Rolfe; J. D. Minkler, physician and surgeon, Fonda; Wm. Marshall, real estate and tax paying agent, Fonda; Joseph Mallison, notary public and collector, Fonda; E. C. Brown, notary public and real estate agent, Fonda; John W. Gray, dry goods and groceries, Fonda; Joseph Mallison, machinery, Fonda; Fred Swingle, lumber, coal and grain, Fonda; Peter G. Ibson, blacksmith and wagon maker, Fonda; William Snell, cheese factory, Fonda; Joseph Nimick, proprietor Center House, Pocahontas Center.

On May 11, 1876, the editor and proprietor of the Times announced an improvement that marks a new era in its publication. The first three issues, owing to defective presswork, looked as if they had been printed in a foreign language, so that but few readers were able to decipher the wonderful hieroglyphics produced by the ingenuity of the printer. The office was replenished with new type, a new roller and other improvements, the paper was increased from four to eight

pages, and, as it was decided to issue it thereafter in the English language, the hope was expressed that attention to business and fair dealing would merit a liberal support. "Truth crushed to earth will rise again," was the new motto adopted at this time and the printing was very creditable. The Fort Dodge Times now observed "that it was the most sprightly paper ever sent out of the county, an high honor to its editor and owner;" and the Spirit Lake Beacon, "W. D. McEwen, editor of the Pocahontas Times, is a very versatile gentleman, being an attorney, a merchant and postmaster, which, in addition to the laborious duties of a journalist, is business enough for one man; he is also at this time serving his county, to the satisfaction of all concerned, as county treasurer and Centennial commissioner."

On June 15, 1876, when the editor went to the Centennial, the office was left to the "tender mercies" of A. O. Garlock and Fred J. Ervin." After the issue of Oct. 10, 1876, the place of publication was changed from old Rolfe to Pocahontas Center.

On Jan. 1, 1877, Ed. B. Tabor became an associate editor of the Pocahontas Times. As the successor of Geo. M. Dorton, he had previously assisted M. D. Skinner in the Times office at Fonda from March 1st until August 1st, 1875. On Nov. 1, 1877, W. D. McEwen, finding that his official duties required all of his time and attention, relinquished his editorial interest and leased the Times outfit to Mr. Tabor, who continued to be its sole editor during the next two years.

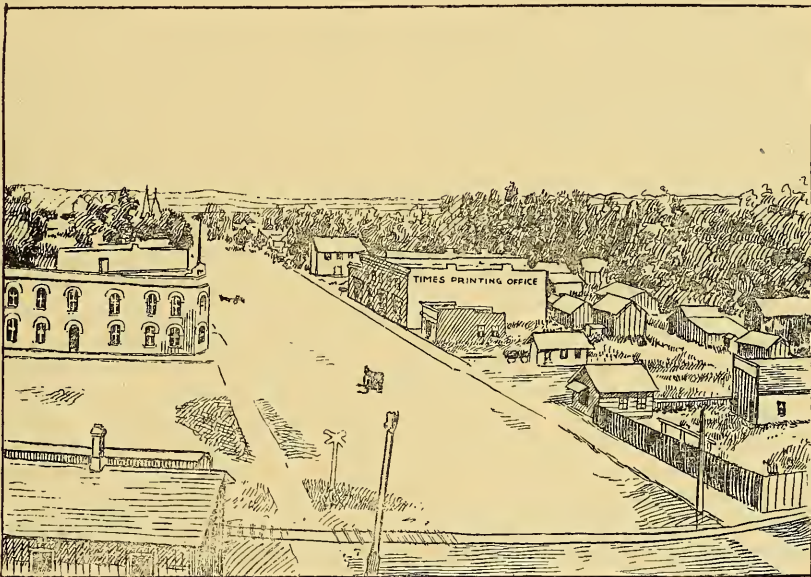
"Stick to your aim and you are bound to win" was the new motto adopted, and two important changes were effected during this period. After the issue of May 9, 1878, the office of publication was moved from Pocahontas to Fonda and, commencing with the issue of May 30th following, which

contained a full page description of Pocahontas county entitled, "Come West," the amount of local printing in the home office was increased from two to four pages.

The constant aim of the new editor was to furnish his readers a first-class local paper and through its columns give encouragement to every worthy local enterprise. He so identified himself to the interests of this com-

old Rolfe is considering a proposition to go into the bee business. He has been talking about it with a man who lives a little further north and who is almost persuaded. A few more Sundays will fetch him. He believes in starting with queen bees. The name of his bee is Phoebe."

Nov. 1. 1879, Geo. Sanborn, one of the pioneer homesteaders of Cedar township, purchasing the outfit from



VIEW OF THE TIMES OFFICE AND POCAHONTAS COUNTY BANK ON MAIN STREET, FONDA, IN 1896.

munity, both personally and through the paper, that he found it a real trial when, at the end of two years, the sale of the Times outfit to another involved the relinquishment of his editorial relation to it. He won for himself the reputation of being a "young man who was bound to make his mark in the editorial profession," a "spicy writer," and a "good newspaper man." As an illustration of his humor the following incident is gleaned from the column of locals. "Geo. W. Horton at

W. D. McEwen, became the editor and proprietor of the Pocahontas Times and continuing these relations until the present time, completes with this issue—Oct. 26, 1899—a period of twenty years of editorial management and ownership of this paper, changing its name to Fonda Times Nov. 1, 1897.

In taking charge of the editorial department the new proprietor acknowledged his "consciousness of the task that we have laid upon ourself," and expressed the hope that, with the good

will and assistance of his many friends, he would be able to make it a financial success, and at the same time a paper of which they might well feel proud. "Had we been playing farmer all our life we could look for nothing but a partial success, if not a total failure in our venture; as it is, we hope to bring to our assistance such practical experience as will materially aid us in the discharge of the onerous duties in which our present position finds us." "A journal devoted to the interests of Pocahontas county," was the new motto adopted, and it was continued until June, 1892, when the further use of a motto was regarded as unnecessary. The Times office, located at first in the second story of the Fairburn bank building at the corner of First and Main streets, in 1879 was permanently located on the east side of Main street in a small frame building on the lot where the Times office now stands. This building, together with others in the vicinity, was entirely consumed by the fire of Oct. 15, 1883. It was impossible to save either of the presses and with the exception of the roll of subscribers, a few books and some type, the entire outfit of the Times was destroyed. The value of the building and contents of the office was \$2,300 and this was a total loss.

The first issue after the fire, of date Oct. 18, 1883, was printed on the press of the Manson Journal, Geo. I. and Tom D. Long, editors. This fire edition marks a change in the size of the Times to adapt it to the size of the new press then obtained. The pages were increased to seven columns, 17x23 inches and their number reduced to four. On March 6, 1884, the paper was enlarged to an eight column folio, an enlargement that gave its readers about one third more reading matter. On June 15, 1893, its size and appearance was again completely changed to its present form. The eight column folio was replaced by a seven column

quarto. As the latter has eight pages the quantity of matter and the cost of conducting the paper were nearly doubled by this change. One object of this increase was to make it specially beneficial to the farmers by adding an agricultural page edited by Hon. James Wilson, a practical and successful farmer, who was then superintendent of the experiment station at the State Agricultural College at Ames. In 1889 the old printing press was replaced by a new Campbell power press.

These enlargements and improvements of the Times from time to time indicate the constantly increasing support that has been given this paper by the business men of Fonda and the people of this county. They indicate also the constant endeavor of the editor and proprietor to keep it abreast of these rapidly progressing times and make it worthy the reputation of being not merely the oldest but the best newspaper in Pocahontas county. As a journal devoted to the interests of this county it has been true to its aim. Every issue has contained some good word for Fonda and vicinity. Believing that the town would respond promptly to any forward movement made by the rural districts, it has very wisely refrained from booming the town beyond its possibilities by a strict adherence to truth and, with an untiring zeal, has encouraged the settlement of the country around it with the best class of people. About every fifth year it has contained a full page account of the material progress and growth of Fonda or of the county in general. Whoever reads these frequent descriptions of this section of country in the files of the Times cannot fail to perceive that they have prepared the way and naturally developed the desire to have this last one the best, worthy to be designated the Pioneer History of Pocahontas County. Although republican in sentiment

it has never been under the control of any clique or faction. Under no obligation to others, it has been free to adopt its own principles and fearlessly to advocate or defend them. That a love for fair play is inherent in the American people has been recognized as a fundamental principle in all matters of a public or political nature. As an angel of intelligence in the community it has been the ally of virtue

zer, who enrolled 103 persons in Des Moines and Lizard townships, which then embraced the entire county.

The census of 1870 was taken by J. J. Bruce. He traveled on horseback and had three months from the first day of June to complete the canvass. The county was then included in four townships, Des Moines, Clinton, Lizard and Powhatan. In Lizard township, which included all the residents

POPULATION OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY, 1859-1895.

TOWNSHIPS AND TOWNS	1859	1860	1862	1867	1869	1870	1873	1875	1880	1885	1890	1895
Bellville.....							237	282	373	456	576	628
Cedar.....							322	290	453	443	444	543
“ Fonda.....						with	Cedar	168	433	625	942	
Center.....								100	166	178	506	463
“ Pocahontas...										153		201
Clinton.....			23	60	38	55	100	116	154	309	548	631
“ Rolfc.....										256	529	779
Colfax.....							234	240	380	492	621	638
Des Moines.....	40	35	31	126	176	256	257	265	327	422	474	558
Dover.....							107	139	239	352	552	587
Grant.....							93	114	151	272	455	581
Lake.....									121	304	490	508
“ Gilmore City..												164
Lincoln.....							58	85	125	155	396	575
Lizard.....	68	68	68	208	334	955	469	496	537	567	624	672
Marshall.....									30	168	420	557
Powhatan.....				59	89	180	257	186	258	414	648	768
Sherman.....									54	134	341	479
Swan Lake.....							41	36	93	362	581	633
“ Laurens.....											318	587
Washington.....									84	284	405	493
“ Havelock.....												365
Total.....	108	103	122	453	637	1,446	2,175	2,249	3,713	6,152	9,553	12,442

and a foe to crime. It has exerted a dominant influence in favor of morality and religion during all these years, by always advocating the education of the child, the sobriety of the individual, the purity of the home and the welfare of the church.

“Like the water we so freely drink,
And the pure life-giving air,
Is the home paper, with its precious gifts,
And almost magic charm,
As it comes to break the monotony
Of life upon the farm.”

THE CENSUS TAKEN.

The first census of this county was taken in the year 1860 by Chas. Smelt-

in the south tier of townships, the south tier of sections in Lake and Lincoln, and the south half of Grant and Dover, there were 955 residents, in Clinton 55, Powhatan 180, and in Des Moines, which included the remainder of the county, 256, total 1446, of whom 785 were males and 661 females. At the time this census was taken there was no one residing in what are now Center and Sherman townships, J. C. Strong, Jason M. Russell, Jonathan L. Clark, wife and three children, all living together on sec. 30 were the only residents in Washing-

ton, Alonzo M. Thornton and family, on sec. 18, the only ones in Marshall, and Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Woodin, Alexander F. Hubbell and his brother, Charles F. Hubbell, all on sec. 24, the only ones in Dover township.

In 1880 there were five census enumerators and the county was divided among them as follows: Geo. M. Dorton, Cedar township; C. G. Perkins, Colfax and Bellville; O. I. Strong, Des Moines and Powhatan; Henry Kelly, Lizard, Lake, Lincoln and Clinton; and C. H. Tollefsrude, Grant, Dover, Sherman, Marshall, Swan Lake and Washington townships.

In 1873, 1875 and 1885 the assessors of the several townships made an enumeration which in tabulated form with other similar enumerations shows that the progress of the settlement of the county has been as appears in the above exhibit of population.

CHURCHES ESTABLISHED.

The only churches that had been organized during the previous period were the Unity Presbyterian and Methodist Episcopal at old Rolfe and the Lizard Catholic. During the period now under consideration several other churches were organized and additional preaching stations were established.

In March, 1870, Rev. T. P. Lenahen of Fort Dodge, established Catholic services at the home of Wm. Lynch on sec. 2, Cedar township, and maintained this station until Oct. 20, 1882, when the Dover Catholic church being nearly completed, he was succeeded by P. J. Carroll who in the fall of 1883 secured the erection of the Catholic church in Fonda and established services in it.

In 1871 Rev. L. C. Woodward, pastor and postmaster at Newell, established M. E. services in the school house at Fonda where they were maintained by others until the fall of 1879 when the Fonda M. E. church was erected.

On March 13, 1873, the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran church of Colfax township was organized that succeeded in erecting a house of worship in 1884. About the same time and near the same place the Swedish Evangelical Mission was established that has also erected a house of worship.

In the spring of 1875 Rev. T. M. Lenahen established a Catholic station in the school house at Pocahontas and a church was built there in 1883.

On Feb. 4, 1878, the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church in Grant township was organized and in 1894 a church building was erected at Rusk.

In 1878, when Rev. C. W. Clifton was pastor of the M. E. church at old Rolfe, services were regularly held at the school houses in the vicinity of the residences of J. C. Strong and Philip Hamble in Washington township, at the (Ira) Strong school house, Powhatan township, and occasionally at Coopertown and the Heathman school house near where Plover is now located.

In 1879 Rev. Mr. Johnson, a Lutheran minister, held services at old Rolfe once a month.

On Oct. 31, 1880, the Unity Presbyterian church of old Rolfe was reorganized as the Second Presbyterian church of Rolfe, in the new town then founded, and the present church building was erected in 1888.

HOMESTEADERS.

By an act of Congress approved March 3, 1877, in making final proof of homestead entries the party instead of being required to go to a distant land office as had been previously necessary, might appear with his witnesses before the judge of a court of record of the county in which the land was situated and there make the final proof.

On August 8, 1877, the following list of names was sent to J. W. Wallace, clerk of the court by H. H. Griffiths,

recorder of the U. S. land office, Des Moines, as those of persons who had occupied claims for more than five years and were ready for final proof:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Aaron Himan | C. J. Johnson |
| Wm. E. Gadaw | Charles Johnson |
| Thos. L. Dean | August Johnson |
| S. M. Pettit | Christopher Hoppy |
| Eliza Borjenson | John McAuliff |
| Gust Peterson | Martin McAuliff |
| Peter Peterson | John P. Anderson |
| John Larson | Mary Springstuble |
| Gustave Olsson | C. P. Lenngren |
| George Guy | James B. Lothian |
| William Lothian | Peter Scherf |
| Asa Harris | Betsy Nelson |
| M. Lahey | L. P. Davidson |
| Samuel Gill | A. Anderson |
| Matthias J. Synsteline | Louisa Lieb |

ERA OF BETTER TIMES.

It was in 1877, the year of the great railroad strikes, that there came the first indications of the commencement of an era of better times. These were found in the prospects for a fine crop and a foreign demand for breadstuffs that created a good and profitable market for all the products of the farm. More corn was planted that year in this county than ever before, and, though in planting time the farmers were not in the best of spirits, yet in the time of harvest their hearts were gladdened by a fine crop of small grain, the first for several years, and a large one of corn. The feeling immediately began to prevail that about three good crops would bring complete relief to all who had become embarrassed during the previous era of hard times and that this section would prove to be as productive as any in the country. As there was no debt on the county the taxes were low and it was pleasing to see the smiles that illuminated the countenances of our "rural princes" in anticipation of better times.

This was the seventh year after the settlement of the western part of this county, that which had previously

been an unoccupied region was now dotted with many happy homes surrounded by luxuriant fields of oats, barley, wheat and corn, and, in enclosed pastures on every side, there were as beautiful cattle fattening upon the rich grasses of the prairie as ever gladdened the eyes of man.

The general joy and gladness of the new era now ushered in, found opportunity for expression in connection with the county nominating convention that was held at Pocahontas on the first day of September that year. The attendance at this convention was much larger than ever before on such occasions in this county. Every township was represented by a full delegation and many others from all parts of the county were also present. The Cedar delegation made the trip across the country in a wagon drawn by four horses, all profusely decorated with streamers, and followed by several loads of citizens. The crowd from Des Moines township was led by a wagon that bore aloft a large banner and with that delegation were Messrs. Fish and Vaughn, who made things lively with their drums.

1878.

In the spring of 1878 northwest Iowa received a large immigration and many new families located in this county, among whom were those of A. B. P. Wood, W. J. Curkeet and H. H. Fitch, all from Darlington, Wis., C. G. Guyett from Montpelier, Vt., who erected a double store building two stories in height on the lots occupied by the McKee brick block, Fonda; N. B. Post, J. F. Pattee and Geo. F. Porter, who located on farms, and Dr. G. W. Bothwell, who located in Fonda in November previous. Many new buildings were erected, every acre of improved land was farmed and the demand for lands to rent was greater than the supply. Another good crop was harvested that included a large acreage of flax and wheat and the business out-

look of the county was better than ever. The farmers began to perceive that cattle and hogs brought more money into their pockets than anything else and their best efforts were put forth to raise fine stock for the market.

Col. Blanden adds section 26 and part of section 24 to his large farm in the southeast corner of Bellville township, thereby increasing it to 2,760 acres, and has on hand 50,000 bushels of corn, 2,000 tons of hay, 350 fat steers, 600 hogs and 250 shorthorns, of which one-half are registered thoroughbreds and the others are of a high grade. He made this the best stock farm in northwest Iowa and better stock could not be found anywhere in the state. He received for one heifer calf this year \$350.

During that fall a number of the farmers in the eastern part of this county lost some of their young cattle from blackleg, an acute fever or disease of the blood that caused nervous prostration, hemorrhages, boils and carbuncles. The animals were usually seized with it at night and died the next day. This disease prevails principally in undrained, marshy districts and ordinarily affects only calves and those under one year. It originates spontaneously and in most cases proves fatal. The best preventive is the proper drainage of the land and, when it prevails, the feeding once a week to each animal of half an ounce of nitre in its food.

CORN USED FOR FUEL.

During the winter of 1878-9 a great deal of corn was used for fuel by the farmers in the north part of this county. The corn was abundant, the price was low, and it made good fuel. There was no timber and coal had to be hauled long distances. To many persons, it seemed wrong to use an article of food for fuel, but to others, under the circumstances then existing

this was merely a sentiment that overlooked the fact that to warm one's self by the fire and to do the same by the consumption of food are in the end precisely similar effects, and if more warmth can be procured by consuming in a stove a dollar's worth of corn than a dollar's worth of coal it is a legitimate use of the corn.

The farmers of this county have now learned that if they do not have wood and want it, they can grow it. A crop of trees can be raised with the same certainty and about the same labor that it takes to grow a crop of corn. On the homestead of A. O. Garlock, section 24, Cedar township, the growth attained by the different varieties of trees in fifteen years was as follows: Cottonwood, 40 feet in height and 49 inches in circumference two feet from the ground; maple, 45 inches; elm, 32 inches; Scotch pine, 28 inches; butternut from the seed in ten years, 26 inches; and oak from the acorn in ten years, 10 inches.

It was in the year 1870 that the planting of trees in this county began as a fixed plan of farming and many of the first groves were intended chiefly as a means of protection from the hot sun in summer and the storms in winter. The production of timber for its use as fuel has been a secondary matter, but the results of that first pioneer work now show what may be done upon an intelligent plan and the comparative value of different varieties of trees. This problem of fuel has been solved by the increase in railway facilities whereby abundant supplies of both hard and soft coal are now within easy reach of everyone.

1879.

In 1879 J. H. Brower of Michigan returned to his farm on section 32, Dover township, W. S. Fegles and others of Des Moines township went to Nebraska, Wm. Bell of Bellville to the Black Hills, Barney Hancher to Kan-

sas and David Slosson to Washington territory. The farmers are in better circumstances, having paid many debts during the previous winter months. The resumption of specie payments having been effected in January, prices of produce gradually increased after that date very much to the satisfaction of all. Although this season was one of drought the crops in Pocahontas county were good and an unusual degree of activity prevailed in all lines of business.

On September 26th Smith Bros., (Thomas and James) of Clinton township, delivered to Henry Jarvis of old Rolfe sixty-two steers for \$1,900. They were sold June 20th previous when they were weighed and it was found that the average gain of each steer from that date until the day of delivery was 275 pounds. They had not been fed any grain or hay but made this increase entirely by grazing on the native grasses of Pocahontas county. On Nov. 23d, W. J. Boyd of Colfax received \$3.46 per cwt. for a load of hogs and in December following Millard Seeley of old Rolfe brought three loads of hogs to Fonda and returned with as many loads of lumber.

FARM MACHINERY AND MORTGAGES.

In the spring of 1879 sulky plows came into general use in Grant township. This incident is suggestive of the great improvement in farm machinery that was made at this period. Two years previous, (1877) the self binder was first used in this country, the mower and reaper having preceded it a few years. The disk harrow, the grain drill, two-wheeled cultivator, corn planter, hay fork, improved thresher and portable farm engine were all introduced about this same period and there was a great demand for them in this new section of country. The same is true of the melodeon, organ and sewing machine in the home.

At the time of their introduction and for some years thereafter all of

these implements were sold at a very high price, and the payment for them at a future date was usually secured by a mortgage bearing a high rate of interest. Comparatively few had sheds for the protection of their machinery when not in use and, by reason of the decay and breakage due to the effects of exposure to the sun and weather, many farmers were unable to derive more than half their value before they were worn out and also found themselves embarrassed by their unpaid mortgages. A farmer who was a close observer expressed the belief that about two thirds of the farm mortgages at this period were due to the causes just named. But if carelessness kept some hampered with debt and their homes unimproved a wise economy proved as profitable as a good crop. The dealers became more cautious about giving credit, the farmers more careful of their implements and conservative in their purchases, and very soon the condition of both was greatly improved.

1880.

In 1880 the settlement of the entire county had become so general it was divided into the full number of supervisor districts and the board of supervisors was increased to five members.

Among the new and comfortable houses built this year were those of Geo. Fairburn, Fonda; Torkel Larson, Grant; Thomas Nolan, Lake; David Wallace and N. L. Schoonmaker, Lizard; and John Pettit, Swan Lake. Good barns were erected by Peter Wendell, Bellville, and Perry Nowlen, Des Moines.

The crops of all kinds of grain were increasingly large, those of wheat and flax averaging in some instances twenty-three bushels to the acre. R. B. Fish, Des Moines, had 309 bushels of Fife wheat from thirteen acres, Samuel N. Strong, Powhatan, had 100 bushels flax from five acres and Henry Jarvis, Des Moines, 1,047 bushels flax

from sixty-seven acres. Corn was abundant and a great deal of it was again used for fuel during the coal famine that prevailed that fall and winter.

The year 1880 was a good one for fruit, especially plums and apples. Plums had never before been so plentiful and wherever there were apple trees large enough they were loaded with beautiful apples that made the farmer smile. C. M. Saylor, Lincoln, picked two bushels from one of his young trees, planted only a few years previous. The first barrel of apples raised and sold in this county is believed to have been the one gathered by David Slosson, Des Moines, from his young trees and sold to W. D. McEwen at old Rolfe in the fall of 1876.

1881.

The year 1881 brought with it many important changes. D. W. Edgar, M. D., located at Fonda and J. N. McKee & Co. became the successors of C. G. Guyett in the mercantile business. Geo. Fairburn erected the Pocahontas County Bank building and furniture store, the first brick building in Fonda. The Fonda Creamery was built by Messrs. Shellito and Froelich for Sampson and French, Storm Lake. Geo. Brower, merchant at Fonda, leased the creamery when completed and started a branch store at Pocahontas in care of W. Hodges. G. W. Hunt and family located at Fonda and on May 12th began the publication of the Fonda Gazette. C. H. Hinckley and son, of Walnut, purchased section 17, Cedar township, and stocked it with 500 head of cattle, many of which were thoroughbreds.

W. W. Beam, M. D., of Tama county, located at the hotel de Tedford in old Rolfe in advance of the new railways, in order that he might move as a pioneer to the new railroad town in the northeast part of the county as soon as it should be platted. Barney Han-

cher and Henry Thomas, who had left the county, returned with their families to Powhatan township. W. C. Kennedy located on his farm in Clinton and H. W. Bissell became proprietor of the Center House at Pocahontas.

The citizens of Fonda, desirous of having a good flouring mill, at a meeting held on the 15th of January, appointed a special committee, consisting of Geo. L. Brower, Geo. Fairburn, A. B. P. Wood, J. W. Gray, Wm. Bout, W. J. Busby, O. A. Langworthy and Theodore Dunn, and empowered them to offer Pfeiffer Bros. and Weikal of Newton, Iowa, \$500 as an inducement to erect a mill four stories in height and supply it with machinery for doing first-class work. This mill 36x48 feet and 50 feet high was completed and began running Oct. 20, 1881.

It was provided with an improved engine of forty horse power and four run of stone, one for feed, two for wheat in connection with another for making roller process or half patent flour, the only grade manufactured at first. It had a bin that held 8,000 bushels and a capacity for grinding 150 bushels of wheat and 150 bushels of corn every twelve hours. This mill and its machinery was burned Oct. 30, 1893, at which time it was owned by Peter Morrison and leased by Kinney Bros. It had changed hands several times and proved an unprofitable enterprise to all who invested in it.

In Des Moines township the Brookside creamery was erected on the south side of Beaver creek by Edward Hammond and A. H. Lorimer. This was the second creamery established in Pocahontas county, and when it is remembered that the first creamery in northwest Iowa was built at Fort Dodge in February 1880, only one year previous, the interest in this new industry becomes apparent.

On Feb. 17, 1881, the Iowa State Farmers' Alliance was organized at

It was provided with an improved engine of forty horse power and four run of stone, one for feed, and two for wheat in connection with another for making roller process or half patent flour, the only grade manufactured at first. It had a bin that held 8,000 bushels and a capacity for grinding 150 bushels of wheat and 150 bushels of corn every twelve hours. This mill and its machinery was burned Oct. 30, 1893, at which time it was owned by Peter Morrison and leased by Kinney Bros. It had changed hands several times and proved an unprofitable enterprise to all who invested in it.

In Des Moines township the Brookside creamery was erected on the south side of Beaver creek by Edward Hammond and A. H. Lorimer. This was the second creamery established in Pocahontas county, and when it is remembered that the first creamery in northwest Iowa was built at Fort Dodge in February 1880, only one year previous, the interest in this new industry becomes apparent.

On Feb. 17, 1881, the Iowa State Farmers' Alliance was organized at the close of the annual meeting of the Iowa State Agricultural society at Des Moines and L. S. Coffin of Webster county and C. F. Clarkson of Polk county were chosen president and secretary respectively. The objects of this Alliance were the organization of the farmers into local alliances for the discussion of their privileges, rights and duties, and to unite them in efforts to promote their mutual interests. One of the good things accomplished by this organization was the fact that it directed the attention of the farmers to the profits arising from the dairy industry and led them to cooperate in the support of creameries in every well settled neighborhood.

The crops of 1881 were not so large as those of 1880, although the acreage was larger. The previous good crop

of flax led many farmers to sow it again on the same ground, as they had planted corn successively in the same fields from the time they raised the first crop of it. They now learned that this was an unprofitable experiment.

The deep snows and long continued winter of 1880-81 was followed by a season of unusually bad roads. The snow did not disappear until the rain and floods of April 15th, that washed away many of the bridges, and the frequent rains that followed prevented the repair of the roads. Their impassable condition was proverbial in the spring and, during the months of September and October, their condition again was such that an empty wagon was about as much as a team could draw back and forth to town. The frequent heavy rains affected unfavorably some of the growing crops and bad roads affected the business interests of the county quite considerably. The season of 1881 in some measure verified the remark of an old Iowa farmer who said "that a dry season always frightens people but it is a wet one that starves them."

Other arrivals in 1881 were Wm. G. Bradley and E. M. Hastings, attorneys, who located at Pocahontas, David Smeaton who started a lumber yard at Fonda, and Henry Goodchild who returned to Powhatan. On Feb. 16 Messrs. Joseph and Louis Fuchs of Cedar township made a shipment of fat cattle, consisting of 86 head, for which they received at Fonda \$4,988, or \$58 a head. On Sept. 15th the second telegraph wire was put upon the poles of the Illinois Central railway at Fonda.

FIRST DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

On Aug. 20, 1881, the first democratic county convention was held at Pocahontas under the name of People's Party. It was called to order by T. L. MacVey, who served as chairman,

and J. M. Brown served as secretary. The nominations made were as follows: G. H. Tyler, superintendent of the Blanden farm, for treasurer; Theodore Dunn for auditor; Anthony Huddek for sheriff; Henry Kelly for superintendent of schools; T. L. MacVey for surveyor and John Brown for coroner. A central committee was appointed for the ensuing year.

At their county convention held this year the republicans adopted the following resolution: "Whereas the republicans of the county have for the past four years or longer, nominated candidates without drawing party lines, and the democrats have now organized an opposition party, erroneously styling it the "People's Party," be it resolved by this convention that the call for all future county conventions be based on the republican vote and that we cordially invite to our ranks those of all parties who sincerely desire the welfare of the county and discountenance personal politics."

At the ensuing general election held Oct. 11, 1881, Horatio Pitcher, the republican candidate for the legislature, received only 250 votes while his opponent, S. A. Clemens, a democrat, received 561 votes in this county. This exceptional vote was due to the fact that Pitcher's nomination was the result of a trade whereby Sac and Pocahontas counties were in some measure disfranchised or prevented from having a voice in the representative convention. The qualifications of the candidates did not enter into this contest and it was not affected by the organization of a new party in this county, for there were cast for the state officers that year 561 republican and 242 democratic votes, and all the republican nominees for the county offices were elected.

NEW RAILROADS.

The large immigration to northwest Iowa and neighboring territory at this

period gave a new impetus to railroad construction and during 1881, Pocahontas county became a paradise for railroad surveyors. The surveys for five new railways were made across the county and twelve special elections were held in the various townships crossed by them for the purpose of voting a five per cent tax to aid in paying the right of way through them. Each surveying party usually consisted of eight men, two of whom were surveyors. One of these, running the line set the center stakes and the other, measuring the depth of the cuts and height of the grades, set the others.

TOLEDO & NORTH WESTERN R. R.

In December 1880, the surveyors of the Toledo & Northwestern R. R., a branch of the Chicago and Northwestern system, passed through this county, entering it on section 1, Clinton township, and leaving it on section 19, Swan Lake. On April 12-13, 1881, E. C. Ebersole, their attorney, secured an appraisal and condemnation of the right-of-way across Clinton, Center, Powhatan, Washington and Swan Lake townships, Sheriff Joseph Mallison having summoned as the jury of appraisers Harvey Knight, O. A. Langworthy, W. E. Garlock, H. L. Norton, J. F. Pattee, and O. A. Pease. Much of the deep snow of the previous winter still remained, and these men made this two-days' trip across the county in a sled drawn by four horses. This road during that year was completed from Toledo to Webster City. On Jan. 5, 1882, the grading was completed to Rolfe Junction and five days later the track was laid to that place. On Jan. 16th the track was laid to Havelock and the first construction train arrived there that day. During the month of March it was extended through Swan Lake township and during that year, to Sioux Rapids.

Louis Carmichael of Tama City had the contract for a considerable portion

of the grading of this road and did all that work in this county. All the track was laid, the bridges built and depots erected by the railway company, the two last under the direction of A. L. Galy of Chicago, superintendent of bridges and buildings. At all the stations fine buildings two stories in height were erected for depots, the upper story being intended as a home for the agent and his family. The plastering of all these upper stories in the depots from Toledo to Hawarden, which includes all of them in this state, was done by Knight Dexter of Toledo, who boarded at the home of John Fraser, a pioneer of Powhatan, while plastering the depot at Rubens, but now at Rolfe. The towns of Rubens, Havelock and Laurens were established along the line of this railroad in this county, and the depots at these places were completed in the month of March, 1882, when freight began to be handled. The trains began to carry mail about the first of May following. H. G. Burt was the first superintendent of the northern Iowa division of this road, and the first ticket agents in this county were as follows: J. B. Miller at Havelock, S. R. Overton at Laurens and T. C. Morbeck at Rubens. At Rubens on section 1, Center township, the railway company erected a depot, section house, stock yards and side track; but after two years, at the request of the citizens of the place, the depot was moved three miles east to its present location in Rolfe. The section house was moved at the same time but the side track and stock yards were left for the convenience of the farmers in that vicinity.

It is worthy of notice that for this railroad, the second one to enter this county, the company received no public aid whatever, either in the form of a land grant from the state or of taxes paid by the townships through which it passed. In 1881 the state of Iowa

received a patent from the General Land Office for lands granted by an Act of Congress approved May 12, 1874, to aid in the construction of a railroad from a junction with the Sioux City and St. Paul railway. This grant included 9,202 acres located in the northern part of Pocahontas county, 3,086 in Humboldt, 1,860 in Palo Alto, 7,902 in Buena Vista, 11,747 in Clay and several thousands of acres in other adjoining counties; but all of these lands were given by the state to the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Company which did not build a road through this county at that time.

DES MOINES & FORT DODGE R. R.

In January, 1881, the Des Moines and Fort Dodge R. R. Co. expressed an intention to extend their line from Tara northward along the valley of the Des Moines river, or that of the west branch of Lizard creek and Pocahontas to some prominent point to be designated later, provided seven townships of this county would vote a special five-per-cent tax as an aid to its construction. This extension would put this county in direct communication with the coal fields of the Des Moines district and, as an inducement to cross it, special elections were held and a tax voted by Center township on Feb. 28, 1881, Swan Lake March 14th, Clinton May 21st and Des Moines May 23d. At the time of the survey in May it was decided the route should extend from Tara to Ruthven, and at their meeting on September 5, 1881, when the board of supervisors levied this tax on Clinton and Des Moines townships, they did not do so on Center and Swan Lake for this railroad. The appraisalment of the right of way in Clinton on Aug. 23d and in Des Moines and Powhatan townships on Oct. 28th was made by a jury summoned by Sheriff Mallison, consisting of Robert Struthers, J. P. Robinson, Geo. H. Ellis, Wm. Jarvis,

C. M. Sayler and O. C. Christopherson. The greater part of the grading in this county was done by Edward London and Messrs. Strong (C. L.) and Mead. The track was laid in this county about June 1, 1882, and the road was completed to Ruthven about July 1st following. The officers of the company were Charles E. Whitehead, president; C. N. Gilmore, superintendent, and Geo. W. Ogilvie, treasurer. J. J. Bruce was their agent to secure the right of way through this county. This company located stations at Gilmore City, Rolfe and Plover and provided them with good depots.

DES MOINES & NORTHWESTERN R. R.

The survey of the Des Moines & Northwestern R. R. was completed to Fonda on Aug. 12, 1881, and three days later was continued through Cedar and Dover townships toward Spencer. The grading of this road was done by Edward Agnew who employed C. Wolcot as his office clerk in Fonda. When the graders on Oct. 2, 1881, reached the limits of the Illinois Central track at Fonda they were ordered to stop by that company. On Jan. 5, 1882, when the track was laid to the Chicago & Northwestern R. R. at Lohrville the latter company stopped the workmen and so wearied their patience by keeping an engine and two cars on the track in approved railroad style that they became discouraged and disbanded. The right of way north of Fonda was appraised on Feb. 7, 1882, by a jury summoned by Sheriff Mallison consisting of Louis Fuchs, G. H. Gottfriedt, Wm. Fitzgerald, D. M. Woodin, John Lemp and G. W. Cox. The grading north of Fonda was continued for several miles by J. H. Ryan, a brother-in-law of the contractor, in the spring of 1882.

On Nov. 28, 1882, when the laying of the track was completed to Fonda, the event was celebrated by a public reception and supper to the workmen in the town hall by the citizens of

Fonda. Wm. Marshall, chairman of the assembly, in his words of welcome expressed the joy and gladness of the people of Fonda at the result achieved by the completion of this new line of railway, connecting the town with the principal coal districts of the state. After supper Thomas Barrett on behalf of the railroad boys among other things said, "Citizens of Fonda: We have reached your town after a long, hard struggle and this is a happy day for us as well as for you. The sun shone upon us and may it continue to shine on you and your fair young city. We are here under the lead of our noble captain, Mr. Sullivan, who has had a hard and a strong pull to pull us all together. You have received us with open arms and open hearts to a most bountiful and enjoyable supper. The citizens of Fonda and their grateful reception will long be remembered by the boys of the Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific R. R., and on their behalf we thank you for your kind regards on us bestowed." On Dec. 20, 1882 the management of this road provided a special excursion to Des Moines and over forty citizens of Fonda enjoyed the trip.

Previous to the time this road was completed, the price of a car to Chicago from Sioux City was \$40, but from Fonda, which was 100 miles nearer but had no railway competition, the price was \$70. It is now \$45.

On Aug. 29, 1881, at a special election held in Cedar township by a vote of 71 to 19 the citizens voted a five per cent tax in aid of this road and it was levied on Sept. 7th following, but the road not having been completed to Fonda at the specified time, July 4, 1882, the board of county supervisors on April 6, 1885, declared this tax had thereby been forfeited. At the special election held in Dover township Aug. 30, 1881, the proposition to aid this road by a tax was lost by a vote of 18 to 41.

This road was built by citizens of Des Moines, known as the Des Moines & Northwestern R. R. Co., but when completed it was leased and continued a part of the Wabash system until Oct. 5, 1887, when it was purchased by Gen. G. M. Dodge, owner of the narrow gauge line, Des Moines to Boone, and Messrs. J. S. Polk and F. M. Hubbell, under whose management it was called the Des Moines, Northern & Western R. R. In 1891 the track was made a standard gauge. On Jan. 1, 1899, the road became a part of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul system and later that year it was extended from Fonda to Spencer; a new depot was built at Fonda north of the Illinois Central railroad and a station was established at Varina.

A track laying machine began to lay this track north of Fonda, at the rate of two miles a day, on Nov. 13th. This machine consisted of a train of nine cars suited for hauling and delivering the cross ties, rails and spikes for a half day's work, accompanied by a gang of sixty workmen, part of whom going before it, quickly put the ties and rails in place for the advance of the train and the others following after it rearranged the ties and securely fastened the rails. This train consisted of an engine, three flats for ties, two for rails, one for spikes, two box cars for the workmen and their tools, and a flat car in front provided with two long horizontal beams, from which eighteen ties were dumped from a small truck on the grading for two lengths of rails at each movement of the machine. This front flat and the five following ones containing the rails and ties were connected on top by a railroad on which moved the little truck that conveyed and dumped the ties. The rails, two at a time, were drawn on rollers located in the center of the flat cars and delivered on trestles provided with similar rollers

on top. It was an interesting sight to witness the quiet, orderly and rapid movement of the men and materials as the work progressed.

ST. LOUIS, NEWTON & NORTHWESTERN R. R.

In August, 1881, the engineers of the St. Louis, Newton and Northwestern R. R. Co. surveyed a line from Newton via Tara northwest along the west branch of Lizard creek to Pocahontas, thence five miles due west along the south line of Sherman township, thence southwest across the northwest corner of Grant township, where it was proposed to locate a station, and thence further westward. During that same month five special elections were held to vote aid in the construction of this road. In Lake, Lincoln and Sherman townships the citizens were not in favor of the tax, and a majority of them voted against it, but in Center on Aug. 19th it carried 19 to 5, and in Grant on Aug. 29th it carried 17 to 1. On Sept. 7th following the board of county supervisors levied this tax on these townships, but as the road was not built the tax was forfeited.

DUBUQUE & DAKOTA R. R.

In February, 1882, the engineering corps of the Dubuque & Dakota R. R. Co., surveyed a line due west from Hampton to Cherokee and thence to Sioux City. This line crossed Clinton, Center, Sherman and Marshall townships, but the road was not built.

BOOM IN LAND.

The effect of these numerous surveys, the building of three new railroads into the county and the establishment along them of five new and promising towns—Rolfe, Havelock, Laurens, Gilmore City and Ployer—had the effect of attracting not merely public attention to this county but a greatly increased immigration and the value of land advanced thirty per cent. During 1881 and 1882 hundreds of thrifty Iowa and Illinois farmers came

and bought lands within this county. To them this county presented many special inducements. Its railroad facilities were excellent, no bonds had ever been issued to embarrass it with debt, it had a new court house and the crops had been abundant. The great crops of 1882 not only brought a liberal reward to the farmers of the entire county, but marked an era in the agricultural products of the county that had not been exceeded in its previous history. The crop of wheat was prolific and of a superior quality; and this was true also of the rye, flax and barley.

In the spring of 1882 the first cheese factory in the county was erected by Geo. Heald on Pilot creek, Clinton township. He kept forty cows, made two cheeses a day, and each was stamped with the day and year on which it was made.

PROHIBITION.

On June 27, 1882, occurred the special election known as the "Amendment Campaign," when there were cast in favor of the constitutional amendment, prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, in this county 407 votes, and against it 246; majority in favor of it 161. This was the second time the people of Pocahontas county had declared themselves in favor of prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors.

At their meeting held June 6, 1870, the following petition was presented to the board of supervisors:

"To the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Pocahontas county: We, the undersigned citizens, being legal voters in said county, would respectfully ask your honorable body to submit chapter 82 of the Acts of the 13th General Assembly of Iowa (1870), entitled, "An act to provide for the prohibition of the sale of all wine or beer in the counties by a vote of the people."—W. D. McEwen, Owen Bromley and others."

In response to this petition the board of supervisors submitted this question to the decision of the legal voters of the county at the general election held Oct. 11, 1870, with the result that 123 votes were cast in favor of prohibition and only 25 against it. The vote by townships on these two occasions may be seen in the following table:

TOWNSHIP.	FOR.		AGAINST.		
	1870.	1882.	1870.	1882.	
Bellville.....	11	19		23	
Cedar.....	25	83	22	54	
Center.....		27		19	
Clinton.....	8	28	2	4	
Colfax.....		43		21	
Des Moines.....	35	33	1	1	
Dover.....	6	26		23	
Grant.....	6	23		1	
Lake.....		10		12	
Lincoln.....		5		17	
Lizard.....		7		49	
Powhatan.....	32	32		7	
Sherman.....		8		3	
Swan Lake.....		26		8	
Washington.....		37		4	
		123	407	25	246

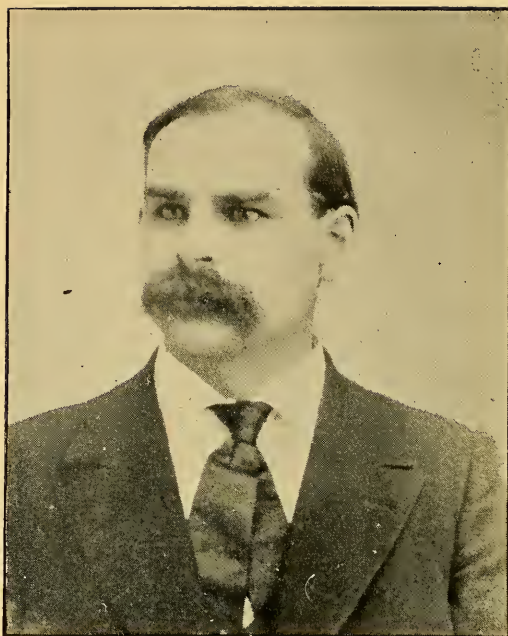
It will be perceived that in 1870 many of the townships were not organized, but Lizard either did not vote upon this measure or the vote was not reported; and in five of the townships, Bellville, Des Moines, Dover, Grant and Powhatan, there was only one opposing vote. In 1882 all of the townships cast a majority in favor of the amendment except four, and the majority in these was as follows: Bellville, 4; Lake, 2; Lincoln, 12; Lizard 42; total, 60. In Marshall no election was held. The majority for prohibition in 1870 was 98 and in 1882, 161.

The county records show 449 votes for and 204 against the amendment. This is due to an erroneous return of the vote in Lizard township as 49 for and 7 against, instead of 7 for and 49 against; as it appeared on the tally sheet.

On Jan. 19, 1883, the supreme court of Iowa ruled that the prohibitory amendment was invalid by reason of a clerical omission or error while it was passing through the legislature.



A. L. SCHULTZ.
ROLFE ARGUS, 1894 TO DATE.



L. E. LANGE.
LAURENS SUN, 1895 TO DATE.



MARION BRUCE.
ROLFE REVEILLE, 1895 TO 1899.

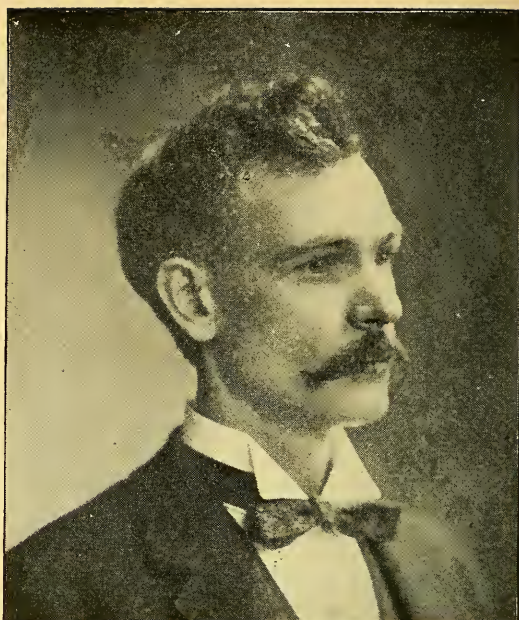


A. R. THORNTON.
ROLFE REVEILLE, 1895 TO DATE.

EDITORS OF COUNTY NEWSPAPERS.



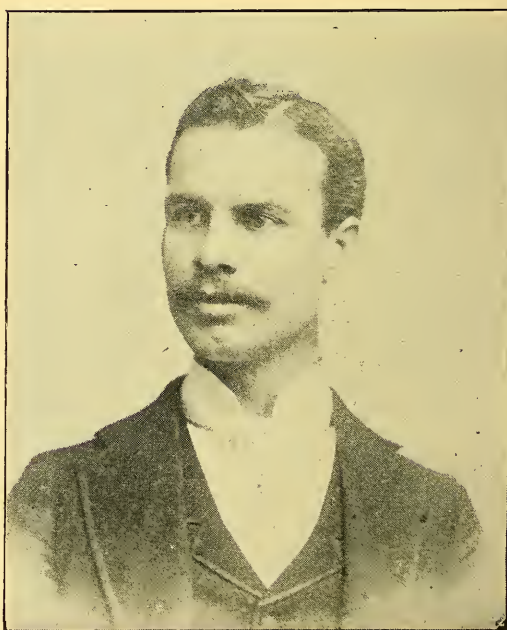
W. W. BEAM, M. D.
ROLFE.



M. F. PATTERSON, M. D.
DES MOINES.



D. W. EDGAR, M. D.
FONDA.



C. R. WHITNEY, M. D.
FONDA.

PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

XI.

Third Period 1833 to 1899—Period of Growth and Development.

Pocahontas county indeed is fair;
 Of streams of water has her share;
 Is rich in limestone, and her soil
 Will bless for aye the plowman's toil.

What a lovely prospect everywhere lies
 Outspread before the farmer's eyes;
 Truly he has found the beautiful one,
 The fairest land beneath the sun.



POCAHONTAS county in the year 1883 entered upon an era of growth and development that was followed in 1899 by another year of railroad construction. The year preceding (1882) was an eventful one because in it Marshall, the last of the townships to be organized, sought recognition and was christened "Laurens." The roll of the townships, sixteen in number, was then complete and they were dotted with a galaxy of six thriving railroad towns that clustered around Pocahontas Center, the new county seat. Four railroads had crossed the borders of

the county on the south, north and east, and they afforded splendid railroad facilities in every direction. The laying of these permanent foundations for future development was followed by an era of constant and uninterrupted growth in population, agricultural productions and general, material prosperity, each succeeding year being very much like the one preceding. In 1899 this era was followed by another year in which two more railroads were constructed across the country and two new towns, Varina and Hanson, were established.

In 1883 the public officers were C. H. Tollefsrude, auditor; J. W. Wallace,

clerk of the court; W. D. McEwen, treasurer; A. L. Thornton, recorder; Joseph Mallison, sheriff; J. P. Robinson, superintendent and Wm. Marshall, surveyor. The board of supervisors consisted of J. C. Strong, J. J. Bruce, James Mercer, Wm. Brownlee and Carl Steinbrink.

The Pocahontas Times and Rolfe Reporter, the only newspapers published in the county, were both appointed official papers to do the public printing for the county, the latter having been established at Rolfe during the preceding year.

In 1881 the assessed valuation of Pocahontas county was \$1,700,971; in 1883 it was \$2,104,443, which shows a gain in two years of \$403,472. Eighty schools were in session and the average wages of the teachers was \$27 a month.

The year 1883, by reason of its disasters, passed into history as one of the most calamitous on record. Over 140,000 people, of whom 110,000 were residents of Java, were killed by volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and accidents. On Oct. 15, a fire at Fonda destroyed the Ellis hotel, Times building and others in that vicinity; and that spring one-half the business houses in Newell and Pomeroy were also destroyed by the same element.

During 1883 this section of country flourished splendidly and land advanced rapidly. Its value in Pocahontas and Humboldt counties had doubled during the five years, and throughout the state during the eight years previous. Every town and village was happy in the possession of some enterprising men who led their fellow citizens in laudable efforts to promote the public welfare, and the work of improvement progressed rapidly in the rural districts.

STANDARD TIME ADOPTED.

On Nov. 18, 1883, Standard Time, suggested first by Prof. Abbe of the signal service in 1878, was adopted. By this system the American conti-

nent was divided into five time districts, ranging from east to west, each district running north and south across the continent and named respectively, Inter Colonial, Eastern, Central, Mountain and Pacific. Pocahontas county is in the Central district, which includes the territory between the 83d and 102d degrees of west longitude, or from Columbus, Ohio, to the east boundary line of Colorado. The date line is in the vicinity of the 180 meridian, which passes southward through the Pacific Ocean.

1884.

In May, 1884, Gilmore City was platted and in November following the name of Laurens township was changed to Marshall. The M. E. church was built at Rolfe, and at Fonda the McKee brick block, the new Times building and the brick school building.

On April 24, 1884, the Pocahontas Record was established at Pocahontas by Port C. Barron, its present editor. On Dec. 13, 1884, the Fonda Herald was established by E. R. Carroll and edited by T. J. Hagerty, but it was discontinued in February following.

At the general election held this year it was decided to amend the state constitution, and the following changes were effected: (1) The time of holding the general election, which had previously been in October except in presidential elections, was now changed to the Tuesday after the first Monday in November. (2) The number of grand jurors was reduced from twelve to five, and provision was made for the prosecution of cases without the intervention of the grand jury. (3) The office of district attorney was abolished and that of county attorney established.

A new road law also went into effect that provided for the consolidation of the several districts of a township into one road district, and for the levy of a one-mill tax as a county

road fund.

1885.

The population of the county that on Jan. 1, 1880, numbered 3,713, on Jan. 1, 1885, was 6,154, which showed a gain of 66 per cent in four and one-half years. The immigration to this county in 1885 was above the average.

On June 15, 1885, the Pocahontas County Sun was established at Laurens by L. E. Lange, its present editor.

On May 13, 1885, Alonzo L. Thornton, county recorder, died during his second term in office and his daughter, Miss May E. Thornton, completed it, first by appointment and later by election. She held the office eighteen months and was the first woman, and to this date the only one, to hold a public office in this county.

DRAINAGE OF THE COUNTY.

Alonzo L. Thornton was a practical surveyor and maker of maps. Having prepared an excellent map of this county he directed the attention of the people to the importance and feasibility of adopting a general system of drainage. Commencing in January previous to his decease, in order to bring this matter intelligently before the people, he wrote a number of articles for the Pocahontas Record and the Pocahontas Times from which the following outline of his views has been gleaned.

"The general distribution of low land, often covered with water, has given the impression to strangers and superficial observers that this whole region was one vast bog of cold wet land, the difference of level between the slough and the corn land being so slight, that it was not easy to see how the latter could be very good so close to those that were apparently worthless. While the surface water remains upon the low lands it interferes with the drainage of those that are higher because there is no outlet. This fact shows the desirability of a general system of drainage. To lower the general level of the surface water 24 inches would materially advance the market value of all the land. A glance at the map of this county shows

that all the streams in it flow to the south and southeast in nearly direct lines, and divide it into eight long, narrow strips. These streams are the natural outlets of the surface water but at present they take weeks and months to do what should be completed in a few days.

The track of the Chicago & Northwestern R. R. on the bridge over the Little Cedar in Swan Lake township, west of Laurens, is 1,330 feet above tide water, and this is the highest point reached by a railroad in the county. The bridge of the Illinois Central R. R. over the same stream at Fonda is 1237 feet above tide and it is 12 feet higher than the former one above the bed of the stream. These data show that there is a fall of 110 feet in the distance of 20 miles between the two railroads, or an average of $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet per mile. The bridge over the Big Cedar, east of Laurens and four miles distant from the former one, is 1,289 feet above tide. This bridge is 41 feet lower than the former one and the bed of the stream is 72 feet higher than at Fonda 18 miles distant, which shows a fall of four feet per mile. The railroad levels in the east part of the county show that four feet per mile is the average fall in the slopes along Beaver and Pilot creeks, and the several branches of the Lizard. According to the levels of the Des Moines Valley R. R., the fall in the Des Moines river from Fort Dodge to Des Moines, a distance of 80 miles, is only 198 feet, an average of $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet per mile; and the fall in the Cedar river from Northwood to Wapello, a distance of 203 miles, is 540 feet, or only a little more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet per mile. The Des Moines and Cedar rivers are both swiftly flowing streams whenever the water is high.

The flow of the water in the smaller streams in this county is impeded by flags, water rushes, cane grass and even the coarser kinds of slough grass that have so invaded their beds as to completely fill them and produce extensive sloughs. That which is needed is a channel sufficiently wide and deep to remove the roots of these vegetable growths and secure a continuous flow of the water. This at first thought may seem a difficult and expensive thing to do, in view of the great width of some of the sloughs thereby giving the impression they are the result of a large flow of water. This is a misapprehension. A ditch

six feet wide at the surface, three feet at the bottom and twenty four to thirty inches deep, cut through the entire length of our prairie creeks will accomplish this result and render valuable for agricultural purposes thousands of acres that are at present comparatively worthless. These drains would form a suitable outlet for the drainage of the slough valleys that are found along the divides between the streams. The measurement of levels indicates that the rise between the streams is nearly uniform and ranges from 7 to 10 feet a mile, or nearly double that of the slopes along the streams. The crest of each divide is generally much nearer the stream on its western side and in consequence more slough valleys or undeveloped streams are found on their eastern slopes and they vary from less than one to four miles in length. Many of these slough valleys need a ditch of the same size as the main channels of the streams and they should be constructed before anything like a general system of drainage can be effected. Since they are also public waterways they should be inserted by the county as a general improvement for the public good.

Such a system of drainage would provide an outlet but leave the drainage of the present tillable lands to private enterprise. The effect of it would be beyond computation. It would remove the greatest cause of discouragement to the farmer, especially the uncertainty of crops in wet seasons; it would greatly increase the productiveness of the soil and we would find ourselves at one bound in the front rank as an agricultural county. We would realize that the goose that lays the golden egg for Pocahontas county is "Drainage."

Such a ditch can be inserted by a double ditching plow at an average rate of 100 rods a day or two miles each week, and at a cost ranging from \$25 to \$50 a mile. The probable extent of the system constructed at the public expense would be as follows:

NAME OF STREAM.	ESTIMATED LENGTH IN MILES.
Little Cedar.....	22
Big Cedar.....	32
East Branch, Cedar.....	9
Outlet of Muskrat Lake.....	9
South branch, Lizard.....	22
West branch, Lizard.....	29
Lizard creek.....	36
Pilot ".....	21

Beaver ".....	13
Two branches Pilot creek.....	10
Total.....	203.

At \$50 a mile the cost of 203 miles would be \$10,150. To this should be added the cost of surveys, outlet drains beyond the county, superintendence and incidentals that cannot well be anticipated, estimated at \$5,000, making a total of \$15,150. Even if it should amount to \$25,000 it would not be a ruinous amount for this county to expend in a permanent improvement so profitable and so beneficial to the people in all parts of the county. Some counties are expending the last named amount for a substantial court house. For this county to erect such a public building at this time would be like putting a fine stove pipe hat on a man whose boots are without heels and toes, and whose feet are getting wet at every step. Better, we say, to wear the old hat and attend to the feet first. Protecting them we promote our own health, the health of our horses, cattle and hogs, and greatly increase the annual yield of hay, oats, wheat and corn. Our soil when freed from surplus surface water is as rich and productive as any the sun shines upon, and I hope to see the day when this county shall not be surpassed in productiveness and value of farms, in beauty and attractiveness of homes, and in the general prosperity and happiness of its people by any spot in this broad land.*

Two districts in this county, known as Drainage Districts No. I and No. II, have had large drains inserted in them under the direction of the board of county supervisors at the request of the citizens living in their vicinity.

The drain in district No. I is along the course of Crooked creek, the southwest branch of Pilot creek, and extends from the northwest corner of section 2, Center township, southward to section 11, thence southeast to section 16, Clinton township, and thence northwest to a point on the east side of the adjoining section No. 8. The survey and profile of this drain, made by L. C. Thornton, was approved July 21, 1886. This drain is about seven miles in length and was completed by

*Pocahontas Times, Feb. 5, 1885.

F. M. Gombar and Geo. O. Pinneo of Dover township, Nov. 1, 1888. It cost about \$3,000.

The drain in district No. II is along the course of the Little Cedar in Dover township. It is two and one-third miles long, has a fall of seven feet and is located on sections 18, 19, 20 and 29. Its depth ranges from two to seven feet, its average width at the surface is 10 feet and its cost was about \$2,000. It was constructed in 1894 by Armstead Bros. of Calhoun county.

In 1889 the board of supervisors began to make an equitable allowance for their value to the highways, of tile drains constructed by farmers for the removal of sloughs along them. The first tile drain recognized in this way was the one constructed by Wm. Marshall on sections 27 and 33, Cedar township.

The survey for the two large drains in Williams township was made in the fall of 1885 and they were constructed in 1887 with a large dredging machine at a cost of \$20,000. In many places they are 16 feet wide and 7 feet deep.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY ORGANIZED.

The democratic party in Pocahontas county was regularly organized during the year 1885 under the leadership of Thos. L. Kelleher, M. D., L. E. Lange, D. W. Edgar, M. D., and F. E. Beers, who perceived that at the previous general election forty per cent of the voters of the county voted the democratic ticket, there having been 775 votes for Blaine and 494 for Cleveland. F. E. Beers of Lake township was appointed chairman of the central committee for this county and in response to his call a democratic county convention was held at Pocahontas Aug. 15, 1885, when Thos. L. Kelleher, D. D. Day and M. T. Collins were appointed delegates to the democratic state convention held at Cedar Rapids, and B. McCartan, D. D. Day and J. W. O'Brien delegates to the representative convention held at Pomeroy

on Oct. 2d that year, when Thos. L. Kelleher received the nomination for representative from the 78th district composed of Pocahontas and Calhoun counties.

On Sept. 7, 1835, a second convention was held that year at Pocahontas and the following persons were nominated for the county offices: For auditor, T. F. McCartan; treasurer, Carl Steinbrink; recorder, to fill vacancy, F. E. Beers; sheriff, C. H. Hutchins; superintendent, Frank Deklotz; surveyor, Wm. Marshall; and coroner, D. W. Edgar, M. D. At this convention F. E. Beers served as chairman and Amandus Ziemann as secretary.

The call for both of these conventions was addressed to all who had supported or intended to support in good faith the platform and nominees of the democratic party, and the basis of representation was one delegate from each township in the county and one additional delegate for every ten votes cast in 1884 for J. E. Henriques, democratic candidate for auditor of state. At the latter convention Thos. L. Kelleher, J. W. O'Brien and T. J. Calligan were elected a county central committee, and the following persons were appointed chairmen of the township committees: Bellville, H. W. Behrens; Center, John Stelpflug; Clinton, J. T. Hagan; Dover, M. J. Lynch; Lizard, M. T. Collins; Marshall, A. McLain; Grant, Henry Russell; Cedar, William Bott; Colfax, David Spielman; Lincoln, John Stegge; Lake, F. E. Beers; Swan Lake, J. L. Hopkins; Sherman, J. W. Carson; Powhatan, Wm. Baker; Washington, M. E. O'Brien.

PEOPLE'S PARTY CONVENTIONS.

During the years 1881 '82, '83 and '84 county nominating conventions were held under the name of the People's Party that were usually convened by Wm. Snell of Cedar township. This was a local opposition

party composed mainly of democrats and independent republicans, who did not care to support the nominees of the republican party and had no direct connection with, or representation in the democratic state and representative conventions.

An account of the first People's Party convention held in 1881 has already been given. At the People's Party convention held at Pocahontas Sept. 2, 1882, at which W. H. Hait served as chairman and D. W. Hunt secretary, M. Crahan was re-nominated for recorder and W. H. Hait was nominated for clerk of the court.

On Sept. 8, 1883, the People's party held a convention at Pocahontas and placed in nomination the following persons for the county offices: For auditor, T. F. McCartan; treasurer, Wm. Brownlee; sheriff, S. H. Gill; surveyor, C. P. Leithead; superintendent, W. F. Bowman.

On the same day and at the same place the democrats held a convention and appointed five delegates to represent this county in the democratic representative convention for the 78th district at Fonda Sept. 8, following, when L. T. Danforth of Lake City was nominated. This was the only county convention held by the democrats this year.

On Oct. 18, 1884, the People's Party held their last convention at Pocahontas previous to the organization of the democratic party. John Fraser served as chairman and S. P. Thomas as secretary. The nominations made were those of Amandus Zieman for recorder and Walter P. Ford for clerk of the court.

Wm Brownlee, nominated for county treasurer in 1883, was the only successful candidate nominated by the People's party during the years 1881 to 1884.

1886.

The year, 1886, was noted for the unusual number of labor strikes that

occurred throughout this country. During the five years preceding, commencing with 1881, they numbered each year respectively, 471, 454, 478, 443 and 645; but in 1886 there were 1,412, and they involved 9,893 business concerns. During the six years named they caused a loss of \$51,815,165. Of these strikes 42 per cent were caused by demands on the part of the laboring men for an increase of wages and 19 per cent for a reduction of the hours of labor.

The area of public lands disposed of in 1886 was 20,974,134 acres, one million more than in 1885 but six millions less than in 1884 when more than eleven millions were disposed of in Dakota alone. The amount of public lands disposed of during the five years preceding was 100,974,134 acres, an area equal to four states like Kentucky, three like Iowa, more than Great Britain and Ireland, or three-fourths of France or Germany.

In 1886 the Iowa and Minnesota telephone line was established between Fonda, Pomeroy, Manson, Pocahontas and Rockwell City with central office at Pomeroy. The steel harvesting machine of William Deering was introduced.

The year 1886 was one of severe drought throughout the northwest and the weather from July 1st to 7th was the hottest ever known. In some places in Dakota the hot waves swept over the fields, blighting the wheat, shriveling the corn and other crops, and for awhile great uneasiness was felt as to the result. Another intensely hot period was experienced from Aug. 20-26, when many ponds and lakes in this county became dry for the first time in many years; yet this was the year in which Iowa became the greatest corn producing state in the union.

The crops, wherever well cultivated, were excellent and never before was

there so general realization of the fine opportunities presented by this section of the country. Here was an opportunity for production on cheap, fertile and convenient lands; an opportunity for remunerative labor to all who would engage in the development of a new and great country. These opportunities brought to this section the sturdiest and most intelligent of the agriculturists of the states further east and they constituted a broad and sure foundation on which to build prosperity. The fact that the area of desirable lands available for settlement in other portions of the west had been greatly reduced served to stimulate the movement of population to this section. Even the misfortunes of large communities in the east and the stringency felt there in all kinds of industries were also considerations that encouraged immigration to this section.

These and similar impulses were so strong that it was difficult to find a place in any village or even on the prairie where their influence was not felt. A knowledge of the industrial relations of the country and an acquaintance with the resources of this northwestern section were all that was necessary to demonstrate its destiny. Its wonderful productiveness and certainty of good crops even in the time of drought concentrated upon it more than ever before the attention of a new class, the capitalists. In the previous history of the other new sections of this country men of liberal means waited until its development was an accomplished fact but here they came in anticipation of its development. The copious inflow of money from many directions marked a new era, for it was the evidence of faith in its destiny and every dollar meant quickened activity.

CORN RECORD.

In the fall of 1886, in order to obtain correct data in regard to the pro-

ductive power of the soil of this county Port C. Barron, editor of the Pocatontas Record, offered two prizes of \$15 and \$10, respectively, for the best samples of corn raised on five acres of ground. The first prize was won by R. C. Jones of Havelock, who gathered 315 bushels from five acres, an average of 63 bushels to the acre. This was planted May 11-12th. The second prize was accorded Thomas L. Dean of Lincoln township who on fall plowing raised 312½ bushels or 62½ bushels to the acre. Others that reported were E. S. Norton, Grant township, 300 bushels from 5 acres, averaging 60 bushels; B. C. Boyesen, Sherman township, 234 bushels, 39 to the acre; Frank J. Sinek, Center township, 346 bushels from ten acres; and F. DeKlotz, Center, one field of 55 acres that in 1884 on breaking yielded an average of 30 bushels, in 1885 50 bushels and in 1886 33 bushels to the acre.

1887.

The year, 1887, was one of unusual activity in railway construction, the amount being 12,714 miles against 3,608 miles in 1885. This unusual activity in railway construction throughout this country exerted a potent influence on its financial and industrial condition. The construction of these new railroads furnished special employment to a large army of men and so increased the mileage of the railway systems that their maintenance and management gave permanent employment to 65,000 additional workmen.

The impulse of this general activity was felt in this county. Under the leadership of Geo. Fairburn who was then serving as mayor, the principal streets of Fonda were graded and covered with gravel, eighty cars, from Cherokee; the town was platted for drainage and sewerage and a main sewer constructed from Main street to Cedar creek; and provision was made for lighting the streets at night by the

erection of a set of street lamps at the corners of the principal ones. These improvements marked the beginning of a new epoch in the history of Fonda and the leading town of Pocahontas county began to have the appearance of a city. The Fonda creamery, that had been closed for a year, was reopened by Ed. L. Beard in May and the Presbyterian church was completed in October.

During 1887 an effort was made to obtain some facts in regard to the amount and value of the railroad business of this county. The data given herewith were obtained from the agents of the several stations in this county by the Fonda Town Lot Co.

During the year 1886 the shipments in car load lots at Fonda were as follows:

	ILL. C.	WABASH
Hay.....	69	480
Oats.....	46	144
Hogs.....	39	96
Flax.....	2	25
Cattle.....	19	24
Corn.....		14
Barley.....	2	8
Wheat.....	16	
Straw.....	1	
Lumber.....	2	
Emigrant goods.....	1	
Sundries.....	54	58
Total.....	251	849
Received	440	260
Totals	691	1,109

This shows that in 1886 there were forwarded from Fonda 1,100, and received 700, making 1,800 carloads.

On March 1, 1888, it was found that the carload shipments at Fonda for the five months preceding that date were as follows:

	ILL. CENT.		WABASH	
	Forw'd	Rec'd	Forw'd	Rec'd
October	34	57	152	96
November	31	31	177	135
December	55	25	128	162

January	65	32	86	105
February	127	39	100	103
	312	184	643	601

Whole number forwarded 955, received 785, total 1,740 carloads. During the last three months of this period cars were not available to do all the work as they were needed. If they had been available the aggregate would have been considerably larger.*

It will be perceived that the shipping done during these five months lacked only 60 cars of being as great as during twelve in 1886.

Two months later the following statistics of the railroad business at Fonda and the neighboring towns on the Illinois Central R. R. were obtained for the six months of October, November and December, 1887, and January, February and March, 1888.

	Rec'd	For'd	Way Fr't	Total
Manson	365	709	74	1148
Pomeroy	346	359	33	738
Newell	306	503	72	881
Storm L.	407	446	95	948
Fonda	397	980	256	1633

In the above figures of the Fonda stations, the Wabash cars are reduced to those of standard size and the way freight of all stations to cars of ten tons each.†

The publication of these statistics was a surprise, both to the railway officials who perceived the importance of Fonda as a shipping station, and to the leading citizens of the neighboring towns, who did not appreciate the fact that Fonda with her population of only 600, was so far in the lead of her neighbors from this business standpoint.

The amount of shipping done at the several towns in this county during the same period of six months from Oct. 1, 1887, to March 31, 1888, was found to be as follows:

*Times, March 1, 1888.
†Times, May 21, 1888.

Plover.....	598
Gilmore City*.....	600
Havelock.....	1234
Laurens*.....	1250
Rolfe.....	1362
Fonda.....	1633
Total.....	6,677.†

It may be fairly estimated that one third of the number of cars handled at Pomeroy and Manson, 629, are for Pocahontas county, and if these be added to the above they make the number of carloads of shipping for Pocahontas county in six months 7,306, and for that year about 12,000 to 14,000 cars. A reasonable estimate of the value of the shipping for this county for the six months above enumerated would be \$1,000,000. At that date, which was only seventeen years from the time of the first settlements in the western half of it, only about one-half of the tillable land of this county was occupied or under cultivation. To the man seeking a profitable farm or a good business location this county then as now presented many unusual inducements.

The year of 1888 opened with a severe blizzard on Jan. 12-13, that prevailed generally throughout the north-western states, and in Dakota caused the loss of a number of children returning from school.

The season was a good one for flax and many farmers in this section realized from this crop alone a sufficient amount of money to pay for the original cost of the land on which it was sown. Henry Hout, southeast of Fonda bought that spring 80 acres of land for \$800 and, putting 75 acres of it in flax, threshed therefrom 800 bushels for which, at \$1.10 a bushel, he received \$880, or \$130 more than the cost of the land. His neighbor, Adin, at the same time threshed 650 bushels of flax from 60 acres of newly broken prairie and received \$615, or \$115 more

than the cost of the land.

The hay and other crops were excellent and Pocahontas county made more substantial growth than during any of the previous years. The new settlers were good farmers who came to found homes and join with their predecessors in the general improvement of the county. Thousands of acres of beautiful prairie sod were turned for the first time in this county and many new houses were erected in every direction.

In Rolfe the Presbyterian church was built and also the business house of Crahan and McGrath, the first one of brick in that city.

During the following winter there prevailed to an unusual extent in Cedar, Colfax and Grant townships, certain contagious diseases, such as measles, scarlet rash and diphtheria, and several children died from them.

On May 4, 1887, Arbor Day was observed at Fonda and 125 shade trees were planted on the school grounds, Miss Anna E. Brown serving as principal. This was the first year that Arbor Day was observed in Iowa, and it was done at the recommendation of the state superintendent for the purpose of attracting public attention to the law of 1882 which provides that, "the board of directors of each township and independent district shall cause to be set out and properly protected twelve or more shade trees on each school house site belonging to the district, where such number of trees are not now growing, and defray the expenses of the same from the contingent fund."

In June, 1887, Aggie Garlock of Rolfe had the honor of being the first in the county to receive the certificate for having passed a final examination with a standing of 90 per cent, on completing the eight years course of study according to the classification register adopted Nov. 9, 1886, by the board of supervisors for the district schools of

*Estimated.

†Pocahontas Record, Jan. 24, 1889

the county.

On Jan. 26, 1887, the surveyors of the Sioux City and Northeastern R. R. Co., reached Pocahontas, having entered the county on section 30 of Dover township. In April following, this survey was completed from Sioux City to Belmont via Kingsley, Alta, Pocahontas and Rolfe. On June 7th following a special election was held in Clinton township and a tax of five mills in aid of this railroad was approved by a vote of 91 to 54. On June 28th a similar proposition was lost in Dover by a vote of 41 to 55, but at a second election held Aug. 30th following, this decision was reversed by a vote of 56 to 39. On July 5th Center signified approval by a vote of 50 to 43. On Sept. 13th, Lincoln approved a tax of 2½ mills by a vote of 23 to 6. This road, however, was not built.

In October, 1887, another route, known as the St. Paul and Council Bluffs R. R., was surveyed across this county. This line passed southwesterly eighty rods east of Plover, three-fourths of a mile west of Pocahontas and a short distance east of Fonda.

The practice of dehorning cattle was introduced in February, 1887, as a result of the experiments made by Prof. Henry of the Wisconsin experiment station.

1888.

On July 5, 1888, the Reveille was established at Rolfe by Messrs. J. J. Bruce and J. H. Lighter and that town had then two weekly newspapers.

At the general election held in 1888 the question of restraining stock was for the last time submitted to the voters of this county by order of the board of supervisors. For a number of years the "herd law" compelling everyone to herd or keep his cattle within an enclosure had been in force. The object of this submission was to see if the people desired a change. For the herd law there were cast 1510 votes and against it 142. Lizard township

cast only 38 for and 61 against it, but it was the only township that cast a majority against it.

NURSERY OF D. C. WILLIAMS.

On May 7, 1888, occurred the death of D. C. Williams of Washington township, his wife having died the year previous. Mr. Williams was not one of the public officers of this county but, as a practical and successful nurseryman, proved himself a public benefactor by the establishment in 1881 of the nurseries in Washington township for the special benefit of the people who were settling in this new and treeless section of country. Inasmuch as his own farm was unbroken and therefore unsuited for immediate use, he leased in 1881 a plot of cultivated ground from J. C. Strong on section 32. Later he planted similar plots on his own, now known as the Edwards farm, and on that of his son, Frank Williams on section 19, now owned by John Ryon. At the time of his death he had about thirty acres on which the young trees were growing as vigorously as any seen anywhere. The different varieties, planted each by itself, showed their natural shapes and habits of growth. Not every variety planted did equally well; some that were supposed to be hardy proved to be unsuited to this climate while others were unaffected by the cold of winter or the heat of summer. His few years of experience as the first nurseryman in this county showed that whilst it was of little use to send south or very far east for trees to plant in this section, yet success in raising apple trees was not more doubtful than the effort to raise maples, ash or butternuts; also that trees lifted in the fall, shipped and heeled in over winter do better in this latitude than those lifted in the spring. After the decease of Mr. Williams the nurseries were converted into orchards and crops of beautiful fruit ranging from 100 to 300 bushels, have been gathered

from the trees planted by him as the years have passed.

1889.

In 1889 the Presbyterian and Catholic churches at Gilmore City were built, also the Presbyterian church at Plover and the Methodist church at Havelock.

At 9 a. m. April 30, 1889 the church bells all over the country rang to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the inauguration of George Washington as president of the United States. This day was further observed at Fonda as arbor day and two special trees were planted on the school grounds in memory of Washington and LaFayette, after the public exercises of the occasion.

This was also the first observance of "flag day," when our national flag was unfurled from our school houses, or poles erected in front of them for that purpose. This beautiful emblem, unfurled before the young in our public schools, becomes to them a constant lesson in patriotism the good influence of which cannot be measured. Symbolizing by its colors the principles of love, liberty and loyalty and by its stars and stripes the union of all the states, it stands as a whole for the supremacy of law and order without which the union itself would be in constant jeopardy.

"Give it free to the wind
As a warning and call;
It stands for humanity, God and
the right;
It proclaims all equal in law and
God's sight.
Fling it out on the wind
A source of joy to all."

FARMERS' ALLIANCES.

On March 1, 1887, W. H. Burnett of Cedar, and Geo. Watts of Dover, through the columns of the Pocahontas Times, issued a call for a meeting of the farmers of Pocahontas county at the Pinneo schoolhouse in Dover

township—now Varina—on the evening of March 8th following for the purpose of organizing a farmers' mutual insurance company. In response to this call on March 22, 1887, a meeting of the farmers in the vicinity was held in schoolhouse No. 3, Cedar township, and a farmers' mutual insurance company was organized by the election of Geo. Watts president and treasurer, R. Wright of Cedar secretary, and the following persons as directors for one year, namely, W. H. Burnett, S. P. Lampman, Geo. O. Pinneo and C. A. Sayre. The object of this organization was to provide a cheap and reliable insurance against fire and lightning. A farmer became a member of the company by paying a membership fee of \$1.00 and five cents additional for each \$1.00 of risk taken on his property. The president and secretary of this organization called a meeting to be held at the court house on June 24, 1887, but no further progress was made at this time.

On July 21, 1888, the Powhatan township farmers' alliance was organized by the election of John Fraser president, James Henderson vice president, P. G. Hess secretary and Mrs. J. Stronzel treasurer. On April 6, 1889, the Farmers' Alliance at Rolfe, No. 882, of which P. H. Bendixon was president and J. J. Bruce secretary, issued a call for a county convention to be held at Pocahontas May 27, 1889, for the purpose of organizing a county alliance. At this convention there were present delegates from Bellville, Cedar, Colfax, Dover, Grant, Lake, Lincoln, Marshall, Rolfe and Runyan (Washington) local alliances. After a picnic dinner in the grove the convention was called to order by P. H. Bendixon. C. M. Saylor of Lincoln was chosen chairman and M. W. Linnan of Dover secretary of the convention.

At this meeting it was decided to organize a Farmers' Mutual Insurance

Company to consist of all the local alliances in the county, each of which should be represented by its president and secretary and one additional representative for every ten members thereof. A constitution was adopted that provided for the annual meeting to be held in the month of June and June 29, 1889, was designated for the first meeting.

The object of this organization was declared to be to unite the farmers of Pocahontas county for the promotion of their interests, socially and financially, regardless of party; and to oppose all forms of monopoly as being detrimental to the best interests of the public. Whilst it was not a political organization they pledged themselves to support for the legislature only those men who would best represent the farmers' interests in that body. They adopted this resolution: "That we favor the calling of a convention for the nomination of county officers based upon the whole vote of the county rather than submit to the dictation of a few." The officers elected were William Brownlee of Bellville, president, R. N. McCombs vice president, M. W. Linnan, secretary, Wm. Bott, treasurer.

At the first annual meeting held at Pocahontas June 29, 1889, there were present about twenty-five delegates, who represented twelve township alliances. Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: Wm. Brownlee, president; R. N. McCombs, vice president; M. W. Linnan, secretary, and Wm. Bott, treasurer. Messrs. John A. Crummer, W. F. Atkinson and J. A. Ryon were appointed delegates to the annual meeting of the state alliance at Des Moines in September following. The propriety of buying supplies at wholesale, the appointment of a county purchasing agent and the development of a county mutual insurance company were discussed but no further progress was

made at this time.

At the next annual meeting held at Pocahontas March 26th, 1890, C. M. Saylor was chosen president, J. J. Bruce secretary and George Watts treasurer. Geo. Henderson, C. M. Sayley, J. J. Bruce, Geo. Watts, P. J. Shaw, Wm. Brownlee, Alex. Peterson, J. W. O'Brien, W. F. Atkinson and James Clancy incorporated under the laws of Iowa and the officers were authorized to solicit memberships. After several months spent in this work, the oft-expressed wish of the farmers of this county was realized and the Pocahontas Mutual Fire and Lightning Insurance Association, on Jan. 1, 1891, issued its first policy to its presiding officer, C. M. Saylor of Lincoln township.

The farmers at this period did so much fencing and thereby made necessary the grading of new highways to such an extent that at the request of the board of supervisors in 1889, the people voted an extra two mill tax for the years 1890, 1891 and 1892 for grading purposes.

1890.

In January, 1890, the La Grippe or Russian influenza as a general epidemic spread over this country and nearly everybody was more or less seriously affected by it. During the drought that prevailed in midsummer many of the shallow wells failed and in meeting the demand for deeper ones the drill began to be used in place of the well auger. This proved to be the first of a continuous period of five years of drought that was most seriously felt in 1894.

The census of 1890 was taken by the following enumerators: Capt. Joseph Mallison, Cedar and Fonda; N. M. Nelson, Bellville and Lizard; J. W. Wallace, Center and Sherman; Mrs. Kate H. Melson, Clinton and Rolfe; Mrs. Jennie Sanquist (now Mrs. Ed. Hogan), Colfax and Grant; J. S. Smith, Des Moines and Powhatan; Frank A.

Thompson, Dover and Marshall; Ed. G. Fargo, Lake and Lincoln; and Benjamin E. Allen, Laurens, Swan Lake and Washington. According to their enumeration this county then had a population of 9,553 persons, which showed a gain of 5,840 in ten years.

CROPS OF 1890.

The year of 1890 was another one of great material growth and many new farm buildings were erected in every direction. The following items show the excellent character of the crops raised that year in this section. In Lizard township Wm. Stinson raised 1,200 bushels of oats from 20 acres, an average of 60 bushels to the acre; Michael Walsh raised 5,000 bushels of oats that averaged 50 bushels, and his corn averaged 60 bushels to the acre; John Masterson, on the farm of Charles Kenning, in 1889 had an average of 50 bushels of corn from 115 acres and of oats 40 bushels; in 1890 his oats averaged 30 bushels and his corn 60 bushels. The rental for the land was \$1.50 an acre. In Belville, 150 acres of corn on the Blanden farm averaged 65 bushels to the acre. In Grant, H. C. Tollefsrude threshed an average of 15 bushels of flax to the acre where the sod had been turned in an old pasture of 16 acres. In Lincoln, Wm. Boog in 1889 bought 50 acres of land for \$10 an acre, broke and sowed it in flax and it brought him \$13 an acre; in 1890 a crop of oats was raised on the same land and it brought more money than the flax crop of the previous year. In Lake, Gerd Elsen in 1890 raised 4,000 bushels of corn from 100 acres, his oats yielded 45 bushels to the acre, flax 10 bushels and potatoes 50 bushels. His farm of 530 acres bought a few years previous for \$6.50 and \$12 an acre had been improved with a good farm house and three good barns, and it was then estimated to be worth \$24 an acre, an advance in price that showed as a reward for his investment and labor upon it in ten years to be \$12,130

independent of the annual income from the crops and stock.

GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS.

On March 22, 1890, the Big Four District Fair Association was organized at Fonda and held its first exhibition that fall. On June 12th Laurens, as an incorporated town, held its first election of officers, a new and large school building having been erected the previous year. R. F. Beswick, having purchased the Fonda creamery and provided it with a separator, a new Scandinavian invention, started it anew and established another one in Williams township. The first buildings were erected on the county farm in Grant township that had been purchased the previous year; and to the court house were added two fire proof vaults and a jail. These vaults and jail were built by Joseph Mikesh and cost \$3,400.

In 1879 there was a criminal conviction in this county, and this circumstance led to the observation that until that date there had not yet been a criminal sent from Pocahontas county to the penitentiary. The arrest of a criminal in this county was a very rare occurrence, and in such cases the persons arrested were taken to the jails of the neighboring counties, especially Emmetsburg, Fort Dodge, Sac City and Storm Lake. As the number of criminal arrests increased with the great increase of population during the eighties, in 1890 the sentiment prevailed that Pocahontas county should also have a jail of its own.

COUNTY FARM.

As early as Jan. 8, 1884, the board of supervisors passed a resolution to buy a county farm of not less than 160 acres of land at a cost not to exceed \$2,000 and located within four miles of Pocahontas, and authorized the auditor to solicit bids therefor until their next meeting. Two years later the farm of Peter Peterson was rented by

the board and, N. B. Post being employed to prepare the specifications for a county poor house, bids were solicited therefor; but on June 8th 1888 the erection of a building was indefinitely postponed. Nothing further seems to have been done until April 3, 1889, when A. W. McEwen, Swan Nelson and Wm. Fitzgerald were appointed a committee to select and ascertain the price of a suitable farm for the use of the county. On May 11th following, on their recommendation it was decided to purchase the ne $\frac{1}{4}$ and e $\frac{1}{2}$ nw $\frac{1}{4}$, section 4, Grant township, containing 262 acres for \$2,850. The house, barn and other outbuildings on this farm were erected in 1890 by Thomas L. Dean, contractor and builder, and it was rented that year to Charles J. Carlson of Center township upon the condition that he should pay a rent of \$240 a year for the farm and take proper care of all persons sent to it by the board, at the rate of \$2.40 a week. After two years he was succeeded by Charles Kezer, who continued in charge of it until the completion of the asylum Jan. 5, 1899, a period of six years, when he was succeeded by Wm. A. Elliott the present incumbent, who has charge also of the asylum. The latter was built in 1898 at a cost of \$4,500. It is 60x32 feet, two stories in height and has 41 rooms. All the incurables supported at that time by the county at the state asylum in Independence were brought here in January, 1899.

At the time Thomas L. Dean was building the house on the county farm he was justice of the peace for Lincoln township, and while he was busy at work just after the building was enclosed, he was called upon by a couple of young Swedes. On learning that the object of their errand was to be married, he courteously invited them to alight and have the ceremony performed in the new building. Not wishing to have it said "they were mar-

ried in a poorhouse," they persistently refused all his entreaties and the matrimonial knot was tied while they sat complacently in their buggy.

This happy couple fared better than the one that appeared before Judge Lot Thomas at Pocahontas a short time previous with an application for a divorce, and he denied the request of the wife on the very grounds she had pleaded, to the effect, "that while the throwing of spittoons and dishes at each other was rather unpleasant, still he did not consider it sufficient grounds for a divorce."

1891.

On January 1, 1891, the Pocahontas County Mutual Fire and Lightning Association issued its first policy, and on June 21st the Methodist church of Havelock was dedicated.

On Feb. 3d the Rolfe Argus, a democratic paper, was established at Rolfe by Lawrence J. Anderson, who continued its publication until Nov. 1, 1892, when he sold it to J. A. Faith. In March, 1893, this paper was bought by M. Crahan and it was edited by Wm. Porter until April 4, 1894 and by A. L. Shultz to Dec. 1, 1898, when the outfit was sold to parties outside the county and the subscription list transferred to J. H. Lighter, editor and proprietor of the Rolfe semi-weekly Tribune.

In 1891 the farmers were favored with beautiful weather, fine crops and good prices.

Joseph Fuchs of Cedar township in July, 1891, sold Matt Foley five cars of fat steers for \$5,546, or \$59 a head, and his brother, Louie Fuchs, on the same day also sold him 65 head for \$5,665, or more than \$87 a head, the two lots amounting to \$11,211. When these two brothers arrived at Fonda in 1870 they did not have money enough to pay for an eighty acre tract of raw prairie and after two months the former, returning to the place from whence they came, worked there as a

farm hand for five more years and sent his earnings to his elder brother Louie to assist in paying for their first purchases of land. The annual sales of cattle by these men have been increasing as the years have passed, so that those of Joseph alone in 1899 amounted to nearly \$18,000.

The Fonda creamery, for the first time in its history, was kept running during the previous winter with the patronage of twenty-eight customers, and another separator was put in it. The receipts of a few of the patrons at this time were as follows: For six months, J. B. Weaver \$203; M. Murphy \$210; S. C. Swink \$221; Patrick Duffield \$253; for eight months, David Spielman \$232 and John Cartlidge \$278.

The iron bridges across the Cedar at Fonda and the Des Moines river near the north line of the county in Des Moines township were built in 1891, by the Iron Bridge company of Canton, Ohio, who had delivered them two years previous to that date. These were the first, and to this date are the only iron bridges built for the use of the public in this county. The steel bridge of the Illinois Central R. R. at Fonda was built in 1890.

FREE MAIL DELIVERY.

Congress having passed a law and made an appropriation to carry into effect the experiment of establishing free delivery of the mail in twelve small towns, and the Postmaster General having neglected to name a town in Iowa where this experiment might be made, Hon. J. P. Dolliver recommended Fonda; and Fonda enjoyed this luxury from May 1, 1891, to June 30, 1896, a period of five years and two months. During this period the mail of all persons residing within the incorporation and east of the creek was delivered either at their places of business or homes twice a day. Six mail boxes were located on the corners of the streets and from these the mail

was also collected twice a day. During this period the patronage of the Fonda postoffice was greatly increased and the plan was highly appreciated by all except those whose mail consisted largely of drop letters, on each of which they had to pay two cents. F. H. Covey served as mail carrier during nearly all of this period of free delivery and Geo. Sanborn was postmaster.

The demand is now for free rural delivery and during the last two years the growth of this system, according to the report of the Postmaster General, has been remarkable. Within the last two years it is stated, "largely by the aid of the people themselves, who, in appreciation of the helping hand which the government extended to them, have met these advances half way, it has implanted itself so firmly upon postal administration that it can no longer be an experiment, but has to be dealt with as an established agency of progress, awaiting to be determined how rapidly it shall be developed."

Among the advantages accruing from this system he names increased postal receipts, enhancement of the value of farm lands, general improvement of the condition of the roads traversed by the mail carriers, better prices for farm products and the educational benefits conferred by ready access to wholesome literature.

On Dec. 4, 1899, rural free delivery was established in Iowa in the vicinity of Waterloo, Edwin S. Geist having been appointed mail carrier for a route that is 23½ miles in length and serves a population of 504 persons who occupy an area of 26 square miles.

1892.

In 1892 the general health of the country was excellent and the crops were good, yet one million laborers were out of employment. This was a condition of things that to many seemed to be due to the tendency then

manifested to organize new political parties in the interest of particular classes of the people, and those were the first to suffer who became the victims of leaders whose successful leadership meant an unstable standard of money and a fluctuating currency.

In May, 1892, Pocahontas and Havelock held their first elections as incorporated towns. At the general election held that fall the voting was done for the first time in Iowa in accordance with the Australian ballot law, the board of supervisors having appointed the following persons to serve as judges of election in the several townships of this county, viz: Bellville, Geo. Loats; Cedar, Ed O'Donnell; Clinton, C. P. Leithead; Colfax, R. C. Brownell; Des Moines, D. D. Day; Grant, L. J. Lieb; Lake, J. Donahoe; Lizard, M. O'Shea; Marshall, Geo. Thomas; Powhatan, Robert Swan; Sherman, Albert Wolf; Swan Lake, A. B. Ellis; Washington, P. L. Christopher.

In 1892 the Christian church in Laurens was built and the German Lutheran church in the south part of Williams township.

GOOD ROADS.

The spring of 1892 was cold and wet. On April 13th there occurred a severe blizzard that left the roads in an awful condition, and during the following month there fell 7.9 inches of rain, more than twice the usual amount, which rendered many of them absolutely impassable with wheeled conveyances. No other topic was so widely discussed as their bad condition, and on May 24th the board of supervisors, unable to get to Pocahontas their usual place of meeting, held a special meeting at Rolfe to consider what might be done for them. Everybody seemed to feel that the excuse the old settler in Arkansaw had given for not fixing the leaky roof of his cabin, because "when it was raining he couldn't fix it and when it was dry

it was good enough," had more of comfort in it than they had previously realized, for it shed a grateful light on the experience of some bad roads; "when they are impassable they can't be worked and when they are dry they are good enough."

A correspondent at Pocahontas in describing the state of things existing at that "beleaguered town on the prairie," when it could no longer be reached by wheel vehicles and they resorted to the use of stone-boats, wrote as follows: "Two more boat loads of flour and groceries arrived in town Saturday, May 14, from Rolfe. Mr. Hronek, our merchant, is doing all he can to supply our wants; he is paying fifty cents per hundred pounds for hauling from Rolfe. The boats are making regular trips to Rolfe and Havelock. The great Northeast line is in command of Capt. Thomas Travis and consists of one iron-clad and two barges, and makes connection with all points east and southeast, north and northwest. The Great Northern line is commanded by Capt. Joseph Mikesh and consists of five barges built on the latest improved plan. No passengers are carried on this line except the pilots or agents of the firm. Close connections are made at the bridges and the ends of the route."*

The general consensus of opinion expressed at this time was to the effect that the spring of the year was the golden time to repair the roads, and that any plan of repair, that did not provide for the complete and speedy removal of the surface water from their vicinity, did not meet all the requirements of this section.

ANTI-MONOPOLY COUNTY ALLIANCE, OR POPULIST PARTY, ORGANIZED.

At a meeting of the farmers and independent voters held at Pocahontas March 28, 1892, delegates were present from Dover, Swan Lake, Washington and Center townships. Under the

*Times, May 19, 1892.

auspices of Mr. Robinson of Marathon a county anti-monopoly alliance was organized and officers were elected as follows: M. W. Linnan, president; D. Miller, vice president; J. D. Fitzgerald, secretary and treasurer; D. Miller, lecturer; F. M. Starr, chaplain; James Eral, steward.

"The object of this alliance was to direct attention to money, transportation, trusts and combines—questions of vital importance to every farmer. Farmers and laborers are the leading wealth producers of the nation. Industry, frugality and foresight are indispensable conditions of the increase of wealth. The farmer possesses these qualities. Does he have his share of the increase of wealth? The trade and commerce of which we so proudly boast, the great transportation facilities, the great mineral wealth, etc., are valuable because agriculture has called them into being. The farmer and the farm are the basis of every well ordered state, and the first care of such a state will be its agriculture."

At the general election held that fall 210 votes were cast in this county for the national and state candidates of the Populist party. About the same number of votes were cast for J. D. Fitzgerald, J. C. Brubaker and John Barrett, who, at another convention held on Sept. 17th previous had been nominated for the county offices of clerk of the court, recorder and auditor respectively.

1893.

The year 1893 was rendered memorable by the Columbian Exposition or World's Fair at Chicago, May 1st to Nov. 1st. The drought of midsummer throughout the Mississippi valley was so long continued that in the dairy districts it became necessary to feed the cattle upon the pastures, but the wheat, oats and corn were excellent.

On May 2, 1893, the Fonda Big Four Weekly Herald was established at Fonda by Fred Ellis. August 15th

following he sold it to E. E. Fisher and on Nov. 9th (1893) its publication was discontinued.

August 1, 1893, the Havelock Item was established at Havelock as an independent local newspaper by Fred J. Pratt and he continued its publication eight months. April 1, 1894, it was purchased by E. A. Donahoe, and he conducted it until Oct. 11, 1897. U. S. Vance edited it from that date until Oct. 1, 1899, when it was purchased by Charles C Johns, its present editor and proprietor.

In 1893 school directors were elected for the first time for a term of three years, and since that year one-third of their number has been elected each year, instead of the whole number as previously. The township trustees began to serve three years in 1879, and in 1896 the time of their annual meeting was changed from the first Monday in October to the first Monday in November.

CYCLONE YEAR.

The year of 1893, has been called the "cyclone year," because so many destructive storms occurred throughout the United States; and, in this respect, it is very vividly remembered by many living in this section, inasmuch as during the months of April, May and July that year, three severe storms passed over small portions of this county.

The first one occurred at 6 o'clock p. m., Tuesday, April 11th. The destructive path of this storm was a quarter of a mile in width and, commencing at a point in Sac county twelve miles south of Fonda, it extended northeast into Colfax and Center townships, crossing the south line of this county midway between Fonda and Pomeroy. In Williams township, Calhoun county, its path was almost identical with that of the similar, but not so destructive storms of 1878 and 1886, when, as on this occasion, the Jackson school house was either lifted

from its foundation or completely destroyed. Twenty persons were injured and one life was lost, the little daughter of John Dilman of Sac county, whose house was destroyed. Others who suffered the loss of buildings and to whose families the injured belonged, were Wm. Garote, Sac county; John Nyreen of Garfield, Chris Bartels, Henry Nagle, Wm. Helmbrecht, Mr. McGuire, E. Sterling, A. J. Pruden, A. Mitchell, O. K. Rocholtz, Garlies Tweddale, Wm. Hutchinson and S. H. Hutchinson of Williams, and C. Kimball, Henry Hout and Joseph Becker of Butler township, Calhoun county; G. W. Ferguson, Charles Johnson, Peter Murphy, Moody & Davy, Elias Dahl and Mrs. Maggie Hoppy of Colfax, Jans Sinek and Frank Ziemann of Center township, Pocahontas county. This storm was preceded by a heavy fall of rain for twenty minutes. The underground stone house of John Woods, in the southeast corner of Cedar township, on this occasion proved a safe place of protection to all its inmates; and after the storm it became an hospitable inn to which a number of the injured and homeless in that vicinity were carried and cared for until they got better or a new home had been provided for them.

During the night of Sabbath, May 21, 1893, a severe wind storm, accompanied with rain and hail, passed in a southeasterly direction across portions of Marshall, Sherman, Center and Lincoln townships. Those who sustained the loss of barns and outbuildings were Mr. Erick of Marshall, Frank Stacy, James Eral and Andrew Shades of Sherman, John Shimon, Herman Schmaing, Martin Eral, Mr. Borden and Mrs. Marden (house also) of Center, Wm. Boog, Chas. Travis and Ernest Peterson (house rebuilt after storm of April 11th ult.) of Lincoln township. The Jackson school house in Williams township, Calhoun county, was de-

stroyed, making it the second time it was wrecked by windstorm this spring, and the fourth since its erection in 1874.

After six o'clock on the evening of July 6, 1893, there crossed the southwest corner of this county a storm popularly known as the "Pomeroy cyclone," because its greatest work of destruction was wrought at that town. It destroyed more lives and property than any similar visitation to that date in our western history. At the drama of the world's great fair, then in progress on the shores of Lake Michigan, with its myriad scenes of beauty illustrating "the grandest achievements of man—his industry, energy and the godlike sweep of his majestic intellect that seemed to be asking for other worlds to conquer—all nature appeared to be man's slave, chained by his imperious will and manifesting its power at his bidding; but here nature asserted her despotic omnipotence and in such a way as to cause everyone to feel how puny after all is the arm of man and idle his boasted power."*

"All nature seemed in calm repose,
Upon that summer day,
No thought of dire disaster rose
Or of danger on its way.
The fields of gently waving corn
Dressed in living green,
Did the brown earth with grace
adorn,

A sight for any queen.

And then, as evening time drew near
With faces glad and bright,
The people supped their tea with
cheer,

Nor thought of coming fright.
But look toward the northwest sky!
See the evil omens come!

There riseth clouds of blackest dye
That soon obscure the sun.

And nearer yet with silent tread
Then lower, lower still,

Until each heart is filled with dread
And minds with terror thrill.

That peaceful scene has vanished,
now

There's hurrying to and fro,
And many are inquiring how
They may to safety go.

*R. M. Wright, at Pomeroy, July 6, 1891.

But ere they find a sure retreat
 From wind and hail and rain,
 The awful cyclone bursts complete,
 Protection's sought in vain.
 In time more brief than can be told
 It has passed on its way;
 But what a scene the eyes behold,
 Left there that summer day.

The homes of Pomeroy low are lain,
 But sadder far than all,
 There's kindred dear among the slain
 The chains of death enthral.
 What pen can paint that awful sight?
 What tongue can ever tell
 The agony of the coming night,
 The sorrow that befell.

Three scores of people are found dead
 And others wounded sore,
 Thus on the wires the message dread
 Now flew the country o'er.
 Sympathy filled the hearts of men
 For such a grief untold,
 And gifts were offered freely then;
 May they return a hundred fold.

MOLLIE NIGHT.

The track of this storm was about 1,000 feet in width and 50 miles in length. Commencing at a point three miles northwest of Quimby, Cherokee county, it passed a little south of east, or nearly parallel with the Illinois Central railroad, to a short distance east of Pomeroy, in Calhoun county. That day was a very sultry one and the approach of rain was indicated by a light colored cloud appearing in the west that changed to a darker hue as it slowly rose higher and spread over the entire western horizon. The approach of the terrific windstorm was witnessed first by the people living in the bluffs on the west side of the Little Sioux river, who saw two angry looking clouds approach each other from the northwest and southwest. The convergence of these clouds was witnessed also at Storm Lake and Pomeroy.

At Fonda the sight of light colored, capering clouds originating apparently overhead and moving swiftly westward, driven by a strong east wind into the face of the storm, suggested the probability of a cyclone. About

5:00 p. m. thunder was first heard and it came from the bank of dark clouds in the west. About three-quarters of an hour later the lightning became continuous, the thunder incessant and a rumbling roar was heard somewhat different from the usual sound of distant thunder. At 6:20 there fell a heavy rain lasting ten minutes and accompanied by a slight fall of hail. It was at this time the terrific windstorm passed over the southwest corner of this county a half mile south of Fonda. To persons living southwest of the town who witnessed its approach from a position just south of its course, as it swept across the country from the Hersom school house to Cedar creek, it appeared as a dense black cloud with a greenish tint extending from above close to the ground, heavily charged with electricity and rapidly advancing with a swiftly rolling, surging and awfully destructive movement. It was a fearful sight to behold, for the air was filled with flying debris and the wild roar of the storm was one never to be forgotten. When it had passed, the fearful evidences of its mighty power were seen everywhere along its path. Large trees were broken or uprooted and others, standing alone, were entirely stripped of their bark, leaves and small branches. Houses, together with their inmates, barns and other outbuildings were lifted from their foundations, carried considerable distances, overturned, utterly crushed and their fragments strewed in every direction. Passing through the center of the lake, at Storm Lake, it raised the water to the height of 100 feet.

At Pomeroy, in Calhoun county, a town of 600 inhabitants, it arrived at 7 o'clock p. m. having been preceded by a gentle rain of five minutes. Here its path of total destruction was about 1,200 feet wide and of partial destruction 1,800 feet. In three to five minutes all of the buildings in the south

part of that town, which embraced nine-tenths of all in it, including about one hundred houses, were completely demolished and their fragments were strewn promiscuously in a southeasterly direction. Everything was absolutely flat on the ground—there was not a building nor green tree to be seen, nor the movement of any living thing until after the lapse of several minutes. Even the persons and animals that were not seriously injured were apparently stunned by the electric shock. Intense darkness prevailed for a short time after the tornado that hindered the work of immediate rescue and precluded the possibility of determining to what extent life and property had been injured. It also rained and hailed terribly. The awful suddenness and completeness of the change of a pretty and prosperous town to a desolate waste produced an impression upon the minds of those who witnessed it that will never be forgotten. The loss of human life was appalling. Four days later the death roll in that vicinity contained 48 names, and 105 other persons were receiving treatment in the hospital and homes, temporarily provided for the injured.

In crossing Cherokee and Buena Vista counties the movement of the black, whirling electric storm cloud was observed principally by those who were located south of its course, and it was distinctly seen as far south as Odebolt. Whilst its general course was a straight line it had an undulatory movement, alternately rising and falling, that to some extent was believed to be due to the ascent of high knolls and the obstruction presented by groves of large timber. These seemed to give it an upward tendency that carried it over long stretches of intervening and less elevated country.

The storm, after leaving the city of Storm Lake, where several large buildings were injured, dropped and de-

stroyed the large new barn of Jesse Allee south of Newell that cost \$3,000, the one on the Gilmore farm occupied by Charles Peirie, and all the buildings on the farms of Paul Winter, S. V. Moore, Peter Larson, (Mack farm) and of Mr. Shumway then occupied by a newly married couple.

About one mile west of the line of Pocahontas county the barns of W. I. Lane, A. W. Eno and A. J. Hamilton, and the new and large buildings of John Schlieman were completely destroyed and serious injuries were sustained by Mrs. John Schlieman, three of her children, and by Mr. and Mrs. Schlieman, Sr., John's parents. The buildings of John McDermott were also seriously injured.

In its path across this county, all the buildings were completely destroyed on the farms of E. I. Sargent, occupied by E. A. Shirley, of Samuel T. Hersom, Harry Hersom, on the one occupied by Amos H. Gorton, at the Hersom schoolhouse, of Mrs. Marshall occupied by John Detwiler, and on those of P. B. Shirley, G. W. Ferguson, Moody & Davy occupied by W. I. Webb, of Benjamin Peach and Charles G. Perkins. The barns were destroyed on the farms of J. H. Stafford, Harvey Eaton, Geo. Sanborn (occupied by Jarvis Gates) and James Mercer. At the home of W. J. Busby the windmill was wrested from its moorings and left resting on the roof of the house.

It struck the south line of Pocahontas county first near the old Kephart grove and passing east to the crossing of the D. M. N. & W. railroad commenced a zigzag movement that was continued to Pomeroy. It veered first northeast to the residence of P. B. Shirley, whose grove and buildings were completely destroyed. Here it was joined by a smaller twister and turned south to the county line where the buildings of G. W. Ferguson and Joseph Becker, all rebuilt after the

April storm, and the outbuildings of John Woods were completely destroyed. From that point it passed eastward along the county line, destroying all the buildings on the farms of Moody & Davy (occupied by W. I. Webb) Benjamin Peach and August Weidaurf ("Chichago Johnson" farm). From this place it veered northward and destroyed all the buildings and grove of Charles G. Perkins, thence southeast, destroying the buildings and groves of John Dalton and Mrs. Fuller, thence east making similar havoc of the grove and buildings on the farm of W. D. Parker and residence of Jacob Foster, at the edge of Pomeroy. Here it made a slight circular turn to the southeast across the residence portion and south part of the business blocks of Pomeroy.

Those that were injured in this county were Mrs. John Detwiller, Harry Hersom and two children of Amos H. Gorton.

ROLL OF THE DEAD.

The list of the persons that were killed by this storm or died soon after from injuries received is as follows, the numbers at the right denoting their ages.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY.

John Detwiller—29, Mrs. Amos H. Gorton—33, Jessie Gorton—11, Jennie Gorton—9.

BUENA VISTA COUNTY.

W. R. Clemons, Bernard Johnson, Jacob Breecher, Miss Breecher, C. N. Totman.

CHEROKEE COUNTY.

Mrs. O. M. Lester, Frank Lord, Mrs. Molyneaux, Frank Johnson, Marion Johnson, Lula Slater, Samuel Burg, wife and four children.

POMEROY AND VICINITY.

Maria Adams—67, Wat Arnold—64, Mrs. Sarah Arnold—66, Mrs. J. F. Anderson—65, Bessie Banks—14, Ray Banks—8, John Beckley's two children, Grover Black—8, Black—in-

fant, E. O. Davy—31, Ben L. Davy—20 Mrs. Katie Davy—18, Ellen Dahlgren—28, Joseph DeMarr—25, Henry Dillmuth—63, Edward Doyle—27, Mrs. N. Fecht—38, Olive Frost—17, Henry Geige—36, Mrs. Henry George—32, August Forche—38, N. S. Hulett—72, Mrs. N. S. Hulett—72, Roy Keifer—18, Lena Keifer—11, Mrs. F. Johnson—25, J. P. Lundgren—58, Ollie Lundgren—12, S. N. Maxwell, Alexander Maxwell—14, Herman Mellor—1, Mrs. B. J. Harlowe—68, August Meyer—17, Henry Neiting—74, Mrs. Neiting—64, J. M. O'Brien—60, Mrs. D. L. O'Brien—24, O'Brien infant, Mrs. Agnes Quinlan—21, Michael Quinlan—1, Silas Rushton—34, Mrs. Silas Rushton—28, Charles Rushton—3, Betsey Talbot—68, Nina Thomas—4, A. J. Wilkinson—65, Mrs. H. Geige—36.

RECAPITULATION.

Pocahontas county.....	4
Enena Vista ".....	5
Cherokee ".....	12
Pomeroy and vicinity.....	49
Total.....	70.

On the night of July 14th the following injured persons were taken from the temporary hospital at Pomeroy to the Samaritan Home and St. Joseph Hospital in Sioux City: J. W. Black, Mrs. J. W. Black, three Black children, Mrs. Andrew G. Blomberg, Evelyn Blomberg, Dina Blomberg Joseph DeMarr, Edward Doyle, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Fitzgerald, Frank Forche, Arthur Forche, Henry Geige, Jr., Mrs. Henry Geige, Mrs. Gilbert, Mrs. Helen George, Arthur George, George—baby, George Guy, Mrs. George Guy, Addie Guy, Thomas Harmon, Emma Harmon, August Helm, Lottie Helm, Roy Keifer, John Koklantz, Mrs. Koklantz Koklantz—baby, Mrs. A. Lindblad, Mrs. Gus Linder, two Linder children, Mr. Lull, Mrs. S. N. Maxwell, James Mellor, Mrs. James Mellor, Linda Oleson, Jacob Paap, Mrs. Jacob Paap, Jesse Pruden, Michael Quinlan, Mrs. Silas Rushton, Mary Soderstrom, Mr.

Thomas, Mrs. Thomas, Henry Wegraffe, Total, 49. Edward Doyle died as the train arrived at the depot in Sioux City, and Joseph DeMar, Mrs. Geige, Roy Keifer and Mrs. Rushton a few days later. At the end of two months the others had so improved they were able to return to their own homes.

On the day after this storm Governor Boies visited the scene at Pomeroy and issuing a proclamation announcing the greatness and appalling character of the disaster, called upon the citizens of the state to cooperate generously in the work of immediate relief. This relief work was organized by the appointment of the following persons as a relief committee, viz: Mayor M. F. Stadtmueller of Pomeroy, chairman; Mayor C. A. Whittlesey of Manson; Senator Edgar E. Mack of Storm Lake; Messrs. E. C. Stevenson of Rockwell City, J. B. Bollard of Fonda, J. H. Lowrey, Thomas Miller, R. A. Stewart, Ray C. Brownell and C. W. Alexander, of Pomeroy. This committee on Oct. 12, 1893, reported that they had to that date received and disbursed \$69,761, 23.

"Then dawned humanity's bright morn,
Gifts and good cheer were speedily borne;"

And women's hearts were moved to show

Such wealth of love as sisters know."

—ADDIE B. ELLINGTON.

A very beautiful and comforting feature of the ministry of relief was the part rendered by the women of Des Moines. When the appeal of Gov. Boies was read, Mrs. John Wyman, a noble hearted woman of that city, conceived the idea of organizing a circle of ready workers, to go to the scene of the disaster supplied with sewing machines, materials and all necessary accompaniments and thus by their personal knowledge render gifts sent doubly valuable to the needy. 'This thought, born of a desire to

comfort the women of Pomeroy by the presence of a company of women whose hearts and hands were in lively co-operation, came as an inspiration", and in response to an 'appeal twenty-three women signified their willingness to render service in this way if summoned.

As soon as C. S. Gilmore, superintendent of the Rock Island railroad heard of this project he very promptly placed two cars—a passenger coach and baggage car—at Mrs. Wyman's disposal, together with a sufficient number of cots for sleeping accommodations during their stay at Pomeroy.

They arrived at Pomeroy Tuesday evening, July, 11th, the fifth day after the storm, and, reporting at headquarters for duty they were warmly welcomed by officials and citizens and the freedom of the village was accorded to them. In three days they had accomplished the object of their special errand. Two hours previous to their departure they were unexpectedly called upon and made 37 stretchers to be used that evening in carrying the injured ones to and from the train while making the trip to Sioux City. "This work of love for humanity's sake, bringing out the best that was in their nature, cemented friendships never to be forgotten."

FONDA AND VICINITY.

On the day after the storm the pastor of the Presbyterian church, who was one of the first to arrive at the scene of destruction where John Detwiler lay unconsciously breathing his life away, began to solicit voluntary offerings for the immediate relief of the pressing wants of the sufferers in the vicinity of Fonda. The next day an arrangement was made by the pastors of the Fonda churches for the appointment of a local relief committee to consist of a representative from each congregation and another to be selected by them. The committee thus selected consisted of Hon. James

Mercer who was chosen chairman, Wm. Bott, J. R. Johnson, Ed. O'Donnell and R. F. Beswick who was chosen secretary and treasurer. The report of this committee rendered Aug. 10, 1893, showed that in addition to a car-load of flour from the Pomeroy relief committee and other donations of clothing and provisions it received and disbursed the following amounts of money.

Individual gifts, Fonda and vicinity.....	\$ 618.24
From Rolfe.....	278.52
“ Pocahontas.....	154.50
“ Laurens.....	64.09
“ County Relief Fund.....	1250.00
Total.....	\$2,365.26.

On the day appointed for the appointment of this amount among the sufferers Alex. McEwen, Alex Peterson and F. A. Thompson, members of the board of county supervisors, were present to co-operate with the committee.

The following statement of the relief sent from Rolfe and vicinity was made Aug. 3, 1893:

Rec'd by Mesdames J. Carroll, M. W. Coffin, M. Fawcett, A. Malcolm and S. A. Car- son, solicitors.....	\$139.87
Collection at church.....	204.05
Clothing contributed.....	30.00
From a friend to relatives in Pomeroy.....	129.90
Total.....	\$503.82.

The comparative frequency of tornadoes in different sections of the United States may be seen in the following table prepared by the Signal Service Bureau at Washington in 1884 for the preceding period of ten years.

Connecticut.....	40 per cent.
New York.....	53 “ “
Iowa.....	58 “ “
Georgia.....	62 “ “
New Jersey.....	75 “ “
Missouri.....	77 “ “
Kansas.....	88 “ “
Indiana.....	88 “ “

This exhibit shows that all sections of the country are alike subject to them and that the percentage in Iowa is much lower than in many other states. The two most destructive storms in Iowa were those at Grinnell in 1882 and at Pomeroy in 1893, but the loss of life and property, appalling as it was, is comparatively insignificant to the awful wreck at St. Louis, the great metropolis of Missouri, when it was visited by the storm of May 27, 1896, and fully 500 persons perished including fifty school children at Drake, Illinois.

If one hundred men were asked which destroys the most property, cyclones or hailstorms, in all probability ninety-nine of them would unhesitatingly answer that cyclones are the most destructive. So far as loss of life is concerned they would be right, but the estimated value of the loss sustained from a single hailstorm in midsummer is usually ten times that of all the tornadoes in any state in an ordinary year.

A tornado inspires terror because of its fierce destruction of whatever comes in its path, but fortunately its path is very narrow so that its width, on any ordinary map, is correctly indicated by a mere pencil mark. This illustration serves to show that it would take a great many years to cover a state and that the danger from cyclones is vastly exaggerated in the popular mind. They make bad work when they strike, but they are not nearly so liable to strike as many people think. This common misapprehension has grown out of the fact that the newspapers publish such graphic accounts of tornadoes when they occur.

The hailstorm does not destroy life, but coming at a time when crops are maturing, it wipes out the harvest of a township, worth one hundred thousand dollars or more, and the event often passes without note or comment. In this state, the records of the in-

insurance companies have established the fact that the loss from hail alone is five times as great as that from tornadoes, fire and lightning combined.

1894—MULCT LAW—DROUGHT.

On March 20, 1894, the Martin mulct law was enacted by the legislature of Iowa that provides for a state tax of \$600 to be assessed against every one engaged in the sale of intoxicating liquors except registered pharmacists holding permits; and thirty days later a consent petition was circulated in this county for the establishment of a saloon at Fonda. New jury and game laws were enacted. The women of Iowa were granted the right to vote at any election for the purpose of issuing bonds for municipal or school purposes, or for the purpose of increasing a tax levy. It was also made unlawful to sell or give tobacco or cigarettes to minors under sixteen years of age.

Labor Day, first observed by the Knights of Labor in New York City, September 5, 1882, was in June, 1894, made a legal holiday by our national congress.

The financial depression was deeply felt throughout the country and two armies of the unemployed were organized to march to Washington for the purpose of demanding relief from congress. The army of J. S. Coxey, consisting of 122 persons, left Massillon, Ohio, April 1, 1894, and arrived at Washington May 1st, following. At this latter date Kelley's industrial army, consisting originally of 1300 men from the country west of the Missouri river, arrived at Des Moines and passed down the Des Moines river on 150 flat-boats constructed for their special use.

The year of 1894 was one that tried men's souls. It opened with a general financial depression that paralyzed every branch of industry and caused more business failures than any year of that decade. Then the

repeated midsummer droughts of the four previous years had their culmination of severity in the long continued drought of this year throughout the Mississippi Valley, that caused famine and want in central and western Nebraska, and terminated in terrible forest fires in northern Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, that were as destructive as the cyclones and floods of other years, five hundred lives being lost by one of them at Hinkley, Minnesota.

The large lakes in Marshall and Swan Lake townships, this county, became dry for the first time in the memory of man, and during the following summer these lake bottoms were planted with corn and other cereals.

Amid the general disappointment and gloom, caused by the loss of crops from the drought, the people of Pocahontas County were highly favored. A couple of light showers passed over this section in August that revived the pastures and growing crops. Well fed thoroughbreds continued to graze contentedly upon hill and dale, great fields of corn lifted their rejoicing heads and the crops, when garnered, though not so large in quantity were superlatively fine in quality. The husbandman perceived anew, and more strikingly than ever before, the superiority of this section as regards its ability to survive the direful effects of long continued drought.

The cause of this period of drought was attributed to the fact that the prevailing winds, that usually bring the hot air charged with moisture from the Gulf of Mexico to this section, were blown against the Rockies where they were met by a counter current of cold air from the north and the barren sides of the old mountains were literally flooded, while the air that was carried over the Mississippi valley lacked moisture. All know the effect of cold air on steam, it con-

condenses it. When a cold current of air from the north or northwest comes in contact with warmer currents from the gulf charged with moisture, the latter is condensed and there is a fall of rain. The winds from the gulf, however, do not always reach this section direct, but frequently from the southwest making a circuit over Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. If there is moisture in the currents of air it may be condensed, but if there is none there can be no condensation, or fall of rain. This is the reason why the rainmakers who, at this period in Iowa, Texas and other places, endeavoring to produce rain by the use of explosives in mid-air, could accomplish nothing when circumstances were not favorable.

The rich soil of this section never bakes like the clays of other regions and from the time of its first settlement to this date there has never been a failure of the corn crop from any cause, least of all from drought. Nevertheless the drought had its lessons for the observing farmer and one of them was, that the capacity of this black soil of our prairies to hold moisture and support plant life in times of drought depends to a great extent on the fineness of its particles and the depth of its cultivation. Its thorough pulverization, wherever properly drained, increases its capacity to hold moisture and lessens the downward tendency of the latter from the atmosphere by forming a mulch that acts like a blanket of straw. The good cultivator, therefore, even in a dry season, has the assurance of a good crop by reason of the finely pulverized condition of the soil and its great fertility.

It was also observed that the native prairie grass did not wilt during the drought like the tame grasses, yet the latter are much better. The former was a summer grass that came late in the spring and turned brown early in

the fall, while the latter grow early in the spring and late in the fall. If the tame grasses rest during a mid-summer drought a good substitute is readily found in winter rye or some other rapidly growing crop.

1895—NEBRASKA RELIEF.

On February 9, 1895, C. C. Gardner, treasurer of the relief committee of Sargent, Custer county, Neb., arrived in Fonda and after a conference with the pastors of the several churches it was decided to put forth an effort to secure a carload of grain and provisions for the needy sufferers in the drought-stricken district represented by him. For this car there were contributed 330 bushels of corn, of which 30 had been selected for seed; 47 bushels of oats, 65 sacks of flour, 460 pounds of cornmeal, 60 pounds of oatmeal, 200 pounds of meat, a lot of hay, groceries, bedding and clothing, that, including the cash contributed, \$93.76, was estimated to be worth \$400.00. This car was loaded February 16, and left Fonda six days later, when the deficit (\$51.72) on a freight bill of \$112.69 was advanced by Rev. R. E. Flickinger, who accompanied it to its destination.

About two weeks later an additional half car load of grain and provisions solicited by C. F. Bockenogen, was contributed by the people in the vicinity of Laurens, Havelock and Rolfe, and sent to the same needy district.

These donations, contributed so promptly, were very creditable to the people of this section. They spoke louder than words of their generous spirit of sympathy and charity, and gave publicity to the abundant harvest gathered in this section during the previous year.

The severe drought of 1894 was broken by a gentle rain on April 1, 1895, and the crops of wheat, barley, oats, corn and potatoes that year were immense. Phil D. Armour and other capitalists of Chicago, built great

cribs at all the towns in this section to receive and hold the large crops of corn.

The year of 1895 was one of gradual recovery from the stagnation of the previous year, Large wells were sunk and a system of water works was constructed at Fonda and Laurens; Rolfe having secured a similar improvement the previous autumn.

At the republican representative convention that met several times at Rolfe in 1895, for the district embracing Pocahontas and Humboldt counties, there occurred a deadlock that finally resulted in the nomination of two republican candidates, Parley Finch, of Humboldt, and James Mercer, of Pocahontas county, both by petitions filed at Des Moines. This result was unexpected and was due to the fact that each county having eight delegates in the convention, those of Humboldt were unwilling to vote for any other candidate except Mr. Finch and those of Pocahontas, having no special preference or instructions for any particular candidate, were nevertheless unwilling to support Mr. Finch for a second term, that courtesy having been several times extended to candidates representing this district but never to any one from this county. Mr. Mercer was not a candidate, delegate or even present at this convention, and on the last day allowed by law, no nomination having been made by the convention, a petition was prepared at Rolfe and sent to Des Moines without his previous knowledge, placing his name in nomination. He accepted the nomination and received 999 votes in this county, Mr. Finch 82 and G. W. Core, democrat, 683 Mr. Finch was elected by a small majority by means of the vote in Humboldt county.

June 11, 1896, the Fonda Review, a local weekly, democratic paper was established at Fonda by W. O. Lester. On October 1st, following, he sold it

to Fred E. Moore and he continued its publication until September 1, 1897, when he sold it to John E. Pope, its present editor and proprietor. In April, 1899, the office of publication was moved from the John Forbes store building to the new brick block of Roberts & Kenning.

In July, 1896, the supervisor districts of this county were rearranged so that there was one at each corner of the county consisting of three townships each, and one at the center consisting of four.

The township of Lake was divided into two election precincts on September 12, 1894, district No. 2 consisting of the east half of section one, on which the west half of Gilmore City is located.

THE SALOON ISSUE.

On April 2, 1895, the grand jury brought in bills of indictment against all, in all parts of the county, that were then engaged in the illegal sale of intoxicating liquors, and on April 8, 1896, the board of supervisors imposed a tax of \$1000 upon the premises used for that purpose at the first named date. On July 30, 1896, Judge Thomas at Storm Lake ruled that the first consent petition filed in Pocahontas county was insufficient and granted temporary injunctions against all the saloons in this county, which were located at Fonda and Gilmore City, except that of Waldman & Son, Fonda, who were allowed to continue until the September term of court, when his case was set for final hearing.

In the fall of 1896 the most important issue before all the people of this county was the re-establishment of the mulct saloon, the petition of 1894 having been declared insufficient. This issue was precipitated on this occasion by an organized effort to secure a valid consent petition by having it presented for signatures at every polling place in the county on November 3d, the day of the general



ARTHUR W. DAVIS,
County Superintendent, 1898-99.
Fonda.



JOSEPH P. ROBINSON
County Superintendent 1882-85



WILLIAM H. HEALY
Attorney at Law



REV. P. J. CARROLL
Pastor Catholic Church, 1882-87



REV. Z. C. BRADSHAW
Pastor M. E. Church, 1892-94

Fonda.

election that year.

The campaign against the success of this movement was inaugurated by a large union mass meeting held in the Presbyterian church of Fonda on Sabbath evening, October 11th, when Messrs. Orville Lee, O. R. Adams, S. E. Barnard, F. R. Brownell and W. B. Howell, leading business men and active christian workers of Sac City were present, the first three delivering addresses protesting against the establishment of the saloon from the business standpoint, and the last four singing several appropriate quartettes. At this meeting the following resolution was presented and adopted by an almost unanimous rising vote:

We, citizens of Fonda and vicinity, in union mass meeting assembled do hereby remind the voters of Pocahontas county that this has been our experience with the saloon in Fonda: It has brought poverty and sad disappointment to the home, wrecked individual character, jeopardized the interests of the public school and the church and led to the destruction of human life. In view of these and other considerations that might be enumerated, we earnestly protest against the re-establishment of the saloon in Fonda, and respectfully request that all voters who appreciate the work of the churches, the value of a good name and the purity of the home, will firmly refuse to sign said consent petition whether it be presented on the day of election or later. We are encouraged to make this protest and appeal, for reasons that should prevail among the good citizens of this county, and because the neighboring counties of Buena Vista, Sac, Calhoun, Humboldt, Kossuth, Clay and Greene have refused to give place to the open saloon.

This appeal and protest was echoed in all parts of the county; but a majority of the people had reached the conclusion that "while nothing good can be said in favor of a saloon, we believe an open saloon regulated by law is preferable to dives and holes-in-the-wall." Under the petition then circulated three saloons were es-

tablished in this county, one at Gilmore City and two at Fonda that have since been maintained under a mulct penalty of \$1400 each, a year. In November, 1899, another one was established at the new town of Varina.

Lest the reader should think, by reason of these establishments, the water of this section is either deficient in quantity or lacking in quality, we beg leave to add that there has not yet been realized any lack of that beautiful and healthful beverage, and there may be said of it all that John B. Gough affirmed when he said: "There is no poison in that cup; no fiendish spirit dwells beneath those crystal drops to lure you and me and all of us to ruin; no spectral shadows play upon its waveless surface; no widows' groans or orphans' tears rise to God from those placid fountains; misery, crime, wretchedness, woe and want come not within the hallowed precincts where cold water reigns supreme. Pure now as when it left its native heaven, it gives vigor to youth, strength to manhood and solace to old age. Cold water is beautiful, bright and pure everywhere. In the moonlight fountains and sunny rills; in the warbling brook and giant river; in the hand of beauty or on the lips of manhood—everywhere cold water is beautiful."

1897.

The first declamatory contest between the pupils of the various schools of this county was held at Fonda April 29, 1897. Four schools were represented. The participants were Miss Jennie Eaton and Weston Martin, Fonda; Litta Tumbleson and Grace Smith, Havelock; Clara Heathman and Margie McEwen, Plover; Robert Ainslie and Grace Grove, Rolfe. The judges were Prof. Holdoegel, Rev. J. A. Cummings and D. M. Kelleher, Esq., who gave the award to the representatives from Fonda. The teachers present formed a county declamatory as

sociation by the election of Prof. Rutledge of Rolfe, president, and Prof. U. S. Vance of Havelock, secretary, and Rolfe was chosen as the place for the next contest. The arrangements for this one were undertaken and carried to completion by Prof. A. W. Davis, of Fonda.

In 1897, this county for the first, and to this date the only time in its history, cast a majority for the democratic state ticket. At the general election held Nov. 2, 1897, Fred E. White, democratic candidate for governor, received 37 votes more than Leslie M. Shaw; and John Ratcliff, democrat, was elected sheriff by a majority of 93. The republican candidates however, for senator, representative and all the other county offices received majorities that ranged from 72, for M. E. DeWolf for representative, to 373 for A. W. Davis for superintendent of schools. Local and personal issues were pressed during the campaign, but a glance at the majorities of the winning republican candidates indicates that these local issues did not materially affect the result. The real cause was manifestly more general and in all probability may be more correctly attributed to the demand for "free silver," that to a greater or less extent affected other parts of the country at that time.

HOG CHOLERA, ITS CAUSE AND CURE.

In the spring of 1897, Assessor E. Gibbons, while making the assessment of Powhatan township, found that while the whole number of hogs in that township at that time was 2887, a greater number, namely, 2964, had died there from cholera during the previous year. The number of hogs raised was 77 less than the number that had died and, at \$10 each, the latter represented a loss of \$29,640 in one year from this cause to the farmers of that township. The estimate of loss for this county during 1896 was 40,000 head. J. R. Sage, chief of the

Iowa weather and crop service, estimated that during that year 1,800,000 hogs, valued at \$15,000,000, died in Iowa.

The annual loss sustained by the ravages of this disease has been great in other years, but it was in 1897, that more conspicuously than ever before or since, the attention of the farmers of this county and state was specially directed to the causes and cure of this dread disease by the public experiments and official tests of that year. We would not add a word to what has been written upon this topic but, in view of its great importance to the people of this county and for the benefit of our numerous rural readers, we would put in convenient form for future reference the positive and valuable results of these experiments.

They may be summarized as follows:

I. Locality. The disease was most prevalent in a belt five counties in width, extending north and south across the central part of the state, west of the west line of Howard and Davis counties; and it was least prevalent in the seven northeastern counties of the state. The latter is the great dairy district of this state and the former its greatest section for corn. The general average of loss throughout this state was 30 per cent, but for the northeastern district it was only 7 per cent and for the entire eastern belt of the state embracing 31 counties, it was only 11 per cent. In the 27 counties on the Missouri slope it was 32 per cent and in the 42 counties in the central belt it was 40 per cent.—J. R. SAGE.

II. Experiments. 1. Dr. Salmon, chief of the bureau of animal industry, Washington, D. C., at the expense of the government made an experiment in Page county with anti-toxine serum with the result that of several herds containing 278 animals, only 39 died of the 214 that were treated of which 86 were sick. 83 per

cent of the herds treated were saved while 85 per cent of those under observation, but not treated, died. In the eastern half of Page county, under the personal direction of Dr. John McBirney, the government undertook to exterminate the disease by destroying the entire herds affected by it and remunerating the farmers for the loss thus sustained. The disease was thus eradicated in two weeks from eight townships and eighteen herds numbering 900 head were wiped out of existence. This was the most heroic treatment the disease had yet received and the only other place where such an experiment was made was in Hickman county Tennessee.

2. R. P. Dodge, of Atlanta, having found a remedy that was effective for curing those phases of the disease that prevailed in Georgia, came to the officials of the Iowa State Agricultural society and requested opportunity to test his treatment and remedy under their observation, that their official endorsement might be given it before it should be offered for sale in Iowa. This proposition was accepted and he experimented with three herds on the poor farm of Polk county. John Cowrie and Henry Wallace, in their report thereon, state that "the hogs in these herds were affected with lung plague, pneumonia or congestion of the lungs, commonly called cholera, of which the symptoms were weakness, staggering walk, dragging the hind legs, etc. This disease has hitherto baffled all efforts to cure or even control it, and the proposed remedy does not meet expectation."

3. Prof. M. Stalker, veterinary at the State Agricultural College, Ames, summing up the results of experiments with Dr. Keller's remedy states: "At this stage of the experiment there is nothing to warrant the belief that any substantial benefit whatever has resulted from the treatment. In fact those receiving no treatment are in as

good condition as those under treatment. The most scientific doctor of the present day cannot give you a cure for typhoid fever, pneumonia or cholera. An intelligent doctor may lessen the mortality from these highly fatal forms of disease affecting human beings, but he does not assume to know a specific cure.

Swine plague and hog cholera probably combine more of the symptoms of these three diseases than anything else. There is little or nothing in medical science to justify the belief that a hog cholera cure has been or will be discovered. Strictly sanitary police regulations which will prevent, as far as possible, exposure to the infection will do more to restrict the disease than all the remedies combined. When the public becomes sufficiently informed on this subject to demand, that as adequate provisions shall be made for protecting swine against exposure, as is now provided for preventing the spread of scarlet fever in a well regulated city, its practical disappearance will be but a question of a very short time."

4. Evan McLennan, Esq., of Brooklyn, Iowa, having hogs afflicted with loss of appetite and frequent scouring, and remembering that the internal constitution of the hog is very similar to that of the human being, used with good results in every case Chamberlain's Colic Cure by putting a teaspoonful in a quart of boiled sweet milk placed alone before them each in a separate pen until they drank it. This gave immediate relief and ordinarily effected a cure in two days. At his request his neighbors, James Gray and John C. Gray used the same remedy with the same result on those similarly affected, but with no avail on those affected with symptoms of lung trouble.

5. Frank Baumgartner, of Peotone, Ill., after seventeen years' study of the disease, found a cure that proved

effective in his own neighborhood. Under the auspices of the general freight agent of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway in January, 1897, he operated on a herd belonging to Orne Bros., of Dubuque. Claiming that what is popularly known as cholera may be produced by irregular feeding, he placed six sound hogs in a pen from which a lot of diseased ones had been removed only a few hours previous. He declared he would produce cholera in three of them and keep the remainder free from it, but one of the sick ones would be allowed to die for the sake of an examination. The three that were destined to become sick were separated from the others by an impassable but open partition of narrow boards so they could touch each other but might not feed together. Both lots were fed according to instructions given, one regularly and with a proper diet; the other abundantly but irregularly. At the end of twenty days the three former were hearty and healthy, but the latter, gorging themselves, soon became dumpy and a week later were very sick. One of them was allowed to die and a post mortem examination made by Dr. Bauman, a local veterinary, revealed the fact it had died of cholera. The other two that became sick were cured. This experiment seemed to controvert the prevailing contention that sound hogs placed in the same pen with those infected with cholera will contract the disease in four to twenty days. Orne Bros. had been feeding a herd of sixty-five head on the slop from a large hotel. The entire herd had become infected and thirty-eight had died before his arrival. The disease was pronounced cholera and the owners had no hope of saving the remnant of this herd. After inspecting the herd he advised that five be killed as incurable, promised to save sixteen and possibly six others. He saved nineteen and con-

tended that hog cholera is neither contagious nor infectious, but due to improper and irregular feeding and care. His experiments were repeated later with similar success on hogs similarly affected at McGregor, West Union, Mason City, Algona, Emmetsburg and other places in this part of the state.

III. Results. The report of J. R. Sage, locating most of the losses from hog cholera in the great corn belt of the state is certainly very suggestive that corn as an article of diet may be conducive to the development of this disease. Those farmers who have studiously avoided an exclusive corn diet by feeding also oats, wheat and middlings have, as a matter of fact, sustained the least losses from this cause. Anything, however, that weakens the system, makes it more susceptible to disease. This may be done by feeding young animals an exclusive corn diet, filthy slops, impure drinking water, nesting in damp places and other irregularities in regard to their care and keeping.

These experiments show clearly that there are two forms of disease commonly called hog cholera, the one affecting the lungs and the other the bowels. The former phase of it may prevail in one locality and the latter in another. The former may be very contagious and the latter not. The former may be incurable, and the latter both easily cured and prevented. Worms also cause sickness and death, but a single dose of the right kind of medicine will usually bring relief.

This case is one where "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." The best preventives are found in absolute cleanliness and regularity in care and keeping. Some have found an effective and satisfactory regulator of the bowels in a small dose of wood ashes once a fortnight. Others have found that a pile of slack or pulverized soft coal within their enclosure

has answered the same purpose; while others maintain that the following inexpensive mixture is a sure proof against all stomach troubles commonly called cholera: To one quart each of salt and sulphur add four quarts of air slacked lime. Mix thoroughly and put it in a dry place where it will be always accessible.

The conviction has been growing that new blood needed to be infused into the stock so susceptible to disease and the "razor back" of the south having been comparatively free from its attacks, several car loads of them were that year brought to this county and the results have been quite satisfactory. Among those who received the "razor backs" were H. L. Bruit, B. L. Allen and M. E. DeWolf, of Laurens, each a car load from Texas; the Kennedy Bros., Fonda, one car load from Arkansas, and the Charlton Bros., of Rolfe, two car loads.

1896.

On July 1, 1896, the free silver campaign demanding the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 was inaugurated in this country by the nomination of W. J. Bryan, at Chicago.

From August 3d to 9th the heat was intense, the temperature ranging from 94 to 100 in the shade. At St. Louis there were 100 prostrations; at Chicago 75 prostrations and 22 deaths, and in New York City 30 deaths.

On the afternoon and evening of September 22d, 1896, a great republican rally in the interest of sound money was held in a large tent at Fonda. The city was patriotically decorated for this occasion and marching clubs were present from Rockwell City, Lohrville, Jolley, Sac City, Newell, Pomeroy, Pocahontas and other sections. Large delegations were present from Storm Lake and other towns west as far as Cherokee. The cornet bands from Newell and Jolley were present to co-operate with the one from Fonda. Addresses were delivered by Sen-

ator W. B. Allison, Congressman J. P. Dolliver and Hon. John Brennan, of Sioux City. The vocal music was furnished by the McKinley Male Quartette of Sac City, and the Prairie Creek glee club. At seven o'clock in the evening the different marching clubs, numbering 600 persons all of whom were supplied with flambeaux, and the three cornet bands formed a torch light procession, that marched through some of the principal streets of the city before going to the tent. About 1200 Roman candles had been distributed among the different clubs, and as they marched the heavens were illuminated with brilliant, fiery balls of red, white and blue. It was a beautiful sight to witness and the greatness of this meeting surprised every one. It was the largest meeting ever held in the county and the grandest political demonstration ever made in this part of the state. More than six thousand people gathered at the tent.

1898.

The year 1898 was one of the most remarkable in our nation's history. It was a year of unrivaled material prosperity, and more great achievements were crowded into its annals than in any other in our nation's history. It saw the beginning and end of the war with Spain, in Cuba and the Philippine Islands, at the close of which the United States occupied a new position in the world and launched upon an era, having new and untried responsibilities.

The crops in this county were among the largest ever raised; but during that year, ten of the main business houses of Laurens, representing \$60,000 worth of property, the flouring mill at Rolfe, owned by the Fouch Bros., the Plover creamery owned by John Carroll, and the principal drying house of the tile factory of Straight Bros., Fonda, were consumed by fire.

1899.

The year 1899, like its predecessor,

was one of large crops and good prices. The lively impulse of prosperity was felt in all parts of this land so that every wheel was in motion and every man willing to work found employment at remunerative wages. So great was the activity in railroad construction that the demand for iron caused a great advance in the manufactured product. In this vicinity, the Milwaukee road built the extension from Fonda to Spencer, and a service of one mixed train a day each way was established and maintained during the ensuing winter months. It constructed also the branch from Rockwell City to Storm Lake via Sac City, and the Illinois Central the line from Tara to Omaha via Rockwell City. The grading of the Rock Island across this county was completed from Manson via Pocahontas and Lau-

rens, and three new towns were established in this county, two of which were named Varina and Palmer. Other new towns established this year in this vicinity were Albert City, first called Manthorp; Glenora, Hesperia, Lavinia, Lytton, Nemaha and Northam. So great was the demand for laborers in the construction of these roads, that exorbitant prices were in many instances offered for workmen, and those who responded were required to labor seven days in the week. The construction of one road north of this county had to be postponed one year because the material for the iron bridges and track could not be obtained.

"This land o' ourn still ye's got to be
A better country than man e'er see;
I feel my spirit swellin' with a cry
That seems to say 'Break forth and
prophecy'."



XII.

BELLVILLE TOWNSHIP.

“Who o’er the prairies looks abroad,
 And does not see the hand of God
 Preparing them through ages past
 To be the homes of men, who cast
 The seed abroad and reap again
 A rich reward in golden grain!”

—LEONARD BROWN.

FIRST SETTLERS.



BELLVILLE township was not the first one settled or organized, but it is the first one in an alphabetical list of the townships of this county. It is township 90 of range 32, the second one from the east in the south row of townships. At the time of its survey the fact was noted that it contained “numerous small marshes and a few of considerable size. There are also several swamps, most of them unfit for cultivation, although some of the marshes are good for hay as is also the whole township. A considerable portion of this township is covered with pea vine. The surface is generally level, and the soil first and second rate.” At the time of its survey there was not a tree to be seen in the township, and the surveyor who made these notes, for that reason and those stated did not regard it a desirable place for settlers

to locate their homes. Now that the swamps and marshes, by means of a little drainage, have been made very productive, and beautiful farm buildings have been erected all over the township, the prejudice of the surveyor has vanished.

The first settlers in this township were William Bell and Niels Hanson, who in the month of March, 1869, located their homesteads, the former on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and the latter, on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 10. Returning together to Fort Dodge in a lumber wagon drawn by two yoke of oxen, they hauled the lumber for the first cabin, which was erected on the homestead of Wm. Bell. This structure was a very humble one, 10x12 feet square and 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet high. These two men occupied this cabin together until the fall of 1870, when Niels Hanson built a sod house on his homestead. This sod house was sunk two feet in the ground, but had a good floor, was plastered inside

and had two windows, one on each side at the top of the ground. When completed each occupied his own cabin, but in the spring of 1871 Hanson married Lena Loding, of Fort Dodge, and then his had two occupants.

Others that located in this township during the year 1869, were Wm. Brownlee, wife and two children, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Dickinson, their son-in-law, M. B. Parks and wife, Peter Peterson, wife and two sons, Bernard Niehouse, Michael Burns, James Hagan, James O'Kiefe and two sons, John and Frederick Johnson, Nelson Anderson and Aaron Erickson, Swan Nelson, Patrick Enright, Niels Anderson, John Lampe and his three sons, Henry, F. J. and George Lampe. These were followed in 1870 by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kezer, Andrew O. Long, wife and two children, W. R. Owen, Alonzo Cady, James Bennett, Joseph Strong, E. K. Cain, H. W. Behrens, Christian Peterson, Fritz Weigert and others.

In the spring of 1870, at a meeting of the citizens held at the home of Wm Bell, it was decided to ask the board of county supervisors to set off this township from Lizard and call it "Bellville," in memory of the fact that Wm. Bell was the first settler to erect a cabin in it. On June 6, 1870, Bellville township was established by the board of county supervisors who designated October 11, 1870, as the date for their first election and the cabin of Wm. Bell as the place to hold it. The following board of election officers was appointed and the oath was administered to them by G. H. Johnson, a justice of the peace from Lizard township: Judges, Wm. Bell, James Bennett and W. B. Dickinson; clerks, M. B. Parks and Joseph Strong. Township officers were elected for the ensuing year (1871) as follows: Alonzo Cady, Henry Lampe and M. B. Parks, trustees: W. B. Dickinson and

Charles Kezer, justices; Joseph Strong and Wm. Bell, constables; W. B. Dickinson, clerk; James Bennett, assessor; E. K. Cain and Charles Kezer, road supervisors.

The first record of a meeting of the trustees is of date April 11, 1871, when they made a levy of five mills for road purposes, and authorized W. B. Dickinson to buy for the township one good road scraper, for the care of which during that year he should receive \$5.00. April 13, 1872, he was authorized to purchase three more scrapers but no additional compensation was allowed. The township that year was divided into four districts and the supervisors were Niels Hanson, John Lampe, Charles Kezer and John Christmas. The general election, Oct. 14, 1873, was held at the residence of Peter Wendell and he was elected a justice of the peace and township clerk. On April 10, 1874, he reported that all the township property, consisting of four scrapers, had been burned in a prairie fire that consumed also the stable and stock of Jeremiah Connelly. In 1892 two large road graders were purchased from the Fleming Manufacturing Co, Fort Wayne, Ind., for the sum of \$450.

The second, or general election in 1871, was held at the residence of W. B. Dickinson, and in 1872 at the school house on section 17. From 1874 to 1885 they were held in school house No. 3; from 1886 to 1892 in school house No. 8, and since 1893 in No. 5, the center school house.

The assessor's book for the year 1874, showed an enrollment of 42 persons in the township liable to do military duty. The new names that appear are those of D. Beneke, L. S. Bivans, J. Cady, P. Ellison, Rudolph Beneke, Abraham Burgeson, Henry Elsen and his two sons Gerd and Charles Elsen, John Christmas, August Anderson, Alexander Geddes, S. H. Gill, C. H. Hallock, A. Himan, J. Hogan, G. Lar-

son, A. G. Loats, C. P. Lundgren, M. and J. McAuliff, M. McAlpin, G. Miller, M. McGrath, Peter Wendell, John Larson, C. Peterson, Patrick Quinn, D. Ragan, A. Reedland, E. Short, C. and A. Stickelberg, A. Zinn and Anton Smorkovski.

This assessor's book also shows that in January, 1874, as many as twenty-one persons were allowed timber and fruit tree exemptions for plots ranging from one half an acre to four acres. The grove of one acre planted by W. B. Dickinson on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 14, in the spring of 1869, was the first one in the township. James O'Kiefe in 1871, planted the second one, also of one acre, on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 12. In 1872 two orchards of one acre each were planted by Mrs. Sylvia A. Bennett, on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 26, and Anton Smorkovski on SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 28; and groves by Charles Kezer, John Lampe, Patrick Quinn and Niels Hanson. In 1873 nearly every other resident homesteader planted a grove.

There were perhaps more sod houses built in this township than any other during the first two years of its settlement, 1869 and 1870. The first one was built by Philip Myers, on the Quinn farm. Others were built by John Lampe, A. Himan, Niels Hanson, John Johnson, Alexander Geddes, Swan Nelson, Peter Wendell, Charles Kezer, Wm. Owen, Matt. McAlpin and Gus. Peterson. The sod house with its low thatched roof of slough grass was always a place of danger when the prairie fire came sweeping along. In the fall of 1871, A. Himan and Gus. Peterson lost their houses, hay sheds and stacks of hay, wheat, beans and buckwheat; and later Peter Wendell his house and contents.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Previous to the organization of Bellville township, the directors of Lizard township established a school in the home of John Lampe and em-

ployed as teachers E. K. Cain and Thomas L. Dean.

On March 4, 1871, the electors of the district township of Bellville held their first meeting, W. B. Dickinson serving as chairman and E. K. Cain as secretary. E. K. Cain, Charles Kezer and Jerry Connelly were elected as the first board of directors, each for the term of one year. This board organized by the election of Charles Kezer, president; W. B. Dickinson, secretary and Wm. Bell, treasurer. One week later a tax of ten mills was approved and levied for school house purposes. About the same time there was levied a tax of ten mills for the teachers' fund and seven mills for the contingent. The wages of male and female teachers were fixed at \$35 and \$30 a month, respectively. It was also decided to lease three buildings in which to hold a three months' term of school during that summer. Two buildings were leased, one from Mr. Brownlee, located on the SE corner of Sec. 29, in which Lucy Van Doren was the teacher, and the other from W. R. Owen, located at the $\frac{1}{4}$ stake on the west side of Sec. 20, in which he was the teacher. These temporary buildings were constructed expressly for this purpose and the specifications of the first one was as follows: "8x10 feet square, 6 feet high, boarded up and down, board floor, one half window, a door hung with hinges, the roof to be as tight as boards and battens could make it, two desks, one on each side each to be 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide and 10 feet long, and three benches; and the monthly rental shall be \$4.00."

On September 18, 1871, Jerry Connelly resigned and James E. Bennett was appointed a member of the board in his place. The house of Wm. Bell was leased and W. R. Owen was appointed teacher of this school for three months.

In March, 1872, the electors neglected to meet and the members of the

old board renewed their oath of office. Wm. Brownlee was appointed to fill the vacancy occasioned by the removal of E. K. Cain, and he was then elected president of the board. The wages of the teachers were reduced to \$25 in summer and \$30 in winter.

On April 27, 1872, the board made arrangements with A. D. Moore for the erection of four temporary school houses 12x16 feet and 8 feet high, for \$591. For one of these buildings the first school house site was purchased from Geo. A. Loats (SE corner Sec. 28) and for another one they leased a site on the NE corner of Sec. 10. Miss Emma Parks was the first teacher in this last building, the others who taught that summer being Mattie E. Owen and E. D. Bivans.

In the fall of 1872 the township was divided into five sub districts known as the O'Kiefe, Lampe, Brownlee, Kezer and Bennett districts, and the new teachers employed were Lily M. Bosworth and T. L. Dean; and during the next summer Mrs. E. S. Parks and Mrs. Elizabeth Cady. During the winter of 1873-4 E. D. Clark taught a term in the home of Peter Wendell.

In 1875 permanent buildings were erected in district No. 2 by T. L. Dean, and in district No. 3 by H. W. Wilcox. In 1880 the term of school was fixed at seven months—four in winter and three in summer. In 1881 the first school house grove was planted by A. Erickson for \$36. This was the one in district No. 6 and it had been farmed for several years previous. The trees planted were soft maples with a row of cottonwoods around them. In 1883 Charles Kezer planted the grove in district No. 8. Later, all the other school grounds in this township were planted with trees and the beautiful groves that now mark the school house sites are sources of delight to teachers and pupils, a matter of pride to all the citizens of the township and objects of beauty that call

forth the admiration of the traveler. The township of Bellville was the first in this county to secure a fine grove around each of its school buildings and until 1897 it enjoyed this honor without a rival. It has now new, large and brightly painted buildings in every district.

Joy for the sturdy trees!
Fanned by each fragrant breeze,
Lovely they stand!
The song birds o'er them thrill,
They shade each tinkling rill,
They crown each swelling hill,
Lowly or grand.

Other teachers who taught in this township during the seventies and eighties in addition to those already named, were J. O'Kiefe ('75), Annie Condon, Jason H. Lowrey, Kate Connelly, Mrs. Elizabeth H. Brownlee (8 terms), Ida Lowrey (Gill), Emma Lowrey (Wilbur), Mrs. S. A. Bennett, C. Kreul, E. O. Davy, L. A. Brooks, E. S. Parks, Hattie Hallock, Mary Quinn (13 years), Patrick Quinn (10 years), Maggie Quinn, Martin Quinn, Katie Ellis, Agnes Denny, R. Brownlee, Maggie Griffin and Ida Wendell.

The fine condition of the earliest records of the board of directors of Bellville township and the excellent manner in which all the interests relating to the public schools were managed merit special commendation and suggest that the men who in the early days were elected directors were not only capable but appreciated the importance of the trust committed to them. The earliest records, in the handwriting of W. B. Dickinson, begin with the very beginning of things at the organization of the township, are found in a large, well bound volume suited for the purpose, and they are written in a plain, legible hand with a good quality of black ink that has not faded with the lapse of years. They are remarkable for their fulness and minuteness of detail, inasmuch as they include complete copies of all the contracts made by the board with

each teacher, builder and workman. the bond of the treasurer and the specifications of every building to be erected.

SCHOOL OFFICERS.

The succession of officers for the school board of Bellville township has been as follows:

PRESIDENTS: Charles Kezer, '71; Wm. Brownlee, Henry Stahl, Charles Kezer, '74, 6-7; S. H. Gill, '75; Wm. Brownlee, '78, '81, '83; P. Quinn, Swan Nelson, 80, '89, '93; A. F. Froid, '82; Geo. A. Loats, '84; Henry Lampe, Patrick Clancy, '86-88; Rudolph Beneke, '90; Peter Anderson, '91-2, '97; W. E. McReynolds, '94-'96; M. Hanson, '98; Henry Behrens, '99-1900.

SECRETARIES: W. B. Dickinson, '71; A. Cady, '72-4; Charles Kezer, J. W. O'Kiefe, T. R. Moore, Charles Kezer, '78-86; A. G. Quinn, Wm. Brownlee, '88-'92; Peter Long, '93-'96; August Johnson, '97-'98; Anton Larson, '99-1900.

TREASURERS: Wm. Bell, '71-'72, Wm. Brownlee, '73-'75; James O'Kiefe, '76-'81; Swan Nelson, '82-'84; John Larson, '85-'88; Patrick Clancy, '89-'93; Swan Nelson, '94-'99; Charles Schroeder.

CIVIL OFFICERS.

TRUSTEES: The following persons have rendered service as trustees: Alonzo Cady, M. B. Parks and Henry Lampe all in 1871; Wm. Brownlee, Henry Lampe, '72, '74, '75, '81-'86; D. B. Hallock, Wm. Bell, C. H. Hallock, A. O. Long, James O'Kiefe, Alex. Geddes, H. W. Behrens, '76-'78, '82-'85, '87-'92, '95-1900; Rudolph Beneke, '77, '89-'94; John P. Peterson, '77-'80, '94-1900; Patrick Quinn, '79-93; Gust Peterson, '80-'82; John Larson, '86, Niels Hanson, '87-88; Geo. A. Loats, '93, '95; Frank Lampe, '96-1900.

CLERKS: W. B. Dickinson, '71-'72; Wm. Brownlee, Peter Wendell, Wm. Bell, '75-76; Charles Kezer, '77-'82; Frank Lampe, '83-'86 Andrew Quinn,

'82-'94; Anthony Larson, Peter Anderson, August Anderson, '97-1900.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE: W. B. Dickinson, Wm Brownlee, Peter Wendell, Charles Kezer H. W. Behrens, Swan Nelson, '83-'98; Patrick Quinn, Fred Bruns, W. A. Berry, Anthony Larson.

ASSESSORS: James Bennett, '71-'72; A. Cady, L. S. Bivans, Charles Kezer, '75-'77; S. H. Gill, '78-'79; A. F. Froid, J. P. Peterson, '83-'86; Wm. Gadaw, '87-'90; Fred Bruns, '91-'98; John Quinn.

EMMANUEL GERMAN CHURCH.

The first and to this date the only church organized in Bellville township is the Emmanuel German Church of the Evangelical Association of North America. It was organized about the year 1880, and the original members were Christ DeWall, John DeWall, George DeWall, Albert Loats, George Loats, August Munch and their families, Maria Schon and Mr. and Mrs. John Schon. The first officers were John DeWall, Maria Schon and George Loats. The officers in 1899 were Otto Pfreundheiler, Henry Westfall and Fred Schlieut, and the adult membership was about 36. The meetings were first held in the Loats school house. Their house of worship, located on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 28, was dedicated August 15, 1891. It is 28x40 feet, tower 8x8 and 40 feet high, and cost \$1600. The Sunday school meets every Sabbath, the preaching services are held on alternate Sabbaths and their present pastor resides at Rockwell City. The succession of pastors has been as follows: Rev. Mr. Drumhauer (1880), Otto Gerard, Gerd Knoke (3 years), G. Branstats, J. D. Schaible, L. Smith, — Weverseck, Peter Gertman, Daniel Rikert, — Koinig.

FIRST DEATH AND BIRTH.

The first death in Bellville township occurred in the spring of 1871, when Frederick Johnson, a young Swede, died at the age of 23 years. He came with his brother, John John-

son, who located a homestead on the S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 18, in the year 1869. They erected a sod shanty and lived together. This shanty had a roof of slough grass that caught fire on two occasions when prairie fires swept over that section, and twice did they lose all they had in it. Fred died of consumption and was the first one buried in the Swedish Mission burying ground of Bellville township. The funeral service was conducted by John Hamer-son, a young Swede residing in Grant township.

Carrie Christmas, daughter of John and Mary Christmas, was the first child born in this township. She was born in February, 1870, became the wife of Morton Root, and they are now residing at Fort Dodge. Her father was a soldier in the civil war. In 1869, accompanied by his wife and two children, he came to this county and located on the N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 34, Bellville township, and, after securing the patent for his homestead, in 1874, sold it to Saunders S. Assing, Sr., and moved to Fort Dodge. After three years he returned to Manson and was killed at Rockwell City in October 1897 while crossing the track of the D. M., N. & W. railway in a buggy driven by Edward Tullar.

The second birth in the township was that of Huldah, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Lawson. This event occurred during the dreadful snowstorm of March, 14-16, 1870. Her parents were Swedes and, accompanied by three children and Philip Myers, in the spring of 1869, they came to this country and homesteaded the W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 20, Bellville township. He was a successful farmer. His wife died in 1878 and he died in 1889, leaving a family of five children, all of whom have moved from the county. Huldah is now married and residing at Fort Dodge.

Nelius M. Nelson, whose birth occurred May 4, 1870, was the first boy

born in the township. He is the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Swan Nelson, who are still residents of the old homestead. He was, for a few years, one of the public school teachers of this county, and is now in Dakota.

Bellville township claims the peculiar distinction of having produced the largest baby in the county. It was a bouncing boy that weighed twenty-two pounds. He first saw the light in 1871, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Cain, on section 21. In June, 1869, this family located on section 4 and one year later on section 21, and they lived there until February, 1872, when they moved to Lincoln township where, during a period of four years, he filled the two offices of assessor and justice of the peace. He was a teacher, carpenter and farmer, and in 1884 moved to Clayton county.

The "Bellville giant" is John O'Brien, the pioneer occupant and owner of the S $\frac{1}{2}$ of Sec. 17. He is a Canadian, six feet in height and weighs 260 pounds. At the age of twenty-five his great strength was a surprise to others, and the above *nom de plume* was accorded to him by his neighbors many years ago, when he lifted the side of a horse-power, that needed to be mounted on wheels, that two ordinary men were unable to move.

Lone Rock on the NW Cor. Sec. 33, originally about twenty-five feet high, was a very prominent landmark in the early days.

The first public road established in Bellville township was the one extending east and west north of section 10, known as the Bell & Hanson road. It was established in 1870 and was surveyed by Oscar I. Strong, deputy county surveyor, assisted by Niels Hanson as one of the chain carriers. This road extended across the county and in Lizard, Bellville and Colfax townships was located on the section lines, in Cedar township it is one-half mile further north and passes through

the center of the north tier of sections.

BELLVILLE CREAMERY.

A creamery was established on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 5, in 1890, by Fred Dilmuth, who moved the plant from Grant township and managed it in its new location two years thereafter. It was then purchased by Bernard Fisher and Rudolph Beneke, but is now owned by the former who is also proprietor of a grocery store established at the same place. Mr. Fisher, who is a native of Germany, in July, 1869, began to occupy and improve a homestead on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 8, which he still owns together with the W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 6 and the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 7. He has a large family, all of whom are still at home.

OTHER EARLY SETTLERS.

During the seventies many other new settlers located in this township, among whom were James Sinnott, John Larson, Peter Scherf, Ira G. Vaughan, Abraham Burgeson, Louis Oleson, Henry Lieb, Andrew Carlson, Swan and James F. Peterson, S. S. Assing, George DeWall, John O'Brien, Lander and C. G. Blanden.

During the eighties there came Geo. J. O. and S. O. Peterson, Frank W. Schuster, Geo. Reining, John W. Boog, Peter Anderson, Benjamin Loats and many others.

The following personal notes do not include any reference to those whose biographies appear in the latter part of this volume.

August Anderson, a native of Sweden, in May, 1872, entered a homestead of 80 acres which Claus Hanson in June, 1869, had entered but later forfeited. He had a wife and two daughters when he came and they are still residents of the old homestead.

William Bell, after whom the township was named, in 1871 added to his cabin a good frame house 12x20 feet and continued to occupy his homestead until about the year 1878 when he went to the Black Hills'

region, and in partnership with a friend, engaged in mining gold. He took an active part in all matters relating to the organization of the township and the first election in it was held in his cabin on section 10. During the years 1871-72 he served as the first treasurer of the School Board, during 1873-74 as a trustee of the township and during 1875-76 as the township clerk. He was about fifty-six years of age and unmarried when he left the county.

James Bennett, in March, 1869, entered a homestead on NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 26, improved it and died there in August, 1872. His wife, Sylvia Bennett, secured the patent for one half of his claim, (the other half being declared swamp land) and for the adjoining claim of Alex. Oleson. In 1876 she sold both tracts to Col. Blanden and with her family moved to Manson. Mr. Bennett was the first assessor of Bellville township.

Abraham Burgeson and his wife Eliza, natives of Sweden, came to Bellville in 1870 and the latter entered as a timber claim the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 18-40 acres—but it was forfeited in 1877. A few days later it was re-entered by her husband and in February, 1893, the patent was issued to their son, Alvin Burgeson. They now own and occupy the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 1, Colfax township, and have raised a large family.

Michael Burns and James Hagan entered adjoining homesteads on Sec. 10, in January, 1870, and lived together in the same cabin for several years. Then each occupied a cabin on his own homestead and the latter farmed both farms, while the former worked on the railroad. About 1884, Mr. Burns married a daughter of Wm. Gadaw. He still owns the old homestead and also the one of Wm. Bell on which he and his family now reside. James Hagan, single-handed and alone, still occupies his old homestead,

which was the one originally entered by Peter Murphy.

Alonzo Cady, having a wife and two children, in March, 1869, entered a homestead of 80 acres on Sec. 24, which he improved and occupied for a number of years. He moved first to Lizard township and thence to Dakota. He was one of the first trustees, the second assessor and for three years secretary of the school board of the township.

Wm. B. Dickinson and Milton B. Parks, his son-in-law, entered homesteads on Sec. 14, August 31, 1868. These were the first claims entered in the township. Owing to the fact they did not begin to occupy their claims soon enough they were both forfeited, but re-entering them in 1872 and 1873, they received their patents in 1873 and 1874, respectively. The former was a soldier in the civil war, and now resides with his daughter at Gilmore City. He was the first secretary of the school board, the first justice of the peace and first clerk of the township. The latter about 1882, moved to Havelock and engaged in the drug business. After the loss of the store by fire he moved to California. He was one of the first trustees of the township.

Peter Ellison, of Sweden, accompanied by his wife, who was a sister of John Lawson, in 1873, secured a homestead of 40 acres on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 20. He has added 80 acres to the homestead and still occupies it. Their family consists of three children—Annie, who is married, Christine and Edward.

Aaron Erickson, of Sweden, in September, 1869, entered a homestead on Sec. 20, built a cabin on it and the next year was joined by his wife and family. In 1872 this claim was relinquished in favor of Martin McAuliff, who still owns it, and Erickson bought a farm on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 18, which he still owns and occupies. He has raised a large family,

William Gadaw, of Germany, accompanied by his wife, two sons and one daughter, in 1873 bought the E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 24, and improved it. Mr. and Mrs. Gadaw died several years ago. Their sons, William and Ernest, still own and occupy the old farm. The former was assessor of the township during the four years, 1887 to 1890. Three daughters were born in this county and all three of them are married. The two oldest are living in neighboring counties and the youngest, married to Michael Burns, lives on section 10.

David B. Hallock, who served as one of the trustees of the township in 1883, came to this county with a large family in 1870 and located a homestead on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 10. He met with many discouragements and, when his crops were devoured by the grasshoppers a second time in 1874, he moved to Lake township, and five years later to Kansas. His eldest son, Charles H. Hallock, in 1870 located a homestead on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 34, and improved it. In April, 1873, his house, which had a thatch roof, or was filled with hay as a protection overhead, caught fire while he was away from home and his wife was outside the building. She rushed in to save her child, asleep in the cradle. She saved the child, but her own clothing caught fire and though she extinguished the flames in a slough near at hand, she died soon after a neighbor came to her relief. Charles is now living in Kansas.

Niels Hanson, a native of Denmark, (born Aug. 24, 1839) came to Bellville township with Wm. Bell in March, 1869, and in June following filed his homestead claim for the W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 10, for which he received the patent Oct. 30, 1874. Two years later, (1876) owing to the frequent and successive losses sustained from the ravages of the grasshoppers he lost his homestead and purchased 40 acres adjoining on

the northeast corner of the same section which he still owns and occupies. In 1893 he bought the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 3 adjoining it on the north so that he has now a fine farm of 200 acres, improved with a beautiful grove, fruit-bearing orchard and good buildings. After living two years in the sod house and twenty-three in its successor, a frame 12x16 feet, he erected (1894) the large and comfortable house he now occupies. He was one of the first and is now the oldest resident of the township. His wife, Lena Loding, is a native of Norway. Their family has consisted of four sons and two daughters. Hans, the eldest, in 1894, married Mary Hanson and they live on her father's farm on Sec. 8, Colfax township. They have a family of two children, Minnie and Mabel. Hannah, the eldest daughter, in 1893, became the wife of Anton Larson and they lived on his father's farm in Bellville township until the fall of 1899, when they became proprietors of the first hotel in Palmer. Martin, Niels, Minnie and Edward (18) are at home. Mr. Hanson served as a trustee of the township during the years 1887-88. In August 1899 the new town of Palmer, first called Hanson, was located on his farm, and his daughter Minnie, who was engaged in teaching public school, was appointed postmistress, when the postoffice was established in January, 1900.

Aaron Himan, a native of Sweden, (born May 21, 1835) came to America in 1868 and on Aug. 12, 1869, in Illinois, married Matilda Solomonson. In April, 1870, they came to Bellville township and, selecting a homestead of 80 acres on N $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 2, began its improvement by the erection of a sod house 10x12 feet, that lasted them seven years. They preferred to live in this humble dwelling rather than to occupy a frame building with a lien upon it. In the fall of 1871 the prairie fire burned everything on the farm

except this sod house. In 1877 they bought a small house and later enlarged it, but in 1890 they dispensed with it and erected a fine large residence that would be a source of pride in any community. He has also erected a large barn, granary, cribs and other outbuildings. In 1883 and 1890 he secured additions to his farm making it now 225 acres. He has been a successful stockraiser and aims to keep sufficient of it to eat all the proceeds of the farm. In comparing the present time with former days he sees a great contrast. He happened to locate his sod house on a high place in the center of a slough where there was plenty of tall grass for fuel. At that time the only things that could be raised abundantly were slough grass and water, but now these are the hardest to find. Their family consists of three children, Charles W., Jennie and Oscar E., who are at home on the farm.

Michael McAlpin and family, of Canada, in 1871 located on a homestead on Sec. 8. His wife died in 1872 and was buried in the Lizard Catholic cemetery. About 1895, he married again and later moved to Fort Dodge, where he now resides. To the homestead he added 40 acres on the same section and 80 acres on Sec. 17. The old homestead is now occupied by his son James McAlpin, who married a daughter of Henry Kreul, and has a small family. His sisters, Bridget and Margaret, (the latter married) are living together in Minnesota. Maria, married to Bernard Kreul, lives at Pocahontas.

Martin McAuliff, of Canada, in April, 1878 secured a homestead originally entered by Aaron Erickson on section 20 and improved it. He is now the owner of a good residence in Pomeroy, where he now resides, and 320 acres of land in Bellville township. He came very near winning matrimonial honors on one occasion, but

induced to change his mind, he is still enjoying single blessedness.

Thomas McAuliff, of Canada, an elder brother, in December 1871 secured the homestead first entered by Wm. Brownlee on section 18 and lived upon it about eight years. He still owns it, but lives in Colorado.

Philip Myers, accompanied by his wife and two sons, in March 1869 entered a homestead claim on section 28. After the lapse of some years he sold it to Patrick Quinn and moved to Kansas. He was a member of the 112th Illinois infantry during the Civil War.

Bernard Niehouse, of Germany, in Oct. 1869, secured a homestead on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 6, which he improved and occupied until 1876. His wife, who was a sister of Bernard Fisher, died a few years ago and he is now living with his son-in-law, John Lampe.

Andrew Norman and family in 1876 secured a homestead on NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 6, which he still owns, and his only son, John Norman, owns and occupies a good farm on section 1.

James O'Kiefe and his two sons, John W. and Daniel O'Kiefe, in August, 1869, entered and began to improve three homesteads of 80 acres each on the N $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 12. Daniel married about the year 1877, and his father, who was a widower, died at his home in 1881. The two brothers soon thereafter moved to Lake township, where Daniel still resides, the happy owner of 240 acres on Sec. 31. John W. is married, lives at Rolfe (1899) and still owns the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 12, Bellville township. James O'Kiefe at the time of his death and for five years previous, was treasurer of the school board of Bellville township, and John W. was secretary in 1876.

William R. Owen, of Canada, in April, 1870, entered a homestead claim on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 18, and occupied it till 1873, when he moved to Ft. Wayne, Indiana, where he and his

family still reside. His successor, Samuel H. Gill, secured the patent for this homestead and was occupying it in 1878, when he sustained the loss of all his buildings and also of his wife by the cyclone of April 21st, that year.

Gustave Peterson, a native of Sweden (b. 1841) and wife (Solomonson) came to Pocahontas county in 1870 with Aaron Himan, his brother-in-law, and located a homestead on the S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 2, Bellville township. They built a sod house and occupied it till 1871 when they bought and moved to the S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 35, Lincoln township where they still reside. They still own the old homestead and an additional eighty acres adjoining it on the same section. They are now in good circumstances, and have a family of five children; Henry, Albert, Ida, Minnie and Paul.

Swan Peterson, a native of Sweden, on May 26, 1876 entered the E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec 36, 80 acres, as a timber claim. This land had originally been entered by F. Carlson in 1868, and by Johanna Peterson in 1871 as a homestead, and the latter occupied it several years.

Peter Peterson, a native of Denmark (b. 1827), in 1871 secured a homestead of eighty acres on the S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 2, which he improved and occupied until the time of his death in 1893. His first wife died in the old country leaving one son George, and his second wife died in 1890 leaving two sons John P. and Christian Peterson. These three sons are now living in Bellville township and all of them own good farms.

George Peterson (b. 1843, Denmark) married Augusta, daughter of Frederick Weigert, and they have a family of small children. They are the owners and occupants of 280 acres on sections 10 and 15. He came to this country in 1883.

John P. Peterson homesteaded the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 12 which had previous-



SWAN NELSON
County Supervisor 1885-90.



MRS. SWAN NELSON

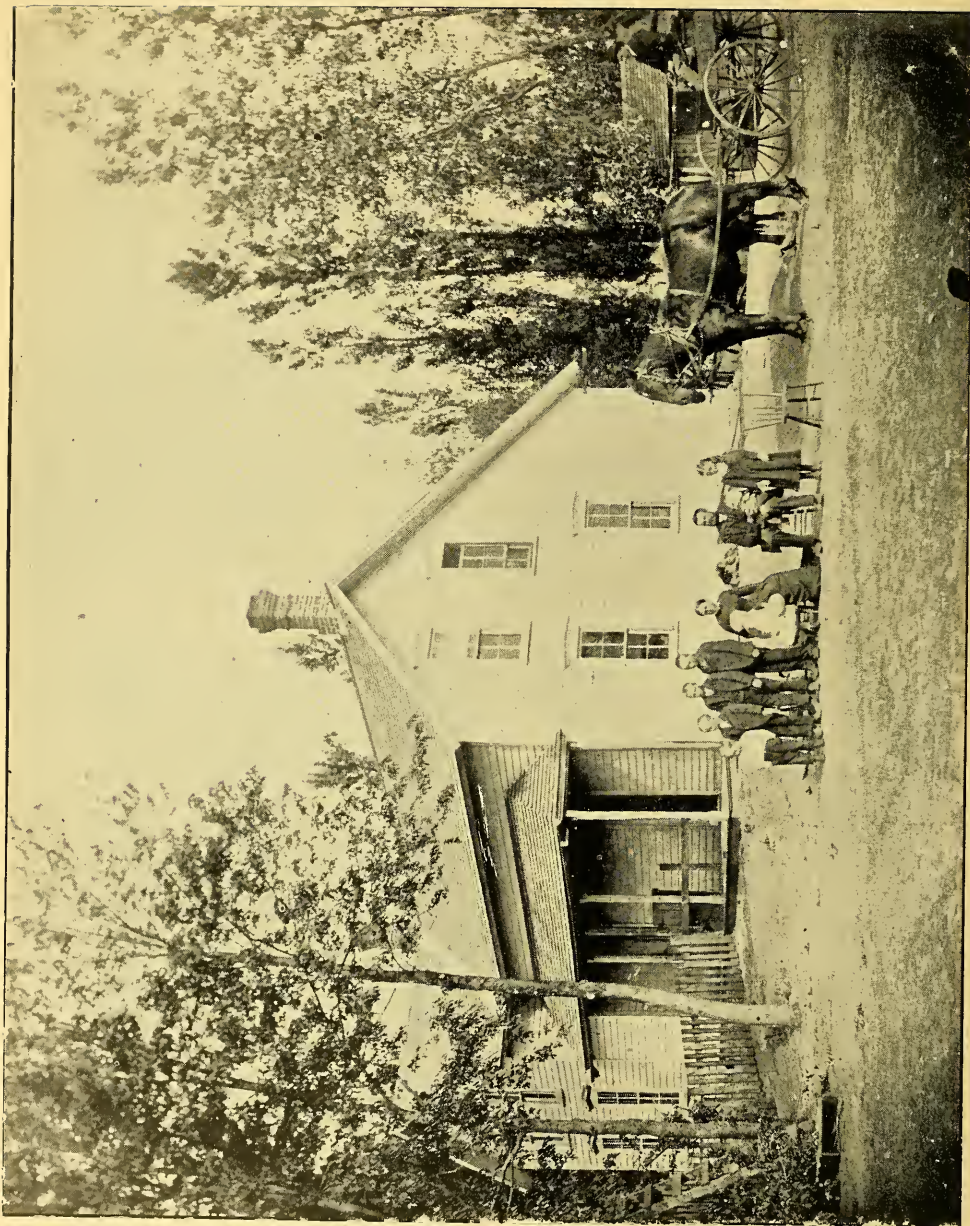


CHARLES KEZER



MRS. CHARLES KEZER

Bellville Township.



RESIDENCE AND FAMILY OF RUDOLPH BENEKE, Bellville Township.

ly been entered successively by Ira G. Vaughn, Andrew C. Williamson, and James F. Peterson (no relative). After improving this property he sold it and is now the owner and occupant of the old homestead on section 2. In 1880 he married Maggie, a daughter of James Nelson and they have a small family. He is now serving his tenth year as a trustee of the township and was assessor from 1883 to 1886.

Christian Peterson (b. 1855, Denmark) is the owner and occupant of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 14. About 1880 he married a daughter of Hans Markeson who, coming with wife, two sons and four daughters, homesteaded and until 1897 occupied the N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 12. Christian's wife died in 1892 leaving a family of five small children. He came to Bellville in 1870.

Rudolph Beneke, (b. Feb'y 23, 1850) of Bellville township, (Manson P. O.) is a native of Germany. His parents were Henry and Mary Beneke, and at the age of 18, in 1868, he came to America with his elder brother, Diederic, who now resides in Lincoln township. They located first in Scott county, Iowa, and in 1871 Rudolph visited Pocahontas county and bought 80 acres on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 4, Bellville township. In 1875 he returned, located upon this land, began the work of its improvement and has lived upon it ever since. He first built a small house but in 1880 and again in 1887, as his family and farm grew larger, he enlarged it so that it is now one of the largest houses in the township. The other improvements consist of a large barn built in 1881, a cowbarn and a number of other smaller buildings. The beautiful grove, so nicely arranged around the house as to give it a picturesque view, was planted in 1875 and '76. In 1882 he planted an acre with plum, crab and apple trees and they are now in good bearing condition.

Mr. Beneke is a good illustration of a successful German farmer. He believes in investing the annual income of the farm in farm lands, and seems to have a special faculty for accumulating rural real estate. The record of his additional purchases has been as follows: In 1882, 141 acres; 1885, 40 acres; 1887, 80 acres; 1890, 120 acres; 1893, 40 acres; and in 1897 sells 75 acres and buys 320 acres, making him the present owner of 746 acres. He believes in cropping and raising stock together; he is not a large feeder, but keeps about 25 cows for dairy purposes. He keeps a careful eye on everything and nothing is allowed to go to waste. He believes in doing business on the cash basis and has been unwilling to go in debt. He has carefully avoided the payment of high rates of interest and the worry of mortgages.

On January 1, 1877, after a residence of two years in this country, he married Annie Smorkovski, (b. Dec. 4, 1855) a daughter of Anton and Barbara Smorkovski. Their family consists of five boys and three girls, all of whom are at home and at work on the farm, namely: Henry, (b. Jan. 24, 1878), Rudolph, (b. Sept. 18, 1879), Barbara, (b. March 18, 1881), Earnest August, (b. Aug. 30, 1882), Anton, (b. Nov. 28, 1884), Anna Sophia (b. Aug. 16, 1886) Mary, (b. April 16, 1888) and Frank (b. July 9, 1893). Mr. Beneke served as a trustee of the township six years—1889-1894, and was president of the school board in 1890.

WILLIAM BROWNLEE.

William Brownlee, (b. March 1, 1838), of Pomeroy, was a resident of Bellville township from the spring of 1860 until the fall of 1892, with the exception of the two years he served as county treasurer, 1884-'85, when he and his family lived at Pocahontas. He is a native of Welland county, Canada, and the son of Thomas and Sarah Brownlee, both of whom were of Scotch-Irish descent, and came

from the county of Armaugh, Ireland. On Nov. 3, 1861, he married Elizabeth H. Owen and one year later, coming to the United States, they located in Walworth county Wis. During a residence of six years at this place he found employment most of the time as a stage driver. In 1869, with a family of two children, they came to Pocahontas county, Iowa, and located on a homestead on Sec. 18, Bellville township. After three years they bought another farm on Sec. 8, which they improved and occupied until the time of their removal to Pomeroy in 1892.

Mr. Brownlee was very highly honored by the citizens of Bellville, who recognized his excellent qualities of head and heart. He was enabled to render many years of efficient service in all the township offices that a good citizen is expected to fill. He was a trustee in 1872, clerk in 1873, a justice of the peace five years, president of the school board four years, secretary of it five years and treasurer of the school fund three years. He was also the first citizen of Bellville township to enjoy the honor of a seat on the board of county supervisors (1876-1883). On Jan. 7, 1884, after eight years of efficient service, he resigned his position as a member of this board, that he might accept the more responsible office of county treasurer, to which he had been elected the previous fall.

His estimable wife was one of the most efficient and popular of the early teachers of Bellville, and she joined with her husband in making their home one of the most hospitable and entertaining in that section. Their home was situated a short distance south of the South branch of Lizard creek and also near the largest lake in the township. This locality proved to be a favorite camping ground for the roving bands of Indians that annually frequented this section for the purpose of hunting and trapping in the days of its early settlement. These

Indian bands were neighborly neighbors, but everybody was glad when they left the community, for they were professional beggars of a treacherous character. The early settler, in the interest of peace and to get them to leave the premises as soon as possible, usually felt it was better to give them all they wanted, so that many times the larder was emptied in meeting their demands.*

Their family consisted of eight children, three of whom are dead. William Allen (single) is engaged in the grain and seed business at St. Paul; Bert O., married to Harriet Swisher, is clerking in a store at Mallard; Bern R. married to Mabel Joslyn, is located on a farm in Calhoun county; Mary F. and Howard Lee are still at home.

Charles Kezer, (b. March 8, 1835) one of the pioneers of Bellville township, is a native of New Hampshire, and the names of his parents were Graham and Elvira Kezer. In 1856 he came to Illinois and on August 12, 1862, at Galva, Henry county, enlisted as a member of the 112th Ill. regiment. Seven days later he married Sarah Jane Smith, (b. April 23, 1841) of Stark county, Ill. After one year and two months of service he was transferred to the invalid corps and two months later was discharged for general debility. His father-in-law and one of his sons wishing him to go with them to the army, on January 25, 1865, he re-enlisted as a member of Co. G, of the same regiment. On April 4, 1865, at Goldsborough, N. C., he was detailed as an orderly and in June was transferred to the 65th Ill. regiment. He was discharged July 13, 1865. That fall he and his father-in-law and their families came to Book Grove, north of Webster City, where they spent the winter, and then located in Clear Lake township, Hamilton county, which they helped to organize. In the spring of 1870, he and his fam-

*See page 154.

ily of two children came to Bellville township and located on a homestead on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 28. In 1873 and 1875 he experienced the loss of his crops by the grasshoppers, and in 1881 two of his daughters from cerebral meningitis. In 1884 he moved to Sec. 22, Lincoln township; in 1893 became superintendent of the county poor farm and six years later moved to another farm in that vicinity. Mr. Kezer assisted in the organization of Bellville township in 1870. He was chosen president of the school board at the time of its organization in 1871 and filled that position again in 1874, '76-77. He was assessor four years, 1874-77; township clerk six years, 1877-82; and secretary of the school board ten years, 1875 and 1878-86. Mr. and Mrs. Kezer have won the confidence and esteem of their neighbors wherever they have lived. Of their family six children are still living. Edmund M., on Nov. 5, 1895, married Elizabeth, a daughter of John and Elizabeth Boyd; they reside at Rutland, where he is engaged in blacksmithing, and have one child, Joyce Pearl. Anna Elvira, on Nov. 28, 1895, married Arthur Irwin, and they reside in New Hampshire. Julia Winifred, Sarah Jane, Franklin G. and Charles Samuel are at home.

SWAN NELSON.

Two of the hardy pioneers who achieved a marked success on the farm in Pocahontas county, after a residence of thirty years on the old homestead on section 34, Bellville township, in the fall of 1899 moved to Manson to occupy a large and beautiful mansion especially designed and constructed by them with all modern appliances for their comfort and happiness. From the sod house to the mansion, is the worthy record of Mr. and Mrs. Swan Nelson. While many have been successful on the farm few have done better than they. Arriving in this country in 1869, empty-

handed but willing to "go west" and find a place where they were needed, by industry and the practice of economy they have become the happy possessors of a fine farm of 280 acres of land as productive and valuable as any in Bellville township. They improved it with fine buildings protected by a beautiful grove, and stocked it with the best of stock. Everything about the premises was so conveniently arranged and kept in such excellent order that labor was a source of pleasure as well as profit. The results, without including any reference to the many years of public service rendered in the township and county, are a good illustration of what may be achieved by patience and perseverance.

Swan Nelson (b. Sept. 30, 1843) is a native of Sandby of Kristianstads l'an Sweden. Leaving the "home where his cradle had been rocked and the country where his forefathers had been dedicated back to dust," on the 4th day of May, 1869, at the age of 26 years, he arrived in Bellville township on June 5th following, and began to occupy as a homestead the S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 34,—80 acres—for which the entry was made Nov. 6, 1869, and the patent issued February 15, 1876. He did not cross "the pond" alone, but in company with a few friends, two of whom became his neighbors in Calhoun county for several years, and another was the lady to whom he was engaged to be married, who heartily seconded his proposal to found a home in this "great west land of which he had heard so much."

Some of their experiences in gaining an introduction to the fertile prairies of Pocahontas county were characteristic of the lot of many of the early pioneers that preceded the construction of the railroad. After a long and tiresome journey, arriving at Moline, Ill., where a sister and brother-in-law (Peterson) lived, they found

they had left a month previous to secure a homestead in Northwest Iowa. They felt they must follow, and passed to Dubuque on a steamboat. Hitherto on their journey, by the aid of interpreters, they had experienced no trouble in making known their wants in the Swede language, but now they were left to their own resources. After considerable trouble with the agent they finally succeeded in getting tickets for Iowa Falls, the western terminus of the train service of the Illinois Central at that time, and arrived there toward evening. When they stepped from that train they did not know how or when they could continue their journey, but seeing that the track was laid as far as they could see toward the setting sun, they decided to remain at the depot and get aboard the first train going westward. At nine o'clock, however, they were given to understand they could not remain longer in the depot, and in order that a train might not leave without their knowledge, they selected as a resting place for that night, a pleasant evening in June, the shelter afforded by an oak tree that stood near the station. The next morning they boarded a train facing westward and when Mr. Nelson handed the conductor \$7.50 for their fares they had only one dime left to complete their journey. At Fort Dodge they were comforted by meeting a former acquaintance who knew also their friend, Mr. Peterson, and his location in Calhoun county. The next morning, accompanied by this friend and having a loaf of bread for lunch, they set out on foot for Peterson's home. The wind was blowing from the west bringing an occasional shower, and they found this, the longest and most wearisome walk they had ever undertaken. When they arrived at Yatesville in the afternoon the young lady was completely exhausted and remained with a family by the name of

Hay, while the men completed the journey to Peterson's sod house five miles further west. The next day, Peterson, with a wagon drawn by two yoke of oxen, returned with the men to Fort Dodge for their trunks and Mr. Nelson signified his intention to become a citizen of the United States. He found immediate employment in the construction of the new railroad, but inasmuch as it rained about four days in the week, the income was not very large.

In the month of August, having selected their homestead, they concluded to get married. As there was no minister or justice of the peace in that vicinity, Mr. Peterson took the couple to Fort Dodge in the lumber wagon drawn by two yoke of oxen. A license was procured and the clerk sending them to a little house in which the judge lived, the latter "caused them to join hands and then, putting a very solemn look on his face, said something which the young people did not understand but which they believed was good and effective, since it held them together as man and wife ever since."

The wagon was then loaded with some lumber, eight sacks of flour and some groceries, and everything went smoothly on their return until they arrived near the place where Barnum is now located, and there although Peterson was on one side of the wagon and Nelson on the other driving the oxen, they stuck fast in the middle of a large slough. The latter carried his bride to the farther shore and then assisted Peterson to carry over the flour and lumber. After a long struggle they succeeded in bringing out the oxen and wagon. When they came to the next bad slough they were unwilling to risk an effort to pull through it, so they carried again most of the load over it, the groom carrying his bride a second time. When they reached home it was long

after the hour of midnight, and both were well satisfied that this was a rather hard country through which to make a wedding tour. The next spring they built a little sod house on the homestead and moved into it May 2, 1870.

Mr. Nelson became a citizen of the United States in the fall of 1874, and on January 1, 1877, as assessor, he began an efficient official career in Bellville township that was continuous from that date until the time of his retirement from the farm in 1899—a period of twenty-two years. He was a member of the school board many years, was president of it three years, 1880 '89 and '93, and treasurer of the school fund nine years, 1883-85 and 1894-99. He was a justice of the peace sixteen years, 1883-98, and a member of the board of County Supervisors six years, 1885-1890.

In all his official acts he has manifested an integrity of purpose that has won for him the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens, and the orderly arrangement of everything at his home found its expression in an honest effort to proceed according to law in the administration of every public trust committed to him. He never sold any grain, but fed it to cattle and hogs, and much of his success as a farmer is to be attributed to a careful observance of this fundamental principle of agricultural prosperity. After a few years of hard labor and successful achievement he has retired from the farm with well earned laurels to spend the rest of his days in comfort and luxury.

On August 22, 1869, he married Celia Nelson, (b. Sept. 6, 1835) a native of Sweden, and their family has consisted of three sons and one daughter—Nelius Moonat (b. May 4, 1870), August Leonard (b. Oct. 8, 1871), Mollie, Sophia and Axel Emil, who on Jan. 4, 1899 married Selma Christina Petrie, now occupies the old home on the

farm and has one son born December 28, 1899.

Mr. Nelson has been a loyal republican, a practical prohibitionist and a faithful member of the Swede church in Manson.

Betsey Nelson, a native of Sweden, came to this country in 1871, and homesteaded the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 34. She built a sod house and lived on her homestead until she received the patent for it and then sold it to Elias Swanson, a brother-in-law. She is a sister of Swan Nelson and her first husband died in Sweden. She is now the wife of Peter Peterson, of Calhoun county, and they live in Manson.

Mr. and Mrs. James Nelson, of Denmark, came to this country in 1877 and bought the farm of Fred Weigert, on Sec. 4, Bellville township. Their family consisted of one son, Rasmus, and two daughters, Maggie and Carrie. Rasmus in 1889, married Mary Hanson, and they now own and occupy his father's farm. Maggie became the wife of John P. Peterson and Carrie the wife of Charles Kelso, a carpenter, and they reside at Palmer.

Nils Anderson, a native of Sweden, (b. 1836) on Sept. 5, 1869, entered a homestead of 80 acres on the S $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 18 and secured the patent for it June 15, 1875. In 1869 he built a small frame house and occupied it alone that year. In 1870 his wife arrived with their family of five children—Turina, Christina, August, Euphemia and Emma, the last then four years of age. In 1876 his wife, Kizer Olsen, died, and two years later he married Emma Olsen, (no relative of Kizer) of Sioux City. They continued to occupy the old homestead till the spring of 1896, when they moved to Pomeroy. Turina Henricks, the eldest, (b. March 30, 1850, d. May 2, 1899) was a step-daughter of Mr. Anderson, and in 1875 became the wife of Frank Peterson, of Colfax township; Christina in 1872, married John A. Johnson, of

Colfax; August Anderson (single) is mining gold in Colorado; Euphemia in 1895, married Nils Walleen and they reside in the state of Washington; Emma in 1887, married Wm. Johnson, and they reside in Colorado; Betka, a native of Pocahontas county, is still residing with her parents. Nils Anderson was a good farmer and for many years has been an active member and liberal supporter of the Swedish Mission church of Colfax township.

Peter Anderson, (b. Oct. 17, 1856) the pioneer owner and occupant of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 7, is a native of Sweden and a son of Frank B. Anderson, of Grant township. He came to Pocahontas county in 1880 and lived three years with his father. In 1886 he married Christine Youngren, also a native of Sweden, (b. Oct 4, 1862) and since that date they have lived on their present farm. Their family consists of seven children—Ida, Oscar, Elmer, Frederick, John, Nellie and May. Mr. Anderson was township clerk in 1896, and president of the school board three years, 1891-92 and 1897.

Heilert W. Behrens (b. Nov. 1827) is a native of Germany, where, in the spring of 1852, he married Marie Hedden (b. 1827) and in May, 1870, they and their two sons, Frederic and Henry, arrived in Pocahontas county. After a residence of three months in Lizard, they bought and began to improve the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 32, 160 acres, Bellville township. A few years later additional purchases were made until they owned 500 acres. Subsequently he sold 400 acres constituting the home farm, to his second son, Henry B., and made investments in real estate in Pomeroy. His wife died in August, 1892, and is buried at Pomeroy. In 1893 he married Mrs. Josephine Dibbert, but secured a divorce in January, 1897. He served two years as a justice of the peace and

seven years as a trustee of Bellville township. He has returned to Germany twice during his residence in this country and now resides on the farm with his son. He has been an ardent democrat and an active member of the German Evangelical church of Pomeroy. His family consists of two daughters who died young in Germany, and two sons.

(1) Frederic W. Behrens (b. 1866) in 1888 married Eliza Neetting and they located first at London, Iowa, where in partnership with his brother-in-law, they owned and operated a creamery for several years. After short residences in Ft. Wayne, Michigan and Ohio, they are now owning and operating a creamery in Missouri, and have a family of four children—Emma, Anna, Lily and Frederic. Two others died young.

(2) Henry B. Behrens, (b. 1868) the present owner of his father's farm, in 1888 married Annie Albright, and they erected a fine barn 56x70 feet, and a large addition to the old home, which is protected by a beautiful grove. Their family (one child died young) consists of four children—Minnie, Marie, Elizabeth and William.

Mr. Behrens is a very highly respected citizen and has served as trustee of Bellville township ten years. During the past sixteen years he has served as organist for the German Evangelical church of Pomeroy. During the first three years of this period he missed only three Sabbaths, and as a grateful recognition of this unusual fidelity received in 1886 a gold watch. He has also served several years as collector of the church funds.

Maurice Clancy, of Canada, visiting this county in 1874, bought 240 acres of land on Sec. 29, Bellville township. In 1875 he and his wife (Catherine Crowley) and their two sons, John and Patrick Clancy (and wife) came to this county, settled on this land and began the work of its improvement.

Maurice and his wife were both natives of Ireland. He died in 1889 at the age of 75 years and his wife in 1891 at the age of 70 years; and both were buried in the Catholic cemetery at Pomeroy. Their family consisted of four sons and two daughters, two of whom settled in Canada. Michael was drowned in Lake Winnepeg, at the age of 26 years, while engaged as a surveyor in Dakota. John bought a portion of his father's farm in Bellville township, occupied it two years and then going further west, sold it to his brother Patrick, three years later.

Patrick Clancy (b. 1845) is now the owner and occupant of his father's (Maurice) farm in Bellville township. He has increased its size to 360 acres and provided it with fine improvements. He is a native of Canada and married there in 1872 Elizabeth McAlpin, a sister of Mrs. John O'Brien. He is a sturdy, hard working man, a successful farmer and a highly esteemed citizen. He was treasurer of the township school fund five years, 1889-93. His family consists of five children—Michael, Catherine (a teacher) Mary, John, Bridget A. and Thomas Michael.

Patrick Enright (b. 1833, Ireland) came to America in 1857 with a couple of his brothers and, locating with them in Canada, married there Cecilia Flynn, in 1861. In 1869 they came to Pocahontas county and located on a homestead of 80 acres in Bellville township, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 12, which they improved and increased by purchase to 160 acres. His wife died in 1876 and his death occurred Oct. 28, 1898, after a residence of 29 years on the old homestead. He was a good farmer and both he and his wife are gratefully remembered as good citizens and good neighbors. Both are buried in the Lizard Catholic cemetery. Their family consisted of five children.

(1) Thomas Enright, the eldest,

(b. July 3, 1863, Canada) is the present owner and occupant of the old homestead. On April 12, 1893, he married Mary E., (native of Canada) eldest daughter of Patrick Quinn, and they have a family of two children, Thomas Joseph and Rose Mary. Mr. and Mrs. Enright have rendered long and efficient service as public school teachers, and their portraits may be seen in the group for Lizard township and vicinity.

(2) John Enright, (b. 1865, Can.) on Sept. 23, 1896, married Margaret Masterson, (b. Dec. 26, 1872, Ill.) and they located first on a farm of their own in Lizard township, but in 1898 moved to Clinton township, where she died Dec. 29, 1899, leaving an infant son.

(3) James Enright (b. 1867,) is traveling in the west.

(4) Mary A., in 1891 married John F. Quinn, and they reside on a farm in Bellville.

(5) Cecilia in 1892 married Patrick A. Quinn, and they reside at Pomeroy.

John G. Lampe (b. 1806 ?) is a native of Germany, and coming to this country in his youth, located first near Galena, Ill., where he married Catherine Nundar. After a few years they moved to Potosi, Wis., where they remained until the fall of 1868, when they came to Pocahontas county with a family of four children—Henry, George, Mary and Frank—and located on a farm in Lizard township. Soon afterward he and his two sons, Henry and George, and also his son-in-law, E. K. Cain, located each a homestead on sections 4 and 6, Bellville township, for which their claims were filed June 12, 1869. When they began to break the prairie sod on these homesteads the only other residents of the township were Wm. Bell, Niels Hanson and Philip Myers. The sod house on the homestead was their humble habitation during the year 1869. The next year Mr. Lampe and his son-in-law, E. K. Cain, built a frame shanty

on the line between their adjoining claims and both families occupied it. At the time this building was destroyed by the tornado of April 21, 1878, it was owned by Aultman & Taylor Co. and was vacant. Mrs. Lampe died in April, 1873, at the age of 74 years, and was buried in the Catholic cemetery at Pomeroy. Mr. Lampe is still living with his son, Henry Lampe. He is the oldest inhabitant in the township and, according to the date usually assigned for his birth, 1806, he is probably the oldest inhabitant in the county. His three sons, Henry, George and Frank, have fine farms adjoining each other, improved with large and beautiful buildings and they are rated among the most prosperous farmers of the township.

(1) Henry B. Lampe (b. Sept. 14, 1845,) on Nov. 12, 1872, married Joanna Kreul, and they are residing on the homestead he selected in 1868. His farm contains 240 acres and is finely improved. Their family consisted of thirteen children, four of whom died young. John Lampe, his son, May 6, 1896, married Christina Niehaus, and they live in Lincoln township; Mary, on May 18, 1897, married John Schwady and they also live in Lincoln township; William, Kate, Gertrude, George, Maggie, Minnie and Edward are at home.

(2) George Lampe is also occupying the homestead on section 4, that he selected in the fall of 1868, but it has been enlarged to 200 acres. His family consists of six children—Anna, Mary, Kate, Lizzie, Henry and Rose, one having died in childhood.

(3) Mary Lampe in 1869, while they lived in Lizard township, married Elisha K. Cain. They located first on the homestead in Bellville, and in the cabin of Mr. Lampe, that same year, he taught the first school in the township. Their family consisted of thirteen children and they now reside in Minnesota.

(4) Frank Lampe married Kate Condon and they are located on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 9, Bellville township. They were the first to occupy and improve this land and are now in very prosperous circumstances.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Lungren, (b. 1853) owners and occupants of a farm of 240 acres on Sec. 2, are natives of Sweden. During the second year after their marriage they came to this country and secured as a homestead the N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 2—80 acres—Bellville township, which they have finely improved and increased by two additional tracts of 80 acres each. They are now in good circumstances and have raised a family of eight children. Hildah, the eldest, in 1896 married Alfred Olson, and they reside in Grant township. Ellen, the third daughter, married Charles Olson and they also reside in Grant township, where they own a farm of eighty acres. Clara, Jennie, Martin, John, Albert and Mollie are still at home. Mr. and Mrs. Lungren are members of the Swedish Lutheran church of Colfax township.

John O'Brien, (b. March 31, 1849,) owner and occupant of the S $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 17, (90-32), 360 acres, is a native of Canada, and married there Bridget McAuliff, (b. 1854) on Feb'y 3, 1879. One month later they located on their present farm and began the work of its improvement. He is a man of large stature and the possessor of great muscular strength, which he has always endeavored to use for some good purpose. He is a man of noble principles, pacific in spirit, a consistent member of the Catholic church and highly respected by all who know him. He has raised a family of ten children, all of whom are at home, namely, William, Mary, Jane, Richard, John, Margareta, Thima, Thomas Michael, Anna Winnifred, Elizabeth Catherine, Alice, Martin Edward and George Emmet.

Patrick Quinn (b. March 25, 1825,) is a native of Ireland, and when quite young came with his parents to the province of Ontario, Canada. Here he grew to manhood and on April 15, 1856, married Bridget Guilteman (b. 1834), also a native of Ireland. After marriage they engaged in farming in that timber district until the year 1872, when, with a family of ten children—Andrew, Thomas, Bridget, Patrick, John, James, Martin, Michael and Maggie, they came to this county and bought the homestead of Philip Myers, on W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 28, Bellville township. On their arrival they found a little shanty 12x14 feet. The first work of improvement was its enlargement so as to meet the wants of his rapidly growing family. Four acres of forest trees and one of fruit trees were planted that very soon developed into a shady grove and a fruit-bearing orchard; but the long continued drought of 1894-95 caused the loss of some varieties of trees and injured others. As a farmer Mr. Quinn has been eminently successful. He has made six additional purchases of land on the adjoining sections as the years have passed, so that he is now the possessor of 720 acres. The fine improvements erected at the old home consist of a large, two-story dwelling house built in 1884, a cow barn 52x82 feet, a large horse barn and another one for sheep, a large pig house and another one for poultry, a machinery hall, three granaries and two double corn cribs. He aims to secure a thorough cultivation of the soil, the application of all available manures and a proper rotation of crops. He has been a large and successful feeder of cattle, hogs and sheep. He has been accustomed to change the strain of his stock nearly every year, often paying high prices for what he wants, and has a decided preference for the Shorthorns, Poland-Chinas and Cotswolds. During the

twenty-seven years of his residence in this section he has never seen a failure of crops on the farm.

A family of fourteen children has grown up around him and, taking a laudable interest in extending to them the opportunities for receiving a good education, he has had the unusual pleasure of seeing as many as seven of them, as they became old enough, engage in teaching public school. The family consists of eleven sons and three daughters.

(1) Andrew G. Quinn in Nov., 1888, married Eva Howe, of Illinois, and they own and occupy a farm of 240 acres in Colfax township. They have a family of five children—Mary B., Edward, Francis, George and Genevieve Ann. He was township clerk and secretary of the school board of Bellville township in 1887. (2) Mary E., married April 12, 1893, Thomas Enright. She taught school thirteen years previous to her marriage. They live on Sec. 12, and have two children, Thomas and Rose. (3) Thomas B. Quinn Nov. 27, 1896, married Genevieve Whaley and they reside in Texas. (4) Bridget C. is at home. (5) Patrick A. Quinn Dec. 6, 1892, married Cecilia Enright and they own a farm of 160 acres in Bellville township. They reside at Pomeroy, where he is engaged as a teacher and carpenter. Their only child died young. (6) John F. Quinn in Feb'y, 1891, married Mary Enright. They own and occupy a farm of 160 acres in Bellville township, which they have improved with good buildings and a fine grove. They have three children—Mary E., George J. and Cecilia F. (7) James D. Quinn Nov. 24, 1896, married Mary Campbell. They own a farm of 160 acres in Sherman township which they were the first to occupy and improve. (8) Martin B. Quinn completed the business course in Highland Park college in 1892 and is now in a railroad office in Arkansas.

Michael, Maggie A., Joseph, Paul, Edward and Walter (twins) are at home when not pursuing their studies or engaged in teaching.

Patrick Quinn was president of the school board in 1879, justice of the peace two years, 1885-86, and a trustee of the township fifteen years, 1879-93.

Andrew Reedland, a native of Sweden, in 1873 with wife and three children came to Bellville township and homesteaded the S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 32. He improved and occupied this home until about 1889 when he moved to Colfax township and a few years later to Kansas.

John O. Schon, who on September 23, 1886 was killed by Otto Otten, came to this township about 1876 and located on section 23. He and his wife came from Illinois empty handed but in ten years through careful and economical management he was the owner of 200 acres of land on which he erected a good residence. He was one of the original members and supporters of the Emmanuel German church of Bellville township. His brother M. B. Schon is the owner and occupant of the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of section 19. His murder was effected by shooting through a window while seated at the supper table and it was wholly unprovoked. Otten was a young German, a neighbor and intimate friend of the family. When arrested, he confessed his guilt and received a sentence of imprisonment for life in the penitentiary at Anamosa.

Joseph Strong in January 1871 secured the homestead claim forfeited by Isaac Tappee on section 34. He was a young man, a brother of Mrs. John Christmas with whom he made his home. After a few years he sold his homestead to Swan Nelson and went to Colorado.

Frederick Weigert, a native of Germany, in the fall of 1870, accompanied by his wife, Mary, and two children, Herman and Augusta, secured a

homestead on section 4 which he improved. After seven years he sold it to James, the father of Erasmus Nelson its present owner, and bought the farm of A. Cady on section 24 which he still owns. Later he increased the size of this farm and finely improved it. In the spring of 1897 he and his wife, aged 73 and 65 years respectively, moved to Manson where they now reside. Their family consisted of two sons and one daughter. Herman, the eldest, in 1888 married Louisa Weigert (no relative) and bought the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 16, Lake township which he has improved and still occupies. Augusta in 1884 became the wife of George, a son of Peter Peterson and they reside on section 10, Bellville township, where they have a large farm. Frederick Jr., in 1897 married Maria Kelso and they occupy his father's farm in Bellville township.

Peter Wendell (b. April 7, 1842) is the son of Peter and Caroline Wendell both of whom died at Cincinnati, Ohio, six months after his birth, from the terrible scourge of cholera that visited that and many other cities of this land at that time. An elder brother is still living in Ohio. In his childhood and youth he was cared for by his Uncle John Rice, and at the age of ten came with him to Iowa. At Guttenberg, August 2, 1862, at the age of eighteen years, he enlisted for three years as a member of Co. D. 27th Regiment Iowa Infantry. This company was first sent to guard Fort Snelling against the Indians in Minnesota and remained one year in the frontier service under Gen. A. J. Smith. Then, becoming a part of the 16th Army Corps under Gen. Sherman, he passed through the states of Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama; and participated in eighteen battles including those at Pleasant Hill, Little Rock, Tupelo, Old Town Creek, Nashville and Holly Springs. At Town Creek he was severely