

eer of the present merchants of Fonda. He has endeavored to merit the patronage of the people by constantly renewing his stock of goods with fresh supplies that both suit and please his customers. Long ago there was given to him the reputation of "selling better goods at lower prices than his competitors;" and his long and successful mercantile career is the just reward of untiring energy, good judgment and unbending integrity. He realizes that the world moves forward one step every day and he endeavors to keep pace with it.

His ability to render efficient public service has been recognized and utilized. In addition to the service rendered as a public school teacher and county superintendent he served as an assessor two years in Clinton county, and two years in Cedar township, 1872 and 1875. He was a member of the Fonda town council three years, 1890-92; president of the Fonda school board two years, 1890-91; and secretary of it two years, '92-93.

When superintendent of the public schools, in this county, he put forth an honest endeavor to raise their standard and increase their efficiency. At the close of his term of service the teachers presented him with a fine gold watch, as a token of their esteem, and in accepting it he very appropriately expressed the animating principles of his own life when he said: "This beautiful souvenir is a reminder to me that the time to finish our life's work is not only brief but constantly passing; as each diamond minute helps to make the golden hours, which if lost are lost forever, let your motto be 'Onward and Upward, and stand on your merits.'" "

"The riches of the commonwealth
Are free, strong minds and hearts of
health,

And more to her than gold or grain
Are cunning hands and cultured
brain."

In 1870 in Clinton county, he mar-

ried Ella A. Fuller and their family consisted of four children, Guy Scott, Otis, Evan, who died at seven years of age, and Nellie Josephine. In 1893 he married Jenevee E. Crawford and they have one child Helen Isabel.

Robinson Guy Scott (b. Mar. 31, 1871), county treasurer since Jan. 1, 1899, is a native of Maquoketa, Iowa and has been a resident of this county since a few months after his birth. After completing his education in the Fonda public schools, he was for twelve years associated with his father, Joseph P. Robinson, in the general merchandise business. Here he not only received a valuable practical training but became widely and favorably known as a young man of pleasing appearance, excellent habits and unquestioned integrity. In 1896, when he was not an aspirant for political honors, but many in the republican county convention felt the need of another candidate for county auditor, his name was suggested and he lacked only one vote of receiving the nomination. Three years later the nomination for the responsible office of county treasurer was accorded to him, he was elected and is now rendering acceptable service in this official capacity.

October 16, 1895, he married Mabel Elizabeth McKee, has one child, Lorna Eloise, and lives at Pocahontas.

Silbar Jacob, the first grocer to locate on the present site of Fonda in 1870, was a Jew that for some time previous had been following the graders on the I. C. R. R. and selling his wares from a pedler's cart. In the fall of 1869 he built a shanty near a grader's camp on the west side of the creek south of the grove on Fairburns' farm then owned by John A. Hay. He was assisted by Knute Tisdale who cobbled and sold goods at the shanty while Silbar made weekly trips to Fort Dodge for new supplies. He and others awaited the location of the town and as soon as its site was indicated by the laying of a sidetrack

east of the creek in the spring of 1870, he moved his shanty to the vicinity of Ibson's first blacksmith shop, and it was the second building in Fonda. When the town was platted he erected a better building on the west side of Main street, but after one year sold it and moved away. He was the first one that sold intoxicating liquors in Cedar township.

Spielman David (b. Aug. 28, 1824), resident of Fonda and vicinity since 1870, is a native of Baden, Germany, and in 1848 came to Sullivan Co., N. Y., where he found employment as a carpenter. In Dec. 1851, he married Dorothea Couch and five years later moved to Dubuque Co., Iowa, where he continued to work at his trade. In the fall of 1870 he located on a homestead of 80 acres on the s½ ne¼ sec. 24, Cedar township, this county, improved and occupied it until 1880 when he sold it and bought the sw¼ of sec. 19, Colfax township, 160 acres. On this farm he built a good house, barn and other outbuildings and occupied it until 1893, when he sold it, built a comfortable residence in Fonda and moved to town.

In 1845 he entered the German army and spent four and one-half years in the military service of his country. This was the period of the rebellion in Baden, and he participated in thirteen battles.

He has been a good citizen and has raised a family of eight children, one having died in childhood and another at the age of twelve. 1.—David (b. 1851), married Mary Jane (Reed) Wilbur, who in 1872 bought and still owns a farm of 80 acres on the w½ se¼ sec. 25, Cedar township. He died in 1883 leaving one son, Carl Spielman, who in 1898 married Stella Reed, of the state of Washington, and lives in Fonda with his mother. The latter on coming to this county in 1872 taught school three years. She was first married to James M. Wilbur, and their

family consisted of one son, Romeo M. Wilbur, who in 1870 came to the home of his uncle B. F. Osburn, taught school several years at Pomeroy and vicinity and is now in Chicago. 2.—Jacob (b. June 28, 1855, N. Y.), a mason and plasterer, resident of Fonda, in 1889 married Nora May Sheriff and has a family of four children, Flossie, Virgil, David and Esther. 3. Mary married R. B. Adams, drayman, lives at Cherokee and has a family of four children, Early, Hiram, Elizabeth and Maud. 4.—Dora married Gustave Gottfried (See Gottfried). 5.—Sophia married Louie Lieb (See Lieb). 6.—Frederick (b. Aug. 22, 1864, Iowa) a drayman, Fonda, in 1896 married Alta Hardy and lives with his parents. 7.—Elizabeth married William Wykoff, a plasterer, lives at Fonda and has four children, Roy, Madge, Harry and Vera. 8. Lulu, in 1893, married James H. Thompson, a carpenter, Fonda, and has one child.

Sanborn George (b. Mch. 1, 1842), resident of Fonda and vicinity since June 5, 1869, editor and proprietor of the Fonda Times since Nov. 1, 1879, is a native of Jefferson, Wisconsin. He was the son of William (b. 1800-d. 1876) and Mary (Page) Sanborn, who were natives of Wheelock, Vermont and with a family of four children, two sons, Alden and Roswell, and two daughters, Emily and Caroline, in 1839 moved to Jefferson, Wisconsin, where they spent the remainder of their days. His father was raised on a farm and engaged in farming during most of his life. He also took an active part in politics, held many important offices in his own township and county, Caledonia, Vt., and Jefferson, Wis., and served one term in the legislature of Vermont. After his removal to Jefferson, as a contractor and builder, he erected the first public buildings in that county seat, consisting of a court house and jail and

Several other important buildings, one of which which was a hotel that is still a leading one of that city. His mother (b. 1802-d. 1877) was of Scotch descent. The Sanborns in this country are the descendants of three brothers who came from England before the War of Independence; and the name was originally spelled Sandborn.

George Sanborn, the subject of this sketch, at the outbreak of the Civil war in 1861, enlisted as a member of Co. E, 4th Wis. infantry, at the age of nineteen. On Jan. 1, 1864, he re-enlisted in the same company and regiment, which had previously been transferred to the cavalry department as the 4th Wis. cavalry. This regiment was not finally discharged until June 19, 1866, having made a continuous service of five years and six days, which is said to be the longest period of continuous service rendered by any regiment of volunteers in the Civil war.

During the first six months of his army life he was engaged guarding bridges and building forts in the vicinity of Baltimore, and campaigning on the eastern shore of Virginia. In the spring of 1862 he went with his regiment, under Gen. Butler, to Ship Island and New Orleans, and participated in the capture of Fort Morgan, Fort St. Philip and the city of New Orleans. His regiment and the 28th Massachusetts were the first federal troops to enter that city after its surrender. His regiment performed an important part in the operations against Vicksburg, and assisted in digging the famous cut-off that has since made that place an inland city. During 1863 he was engaged in Western Louisiana and the country along the Red river, where he participated in the battle of Bisland and the siege of Port Hudson, May 28th to July 8th.

On June 14th, while making a charge on the enemy's works he was wounded twice, captured and held a

prisoner until the fort surrendered. He was stationed at Baton Rouge most of the time afterward and participated in a number of small battles and skirmishes with the enemy in that vicinity. During the spring of 1865 his regiment was located at Montgomery, Alabama, and from that city marched to Fort Larado, Texas, by way of Vicksburg, making what was probably the longest continuous march by any regiment during the war. The object of this movement was to place the regiment in the vicinity of the Maximilian war in Mexico. In the spring of 1866, he returned to Madison, Wis., where he was honorably discharged on the 19th of June (1866.)

On Nov. 28, 1866, he married Louresta Augusta, (b. Oct. 28, 1844) daughter of Levi and Louresta Crandall, of Farmington, Wis., and engaged in farming. On June 5, 1869, having decided to locate on a homestead in the west, they moved for a few months to the home of Wm. Kennedy, a brother-in-law, then living on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 4, Williams township, now the farm of Charles Ziegler. On Aug. 13, 1869, he entered as a homestead the E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 34, Cedar township, and occupied it from February, 1870, until September, 1880, when he moved to Fonda, where he has since resided. In August, 1870, he purchased 80 acres adjoining his homestead on the same quarter, and in 1882, 140 acres more, making a farm of 300 acres, all of which he still owns and has improved with fine buildings, good fences and a beautiful grove. In 1880 he erected a residence in one of the prettiest locations in Fonda and recent enlargements have made it very handsome in appearance. In 1884 he erected the brick block known as the Times building and owns several other properties in Fonda.

On November 1, 1879, he became the editor and proprietor of the Fonda Times, called Pocahontas

Times from the time of its establishment at Old Rolfe, April 1, 1876, until June 21, 1894.*

Although he did not enjoy the privilege of attending college, he received a liberal education and taught several terms of school in Wisconsin and vicinity of Fonda. On the farm he proved himself a practical and successful farmer, and in this rural district the practical experience thus gained was of great value to him in performing the onerous duties connected with the management of the printing office.

Through the long period of twenty-one years of editorial management of the Times he has become widely known as one of the most capable and successful editors in Northwest Iowa. During all these years his constant aim has been to make the Times not merely a first-class local paper, but also a living, positive and aggressive force in promoting the material, educational and moral interests of Pocahontas county in general and of Fonda and vicinity in particular. Through its columns during this long period he has exerted an influence along these lines second to none in this community.

When he and his wife located in this section the I. C. R. R. extended only to Fort Dodge, and only a few settlers had preceded them. He assisted in the organization of Cedar township, June 6, 1870, was elected its first justice of the peace and served three years, 1870-72. In 1871 he was township clerk, and in 1875 treasurer of the school funds. He was mayor of Fonda in 1882, a member of the council in 1887 and has been president of the board of education seven years, 1881, '89 and '95-1900. He was postmaster of Fonda seven years, Oct. 15, 1889-Sept. 1, '96, and during five years of this period, 1891-'96, the town enjoyed free delivery of the mail.

*See page 287 for history of this paper.

He cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln, the martyr president, at Baton Rouge, in 1864, during the period of his military service. He has voted for every republican candidate for president since that date and has been an advocate of the principles and policies of the republican party.

He became a member of the G. A. R. post at Jefferson, Wis., in the fall of 1866, and has been a member of the Fonda post since its organization in 1885. Perceiving that strong drink has been our nation's greatest curse, he has been a fearless advocate of total abstinence and prohibition. He has always lent a helping hand when efforts have been put forth for the suppression of the open saloon, assists in the support of the churches in Fonda and has contributed toward the erection of nearly every church in Pocahontas county.

He is now one of the oldest resident citizens of this section and both in the postoffice and through the columns of THE TIMES he has for many years well and truly served the best interests of this community. In the printing office he worked at first on the old Washington hand-press and sustained a serious loss by the fire of 1883. These were years of hard work and many discouragements. Instead of yielding to these discouragements he made provision for better facilities by the erection of a larger and more permanent building and has inserted better presses as the years have passed, so that today the work of this office is unsurpassed by any in Northwest Iowa, and the Times maintains its position of being not only the oldest, but the best paper in Pocahontas county.

Mrs. Sanborn was for eight years previous to December, 1899, superintendent of the Juvenile Temple, and, since its reorganization in 1886, has been an unflinching supporter of the lodge of Good Templars. She has also



FONDA AND VICINITY.



MAUD M. JORDAN

MAUD F. MILLER

MAUD S. KELLEY

EMMA P. TAYLOR

HARRIET C. CHAPMAN

ROSE STEINER

CYRUS THOMPSON

JOS. B. BOLLARD

GEO. G. CRAFT

REPRESENTATIVES OF PIONEER FAMILIES, FONDA AND VICINITY.

been an active member of the Relief Corps since its organization. Whilst her social standing places her among the cultured and refined, she mingles with the humblest, sympathizes with them in their trials and by her kind ministries endeavors to help them live better and nobler lives. The noble woman is never more a queen than when

“Teaching us how to seek the highest goal,
To earn the true success,
To live, to love, to bless—
And make death proud to take a royal soul.”

Their family has consisted of seven children, five of whom died in their childhood and youth, Chester at the age of twelve, in 1892. Lulu, after graduating at Epworth college, on August 25, 1897, married A. E. Rigby, a graduate of Cornell college, principal of the Manchester high school two years and now pastor of the M. E. church at Elk Point, S. Dak. George B. (b. Oct. 26, 1876) has been an efficient assistant in the postoffice for a number of years and in 1900 was the census enumerator for Cedar township, including the town of Fonda.

Sargent Americus Vespucius, (b. Dec. 2, 1821), resident of Fonda and vicinity since 1877, is a native of Orange county, Vermont, the son of Enoch and Lydia (Littlehale) Sargent. In 1834 he married Mary Whipple, (b. Corydon, N. H., Apr. 23, 1819) and six years later moved to Newport, Sullivan county, N. H. In the spring of 1854 he moved to a farm in Clayton county, Iowa, later to another one in Delaware county, and after the war to Elkader, the county seat of Clayton county, and engaged in the livery business. In 1877 he located on the W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 30, Cedar township, improved and occupied it until 1891, when he moved to Fonda. He was a trustee of Cedar township fifteen years, 1883-97, and is a member of the M. E. church.

His family consisted of five sons, all of whom, except Alberti, were born in New Hampshire, are still living and the oldest three, VanBuren, George W. and James W., were members of the same company and regiment, Co. F, 27th Iowa, during the civil war. VanBuren enlisted _____, 1862, George and James Feb. 15, 1864. On July 17, 1865 they were transferred to the 12th Iowa Inf. and were discharged at Memphis, Tenn., Jan. 20, 1866.

1—VanBuren Whipple (b. May 5, 1845) on Dec. 4, 1868, married Jane Fowler, located on a farm in Clayton County, Iowa, and in the spring of 1869 on his present farm on section 36, Buena Vista county. His family has consisted of five children: Arthur, Nov. 1, 1890, married Lily Stodgel, lives in Cedar township and has a family of three children; Maude, a teacher, Dec. 23, 1897, married Duncan A. Kelly and lives at Smithville, Texas; Raymond, a carpenter, has been in the Klondike region since 1898; Herbert, a farmer, on April 25, 1900, married Ella Dumond and lives in Sac county; Jennie on June 27, 1900, married Fred Holtz and lives at Newell.

2—George Washington, (b. Aug. 5, 1847,) in 1878 married Addie Woodward, at Elkader, and dealt in stock there until 1891, when he came to Fonda and engaged in the hotel business, erecting the Washington House in 1892. He is now at LaCrosse, Wis., and has a family of four children: Albert, Edward, Luella and Eva.

3—James Wellington, a twin brother of George W., in 1874 married Sarah Love and engaged in the livery business at Elkader. In 1890 he came to Fonda, and in 1894 married Mamie Cunningham and has a family of three children: Claude, Nodica and Frank.

4—Herbert Eugene, (b. Oct. 15, 1852) a painter, in 1877, married Mary Gould, of Sac county, lives in Fonda and has a family of four children: Van, a teacher and painter, Ruth, Laura and Allie.

5—Alberti Whipple (b. Aug. 23, 1861) a native of Delaware county, Iowa, after attending the Iowa State Normal school at Cedar Falls, several terms, served as principal of the Rolfe, Pomeroy and Fonda public schools, each one or more years. On June 6, 1888 he married Lydia, daughter of Rev. Edgar and Emiline Stevens, lives at Fonda and has a family of four children: Bernice, V., Mary Louisa, Forrest and Glenn, two having died in childhood.

Mary, wife of A. V. Sargent, died March 20, 1890, and on Nov. 27, 1895, he married Nancy D. (Brush) Moulton and they live at Fonda.

Sargent Isaac L., (b. 1819, d. Fonda, 1890) was a native of Orange county, Vermont, the son of Enoch and Lydia Sargent, who raised a family of eight children, three of whom, Isaac L., A. V. and Lydia, wife of Samuel Carleton, during the eighties located in Pocahontas county. Isaac married Rachel Colby, in 1865 moved to Henry county, Ill., in 1868 to Jefferson county, Iowa, and in 1885 to Cedar township. His wife died in 1874 in Jefferson county.

His family consisted of six children. Jennie E. in 1866 married W. A. Clark, a photographer, lives at Pentwater, Mich., and has a family of two children; Harrison H., in 1872, married Elizabeth Stewart and in 1894 died at Des Moines, leaving three children; Edwin I. in 1880 married Cordelia Sinclair, in 1881 located in Cedar township and in 1885 moved to Des Moines, where he has since been engaged in the commission business, owns a fine home in addition to several other valuable properties and has a family of seven children; James B. in 1876 married Ella Stewart, (died, Fonda, Nov. 26, 1895) in 1881 located on a farm of 200 acres in Cedar township, of which he was assessor two years, 1891-94, in 1889 moved to Fonda, where he has since been engaged in clerking, and

has a family of four children, Nellie May, a Fonda graduate in 1897 and a successful teacher since, Irwin H., Flora E. and Hazel B.; Ora O. in 1886 married Florence Clapp, both being graduates of Parsons college, Fairfield, Iowa, holders of state certificates and teachers for ten years, and now lives near Laurens; Flora E. in 1883 married V. A. Marsteller, a merchant, and lives at Wilcox, Neb.

Swingle Fred, resident of Fonda from 1874 to 1891, was a native of the Rhine province of Prussia, Germany, came with his parents to Livingston county, N. Y., in 1855, and there received his first lessons in the public school. After a few years he moved with his parents to a farm near the old military post, Fort Muscoda, on the Wisconsin river about forty miles east of Prairie du Chien. Here he attended the public schools and also the high school in Muscoda.

At fourteen he found employment in a store in Avoca, Wis., and spent one summer in Milwaukee. He then engaged in teaching in Grant and Iowa counties, Wis., until November, 1872, when he accepted a position in the store of Nicholas Kiefer at Pomeroy, Iowa. In February, 1874, at the request of Geo. Fairburn, director, he became teacher of the public school at Fonda, then called Marvin, and later taught several terms in other schools in the vicinity. Purchasing the coal business of E. O. Wilder, he added lumber to it and continued in the lumber and coal business until August, 1886, when he sold out to N. B. Post. He then dealt in hay and grain until August 1891, when he disposed of all his property in Fonda and moved to Sioux City.

Having a desire to engage again in teaching, he attended for a short time the Sioux City school, at the head of which was the the late Prof. J. C. Gilchrist, the University of South Dakota one year and the Sioux

City college one year. He is now entering upon his fifth year as a teacher in the Sioux City schools.

On Dec. 13, 1875, he married Nellie R. Remtsma, of Webster county, Iowa, and she taught seven years in the public schools of Fonda. She was a native of Hanover, Germany, came with her parents to Ogle county, Ill., in her infancy, and later to Webster county, Iowa. After attending the public schools of Grand Detour, Ill., and Fort Dodge, Iowa, she attended the Des Moines school of Methods, Cook County Normal, Chicago, and the Denver Normal, Colo. At the age of sixteen she began to teach school, first in Calhoun county, Iowa, then in Webster and Pocahontas counties. In March, 1892, she was appointed first primary teacher in the Hawthorne school, Sioux City, and has been annually re-elected to that position since that date. During the summer vacations of the last six years she has been a teacher of primary methods in teachers' institutes held in South Dakota and Nebraska.

Fred Swingle was a member of the Fonda council three years, 1883-85. Both he and his wife took a leading part in the work of the M. E. church and Sunday school, and also in the organization and maintenance of the first Chautauqua circle during the early eighties. They were highly esteemed for their excellent social qualities and the valuable assistance they were able to render on all special or public occasions.

Smeaton David, and his wife, Esther O. (Riford) Smeaton, were residents of Fonda and vicinity from May, 1881, until April, 1890, when they moved to Des Moines. They first purchased the E $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 32, Cedar township, and located on that portion of it known as the Dorton homestead. A little later they purchased other lands in the vicinity until they had an aggregate of 560 acres. In the spring of

1883 they built a fine house on the west side of Main, between 4th and 5th streets, Fonda, and moving to town established a lumber yard southwest of the I. C. R. R. depot, and engaged in the sale of lumber, implements and hardware until June 12, 1884, when his warehouse and stock of implements and hardware were destroyed by fire. He then turned his attention to the cultivation of flowers, for which he erected a greenhouse, and to the improvement of their farms.

Mrs. Smeaton was one of the charter members of the Fonda Presbyterian church and served two years as the first president of the ladies' aid society. She was the daughter of Seth and Phoebe Riford, of Waukesha, Wis., whose family consisted of eight children, four of whom—one son and three daughters—became residents of Fonda and vicinity from 1874 to 1881. Eliza, the eldest, married David B. McKillips, and occupied the Stafford farm until 1890, when they moved to Fort Dodge; Sophia married Edward R. Ellis and died at Fonda in 1898; Royal Riford, the youngest, married Martha Jones and with a family of two sons, Seth and Thad, still lives in this vicinity.

Tabor Edward B. (b. Aug. 14, 1858) editor of the Pocahontas Times three years, 1877 to 1879, is a native of Lake City, Calhoun county, Iowa. He moved with his parents to Denison, then to Webster City, then to Cedar Falls and in 1862 back to Lake City. After a few months they moved to Davenport where they remained until the close of the year, then moved to Cedar Rapids and in 1867 again returned to Lake City, where he was favored with the opportunity of obtaining a limited education.

In 1872 he found employment in the office of the old Calhoun County Pioneer, the first paper published in that county, and began to learn the print-

er's trade. The office contained only a few fonts of type, a Washington hand-press and was a very small affair compared with the country offices of the present time.

Early in the spring of 1875 he came to Fonda and secured a position with M. D. Skinner on the Pocahontas Times, taking the place of Geo. M. Dorton, who had worked on the paper during the previous winter, and then returned to the farm from which he had been driven by the ravages of the grasshoppers in the fall of 1874. In the Times office Tabor did all the mechanical work including the printing of the paper, one page at a time on the old wooden press that worked with a screw like a cider-press.

In August, 1875, he purchased the Calhoun County Index and returned to Lake City. When he became proprietor of this newspaper he was only seventeen years of age. In the spring of 1876 he moved his outfit to Glidden and started the Glidden Express, the first paper published in that town. After a few months he sold the Express, returned to Lake City and worked on the Calhoun County Journal.

Jan. 1, 1877, he became foreman in the office of the Pocahontas Times then published at Pocahontas and owned by Messrs. MeEwen & Garlock, the former serving as editor. In October following he leased the Times office and in the spring of 1878 moved it to Fonda and continued in charge of it until Oct. 1, 1879, when it was sold to Geo. Sanborn, its present owner.

He then started the Fonda News, but the support it received proving insufficient, in the spring of 1880 it was moved to Pomeroy and called the Pomeroy News. In May, 1881, he received an appointment as a postal clerk on the I. C. R. R., a favor conferred by the late Ex-Gov. C. C. Carpenter, who was then representing

this district in congress.

January 1, 1886, he resigned this position to accept one in the office of the Sioux City Journal, where, commencing at the exchange editor's desk he soon became successively city reporter, city editor, telegraph editor and finally managing editor. Jan. 1, 1890, he resigned this position and bought the Saturday Chronicle, a local, variety paper.

In July, 1891, he moved to Brandon, Miss., where in January following he established the Brandon News, which has prospered until it is now one of the foremost weeklies of that state, is published in a finely equipped office and proves a profitable enterprise.

On Dec. 25, 1877, he married Alice E. Townsend, of Carroll, and has a family of three children, the oldest one of whom was born at Fonda.

Taylor William, (b. June 6, 1819-d. Fonda, Oct. 31, 1890), was a native of Bourbon county, Ky. In his boyhood he moved with his parents to Greene county, Ill., and in 1855 to Macon county where, March 19, 1856, he married Harriet D. Seay. In 1859 they moved to Logan county, Ill., and in 1873 to the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 23, Cedar township, this county, which he improved and continued to occupy until the year previous to his death, when they moved to Fonda.

His family consisted of seven children: John W., a blacksmith, on April 14, 1897, married Mrs. Farrie A. (Watts) Metcalf, and lives at Varina; Mary E. in 1881, married Geo. W. Taylor, lives on a farm in Calhoun county and has one daughter, Daisy; Elizabeth in 1886, married Frank Brackewagen, lives on a farm near Emmons, Minn., and has two children, Clarence and Leroy; Charles in 1888, married Cora Hendrickson, has two children, Lloyd and Pearl, and lives in Potter county, S. D.; Annie in 1889 married Charles Bevier, lives in Calhoun county and has one child, Al-

pheus; Martha lives with her mother in Fonda, and Edward, the youngest, in 1888 married Evelyn Aten, has one child and lives at Emmons, Minn.

Lucian and Milfred Seay, parents of Mrs. Taylor, in 1874 came to Cedar township and bought a farm three miles west of Fonda. A few years later they moved to Marathon, where she died July 21, 1885, and he, Aug. 16, 1895.

Thompson George E., (b. June 22, 1826, d. Cedar township, Aug. 20, 1891) was a native of Indiana county, Pa., the son of George C. and Elizabeth (Davis) Thompson. May 5, 1853, he married Evaline George and engaged in farming. Dec. 31, 1866, he moved to Aledo, Mercer county, Ill., where he remained three years. In November 1869, in two prairie schooners, he and his family made the trip to Redfield, Iowa, crossing the Mississippi at New Boston, Ill. In the fall of 1870 they located on a homestead of 80 acres on the N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 18, Cedar township. He improved this farm with good buildings and a new house in 1890, and occupied it until the time of his decease in 1891. In 1894 this farm was sold and the family moved to Fonda.

His family consisted of seven children, all of whom are still living. 1—Cyrus is a veteran school teacher, one who has been well qualified for teaching, stands high in educational circles and in the fall of 1899, as the democratic nominee for the office of county superintendent, polled a splendid vote—his own township of Cedar, that gave the republican candidate for county treasurer a majority of 187, giving him a democratic majority of 44 votes. He still lives with his mother. 2—Elizabeth Frances, March 24, 1875, married James Albarnus Sayre, who died in Fonda Oct. 29, 1894, leaving one daughter, Pearl, who on Sept. 6, 1900, married Evermond D. Snyder, of Des Moines. 3—George P.

March 29, 1883, married Alice Bliss, (daughter of George) of Dover township, and lives on a farm in Thayer county, Neb. 4—Harry C. Sept. 29, 1889, married Eugenia Gobelle, of Vermillion, S. D., and has one son, Earl. He was a telegraph operator for a number of years and is now an express agent at Kansas City, Mo. 5—James H., a railroad carpenter, on Dec. 22, 1898, married Lulu Spielman, lives at Fonda and has one child, Fern. 6—John A., August 26, 1896, married Dora Sayre, has one child and is engaged in the hardware business at Varina. 7—Mary, a dressmaker, in 1887 married Leslie Dean and their family consisted of one child, Daphne; in 1899 she married Eugene Herrington and now lives at Sioux City.

George H. Thompson, a nephew of George E., came with the latter to Pocahontas county in 1870 and homesteaded the S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 18. Cyrus Thompson owned this farm from 1885 to 1898.

Thompson Richard Perry (b. Dec. 16, 1843), resident of Cedar township since 1871, is a native of Jefferson county, Ohio, the son of John and Maria (Ross) Thompson. At thirteen he moved with his parents to Washington county, Iowa, where Dec. 29, 1869, he married Annabel, daughter of Dr. Nicholas and Mary (Curry) Ray. After visiting Washington county, Iowa, Johnson county, Kan., and several other sections of country in a prairie schooner, they decided to locate in Pocahontas county, Iowa, and in April, 1871, located on section 26, Cedar township. Six months later they purchased 80 acres on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 18, improved and occupied it, with the exception of one year, until 1900, when they moved to Fonda.

He has been a careful and progressive farmer, and still manifests those habits of industry and thrift that were acquired in youth. Mrs. Thompson was one of the pioneer teachers of

Cedar township and although not the first one in that district, yet during the winter of 1871-72, taught the first term in the first school house built in the township outside of Fonda, which was the one on the southeast corner of Sec. 7, in the Sunk Grove district.

Toy James F., of Sioux City, president of the Farmers' Loan & Trust Co. Bank, Fonda, established this institution Sept. 1, 1886, while he was a resident of Storm Lake. In the early history of Storm Lake he organized and became president of the Farmers' Loan & Trust Co. By careful management previous to the above date it had not made a real estate loan on which a dollar had been lost or an acre of land taken on foreclosure. Having received that year an addition of \$100,000, making the capital stock \$250,000 with a surplus of \$56,000, the branch at Fonda was established with Geo. B. Kerlin in charge as cashier. After two years he was succeeded by P. C. Toy, a younger brother of James F., who remained in charge of it ten years, 1888-98. He was succeeded by Louis A. Rothe, the present cashier.

Weaver James B., (b. Jan. 5, 1854, d. Cedar township, Aug. 13, 1897), was a native of Deerfield, Oneida county, N. Y., and was the son of James and Arvilla (Smith) Weaver. Dec. 13, 1876, he married Cora, daughter of John and Sarah (Wilcox) Potter, and they lived at Marcy, N. Y., until the spring of 1886 when, with a family of five children, they came to Pocahontas county and began to occupy their present home on sections 1 and 12, Cedar township. His uncle, Abram B. Weaver, of Deerfield, bought of Thurlow Weed, N. Y., the W $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 1 in the spring of 1870, and came to view it on the excursion train of July 4th following, that signalized the completion of the laying of the track from Fort Dodge to Sioux City. In 1886 he bought also the N $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 12, on which the buildings are located, and in 1890

the E $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 1, making a farm of 800 acres in one body.

James B., while assisting one of his neighbors to thresh, stepped underneath a large box used for elevating the grain, and it fell upon him with such crushing force that he died one hour later. He was a man highly esteemed for his industry, integrity cordiality and success. All who knew him attest the nobility of his manhood.

His family consisted of ten children: William Potter, Claude J., Maude L., Helen, Sarah, Mildred, Abram G., Kenneth D., Angeline and Cora V., all of whom remain with their mother on the farm, except Maude, who in August, 1899, returned to the home of her uncle at Deerfield, N. Y., for the purpose of completing her education.

Whitney Charles H., (b. Nov. 20, 1833) resident of Fonda and vicinity since June 1870, is a native of Erie county, N. Y., the son of Erastus and Anna (Wilkinson) Whitney. In 1852 he moved with his father's family to McHenry county, Ill., where they remained four years and then moved to Sac county, Iowa.

On June 11, 1856, he married Levisa Blakeslee, and located on a farm in Dubuque county, Iowa, and after two years moved to Moore county, Minn. On Dec. 28, 1862, he enlisted and spent three years in the frontier service against the Indians in Minnesota and Dakota, (See page 45). In June, 1870, conveying his family and household goods in two wagons, he located on the W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 8, Cedar township, Pocahontas county, Iowa, which he improved and occupied four years. He then purchased the two homesteads of Geo. H. and Sidney E. Wright on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 36, which he continued to occupy until the spring of 1898, when he moved to Fonda.

He served seven years as a trustee of Cedar township, 1875-78 and 1896-98; and was treasurer of the school

funds two years, 1877-78. He was one of the trustees of the M. E. church, Fonda, at the time of its incorporation in 1877, and has been a constant supporter of its services since they were first established.

His family has consisted of six children. Nettie married Warren Karr, lives in Fonda and has two children, Bessie and Charles; Oliva married William Bower and lives at Sac City; Mamie married Marion Jenkins and lives at Pomeroy; Charles R., M. D., (see below); William married Lulu Reed and lives in Chicago, and Frank, who is still at home.

Whitney Charles R., M. D., (b. June 14, '63) resident of Fonda, is a native of Moore county, Minn., son of Charles and Levisa Whitney, with whom he came to Pocahontas county in 1870. After spending two years in the high school at Sac City, he spent four years in the Western Normal at Shenandoah, graduating first from the Normal and two years later from the Scientific department of that institution. In 1894, he graduated from the Rush Medical College, Chicago, and has since been engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery at Fonda. During his first year he was associated with Dr. M. F. Patterson and then became his successor. He is a good representative of well trained home talent, has already successfully performed several difficult surgical operations and is rapidly growing in favor as a skilful physician. He is the owner of a farm of eighty acres on Sec. 24, Cedar township, and in 1896 built a fine residence in Fonda. On Sept. 15, 1896, he married Lillian Higgs, of Storm Lake, and has two children, Homer Higgs and Wayne.

Wood Alpheus Bowan Putnam (b. June 20, 1824, d. Fonda Oct. 8, '87), was a native of Batavia, N. Y. His father died when he was a child, leaving a family of three sons of whom he was the oldest. One of his brothers in his

boyhood left home and no trace of him was afterward discovered. The other one enlisted in the civil war and held the position of captain at the time he was killed on the field at Yorktown.

Alpheus worked for his board and clothing among the farmers of the neighborhood until he was able to command wages, and then entered a factory in Massachusetts. The next year he went to Michigan, found employment in a store and remained three years. He enjoyed the advantages of the public school only for a few months, but became well informed by reading the best books and papers his opportunities afforded. At twenty-one he found his way into a law office at Toulon, Ill., and two years later he was admitted to the bar. In 1849, in company with a number of others, he went by the pony express to California and, after a few months, passed to Oregon, where he located a claim several miles distant from any neighbor. When others arrived they founded a town which he named "Dallas," and it became the county seat of Polk county. Here he began the practice of law and by appointment filled the honorable positions of clerk of the senate, and judge of the probate court in that district of the territory of Oregon.

Returning to New York by way of the isthmus of Panama, on April 13, 1854, he married Cordelia Kysor, of Danville, and later that year moved to a farm in La Fayette county, Wis. In 1863, on account of a return of ill health, he moved with a family of seven children to Darlington, Wis., where he resumed the practice of law. He was mayor of this city several of the fourteen years of his residence in it. Becoming again affected with sciatic rheumatism, in March 1878, he located on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 28, Cedar township, Pocahontas county, Iowa, and resumed work on the farm. Later he opened an office in Fond

and resumed the practice of law.

When the independent district of Fonda was organized March 9, 1880, he was chosen one of the three members of the first school board and continued to serve in that capacity until the time of his decease, Oct. 8, 1887, a period of seven years. He was an ardent friend of the cause of education, and took a leading part in promoting the interests of the Fonda schools. The erection of the first brick school building and the high standard of excellence attained at the same time in the work of the schools were in a great measure due to his interest and influence.

He was chosen a trustee and treasurer of the Fonda Presbyterian church at the time of its organization in 1886, and rendered efficient service until the time of his death which occurred the day before the building was dedicated.

He looked upon the legal profession as one of the most noble that can occupy the attention of man, and endeavored to adorn it by a true and noble life. He was animated with an absorbing desire to be useful rather than to accumulate wealth, and always advised an amicable adjustment of difficulties as preferable to the uncertainties of a lawsuit.

His family consisted of seven children, of whom Engenia, the firstborn, died in childhood at Fayette.

1—Adele, a graduate of the Darlington high school and a music teacher, on Oct. 5, 1876, married William J. Curkeet, (b. July 6, 1846) who engaged in farming near Darlington two years and then in March, 1878, with one daughter, Rena, came to Pocahontas county and located on a farm of 240 acres on Sec. 27, Grant township. He was a native of Galena, Ill., attended the Normal school at Plattville, Wis., Wheaton college, Ill., read law at Darlington, Wis. and was admitted to the bar in 1875. In 1880, he fell

from a small building and soon afterward became affected with paralysis in his limbs. After four years of intense suffering he died at Fonda Jan. 12, 1884. He served as a justice of the peace in Grant township two years, 1878-80. His wife and daughter continued to reside at Fonda until 1895, when with her mother, Mrs. A. B. P. Wood, they moved to Cedar Falls, where Rena completed a four years' course in the Iowa State Normal in 1898, graduated from its musical department in March 1900, and is now taking a two years' course in the Musical Observatory at Oberlin, Ohio.

2—Lois Ann, a graduate of the Darlington high school and the first principal in the independent district of Fonda, 1880 and '83; married Alexander F. Hubbell, (See Hubbell).

3—Adelbert Sylvanus Wood, (b. Aug. 25, 1858,) cashier of the Pocahontas County Bank, Fonda, since 1886, is a graduate of Darlington High School, learned telegraphy at Fonda, was operator at Parkersburg, Iowa, one year, 1881, agent of the I. C. R. R. at Fonda from June 15, 1882, to Sept. 15, 1884, then became bookkeeper in the Pocahontas County Bank and two years later its cashier. In 1896 he built one of the finest houses in Fonda and is the owner of 600 acres of land in Pocahontas county. He was the recorder of Fonda seven years, 1886-92, and treasurer of the school funds nine years, 1887-95. On Sept. 2, 1884, he married Mary Josephine, daughter of William and Abigail Alexander, and his family consists of four children, Arthur Bowan, Lucian, Percy Eugene and Delphine; Clark, the first-born, having died in childhood.

4—Cora Estelle married Dr. M. F. Patterson. (See page 434).

5—Affa died in 1881 at the age of nineteen, during a visit to Darlington with her sister Lois.

6—Abram Grosvenor Wood, (b. 1862) after spending one year at school in Valparaiso, Ind., graduated from the

law department of the State University, Iowa City, in June, 1886, and that same year commenced the practice of law in Fonda with his father. He was secretary of the Fonda school board three years, 1888-90, and mayor of the city two years, 1893-94. He spent most of the years '91-92 in a tour through Wyoming, California and other sections of the Pacific slope. In 1886 he married Emma Augusta Hull, and she died Sept. 30, 1888. In May, 1894, he married Jessie Roberts, two years later moved to his farm of 240 acres on Sec. 33, Sherman township, and has a family of three children, Abram, Cordelia and Margaret.

When A. B. P. Wood came to Fonda he purchased 2500 acres of land in Cedar, Sherman and Grant townships and all of it is still owned by different members of his family, except the farm on which he lived near Fonda.

Wood George Washington, (b. Oct. 25, 1825) resident of Cedar township from 1869 to 1892, was a native of Warren county, N. Y. One of his uncles was a sea captain, and at fifteen he became a sailor, first on Lake Champlain and later on a three-masted vessel on the Atlantic ocean. During the civil war he belonged to the construction corps of the Army of the Tennessee, and passed through the states of Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama. He continued a sailor until the year 1868, a period of twenty-five years. On May 3, 1869, he located on a homestead of 80 acres on the S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 36, Cedar township, this county, which he improved and occupied for a number of years. He then moved to Fonda, and in 1892 to Marathon.

He first married Sarah Reach, who died in Cedar township Dec. 24, 1879, leaving one daughter, who married Nelson E. Bailey and now lives at Marathon. Later Mr. Wood married Mary Lovewell, and she died at Fonda Jan. 16, 1890.

Wood John Martin, (b. Apr. 3, 1822, d. Cedar township, Jan. 13, 1900) was a native of Warren county, N. Y., where in July 1854, he married Sarah T. Tubbs. March 27, 1870, they located on a homestead, the E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 36, Cedar township, where he erected first a sod house that was afterward replaced by an underground stone house in which he spent the remainder of his days. He raised a family of ten children: Alice married Joseph Gaton and lives in Monona county; Mary Maria married Julian Adams, Fonda; George W. and Charles C.; Wilson married Mary Jenkins and lives in Williams township; Lydia married Gus Eikhoff, Fonda; John Elmer and Ezra Eugene; William married Emma Holyer, Fonda; and Oller F.

Woodin David Milo, (b. Nov. 13, 1837) resident of Fonda since 1892, in May, 1870, located a homestead of 80 acres on the N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 24, Dover township and was the first to enter a homestead in that township. He is a native of Erie county, N. Y., the son of Amos and Harriet (Cobb) Woodin. At the age of eighteen he moved to Indiana, where he found employment as a stage-driver.

Soon after the first battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861, he went to the army, became a teamster in the quartermaster's department of the Army of the Potomac, under McClellan, and so continued until the spring of 1863, when he located at Brodhead, Green county, Wis. On Jan. 4, 1864, he enlisted as a member of Co. K, 1st Wis. cavalry. After his enlistment he belonged to the Army of the Cumberland and was constantly engaged in scouting and skirmishing in the states of Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia until the close of the war. He was honorably discharged at Prairie du Chien, Wis., May 26, 1865, having spent as a teamster and soldier about four years in the army.

After the war he spent two years in

the gold mining district in Montana. Returning to Wisconsin, on Sept. 12, 1868, he married Laura Mickelson, a native of Norway, and located on a farm. In May, 1870, he came to Pocahontas county, Iowa, in a prairie schooner, located a homestead and made the entry of it in Sioux City. On Sept. 12th, following, having completed his harvesting and threshing in Wisconsin, he started again in the same way with his household goods and few farming implements to occupy the homestead. He was accompanied by his wife until they arrived at Webster City, where she remained that winter, and by her brother Newton, who assisted in breaking the first land on his homestead, which was the third plot of ground plowed in Dover township.

The ensuing winter was spent in an unoccupied cabin north of Webster City, and on May 12, 1871, Mr. and Mrs. Woodin began to reside in the first sod shanty in Dover township. During the period of haying and harvesting that year he returned to the vicinity of the cabin, sixty miles east, for the purpose of obtaining some lucrative employment. During this period of six weeks' absence Mrs. Woodin remained on the homestead alone to take care of the stock, and many a night did she sleep in the open wagon to which the horses and cow were tied. One of the pigs would be tied to a plow near by to prevent them from wandering away. Frequently the little prairie wolves, whose haunts were along the creek, in packs of twenty or more would surround the premises, break the stillness of the night by their mournful howl for a chicken, and have to be driven away. He improved this homestead, added eighty acres to it and occupied it until Feb., 1892, when he built a house in Fonda and moved to town.

He has been an industrious, hard-

working man, whose perseverance has enabled him to overcome difficulties that proved insurmountable to many others. He did not spend his time hunting in the early days, but has stacked his own hay at night after helping his neighbors during the day. During the first two winters he drew his coal from Fort Dodge and for several years afterward twisted hay and used it for fuel, as did also some of his neighbors. His noble wife has been a faithful helper to him. In the early days she used to enjoy catching prairie chickens by setting a number of steel traps around the patch of corn and sprinkling a few grains around them. A dozen chickens were occasionally caught in this way in a single day. Two badgers were also caught. The portraits of both Mr. and Mrs. Woodin may be seen in this volume.

Wright Rensselaer, (b. Nov. 18, 1850) resident of Fonda and vicinity since 1882, is a native of Lockport, Ill., the son of Rev. Robert Wright, (b. Saratoga Springs, N. Y., 1812, d. York Neb., 1891) and Mary Granger (b. Yorkshire, England, 1811, d. Fonda, Iowa, 1899) who were married in 1835 at Pultneyville, N. Y. On Nov. 18, 1874 he married Luella E. Bonett and located at West Brooklyn, Ill., where he found employment as a railway agent until 1877, when he was assigned the station at Wedron, Ill., where he remained five years. In the spring of 1882 he bought and moved to the E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 20, Cedar township, and when the Wabash (now the C. M. & St. P.) R. R. was completed to Fonda he opened the station in a box-car Dec. 18, following, and continued as its first agent until March, 1884. In 1887 he purchased the furniture stock of George Fairburn, and moved to Fonda, where he is still engaged in the furniture business, in the management of which his wife has always taken a personal interest. At Fonda he was operator for the I. C. R. R.

from May, 1889, to August, 1892, and for the C. M. & St. P. R. R. since Oct. 1, 1899. He was justice of the peace of Cedar township six years, 1887-90, '97-98, and secretary of the Big Four Fair association three years, 1897-99.

His family consists of one son, (another having died in infancy) Lewellyn R., (b. West Brooklyn, Ill., Mar. 22, 1876) a Fonda graduate in 1894. He acquired a knowledge of watchmaking and optics at Elgin, Ill., and has been the popular jeweler and optician at Fonda since 1897. On June 20, 1900, he married Mabel, only daughter of J. R. and Lucy Johnson.

FIRST DEATH.

John Klow, who was accidentally drowned while endeavoring to cross Cedar creek, at the fording north of the Catholic church, Fonda, during the great flood in August, 1869, is believed to have been the first white person who died in Cedar township. He was about twenty years of age and had accompanied George Sanborn from Jefferson, Wis., that spring, assisting to drive the stock on the way. He found employment as a day laborer in the western part of the township and coming on foot to the Cedar found it bank-full from heavy rains that had fallen in the north part of the county. Having no other means of crossing the flooded stream he asked leave to hold to the tail of a horse belonging to a man who crossed it horseback, and when they were about the middle of the stream he lost his hold, possibly from cramp, and was drowned. His body was recovered soon afterward and buried on the east bank of the creek on the homestead of Abigail J. Howell, on SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 28, now owned by Harvey Eaton.

FIRST WEDDING.

The first wedding in Cedar town-

ship occurred in January 1871. The contracting parties were William Richards, whose homestead was on the W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 32, and a lady who resided in Buena Vista county, about six miles northwest; and the justice was George Sanborn, who went out from Fonda on horseback to perform the ceremony. When he arrived at the home of the bride, where she and her friends were awaiting the ceremony, he found the license was for Pocahontas county, and they were more than a mile west of the county line. At his suggestion they and their friends got into their sleds and drove eastward until they arrived at a large haystack that stood on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 6, Cedar township, where they found a slight refuge from the wintry wind. There on the snow covered prairie and in the open air of mid-winter the ceremony was performed while the bridal pair stood together on the sled.

This incident reminds one of the Squire who united "for better or for worse" two persons with this unique ceremony:

"Jim will you take Bet,
Without any regret,
To love and to cherish,
'Till one of you perish
And is laid under the sod,
So help you God?"

After the usual affirmative answer, he proceeded:

"Bet will you take Jim,
And cling to him,
Both out and in,
Through thick and thin,
Holding him to your heart,
'Till death do you part?"

When her assent had been modestly given, he added:

"Through life's alternate joy and
strife,
I now pronounce you man and wife;
Let none other you asunder part.
For better or for worse, now de-
part."

OLDEST PERSON.

Jeremiah Herrington, Fonda, born in Ireland March 9, 1808 and now in his 93d year, is the oldest inhabitant in Cedar township.

PUBLIC OFFICERS.

Public officers have been elected from Cedar township as follows: representative, James Mercer, 1890-91; auditors, A. O. Garlock, '74-81, T. F. McCartan, '86-92; treasurers, J. N.

McClellan, '87-92, Guy S. Robinson, 1900-; recorder, R. D. Bollard, '91-98; sheriffs, T. J. Curtis, '72-73, Joseph Mallison, '80-81; superintendents, G. W. Hathaway, '72-73, J. P. Robinson, '82-85, A. W. Davis, '98-99; surveyor, Wm. Marshall, '73-83. Members of the Board of Supervisors, John A. Hay, '71-72; Bernard McCartan, '74-76; Harvey W. Hay, '77-79; Wm. Bott, '80-82, '86-88; James Mercer, '83-85.

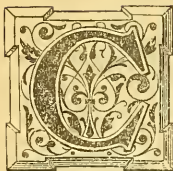
XIV.

CENTER TOWNSHIP.

Almighty wisdom made the land
 Subject to man's disturbing hand,
 And left all for him to fill
 With works of his ambitious will.
 As ages slip away earth shows
 How need by satisfaction grows.
 And more and more its patient face
 Mirrors the driving human race.

—E. S. MARTIN.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.



CENTER township is a gently undulating prairie drained by the north branch of Lizard creek, which flows through it in a southeasterly direction. The soil is excellent, and the name of the township is derived from its central position in the county.

Its history begins with November 4, 1870, when Warrick Price employed Fred Hess, of Fort Dodge, to make a

survey and plat of Pocahontas, on section 31, of which an account has already been given.*

Warrick Price was a banker, residing at Cleveland, Ohio, who had purchased from the Roger Locomotive Co., of New Jersey, a large amount of land in the south part of that township, which that company had received in payment for engines and other rolling stock furnished the Du- buque & Pacific R. R. Co. By reason

*See page 280.



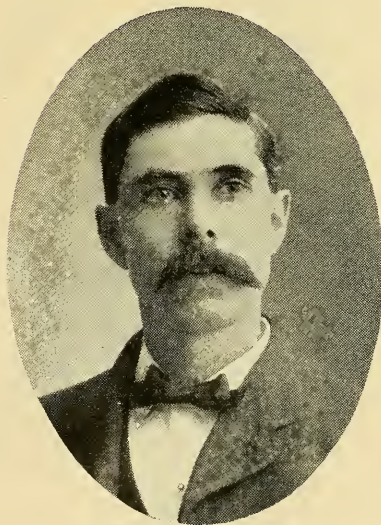
GEORGE A. HEALD,
COUNTY ATTORNEY, 1903-4.



DR. O. H. BARTHEL.



GUY S. ROBINSON,
COUNTY TREASURER, 1900-05.



ULYSES S. VANCE,
COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT, 1900-05.

POCAHONTAS.



POCAHONTAS AND VICINITY.

of its location in the center of the county, he named the plat of the new village, "Pocahontas Center," and, indulging the hope it would become the location of the county seat, he donated to the county, in addition to its streets and avenues, a large square in the center of the plat for a public park and court house. This square contains five and one-half acres and is only a half mile from the geographical center of the county.

There was not a resident, tree or sign of any improvement in the township at the time this was done. The lines of settlement previous to this date had been northwestward along the Des Moines river in the east part of the county, and westward along the I. C. R. R. in the south part of it.

Warrick Price then employed Hess (Fred) & Behring, real estate agents at Fort Dodge, to look after and dispose of his lands in this county, and they, in the fall of 1871, erecting a small office with two rooms, south of the court house square, sent to Pocahontas two young men whose names were Mare and Barian, to act as their local agents and show the lands to prospective purchasers. These men remained only until March, 1872, when as local land agents, they were succeeded by Wenzel Hubel, of Fort Dodge, who purchased the office and ten acres of ground as a home for himself, wife and four children—William, Mary, Annie and Cedora—and to him and his family has been accorded the honor of being the first permanent residents of Pocahontas. At the time of his arrival, B. F. Brown, wife and six children were occupying a building that stood south of the site of the stone bank. He owned no real estate, was engaged in hunting and trapping, entertained travelers, especially those passing on the old stage route from Fort Dodge to Sioux Rapids, and soon moved away. This hotel building, 16x36, one and a half stories

in height, lined and sheathed with flooring, had been erected by a land company in the fall of 1870 and was first occupied by Albert Davy, who had a family of six children. After one and a half years he moved to Old Rolfe and three years later to Dakota.

In May, 1871, William A. Hubel became a temporary resident of Center township and engaged in breaking. At this date there was only one other building in Pocahontas besides the hotel and it was a blacksmith shop that stood on the site of the Garlock and McEwen home. It was in charge of a Swede, who remained only that year. In the spring of 1871, N. Kiefer, of Pomeroy, built a small store-room north of the blacksmith shop and during that year, it was managed by his daughter Mary, but the store was then discontinued and the building removed. The fourth building erected was the real estate office occupied by Wenzel Hubel, which in the fall of 1872 was enlarged and he was appointed the first postmaster in the new village. William A. Hubel, his son, carried the mail on horseback once a week from Pomeroy.

Bonifacio Erne, who located on section 17, early in the spring of 1871, was the first farmer and did the first breaking in the township. He was a German, had a wife, commenced in a sod shanty and remained on the farm about five years, when he moved to Pocahontas and the next year to a homestead in Grant township.

In 1872 three other farmers located in the township, namely, Frank Langer, on section 19, later a resident of Dover, but now of Pocahontas; Joseph Stoullil, on section 21, but now on 19, and Joseph Stverak, on section 21, now in Dakota.

In 1873, among the additional families in the township were those of Frank Hronek' Sr., on the E½ Sec. 19; D. Berryman, on section 2; James Eral,

on section 27, and Fred Mott, who moved to Boone in 1880.

In Pocahontas Thomas J. Bilsky erected a building on the east side of the street and established a grocery. Benjamin Brown also located there. He was a great hunter, worked at carpentry occasionally and after two years moved to Estherville. Joseph Machovec also erected a building in Pocahontas and occupied it that year. The next year it was used for the first public school established there, under Miss Hattie Barnes, of Powhatan, who continued to teach for several terms, the first schoolhouse having been built by William A. Hubel in the fall of 1874.

In 1874, Joseph Nemick built the Center (later called the Bissell) House and during the next ten years kept the first regular hotel in Pocahontas. John Bartak established a harness shop, Michael Bartosh located on section 29, and John Eral on section 23.

In 1875, a number of Bohemian families from Winnishiek county located in the township, among whom were those of Albert and Joseph Lukes, M. and T. Shimon, (on section 36) and Joseph Sobereik. David (Deiderick) Brinkman located on section 24.

In 1876 the court house was built at Pocahontas and the county officials, consisting of W. D. McEwen, A. O. Garlock, J. W. Wallace and others, located there; the first two building a large double house. Louis Brodsky engaged in the mercantile business as the successor of T. J. Bilsky, and F. J. Payer located on section 28.

In 1877 a number of Bohemian families from Chicago located in the township, among whom were those of Albert Jelenek, Charles Nemeck, (no relative of Joseph) John Dives, Ignac Votlucka and Frank Sernett. Peter Murphy located on section 7.

In 1878, another lot of Bohemian families came from Chicago, among whom were those of Joseph Sinek, on

section 28; John Veterna and Joseph Marketan; and from Bohemia, Frank and Wenzel Vodreska. After this the settlement of the township progressed quite rapidly, the Bohemians constituting a large proportion of the population and establishing Catholic services at Pocahontas in the spring of 1875. Whilst the settlement of the township was retarded by the ravages of the grasshoppers in 1873-74 and 1876-77, and its great distance from market over roads that had no bridges, it was encouraged by Warrick Price, who donated to every purchaser of 160 acres from him one lot in Pocahontas, and of 320 acres, two lots. He also donated ample grounds for a school house site, a cemetery and the Catholic church. The increase in population and rise in the price of land were greatest during the period from 1885 to 1893.

ORGANIZATION AND OFFICERS.

Center township was included in Des Moines until the date of its establishment by the board of supervisors, September 8, 1874. The first officers were elected on October 13, 1874, and were as follows: Joseph Stoullil, Joseph Stverak and Frank Hronek, trustees; Joseph Stverak, clerk; Joseph Nemick, justice of the peace, and George Mott, assessor, who entered upon their duties Jan. 1, 1875. The judges at this first election were Frank Langer, Joseph Nemick and Joseph Stverak, and the clerks were Wenzel Hubel and Fred Mott.

The succession of officers has been as follows:

TRUSTEES: Joseph Stoullil, 1875-76, '79; Joseph Stverak, 1875-79; Frank Hronek, 1875-76; David Brinkman, '77-78; George Mott, '77-78, '80; John Viterna, '79; John Eral, '80-83; Vit Payer, '80; John Divish, Frank Langer, '81; J. S. Smith, '81; O. C. Christopherson, Thomas Shimon, '82; Anthony Sectlachka, '82; Charles T. Stein, '83-84; Henry Schrader, '83-84, '95; John Hrc-

nek, '84-92; Geo. F. Spence, '85-89; Samuel Powell, '85-91; Charles L. Gunderson, '80-92 and '95-97; James Stoullil '92-94; T. E. Ferguson, '93-94; John Eral, '93-94; James W. Eral, '95-1900; W. C. Walkenhaur, '86-98; Martin Paduska, '98-1900; Richard Grant, '99-1900.

CLERKS: Joseph Stverak, '75; Fred Mott, '76-77; Frank E. Hronek, '78; Albert Shimon, '79-82; Peter Murphy, '83-85; Frank J. Payer, '85-88; Anthony Hronek, '89-91; James Lehane, '92-94; Joseph Wolf, '95-98; F. M. Starr, '99-1900.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE: Joseph Nemick, '75-79; J. E. Pattee, '80; Michael Crahan, '81; W. G. Bradley, '82; E. M. Hastings, '83; G. B. Gunderson, '84; C. L. Stein, '85-87; George F. Spence, '88; C. L. Gunderson, '89-90, '92-93; O. P. Phillips and J. W. Wallace, '91; W. D. Pattee, '94-98; W. H. Bissell, '87-90; A. L. Schultz, '98-1900.

ASSESSORS: George Mott, '75-76; N. L. Brown, '77; Fred Brown, '78; Wm. A. Hubel, '79-80; O. C. Christopherson, '81; Theo. Stein, '82; O. A. Pease, D. Brinkman, H. W. Bissell, '85-89; D. B. Dady, H. C. Burkhalter, '92-93; Joseph Sinek, '94-1900.

SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS.

The first public school in Center township was taught in Pocahontas in 1873, by Hattie Barnes, who later became the wife of Edward Snell and died at their home in Crawford county, in 1884. The first school house was also built in Pocahontas in the fall of 1874. In March, 1875, the township first elected its own school board, and Joseph Nemick, contractor, built a small temporary school building on the farm of Albert Shimon on section 36, and the two teachers employed that year were Katy and Amy Condon. In 1876 a third building was built by Wm. A. Hubel on section 32 and the first teacher in it was Anna Hubel. In 1879 the first school house in the Brinkman district was built on

the NE Cor. Sec. 23, and about the same time a permanent building was built in district No. 8. In 1887 the school house in district No. 2 was built by W. A. Hubel, and in 1888 the one in district No. 4 by Joseph Mikesh.

On March 17, 1884, the board arranged with N. Stelplflug, for \$15.00, to plant 500 forest trees on the various school grounds. In 1888, a uniform series of text-books (Appleton's) was adopted for a period of three years.

Other teachers who taught previous to 1883, were Annie and Katie Crilly, Anna O'Niel, Mary E. Kelley, Mattie E. Waite, G. B. Gunderson, Anna Anderson, Ida Garlock, Jessie Mallison, Lizzie O'Brien, Mary Dady, Anna C. Kruchten, Julia Lamb, Bridget McDermott, Jennie Fitzgerald, Eliza J. Brown, Emma Lowrey, Florence Hastings and Miss McLarney.

SCHOOL OFFICERS.

At the first election of school directors for Center township held March 1, 1875, Frank Langer served as chairman and Fred Mott as secretary. Frank Langer, Frank Hronek, Sr., and Wenzel Hubel each received four votes and were declared directors of the school district of Center township. One week later Joseph Nemick was elected a director in place of Frank Hronek, who declined to serve, and he was then chosen president of the board, Fred Mott, secretary, and Jos. Stoullil, treasurer. The succession of officers has been as follows:

PRESIDENTS OF THE BOARD: Joseph Nemick, 1875, '79; David Brinkman, '76-77; Geo. Mott, '78; J. W. Wallace, '80-81, '83; A. O. Garlock, '82; J. F. Harlan, '84; C. H. Tollefsrude, '85-87; Geo. F. Spence, W. C. Ralston, O. A. Pease, '90-'91; Frank E. Hronek, '92-'95; James Lehane, R. C. Grant '97; Anthony Hronek, 1900.

The board in 1900 consisted of seven members representing the districts as follows: 2—Ira Coburn; 3—A. W.

Freeman; 4—W. C. Walkenhaur; 5—Port C. Barron, '97; Frank E. Hronek, John Hronek; 6—R. C. Grant; 7—C. L. '98-1900.
Gunderson; 8—Anthony Hronek.

SECRETARIES: Fred Mott, 1875-76; Wm. A. Hubel, '87-81; W. C. Ralston, '82-84; Frank E. Hronek, '85-87; J. W. Wallace, '88-97; James Lehane, C. L. Gunderson, R. C. Grant.

TREASURERS: Joseph Stoullil, '75-76; Fred Mott, '77-78; Albert Shimon, '79-80; E. M. Hastings, '81, '85; C. M. Hunt, '82-84; C. F. Stein, '86; Samuel Powell, '87-90; John Stegge, '91-92; T. McCartan, '93-96; James Eral, '97-1900.

POCAHONTAS.

"Thirty years ago, Pocahontas,
You were fair—yes, very fair;
There were no furrows on your brow,
No silver in your hair;
The blush of early womanhood
Was on your verdant cheek,
The wild flowers on your bosom
Exhaled their fragrance sweet."*

Pocahontas was platted in 1870, was chosen as the county seat Oct. 12, 1875, and became the county seat by the erection of the court house and removal of the public records from Old Rolfe, Oct. 1, 1876. On March 23, 1892, in response to a petition presented, the Judge of the district court appointed B. J. Allen, W. C. Ralston, L. C. Thornton, O. A. Pease and Port C. Barron commissioners to hold an election May 13, 1892, on the question of incorporation. At this election forty-seven votes were cast, all of them in favor of incorporating the town. On June 13, 1892, the first officers of the town were elected and as follows: W. C. Ralston, mayor; Port C. Barron, recorder; R. D. Bollard and B. J. Allen, (1 year), L. C. Thornton and T. F. McCartan, (2 years), H. W. Bissell and Frank E. Hronek (3 years), councilmen; and they appointed Geo. A. Heald, treasurer. The succession of officers has been as follows:

MAYORS: W. C. Ralston, 1892-93; H. W. Bissell, Geo. A. Heald, '95-96;

*Iowa State Register: a paraphrase of the first stanza of the poem, "Thirty Years My State"

RECORDERS: Port C. Barron '92-94; J. E. Pattee, '95-97; E. E. Burkhalter, '98-99; C. F. Pattee, 1900.

TREASURERS: Geo. A. Heald, '92; C. M. Hunt, '93-97; J. B. Kreul, '98-99; A. D. Shupe, 1900.

COUNCILMEN: H. W. Bissell, '92-93, '97-1090; F. E. Hronek, '92-94; L. C. Thornton, '92-1900; T. F. McCartan, '92-96; R. D. Bollard, '92-94; B. J. Allen, N. Stelpflug, '92-95; W. C. Ralston, '94-97; C. A. Charlton, '95-97; O. H. Barthel, '95; W. H. Joner, '96-97; B. W. Cheney, '96; Joseph Simpson, '96-98; T. F. McCartan, '98-1900; C. F. Pattee, '98-1900; F. Chalstrom, '98; O. H. Barthel, '98-1900; S. Steinhilber, '98-1900; H. J. Murray, '99-1900; L. C. Thornton, '99-1900; N. Stelpflug, 1900.

In the spring of 1897, owing to an irregularity in filing the nomination papers, the annual election of officers was not held and the vacancies were filled by persons appointed by the town council.

Doubts having arisen as to the legality of the incorporation of the town of Pocahontas, the election of its officers, acts done and ordinances passed by the council, on May 14, 1897, an act of the General Assembly of Iowa was approved, that legalized and declared valid and binding all of said acts and ordinances, as though they had been done in accordance with the law.

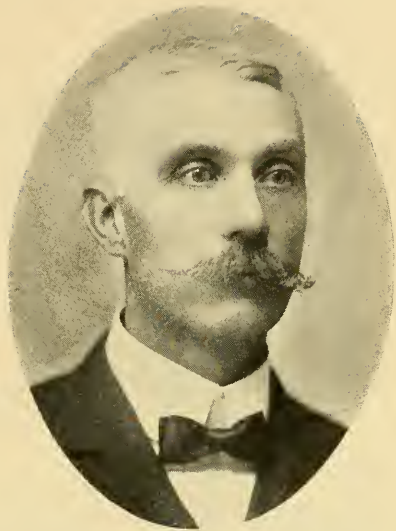
POCAHONTAS INDEPENDENT DISTRICT.

The electors of the independent school district of Pocahontas met first May 4, 1896, for the purpose of electing a board of education to consist of three members. At this meeting J. E. Pattee was chosen to preside, and J. W. Wallace to act as secretary. As a result of this election, at which sixty ballots were cast, W. C. Ralston, F. E. Hronek and Port C. Barron were elected directors, the first one receiving the ballot of every voter.

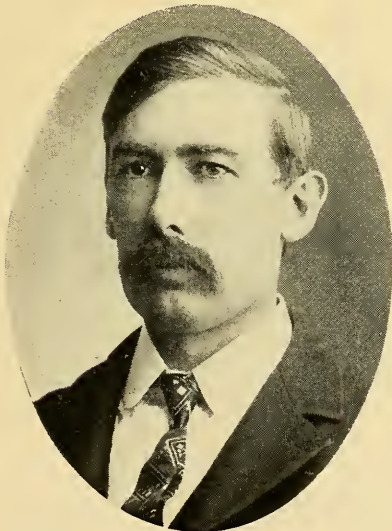
On May 30, 1896, the board met and



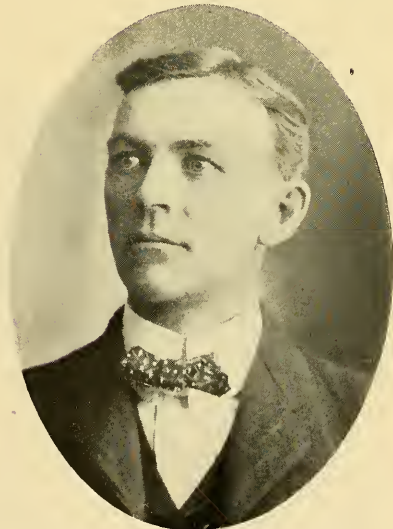
JOSEPH H. ALLEN,
BANKER.



WILL. D. McEWEN,
BANKER.

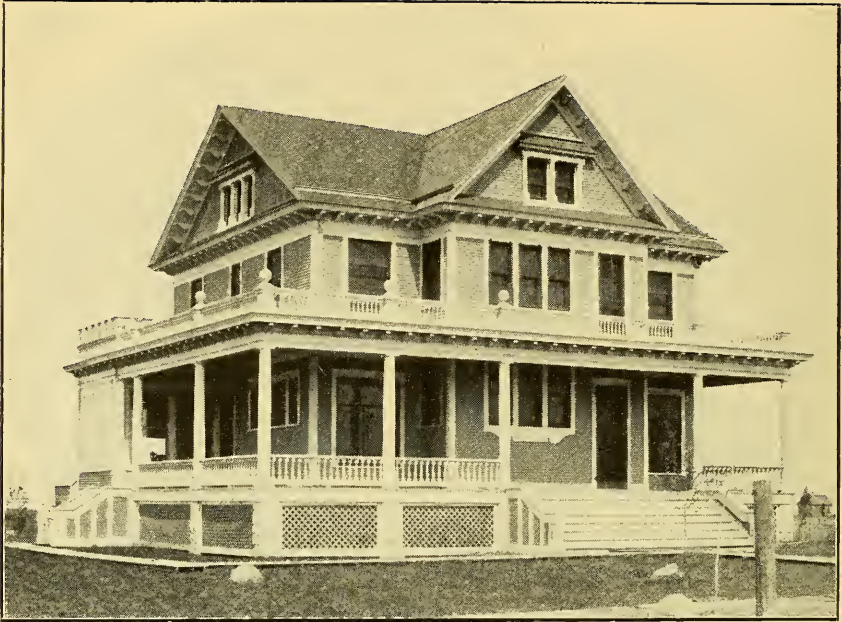


W. S. CLARK,
EDITOR, POCAHONTAS DEMOCRAT.



D. O. BLAKE,
EDITOR, POCAHONTAS RECORD.

POCAHONTAS.



RESIDENCE OF JOSEPH H. ALLEN, POCAHONTAS.



RESIDENCE OF WILL. D. McEWEN, POCAHONTAS.

organized by the election of W. C. Ralston, president, and J. W. Wallace, secretary. On Nov. 17, 1896, Geo. A. Heald was appointed treasurer, and on Feb. 15, 1897, \$1089.94 were acknowledged as received from Center township on final settlement.

On March 8, 1897, by a vote of 32 to 21, it was decided the board of education should furnish free text-books for use in the schools. The school year was increased to nine months and the wages of the three teachers employed was fixed at \$45.00, \$35.00 and \$35.00, respectively. In 1898 the board was increased to five members. The succession of the school officers has been as follows:

PRESIDENTS: W. C. Ralston, 1896-97; J. W. Wallace, '98; R. D. Bollard, 99-00. Others who have served as members of the board were F. E. Hronek '96-97; P. C. Barron, '96; C. F. Pattee '97-1900; H. R. Shupe, '98-1900. F. H. Plumb, '99-1900. W. C. Ralston has continued a member since its organization.

SECRETARIES: J. W. Wallace, '96-'97; J. E. Pattee, A. L. Schultz, '99-.

TREASURER: Geo. A. Heald, since the date of its organization in 1896.

The second school was established in Pocahontas in 1891 and the third one in 1896. The succession of principals since 1891 has been Kittie Coutant, '91-92; Minnie Curtis, '93-94; Wm. R. T. Merwine, '95-96; Walter B. Munson, '97-1900. Some of those who were assistant teachers during this period were Norma L. and Grace Gilchrist, Maggie Hogan, Effie and May Mercer.

POSTMASTERS.

The succession of postmasters at Pocahontas has been, Wenzel Hubel, Oct. 1, 1872-Oct. 1, '77; A. O. Garlock, '77-81; O. A. Pease, '81-86; J. F. Harlan, March 1, '86-87; Frank E. Hronek, Sept. '87-Nov. '95; George Steinhilber, Nov. 1, '95-Aug. 1, '97; Port C. Barron, Aug. 1, '97, until his death, July, 9, 1900; Mrs. Mary E. Barron, July 9, 1900-

POCAHONTAS IN 1900.

COUNTY OFFICERS: Auditor I. C. Thatcher; Clerk of Court, F. H. Plumb; Treasurer, Guy S. Robinson; Recorder, Leonard E. Hanson; Sheriff, Wm. L. Mitchell; County Attorney, Wm. Hazlett; Superintendent, U. S. Vance; Surveyor, H. W. Bissell; Coroner, Dr. T. J. Dower; Supervisors, Terry Doyle, chairman; Claus Johnson, A. H. Rich-ey, M. A. Hogan, Charles Elsen.

TOWN OFFICERS: Mayor, Frank E. Hronek; Recorder, C. F. Pattee; Treasurer, A. D. Shupe; Councilmen, O. H. Barthel, M. D., T. F. McCartan, L. C. Thornton, H. J. Murray, S. F. Steinhilber, N. Stelpflug.

SCHOOL BOARD: R. D. Bollard, Pres.; A. L. Schultz, Sec.; Fritz Lindeman, Treas.; F. H. Plumb, C. F. Pattee, H. R. Shupe, W. C. Ralston, directors; W. B. Munson, principal.

ABSTRACTERS: L. C. Thornton & Co. since 1885; W. C. Ralston, since 1886; Hazlett (Wm.) & (O. P.) Malcolm, Foster & Graves.

ATTORNEYS: W. C. Ralston, '81-83, '86-1900; Geo. A. Heald, since '89; Wm. Hazlett, since '92; A. L. Freelove, since '99; T. F. Lynch, since '99; James Bruce, C. D. Atkinson, Foster (B. B.) & (W. A.) Graves.

ARCHITECT AND SUPERINTENDENT: F. B. Wheeler.

AUCTIONEERS: C. M. Fritz, J. E. Pattee.

BANKS: Pocahontas Savings Bank, established and stone building erected in 1883; L. C. Thornton, Pres.; W. C. Ralston, V. P.; W. S. McEwen, cashier; Bank of Pocahontas was established in 1891, J. H. Stegge, Pres.; Geo. A. Heald, V. P.; T. F. McCartan, cashier; Allen Bros. (J. H., C. S. & B. L.) F. W. Lindeman, cashier; City Exchange Bank, W. D. McEwen Jr. and Joseph Simpson, proprietors.

BARBERS: J. W. Dougherty, since 1882; D. Helcher.

BLACKSMITHS: W. H. Joner, since 1880; George Kreul.

CARPENTERS: Ira and Charles Montgomery, Robert Thomas.

CONTRACTORS AND BUILDERS: J. H. Metcalf, E. J. Shank, Fountain Bros., A. Montgomery, W. E. Gardner and Mr. Cummings.

CLOTHING: McGhee & Gilliland.

COAL, FEED & FLOUR: C. F. Pattee.

CIGAR MAKER: M. E. Burkhalter.

DENTIST: E. R. Holsen.

DRAYMEN: Wm. C. Starr, since 1899; C. F. Pattee, B. E. Kreul and W. A. Kiefer.

DRESSMAKERS AND MILLINERS: Mrs. B. Whitney, Lizzie Montgomery.

DRUGGISTS: S. C. Jones, (blind) since 1894; F. E. Freeman, since 1899.

ELEVATORS: Counselman's and Wheeler's, both built in 1900.

FURNITURE DEALERS: McIntire Bros., since 1899; C. P. Leithead & Sons; J. E. Pattee, agent; Wm. J. Leavitt, agent.

GENERAL MERCHANTS: Joseph Simpson, since 1892; Fritz & Fritz, in 1900, successors to Frank E. Hronek; Flaherty & Elliott, H. Townsend & Co.

GRAIN DEALERS: Counselman, Mr. Jones, Mgr.; Wheeler Grain & Coal Co., P. L. Rivard, Mgr.; S. B. Fritz and Byrne Bros.

HARDWAREMEN: Steinhilber Bros. (Geo. H. & Stephen F.) since 1892; Solomon Cundy.

HARNESS DEALERS: J. M. Bentley, Henry Becker.

HOTELS: Bissell House, built by Joseph Nemick in 1874, Thos. Hutchinon, manager, since 1899, successor to H. W. Bissell; The Grand, R. Burns.

IMPLEMENT DEALERS: Steinhilber Bros., F. W. Moore.

INSURANCE AGENTS: Wm. J. Leavitt, H. J. Murray, J. H. Stegge.

JANITORS: B. E. Kreul, of court house; John Dockal, school house.

JEWELERS: Wm. Boyd McClellan, since 1889; F. P. Jensen, since 1890.

LIVERYMEN: Thomas Hutchinson, F. J. & Joseph Southworth, both since 1899.

LUMBER & COAL: H. L. Jenkins Lumber Co., since 1893, C. S. Ferguson, Mgr.; J. & W. C. Shull, since 1899, W. J. Howard, Mgr.

MASONS AND PLASTERERS: J. A. Byerly, Robert Payton, M. Leahy.

MEAT MARKET: Shupe Bros. since 1891.

MUSIC TEACHERS: Mrs. I. C. Thatcher, Mrs. Geo. H. Steinhilber, Miss Joanna Barthel.

NEWSPAPERS: The Pocahontas Record, by Mrs. Mary E. Barron, since July 9, 1900, successor of Port C. Barron, its founder, in April, 1884; The Pocahontas Herald, by A. L. Schultz, its founder, in 1898.

PAINTERS: A. H. Gilbert, Wallace Haven.

PASTORS OF THE CHURCHES: Rev. W. A. Pape, Catholic, since 1895; Rev. C. W. Flint, M. E., since 1899. Churches built by Catholics, Baptists and Christians. Services also held by Presbyterians and Methodist Episcopal.

POSTMASTER: Mrs. Mary E. Barron.

PHYSICIANS: O. H. Barthel, A. H. Thornton, W. A. Hawley.

R. R. AGENT: W. F. Gerhart, of Gowrie & Northwestern.

RACKET STORE: M. McGrath.

REAL ESTATE AGENTS: L. C. Thornton, Foster & Graves, W. J. Leavitt.

RESTAURANT KEEPERS: M. E. Burkhalter, W. A. Haven, Hawley (Wm.) & (Ellis) Rubendall.

SHOEMAKER: John Dockal.

STOCK DEALERS: Fritz & Fritz, Wm. Flaherty.

TELEPHONE SYSTEM: Pocahontas Telephone Company, established by W. Boyd McClellan in 1900, R. D. Bollard, operator.

WAGON MAKERS: W. H. Joner, Geo. Kreul.

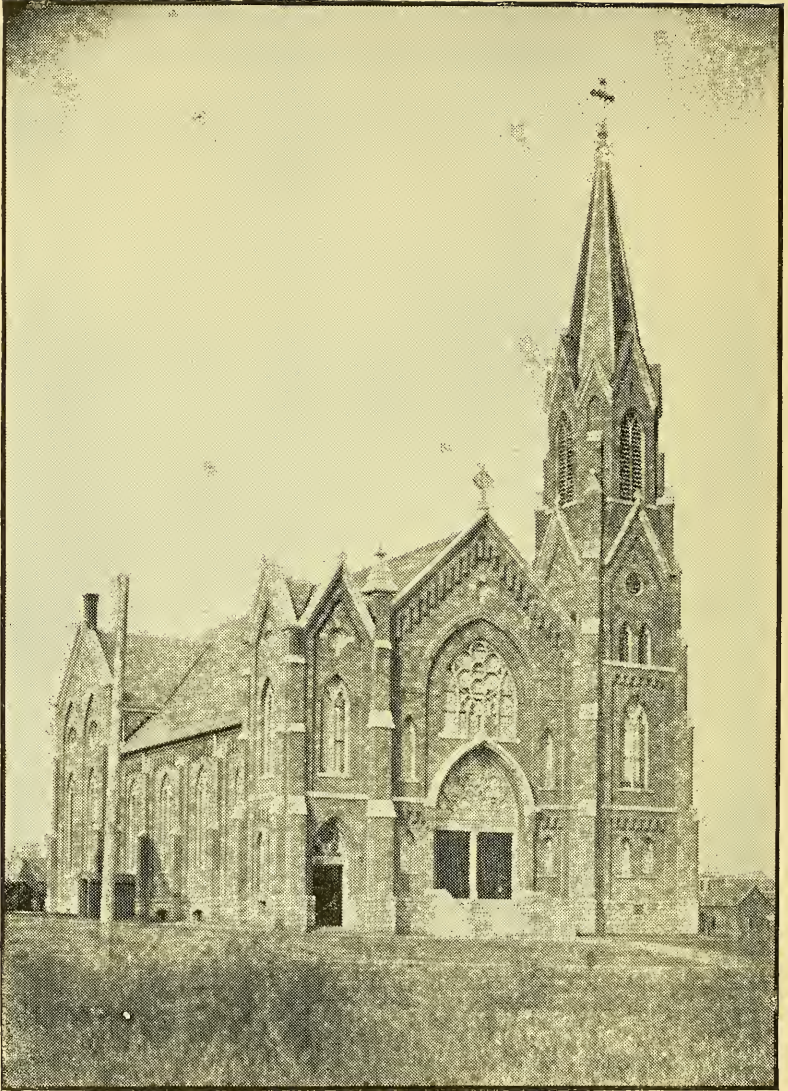
WELL DRILLERS: Joseph Mikesh, John Seogde.

THE CHURCHES.

CATHOLIC—Early in 1875, Rev. T.



REV. W. A. PAPE. CATHOLIC, POCAHONTAS.



CATHOLIC CHURCH, POCAHONTAS, 1902.

M. Lenehan, of Fort Dodge, held the first Catholic service in Center township in the school house at Pocahontas, and maintained an occasional service until 1881, when it became a mission of the Lizard church under Rev. Matthew Norton, who began to hold the services regularly once a month. In 1883 Warrick Price donated three acres of land, one-half mile east of the court house square, for church and cemetery purposes and a church building, 32x40 feet, was built that year.

In 1887 Mr. Norton died and Rev. M. Darcy became his successor. In 1889, Gilmore City became a permanent mission and Pocahontas a part of it under Rev. T. D. Sullivan. In 1890 Pocahontas was served by Rev. D. F. McCaffrey, of Fonda, the church was moved to its present site in Pocahontas and an extension of thirty feet was added to it. In 1891 it became a permanent mission under Rev. J. P. Broz, who, as the first resident pastor, remained until April, 1895, when he was succeeded by Rev. W. A. Pape, the present pastor. During that same year the church was enlarged, remodeled and decorated at an expense of \$1,800. In 1896, a parochial school and convent were erected at a cost of \$3,500. The church and school are both in a very flourishing condition. In May, 1900, block 3 in Fairview addition, containing eighteen lots, was purchased as a future location for both the church and school buildings.

BAPTIST—Baptist services were first held at Pocahontas by Rev. John A. Kees, soon after he became a resident of Center township in the fall of 1885. An organization with twenty-five members was effected Oct. 4, 1888, he became their first pastor and served them until 1893, when he moved to Powhatan township. The first board of trustees consisted of O. A. Pease, J. W. Wallace, Rev. John A.

Kees, Mrs. O. A. Pease and Mrs. C. M. Hunt. O. A. Pease was elected treasurer and Mrs. Mary M. Wallace, clerk. The church was recognized as one of the sisterhood of Baptist churches, in the court house Aug. 14, 1889, and a house of worship, 28x46 feet and costing \$1700 was dedicated June 21, 1891. In 1893, Rev. Geo. W. Braker became and continued pastor for a short time. He was the last resident pastor.

PRESBYTERIAN—Presbyterian services were established at Pocahontas about the year 1894, by Rev. M. T. Rainier, then stationed at Plover. His successors have been, Mr. W. N. Gillis, of Plover, '95-6; Mr. A. W. Bailey, in 1897; Rev. Roderick Corbitt, Rev. Z. W. Steele, in 1899-1900. On Feb. 19, 1897, a church was organized with seventeen members. Frank H. Plumb and I. C. Thatcher were elected elders, and Wm. Hazlett, Mrs. Isabella Ralston, Mrs. Clara B. Malcolm, F. H. Plumb and Mrs. I. C. Thatcher, trustees. The Sunday school was organized Feb. 21, 1897, with Frank H. Plumb, superintendent; Mrs. W. C. Ralston, assistant and Ella Bollard, secretary. The Endeavor Society was organized April 13, 1897. The services held for some time in the Baptist church are now held in the court house.

CHRISTIAN—The Christian church at Pocahontas was organized about the year 1896, and a church building was erected in 1897, during the ministry of J. W. McDonald. The present pastor is Rev. E. S. Grove, of Plover.

METHODIST—The services that led to the organization of the M. E. church at Pocahontas were first conducted by C. B. Lawrence, M. D., from February, 1897, to March, 1898. Among the original members were C. D. Hobbs, W. B. Munson and Mrs. Byerly, Mrs. Coughlin, Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Montgomery. Rev. J. J. Ehrstein conducted the services on

alternate Sabbaths from October, 1898 to August, 1899, and Rev. C. W. Flint, a resident pastor, on every Sabbath since that date. The stewards are, Guy S. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. S. L. McIntire, Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. McGhee. The trustees are J. H. Allen, Geo. H. Miller, Joseph Simpson, Guy S. Robinson and S. L. McIntire. The services are held in the Baptist church.

WOOLING A RAILROAD, 1870-1900.

In 1870 when the beautiful site of Pocahontas was platted, the Des Moines & Fort Dodge railroad was confidently expected, but instead of it the grasshoppers came, destroying everything in their path. In 1881, after the county seat had been located there, this company surveyed a line through Pocahontas, new hopes were raised and a tax was voted by the people, but when the railroad was built, it passed through Rolfe. A few months later the Newton & Northwestern made a survey through the town and another tax was voted, but it did not come. Before the end of that year the Des Moines & Northwestern ran a line through Pocahontas, but built the railroad to Fonda.

In 1882, the Dubuque & Dakota and in 1883 the Minneapolis & Omaha R. R. companies made surveys through Pocahontas, and new expectations were raised that were not realized. In 1886, the surveyors of the Sioux City & Northwestern arrived, in 1887 a special tax was voted for it by Center township, but when the grading should have commenced, a mysterious silence and inactivity began to prevail. The branch of the I. C. R. R. surveyed to Pocahontas that year, was disposed of in the same way.

During the next four years Pocahontas was allowed to rest without a suitor; there was not the least sign of the coming of a railroad—a fact that some attributed to the granger rail-

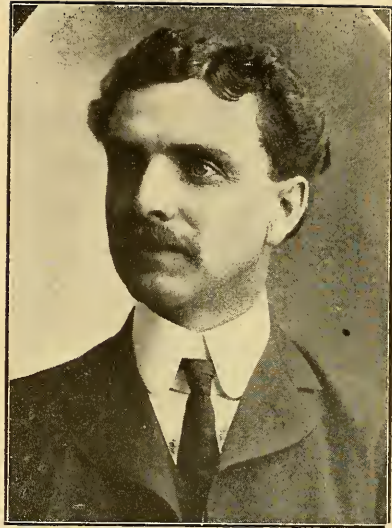
road laws enacted by the General Assembly of Iowa about that time.

In 1894, the citizens of Pocahontas, being no longer able to stand the suspense, organized the Pocahontas Railroad and Improvement Co., and surveyed a line from Pocahontas to Havelock. An unsophisticated farmer planted three acres of potatoes on this survey and threatened to shoot the first man who came to build the railroad. To avoid the war that seemed inevitable, this company endeavored to get the Chicago & Northwestern to build the railroad, and they also "begged to be excused."

In the fall of 1898, the Northwestern surveyed a line from Sac City to Algona, passing through Pocahontas (Nov. 5, 1898) and the citizens of Pocahontas proposed to give them the site for a depot in town and the right-of-way to Rolfe if they would build the road. A new railroad was then crossing the west end of this county, and when this generous proposition was treated with indifference, it seemed as if Pocahontas would never get a railroad. Hearing the whistle of the locomotive at a distance of eight miles, having no prospect of its coming to Pocahontas, constantly facing the possibility of a railroad passing only a few miles distant and the consequent removal of the county seat to some new town there established, many of her citizens were beginning to feel that they were wasting the best years of their lives waiting for a railroad to come to Pocahontas. They were on the verge of abandoning all hope, for "hope deferred maketh the heart sick," and were even ready to pack their goods, move to the first railroad that should pass in the vicinity and seek their fortunes elsewhere. As the years passed and the state developed, bands of steel were stretched across the prairies from north to south and from east to west, but with a wearisome regularity



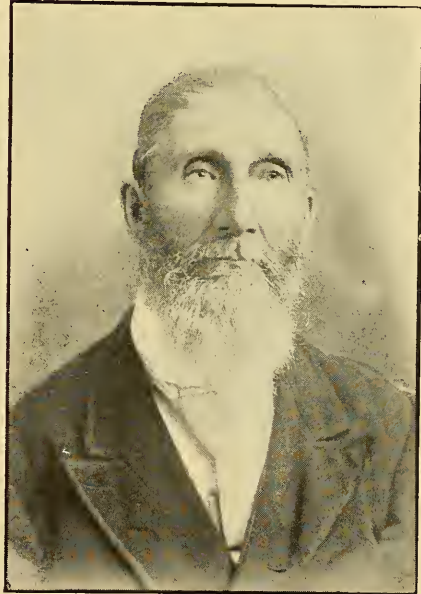
REV. CHARLES W. FLINT,
METHODIST.



REV. ROBERT W. TAYLOR,
PRESBYTERIAN.



WILLIAM HAZLETT
CO. ATTORNEY, 1897-1902.



REV. JOHN A. KEYS,
BAPTIST.

POCAHONTAS AND VICINITY.



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, POCAHONTAS, JAN. 26, 1902.

the new railroad always happened to run elsewhere than through the town of Pocahontas.

In the spring of 1899, after thirty years of alternate hope and disappointment, M. M. Carss and a corps of surveyors traced a line for the C., R. I. & P. company from Gowrie to Sibley, passing through Pocahontas county about five miles southwest of Pocahontas. On July 6, 1899, Superintendent C. N. Gilmore, Carroll Wright and Engineer W. B. Worrall, representing that company, met the citizens of Pocahontas in the office of the Bissell House, accepted their proposition to furnish depot grounds in town and the right-of-way for ten miles, and agreed to build the road through Pocahontas.

The new survey was made and on Aug. 31, 1899, Capt. J. A. Ware, of Sedalia, Mo., who had a contract to grade 25 miles of the railroad, arrived with his grading outfit that soon consisted of 100 teams divided into seven gangs. The track-laying machine arrived July 25, 1900, and on Aug. 15th, the station was opened in a box-car for the regular train service, by W. F. Gerheart, of Forest City. The telegraph line was erected three days later and the depot was completed soon afterward.

The effort to secure the Gowrie & Northwestern R. R. was the most important movement ever carried to a successful issue by the citizens of Pocahontas. In this effort they were united so that every man put his shoulder to the wheel and, by a liberal donation, discovered his public spirit. If this unanimity of purpose shall mark her future course, other enterprises of material value will soon be secured for her benefit. The surrounding country is sufficient to support a town of 5,000 people, and there are good reasons for believing that during the next few years, Pocahontas will make the most rapid growth of

any town in Northwestern Iowa.

"The beautiful story of Pocahontas and Captain John Smith has been branded as a legend and a myth by the brutal iconoclasm of the period in which we live, but that which tells how Pocahontas, the county seat of Pocahontas county, vainly struggled so many weary years for an highway of steel to connect herself with the great commercial and industrial world, and of the manner in which the Great Rock Island Route came to her rescue will always remain one of the most interesting chapters in the history of the state."*

No longer thy wares shall be toted
On stoneboat, bobsled and truck,
O'er highways and byways deep-coated
With gumbo and fathomless muck,
For the lightning express now goes
scooting
Like wind through the midst of the
town.—H. W. Harris in Rolfe
Tribune.

Everything is now changed and all her citizens are happy.

The men whose names have been most prominently connected with the history of Pocahontas during the ante-railroad period have been Warrick Price, its founder; Wenzel Hubel, the first postmaster; Port C. Barron, who more than any other, assumed the responsibility of securing the right-of-way and depot privileges for the C., R. I. & P. at an estimated cost of \$12,000.00; F. E. Hronek, Hiram Bissell, W. D. McEwen, A. O. Garlock, C. H. Tollefrude, A. L. Thornton, J. W. Wallace, W. C. Ralston, Dr. M. F. Patterson, O. A. Pease, L. C. Thornton, W. G. Bradley, Esq., and C. M. Hunt. All of these men were animated with the desire to secure a railroad for Pocahontas, and while they worked and waited for it, they beautified the town by planting an abundance of shade trees and the most beautiful park in the county.

RAILROAD DAY.

A 5 per cent. railroad tax was voted by Center township Feb. 28, '81, in favor of the Des Moines & Fort Dodge,

*Des Moines Capital.

Aug. 19, '81 in favor of the St. Louis, Newton & Northwestern, and July 5, 1887, in favor of the Sioux City & Northwestern railway companies, but the railroad did not come until July 25, 1900, when the Gowrie & Northwestern, a branch of the Rock Island, completed the track from Gowrie to Pocahontas, and the first, a construction or track-laying train arrived. On August 15th a regular train service was established from Gowrie to Laurens, and the new era ushered in by these events was duly celebrated at Pocahontas Sept. 4, 1900, by an appropriate industrial parade, vocal and instrumental music, addresses by Judge Helsell, Carroll Wright, M. F. Healy and others, and the marriage of three young couples. For a number of years Pocahontas had enjoyed the unenviable experience of being the only county seat in Iowa without a railroad. "An event of great importance had occurred. Pocahontas, a thirty-year-old bride, had secured the desire of her heart, a union with the great outside world with bands of steel. During a long period of waiting, she smiled on many suitors, but one and another passed her by until the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific looked upon the lonely maiden on the prairie and recognized a wealth of beauty that others, blinded by the love of gold, did not see. She smiled, she spoke and the great Rock Island was won. In her joy she invited her friends to make merry with her; set the date and 5,000 people thronged to congratulate her."* She is now comforted by the song of the locomotive, "Monster of steam and steel, With soul in shaft and wheel; Child of man's brawn and brain Whizzing o'er mountain and plain." The original name, "Pocahontas Center," in 1885 by request of the board of county supervisors, was abridged to "Pocahontas."

In October, 1896, Nicholas Stelplflug
*Pocahontas Record, Sept. 6, 1900.

platted the first addition at the southwest corner of the town. Its recent growth, increasing the population to 800 and causing the erection of seventy new buildings in 1900, has led to the platting of the Allen and Bissell additions.

POCAHONTAS NEWSPAPERS.

POCAHONTAS TIMES—The first paper published at Pocahontas was the Pocahontas Times, Messrs. McEwen & Garlock, editors and proprietors. It was moved there from Old Rolfe, Oct. 10, 1876, at the time of the removal of the county records. On Nov. 1, 1877, Ed B. Tabor became the editor, and after the issue of May 9, 1878, the outfit was moved to Fonda.

THE POCAHONTAS RECORD—The Pocahontas Record as a seven-column folio, 16x23½ inches, was established at Pocahontas by Port C. Barron, editor and proprietor, and the first issue was published April 24, 1884. In his salutatory the aim of the editor was stated to be "to make the Record a reliable newspaper, devoted to the promotion of the best interests of Pocahontas county and independent in all matters relating to its material interests." It was established and throughout a period of sixteen years was published in a small country village that did not enjoy the facilities afforded by even a narrow-gauge railroad. During this period it was sent forth from the press week by week, clean, fresh, bright and cheery, a messenger of comfort to the lonely dwellers on the prairies.

As the years passed it was enlarged and improved to meet the demands of the times. On Oct. 1, 1885, it was enlarged from seven to eight columns. On April 15, 1889, at the beginning of its sixth year, it began to be printed on a power press. On Dec. 26th, following, the entire paper began to be printed at home, and it was the first one thus printed in the county. From June 26 to Aug. 14, 1890, A. R. Thorn-

ton edited its third page as *The Fonda Record*, and on the last named date it was enlarged to a seven-column quarto. On June 22, 1893, it appeared in a new and modern dress as a six-column quarto, its present form.

It has advocated the principles of the republican party and every enterprise that would make Pocahontas "the gem of the prairie," the queen of Pocahontas county. The pathetic appeal for a railroad that has found expression in its columns and its courteous, conciliatory spirit availed greatly to unite the people in one grand effort to obtain the first one available.

Port C. Barron, its founder and editor for sixteen years, died July 9, 1900, and Mary E. Barron, his wife, has published it since that date.

POCAHONTAS HERALD—The *Pocahontas Herald* was established at Pocahontas Feb. 15, 1899, by A. L. Schultz, editor and proprietor. It is a democratic paper and "is as frisky as can be expected" at its present age. It was founded under circumstances not very encouraging, but making its interests identical with those of the town, its subscription list has constantly increased with the growth of Pocahontas.

SHANNON RANCH.

Osburn J. Shannon, a commission stockdealer of Chicago, at an early day foreseeing the future development of Northwestern Iowa, purchased all of sections 1, 3 and 5 and 240 acres on section 7, Center township, making altogether 2,160 acres. These sections are enclosed with good fences and with the exception of 300 acres under cultivation, are used for pasturing and feeding the large herds of cattle and hogs that are annually prepared here for the Chicago market. This ranch is one of the largest business enterprises in Pocahontas county, about 500 head of hogs and 1200 head of fat cattle being annually shipped from it, the latter about the month of

October. The value of the annual sales ranges from \$60,000 to \$70,000. Few or no cattle are fed during the winter season, the places of those that have been marketed being supplied by purchases in the early spring. About 500 tons of hay are made each year, and during last year 100,000 bushels of ear corn were purchased from the neighbors. The cattle are fed twice a day during the feeding period, the daily ration being 500 bushels of shelled corn. Before it is fed the corn is shelled and soaked twelve hours in cold water. For soaking the corn and distributing it at the time of feeding, the farm is supplied with five water tanks, holding sixty bushels each and set on wagons. When the corn is soaked it is drawn to the pastures.

The buildings occupied by the resident manager are located on section 7 and consist of a fine house, a medium sized barn, two cattle sheds, one 146x24 feet, the other 128x24 feet, and a half-mile of corn cribs in the vicinity. On section 3 there is a small house and barn and another lot of cribs.

James H. Charlton had charge of this farm for ten years previous to 1897, and John Johnson since that time. Mr. Shannon visits it once a month during the summer. Nothing is undertaken without his approval and whatever is done must be well done.

CHARLTON RANCH.

In 1882, James Henry Charlton, a young man, resident of Dallas county, bought the W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 11, Center township—80 acres—and erected some improvements. The next year he began to occupy it together with his father's family, completed its improvement and embarked in the business of raising corn, hogs and cattle—the corn for feed and the stock for the city market. The profits, from time to time, have been invested in more land, and he is now the owner of 3,000

acres, to the successful management of which he gives his entire time and attention.

This land is located on sections 2, 10, 11 and 18, Center; sections 16, 20, 21 and 35, Powhatan; sections 30 and 31, Des Moines township, Pocahontas county, and on sections 28 and 29, Ellington township, Palo Alto county. It is divided into ten farms on each of which a house and other outbuildings have been erected. These farm houses are occupied by persons or families who have been employed at an annual salary, with the understanding that they shall board from one to three other persons as occasion may require.

The aim, in their management, has been to mature for the city market each year all the hogs and cattle possible. During recent years about 2,500 head of cattle have been carried and to supply their needs in the summer season it has been necessary to purchase from 60,000 to 80,000 bushels of corn, in addition to the large quantity raised on the farms. The amount of sales including the dairy and other products, in 1899 was \$114,620.30; and for the present year, 1900, they will aggregate about the same amount.

In 1891 he married Franc Lenore, daughter of W. W. Beam, M. D., and since that time has resided in Rolfe.

One cannot read the story of the rapid growth of this ranch, whereby in eighteen years it was increased from 80 to 3,060 acres, yielding a gross annual income of more than \$100,000, without being impressed with the thought that its proprietor and manager has found the golden secret of "how to make the farm pay." As a farmer he has certainly found the philosopher's stone—the secret of success—and his wisdom appears in strictly adhering to it. That which has been achieved is a practical illustration of the possibilities of the Iowa

farm and the kind of management needed to secure the best results.

POCAHONTAS CREAMERY.

In 1884, Welch & Litts erected and operated a creamery on Litts' farm, one and one-half miles north of Pocahontas. For a while it received a liberal patronage and made first-class butter, but closed about July 1, 1886. On August 1st, following, it was purchased by John Wallace, the pioneer of the cheese and creamery business in Northwestern Iowa, who reopened it fifteen days later, and continued to operate it for some time, and then this enterprise was abandoned.

On Sept. 1, 1898, a number of the leading citizens of Pocahontas met in the court house to discuss ways and means of securing a butter factory at that place. Mr. Hinn, of Laurens, then operating creameries at Laurens and Havelock, was present and submitted a proposition. Geo. A. Heald, S. C. Jones, F. E. Hronek and Nicholas Stelplug were appointed a committee to ascertain what aid the people might be willing to give, and W. C. Ralston, R. D. Bollard and Port C. Barron were appointed to secure a suitable location. Subsequent meetings were held and as a result in May, 1899, there was completed a good building 40x60 feet, supplied with the latest improved machinery for making butter and a mill for grinding feed. This has proven to be a substantial and profitable business institution.

POCAHONTAS POINT.

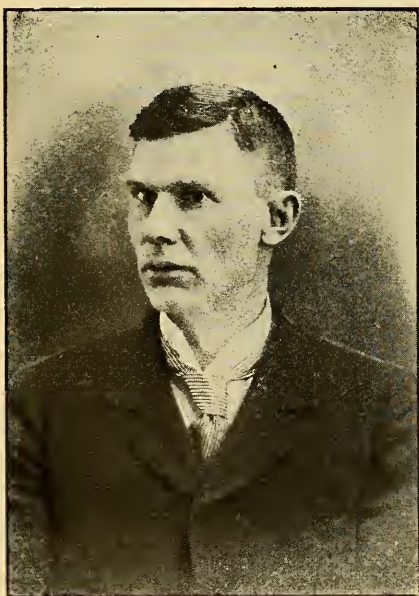
About the year 1890, W. D. McEwen and A. O. Garlock purchased a tract of land at the southwest corner of Lake Okoboji in Dickinson county, and erected a spacious summer cottage in the beautiful grove of natural timber, overlooking the classic and sparkling waters of West Okoboji. To this delightful summer resort they gave the name, "Pocahontas Point," and decided to sell lots in it only to those who were residents of Pocahon-



JOHN W. WALLACE,
CLERK OF COURT, 1875-86.



MRS. J. W. WALLACE.

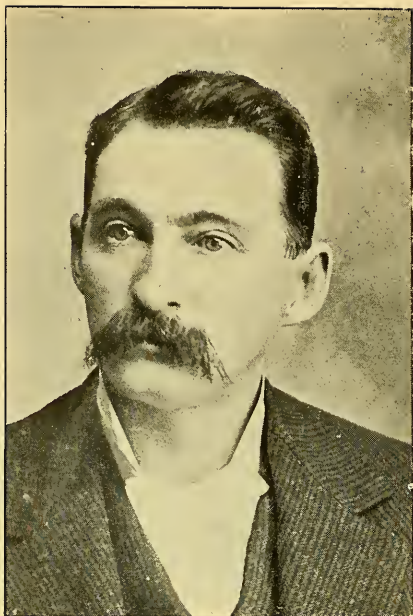


WM. C. RALSTON,
CLERK OF COURT, 1887-94.



LUCIUS C. THORNTON.

POCAHONTAS.



PORT C. BARRON,
EDITOR POCAHONTAS RECORD, 1884-1900.



MRS. MARY E. BARRON,
COUNTY RECORDER, 1885-6.



ALONZO L. THORNTON,
COUNTY RECORDER, 1883-85.



MRS. EMILY R. THORNTON.

POCAHONTAS.

tas or of the county that bears that charming name. Other cottages were soon erected by George Fairburn, Lute C. Thornton and Col. John B. Kent. In 1895, Messrs. McEwen & Garlock put a swiftly moving steamer on the lake, called "Pocahontas," and George Fairburn another one called "Nellie F.," both for their own private use; and almost every day during midsummer, they may be seen "bounding over the rolling waves," at Iowa's greatest summer resort.

FIRST SUNDAY SCHOOL.

The first Sunday School in Pocahontas was organized May 8, 1881, as a union Sunday School, under E. L. Hastings, superintendent; Walter Hodges, assistant superintendent; Mrs. J. W. Wallace, secretary, and Mrs. E. M. Hastings, treasurer. The meeting was held in the court house and an arrangement was made with Rev. Thos. Cuthbert, (M. E.) of Rolfe, to hold divine services at the close of the Sunday School session on alternate Sabbaths.

PUBLIC OFFICERS.

Public officers have been elected from Center township as follows: Surveyors, Lute C. Thornton, '84-85, '88-'89; H. W. Bissell, '90-93, '98-1900. Recorder, Mary E. Thornton, '86. Attorneys, Wm. G. Bradley, '87-88; Wm. Hazlett, '97-1900. Supervisor, Samuel Powell, '93-95.

LEADING CITIZENS.

Barron Port C., (b. Feb. 3, 1861; d. July 9, 1900) editor and proprietor of the Pocahontas Record from the time it was established, April 17, 1884, until his death, was a native of Fredericksburg, Iowa, the son of F. W. and Marion Barron. During his childhood his parents moved to Nashua, where his mother died when he was fourteen. At this early age he entered the office of the Nashua Post, and, acquiring a knowledge of the printers' trade, followed it ever afterward. After working several years in the Beacon office

at Spirit Lake and later as foreman of the Fonda Times, he established the Pocahontas Record, at Pocahontas, Iowa. Through the columns of this paper for a period of sixteen years he labored unceasingly for the development and improvement of the town of his adoption and exerted a potent influence throughout the county. He located in this town when it was merely a village, but had an expectation that a railroad would soon be built to it. When the promised railroad did not come he did not become discouraged, but resolutely worked away, indulging the hope the time would soon come when Pocahontas would be afforded the same privileges and conveniences that were enjoyed by other communities. He thought and worked for "our little community" as long as he could, and "fell asleep just a few days before the dream of his life was to be realized."

He is remembered by those who knew him as one possessing an unusual amount of cheerfulness, hopefulness and enthusiasm. His kindly disposition, strict integrity and steadfastness of purpose also elicited admiration. To make others happy and not wound the feelings of any, were aims constantly before him in the use of his pen. Through the columns of the Record he gave the strength of his best days and the noblest thoughts of his being to the development of the community in which he lived. He was ambitious and manifested an unbounded faith in the future.

"During the first ten years the Record was published, those who knew not its editor personally often wondered how the paper could live or where its support came from; but those of us, who knew its editor, knew full well that he knew no such word as fail, and as time passed the paper has grown with the growth of the community so that now there are few county seat towns in Iowa that are

better supplied with a newspaper than Pocahontas.”*

“In his death Pocahontas lost an enthusiastic boomer. He knew no such word as fail. ‘Hope sprang eternal in his bosom.’ With the collapse of one railroad boom he went to work on another. In everything that went for the improvement of the town he was in hearty accord. He never lost faith in the ultimate success of Pocahontas. It took sixteen years of waiting to realize his ambition for Pocahontas—a railroad. He won the battle, but just as his labors were to be rewarded his light went out.”†

In accordance with his expressed wish his body was laid to rest in the soil of the place that was the principal scene of his life’s activities and in the midst of those who will longest appreciate his labors.

He served as the first recorder of Pocahontas, ’92-94; was a member of its first school board in 1896; mayor in 1897, and postmaster from Aug. 1, ’97-July 9, 1900.

On Feb. 3, 1887, he married Mary E., daughter of Alonzo L. and Emily Thornton, and she became his successor in the postoffice and in the proprietorship of the Pocahontas Record.

Their family consists of three children, Phaen Thornton, Joab Eunice and Port Comstock.

Bissell Hiram Wallace, (b. July 4, 1844) resident of Pocahontas since 1881, is a native of Granville county, province of Ontario, Canada, the son of Truman and Cynthia Bissell, both of whom were descendants of the French Huguenots. He received his education as he had opportunity, in the public schools.

In 1869, he went to California, but soon returned to Peoria, Ill., where he remained three years. He then located at Grand Rapids, Mich., and after two years, at Freeport, Ill.

*From tribute by W. C. Raiston.

†Marion Bruce, in Rolfe Reveille.

Here on June 8, 1879, he married Susan Harpster, a native of Pennsylvania, and during his subsequent career she has proven herself to be “one of the best women in the state of Iowa.” He was then engaged in the marble business, but his health failing him they spent the ensuing winter in Canada. In 1880 they located at Fort Dodge, and in February, 1881, in Pocahontas, where he became owner and proprietor of the “Center,” afterward called the “Bissell House,” which he still owns and continued to occupy until 1899, when he erected a new home in the Bissell addition to Pocahontas.

The history of the Bissell House, during the eighteen years that Mr. and Mrs. Bissell had charge of it, is full of delightful and romantic associations that are peculiarly its own. Here judges and jurors, attorneys and their clients, county officials, ministers of the gospel and people from all parts of the county, year after year, have sat down together around the tables that groaned with a sumptuous variety of those good things, which in this life satisfy the cravings of the inner man; and in the office or parlor the great questions of the day have been freely and fully discussed. When one thinks of the way in which many long winter evenings were whiled away at this ancient hostelry before the arrival of the railroad, he cannot resist the notion that Goldsmith had such experiences in mind when he wrote the following touching description of the home in the poem entitled, “The Deserted Village”:

“The broken soldier, kindly bade to
stay,
Sat by his fire, and talked the night
a way,
Wept o’er his wounds, or tales of sor-
row done,
Shouldered his crutch and showed how
fields were won.
Pleased with his guests, the good man

learned to glow,
And quite forgot their vices in their
woe."

Mr. Bissell served as assessor of Center township, '85-93; as justice of the peace, '87-90; as member of the first town council of Pocahontas, '92-93; mayor, '94, and as county surveyor, seven years, '90-93, '98-1900.

Brinkman David, (Diedrick) resident of section 24, Center township, was born near Hamburg, Germany, in 1843. At the age of twenty-three, having learned the carpenter trade, he crossed the ocean in a sail boat that was seventy-two days on the voyage. He located first in Michigan, where he worked at carpentry. On Feb. 28, 1871, he married there Anna Wiegman, and on April 18, 1873, located in Pocahontas county, first in Clinton township, and the next year on his present farm.

He is one of those hardy pioneers who were not frightened from the frontier by early hardships, and his splendid success on the farm places him in the front rank as a farmer. When he came to locate on the frontier his brother-in-law accompanied him. Leaving their wives at Fort Dodge, they set out on foot at Manson to walk the distance to their new homes—twenty miles—and had to carry their clothing in their hands when they waded the Lizard. A few days after they returned to Manson, sent for their wives and families and took them out with an ox team. A few days before harvest that year the grasshoppers came and destroyed thirty acres of wheat and ten of oats, a loss that left David in the fall of the year with ten dollars and thirty bushels of potatoes for the support of himself and family during the winter. When the corn was ripe he went east of the grasshopper district, husked corn on the shares and survived that winter by making his home in a cellar and living on potatoes, cornbread and

water. In 1874, the grasshoppers devoured the small grain again, but not the corn, and he fared better; but that fall and again in 1881 his crops and improvements were saved from prairie fires only after the most heroic efforts. In the fall of 1874 he got lost and had to remain all night alone on the prairie. In the winter of 1881, while returning from Humboldt in a sleigh, he was caught in a blinding snowstorm, passed within three rods of his home, but did not know it or discover the fact until he had gone two miles further, and ran against the walls of a deserted sod shanty. When he reached his home he was nearly frozen to death. His brother-in-law, after one year's experience on the frontier, returned to Michigan.

As the years have passed, David Brinkman has added acre to acre so that his home farm, which he has improved with fine buildings, contains 540 acres, and he is the owner of two other farms in the vicinity that contain 300 acres more. He keeps from 25 to 30 cows for dairy purposes and in August 1894, began to use the Delaval cream separator, the first one in Center township. The result of its use has been so satisfactory that he would not think of dispensing with it while keeping cows. He aims to keep a sufficient amount of stock to eat all the grain raised on the farm, and has met with good success in feeding both cattle and hogs. He is a highly respected citizen, was a trustee of Center township in '77-78, president of the school board in '76-77 and assessor in 1884.

His family enjoys all the comforts of a good home and consists of twelve children: Hattie, a native of Michigan, married Morris Ives and lives in Clinton township; Caroline, after teaching school six years, on March 8, 1899, married Henry Oelrich and located on one of her father's farms; Henry, a teacher, Dora, Jessie, John,

William, August, Anna, May, Glide and Idella are at home.

Bollard Richard D., (b. Oct. 15, 1847) resident of Pocahontas and Recorder of Pocahontas county, 1891-98, is a native of Ashtabula county, Ohio. He received his education in the public schools of Edinboro, Erie county, Pa., where his father located when he was quite young. In 1864, at the age of sixteen, he lost his left arm by the accidental discharge of a gun he was endeavoring to draw across a log while hunting. In 1867, he went to Grant county, Wis., where he worked on a farm and taught school. The next year he returned to his home and on Dec. 25, 1868, married Emma Lawrence. The next spring they located in Wright county, Wis., where he taught school in winter. In 1878, he moved to Pottawattomie county, Iowa, where he bought eighty acres of land and continued farming and teaching. In 1881 he met with another serious accident, the loss of the three largest fingers of his right hand, while shelling corn. Undaunted by these misfortunes he continued farming and teaching until the spring of 1886, when he moved to Fonda and engaged in the coal and grain business.

In the fall of 1890, he was elected recorder of this county, an office to which he was re-elected with a constantly increasing majority in 1892, '94 and '96. The efficiency of the public service rendered during these eight years, elicited the unstinted approval of the people of this county. The office was not closed at night until the necessary work of each day had been faithfully performed.

Just previous to the adjournment of the board of supervisors, Jan. 19, 1899, he was presented with a solid gold watch, chain and charm, the latter set with a diamond of purest luster, and inscribed with the words, "A token of esteem from the county officials to R. D. Bollard, recorder, 1891-

1898." In Pottawattomie county, he served several years as a justice of the peace, in Fonda was street commissioner, and at Pocahontas he was a councilman, '92-94, and president of the school board in '99-1900. He taught twenty-one terms of public school.

His family consisted of ten children, six of whom are married: Walter, a drayman, married Rose Early, and lives at Fonda; Mattie B. married John Stream, a traveling salesman, and lives at Fonda; Mary Ella, July 3, 1899, married Wm. Boyd McClellan, a jeweler, and lives at Pocahontas; William married Maggie McCormick and lives in Lake township; Frederick P., in June, 1898, enlisted for the war against Spain in Cuba and spent several months in Jacksonville, Fla.; Roy in 1900, married Ida Lyon, and is a druggist clerk at Fonda; May in 1899, married Charles Lucas, and lives at Pocahontas; Gracie, Lawrence and Gorton are at home.

Eral John, (b. 1832) owner and occupant of a fine farm on section 23, since 1874, is a native of Bohemia. In 1874 he bought his present farm and a tract of timber in Clinton township. He is now the owner of 490 acres of land in this county which he has finely improved with two sets of good farm buildings, the beautiful grove on the home farm being one of the largest in Center township. He participated in the organization of Center township in 1874, and served as trustee six years, '80-83, '93-94. He has been an industrious and successful farmer, a highly respected citizen and has endeavored to perform faithfully every matter of public interest entrusted to him.

His family has consisted of six children, of whom the first three—James, Frank and Mary—were born during his residence in Illinois.

1—James W. Eral (b. 1862) in 1873 located on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 27. In 1883 he

married Anna Payer and is now the owner of 280 acres in Center township. He has been a trustee of the township since 1895, and treasurer of the school fund since 1897. He has a family of four children—Anna, William, Louie and Harry.

2—Frank R. Eral in 1889 married Fannie Zieman, of Tama county. He owns and occupies a farm of 120 acres on section 27 that had previously been improved by his father. His family consists of two children, Agnes and Joseph.

3—Mary married Charles Pashek and lives in Winnesheik county.

4—Joseph, Rosa and John are at home.

Martin, (b. Nov. 10, 1842; d. May 7, 1899) was a native of Budweis, Boh., where he grew to manhood. In 1870 he came to Chicago, where on May 15, 1870, he married Anna Michael and lived there the next ten years. In March, 1880, he located on the Litts farm, Center township, and the next year bought 120 acres south of Pocahontas, on which he afterward lived and died. His death was the result of a fall from the back of a colt. He was a man of unswerving integrity and won the esteem of all who knew him.

His family consisted of twelve children, four of whom, Joseph L., Louis F., Emma E. and Albina, and their mother, survive him.

Erne Bonifacius, who on section 17, in the spring of 1871, bought the first farm sold by Warrick Price, built the first farm home in the township—a sod house. On May 31, 1873, he entered as a homestead the S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 32, Grant township, 80 acres, and received the patent for it Nov. 5, 1878. A few years later he located in Lincoln township and in 1895 returned to Center township, where he died in 1899. He raised a family of four children who, after his death moved to Minnesota. He was an in-

dustrious and good farmer. His brother, Valentine Erne, also a native of Germany, (b. 1850) in 1881 bought a farm of 80 acres on section 26, Grant township, which he still occupies and has neatly improved. He has a family of two children.

Kees John A. Rev., (b. April 2, 1833) through whose personal efforts the organization of the Baptist church, Pocahontas, was effected, is a native of Crawford county, Pa., the son of George (b. 1878, Pa.) and Nancy Benn (b. 1801., Del.) Kees, both of whom were remarkable for the enthusiasm of their piety. The father of Nancy Benn and three of his sons were pioneer preachers in the Methodist Episcopal church. In his childhood, John A. Kees moved with his parents to Venango county, Pa., where he assisted in clearing the timber from a farm, and went to school. When the Cherry Tree Academy was opened in that vicinity he entered it and two years later began to teach the school in his own neighborhood. In the fall of 1856, he located near Sabula, Iowa, and taught school. In 1857 he located at Boone, where he taught several terms and then passed to Dallas county. On Feb. 24, 1860, he married Margaret M. Betteys and located in Boone county, where, in '62-63, he served as a member of the board of county supervisors. In May, 1864, he enlisted as a volunteer and remained in the service until October, when he was sent home from Camp McClellan with his constitution so completely wrecked by disease there was scarcely any hope of his recovery. After two years he was able to resume the work of teaching and filled the office of assessor and township clerk. In 1876 he moved to Jefferson, where he became the agent of the co-operative association; but finding the labor too exhaustive, he resigned this position and moved to a farm in that vicinity. In 1884 he moved to Shelby county,

and in the fall of 1885 to the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 33, Center township, which he had previously owned for several years. In 1893 he sold this farm and bought another one on the north line of the township.

At ten years of age he became a christian and at seventeen united with the Baptist church of Cherry Tree, Pa. At this early period he had a conviction that he ought to preach the gospel, but on account of the apparent need, was constrained to work on the farm. During the period he engaged in teaching he embraced every opportunity to unfold and enforce the truths of the Bible, but later the conviction forced itself upon him that whilst he did not receive a proper preparation for the full work of the ministry, he ought to preach the gospel as he had opportunity, free of charge. Expressing this conviction the church to which he belonged in Boone, in 1867, gave him a license to preach. In Greene and Dallas counties he often rode long distances to meet engagements as opportunity afforded. In the spring of 1885, at the request of the Baptist church in Harlan, Shelby county, he was ordained, became their pastor and accepted pastoral support.

When, in the fall of 1885, he visited his farm to do some work preparatory to settlement upon it he was pained to find the people of Pocahontas destitute of religious privileges, with the exception of those of the Catholic church. On the second Sabbath he held services in the court house and announced his desire that those present would co-operate with him and his family, five of whom were members, and they would form the nucleus of a Baptist church and plan for the erection of a suitable house of worship. This prophetic announcement was received with smiles and suppressed laughter; nevertheless, it was fully realized by the organiza-

tion of a church of 25 members in 1888 and the erection of the Baptist church in 1891. He served the church as its first pastor until 1893, when he moved to his present home on the south side of sec. 33, Powhatan township. After serving four years as pastor of the Baptist churches of Havelock and Bradgate, he retired from the active duties of the gospel ministry.

He has always voted the national republican ticket and has been an ardent advocate of the cause of prohibition.

His family has consisted of six children, of whom four are living. May Luella in 1886 married Anton Eigler, a farmer, and lives in Spokane county, Wash. William H., John Alvin and Margaret E. are at home and engage in teaching. George A., the eldest, died in 1863, and Rev. Frank A. D. Kees, the second son, died at his father's home, Oct. 23, 1900. He had been educated for the gospel ministry, was ordained on May 22, 1900 and served the Baptist church at Egan, South Dakota, until three weeks before his death, when, his physician informing him he was going to have typhoid fever, he hastened home. He taught school several terms, at Havelock, had charge of the Baptist church at Lake View in 1895, and at Havelock in 1896. He had worked his own way through college that he might enter the ministry, and was loved by all who knew him.

Hubel Wenzel, (b. 1819; d. Nov. 26, 1885) the first permanent resident of Pocahontas, was a native of Bohemia, where in 1843 he married Mary A. Kerska (b. 1823). In 1851, they came to America, losing one of their children during the voyage on the ocean. He located first at Montreal, but after two years moved to Iowa City. Two years later he located on a homestead in Tama county and remained there until 1868, when he

moved to Benton county. Two years later he moved to Fort Dodge.

In March, 1872, as the local agent of Hess & Behring, of Fort Dodge, who had charge of the sale of the lands of Warrick Price, he located at Pocahontas and that fall was appointed the first postmaster of that place. The mail was carried by his son William usually once a week, on Friday, from Pomeroy, later from Fonda and the office remained in his home until the fall of 1877. He was a member of the first school board of the township in 1875-76.

During his residence in Tama county he and his elder brother Fred, enlisted as members of Co. F, of the 6th Iowa cavalry. After two years in the service he received an injury that unfitted him for further service and made him an invalid for life.

In 1878 he and wife returned to the home of his oldest son, Frederic, who married Mary Benish and continued to reside on the old homestead in Tama county. He died there in 1885. Four of his children located with him at Pocahontas in 1872.

1—William A. Hubel, (b. Jan. 16, 1853, Iowa,) a carpenter, in 1878 married Mary Ann Julius (b. 1860, Wis.) and continued to live at Pocahontas until 1884, when he moved to Plover, and in 1897 to Rolfe, where he is now engaged principally in raising poultry. He commenced to reside in Center township in the year 1871, and built nearly all of the first buildings in Pocahontas including the Catholic church, and the Presbyterian church of Plover. He was assessor of Center township in '79-80, and secretary of the school board, '77-81. He carried the mail from Pomeroy and Fonda to Pocahontas, 1872 to '79. He was an all-round man among the Bohemians of the township in those early days. He was their interpreter at nearly all school and township meetings, elections and in the transaction of their

business before the court.

His family consists of six children: Mamie, Frederic, William, Josephine, Wenzel and Albert.

2—Mary E. married James S. Smith, Fort Dodge, and in May, 1883, he was appointed and served five years as the first station agent of the C., R. I. & P. R. R. at Plover. He built the first house in Plover for his use and it stood the first season in a cornfield. Their family consists of three children: William, James and Albert.

3—Annie in 1886 married Vencil Drahos, a well-known attorney of Cedar Rapids, and they have one child, Vlasta.

4—Cedora C. in 1882 married James T. Calhoun, at Pocahontas, and in the fall of 1883, locating at Plover, he became the first dealer in coal and lumber at that place. He died in 1887, leaving three children; Thomas, James and Grace.

In 1891, Cedora married Albert J. Eggspuehler, a merchant of Plover, and they have two children, Florin and Gladdis.

Hronek Frank, (b. Sept. 22, 1822; d. Sept. 5, 1899) a pioneer of Center township, was a native of Tabor, Pazov county, Boh., and on Feb. 17, 1846, married there Anna Mares. In 1862, with a family of four children, they came to America and located first at Iowa City, but soon afterward at Chelsea. In 1874, he bought, and with a family of six children, located on the E½ Sec. 19, Center township, improved and occupied it until 1895, when he moved to Pocahontas, where he lived the remainder of his days. He was a quiet, industrious, successful farmer and highly respected citizen. He assisted in the organization of Center township in 1874, and served as one of its first trustees, in 1875-76. He was elected one of the three first school directors of the township, but declined to serve. Three of his sons,

Frank E., Anthony and John, have subsequently taken a prominent part in the management of the affairs of the township.

His family consisted of ten children, all of whom are still living.

1—Rosa, (b. 1858) in 1876 married Martin Puduska, (b. Boh., 1852,) a prosperous farmer, owner of 280 acres principally on section 29, Center township, which he has occupied since 1876. They have a family of six children.

2—Frank E. Hronek, (b. Boh., 1860) came with his father to Center township in the spring of 1874, and has become one of the most prominent citizens in the township. In 1878 he served as township clerk. In 1882 he became a general merchant in Pocahontas and so continued until April 1, 1900, when he arranged for the removal of the old store building and the erection of a fine, double two-story brick business block in its place. He was secretary of the township school board, '85-87, and president of it, '92-95. In Pocahontas he was postmaster from Sept., '87 to Oct., '95, a period of eight years. He served as a member of the first school board, '96-97; as a member of the first town council, '92-94, and as mayor, '98-1900. He is the owner of some valuable property in Pocahontas and a farm of 80 acres in Lincoln township.

In 1882 he married Antonia Moravec, who died in 1891. In 1893, he married Melinda Winegardner. His family consists of three children—William, Walter and Sadie—who survive their mother, his first wife.

3—Paulina, (b. 1862) in 1870 married Joseph Kryce, a miller, and lives at Andrews, South Dakota.

4—Anthony Hronek, (b. Iowa, 1864) in 1883 married Mary Vodruska, is the owner and occupant of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 28, Center township, and has a family of five children. He was township clerk three years, '89-91.

5—Emmanuel Hronek (b. Ia., 1867) in 1885 married Anna Vodruska. He is the owner and occupant of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 19, Center township, and has a family of six children.

6—James Hronek (b. Ia., 1869) in 1889 married Mary Prochaska. He is the owner and occupant of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 19, Center, and has a family of three children.

All of the foregoing located in Center township with their father in 1874. The other members of his family are as follows:

7—Frances, (b. Boh., 1849) in 1868 married Vance Zeman, owner of a farm of 360 acres near Chelsea, Tama county, and has a family of eleven children.

8—Mary, (b. Boh., 1851) in 1869 married William Wright, clerk in a shoe store at Mason City, and has a family of three children.

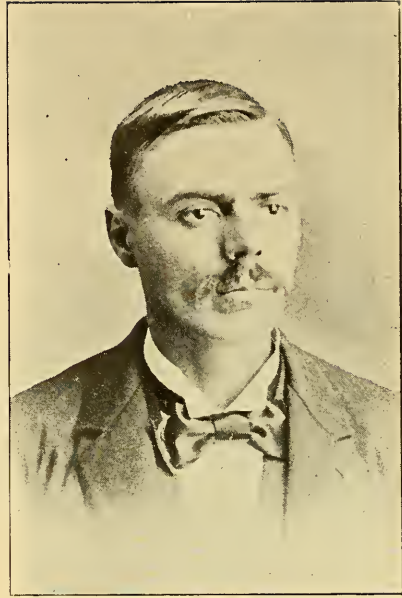
9—John Hronek, (b. Boh., 1853,) in 1874 married Anna Skorda and came to Center township in 1881. He is now the owner of the W $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 21, 320 acres, and has a family of ten children. He was a trustee of the township, '84-92, and is now a member of the school board.

10—Josephine (b. Boh., 1858,) in 1877 married Frank Musel, has a family of seven children and lives in Marshalltown.

Langer Frank, to whom it is claimed, is rightly due the honor of doing the first breaking in Center township, in the spring of 1871, left Fort Dodge and located on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 19, Center township. In company with William A. Hubel he did the first breaking in the township, on his own farm, then on the Stoullil farm on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the same section, and later on the S $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 21. Erne commenced breaking about the same time and built the first farm home. In 1882 Frank Langer bought and moved to the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec; 24, Dover township, and in 1899 moved to Pocahon-



FRANK E. HRONEK.



JOHN H. STEGGE.



MR. AND MRS. FRANK HRONEK.

POCAHONTAS.



VIEW OF BUELAH AVENUE, POCAHONTAS, IN 1896.
(See list of illustrations for buildings.)



PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING, POCAHONTAS, 1902.

tas. He assisted in the organization of Center township, serving as one of the judges at the first election, held Oct. 13, 1874, and as a trustee in '81. When Center township, on March 1, 1875, was organized as a school district, he served as chairman of the meeting and was elected a member of the first school board.

His family consists of three children—Frank, Anna and Mary.

Nemeck Joseph, proprietor of the Center House, Pocahontas, 1874-'80, was a native of Bohemia. In the spring of 1874, with wife and two children, he located there and built the first good hotel in Pocahontas. Unfortunately, he provided a saloon adjunct to the hotel and, according to the stories that are still current, many ludicrous and some ridiculous events occurred during the period he continued in charge of it. He assisted in the organization of the township and served as its first justice of the peace, '75-79. He was appointed a member of the first school board, was then elected its first president and served in that capacity in '75 and '79. In 1880, with wife and four children, he moved to Ackley, and later to Minnesota, where he is still living.

Mikesh Joseph, (b. 1859) resident of Pocahontas since the fall of 1876, is a native of Winnesheik county, and of Bohemian descent. At the time he located at Pocahontas the grasshoppers were paying their respects to the farmers and the latter could not afford to employ hired help. The only lucrative employment that presented itself at first was hunting and trapping and, giving his undivided attention for a time to the capture of game for the table and furs for the market, he met with a fair degree of success. He often averaged 40 to 50 muskrats a day at Devil's Island, on section 5, Grant township, and they brought from 6 @ 18 cents a piece. Deer were about as plenty then as jack-rabbits

are now, and after the snow came they were tracked to the high grass in the sloughs where they were sometimes found lying at rest. Later he found employment as a carpenter, janitor and well-borer. In 1889, when Sheriff Pattee died, he was appointed sheriff of the county to complete his unexpired term.

In 1889 he married Mary Hickey, widow of James Murray, and their family consists of three children, Joseph, Sadie and John; and the three children of her former husband, Mollie, Michael and James Murray.

He reports the interesting fact that in sinking wells in the vicinity of Pocahontas, two layers of wood are frequently found, in a fair state of preservation, at the depths of 60 to 80 and 160 to 170 feet. The upper layer is sometimes about four feet in thickness, and on the farm of Gus Boog, on Sec. 2, Lincoln township, there was found in it a sea muck consisting of sand, coral, snail and clam shells, some of the last being as large as common oyster shells, but very brittle. The lower layer is usually not so thick as the upper one, but the wood is in a better state of preservation. The pieces of logs brought to the surface resemble cedar and of these the knots are the best preserved portions. Another variety has the appearance of grapevine. This is found in a good state of preservation and the bark peels from it in strips as if it were freshly laid in water. Some good specimens, in 1898, were furnished Buena Vista college.*

Hazlett William, (b. Oct. 1, 1869) attorney of Pocahontas county 1897-1900, is a native of Muscatine county, the son of William H. and Hannah (McNutt) Hazlett, both of whom were of Scotch-Irish (Presbyterian) descent. After pursuing his education in Muscatine he attended the State University at Columbia, Mo., and then spent

two years in teaching. In 1892 he graduated from the law department of the State University at Iowa City, and was admitted to the practice of law. On Dec. 1, 1892, a few months after the death of his father, he and his brother J. Clark, and his mother located at Pocahontas, where he has since been engaged in the practice of his profession. In the fall of 1896 he was elected the attorney for Pocahontas county, an office to which he was re-elected in 1898, and again in 1900. He is recognized as a lawyer possessing fine abilities and is rapidly rising in his profession. The high standard of morality adopted in early youth has given dignity and strength to his manhood, and his faithfulness as a public official has elicited words of highest commendation and hearty endorsement.

On May 15, 1895, he married Helen Ketchum, of Marshalltown, and has a family of three children, Dorothy B., Ruth and Isabel. His mother in 1895 returned to the home of her daughter, Jennie (Andrew T.) Addleman, in Muscatine county, and his brother is a civil engineer in Tennessee.

Heald George A., (b. Iowa, June, 1870) vice-president of the Bank of Pocahontas, is a native of Johnson county, the son of Isaac and Amelia Heald, who located at West Liberty in his early youth. In 1887 he graduated from the high school of that town and in June, 1889, from the Eastman Business College, Poughkeepsie, N. Y. He then located in Pocahontas, where he found employment in the bank of D. J. Allen & Sons. Here he embraced the opportunity of reading law under the late B. J. Allen, county attorney at that time, and graduating from the Iowa College of Law in January, 1894, was immediately admitted to the practice of law. In January, 1897, he became a partner and was elected vice-president of the Bank of Pocahontas. He is a young

man of pleasing address and is well equipped both for the practice of law and a successful business career. He has the happy faculty of gaining the confidence and esteem of those with whom he becomes acquainted and is entering on a constantly enlarging sphere of usefulness with bright prospects for the future.

On Jan. 23, 1894, he married Stella Torpey, a teacher of Lake township, and they have one child, George.

Hunt Charles M., (b. 1847) clerk at the court house, 1881-1900, came to Pocahontas in the fall of 1880 and a few months later found employment in the auditor's office, then occupied by A. O. Garlock, his brother-in-law. With the exception of one year, he has been an assistant in that office or that of the county treasurer ever since, and is now, in 1900, in the treasurer's office. These eighteen years of faithful and efficient service as an assistant in two of the most important offices in the county, make a very creditable record. He has become very familiar with the method of keeping the public records and in his modest way has rendered a service that has been greatly appreciated.

On May 12, 1888, he married Cynthia A. Perkins, of Winthrop, and has a family of three children, Gilbert, Melville and Hazel.

Payer Vit, a native of Bohemia, in the spring of 1876, accompanied by his wife (Mary Brodsky) and family of four children, Frank, Jacob, Anna and Joseph, and Louis Brodsky, a son of his wife, located on section 28, Center township. He was a trustee of the township in 1880 and died in 1881. The farm of 320 acres, originally purchased at \$5.00 an acre, is still owned by his wife and children.

1—Frank J. Payer (b. Iowa, 1861) in 1889 married Mary Remesh, who died leaving two children, Frank and Frances. In 1895 he married Rosa Masek. He is the owner of a farm of

160 acres on section 28, Center township, and was clerk of the township 1885-88.

2—Jacob Payer, in 1889, married Julia Shimon, who died in 1891. In 1894, he married another and has a family of two children. He is the owner of a farm of 200 acres on Sec. 28.

3—Anna, in 1883, married James W. Eral. (See Eral.)

4—Joseph Payer married Elizabeth Bartosh and lives in Center township.

Pease Oscar A., (b. Ill., 1848) postmaster at Pocahontas, '82-86, in 1869 came from Chicago and, as one of its first settlers, located in Swan Lake township. On April 17, 1871, he entered as a homestead the W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 30 and received the patent for it July, 30, 1878. He married there Adelaide, daughter of John Proctor, one of the first teachers in that township. About the year 1880, he located in Pocahontas, where he kept a grocery store and engaged in the insurance business. On Oct. 15, 1882, he was appointed postmaster and served four years, his wife performing the duties of the office a great part of the time. In 1893, he moved to Burlington, Wash., where he has a comfortable home and has since been engaged in the lumber business. He served as the deputy sheriff of Pocahontas county four years under John F. Pattee and two years under John A. Crummer. He assisted in the organization of Swan Lake township, served as its first justice of the peace, also as a trustee and treasurer of the school fund. In Center township he was assessor in '83 and president of the school board, '90-91. He was a capable, public-spirited man and his footprints appear as a pioneer in Center as well as in Swan Lake township.

His family consisted of four children, three of whom died in childhood and youth. Lucy married Oscar Wagneman, lives at Ellensburg, Wash., and has two children.

Plumb Frank H., (b. July 28, 1861) clerk of the court of Pocahontas county, 1895-1900, is a native of Webster county, Iowa, the son of William and Adeline Plumb. After completing his education in the public schools of Fort Dodge, in April 1877, he began to learn the printers' trade in the office of the Fort Dodge Times. In 1879, he assisted Tabor on the Fonda News; and during the next nine years assisted in various offices in Iowa, Minnesota and Dakota, including the Fonda Times. On July 12, 1888, he and J. J. Bruce established the Reveille at Rolfe and he continued a co-editor of that paper until May 1, 1890, and afterward as its foreman.

In the fall of 1894 he became the nominee of the republicans for the office of clerk of the district court of this county and was elected. During his first term he performed the duties of his office so conscientiously and efficiently that his most enthusiastic supporters were more than gratified and a host of new friends encouraged his renomination. He was re-elected in '96, '98 and 1900. He has proven himself a young man of noble principles and his natural fitness for the public office to which he has been elected for the fourth term, has been recognized by his political opponents. The neat appearance and correctness of his work on the public records have elicited the highest praise from attorneys and judges.

On April 23, 1887, he married Kate M. Roberts, of Fonda, and has a family of three children, Clifton B., William H. and Katherine M.

Ralston William Curtis, (b. July 1, 1855) clerk of the district court of Pocahontas county, 1887-94, is a native of Hillsboro, Ill., the son of John A. and Elizabeth (Ladd) Ralston, both of whom were of English descent. After completing his education in his native town he directed his attention to the study of law. In September, 1881, he

located in Pocahontas, where he found employment first in the Bissell House. At the first session of the court he was admitted to the practice of law, but taught school the ensuing winter. In the spring of 1884 he moved to Rolfe, but after his election to the office of clerk of the district court, in the fall of 1886, he returned to Pocahontas and has been a prominent resident of that city ever since. In 1888, '90 and '92 he was re-elected to the same office. In 1886 he won the office with a majority of only three; but in 1888 he was re-elected without opposition and received all the votes cast but three. In 1885 he served as the second mayor of Rolfe, and in 1893 as the first mayor of Pocahontas. In 1889 he was president of the school board of Center township, and in 1896 served as the first president of the Pocahontas independent district. His rugged honesty and integrity of purpose have won the confidence and esteem of all who know him and he stands high in his profession as a lawyer. He has taken a hearty interest in all matters relating to the growth and development of Pocahontas.

On June 21, 1887, he married Isabella Middleton, daughter of a clergyman of the Reformed church, Hillsboro, Ill., and his family consists of three children, Florence, Lucile and Sybil. His estimable wife has taken a leading part in the maintenance of religious services at Pocahontas.

Starr Francis M., (b. 1846) resident of Pocahontas, is a native of Guernsey, county, Ohio, where in 1869, he married Susan M. Callihan and engaged in farming and teaching. In 1882 he located on a farm in Guthrie county, Iowa, and in 1885 on one of 86 acres in Center township, now within the incorporated town of Pocahontas. He erected all the improvements on this farm and still occupies it. In the effort to secure the organization of the Christian church at Pocahontas

he took a leading part and has served several years as the superintendent of its Sunday school. In 1891 he was deputy sheriff and for several years has been rendering an efficient service as deputy in the office of the clerk of the court. He was clerk of Center township, '99-1900.

His family consists of eight children, Ella having died at nine: Willis C., (b. Ohio, 1870) in 1897 married Elizabeth Hutchins and lives in Swan Lake township; Homer F., Perry, Warren, Albert, Ralph, Julia and Marian.

Stegge Bernard, (b. June 17, 1829; d. Pocahontas, July 9, 1899) was a native of Rhede, Hanover, Germany. In 1853, he came to America and located at Quincy, Ill., where in 1854, he married Margaret Kreul, (b. Ger., 1832.) The next year he located at Highland, Wis., and engaged in farming. In 1869, he came to Pocahontas county, on wagons drawn by oxen, and accompanied by Nicholas Kieffer and John Kruchten and their families. Kieffer became the first merchant at Pomeroy and Kruchten located on a homestead in Colfax township. Stegge located on a homestead of 80 acres on Sec. 32, Lincoln township, for which he made the entry June 12, 1869. The first improvements were a house and stable, both built of sod. The former was occupied until 1874, when it was replaced by a good farm house that with some later additions is still in use. In 1890, he moved to Pocahontas where he spent the remainder of his days. His wife died Sept. 9, 1896, leaving a family of seven children: Henry B., William H., Bernard H., Anna, Elizabeth, William J. and Frank. Joseph and Maggie died in childhood and Angela in 1894, at the age of 26 years. She was the wife of H. S. Schmaing. In Jan., 1895, he married Mrs. Caroline Getler, who died Feb. 13, 1899, leaving two children by her former husband, William Getler,

of Dover, and Mrs. C. M. Englert, of Marshall township. He died a few months later at the age of 70 years.

He assisted in the organization of Lincoln township in 1873, served as one of the first trustees that year, also in 1876-80, and was treasurer of the school funds '85-87. He endured the trials and hardships of a pioneer farmer's life in the effort to secure a home for himself and family and by hard labor and thrift succeeded admirably. Those of his family that are married are as follows:

1—Henry B. Stegge (b. Wis., Nov. 13, 1855,) came with his father to Lincoln township in 1869, where he is now the owner of a finely improved farm of 160 acres. He was township clerk of '81-82, and has been a trustee since 1896. In 1878 he married Mary Sicking, of Wisconsin, and they have a family of six children, Bernard, Catharine, Annie, Mary, Henry and Frank.

2—John H. Stegge (b. Wis., Dec. 3, 1859) in 1887 married Mary Stelpflug and located on a farm of 120 acres on Sec. 4, Lincoln township, improved it with good buildings, groves, orchard and increased it to 240 acres. In 1889 he sold the farm and during the next three years was in the employ of D. J. Allen & Sons in the real estate business at Pocahontas. In 1892 he bought their abstract books and formed a partnership with Geo. A. Heald under the name of Heald & Stegge. In 1896 Thomas F. McCartan also became a member of the firm and from the Allen Bros. they purchased the stock of the State Bank of Pocahontas and organized a private banking house under the name of the Bank of Pocahontas, John H. Stegge, Pres.; Geo. A. Heald, Vice-Pres., and Thomas F. McCartan, cashier.

His family consists of four children, Caroline, Maggie, Mary and John F.

3—Bernard H. Stegge (b. Wis., May 26, 1862) is the owner of a farm of 90 acres in Dover township and lives in

Grant. He married Mary Pussekou, a native of Winnesheik county, and has a family of three children.

4—Anna, in 1885, married Bernard Schmaing, (b. Ger., 1856) who located in Lincoln township in 1879, and now owns a farm of 80 acres. Their family consists of five children.

5—Elizabeth, in 1894, married Henry Tucking, lives in Lincoln township and has a family of two children.

Stelpflug Nicholas, (b. 1852) resident of Pocahontas, is a native of Wisconsin, where in 1878, he married Maggie Kreul (b. 1861) and two years later located on Sec. 33, Center township. In 1892 he bought 30 acres adjoining the plat of Pocahontas, moved to town and has since been engaged in the stock business. In 1896 the first, known as the "Stelpflug addition," to Pocahontas, was laid out by him on this farm at the southwest corner of the town. In Center township he was school director a number of years and in Pocahontas he was a member of the town council, '92-95 and in 1900.

His family consists of eleven children: Annie, Maggie, Jacob, Joseph, Caroline, Lena, Henry, Nicholas, William, George and Louisa.

Thornton Alonzo L., (b. Nov. 25, 1833) who died at Pocahontas, May 13, 1885, while serving his second term as recorder of Pocahontas county, was a native of Chautauqua county, N. Y. At fifteen he entered the college at Marietta, Ohio, and during the next four years attended that institution and taught school. On Sept. 8, 1853, he married Emily R. Comstock and located in Chautauqua county. Five years later he moved to Houston, Minn., and soon afterward accepted a position in the office of the Surveyor General at St. Paul, that afforded him the opportunity of doing considerable field work as a government surveyor and civil engineer. In August, 1862, when the Indians under Little Crow massacred the whites, he and his par-

ty of surveyors were engaged in the timber only a few miles distant from one of the scenes of bloodshed at the time it occurred. He was appointed first assistant to the Surveyor General and made the first sectional map of the state of Minnesota. He was a splendid draughtsman and continued in the map business with slight intermissions until four years previous to his death. From St. Paul he went to Des Moines and then to Buffalo, N. Y. Soon afterward he located at Fort Dodge and in the spring of 1871 on the Thornton and Greene farm in Marshall township, this county. Two years later he went to Des Moines and made the second map of Iowa. He then went to Kansas City, St. Louis and Chicago, successively, and returned to the company farm in this county in 1881. In the fall of 1882 he was elected recorder of this county and filled that office in a manner so highly satisfactory that he was re-elected the year preceding his death. He was an active, enterprising man and during his residence in this county became very much interested in its drainage by a system that should embrace and benefit all of it. On this subject he wrote several able articles for the Pocahontas Record, to illustrate the propriety of deepening the channels of the five principal streams of this county at the public expense, in order to provide a suitable outlet for the numerous ponds and sloughs that existed in the early days. He also earnestly advocated the propriety of planting more fruit and forest trees. He was a close student, a fine scholar and manifested a desire to confer some lasting benefit upon his fellowmen. His close application to business and study, it was believed, tended to hasten his death which occurred May 13, 1885, after a stroke of paralysis on April 27th that affected the left side of his body, and another one on May 3d that was more serious. In his

death the county lost a worthy citizen, an energetic and efficient officer that did not hesitate to push a public enterprise at his own personal inconvenience. One of his maxims was, "He who would thrive in business must make his business known." He was a man of devout and reverent spirit, an industrious and methodical worker.

His family consisted of three children, all of whom and their mother are still residents of this county:

1—Lucius C. Thornton, (b. July, 1857) resident of Pocahontas, is a native of Chautauqua county, N. Y. He received his early education in the public school, and at fourteen began to attend the Iowa State Agricultural College at Ames where, after four years, he graduated in 1875, having been the youngest to enter that institution previous to that date. He at once found employment in relief plate map engraving with his father at St. Louis, whom he accompanied from place to place until 1881, when they located again in Pocahontas county. In August, 1883, the family moved to Pocahontas. The next year a set of abstract books were bought from A. O. Garlock, and in connection with the care of these he engaged in the real estate business. He has been a member of the council of Pocahontas since the town was incorporated in 1892, and was surveyor of Pocahontas county in '84-85 and '88-89. He owns a cottage at Pocahontas Point and usually spends a few months each year at that delightful summer resort.

In 1885, he married Jennie M. Bellinger, of Marshall township, and has a family of four children; Alonzo Lucius, Thad Bellinger, Jennie and Helen. His mother also lives with him.

2—Mary E. Thornton assisted her father several years in the recorders' office, and after his death was appointed and later was elected recorder

of Pocahontas county to complete his unexpired term, and served in this official capacity about one and one-half years in 1885-86. She also had charge of her brother's abstract books for several years. On Feb 3, 1887, she became the wife of Port C. Barron and since his death, July 9, 1900, has succeeded him as postmaster at Pocahontas and as proprietor of the Pocahontas Record. In Pocahontas county she was the first and to this date the only lady elected to a public office, and she is also the first one to receive the appointment of postmistress from the government.

3—Alonzo Rufus Thornton has been an associate editor and proprietor of the Reveille at Rolfe since Sept. 5, 1895. In 1897, he married Charlotte daughter of C. H. Tollefsrude, and has a family of two children, Norma and Emily. Since the retirement of Marion Bruce, Aug. 4, 1900, his wife has been associated with him in the management of the Reveille.

Wallace John William, (b. June 17, 1845; d. Pocahontas, May 22, 1899), was one of the early settlers and a very popular official of Pocahontas county. He was a native of Northumberland county, Ontario, Canada, the son of David and Mary (Bagdad) Wallace, both of whom were of Scotch descent, natives of the north of Ireland and members of the established Church of England.

In 1865, having completed his education in the public school, he came to Michigan but returned to Canada that fall. In March 1866, one year before the arrival of his father and family, he located on a homestead of 80 acres on Sec. 8, Lizard township, on which he built a sod house and during the first three winters engaged successfully in hunting and trapping. On May 28, 1872 he married Mary Elizabeth Riley (b. Ireland 1851) who became a resident of Lizard township in 1869 and still survives him. He

was clerk of Lizard township in 1871-72. In the fall of 1874 he was elected clerk of the district court of Pocahontas county and the next spring moved to old Rolfe. In 1876 he moved to Pocahontas where he died May 22, 1899. He was five times re-elected to the office of clerk of the district court and rendered twelve years of public service in that capacity, 1875-86. Whilst others rendered more years of public service and as many in the same office, this was the longest term of continuous service in the same office rendered by any public official of Pocahontas county. He was deputy sheriff five years, 1893-97, and frequently served as coroner of the county when those elected did not qualify. He was secretary of the school board of Center township nine years, 1888-96, and of Pocahontas two years, 1896-97.

He had the contract for carrying the mails between Pocahontas and Humboldt during the four years, 1879-82, and from Fonda to Rolfe, 1887-91. In 1892 he engaged in the livery business at Pocahontas and continued in it until the time of his decease. He made additions to the old homestead from time to time and was the owner of 200 acres of land in this county in addition to the home in Pocahontas, built in 1881.

He was a strong, well built man, enjoyed good health and nobly performed his part in the great drama of life. He was loyal to his convictions, when he was sure he was right, and was equally loyal to his friends. He was amiable in his disposition, happy in his home life and just in all his dealings. His unswerving integrity placed his public service above unfavorable criticism and his public spirit was manifested in the leading part he took in efforts to promote the welfare of the public schools of his town and township. The flags on the school and court house were placed at

halfmast and most of the business houses of Pocahontas were closed during the funeral services and his remains were interred at Rolfe.

His family consisted of seven children one of whom, Rosa, died in childhood. Ella married George W. Bruce; William D. (b. June 14, 1876) in May 1898 enlisted for the war with Spain in Cuba as a member of Co. B. 2d Ia. Infantry, and spent a few days at Camp McKinley, Des Moines; Bessie married Fred J. Southworth, Pocahontas; Amanda Melvina, a milliner; Blanche and Genie E. are at home.

THE CASE SISTERS' SECTION.

Section 32, one-fourth mile east of Pocahontas, shows a division and has a history that is peculiarly its own.

This section, with the exception of the SW 40 acres, was entered by Seymour M. Case, who held it until he died in 1873. By his will 600 acres of it were bequeathed to his four sisters, Mrs. Sophia L. Rose, Mrs. Luna Beach, Mrs. Lavina M. Beach and Mrs. Maria C. Holcomb, who in 1876 divided the land among themselves into four farms as they appear in the Plat Book of 1888, Luna Beach before its publication having sold her part to Morgan W. Beach. The husbands of these four sisters died many years ago. They are still living, Luna at Bristol, Maine; and the others at Granby, Conn.; and their ages range from 76 to 88 years.

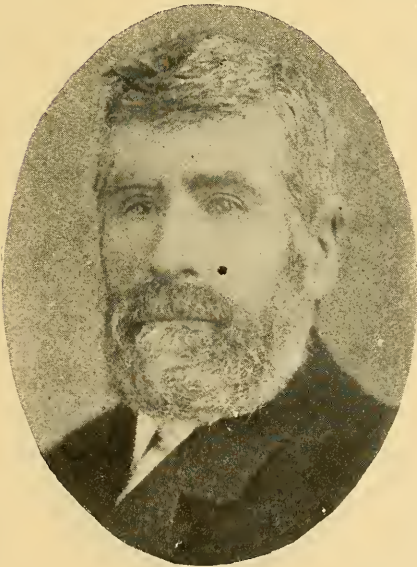




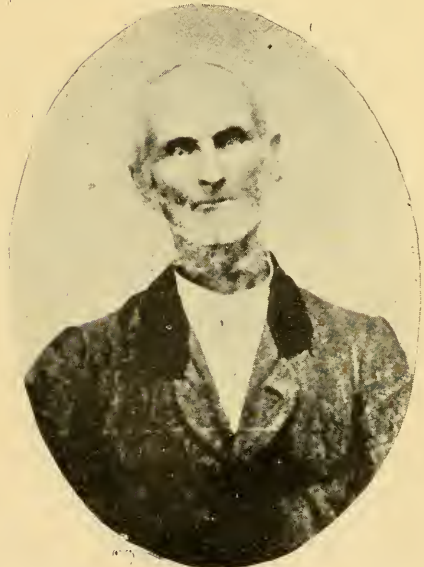
THOMAS L. MACVEY,
RECORDER, 1869-74.



MRS. T. L. MACVEY.



JOHN FRASER,
SEC. CO. BI. SOC. 1867 TO 1904.

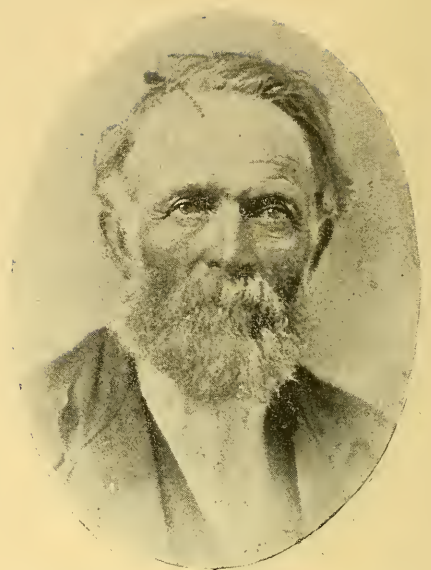


BERIAH COOPER,
FOUNDER OF COOPERTOWN.

ROLFE AND VICINITY.



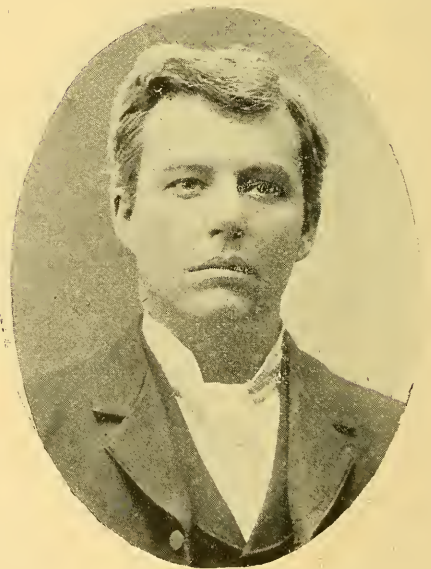
AUG. H. MALCOLM, ROLFE,
CLERK OF COURT, 1866.



SEWELL VAN ALSTINE, GILMORE CITY.



WM. C. KENNEDY, ROLFE,
PRES. CO. S. S. ASS'N, 1889-1904.



LEW. E. ENGLAND, ESQ., GILMORE CITY.

XV.

CLINTON TOWNSHIP.

We love thy prairies green,
 Thy streams with movement serene;
 Thy woods and groves that lean
 O'er plenty's shrine.

I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand as in what direction we are moving.—HOLMES.



CLINTON township was named in honor of Gen. George Clinton, governor of New York, 1777-95, and 1801-04, and vice-president of the United States 1805-12.

This township (92-31) is located in the east tier of the county. Section 1 is traversed in a southeasterly direction by the Des Moines river, and the north tier of sections by Pilot creek, on the south side of the North branch of which, on section 5, Relfe is

located. There is a considerable belt of timber on both sides of the Des Moines river and one large grove along Pilot creek on the northeast corner of section 10. The current of the Des Moines river is strong and its banks of clay are 8 to 10 feet in height. Indications of gypsum are found along its banks and an abundant supply of good limestone on sections 24 and 25.* The elevation south of Pilot creek on section 12, has become historic as the scene of the last bloody conflict between the Sioux and Winnebago Indians in Iowa.†

*Page 158.

†Pages 126-128.

The tradition concerning the name of Pilot creek is to the effect that when Judge Hickey and others first went from Fort Dodge to Palo Alto county and came to this stream they failed to find a crossing on the trail near the river. Finding James A. Edleman, who was trapping in the east part of the township, they got him to pilot them over it, and after this incident it was called "Pilot Creek." Hickey became the owner and occupant of "Hickey's Grove" north of Emmetsburg in which, about one-half mile from his house, the bodies of Capt. J. C. Johnson and W. H. Burkhalter were found after the Spirit Lake expedition in March, 1857.

The land, with the exception of the north and east tiers of sections, is a beautiful prairie, nearly level, and the soil is very fine in quality. A lover of Nature passing through this section some years ago remarked, "The Creator has here placed some of Nature's choicest flowers and most beautiful scenery. The birds, the grass, the flowers and the noble and stately trees were put here for man's entertainment and enjoyment."

Clinton township when first established Sept. 15, 1860, included all of Clinton, Lake and the south row of sections in Des Moines, as these townships are now constituted. On June 4, 1861, the territory now included in Lincoln and the north half of Grant was added. On Dec. 1, 1862, the south row of sections in Lake and Lincoln was assigned to Lizard and in lieu thereof the north half of Dover and south half of Marshall were added. On June 2, 1868, the south row of sections in 93-31 was assigned to Des Moines; on June 6, 1870, the north half of 91-33 was assigned to Grant; on Sept. 6, 1870, the north half of 94-34 and south half of 92-34 were assigned to Dover; on June 4, 1872, all of 91-32 was assigned to Lincoln, and on

June 5, 1877, all of 91-31 was assigned to Lake, leaving Clinton as now constituted.

No homesteads or pre-emptions were taken in Clinton township. Most of the odd-numbered sections were included in the Des Moines River grant or that to the McGregor & Missouri River R. R. Co. The even-numbered sections in this and other townships in the same tier as far north as the Minnesota line, were offered for sale in 1858, and most of them in Clinton were purchased by eastern investors during the months of June, July and August, 1858.

The first permanent residents of Clinton township, (92-31) were the Hammond, Harvey and Avery families in 1859. The family of Edward Hammond consisted of himself, wife and two children. He located on section 1, having lived the previous two years just across the line in Humboldt county. On Nov. 7, 1859, Mr. and Mrs. Ora Harvey and their daughter Nellie, accompanied by his son-in-law, Oscar F. Avery, wife and son, Eugene, bought and located on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 10. During the year 1860, these were the only residents of the township.

In 1861 Mr. and Mrs. Elijah D. Seeley and three children, Harmon P., (soldier) Millard and Eliza, located first on section 10, and in 1868 on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 11. In 1863, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Clason and ten children located on section 1. In 1864, Mr. and Mrs. William Sandy and five children, Minnie, James, Mary, George and Frank, located on section 17. In 1865, Mr. and Mrs. Parker C. Harder and two children located on section 11. In 1866, Mr. and Mrs. Augustus H. Malcolm and one child, Ora, located on section 1. In 1867, Mr. and Mrs. William Matson and daughter Jennie, located on section 16. In 1869, Mr. and Mrs. Peter H. Bendixen and four children located on section 33, and

Mr. and Mrs. A. Baker on section 1. In 1871, Mr. and Mrs. Sewell Van Alstine and five children located on section 25. In 1872, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Barker and one child, and in 1873, Ira Scranton, Louis Nemecek and their families arrived.

A correspondent of the Times in 1879, of these and other new settlers, wrote as follows: "Our soil is light, inclined to be sandy; it is not marshy although we have a Reed. Our supply of bread is sure for we have a Baker, and timber shall not be wanting while there is left a Bush. We have one who has always been Sheriff, and when we want to doff this mortal coil we Drown."

The first election in Clinton township was held at the home of Edward P. Hammond, on section 1, Nov. 6, 1860, and nine persons voted, which included those living in what is now Lake and in the south row of sections in Des Moines township. Ora Harvey, Patrick Forey and E. P. Hammond served as judges; Oscar F. Avery and John A. James as clerks. Ora Harvey was elected a member of the board of county supervisors, and officers of the township were elected as follows: E. P. Hammond, Abiel Stickney and Patrick Forey, trustees; John A. James and Patrick Forey, justices of the peace; John A. James, clerk; O. F. Avery, assessor; E. P. Hammond, road supervisor; Abiel Stickney and Christ Smith, constables.

TOWNSHIP OFFICERS.

The officers of the township have been as follows:

COUNTY SUPERVISOR: Ora Harvey, 1861-68; A. H. Malcolm, '69-70.

TRUSTEES: Edward P. Hammond, 1861-64; Abiel Stickney, '61-62; Patrick Forey, (Lake) '61-62, '64-67; John A. James, (Des Moines) '63-64; Samuel Clute, '63; Elijah D. Seely, '65-67; Joseph Clason, '65-71; A. H. Malcolm, '68-70, '85-94; D. W. Hunt, (Des Moines)

'69, '73-75; P. C. Harder, '70-72; Sewell Van Alstine, '71-72, '76-77; B. Messenger, '72; Ora Harvey, '73-75; Andrew Smith, '73-75; Alfred Baker, '74-77; P. H. Bendixen, '76-77, '88-92; Ira Scranton, '78-79; Wm. Matson, '78-79; H. A. Lind, '78-85; J. M. Bush, '80-84; Axel Gad, '80-81; J. M. Reed, '82-84; A. H. Malcolm, '85, '87-94; John Freeman, '87-88; A. R. Doxsee, '87; J. J. McGrath, '89-90; M. Lathrop, '91-92; W. C. Kennedy, '93-95; Geo. Behrendsen, '93-96; Julius White, '84-86, '95-97; P. J. Canon, '96-98; Anton Williams, '97-99; Richard Fouch, '98-1900; Geo. W. Henderson, '99-1900; C. P. Leithead, 1900.

TOWNSHIP CLERKS: John A. James, (Des Moines) '61-63; E. P. Hammond, '64-66; Parker C. Harder, '67-69; E. D. Seely, '70-75, '78-82; A. H. Malcolm, '70-74; P. H. Bendixen, '76-77, '83-84; John Sherman, '85-86; John B. Kent, '87-88; Geo. Challand, '89-90; O. P. Malcolm, '91-92; Charles E. Fraser, '93, '97-1900; O. K. Olson, '94; G. W. Rich, '95-96.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE: John A. James, (93-31) '61-62; Patrick Forey, (91-31) '61, '76-77; E. P. Hammond, Abiel Stickney, D. W. Hunt, (93-31) '68-71; E. D. Seely, '69-70, '74-75, '79-82; Joseph Clason, '71-73; Sewell Van Alstine, '72, '77-82, '89-92; P. H. Bendixen, '73-74; A. H. Malcolm, '75-76; J. M. Reed, '78-79; C. P. Leithead, '83-86; John Sherman, '83-84; John Lee, '85-92; L. M. Beebe, '87-88; Geo. W. Henderson, '93-95; J. J. Bruce, '91-92; M. Whitman, '93-1900; Robert Struthers, '96-98; H. W. Harris, '99-1900.

ASSESSORS: Oscar F. Avery, 1861; E. P. Hammond, '62-63; J. A. James, (93-31) '64-65; E. D. Seely, '66; B. H. Wood, (93-31) '67; John Rogers, '68; A. H. Malcolm, '69; Wm. Sandy, '70-72; D. W. Hunt, '71; P. H. Bendixen, '73; Axel Gad, '74; M. F. Seely, '75-76; Ira Scranton, '77-82; Wm. Matson, '83-84; Geo. Seifert, '85-86; Julius White, '87-88; Wm. C. Kennedy, '89-92; Alex,

Barker, '93-98; Sylvester Smith, '99; Robert Hunter, 1900.

SCHOOL OFFICERS.

The officers of the school board have been as follows:

PRESIDENTS: Joseph Clason, 1869-70, '73; E. L. Brown, '71; A. H. Malcolm, '72; Sewell Van Alstine, '74; E. D. Seely, Ira Scranton,, '76-77, '82-83; Alfred Baker, '78-79; C. Beacock, J. M. Bush, '81, 84-85; A. R. Doxsee, '86-87. I. C. Brubaker, '88, '91-92; S. Gish, '88; Axel Gad, '89, '93; Wm. C. Kennedy, '90; P. J. Canon, '94; B. C. Votlucka, '95-1900.

SECRETARIES: P. C. Harder, 1869-72; P. H. Bendixen, '73-77, '80-95; M. F. Seely, '78-79; H. W. Harris, '96-1900.

TREASURERS: D. W. Hunt, 1869-71; B. Messenger, '72-73; A. H. Malcolm, '73-81; W. C. Kennedy, '82-83; H. A. Lind, 84; Julius White, '85-1900.

The directors in the several districts for the year 1900 were: No. 1—J. E. Schmaing; 2—W. C. Kennedy; 3—L. B. Herson; 4—P. J. Condon; 5—Niels Peterson; 6—Sewell Van Alstine; 7—Benjamin Behrendsen; 8—B. C. Votlucka.

ROLFE.

"I live for those who love me,
Whose hearts are kind and true;
For the heaven that shines above me
And waits my coming, too;
For human ties that bind me,
For tasks by God assigned me
And the good that I can do."

The history of Rolfe begins with the month of May, 1881, when the survey of the Des Moines & Fort Dodge R. R. crossed that of the Toledo & Northwestern. The survey of the latter railroad was made in December, 1880, and the right-of-way in Clinton was given in April, 1881. On Jan. 10, 1882, this track was laid to Rolfe Junction, the grading having been completed five days previous. A depot was soon afterward built, two miles further west, where, on Jan. 27, 1882, the Western Town Lot Co., con-

sisting of railway officials, platted the town of Rubens.*

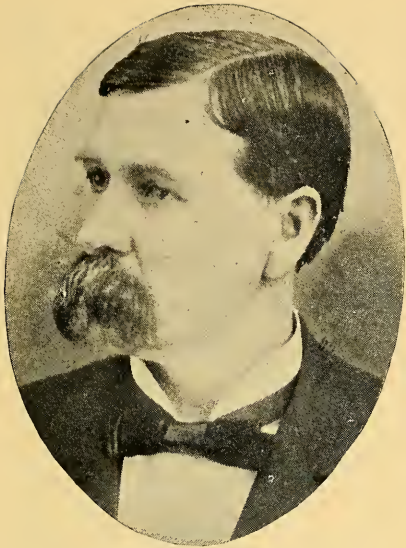
On May 21, Clinton township voted a 5 per cent tax in aid of the Des Moines & Fort Dodge R. R., on Aug. 23, 1881, the right-of-way was secured and the track was laid to Rolfe Junction about June 1, 1882.†

On Sept. 8, 1881, Wm. D. McEwen, a practical surveyor, and county treasurer at that time, on the S½ NE¼ and W½ SE¼ of section 5, Clinton township, at the junction of these two railroads surveyed and platted the town of Rolfe. This survey was filed for record Sept. 19, 1881, by the Northwestern Land Co., of which J. J. Bruce was president and A. O. Garlock, secretary. The original plat contained 17 blocks, lacking only three blocks at the southwest corner of being a complete rectangle, extending eastward from the railroad five blocks and south four blocks.

The streets running north and south from the west side eastward were named Des Moines avenue (100 feet), Garfield street (80 feet), Grant (66) and Lincoln (66). The principal street running east on the south was called Broad (100 feet) and the ones north of it, Walnut (66 feet) and Elm streets.

This is a very pretty site for a town, one that possesses natural advantages that combine to make it desirable both as a commercial and residence center. Its location is 107 miles north-west of Des Moines.

As soon as the survey was completed lots were purchased by Geo. W. Horton, merchant and postmaster at Old Rolfe, who, in the fall of 1881, built the first store building, a two-story frame, on the northwest corner of Broad and Garfield, known as the National Bank building. Other purchasers were Jas. Parks, of Poyhatan, who erected the first dwelling house, Messrs. Kelley and Foley, of Manson,



C. H. TOLLEFSRUDE, ROLFE.
COUNTY AUDITOR, 1882-85.



MRS. C. H. TOLLEFSRUDE.

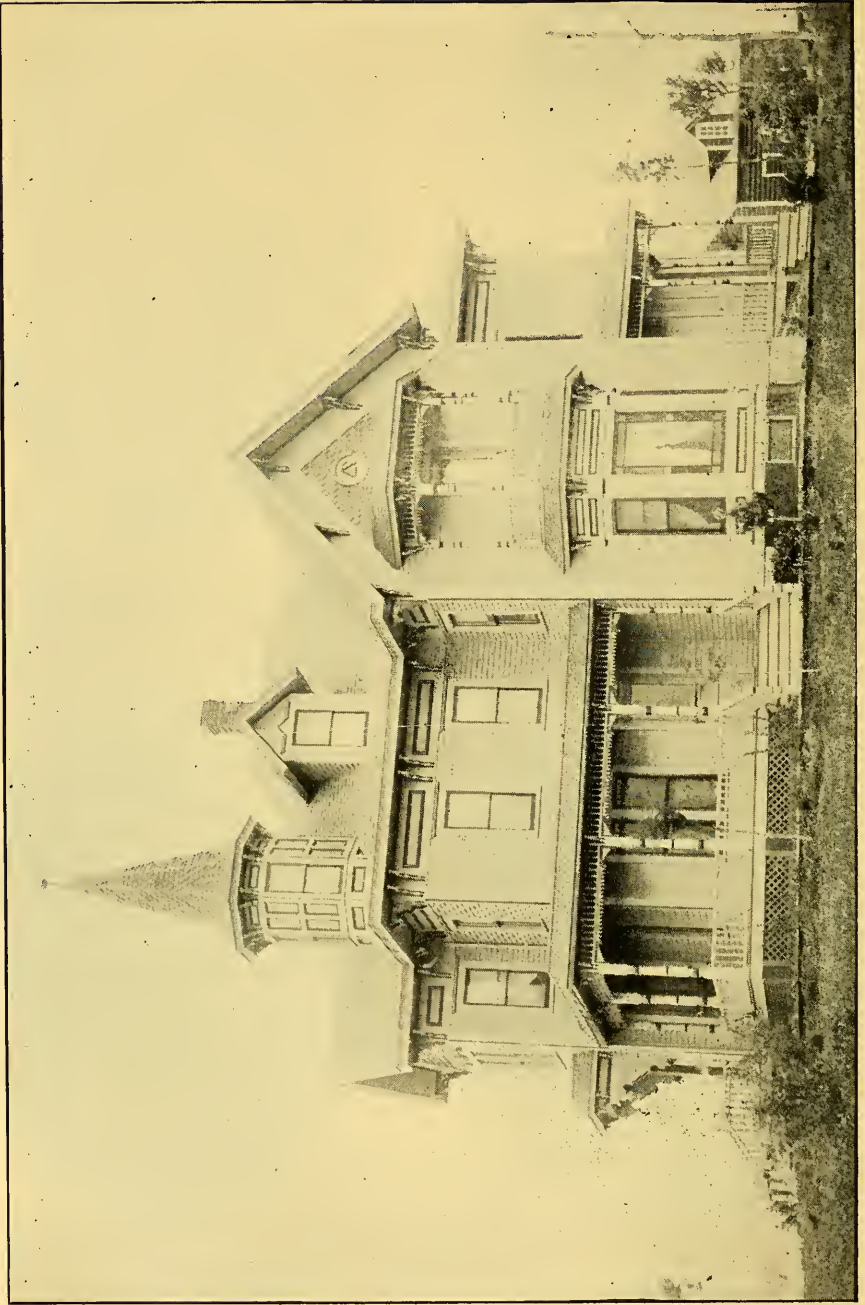


COL. JOHN B. KENT, ROLFE,
MEMBER IOWA NATIONAL GUARD, 1884-85.



MRS. J. B. KENT

RESIDENTS OF ROLFE.



RESIDENCE OF C. H. TOLLEFSRUDE, ROLFE 1893.

Lou Schoonmaker, Henry and Charles Kelly, of Lizard, and Alexander Barker who, on Sept. 29, erected a barn large enough for the accommodation of twelve teams. The lumber for Horton's store building was hauled from Humboldt and Dakota City, the terminus of the Toledo branch of the Northwestern at that time.

The postoffice was established April 1, 1882, under the name of Rolfe, with Henry Tilley as the first postmaster. Previous to this date the name Arlington was often used to designate the place, but its use was dropped by request of the citizens the day the postoffice was established under the name of the first county seat in Des Moines township.

On Dec. 21, 1883, two years after it was founded, the citizens by a vote decided to incorporate. During those two years a wild prairie region had been transformed into an incorporated town of 300 inhabitants that enjoyed the advantages of two railroads, three general and two hardware stores, one bank, one drug store, one church edifice and a school building with two rooms.

ROLFE IN 1900.

Mayor, M. Crahan.

ATTORNEYS: Robert Bruce, since 1897; C. C. Delle, since 1886; S. H. Kerr, since 1889. W. D. McEwen, since 1870.

BANKS: State Savings Bank, incorporated Jan. 1, 1893, (established in 1886 as "Exchange Bank of Rolfe," by McEwen, Garlock & Grant; brick building erected in 1889) W. D. McEwen, Pres.; A. O. Garlock, Vice-Pres.; S. H. Kerr, Cash.; C. E. Fraser, Asst. Cash.

First National Bank, incorporated May 14, 1894, (established as "Bank of Rolfe" in 1882, by John Lee; building erected in 1881, the first one in the town) J. P. Farmer, Pres.; J. H. Charlton, Vice-Pres.; S. S. Reed, Cash.; J. K. Lemon, Asst. Cash.

BARBERS: J. L. Moore, Messinger M. P.) & Watopek (Henry), W. H. Strickler.

BAZAAR: Frank H. Sherman. (See Gen'l. Merchants.)

BLACKSMITHS: N. H. Williams, (established 1882) H. C. Holt, S. D. Stoddard.

BUTTER MANUFACTURER: Rolfe Creamery, W. R. Rogers, Prop.

BICYCLE SHOP: Archie M. White.

CARPET WEAVERS: Mrs. B. Hancher, J. J. Handel.

CARPENTERS: W. A. Grove, A. W. Ireland, Charles C. Seifert, Charles Johnson, John A. Baird, J. H. Wilson, C. C. Depew, Alex. Barker.

CONTRACTORS AND BUILDERS: Edward Wood, A. W. Ireland, W. A. Grove, J. A. Baird.

CITY ENGINEER (water works): A. G. Albright, (also city marshal.)

CIVIL ENGINEER: Fred A. Malcol.

CLOTHING: Kaufman Bros., 'Globe,' D. M. Palmer, Mgr.; J. P. Farmer.

CHOP-HOUSES: Mrs. W. F. Smith. (See restaurants.)

CHURCHES: M. E. (1884), Presbyterian (1888), Catholic, Baptist (1896), Danish Lutheran (1900).

DENTISTS: C. Wesley Siefkin, Dr. Frank King.

DRESSMAKERS: Mrs. Charles Perigal, Mrs. Wm. White, Mrs. A. A. Merrill, Miss Louisa Hayward, Camille Paulson, Mrs. F. H. Symes.

DRAYMEN: Charles E. Matteson, John Spear, F. C. Walston.

DRUGGISTS: Geo. W. Core, since 1882; Charles M. Webb, since 1889; Charles H. Beam, since 1895.

ELEVATORS: Northern Iowa Grain Co., M. C. Brown, Mgr.; Counselman & Co., H. M. Underwood, Mgr.; Joe White.

EGG HOUSE AND COLD STORAGE: Crahan & Co., R. P. Brown, Mgr.

FEED AND SEED: W. B. Saunders, J. L. Hall.

FURNITURE: C. P. Leithead & Sons

(W. C. and A. E.) since 1886; McIntire Bros., (W. P. and S. L.)

GENERAL MERCHANTS: M. Crahan, since 1889; (sold in 1900 to J. P. Farmer) D. Ferguson & Son, (Ward) since 1891; Weible & Hauck, (August W. and Valentine H.) since 1883; J. T. Lange. The "Bazaar," Frank H. Sherman; the "Racket," E. E. Vest; the "Hub," H. F. Mills.

GROCERS: Pollock Bros., (J. H. & G. R.) O. B. Fuller.

GRAIN DEALERS: M. C. Brown, Northern Iowa Grain Co.; H. M. Underwood, Counselman & Co.; Joe White.

HARDWARE: A. R. Doxsee, & Bro., (J. L.) since 1895; A. B. Symes, since 1883.

HARNESS SHOPS: Ed McMahon, since 1888; J. E. Gill.

HOTELS: "Tremont," George Wengart, Prop.; "Oxford," Wm. Pauline, Prop.

HOUSE MOVER: C. H. Roberts.

ICE: W. B. Saunders.

IMPLEMENTS: E. R. Wiswell, Joe White, Mgr.; J. E. Gill, H. C. Holt, A. B. Symes, John Albright.

INSURANCE: J. B. Kent, J. M. Smith, Robert Bruce, C. E. Fraser, S. H. Kerr, M. Whitman, John Albright, J. A. Whitaker, J. H. Campbell, W. P. Wheeler, Frank E. Jorgenson, S. S. Reed, J. K. Lemon.

JEWELERS: J. White & Son, (C. J.) John M. Lind.

JANITOR (public school) E. J. Wheeler.

LAUNDRY: (Chinee) Hong Lee, Prop.

LIVERYMEN: Peter Johnson, C. E. Stover.

LIVE STOCK: Weible & Yetter, (M. W. & Jacob Y.) J. E. Gill & Co., G. W. Rich & Co.

LUMBER AND COAL: C. A. Grant & Son, (J. T.) since 1892; J. & W. C. Shull, W. F. Smith, Mgr. Coal—J. E. Gill.

MAIL MESSENGER: Des Moines &

Hawarden Div. C. & N-W. Ry., E. A. Messinger.

MASONS AND PLASTERERS: E. Buxbom, Ed Wood, D. Wood.

MEAT MARKETS: "Palace," J. H. Price; "North Side," Jas. Cuff.

MILL: Rolfe Roller Mills, Patterson & Fouch, (G. A. & D.)

MILLINERS: Mrs. J. A. Lemon, Mrs. Florence Utley, Miss Mae White.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS: R. B. Fish, McIntire Bros., (W. P. & S. L.) H. A. Lind.

MUSIC TEACHERS: Mrs. W. P. Wheeler, Miss Lucille Wheeler.

NEWSPAPERS: "The Reveille," since 1888, A. R. & Lottie Thornton; "Rolfe (twice a-week) Tribune," since 1897, J. H. Lighter.

NURSE: Miss Anna M. Smith.

PAINTERS: Kelts & Son, (Jas. & Phil B.) Ross Dennis, W. H. Shirk, Henry Jensen.

PASTORS: Rev. O. S. Bryan, M. E.; Rev. D. McKeogh, Catholic; Rev. N. H. Burdick, Presbyterian; Rev. F. O. Bump, Baptist; Rev. M. C. Jensen-Engholm, Danish Lutheran.

PHOTOGRAPHER: C. F. Garrison; building erected in 1886.)

POULTRY: F. C. Thomas, John L. Hall, M. C. Ransom, Charles Gruble.

POSTMASTER: Marion Bruce.

PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS: W. W. Beam, since 1881; E. W. Wilson, E. R. Ames, (homeopath.)

ROLFE TELEPHONE Co: W. P. Wheeler, Pres.; C. E. Fraser, Sec'y and Treas.; 115 subscribers; stock, \$10,000.

RAILWAY AGENTS: H. D. Smith, C., R. I. & P. Ry.; L. A. Dash, C. & N-W. Ry.

REAL ESTATE: J. B. Kent, John Albright, J. H. Campbell, F. E. Jorgenson, J. A. Whitaker, W. P. Wheeler, Jas. Smith.

RESTAURANTS: Wm. Harris, M. W. Coffin, I. T. Hall, T. D. Challand, Fox Bros., (James & Thos. J.) Mrs. W. F. Smith, (chop house.)

ROLFE BOTTLING WORKS: C. M. Webb, Mgr.

SADDLERY: (See Harness Shops.)

SHOEMAKERS: A. J. Denend, J. H. Hartman.

TAILORS: J. M. McPetrie, Charles Josephson.

TELEPHONE OPERATORS: Miss Lulu F. Ransom, M. W. Coffin, Charles H. Beam, (Ia. Tel. Co.)

UNDERTAKERS: C. P. Leithead, W. P. McIntire.

WAGON MAKERS: N. P. Jensen, S. D. Stoddard, H. C. Holt, N. H. Williams.

WELL DRILLERS: J. H. Hancher, Thos. Heather, (successor to N. F. Russell.)

VETERINARY SURGEON: H. Barnes.

At the first election held in Rolfe, the following persons were chosen as the first officers of the incorporation: Mayor, J. J. Bruce; councilmen, F. H. Symes and Wm. Jarvis, one year; J. Lamb and M. Lathrop, two years; V. Hauck and C. P. Leithead, three years; recorder, E. W. Duke; treasurer, John Lee. The first meeting of the council was held March 19, 1884. At this meeting the council arranged for a sidewalk, and at the second one, held March 24th, following, they determined the boundaries of the incorporation as including all of section 5, 640 acres. On Dec. 1, 1884, they gave the Toledo & Northwestern R. R. Co. a strip of land thirty feet in width on Railroad street extending from the west side of Grant street to the east line of section 5, for depot grounds and side-tracks; and the depot was then moved there from Rubens. On Feb. 2, 1882, D. D. Day was appointed as the first assessor of the town, and James Hall, marshal.

SUCCESSION OF OFFICERS.

The succession of officers of the incorporated town of Rolfe has been as follows:

MAYORS: James J. Bruce, 1884; D. D. Day, W. C. Ralston, John B. Kent,

'87-88, '98; W. F. Bright, '89; John Lee, '90-91; Wm. D. McEwen, '92-95; Ferdinand C. Thomas, '96-97; Robert Struthers, '98; (died in office) M. Crahan, '99-1900.

COUNCILMEN: F. H. Symes, '84-87, '90-92; V. Hauck, '84-86, '90-92; Wm. Jarvis, '84, '87-89; M. Lathrop, '84-87; J. Lamb, '84-86; C. P. Leithead, '84-87; M. W. Coffin, '85-91; C. A. Grant, '87-89, '97-99; A. S. Mygatt, '88-92; M. Crahan, '88, '91-93, '96-98; Frank G. Thornton, '88; D. D. Day, '89-90; E. P. Hammond, '89; J. H. Charlton, '91-92, '94-95, 1900; F. C. Thomas, '91, '99-1900; F. M. Flynn, '92; Ed McMahan, '93; J. H. Lighter, '93-97; Thomas Rogers, '93-95; W. A. Grove, '94-95; J. A. Whitaker, '94-96; R. Chambers, '95-96; Chas. Johnson, '96, '98-1900; Frank King, '96-98; H. D. Smith, '96-97; D. Fouch, '97-99; A. B. Symes, '98-1900; W. F. Smith, '99. 1900; Ward Ferguson, 1900.

RECORDERS: E. W. Duke, '84-86; J. L. Warden, '87-89; F. H. Plumb, '90; J. H. Lighter, '91; E. R. Wiswell, '92-94; Marion Bruce, '95-96; August Weible, '97-1900.

TREASURERS: John Lee, '84-88; J. J. McGrath, '89-90; S. S. Reed, '91-1900.

The first addition to Rolfe was made Aug. 26, 1884, by the Northwestern Land Co., south and east of the original plat. It included the north-east fractional quarter and the N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 5, and was platted by L. C. Thornton, surveyor. On Sept. 11, 1888, the second addition, consisting of blocks 10 and 11, north of 4 and 5 of original plat, was made by the Pocahontas Land & Loan Co., W. D. McEwen, president, and it was platted by E. A. Caswell, surveyor. On May 29, 1890, the third addition, consisting of blocks 12 to 22, west of the depot grounds of the D. M. & Ft. D. Ry., was made by the Pocahontas Land & Loan Co., and on Aug. 18, 1890, the Kent addition, consisting of blocks 1 and 2, west of the D. M. & Ft. D. Ry., and north of Elm street, was made by

John B. Kent. Aug. 14, 1893, the fourth addition, comprising blocks 23 to 38 on section 5, was made by the Pocahontas Land & Loan Co. The Lothian addition on the northeast, consists of a part of the S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 32, Des Moines township, and was made by William M. Lothian.

NO SALOON.

On Dec. 1, 1884, the council passed an ordinance providing for the payment of a license of \$25.00 a month or \$300 a year for the sale of pop, cider and other drinks not prohibited by law. The tax on billiard tables was fixed at \$12.00 each a year, minors were prohibited from frequenting places where pool, billiards, cards or other games of chance were played, and it was made the duty of the marshal to arrest all minors found playing these games. These ordinances are still in force.

The local land company that platted the town, put forth a laudable endeavor to found a city that would be free from the blighting presence of the liquor saloon, by inserting in all their deeds a clause the object of which was to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors on the premises. No provision has ever been made by the town council for its establishment, and it is a matter of local pride worthy of note that Rolfe has never had a saloon. The fact has also been noted that during the first eighteen years of its history not a business block or private residence was completely destroyed by fire. By protecting the youth of the town from the dissipating and demoralizing influences of the gaming table and saloon, a sober, clear-headed and industrious citizenship has been developed and a good class of people has been attracted to the town and community, so that the growth has been both substantial and rapid. At the general election in the fall of 1899, Rolfe took the lead by casting 412 votes, which

was 27 more than the number cast by any other town in Pocahontas county.

THE CEMETERY.

The Clinton township cemetery, containing nine acres, is located on the southwest corner of section 4, one-half mile southeast of Rolfe. It is under the supervision and care of the township trustees, who in 1890, made arrangements with Henry Packman, of Eagle Grove, to plant a row of evergreens around it and a few through it. These trees are now growing nicely, they produce a very pleasing effect upon the landscape, are eminently appropriate and invariably attract the attention and call forth the admiration of every observer. This city of the dead has become the last resting place of representatives of many of the pioneer families of the north part of this county, and during recent years a large number of beautiful monuments have been erected to their memory.

RAILROAD AID.

A number of special elections were held in this township to vote aid in favor of railway projects. On June 19, 1872, a 5 per cent tax was voted the Fort Dodge & Northwestern R. R. Co. On Nov. 30, 1872, that project having been abandoned, this aid was voted to the Iowa & Dakota R. R. Co. This project was also abandoned and on May 21, 1881, this aid was voted the Des Moines & Fort Dodge R. R. Co., who built the road from Tara to Ruthven and received it. On June 7, 1887, at a special election held in Rolfe, another 5 per cent tax was voted to aid in the construction of the Sioux City & Northeastern R. R., payable when a continuous line of standard gauge road should be completed from Sioux City to the southwest corner of section 7, Clinton township. This project was abandoned after the survey was completed.

On June 20, 1876, W. D. McEwen, editor of the Times, wrote as follows



JAS. J. BRUCE, ROLFE.
COUNTY TREASURER, 1870-73.
REPRESENTATIVE, 1886-87.



Mrs. J.J. BRUCE.



HENRY JARVIS



Mrs. HENRY JARVIS



ELLEN W. STRUTHERS MATHER
FIRST CHILD



Mrs. W. C. KENNEDY.



Mrs. L. E. ENGLAND



W. E. STRUTHERS



W. E. CAMPBELL.



Mrs. W. E. CAMPBELL.

ROLFE, GILMORE CITY AND VICINITY.

concerning this matter of railroad aid:

The McGregor & Missouri R. R. Co. a few years previous induced the citizens to vote aid in some of the townships to a paper railroad running from Fort Dodge in a northerly direction, ostensibly taking the place of the Des Moines Valley railroad. Circumstances that occurred later led those citizens, who advocated this aid, to feel that in so doing they were the dupes of a designing corporation of men, whose sole object was to secure control of the local aid in those counties in which lay the land grant of the McGregor & Missouri R. R. Co., expecting thereby to crowd out legitimate projects and to save the above named company from paying tax on its grant. This experiment led them to feel that rushing into a railroad excitement was somewhat like interfering with the business end of a wasp. A natural consequence of an over-desire to have a railroad, often leads men to grasp at straws handled by shrewd men who have axes to grind, and would have the grindstone turned by those who should hold the axe.

HISTORIC INCIDENTS.

The first child born in Clinton township was Nettie Clason, whose birth occurred July 25, 1865.

The first marriage occurred in the log house of Joseph Clason, Dec. 25, 1869, when his daughter Sarah became the wife of George Heald, Rev. David S. McComb performing the ceremony.

The first school house in Clinton township was built by W. D. McEwen and Henry Jarvis, carpenters, in 1865, on section 11, in the Malcolm district, and the first teacher in it was Edward Strong. Previous to this date many of the children in this township who attended school, went to the brick school house in Des Moines township. Clinton was included in the Des Moines school district until the end of 1868.

In 1881, the first religious services were established in the township by the organization of a union Sunday School in the Pilot Creek district, under Joseph Hatton, superintendent. In 1883, when he moved to Rolfe, Wm.

C. Kennedy became his successor as superintendent, and he maintained the Sunday School at that place during the next five years. Later, the Danish Baptists secured the erection of a church building on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 34.

At the first meeting of the trustees of Clinton township, held in April, 1861, the time was occupied in discussing work on the roads and it was decided the wages per day should be for a man, \$1.00; for one yoke of cattle fifty cents, and for two yoke of cattle, \$1.00. The amount expended on the roads that year was \$89.50.

It was in Clinton township that the following amusing incident, illustrative of the old-time way of thinking and too good to be lost, is said to have occurred:

As the time of the annual election drew near one of the few early settlers went to his neighbor and inquired if he would not be willing to take the office of justice of the peace. The one whom he addressed was a deacon in the church and he asked that a reasonable amount of time be given him to consider a matter of so much importance. A few days later he was overheard musing aloud or talking with himself over the matter and as follows: "The people now call me 'Deacon X,' and that sounds well in the ears of the Lord. If I were elected justice of the peace they will call me 'Squire X,' and that will sound well in the ears of the people. I believe I had better take the office."

During December of 1881 the first religious services were held in Rolfe by William C. Kennedy and Rev. L. C. Gray, of Fort Dodge. The former, as superintendent, secured the organization of a Sunday school and it met in the most convenient one of the new buildings in process of erection, he making the selection and cleaning it for that purpose on the previous Saturday evening. Mr. Gray held divine services at the same time and

place on alternate Sabbaths.

In December 1881 the first public school was established under Maggie Hall in a building that stood north of the First National Bank building, and for some months afterwards this building was used for the Sunday school and church services. It is now used as a stable by Dr. W. W. Beam.

In 1883, when J. J. Bruce built the double two story frame building at the south end of Garfield street from the lumber of the old court house and later known as the Tremain House, the services were transferred to the the public hall over the store of Weible & Hauck in the north half of this building.

PUBLIC OFFICERS: The following persons have been elected or appointed to serve as public officers from Clinton township: Sheriff, Edward P. Hammond; superintendents, Oscar E. Avery, Ora Harvey, J. H. Campbell; coroners, Edward P. Hammond, Joseph Clason, Dr. W. W. Beam, C. C. Delle, Esq.; surveyor, Fred A. Malcolm; clerks of the court, E. P. Hammond, A. H. Malcolm, F. H. Plumb; representative, James J. Bruce; senator, George W. Henderson; county supervisors, Ora Harvey, A. H. Malcolm, J. J. Bruce, Robert Hunter

POSTMASTERS AT ROLFE.

Henry Tilley established the office April 1, 1882, and his successors have been James Hatton, D. D. Day, '86-90; George F. Spence, '90-97; Marion Bruce since July 1, 1897.

RAILWAY AGENTS.

C. & N. W. RY: At Rubens, T. C. Morbeck, '82-83; J. Z. Benson; at Rolfe, J. Z. Benson, '84-90; Frank M. Flynn, '90-91; J. Z. Benson, '91-92; C. H. Slagle, '92-93; George Staynor, '93-96; W. F. Smith, '96-99; J. G. Kahl, '99; A. B. Jones since Jan. 1, 1900.

C. R. I. & P. RY: E. S. Darling, '82-84; H. D. Smith since 1884.

INDEPENDENT DISTRICT OF ROLFE.

In response to a petition presented

to the board of directors of Clinton township in January, 1884, the Independent District of Rolfe was established, embracing all the territory on sections 5 and 6, the W $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 4, N $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 7, N. $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 8, and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 9, in Clinton (92-31), all of section 32, the S $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 31 and W $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 33 in Des Moines (93-31) townships.

Since that time several additions have been made to this district. On Sept. 15, 1884, at the request of Henry Hayward, owner, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 8, Clinton; on Jan. 16, 1891, at the request of J. Denend, the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 4, Clinton, and on Sept. 16, 1895, at the request of Thomas Heather, the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 33, Des Moines township, were added.

On March 10, 1884, at the first meeting of the electors of the independent district, the first board of directors was elected as follows: James J. Bruce, Frederick H. Symes and M. W. Coffin. The board organized by the selection of M. W. Coffin for Pres.; James J. Bruce, Secy., and John Lee, Treas.

The succession of officers has been as follows:

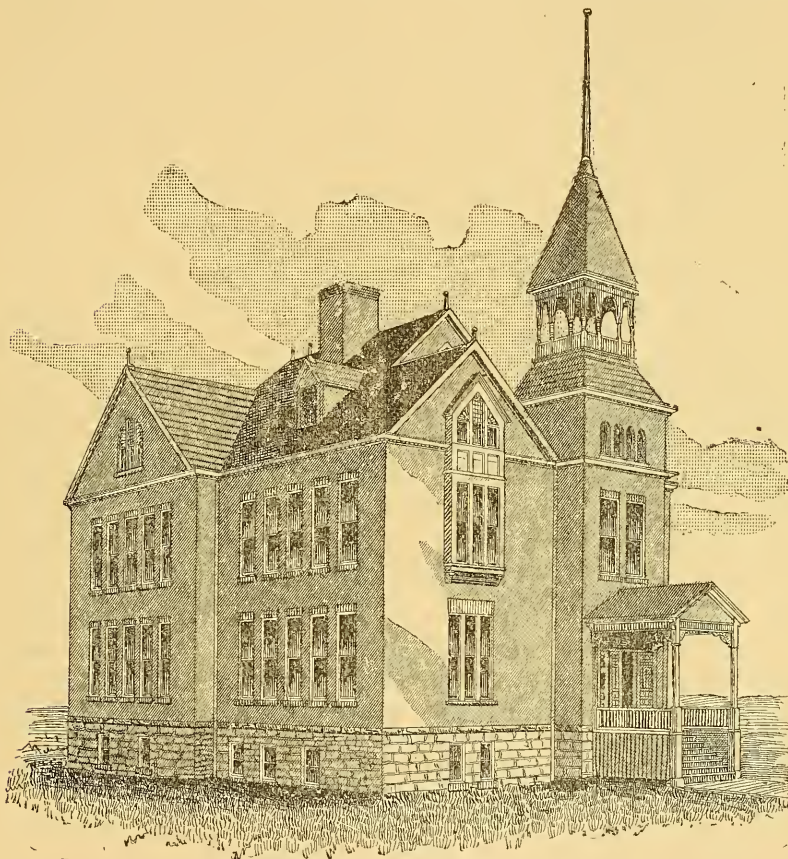
PRESIDENTS: M. W. Coffin, 1884-85; F. H. Symes, '86; M. Lathrop, '87-90; J. J. Bruce, '91-92; W. F. Bright, '93-94; F. C. Thomas, '95; John Ratcliff, '96; Wm. D. McEwen, '97; Michael Crahan, '98-99; W. W. Beam, M. D., 1900.

SECRETARIES: James J. Bruce, '84; M. Lathrop, '85; J. L. Warden, '86-92; J. H. Lighter, '93-96; A. L. Schultz, '96-97; H. D. Smith, '97-98; F. C. Thomas, '99-1900.

TREASURERS: John Lee, '84-89; J. B. Kent, '90-99; W. P. Wheeler, 1900.

Others who have served as members of the board are, C. A. Grant, '87-89; M. Weible, '89; H. A. Lind, '89-90; G. W. Dickinson, '89-91; C. C. Delle, '89; D. D. Day, '90-92; Geo. F. Spence, '90,

'94-96; W. A. Grove, '90-92; A. O. Garlock, '91; H. D. Smith, '91; W. F. Bright, '92-95; C. J. Doxsee, '92-93; John Ratchiff, '92-96; C. E. Gill, '93; W. B. Sanders, '93-95; E. M. Wilcox, '93-94; S. S. Reed, '93-94; F. C. Thomas, '88-89; J. L. Martin, '90; S. A. Crahan; F. C. Thomas, Sec., and W. P. Wheeler, Treas. PRINCIPALS: J. L. Warden, '84-85; L. M. Beebe and Amos Hoffman, in '86; A. W. Sargent, '87; Fred C. Gilchrist, '88-89; J. L. Martin, '90; S. A.



PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING, ROLFE. BUILT 1890,

'95-97; W. P. Wheeler, '96-1900; A. B. Emery, '90-93; J. M. Humphrey, '94 Symes, '98-1900. In 1889, the board was increased from three to six members, and in 1900 it consisted of W. W. Beam, M. D., Pres.; M. C. Brown, J. B. Kent, A. B. Symes and Michael T. J. Loar, '95; A. T. Rutledge, 96-1900. The assistant teachers have been, Roy Wilkinson, '84; Jennie Charlton, '85; Ida Charlton, '85-87; Jennie Bod-

enham, '87-90; Mabel Lucas, '89; Mrs. J. H. Campbell, '90; May Palmer, '90-'91; Anna Grove, Francis Beam, '90-91; Lillie Gordon, '92; Grace McMartin, '92-93; Mrs. Lucy Messenger, '93; Mary Woodward, '94; Hortense Ratcliffe, '94-98, 1900; Nellie Connor, '94; Mrs. B. Montgomery, Bertha James, Mrs. M. Barnes, '95-96; Mamie Baxter, '95-96; Alice Sherman, '95-97; C. G. Wilcox, '96; F. L. Cassidy, '97-98; Emma Sirene, '97; Mrs. May Rich, '97-1900; Mrs. Rose Crow, '98-1900; Mrs. Gelia Rutledge, '95-98; Lucetta Armstrong, '98; Lillian Porterfield, '99-1900; Julia Sinnett, '99-1900; Jennie Beam, '99; Viola Quint, Sybil Spencer and Mrs. G. A. Bickell.

GRADUATES.

In 1897, Grace Grove, Nellie Grant, Alfred Ireland, Benjamin Sherman, William Ratcliff, Lyle Burgess—6.

In 1898, Lottie Fisher, Jennie Roberts, Sue Hayward, Celia Hanlon, Verdie Fouch, Pearl Smith, Arthur Parvin, Fred Sherman—8.

In 1899, Bertha Williams, Wm. Wilcox, Hugh Beam, Oscar Everson—4.

In 1900, Mary Strong, Mabel Rogers, Litta Ireland, Lulu Perigal, Lizzie Nelson, Anna Tilley, Harris Thomas—7. Total, 25.

Two teachers were employed at the time the independent district was organized. The third school was added in 1889. On March 31, 1890, by a vote of 54 to 2, it was decided to erect a new and brick building for which the site was purchased of A. O. Garlock, May 17, 1890. The new two-story brick building containing four rooms was erected by T. H. Connor, contractor, for \$7,973.00. In 1898 a two-story addition containing four more rooms, was added. This is now the largest and one of the finest school buildings in the county.

The course of instruction embraces five departments—first and second primary, intermediate, grammar and high school. The high school includes

four grades of one year each—the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th. The school year is thirty-six weeks and the present enrollment of pupils is 31½, who are cared for by a faculty of eight instructors. The rules provide for the suspension of any pupil who is absent more than six half-days in any four consecutive weeks, unless detained by sickness or some urgent cause; also for using tobacco in any form or profane or improper language on the school-grounds. Prof. A. T. Rutledge is now serving his fifth year as principal and the efficient work done in their public schools is a source of pride to the people of Rolfe.

In November, 1900, Mr. G. W. Schee, of Primghar, a liberal friend of education, offered the people of Rolfe \$100.00 if they would raise \$250.00 more, for the purpose of putting a good library in the Rolfe high school. With the approval of the board of education, Prof. A. T. Rutledge began the work of solicitation, the people responded liberally and in a few days the required amount was raised. This library, costing \$350.00 and obtained before Christmas, 1900, forms a valuable literary equipment for the Rolfe schools. These books were bought for use and pupils may take them to their homes, but if they are not returned in good condition they will be charged to the head of the family. They are under the care of the school board and it is its duty to check them up once a year.

PUBLIC SPIRIT.

The public spirit of the citizens of Rolfe has been manifested in various ways and on every occasion that has called for its expression. One of the most liberal and commendable instances of its expression was in the spring of 1891, when Messrs. W. D. McEwen, A. O. Garlock and C. A. Grant, proprietors of the Savings Bank, took the lead in making to the Presbytery of Fort Dodge, in behalf

of the citizens of Rolfe, an offer of a beautiful site of nine acres of land, upon an elevation north and west of the junction of the two railroads, and \$12,000 additional, making a gift of \$15,000, in the event the Collegiate Institute, then located in inadequate buildings and grounds at Fort Dodge, should be moved to Rolfe. This liberal offer was a genuine surprise to the citizens of Fort Dodge, was greatly appreciated by the Presbytery and proved an effective stimulus to the larger town of Storm Lake, that secured it, to offer still greater inducements for that institution now known as Buena Vista College.

ROLFE'S PUBLIC PARK.

Soon after the town of Rolfe was founded, some thoughtful and observing citizens expressed regret that a public square or park had not been left in the center of it for the pleasurable and healthful enjoyment of the people. In February, 1898, this expression of desire for a park was more munificently met by Wm. D. McEwen, Esq., and Hon. A. O. Garlock than others had previously anticipated; they tendered and the city council accepted from them the valuable tract of land containing forty acres, located within the corporate limits and known during the previous ten years as the Rolfe Driving Park.

About the year 1888, this land was sold to the Rolfe Driving Park Association for a fair ground and race course. No money, however, except the annual interest, was ever paid on the contract, for although yearly meetings were held for races they almost invariably proved a source of financial loss to the stockholders. After ten years of unsatisfactory experience and greatly to the relief of the stockholders, the original owners volunteered to take back the land, returning to the stockholders all the interest they had paid on their contract and remunerating them also for

all the improvements they had made. They then deeded this entire tract of land to the town of Rolfe for a public park.

That which Warrick Price did for Pocahontas when he platted that village in 1870, making it the first and for twentyeight years the only one in Pocahontas county having a beautiful, shady park, has now been done for Rolfe by those who platted the town in 1881. The greater size and value of the gift is suggestive of the real and personal interest of the donors in the present and future happiness and welfare of the people of Rolfe. This park, in a few years, when it has been laid out, improved and planted with trees, will become a very beautiful place; and the interest of the people in it will increase with the progress of the years.

GOOD ROAD'S MOVEMENT.

In the fall of 1898, when opportunities for employment were scarce and workmen plenty, under the leadership of Col. John B. Kent, \$650.00 were pledged by the citizens and business firms of Rolfe for the purpose of grading and hauling gravel on the streets and highways within the incorporation. On Nov. 10th the matter was laid before the town council and it further encouraged this movement by providing that an amount from the general fund, not exceeding \$650, should be added to the amount voluntarily contributed by the citizens. As a result, over \$1200 were expended for the permanent improvement of the streets and highways in Rolfe and vicinity. The committee having the matter in charge purchased two gravel pits in the neighborhood for a small sum so that almost the whole amount contributed was expended merely for labor. A number of farmers contributed liberally to the fund and during that winter the four principal roads leading into Rolfe, as well as its streets, were thoroughly worked.

graded and graveled. When spring came and the roads leading into neighboring towns were impassable because of the mud, the four main roads leading into Rolfe were dry and hard. The permanent value of this public spirited improvement is perceived when it is known that the gravel was put eighteen inches deep on the grades.

Every feature of this movement was one of real and substantial benefit to the people of Rolfe and vicinity. The laboring men who performed the work, in less than sixty days, by the payment of their bills for groceries, etc., brought back to the donors the money they had contributed. The merchants of the city realized an increase of trade, the farmers coming to town in the family carriage, or with wagons heavily laden with the products of the soil, experienced a grateful relief from the former bad roads, and the town received commendatory congratulations from the public press of the State that were greatly enjoyed by all.

In 1899 crude oil was used on some roads at Keokuk and some of the suburban streets of Des Moines as a sprinkler for settling the dust and making the surface of the unpaved dirt roads less liable to washing. Crude oil settles the dust and makes such a coating that the rain does not wash away even the finest dust.

The new departure of free rural mail delivery means better roads in the rural districts. The successful delivery of mail in the country depends on having long routes, over which the carriers can pass at all seasons of the year, delivering and collecting enough mail to obtain sufficient revenue to cover the cost of the service. Other States in the Union are moving not only for good roads but for rural free delivery. The farmers of Iowa, the State having the greatest and most varied natural resources, should endeavor to have the best roads possible. In this county the attention

hitherto has been directed chiefly to grading the low places while the knolls have been left comparatively undisturbed. The time has now come when the knolls should be removed as far as possible and the grades graveled. In many instances the removal of the knolls will furnish considerable gravel for the grades. Those supervisors will be remembered as public benefactors who shall now expend the greater part of one year's tax in removing the knolls on the highways, in their respective districts, that lead to town.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF ROLFE.

In 1882 John Lee established the Bank of Rolfe, the first one of the town, and maintained it alone seven years. On Jan. 1, 1889 Samuel S. Reed bought a one third interest in it and became its cashier. On March 3, 1893, it was sold to Farmer, Thompson & Helsell, of Sioux Rapids, who continued it as a private bank until May 14, 1894, when, with a paid up capital of \$50,000 it was organized as the First National Bank of Rolfe, J. P. Farmer, President; J. H. Charlton, V. P.; J. W. Warren, cashier and S. S. Reed, assistant. When J. W. Warren died, Jan. 27, 1896, S. S. Reed became cashier, J. K. Lemon, assistant and Clark Brower, clerk. The directors in 1900 were J. P. Farmer and F. H. Helsell, of Sioux Rapids, J. H. Charlton W. W. Beam, M. D., Thomas Rogers and S. S. Reed, Rolfe.

The citizens of Rolfe who are now identified with this bank are well known as among the most enterprising, successful and substantial in that community.

J. P. Farmer, O. P. Thompson and F. H. Helsell in 1882 established the Bank of Sioux Rapids. During the next eighteen years they extended the field of their operations from time to time and from town to town until they have become one of the strongest and most widely known banking firms in northwestern Iowa. They

own all the stock in the bank of Siouxs Rapids, where their general office is located, in the Bank of Havelock and Greenville; and a controlling interest in the First National Banks of Rolfe and Laurens, and of other banks located at Marathon, Peterson and Spencer. The rapid expansion and growth of their business suggests that they are men of sound financial standing and have a talent for business. In each of the communities where they are doing business their banks are managed by courteous and popular officials and the banking interests of the people are well served.

STATE SAVINGS BANK OF ROLFE.

On March 1, 1886, the Exchange Bank of Rolfe was established by Wm. D. McEwen, Pres; A. O. Garlock, V. P., and C. A. Grant, cashier. In 1892 it was reorganized as the State Savings Bank of Rolfe, with a paid up capital of \$30,000 under the same officers. The officers since June 1, 1900 are Wm. D. McEwen, President; A. O. Garlock, V. P.; S. H. Kerr, Cashier and Charles E. Fraser, assistant cashier; and the directors are W. D. McEwen, A. O. Garlock, C. A. Grant, A. V. Grant, J. M. McEwen and M. E. Kerr.

C. A. Grant, who had the special charge of this bank during the first three years of its history, continued as its cashier until June 1, 1900, a period of fourteen years. He began its business with a deposit of \$2,300. On the first day no drafts were sold and the business transacted consisted in taking a note for a small loan and receiving \$303 from three depositors. On the last day he rendered service the deposits amounted to \$112,000 and the general footings were the highest in its history. He still retains his interest in the bank, but gives his special attention to another important business enterprise. C. H. Tollefsrude was the assistant cashier of this bank

for several years previous to June 1, 1900.

The establishment of this bank was one of the natural outgrowths of a bond of mutual co-operation that has existed between Wm. D. McEwen and A. O. Garlock during the last twenty-four years. In 1876, when the county seat was moved and they were filling the offices of county treasurer and auditor, respectively, they bought three lots at Pocahontas, erected a large house and occupied it together thirteen years, or until 1889 when the latter moved to Rolfe. In 1881 they became leading partners in the Northwestern Town Lot Co. that platted the town of Rolfe. In 1883 they erected a stone building and established the Pocahontas Savings Bank, the pioneer bank at Pocahontas. Mr. Garlock, as cashier, managed its affairs while Mr. McEwen continued to perform the duties of county treasurer. In 1886 they established the Exchange Bank of Rolfe under the management of C. A. Grant, cashier, and in 1891 the Savings Bank of Plover, the latter under the management of W. S. McEwen, cashier. Both of these men were among the sturdy pioneers who settled in this county during the sixties and they have rendered long periods of efficient and important public service. They have achieved an eminent degree of success in their business enterprises and have become equally prominent for the liberality of their responses to the calls of charity, benevolence, patriotism and philanthropy.

The stock of these three banks established by them is all owned by the directors that have been named, and they need no introduction or words of commendation to the citizens of Pocahontas county, who, among other things, have learned the propriety of patronizing their own home institutions. In 1892 all of these banks were reorganized, and among the changes made at that time was the

enlargement of the one at Rolfe to the State Savings Bank, the spacious offices of which have become the official headquarters for the general management of all.

By an invariable adherence to honorable business principles, on the part of its proprietors, the State Savings Bank has constantly grown in public favor. Its name is suggestive of sterling integrity, economical administration and abundant resources. "Its policy has always been to keep its business entirely within its own control and its resources available for any emergency. Its excellent management has evinced a knowledge of finance that reflects credit upon its proprietors and also upon the community in which it is located."

THE CHURCHES OF ROLFE.

The people of Rolfe and vicinity believe in the public worship of Almighty God, in having good churches for that purpose and in making a good use of them. Everybody at Rolfe goes to church. As a result their churches are filled with devout and reverent worshippers during the hours of public worship. During the hour of Sunday school they are again filled with an assemblage of parents, young people and children for the purpose of studying "the holy Scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation."* As a natural result all the people, old and young, have an intelligent knowledge of the law of God and the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ; and herein is found the secret of that high moral sentiment for which the people of Rolfe and vicinity have always been noted.

The Methodists, Presbyterians, Catholics, Baptists and Danish Lutherans have secured the erection of commodious church buildings, and they are now served by resident pastors.

The Norwegian Lutherans who have been worshipping in the Presbyterian

*11 Tim. 3, 15.

church and are now served by Rev. O. Halgrims, of Thor, have arranged for the erection of a church building in 1901, on lots donated for that purpose on Elm street by Niels Johnson.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL.

The Methodist Episcopal church of Rolfe is the oldest organization of that denomination in Pocahontas county. Services were established in the court house at Old Rolfe during the sixties by the Des Moines conference, a parsonage was erected there during the year 1874, and the charge embraced the inhabited portions of the northern part of this county. Owing to the lack of local records, the facts relating to the early history of this organization elude the search of the historian.

The succession of pastors at Old Rolfe, so far as we have been able to ascertain them, was as follows: Rev. D. M. Beams, 1869; John E. Rowen, Rufus Fancher, William McCready, Oct. 1875, 2yrs.; R. W. Thornberg, '77; C. W. Clifton, '78, 2yrs; T. J. Cuthbert, '80, 2 yrs. The county records show that the board of county supervisors on June 7, 1869, extended to this organization the courtesy of holding a quarterly meeting in the court house after that date.

In 1883 the services were transferred to the new town of Rolfe. On Oct. 29, 1883, Elijah D. Seely, James J. Bruce and James S. Hatton, trustees, were appointed a building committee to superintend the erection of a church building. The frame of this building was erected that fall and it was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies by presiding elder, Rev. W. F. Gleason, June 20, 1884. This building has since been enlarged by the addition of a pulpit recess and class-room. These additions in connection with a re-arrangement of the main audience room have nearly doubled its seating capacity. A large and comfortable parsonage has also been built on lots

adjoining the church, the old one having been sold soon after its removal to Rolfe.

The succession of pastors at Rolfe has been: A. W. Richards, Oct. 1, '82, 3 yrs.; W. Rice, '85, 2 yrs.; F. W. Ginn, '87; Charles Artman, '88, 3 yrs.; T. S. Cole, '91, 2 yrs.; Joel A. Smith, '93; T. S. Carter, '94, 2 yrs.; F. J. McCaffree, '96, 2 yrs.; R. C. Glass, '98; O. S. Bryan, '99, 2d year.

The work of this church is well organized under the leadership of capable persons and it is accomplishing its mission in a manner highly creditable to its pastors and membership.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The Presbyterian church at Rolfe was organized at the old town of Rolfe, Oct. 31, 1880, during the ministry of Rev. L. C. Gray, of Fort Dodge, with a membership of fourteen persons,



METHODIST CHURCH AND PARSONAGE, ROLFE.

The roll of this church contains the names of a number of the first settlers in the north part of this county of whom Mr. and Mrs. John Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. Augustus H. Malcolm and a few others are still living. They have been loyal to the interests of the church and it has exerted a potent influence in the development of the moral and spiritual forces of that community. Every department of

namely: Robert Struthers, Susan (McEwen) Struthers, Robert Lothian, Sr., John B. Lothian, George Anderson, Robert Anderson, James J. Bruce, Mary J. Bruce, Joseph Clason, Ellen Mather, Alexander McEwen, Delilah McEwen, Emiline Broadwell and Peter Williams.

Robert Struthers, James J. Bruce and Robert Lothian, Sr., were elected elders. James J. Bruce served as

elder and clerk of the session until Oct. 1, 1883. Alexander McEwen, George Henderson and Robert Anderson were elected trustees.

This was a reorganization of the Unity* Presbyterian church that had

Second Presbyterian church of Rolfe. The succession of Pastors in it has been Rev. Lyman C. Gray, Fort Dodge, 1880-83; Simeon B. Head, Pomeroy, '84-86; George H. Duty, '87-90; Augustus C. Keeler, '91-93; George Ainslie,



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ROLFE.

been maintained in the northeast part of the county from 1859 until the year 1879, when it was allowed to lapse. To distinguish the new organization from the old one it was called the
*See page 218,

'94-97; W. Rollin McCaslin, '98-99; Newman H. Burdick, the present pastor, since August 1, 1900.

During the ministry of Rev. G. H. Duty, the first one to reside on the field, the work developed very rapidly:

On July 19, 1888, the corner stone for the church building was laid with appropriate ceremonies and an address by Rev. R. E. Flickinger, of Fonda, and on Dec. 9th, following it was dedicated, the address being delivered by Rev. T. S. Bailey, D. D. In 1889 a large and spacious parsonage was erected in the vicinity of the church, as a home for the pastor's family.

This church has in its membership those who have become well known all over this county as recognized leaders in Sunday-school work. It was the first in the county to organize and successfully maintain a home department of the Sunday-school, for the benefit of those parents and others who could not attend its sessions, and it has hitherto been in charge of William C. Kennedy who, for many years previous, was the efficient superintendent of the school. It has been served by a succession of able and earnest pastors, under whose ministrations, it has increased rapidly in numbers and resources so that it is now one of the strongest and most influential in the county.

The elders in 1900 were George F. Spence, clerk and Sunday school superintendent; William C. Kennedy, superintendent of the home class department, D. Fouch and John T. Grant.

Trustees: W. C. Kennedy, Geo. F. Spence, E. Buxbom, R. S. Mathers and Mrs. C. A. Grant.

The rapid development of the work during the three and one-half years' ministry of Rev. George H. Duty, forms not only the most interesting chapter in the history of this church but the most notable one in some respects, in the annals of the church in Pocahontas county. His field of labor included the north half of this county and those portions of Palo Alto, Kosuth and Humboldt counties of which West Bend and Gilmore City were then the natural trade centers:

At the request of the people to serve them one-half time he located at Rolfe, May 1, 1887. He was in the prime of life and enjoyed robust health. He also enjoyed the cooperation of a talented and noble-hearted wife, who shared with him his trials and the joy of his successive achievements. He threw himself without reserve into the work of developing the new fields in the vicinity of Rolfe as they called for his cooperation, and the permanent results of his self-sacrificing missionary labors in laying foundations in them have not been exceeded by any christian worker in this county during the same short period.

On his arrival he found no foundations laid except that at Rolfe and West Bend churches had been organized that had a membership of twenty-five and thirteen respectively, but they had no church buildings. He began his ministry by dividing his time between Rolfe and West Bend. After a few Sabbaths Plover, Pocahontas and Gilmore City claimed a part of his time. By preaching three times and riding twenty-five miles each Sabbath he was able to give one service to Rolfe every Sabbath and to the other places named one service every other Sabbath, making the trips in his own one-horse buggy.

The services were held in the Methodist church at Rolfe, in the court house at Pocahontas and in school houses at the other places. They were well attended by both men and women except during the severe portions of the winter of 1887 and 1888. The terrible blizzard of Jan. 12, 1888 that caused the loss of many lives, blocked the railroads and filled the highways with impassable drifts, and some succeeding stormy days prevented him from leaving home on a few Sabbaths, but many long and cold journeys over the frozen or snow-covered prairies did he make in meeting his widely separated appointments.

During that winter the propriety of building a church became the subject of discussion at each of his appointments. At Rolfe a rock foundation had been built some years previous but owing to its unfavorable location it was deemed inadvisable to build upon it. As spring advanced these building schemes began to take definite shape by the solicitation of funds at Rolfe, West Bend and Gilmore City. During the summer the erection of the buildings was undertaken, the corner stone at Rolfe being laid July 19th. At the fall meeting of the Presbytery of Fort Dodge, a committee was appointed that effected the organization of a church at Plover with twenty-six members on Oct. 11th, and at Gilmore City with eleven members, on Oct. 15th. The church at Rolfe was completed and dedicated Dec. 9th; the one at West Bend Dec. 30, and the one at Gilmore City Feb. 3, 1889.

The erection of these three houses of worship prepared the way for holding evangelistic meetings and, as a result of those held continuously from Dec. 30, 1888, to April 1, 1889, with the exception of the week preceding the dedication at Gilmore City, more than fifty persons were added to the membership of these churches.

Some of the people of Rolfe now began to think they ought to build a parsonage. This new enterprise was successfully launched, and just before it was completed the people at Plover expressed a desire to build a house of worship. Their request for his cooperation in this undertaking met with his hearty approval. Funds were raised, workmen were engaged and on the 8th day of December following, another beautiful church building was dedicated. During the ensuing year, 1890, he began to hold services at Laurens on occasional Tuesday evenings and a church of eight members was organized there Sept. 1, that year.

From these narratives it will be per-

ceived that during the short space of three years, in the development of his own field of labor, he secured the organization of three churches and the erection of a large parsonage and four beautiful houses of worship. He received seventy-four persons into the membership of these churches during the year ending April 1, 1889.

His tact in overcoming those little embarrassments that are liable to appear when forward movements in the church are undertaken, was nicely illustrated in the way in which the parsonage movement at Rolfe was launched. At the first meeting held to arrange for the erection of the parsonage only a few persons were present and it seemed to them inadvisable to take any action except to adjourn to a later date. Two weeks later another meeting was held and a less number being present they again adjourned until a later date. At the third meeting only one man, George Melson, was present in addition to Mr. Duty. This meeting, however, was harmonious and enthusiastic. They agreed that a parsonage was needed and that the people were then ready to "rise up and build it." They prepared and adopted resolutions to that effect, appointed the necessary committees and the enterprise was successfully launched.

During the summer of 1890 he experienced the loss of his horse in a surprising manner. Realizing that his field of labor was too large and taking Rev. N. Feather with him to view the appointments to be set off, he started in his buggy to visit Plover and West Bend. As they were approaching Plover they were caught in a thunder shower and a bolt of lightning killed his horse. This was a loss that was deeply felt, but kind friends enabled him to purchase another one soon afterward.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

The First Baptist church of Rolfe was organized Sept. 29, 1895, as a re-

sult of special meetings conducted by Dora Livingston and Miss Ellen Okerstrom. Rev. J. W. Thompson, with thirteen constituent members, namely: R. P. Brown, Mrs. R. P. Brown, D. M. Palmer were elected deacons; R. P. Brown, N. F.



CATHOLIC CHURCH, ROLFE.

mer, Mrs. D. M. Palmer, O. W. Garrison, Mrs. O. W. Garrison, Mrs. M. E. Russell and D. M. Palmer trustees; Mrs. Dora Livingston, clerk; and C. Kerr, Mrs. N. F. Russell, C. A. Green, H. Roberts, treasurer. On Jan. 1, 1896, Rev. Charles Gilbert

Wright was called to the pastorate and he continued until Jan. 1, 1900, when he was succeeded by Rev. George Yule who served nearly one year and was succeeded by Rev. F. O. Bump, the present pastor. On Dec. 20, 1896, a house of worship was completed and dedicated at a cost of \$1,800. The enrollment now shows a membership of sixty communicants and the work of the church is progressing very encouragingly.

DANISH LUTHERAN CHURCH.

The United Danish Evangelical Lutherans completed and dedicated a house of worship in Rolfe May 27, 1900. At the dedicatory services which lasted three days, addresses were delivered by Rev. G. B. Christiansen, of Omaha, president of the denomination, Rev. N. Hansen, of Cedar Falls, president of the eastern Iowa district, by eight other visiting brethren and the pastors of the other churches in Rolfe. A few months later that same year the erection of a parsonage was undertaken and carried to a happy completion. Rev. M. C. Jensen-Engholm, the pastor under whose leadership these buildings were erected, began his ministry at Rolfe March 1, 1900 and has been giving half his time to the church at Callender. He is serving an industrious and sociable people, and is to be congratulated on the rapid material development of his work during the year 1900.

THE COUNTY MUTUAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

The office of the Pocahontas County Fire and Lightning Insurance Association was at the home of its secretary, J. J. Bruce, Rolfe, until Oct. 19, 1897; and it has been at the home of P. J. Shaw, near Plover, since that date. The history of this association begins with a meeting held in the court house at Pocahontas, March 26, 1890,* when a constitution was adopted and a committee appointed to prepare

*See page 313.

suitable by-laws. At a second meeting, held April 21st, following, the by-laws were adopted and a permanent organization was effected by the election of C. M. Saylor, president; James J. Bruce, secretary; George Watts, treasurer. The others who were associated with them as founders or original directors, were P. J. Shaw, Geo. W. Henderson, Alexander Peterson, J. W. O'Brien, W. F. Atkinson, Wm. Brownlee and James Clancy. At the first annual meeting, held on the second Tuesday of October, 1890, the number of directors was increased to sixteen, one for each township in the county.

On Jan. 1, 1891, the required amount of applications having been received, this association began to do business and issued policies to the amount of \$50,000. During the first four years, owing to the opposition encountered from old stock companies and even from loan associations, the growth was comparatively slow, but nevertheless encouraging. During the past few years its growth has been very rapid, as may be seen by the following exhibit of its assessable risks:

Jan. 1, 1891.....	\$ 50 000
“ “ 1896.....	350 310
“ “ 1898.....	511 293
“ “ 1899.....	637 665
“ “ 1900.....	900 611
May 14, “	1 000 000
Jan. 1, 1901.....	1 163 411

The cost of an insurance of \$1,000 in this association during its first ten years, appears in the following exhibit:

During 1891.....	No assessment
“ 1892.....	\$1 75
“ 1893.....	No assessment
“ 1894.....	\$1 00
“ 1895.....	No assessment
“ 1896.....	\$2 00
“ 1897.....	3 00
“ 1898.....	No assessment
“ 1899.....	\$2 00
“ 1900.....	2 00

Total for ten years \$11 75
The membership fee in this associa-

tion is \$1.00, and the contingent fee collected at the time the policy is issued is two mills on each dollar of insurance. This association was formed in response to the request of many farmers, who had been members of mutual companies in other parts of this and other states, where it was found that reliable insurance was furnished at one-half the cost charged by the old line companies. It insures farm property, including buildings, their contents, machinery, farm produce and live stock, but does not take any single risk of over \$2,000. It is an auxiliary to the Iowa Mutual Insurance Association and its agents write policies for the Iowa Mutual Tornado, Cyclone and Windstorm Association. The annual meetings are held in the month of October, and whilst the officers are elected by the directors, every member has a vote in the selection of the directors.

The officers in 1900 were, C. M. Saylor, president; George Watts, vice-president, and P. J. Shaw, secretary and treasurer. The other directors or local agents, were Swan Nelson, James Mercer, Alexander Peterson, Carl Steinbrink, Charles Elsen, Wm. C. Kennedy, Charles L. Gunderson, Anton Hudek, O. F. Olson, W. E. Pirie, M. T. Nilsson and L. E. Hanson.

This association is no longer an experiment, but a permanent institution founded on a sound financial basis. The management of its affairs is in the hands of men who have been successfully working out their own destiny by a long residence in this county, and they have already saved their friends in the rural districts hundreds of dollars by affording them safe insurance at greatly reduced rates.

No farmer should take the chance of being financially embarrassed by the loss of his buildings and property by fire, when good protection can be secured for a few dollars. It is as

good a policy for the farmer to carry a reasonable amount of insurance as it is for the business man. It is also the best way of contributing one's share toward helping those who are so unfortunate as to lose their property by fire or tornado, and when one is contributing in this way to help others, he is paying for his own protection.

An incidental benefit from this and similar organizations has been the tabulation of losses, the study of their causes and the adoption of precautionary measures to minimize them. Thus in this county it was found that 23 of 25 losses sustained in 1899 were due to lightning, and that wire fences, which are good conductors of electricity, were an important factor in causing them. The secretary therefore advised all farmers to place ground wires every ten or twenty rods along their fences to conduct the electric fluid into the earth, and thus lessen the danger to their stock from this cause. Human genius has been able to grapple with this most subtle and terrific force of nature. It has harnessed the lightning to cars, put it to work in mills and factories and made it an obedient and powerful servant of man's will; and it is believed the time is not far distant when it will be able to construct ample safeguards against its destructive manifestations during electric storms.

THE POCAHONTAS COUNTY BIBLE SOCIETY.

The entrance of thy Word giveth light.—DAVID.

In the fall of 1867, Mr. Conrad, the Iowa State Superintendent of the American Bible Society, held a meeting at the old town of Rolfe and received \$13.25 for the purchase of Bibles. A county society was partially organized by the appointment of Wm. D. McEwen, secretary and treasurer. At a second meeting held soon afterward, Robert Struthers was appointed

president, John Fraser, secretary; and Edward P. Hammond, depositor and treasurer; and the organization of the Pocahontas County Bible Society was completed.

Until the day of his death, in 1899, Robert Struthers continued to serve as president of this organization, and John Fraser is still its faithful, efficient and highly honored secretary. The long periods of continuous service, covering more than thirty years each, rendered by these two loyal lovers of the Bible, has given stability and efficiency to this organization. When John Fraser in October, 1867, conveyed from Fort Dodge to Old Rolfe the first lot of books sent by the American Bible Society, (\$112.00) he carried the first supply of Bibles and Testaments into Pocahontas county. The successors of E. P. Hammond as depositor and treasurer at Old Rolfe, were Rev. Wm. McCready, Rev. R. W. Thornberg and Rev. C. W. Clifton. In 1880, James Hatton was appointed depositor, and James J. Bruce, treasurer. The latter has continued to serve in this capacity until the present time, and the succession of depositors has been, Joseph Hartman, F. H. Plumb, Geo. F. Spence and Frank Sherman. Other old settlers who contributed in the early days to the support of the good work of this society were, Henry Tilley, Joseph Clason, Wm. Stinsol, Robert Lothian, Hiram Seely, J. C. Strong, Rev. A. Whitfield, John Barnes, Rev. R. L. Kenyon, Harvey Hay, Joseph Hawkins A. W. Dart, C. M. Saylor, Mrs. Wm. Jarvis, Mrs. T. and Susie Fisher, Mrs. Ira Scranton, Ellen Struthers, Alice Barnes and Jessie Fraser.

In May, 1879, the entire county was canvassed for the purpose of leaving a Bible in every home, by Rev. H. Pilbeam, an agent of the American Bible Society. His report showed that he traveled 776 miles and visited 503 families, of whom 87 had no copies of the

scriptures. He supplied 59 of them and left copies in many other homes. He distributed 338 volumes worth \$129.99 by donating 115 volumes (\$39.09) and selling the others for \$90.90. He also received voluntary offerings from the people to the amount of \$25.30. He left with the county society the balance of his supply, valued at \$65.54, of which books to the value of \$38.89 were left in the care of A. W. Dart, custodian, for Fonda and vicinity. A supply was also left with C. M. Saylor at this time for the center of the county and the parent society canceled a debt of \$73.19 due from the county society.

At the fourteenth anniversary held at Old Rolfe Aug. 20, 1882, Rev. John Hood, the state superintendent, was present and \$42.00 were contributed for new books. The depository, in care of James Hatton, was transferred to the new town of Rolfe and A. W. Ireland presented the society with an upright showcase for keeping the books.

In 1883, the parent society, through its state superintendent, made a proposition to donate as many more Bibles as the county society should pay for, for the purpose of replenishing the local supply of Bibles. As a result of this effort \$60.00 were raised and the society received books to the amount of \$120.00. Since that date a good supply of books has been maintained in the depository. The total value of books received has been \$756.96, for which there has been paid the parent society \$494.03 and donated to it \$22.22. There have been donated to Sunday Schools books to the value of \$61.86, and the expenses paid have been \$91.63. An auxiliary branch has been maintained at Plover for several years and it is now in charge of Mrs. George N. Loughhead.

This County Bible Society is one of the oldest organizations in Pocahontas county and one of the most bene-



WM. D. MCEWEN, ROLFE.

CLERK OF THE COURT, 1867-72. COUNTY AUDITOR, 1869-73.
COUNTY TREASURER, 1874-83, 1886-87.



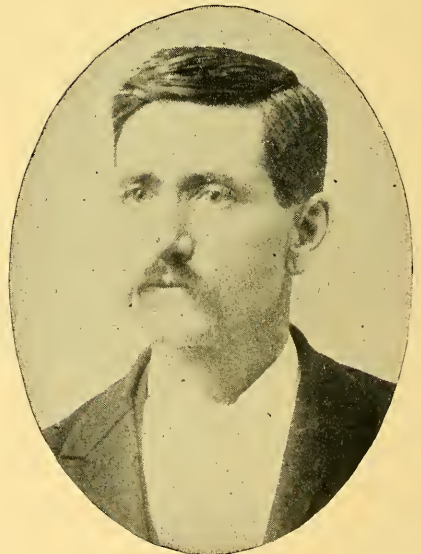
OSCAR I. STRONG, 1844-85.
COUNTY SURVEYOR, 1871. RECORDER, 1877-78.
COUNTY SUP'T, 1874-75; 1880-81.



GEO. W. HENDERSON, ROLFE.
STATE SENATOR, 1894-95.



C. F. GARRISON, ROLFE.
PHOTOGRAPHER.



C. P. LEITHEAD, ROLFE.
UNDERTAKER.

ficial in its influence and results. It merits the cordial and liberal support of all christian people. The annual membership fee is \$1.00 and the annual meeting is held during the last week in February.

ROLFE EGG PACKING HOUSE.

In 1895 R. P. Brown, of Grand Junction, one of the oldest and most skillful egg packers in this state, came to Rolfe, built a three story frame building 26X100 feet and supplied it with the most approved appliances for packing eggs in pickle during the summer season. An ice house having a capacity of 900 tons was also erected and the business of packing eggs was inaugurated at Rolfe. This is the only establishment of this kind in Pocahontas or adjoining counties and the amount of business done surprises the visitor. Lucrative employment is given fifteen to thirty persons and forty to fifty carloads of eggs may be found in storage representing an annual investment of \$50,000. The eggs are purchased when the price is low and they are immediately placed in pickle in the cellar, in large vats that hold 8000 dozen each. The pickle is a compound that preserves them as fresh in appearance as on the day they were laid, and they remain in it until the market promises a profitable margin. They are then lifted from the vats, carried upstairs, wiped and cased for shipment. They are always shipped in carload lots and usually to New York City.

By increasing the price paid for them when they are cheap, this establishment has maintained a local demand for eggs that has attracted them to Rolfe, from the various towns along the two railroads centering there, to the Dakota and Minnesota lines. When an establishment of this sort can be maintained with profit, it is always a great benefit to the community in which it is located. The

founder of this establishment has been very free to say that one of the principal inducements that led to its location at Rolfe was the fact that, in connection with the excellent railroad facilities afforded, his employes there would be free from the dissipating influences of the open saloon.

Whilst R. P. Brown has continued in charge of this establishment since it was founded, in later years he has had several of Rolfe's leading business men associated with him as proprietors. In June, 1898, and for one year thereafter, W. D. McEwen, A. O. Garlock and C. A. Grant became proprietors of it under the firm name of the Rolfe Egg Company. Since June, 1900, M. Crahan has been associated with Mr. Brown under the firm name of M. Crahan & Co.

ROLFE TELEPHONE COMPANY.

On Dec. 9, 1899, the Rolfe Telephone Company, with a capital of \$10,000.00, was organized by the election of W. P. Wheeler, president; Ward Ferguson, vice-president, and Charles E. Fraser, secretary and treasurer. The other directors were C. M. Webb and E. R. Ames. The other stockholders were J. B. Kent, M. Crahan, S. H. Kerr, C. A. Grant, W. W. Beam, M. D., A. W. Weible, George O. and V. Hauck, C. J. and Archie M. White, A. L. Wiewel, S. S. Reed, F. King and Fred A. Malcolm. On Jan. 29, 1900, the council made provision for the people to extend this company a franchise that includes the right to maintain a local telephone system in Rolfe for a period of twenty-five years. In June, 1900, eighty-five instruments were located and the system was put in working order with the central office in the room over the drug store of G. W. Core. Miss Lulu E. Ransom and M. W. Coffin were appointed operators for the day and night work respectively. The annual meeting of the stockholders is held on the first Monday in April.

ROLFE ROLLER MILLS.

In May, 1895, D. and Richard Fouch, of Manning, completed the erection of a three-story frame building 30x40 feet with an engine room of brick 30x24 feet, and established the Roller Mill near the Rock Island depot at Rolfe. It had three grinders, three stands of double rollers, one three-pair high feed mill, a capacity of fifty barrels of flour a day and cost \$8,000.00. The good satisfaction afforded the public by the excellent quality of flour manufactured was from the first the harbinger of the subsequent success that has attended this enterprise. It has attracted farmers with their grain from far distant places and has materially aided in increasing the trade at Rolfe.

On April 9, 1898, a fire, originating in the engine room, rendered most of the machinery useless, seriously injured the building and caused the loss of 700 bushels of wheat and a carload of flour. This loss was a heavy one to the proprietors, but they immediately repaired the building and supplied it with new machinery. In January, 1900, Richard Fouch sold his interest to G. A. Patterson and moved to Perry. Since that date the firm of Fouch & Patterson has made some important improvements, rearranging the machinery so as to make flour according to the latest system and increasing the capacity to 75 barrels a day. The two leading brands of flour are called "Pocahontas" and "Ideal Patent." They also manufacture fine grades of Graham, rye and buckwheat flour; also cornmeal and all kinds of feed. The quality of the flour is second to none on the local market and a demand for it is found not only in many towns and villages in Iowa, but also in Illinois, Minnesota and the Dakotas. The liberal patronage accorded this manufacturing enterprise has been well merited.

ROLFE NEWSPAPERS.

Rolfe has had two newspapers—the Reporter and Argus—that have already ended their careers, and two others—the Reveille and Tribune—that are still fulfilling their mission. The fact that only one-half of the newspapers started at Rolfe continue to be published, suggests that there may be more of sarcastic irony than truth in the following familiar lines:

"A lawyer slept in an editor's bed,
When no editor chanced to be nigh;
And he said, when he rolled out of bed,
'How easy these editors do lie.'"

THE REPORTER, a local republican paper, established by E. W. Duke in 1882, was the pioneer newspaper of Rolfe, and until the establishment of the Reveille in 1888, was the only one published in the town. On Oct. 15, 1886, M. W. & P. O. Coffin became its editors and proprietors, and its publication was discontinued May 8, 1890, when the outfit was purchased by James J. Bruce and added to the Reveille equipment.

THE ARGUS, a democratic paper, was established Feb. 3, 1891, by Lawrence J. Anderson, as a nine-column folio. In November, 1892, J. A. Faith bought it, but after four months left it in the hands of the mortgagees—M. Crahan, C. P. Leithead, V. Hauck and A. B. Symes. M. Crahan then purchased the outfit and the paper was managed by Wm. Porter until April, 1894, when it was purchased by A. L. Schultz, who continued as its editor and proprietor until Dec. 1, 1898, when its further publication was discontinued. The outfit was sold to S. E. Sage, of Sibley, the subscription list to J. H. Lighter, of Rolfe, and A. L. Schultz, moving to Pocahontas, established the Pocahontas Herald.

THE REVEILLE.

The Reveille, a republican paper, was established at Rolfe to meet its growing business demands, by James

J. Bruce and Frank H. Plumb, July 12, 1888, and they continued as co-editors and proprietors until May 1, 1890, when the latter sold his interest to the former. On Oct. 1st, 1890, J. H. Lighter became a half owner with J. J. Bruce and this partnership continued until Jan. 1, 1894, when Marion Bruce, who had been a workman in the office from the time it was founded, bought his father's interest in it. On Sept. 1, 1895, A. R. Thornton bought the half interest of J. H. Lighter, and the partnership of Bruce & Thornton continued until Aug. 4, 1900, when A. R. Thornton became the sole owner of the paper and then sold a half interest in it to Lottie Thornton, his wife. Thornton & Thornton have been its editors and proprietors since that date.

The office that was once supplied with only a handful of type and second-hand machinery, is now finely equipped. It has a full supply of modern type faces, pretty ornaments and borders for job work. The workmen employed have made the art of putting them together artistically a special study, and they take pains and pride in their work. The Country Babcock press, purchased in October, 1897, at a cost of \$1,200, prints 1500 impressions in an hour and does newspaper, book and job work in the neatest possible manner. The Reville is well equipped for promoting the interests of Rolfe and Pocahontas county and, during nearly every year since it was founded, it has been one of the official papers of the county.

Its editors have issued two special Christmas editions, one on Dec. 16, 1896, containing twenty pages filled with original stories of the pioneer days and large local advertisements, and the other an illustrated one of twelve pages, on Dec. 13, 1900, containing an account of some of the leading citizens and business inter-

ests in the towns in the north part of this county, by Geo. W. Williams.

Amid all the changes in the editorial management of this paper, it has manifested a lofty aim by advocating the causes of education, morality and religion, the local prohibition of the liquor traffic and the local support of every worthy local enterprise. It has not aimed to please everybody, but to advocate certain approved principles, and it has frequently happened that those who have manifested a feeling of unfriendliness one day have become its friends the next. The aim of its present editors is to make the Reville worthy of the continued confidence and support of the people of this county.

THE ROLFE TRIBUNE.

The Rolfe Tribune, a republican paper, was established March 1, 1898, by Joseph Henry Lighter, in response to an oft repeated request on the part of advertisers and others for a paper that would make their announcements and give the news twice a week. It is the first and only semi-weekly paper published in this county and it is issued on Tuesdays and Fridays. It is devoted to the best interests of the community, has already won its way to a favorable recognition on the part of the public and is now receiving a cordial and liberal patronage. Among other things it has noted that Rolfe, hitherto a temperance town, has made more improvement during recent years than any town in Northwest Iowa having saloons. It has been free to stamp the saloon as a curse, because it absorbs the earnings of a great number of persons who cannot then pay their just obligations to the merchants and other legitimate tradesmen.

FIRST POSTOFFICES.

The first postoffice in Clinton township was established in 1876 at the home of William Matson on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 16, on the route from Pocahontas

to Old Rolfe. The name of the office was "Ben Lomond," and Wm. Matson continued to serve as postmaster until March 1, 1878, when the office was discontinued. Blooming Prairie post-office was maintained on the semi-weekly mail route from Pocahontas to Humboldt at the home of Sewell Van Alstine on section 25 from March 1878 until the spring of 1882.

The valuable quarries of building or limestone rock, opened on section 25, in 1881 by C. J. Carlson, and belonging to the Kinderhook beds,* and the county drainage district No. 1, on Crooked creek,† the south branch of Pilot creek, have already been described.

According to the census of 1900, the population of Rolfe was 994, and, including its suburbs, 1,175.

From Rolfe and vicinity there went forth to engage in the war with Spain in Cuba in 1898, the following volunteers:

Louie Peterson, enlisted April, 1898, Co. F, 49th Reg.

John Everson, enlisted at Rock Rapids, June 24, Co. H, 52d Reg.

Benjamin Everson, enlisted June 24, Co. H, 52d Reg.

Geo. W. Tremain, enlisted June 10, Co. G, 52d Reg.

Edward R. Ashley, enlisted June 23, Co. G, 52d Reg.

Andrew Denend, enlisted June 23, Co. G, 52d Reg.

Mid Roberts, enlisted June 23, Co. G, 52d Reg.

Homer Sanford, enlisted June 23, Co. G, 52d Reg.

Louie Peterson became a corporal in July. Co. F, H and C were known as the Davenport, Sioux City and Webster City companies, respectively. On June 23d, when the last four left Rolfe, a farewell meeting was held at the depot and, after music by the band, an address was delivered by C. C. Delle, Esq. The 52d regiment, to which most of them belonged, was

*Page 144.

†Page 306.

from Northwestern Iowa, was mustered in at Camp McKinley, Des Moines, May 25, 1898, and arrived at Camp Thomas, Chickamauga, May 31. It was assigned to the campaign in Porto Rico as a part of the third brigade, second division of the third army corps, but was returned to Des Moines August 30th, and the men from Rolfe were mustered out, Oct. 30, 1898, after a service of four months in camp.

The Northwestern Land Co., that platted the towns of Rolfe, Plover, Gilmore City, Clare, Mallard, Curlew, Ayrshire and Ruthven, consisted of J. J. Bruce, President; A. O. Garlock, Secretary; Wm. D. McEwen, Charles E. Whitehead, Geo. W. Ogilvie, C. N. Gilmore and B. F. Kauffman, and was organized in 1881.

PIONEERS OF CLINTON TOWNSHIP.

In the account of the early settlement of the north part of this county, sketches have already been given of the following early settlers or residents of Clinton township, namely, Oscar F. Avery, Ora Harvey, Wm. Jarvis, Augustus H. Malcolm, Wm. D. McEwen, Perry Nowlen and Robert Struthers.

Beam Watson Wilna, M. D. (b. June 26, 1858,) Rolfe, is a native of Jones county, Iowa. After receiving a good common school education, and studying medicine with his father, Dr. Wm. O. Beam, he pursued a collegiate course at Cornell College and graduated from the medical department of the Iowa State University. In the spring of 1881 he located temporarily in the old store building and Hotel de Telford at Old Rolfe, in anticipation of the coming of the first railroad in that part of the county. When the railroads came and the new town of Rolfe was founded, he secured a permanent location as the first resident physician of that town. His office is now located in a fine suite of rooms in the east end of the State

Savings Bank, and its equipment includes a complete set of surgical instruments and a valuable medical library. He owns a fine home in Rolfe and an improved farm of 160 acres in that vicinity.

He is one of the pioneer physicians in this county and the period of his professional career at Rolfe is longer than that of any other business man in the town. His skill as a physician, public spirit as a citizen and long residence in the community have caused him to be widely and favorably known. He has taken an active part in both local and county politics, but has never been an aspirant for political honors, although he has served as a member of the Rolfe school board during the past four years and as president of it in 1900. His ambition has been to rise in his profession and, in this respect, he has succeeded admirably. He has been the surgeon for the C. & N. W., and C., R. I. & P. railways for a number of years.

On May 12, 1886, he married Emma Brown, at Rolfe, and his family consists of two daughters, Hazel and Wilna Winnifred.

Beam C. H., druggist, has been a resident of Rolfe since 1885. In 1890, after teaching school a few years, he entered the employ of Geo. W. Core, as a pharmacist. Later he was proprietor of a drugstore at Plover and, since 1895, of one at Rolfe. He has a talent for business and is achieving well-merited success.

Bruce James Jeremiah, (b. Nov. 6, 1843,) resident of Rolfe, is a native of Oswego, N. Y., the son of Thomas and Mary Bruce. His parents, who were of Scotch-Irish descent, emigrated from the north of Ireland to Oswego in 1842, and soon afterward located in Hastings (then called Simcoe) county, Ontario, where his mother died Aug. 15, 1845. After the death of his mother he was taken care of in the homes of other people. At nine

he entered the public school and at sixteen received a second-grade teachers' certificate. At eighteen he taught his first term of school, and then taking a three months' Normal course, taught the same school in Simcoe county during the next three years. He then commenced a term of school in the adjoining district, but at the end of one week—Jan. 10, 1866—the school house was burned. This occurrence was attributed to a prejudice developed by his unfavorable criticism in the public press of the drunkenness that appeared at the celebration of the Orangemen, July 12th, previous. He relinquished his contract and on March 16th, 1866, started for Chicago, stopping at Toronto a few days to visit some schoolmates on the way. He carried with him a first-grade teachers' certificate issued by the board of education of Simcoe county, that was good for three years, and attested his good moral character and excellent literary attainments. At Chicago he concluded to go west in the hope he might locate in a community where there were no Irish people. He passed by rail to Ackley and thence by stage to Iowa Falls, where he met several Canadians who wished to locate in Pocahontas county. In company with David Wallace he carried his luggage and walked from Iowa Falls to section 8, Lizard township, a distance of 77 miles, selecting a homestead and fording the Des Moines river at Fort Dodge. He was surprised to find his new location was in another Irish settlement, and where there were even persons who knew his parents when they lived at Monagan City, Ireland.

At the time of his arrival in Lizard there were only four school houses in Pocahontas county, namely, in the Robert Struthers and (Old) Rolfe districts, Des Moines township, and in the Calligan and Walsh districts in

Lizard township. On Aug. 20, 1866, he was examined and received a teachers' certificate at Old Rolfe from W. D. McEwen, county superintendent, and in 1867 taught the summer and winter terms in the Walsh district. In the fall of 1867, he was elected county superintendent and also county supervisor from the Lizard district.

On March 4, 1867, he married Mary J. Price, one of the pupils in his first school in Lizard township. In the fall of 1869, he was elected county treasurer and moved to Old Rolfe where, on Jan. 1, 1875, he and W. D. McEwen established a store. In 1881 he became president of the Northwestern Land Co., and on Feb. 14, 1882, was admitted to the bar by Judge Edward R. Duffie, at Pocahontas. In 1882 he erected the building known later as the Tremain Hotel, and became one of the first residents of the new town of Rolfe, where for a few years he engaged in the mercantile business.

He took a leading part in the first newspaper enterprise and was identified with the public press of the county a number of years afterward.

On June 14, 1869, he rode to Fort Dodge with Dennis Mulholland, of Lizard, and on the next day arranged with B. F. Gue to print the Pocahontas Journal for one year for \$450.00. On the next day, June 16, 1869, W. D. McEwen, the other editor, arrived and the first issue of the Pocahontas Journal was printed and placed in their hands for distribution. The second issue of this paper was received in Lizard township July 25, 1869, and the subsequent issues were printed as regularly as the mails could carry copy to the printer and return the printed sheets for folding and distribution. This was the official paper of the county during 1869, 1870 and 1871.* He was a regular contributor to the columns of the Poca-

*See page 144.

hontas Times for several years after its removal to Fonda and took the lead in establishing and maintaining the Rolfe Reveille from July 12, 1888, to Jan. 1, 1894.†

His public career in this county covers a period of thirty years and began Oct. 8, 1867, when he served as a clerk at the general election in Lizard township. On that day he was elected to three public offices, namely, justice of the peace and county supervisor from Lizard township, which then embraced nearly the south half of the county, and superintendent of the public schools of the county. As a resident of Lizard township he served as justice of the peace in 1868, as county supervisor in 1868-69, county superintendent 1868-69, and county treasurer four years at Old Rolfe in 1870-73. As a resident of Clinton township he served as the first mayor of Rolfe in 1884, president of the Rolfe school board in 1891-92, justice of the peace in 1891-92, representative of the 78th district, which included Pocahontas and Calhoun counties, in 1886-87, and county supervisor nine years, 1880-85, '95-97. He was president of the board of supervisors five of the eleven years he was a member of it.

In the various offices to which he was called he rendered the people of this county a faithful and efficient service. None ever questioned his ability or his integrity of purpose, and no one was either better acquainted with the county's affairs or endeavored to promote them more unselfishly than he.

On May 15, 1897, he had a tumor the size of a man's hand, removed from the back of his head, that began to appear soon after his recovery from typhoid fever in 1882. A few months later he retired from business and politics and now devotes his attention to the cultivation of his farm on which he lives at Rolfe.

†See page 306.

In 1857, at the age of fourteen, he united with the Wesleyan M. E. church, Canada. In 1876 he became an elder in the Unity and later in its successor, the Second Presbyterian church of Rolfe. In 1883 he united with the M. E. church of that place. He has been a life-long advocate of the cause of prohibition and has taken a leading part in promoting that cause in this county.

His family consists of nine children, one having died in childhood.

1—William Ulysses Bruce married Belle Fisk, lives in Omaha and has a family of two children.

2—Marion Bruce married Gussie Wilcox, lives in Rolfe and has one child. He became a workman in the Reveille office at the time it was established and owned a half-interest in it from Jan. 1, 1894 to Aug. 4, 1900. He was recorder of Rolfe '95-96 and has been postmaster since July 1, 1897.

3—George Washington Bruce married Ella Wallace, lives at Rolfe and has four children.

4—Robert Bruce in 1897 graduated from the law department of the Iowa State University and is now practicing law at Rolfe. On Oct. 11, 1899 he married Carrie Ritchey of Des Moines township.

5—James Bruce graduated from the law department of the Iowa State University in 1898, was engaged in a law office in Denver a few months and since Jan. 1, 1900 has been book-keeper for the Pocahontas Savings Bank at Pocahontas.

6—John E. Bruce in 1899 married Anna Miller, has one child and lives in Des Moines township.

Bertha Belle, Edward E. and Harold are still at home.

Campbell Will E., (b. 1858) of Gilmore City, is a native of Crete, Will Co., Ill., the adopted son of John F. and Emily S. (Hewes) Campbell of Manteno, Ill. In the spring of 1883, he came to Pocahontas county, pur-

chased and improved the E½ Sec. 15, Lake township, and directed his attention to raising draft horses of the English Shire and Norman varieties. Three years later he bought the SE¼ Sec. 36, (160 acres) Clinton township, adjoining Gilmore City, improved and arranged this farm for raising stock and still lives upon it. He also owns 305 acres on Sec. 26, adjoining, that were bequeathed to him by his father, who died Feb. 26, 1896, at his home in Illinois.

Perhaps no one has done more to promote the draft horse industry in Pocahontas county than Will E. Campbell, of Gilmore City, since he was one of the first to introduce the Percheron breed in this section. In the fall of 1889 he made a trip to France and imported direct to this county three fine Percheron stallions.

On March 25, 1886, he married Mary H. Bain, of Peotone, Ill., and has a family of three children—Mildred, Gladys and Bernice.

He is an elder in the Presbyterian church of Gilmore City, and has been a trustee since its organization in 1888. His estimable wife has always been a faithful worker in this church, serving as its first treasurer, president of its aid society two years and as its organist nearly all the time.

Carroll James Andrew, (b. Feb., 1852,) who has been identified with the mercantile interests of Fonda and Rolfe, since 1884, is a native of Macon, Georgia, the son of Patrick H. and Frances K. (Tucker) Carroll. In 1867 he moved with his parents to Jackson county, Iowa, where in 1870, he married Anna Mary Daly, a native of that place, and located on a farm. He remained there until 1880, when he moved to Clinton county, and found employment in a general store. In 1884 he moved to Fonda, two years later to a farm in Dover township, then successively to Rolfe, Fonda and Incline where, for two years, he had

charge of a general store. In 1900 he returned to Rolfe, where he and his James are employed in the department store of M. Crahan. His brother, P. J. Carroll, was the first resident priest of the Dover and Fonda Catholic churches in 1882-87.

His family has consisted of nine children of whom Anna died at the age of sixteen and Francis at four.

1—Zachary Taylor (b. Dec. 4, 1871) in 1899 married Mina Negus, of Des Moines, and lives at Rolfe.

2—Patrick Henry (b. Feb. 22, 1874,) in May, 1898, enlisted in Co. K, 1st Reg. S. D. infantry at Madison and rendered military service in the Philippines until October, 1899, when he was honorably discharged as a sergeant. During a portion of his time he was a messenger for Brig. Gen. H. G. Otis, at the arsenal at Cavite, and he was accorded a public reception in McKee's hall, Oct. 27, 1899, on his return to Fonda. He is now located in South Dakota.

3—Emma Theresa on May 18, 1897, married Charles F. Linnan and lives in Fonda, where he is engaged in the real estate business.

James Michael, Emmet Robert, Ella and Regina are at home.

Charlton Jesse, (b. July 2, 1818,) was a native of Butler county, Ohio. In March, 1850, he married Sarah Ann Brenton, (b. Ind., Jan. 20, 1828.) In 1857 he moved from Butler county, Ohio, to Davis county, Iowa; in 1863 to Dallas county, where his wife died in 1868; and in 1883 to section 11, Center township, Pocahontas county. His family consisted of nine children, of whom William, Hettie and an infant died early in life, and Rebecca Jane, wife of James H. Campbell, died at Rolfe April 10, 1896. Martha Elizabeth in 1889 married William Callon and lives in Center township. Mary Ann (Maulsby) lives at Earlham, Iowa; James Henry at Rolfe; Ida Bell

*See page 463.

(Loughead) at Plover, and Charles Alvin at Pocahontas.

Charlton James Henry, (b. June 24, 1856,) is a native of Butler county, Ohio, accompanied his parents (Jesse and Margaret) to Davis and Dallas counties, Iowa, and in 1882 purchased eighty acres and prepared a home on section 11, Center township, for his father and family who arrived the next spring. In the fall of 1889, he located at Rolfe. In September, 1891, he married Franc Lenore, daughter of Dr. Wm. Otterbein and Esther Ann (Stewart) Beam and a native of Linn county. In the spring of 1895 he moved to the old home on the farm in Center township, but in the fall of 1899 returned to Rolfe. He was for several years the manager of the Shannon ranch in Center township. He is now vice-president of the First National Bank of Rolfe and owner of ten improved stock farms* in that vicinity that contain 3,060 acres and on which he has put about fifty miles of tiling. His family consists of four children—Lucile Beam, Shannon B., Frank B. and Clyde B.

Charlton Charles Alvin, (b. March 17, 1865) is a native of Dallas county, Iowa, the son of Jesse and Sarah Charlton. In the fall of 1882, he located with his brother on a farm in Center township. In the fall of 1893 he was elected treasurer of Pocahontas county and being twice re-elected, served in that capacity six years, 1894-99. In 1895 he married Minnie, daughter of Henry and Mary Jarvis, of Rolfe. He lives at Pocahontas and owns 502 acres of land in that vicinity.

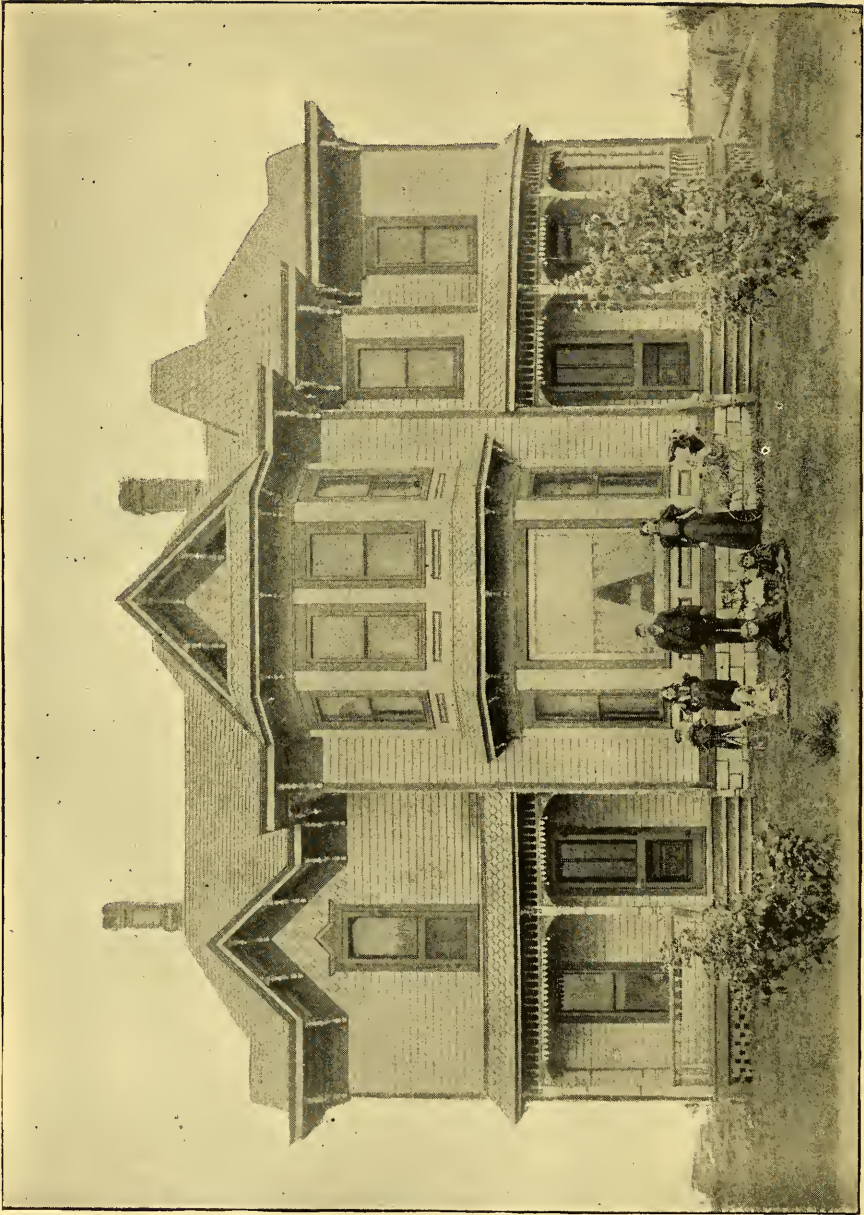
Clason Joseph, one of the early pioneers of Pocahontas county, in the spring of 1863, located on a farm of 80 acres on section 1, Clinton township, with a family consisting of his wife (Rebecca Kinyon) and ten children. Upon an unbroken prairie, covered with tall grass and inhabited by mosquitoes, he built a log house and oc-



M. CRAHAN AND FAMILY



CRAHAN STORE BLOCK. Rolfe.



RESIDENCE OF MICHAEL CRAHAN

Rolfe.