

# PAGE COUNTY HISTORY



IOWA WRITERS PROGRAM W.P.A.

PAGE COUNTY HISTORY

IOWA

Compiled and written by  
The Iowa Writers' Program  
Of the Work Projects Administration  
In the State of Iowa

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State-wide Sponsor of the  
Iowa Writers' Program

Sponsored by  
page County Superintendent of Schools  
Clarinda, Iowa

1942



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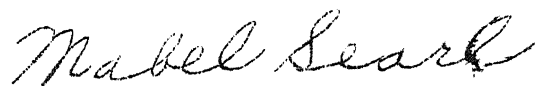
## FOREWORD

For years Page County, one of the first to combine practical farm studies with the standard subjects of the classroom, has been identified with progress in education.

"But what have they there that is different?" ask educators and writers on educational subjects.

These inquirers are told that Page County citizens have discovered ways of inculcating a vital love of farm and home that, in the belief of those closest to the subject and most interested in it, are worth far more than any nebulous modernistic ideas. Those who are interested enough to investigate find boys' agricultural clubs not only antedating the 4-H but so successfully conducted that they have crossed the boundaries of Iowa and have reached the Eastern seaboard.

Today, when thoughts about the American way of life are foremost in the minds of most American citizens, it seems appropriate to review the entire story of our county from the days of the first white settlers down to the present. I am therefore happy to present this Page County History, which has been carefully compiled and written for us by the Iowa Writers\* Program of the Work Projects Administration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mabel Search".

County Superintendent of Schools

Page County

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## INTRODUCTION

### SOUTHWEST INDIAN IOWA

Directly on Iowa's southern border, and removed from the western boundary by only one other county - Fremont - Page County has something of the atmosphere and flavor of the Missouri hills and the Nebraska plains. One can detect a Southern softness of speech and the plainsman's directness in the people who live in this section. Yet they are lowans, just as this country is unmistakably Iowa, a region of gentle prairie contours. In summer yellow sunlight sifts over fields of corn and oats, groves of trees shelter the farm buildings, and large herds of stock graze over the pasture or stand fetlock deep in the streams. Natural woodlands rise to the low irregular ridges of the hills and the bluffs along the winding rivers - thickets of oak, hickory, sycamore, walnut, hackberry, linden, elm, sugar maple, soft maple, cottonwood, and swamp ash.

The biggest rivers, the East Nishnabotna and the East and West Nodaway, have musical Indian names. Nishnabotna - the syllables drip like honey - means literally "the stream for canoes" or the "canoe-making river." This stream provided popular camping places for many tribes of Indians - the Sac and Fox, Omaha, Iowa, Missouri, and for a time the Pottawattamie. For years they paddled their graceful birch-bark craft up and down its waters or quarried along its banks for flint to tip their arrows. Once Bayard Taylor, the traveling reporter, visited the region and standing on the brow of a hill four miles southwest of the site of the future Shenandoah, looked down the valley of the Nishnabotna. Impressed by the winding stream and the tapestry colors of leaves, trees, and prairie grasses, he exclaimed that the scene was the most beautiful he had beheld in all his wanderings. After the Civil War, veterans who had fought with Sheridan in Virginia found in the valley of the Nishnabotna a resemblance to the Shenandoah, scene of the military campaign in which they had participated, and later gave the name of the Eastern valley to the settlement that grew up by the Nishnabotna.

The name Nodaway suggests a' sleepy mood, but the word actually signifies "deep channel", describing the deep, swift course of the river. But according to Dr. Luther Bent, who in early days supplied beef to the tribes at Council Bluffs, Nodaway was derived from or associated with the Indian term for rattlesnake. Many of the reptiles once infested the banks of the river.

Several other streams - the East, Middle, and West Tarkio Rivers and Middle, Snake, and Buchanan Creeks - pass across Page County, all flowing a little west of south.

Buchanan Creek was named for the first white person to die within the limits of the county: young Lieutenant William Buchanan of Winchester, Virginia, who was drowned in 1833 while crossing Iowa to the Missouri River. The detachment of the United States Dragoons to which he belonged forded the East Nodaway River just above Hawleyville. Buchanan's horse became entangled in some brush and the waters closed over both man and animal. The dragoons put up a memorial to him nearby but Indians later pulled it down. When settlers came they mistook the creek in which Buchanan lost his life and named the wrong one in his honor.

On April 23, 1904, what were believed to be the remains of Lieutenant Buchanan were recovered from the bank of the East Nodaway River and sent to the National Cemetery at Arlington, Virginia, for burial.

The average soil in the valleys produced excellent crops because it was light and porous and would dry thoroughly in ten hours of sunshine after a heavy rain. Drift - gravel, sand, clay, and boulders - yielded sand suitable for cement and moulder's use. A large bluff deposit was discovered in the west; this was the accumulation of sediment in an ancient lake which had formed after the water drained away.

Four great glaciers once covered all or part of Iowa, and it is chiefly to them that the State owes its soils and rocks, for each ice sheet carried with it the rock materials picked up from ground over which it passed, eventually depositing it at points far from where it was picked up. The glaciers, known as the Nebraskan, Kansan, Illinoian, and Wisconsin respectively, left behind them in Page County granite, limestone, soapstone, and layers of what became coal. From some masses of the reddish-brown sandstone, diggers have obtained pieces of jasper and agate suitable for cutting and polishing. Giant fossil ferns, bits of petrified wood, and fragments of mastodon tusks give evidence of a long-past tropical period in which giant animals and plants now unknown to this country were common in the area.

A number of mounds in the lowlands of Page County indicated a later prehistoric period. Such earth formations are usually the relics of a mysterious race who preceded the Indians as natives of the region. But the mounds in this vicinity have never been opened or examined by archeologists, so no one is sure of their origin or what they contain.

The Indians, however, left numerous relics of their life in the region. Their flint and stone implements could at one time be picked up in almost every field and gully in the county, especially along the ridge in the east and on the banks of the Nodaway River. The finds included arrowheads, drills, and skinning axes. There were also some

granite axes ranging from several ounces to seven pounds in weight and big pestles and mortars used for grinding corn into meal. Corrugated granite stones of various sizes found near water are believed to have been used by Indian women in pounding their clothes clean or in dressing hides. There were also small balls among the relics used by young Indian men in games not unlike those played by active white boys today. A few fragments of pottery were also picked up from time to time largely on the range northwest of Clarinda and in the creeks near Shambaugh.

Page County was an ideal hunting ground for the Indians but they did not make any settlements there. They merely camped at intervals within its bounds, both in winter and in summer, while they killed enough game to last them for some months. The thickets near the rivers were so full of buffalo, deer, and elk that it was easy to get a large supply of meat with little effort.

Page County was a part of that section of Iowa which the Sac, Fox, Sioux, Omaha, and Missouri Indians were forced to cede to the United States in 1830, though their hunting privileges were retained for a time. After the Sac and Fox chief, Black Hawk, lost his battle against the United States in 1832, the Indians lost one tract after another. In 1833 the Chippewa, Ottawa, and Pottawattamie were forced from their lands near Lake Michigan and driven westward to this region, which became a reservation. Some, came hopefully, for an army officer, Captain Gordon, who explored the territory including Page County in 1835, reported on it favorably. The majority of the Indians had made the transfer before the end of 1837.

They had scarcely arrived, however, before white men wanted these lands, too, and another treaty was broken to send the Indians south of the Missouri River. But 3,000 Indians remained in the region until 1846 and 1847.

The Pottawattamie were especially reluctant to leave Iowa. They appreciated its streams and the soil that would produce such fine crops of corn, which the white man was later to make into a trademark for the State.

There is a Sac and Fox legend that tells how corn as well as other important crops first came to Iowa. One day two hungry Indians were in the woods roasting a deer they had killed. Just as they were about to lift it from the hot coals a lovely woman descended from the clouds and stood before them, asking for food. Forgetting their own appetites, the men cut the choicest morsels and fed them to the visitor, who sat beside them on the ground and ate. Before leaving she thanked her hosts and told them to come to the same place a year later to be rewarded for their kindness. No



one in their camp believed this story and everyone joked about it. And when a year had passed and the two men started back to the woods as they had been instructed, their fellow tribesmen followed to enjoy their disappointment and tease them. But a surprising sight greeted them all, for where the woman's right hand had rested on the ground, corn was growing. Where her left hand had touched, beans had sprung up, and in the place where she had been seated, a bed of tobacco flourished. The Indians learned how to use these good things: they mixed the corn and beans together into a dish that they called succotash, and they rolled up the dried tobacco leaves, put them into pipes, and smoked them for pleasure.

The Indian had a poetic explanation for almost everything, including that delightful season most prized by lowans - Indian summer. Then the blue fall haze spread over the land, veiling the distant hills, the gold-touched trees, the clumps of dark sumac, and the purple clusters of wild grapes. It seems to be a time to pause for rest and contemplation of work well done...and that was just what the Great Spirit was doing when he made the season. He had worked hard and was resting from his labors. After watching the spider spin his web, he had learned how to spin nets with which to catch fish. He had made a system for the winds and directed them in their courses. Having finished creation of the world he was making ready for a long sleep. But first he wanted to have a smoke. So he filled his great pipe with tobacco and sat down. As the smoke curled away from him in clouds it settled in a soft haze and spread to the far horizon. Ever afterward men called this ripe tranquil season Indian summer.

While the Indians were still living in southwestern Iowa and camping and hunting in Page County, white men occasionally crossed their trails. Some were soldiers and traders; others were agents sent by the Government to teach the natives how to live on less land than they had formerly had. One of the latter was Major Stephen Cooper, who in 1836 taught farming to the Pottawattamie near Sidney in Fremont County. Few whites dared to try to settle in Indian territory but there were some. Several of these were in Page County in 1839 near the spot where Shambaugh's mill on the East Nodaway River was later built. Robert Stafford, a Missouri youth who was then visiting the Iowa country, reported: "I shouldered my gun and started afoot. There were no roads nor guides except the moss on the north side of the trees. When I reached this river on the evening of the first day I camped right here on this spot where the plum trees are. About ten o'clock I was awakened by familiar sounds - people talking and pounding. Raising up on my bed of leaves I saw a light across the river and shadowy forms passing to and fro. I arose and swam the river and soon came to a shanty

in which a family was living. They had returned late from a hunting expedition and were now getting supper.

"They had lived there about six months, but were discouraged - too many white men were coming in, the westward wave of settlement was approaching and they must move further into the wilderness. They were of the advance scouts of the pioneers. They were kind and talkative, and I shared their hospitality for the night, and next morning I struck out again for my destination."

Stafford believed those were the first whites to live in what became Page County. Two or three "years later the first men to try to settle there arrived. These were the Farren brothers, also from-Missouri.

About the same time, in 1842, the Sac and Fox reluctantly signed a treaty with the United States, promising to leave Iowa by 1845. The Pottawattamie started moving out in 1846 and 1847. Although the Sioux still remained in the north, only a few roving families of Indians were seen after that time in what was to become Page County.

## CHAPTER 1

### THE VANGUARD OF WHITE SETTLERS

Page County's first white settler, George 'Wesley Farrens, was born in Tennessee in 1816 and emigrated from Jackson County, Missouri, to Iowa. Soon he was joined by his brothers David and Henry - in later years they never could decide exactly when it was that the first brother arrived. William Hardee, who became a neighbor of the Farrens in the spring of 1842, later declared that he bought corn from them that had been raised the previous year, hence the date of that first settlement must have been 1841.

The Farrens brothers built a log hut on what became section 27, township 67, range 26, in Buchanan Township near the junction of the East and West Nodaway Rivers and Buchanan Creek. It was probably a very primitive sort of dwelling - a cross between a cabin and the bark huts of the Indians. The solid log cabin described in modern stories was usually built after enough people were in a neighborhood settlement to make a "house raising" possible. The rough shack served as home for the Farrens bachelors until George married Martha Ann Holland on November 12, 1844. This was the first marriage in the township.

It was George Farrens also who made the first trail broken by a white man in Buchanan Township. Four yoke of oxen dragged a treetop to Maryville, Missouri, in 1843 under his guidance. A few more settlers had come into the county about that time. These were George and David Brock, Thomas Johnson, William Campbell, and Robert Wilson, all of them married and accompanied by families. Pleasant Wilson settled near his brother, Robert.

The county's few dwellings were often crowded to the doors, for other settlers passing through on their way west or south were given shelter without question. Often several families would drive up at once but somehow space was always found for them. In the morning they would take turns dressing, those nearest the door moving outside to finish adjusting or putting on their garments. When the utmost crowding left no more space the boys and young men would sleep outside in the wagons for the night. When day came the "hind, end" of the wagon was often turned into a buffet from which buttermilk, fat pork, and sometimes coffee was served.

The new county was enchanting during the late days of spring when the weather was mildly warm. In midsummer, travelers would sometimes lose themselves, wagon-box deep, in a sea of billowing grasses shot through with color - the red and white of pungent clover, the yellow of flax and the

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gold of coreopsis, and the purple spikes of the low, bushy, silver-leaved lead plant. Into this region had also crept flora from the south - the Gama grass, the purple rueilia, the burr marigold, the trumpet vine with its brick-red blossoms, and the white-flowered wild potato vine. Even the most hard-headed and practical pioneer must have felt something of the charm of the virgin country whose long grasses were being bent under the wheels of his covered wagon and crushed by the feet of his oxen.

But when night came the country seemed less friendly. After the sun had gone down there were no streets with gas lamps or houses with bright cheerful windows. Only the light of candles or lanterns in the wagons and the dying embers of campfires broke the darkness and a legion of mysterious nocturnal sounds became audible. Owls hooted softly and twigs cracked as deer broke through the brush. Even the stout-hearted listened breathlessly when the panther gave his shrill scream and the wolf let out an eerie howl.

Dwellers in cabins far from the trails followed by emigrant wagons gradually grew accustomed to the primitive conditions. Relying on their guns for protection and for game, they came to love the wilderness. When settlers arrived near them, some of the pioneers moved on to other places where they could continue the lonely life they enjoyed. But these habitual frontiersmen were a different breed from homesteaders like the Farrens brothers.

For awhile the nearest post office for settlers in Page County was at Savannah, Missouri, 60 miles away. It took two or three days to make the trip 'one way in the absence of paved roads and stout bridges across the often swollen streams. People took turns going for the mail and clubbed together to buy provisions in large quantities. Few had money and so, according to the custom, would trade part of their produce for the things they needed and could not grow. But there was one transaction in which only hard cash could be used. That was the collection of mail at the United States post office. In those days a letter could be sent a hundred miles or more for 25 cents, payable by the sender or by the recipient.

As the letter-writers were usually women who had been left behind by husbands and sweethearts until shelter had been provided, much of the postage money was paid at the receiving end, as one young man learned. He was an Easterner who had come to Page County to make a home for his prospective bride. One day travelers returning from the post office at Savannah informed him that a letter was waiting for him there with 25 cents due in postage. That made the youth happy - with reservations. He had no money at all and could raise none with which to collect the important letter. Like

his neighbors, in late winter and early spring he had been trading wolf scalps or coonskins for most necessities\* But nowhere within a radius of 60 miles could he find a prospect of raising that necessary "two-bit piece." Not even at Savannah, his friends told him, for furs and hides were almost a drug on the market there.

Finally he decided to raise some melons, which were not as yet common and would likely fetch a price. He set to work early in the spring, plowed up the ground, and -put in his seed. For weeks he tended it, watching eagerly for the first green leaves and the curling tendrils of the vines. He nursed them along, counting the melons as they grew sleek and round and ripe, and by mid-July he was able to pick and pack them in his wagon. Neighbors gathered to wish him luck and wave goodbye. The young man covered the distance to Savannah in record time, but when he reached town a disappointment was in store for him. The merchants there had no cash either and offered only goods in trade for his melons. To make matters worse, another letter had arrived at the post office and now he would have to pay 50 cents to collect.

After canvassing every other prospect in town he had only one hope left. That was to sell his melons to officials at the courthouse. Surely currency would be in circulation at the home of the county treasury. But once more he almost met disappointment. Nobody there had any money to spend. But when in desperation he sought out the county treasurer and the sheriff and told them his story, they listened sympathetically. At last they agreed to see what they could do. Their combined offer was 50 cents in cash for the entire load of melons.

The young man sighed with relief at being able to get the letters, but with chagrin at being compelled to accept such a hard bargain. As he made the long trip back to Page County he had nothing to show for his months of work but two well-worn and much-thumbed letters from the girl back East. In the long run, however, they proved enough. In due course the bride made her appearance, the young couple were married, and to the best knowledge of their neighbors in Page County they "lived happily ever after."

Later another Missouri post office was established at Maryville, only 35 miles from the settlers of Page County. That served until 1850 when a post office' was opened at a mill on the Nodaway River with Captain R. F. Connor as postmaster. As rural delivery had not yet been established the Page County settlers had to arrange to have the mail brought from Maryville once a week. After a year a Federal mail service was initiated between Maryville and Captain Connor's office, then called Nodaway. Ira Cuning was awarded the contract for the weekly trip.

The Nodaway mill was one of the first in southwestern Iowa. It had been built in 1847 by John Stonebraker on section 7, East River Township, on the West Nodaway River about two miles southeast of what was to become Clarinda. It cut wood and also ground wheat but the flour had to be sifted or bolted by hand. There were about 30 people in Page County at the time, but the mill served many others who lived within a 40-mile radius, including a few in Missouri. During some seasons the mill was crowded day and night with customers who lounged and swapped news beside their wagons while waiting for their meal to be ground.

The rutted muddy roads made traveling so hard that now and then the settlers would give up trying to reach the mill for some months. One of these periods was during the hard winter and early spring season of 1848-1849. As there were no fields of hay or cornstalks, nor even straw piles, the settlers had to cut down cottonwood trees to feed the hungry cattle, hogs, and horses.

The hard winter was followed by several months of rain. From March to July the region was so flooded that only the boldest tried to reach the mill with a load of wheat or corn. At the streams they made rafts of logs and carried the load and the wagons across piece by piece. The oxen swam. People who did not dare try this dangerous and tedious journey simply lived on "hog and hominy", or if they had wheat used horses to tread it out on the ground, then cleaned it by shaking it in a sheet and pounded it by hand.

As more people came into the county, improvements began to appear. Numbers increased, especially during and after the gold rush of '49. Some men dropped off on their way westward, attracted by the fertile soil, but more tried prospecting in California and then returned to take up land. Roads were gradually beaten into the ground and bridges, more mills, schools, and churches were built.

After Stonebraker, the builder of the first mill, died in 1849, the property was purchased early in 1850 by Captain Connor of Maryville. A man named Reinhart later obtained a half interest in the mill but sold it to Philip Boulware who also bought out Connor. For some years the Boulware mill was a center of public affairs and the first county business was transacted at Boulware's house. The first district court of Page County convened there on September 22, 1851, with Judge James Sloan presiding, and all subsequent courts' up to the April term of 1854 were held at the mill. The first conveyance of a deed - a mortgage granted to John Krout by Philip Boulware on March 22, 1852, to secure payment of \$460 of borrowed money - concerned the mill. The property was described in the records as "the improvements made by the late John Stonebraker on the Nodaway River, three-fourths of a

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mile below the Brown's Correctionville line." T. B. Gordon and James Shambaugh bought the property in 1854 and three years later built a new flouring mill, which they operated together for nearly 40 years. During that period the place was called Shambaugh's Mills.

Page County, first surveyed in December 1845 and January 1846, was formally created in 1847 and named for Captain John Page, who had been killed at the battle of Palo Alto in the Mexican War. The first two townships were surveyed under direction of the Surveyor General of Missouri, and by an error incurred in this work Missouri claimed a strip of Iowa land for some years. This strip was about eight miles wide and ran through the second tier of townships. The reason given for the mistake was: "The point of commencement at first should have been at the 'rapids' on the Des Moines River instead of the 'Des Moines Rapids' on the Mississippi, making a difference at the starting point of the 'rapids' on the Des Moines River about nine miles." Both Missouri and Iowa petitioned Congress to settle the question and a decision was made in favor of Iowa (which stated the error the other way about) in 1851. The size of Page County as finally determined was 23 1/2 miles east to west, including an offset which appeared as though the northern half had been slipped three-fourths of a mile west. North to south it was about 22 1/2 miles. The county covered 528 square miles.

Elijah Miller's history of the county tells of a "nameless gentleman" who applied to authorities at Austin, Fremont County, for appointment as organizing sheriff of Page County. According to the story, when asked "What is the population of Page County?" the man replied, "Coonskins and wolf scalps." And to the question "But what is the census?" he retorted, "They say I have as much sense as anyone in the county. \*"

■ William Hudson, who had been appointed organizing sheriff by the Third General Assembly of Iowa, organized Page County in 1851. At that time there were only two civil townships: Buchanan, running up to the "divide", and Nodaway, including the rest of the area. For some time Nodaway Township, wherein was built the Boulware mill, served as the seat of justice. The first election held at William Hardee's, called Hardee's Corners, made Captain R. F. Connor the sheriff. That election was held under laws known as the "Blue Book." When the Code of Iowa went into effect in 1851 Captain Connor rode to Austin in Fremont County to get a copy of the new regulations.

James Sloan presided as judge when the first district court of Page County met at the house of Philip Boulware, September 22, 1851. At that time Eberhard Frederick Gammel of the German Kingdom of Wurttemberg was naturalized as an American citizen.

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Benjamin Recort, William Smith, and Charles Wright, residents respectively of the counties of Fremont, Pottawattamie, and Madison, had been appointed by the legislature to decide on the permanent seat of the court. Apparently they did not accomplish this, for the next assembly named John Scott and Thomas M. Gordon of Fremont County and Jacob Miller of Taylor County as commissioners to perform the same task. These men placed the county seat on the northwest quarter of section 31, township 69 north, range 36 west. The local authorities immediately preempted this land in the name of the county. The Reverend Carl Means, who represented the district in legislature, suggested that the county seat be named for Clarinda Buck, a niece of Alexander M. Tice. As Clarinda Buck was a general favorite her first name was adopted.



## CHAPTER 2

### CLARINDA IN THE FIFTIES

The site of Clarinda was selected for the county seat because the act governing the choice stated that it must be "as. near the geographical center of the county as may be, having due regard to the present as well as the future population of said county," At that time practically all of the population was in the eastern part of the county and many believed that the western ■ section would never be settled, for the land between Clarinda and Shenandoah was regarded as "barren waste." People who held this opinion proved to be short-sighted, because some of the finest farms in the region were later developed on that "barren" land.

Under the direction of William L. Burge, prosecuting attorney and acting judge, the land at Clarinda was laid out in lots during May 1853. E. Miller was the surveyor, Benjamin Dodson chairman, and Robert Stafford axman.

These men gave careful thought to the physical appearance of the new town. They platted 160 acres in a clean-cut checkerboard pattern with straight streets that ran from one end of the site to the other. One block was set aside as a public square and two blocks away they laid out a boulevard extending five blocks each way from the center. As improvements were made later, the boulevard was covered with grass and in the center was placed a line of lamp posts that provided better lights than was usual for streets at the time.

A sale of town lots was held in September 1853, though for some reason the plat had not been placed on record. It was not, in fact, recorded until December 7, 1857. The highest price paid for a lot was \$15 and that went for the land on which Weil's store stood in 1942. Most of the other plots sold for \$2, \$2.50, and \$3.

The first building on the townsite was a shanty brought from the Neff farm by a Mr. Hulbert. The Reverend Samuel Farlow and his wife lived in it and Mrs. Farlow conducted a school.

Samuel Farlow, born in Union County, Indiana, on November 3, 1825, had become a member of the Methodist church in his sixteenth year. By 1847 he had been licensed to preach and assigned to work by the Iowa Conference. For about five years his field was in the eastern part of the State along the Mississippi River. While working there he was married to a former schoolmate, Isabelle Mason, then a Burlington teacher.

Page County was still almost a wilderness when the Farlows arrived in 1852 and moved into a hut on a hillside facing the East Nodaway River. It was entirely surrounded by tall weeds,, and during a heavy snowstorm the covering, on the roof fell apart. After a night spent dodging falling ice and snow the couple was obliged to seek lodging with a neighbor, Alexander Davis, about a mile away. Philip Bank, Davis' son-in-law, offered to give the clergyman an unfinished cabin a half mile from the Davis cabin. Although rafters, floor, chimney, and door were still lacking, Farlow accepted the gift and quickly finished the cabin with the help of Peter Baker. This cabin became the first parsonage in Page County and also the first school, for there Mrs. Farlow taught during the winter of 1852-1853.

Kershaw's History of Page County tells of the Farlow removal to Clarinda in the clergyman's own words: "In the spring of 1853, I was compelled to give up my cabin and Mr. Hulbert offered me a box house and agreed to move it to an eight dollar lot of mine on the town plat of Clarinda, if my wife would teach school. To this proposition my wife gave her consent, and Mr. Hulbert hitched his fine yoke of oxen to the structure and started for town two miles away and got within three rods of the crossing at the south line of the town plat, when the oxen became so exhausted they refused to go any farther. There the house was permitted to stand about ten days and Mrs. Farlow taught school while there. The oxen being rested, they were again hitched to the house and easily pulled it into its resting place, on my lot which was a little way north of James Hawley's store. We did not, however, live in the house while we were being transported. In this house I preached my first sermon in Clarinda - in the summer of 1853. From that time until August of the same year Clarinda was under my jurisdiction."

In August of that year the Farlows sickened with malaria and lay helpless in their little box house with no one to cook for them or bring them water until Peter Bowler discovered their plight and moved them to Shambaugh's Mills. Bowler placed the couple in one of three cabins there. "In the adjoining one," said Farlow, "'was Josh Brown, dealing out whiskey. We could hear him yell out: 'Come up boys, come up and take some black-strap.' Many a one did and O! O! how they would howl in there and use bad talk." Soon afterward the Reverend Mr. Farlow was appointed to the Sidney circuit on which he remained two years. At the close of his second year his wife died, leaving him with two children.

The Hawley store, mentioned by Farlow in identifying his lot, was not built until some years after the Farlows had left. The 'proprietor, James M. Hawley, spent a decade at Hawleyville, a town named for him before he moved to Clarinda. He had come west from Connecticut by stages, having ac-

quired a part interest in a store at St. Joseph, Missouri, in 1850. Poor health caused him to move on and in January 1853 he sold his share, put part of his stock in a wagon drawn by a fine team of horses, and started for Iowa. He had intended trading the goods, valued at several hundred dollars, for furs and venison in Page County, but on reaching Savannah Landing he set up a store in a log house. A sales counter was made by placing a plank across two barrels.

Customers quickly appeared, for Hawley was the only general merchant in Page, Adams, Taylor, and Montgomery Counties. He sold everything from needles to cook stoves' and barrels of salt. For this last commodity he charged nine dollars, making a neat profit over the cost price of five dollars. The heavier items had to be transported by freight from St. Louis or St. Joseph, Missouri, or Ottumwa, Iowa. Hawley helped lay out the town of Hawleyville in 1853, evidently before the platting of Clarinda, for it is usually spoken of as the oldest town in Page County. He was appointed postmaster when a post office was established there in 1855.

When Hawley moved to Clarinda in 1863 he opened a store with A. Loranz, but about a year later sold his share to his son, James D. Hawley, and went back to St. Joseph, Missouri. He returned to Clarinda, however, and was there elected to his first public office, that of justice of the peace. He spent the rest of his life in Clarinda and died there January 28, 1903, at the age of 93. When his wife, the former Charlotte Petty of Connecticut, died at the age of 88 they had been married nearly 69 years.

Dr. James L. Barrett was another man prominently identified with the early history of Page County and of Clarinda in particular. He was born in Campbell County, Kentucky, in 1817 and later moved with his parents to Indiana. As a young doctor Barrett visited several Iowa towns, finally settling in Clarinda in 1855. Dr. Barrett was the first practicing physician in town- and the first man in the county with a medical education.

He later became president of the Southwestern Medical Association, a position he held ten years; was the first president of the Page County Medical Society; and surgeon for the Council Bluffs and Quincy Railroad in Clarinda.

But the physician was most remembered for his love of trees. He personally planted many of the magnificent trees that were to shade the town through the years, and he persuaded other residents to follow his example and also to set out two rows along Clarinda streets. Dr. Barrett was particularly interested in evergreens and sent considerable dis-

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tances for specimens. He acquired some rare varieties from the South and others from the Rocky Mountains even before the railroad had been built west of the Missouri River. Gradually his interest in this hobby became so well known that once a letter for him arrived at the local post office addressed to "The Evergreen Doctor, Clarinda, Iowa." Dr. Barrett died in Clarinda on June 15, 1894, at the age of 77.

The first term of the district court at Clarinda was held in September 1853 in the shanty brought to town for Pastor Farlow and placed on the west side of the square. The building, only 12 feet wide and 14 feet long, had neither plaster nor ceiling but a judge's tribune, similar to those for speakers at the elaborate outdoor patriotic picnics of the day, was constructed in the tiny courthouse.

The term began on September 5, 1853, and two days later the first trial jury in Clarinda met to hear the case of the State of Iowa vs. Johnson and Clark Brown, accused of illegal sale of liquor. A cask of whiskey was kept near the courtroom so that the participants in the deliberations could refresh themselves from time to time. Judge A. A. Bradford presided. One of the defendants, Clark Brown, had erected Clarinda's second building, a log house on the west side of the square. This may have been the scene of the illegal sales of liquor. The State won the case and the court imposed a fine of \$10.00 and costs.

A third building was soon put up and it became the Clarinda Hotel in 1855 under operation of George Ribble. It was described as a "round-log building scutched down." The round logs were scutched (hewn) down after they were set in place.

In January 1855 E. H. Sears was appointed to the district bench vacated by the resignation of Judge Bradford. By that time the little structure usually called the Cottonwood Schoolhouse had been put up and Judge Sears held court in it for a time. It was said that during court sessions one man always kept a barrel of whiskey on some boards placed across the front of his wagon. He would deal out tincupfuls of the fiery liquid in full view of the judge, who in warm weather sat out of doors on an upturned nail keg on the sunny side of the house. When the jury retired to consider a verdict, the judge would order a bucket of whiskey and two tin cups to be placed at their disposal. As a result the jury usually had a kindly feeling toward the world and made no indictments during that term of court.

The first term of county court at Clarinda was held in a building put up by Judge S. F. Snider on the north side of the public square. The judge was also a storekeeper and postmaster when appointed in 1854. His building burned down

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January 12, 1853, with the destruction of all county court records.

A temporary courthouse had in the meantime been built in 1856 on the southeast corner of the public square. It was of frame, two stories high, and was 30 feet wide by 40 feet long. The first floor housed county offices and eventually the post office. The courtroom was on the second floor. When, within a few years, trials drew more spectators and additional space was needed, sessions were transferred to the churches or schools.

For some years before it was given space in the temporary courthouse the Clarinda post office was moved — almost shoved — around. The History of Page County says that Dr. Samuel H. Kridelbaugh, appointed postmaster in 1856, "held office in a sort of 'dugout', sidehill basement covered with boards and earth... It was not high enough to allow a tall person to enter clear into the rear of it." A little later the business was carried on in the log cabin store built by Anthony Loran on the south side of the square and usually called the Hawley store after James Hawley had arrived and bought half interest. There a sugar barrel took the place of a writing desk and on its rough circular top the settlers laboriously addressed their letters. Henry Loran, a clerk at the Store, later told of nights he slept outdoors on a platform of the establishment, using the pouch of the outgoing mail as a pillow. The reason for this was that sometime during the night — he never could be sure when — the Great Western Stagecoach would stop between Bedford and Sidney to leave mail and pick up a pouch of outgoing letters.

The Western Stage Company which had begun operations in 1854 gradually extended its service to more distant points. Ten miles west of Clarinda was one station, in George Miller's house, and there was a third at Manti, two miles south of Shenandoah. The route agents were Firm Ogden, George Babcock, and Buckskin Tracey. The stage also carried passengers at 10 cents a mile. As the mail business became heavier it was said that a passenger would leave Ottumwa terminus at the Burlington railroad "in a four-horse coach, and by the time he got to the Nishnabotna he was walking and carrying a mail sack."

Clarinda was the market and shopping center for the farmers of the vicinity and as the fertile valley of the Nodaway began to fill up there was an increased demand for plows and other tools. Ray Hardesty, who set up his forge and blacksmithy in 1854, profited by this business. He had forged the first 'breaking plow in the region with iron freighted from St. Joseph, Missouri. Isaac Vanarsdol and William K. Harrill were said to have worked on a design for that plow, first called the Prairie or Clarinda but later

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named the Prairie Queen by John Deere. The model was a wood beam breaking plow with a standing cutter, 15-inch rod, and long slim moldboard. The iron rod extended from the shank to the end of the beam and was used instead of the beam- to pull the plow. Gauged for both shallow and deep plowing, it was the first that could be pulled by only three horses instead of the customary oxen.

By 1854 farmers could buy goods from Camp and Conn; by 1855, shoes at the Columbus Bridges shop; and by 1856, patent medicines and similar supplies at Dr. J. H. Conine's Pioneer Drug Store. J. J. Barwick, attorney, hung up his shingle in 1854, and Alexander Scott opened a harness shop in 1860.

Business and professional men in early Clarinda conducted their operations without regard for conventions. For instance, J. J. Rounds, the first butcher in town, who could obtain meat only about twice a week, would blow a large horn to let people know when fresh meat was in for sale. Housewives would strain their ears to hear that trumpet, for supplies were likely to give out early. One woman later remembered how her mother would wake her very early in the morning when meat was expected and send her off to buy some. The hour was so early she was allowed to go back to sleep again on returning home.

J. H. Gorrell, known as Jess, who bartered a good part of Clarinda's male population for fully half a century, had as many as 115 shaving mugs on the shelf in his shop, each set aside for an individual patron. Shaves were 10 cents each, three for a quarter, or a dollar a dozen.

The tow had a hotel-keeper whose reputation spread far, partly as a result of his eccentricities and partly because of the excellent food he provided. John Beam in 1866 took over the Delavan House, which soon bore his name. He also became stage agent and was proud of his first transaction in that capacity, which was the sale of two tickets between Clarinda and Ottumwa at \$16.50 each. A farm bell suspended from a cottonwood tree east of the hotel was rung twice 30 minutes apart, three times a day, giving a first and last call to meals. If a guest did not appear after ringing of the second bell, Beam would hunt him up with the warning that the others at table would wait no longer.

Beam is said to have been the first landlord in the region to use the elegant but useless "side dishes." His standards in dining room formalities required that all guests come to meals suitably attired. No one was allowed to sit down at the table in his shirt sleeves, and -when anyone insisted on his rights as a free man and a private citizen entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and to eat with or without coat, Beam did not start any argument.

He merely presented the reluctant guest with a choice of garmentsj old and new and of various cuts and size, which he kept hanging conveniently close to his desk. The appetizing smells from kitchen and dining table could be counted on to do the rest.

If the would-be diner was stubborn, Beam simply shut the door, remarking that probably cheese and crackers could be obtained at the store and Mr. So-and-so could ''add a snort of pepper sauce, run around the block and call it a square meal." Beam was also adamant in his refusal to allow guests to carry kerosene lamps upstairs. He had to take chances with candles but he would not risk having anyone upset a lamp and fire the premises. In this stand he was well justified, as the fire history of earls?- settlement shows.

Beam was addicted to practical jokes, but they were sometimes boomerangs. One such took place the day he looked out the door and saw the town's chief delivery man, an old Negro, shuffling down the street with a laundry basket neatly balanced on his head, according to his custom. Beam, who was in a jovial mood, whispered to his guests, Watch me scare the 'cooni" He jumped through the doorway and shouted "Bool" The Negro jerked his head and the basket tilted off to the ground, scattering the contents all over the board walk. But it was not laundry. The basket had held the choicest set of china dishes in town, loaned for a church fair by their owner, the proprietor of the Page County Herald. Beam had to pay 40 or 50 dollars to replace the loss.

## CHAPTER 3

### CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS OF THE FIFTIES

Although Mrs. Samuel Farlow is believed to have taught the first school in Page County, it was not long before there was another in Buchanan Township. Mrs. Essie Livengood, a daughter of George Farrens, later remembered attending a subscription school built about 1852. This type of school would be established by a man or woman who offered to teach at so much a child. Payment was promised or collected by the term, the length of which was set by the teacher. The patrons provided the schoolhouse. Each settler in Buchanan Township agreed to furnish a log for their first subscription school. They met and together felled the large straight trees. The logs were hauled to the building site, hewed smooth with broad axes, and put together. The patrons then trimmed the corners on the outside of the building, filled in the chinks with lime, covered the top with a clapboard roof, and provided furnishings. The seats for the pupils were benches of hem logs - not always free of splinters. Holes bored into each held wooden-peg legs. A desk was provided by boring holes into the wall, inserting sticks 18 inches long, and placing a board across them.

Mrs. Livengood said that classes were supposed to begin at 9 o'clock and end at 4, but that the teacher usually had to guess at the time because no one in the room had a clock or watch. The boys sat on one side of the room and the girls on the other. The only textbooks were a few copies of an arithmetic - probably Daball's, the kind used at Clarinda - Webster spellers, and McGuffey readers.

This school was on unclaimed land. Drinking water for the pupils came from the spring that fed Buchanan Creek. Among the early teachers who at various times taught in this school were Tom Stockton, Jeff Bracken, Saltina Smith, and Charlie Carr. Few women taught school until after the Civil War. The three Farrens brothers, the Hardys, Tom Nixon, and the Lark Thompsons were among the patrons.

When the sale of town lots was first held in Clarinda in 1853, a few men who lived near and cherished visions of the new town's future bought some land together as a site for a schoolhouse. Before long they also built the school, cutting and hauling the cottonwood logs that later gave the building its name. Elijah Miller, a surveyor in much demand, taught 15 children the first term. Classes were sometimes abandoned if a trial was drawing crowds too large for the temporary courthouse. The land on which this school stood eventually became the property of the Independent District of Clarinda. Elijah Miller was elected first county



superintendent of schools in 1869 and for several later terms. His versatility was further demonstrated by his History of Page County, Iowa, published in 1876.

In the summer of 1860 a truly imposing structure for the time replaced the first cottonwood school. It was of frame, 32 feet square, two stories high, and cost \$2,675. On each floor a hall divided two schoolrooms. The townspeople proudly boasted that they had the best school in the region.

An ambitious educational venture had begun in Amity Township in 1854. For more than a year before that time the Reverend B. F. Hoskins of Galesburg, Illinois, had been considering establishment of a colony of "Christian families" that would support a college. Circulars issued under his sponsorship announced: "Individuals who may feel like engaging in the undertaking, are to become shareholders. One hundred dollars shall constitute a share. When seven thousand dollars have been subscribed, a committee shall be chosen by the shareholders. The business of the committee shall be to explore the unoccupied parts of Iowa or Missouri, or both, as may be thought necessary, for the suitable location of the proposed colony. The land purchased shall be government land and in the most suitable portion of such tract shall be laid out a town. The remainder to be platted into 10, 20 and 40 acre lots. So much of the land as shall be necessary to pay off the shareholders shall be appraised at five dollars per acre and every shareholder may receive, in land at valuation price, to the amount of his share. To each share there shall be attached a scholarship of five years' gratuitous instruction in the institution of learning that may be established from the fund raised as proposed, which may be used, rented, or sold at the pleasure of the shareholder. The institution shall be of such character as to give both sexes the opportunity to obtain a liberal education. The manual labor system shall be encouraged and entered into as far as practicable."

Late in March 1854 a committee was appointed' to hunt for a suitable site. After considering many Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri regions, land partly in northern Missouri and partly in southern Iowa was selected for the colony. The proposed price was lowered from five to two and a half dollars an acre at the suggestion of Aaron Dow of Black Hawk County, who agreed to invest \$1,000 if the change were made. The company was chartered as the Western Industrial and Scientific Association and filed articles of incorporation for Amity College. A. J. Woods, Mark Morse, and Joseph Cornfoth superintended the survey of the college and future townsites. When a large spring was discovered nearby, the future town's name was changed to College Springs. That was in June 1856.

## The Schools and Churches in the Fifties

The shareholders instructed the board to insert in every deed for a town lot a provision prohibiting manufacture or sale of liquor on the premises. By 1859 the college owned nearly 7,000 acres of land — 1,665 in Page County, 880 in Cass, and 4,800 in Missouri counties. One building was in use and another under construction at that time. George P. Kimball of Wheaton, Illinois, taught the first 30 students beginning in 1857. Amity College was at first a Wesleyan Methodist institution, one of the founders being the Reverend Ami Smith, a charter member of the local church. It was, however, under the laws of Iowa in 1871 a non-denominational institution. Until then it went through uncertain times.

In Page County as well as in most of the other areas of Iowa, churches were developed simultaneously with the schools, in some cases in advance of them. The Methodist circuit riders, as far as is known, were the first clergymen to appear in southwest Iowa. Samuel Farlow, Clarinda's first minister, had been preceded in the county by "Father" William Rector, a man 60 years old, who rode over from Fremont County and organized some of the first Methodist congregations in Page and Taylor Counties. He received no salary for his work and subsisted principally on corn bread and ham from the "razorbacks" contributed by people to whom he had preached.

The Reverend John Anderson, who followed Samuel Farlow, organized a Methodist Church at Clarinda with four members. That was in 1854. Three years later a church costing \$1,000 was built, the first in town.

The Reverend L. G. Bell of the Des Moines Presbytery organized the Presbyterian Church at Clarinda on August 25, 1855. The group built its church in 1860.

Eleven people formed the first Baptist Church in the spring of 1857 under guidance of the Reverend James Smith of Bedford. Later they bought the building the Methodists had built.

Two other religious denominations early represented in Page County were the Universalists, organized at Clarinda with 12 members on January 28, 1859, and the United Presbyterians, whose group of nine was organized on February 22, 1863.

In spite of the evidences of civic progress the county seat was still a primitive place long after the end of the Civil War. As there were then no paved streets, vehicles were often stuck in the mud in the town square. The few sidewalks were made of boards, often loose and full of holes to trip the unwary. Cows were allowed to graze and wander

about the town as they wished, and so were swine. One Sunday a pig waddled down the aisle of the Presbyterian Church during the service and the spellbound congregation did not move until after he stopped to scratch his back on the pulpit. Then Anthony Loran saved the dignity of the congregation by hurrying down front, grabbing up the offending animal, and carrying it outside. It was this same Loran, too, who had a bronze bell bought for the tower of the church. It weighed 353 pounds, had been cast in Boston in 1837, and had served in Lewistown, Illinois, before it was hauled to Clarinda. As there were few clocks in town, people used to "go by the bell" in judging time.

At night only the main streets of the town were lighted, and these by means of lamps strung from poles on the corners. Each evening a man went around to fill the lamps with kerosene and ignite the wicks. Once off the main thoroughfare it was difficult for driver or pedestrian to find his way unless there was a bright moon.

George A. Madden, who attended church in Hawleyville, but lived two and a half miles across the border in Taylor County, left a detailed diary of the happenings in the neighborhood between 1854 and 1862. In September 1854 he and his father, who had come to Iowa from Indiana to visit a brother in Hawleyville, bought some land on which they decided to homestead.

By October they were well settled, but almost every day he wrote, "The air is full of smoke from the burning prairies around. We have a field of corn that will have to be burned around." On November 3, 1854, he noted, "Last night's was the largest fire I have seen on the prairie. It was on the other side of the river from us. The wind was high at the time and the blaze of the fire appeared to ascend from eight to twelve feet high."

On the following Sabbath he said: "This day was spent in hard work, thinking it was Saturday. We did not know any better until evening when a neighbor woman came to see us and found us at work. I went to Hawleyville and found the stores all shut up and everybody in their Sunday suit. Then I was perfectly convinced of a mistake in my diary." He made up for this error by spending the following day as if it were Sunday. The next weekend he made certain of the date and attended services at Mr. Hawley's, where the circuit rider was giving a sermon. He commented: "Very few professing Christians at this time are in these parts."

On December 10, 1854, young Madden made a long entry: "Started for White Oak Grove, stopped at Indian camp above Dodson's and conversed with them inside their tent. There were nine squaws and three Indian men sitting around the

fire in the tent. There was carpeting and other rugs to sit and lay on. They had several children, one an infant tied to a board with a kind of cushion projection over its head with numerous small bells attached. One of the Indians was sick. He was asked how long he had been sick and he said he had been sick 'a heap.' They had a good deal of meat hung, cut and drying above the fire. A large hole was left in the tent for the smoke to pass out. After I left the camp I met a squaw and was amused at her. She was hiding in a thicket of hazel brush and looked scared. I politely turned aside and let her pass."

On his return home from this journey Madden found the people in Hawleyville considerably excited about entering claims to land. To enter a claim the homesteader had to pay the Government price of \$1.25 an acre - an amount it was almost impossible for some persons to collect. A company had been set up, however, by the land office to accommodate would-be settlers by entering the land on credit. "That is," explained Madden, "they will enter your land at 40<sup>¢</sup> for one year, then if the money is not paid the land is forfeited."

The first person to die in Hawleyville was the infant son of B. Tanner on January 23, 1855.

Three months later, on March 6, 1855, a sawmill started operations in the town.

By April 1 of that year the town set a record by having three church services on the same day. The Reverend Mr. Burdock spoke at 11 a.m., the Reverend Mr. Knight of the Regular Baptists at 3 p.m., and at night the Reverend Mr. Smith, another Baptist.

The winter and spring of 1856-1857 proved severe throughout Iowa. In the northwest a band of renegade Sioux Indians, hungry and sullen at the scarcity of game and provisions in the land to which they had been confined, suddenly made the attack later called the Spirit Lake Massacre. This aroused considerable fear in Page County. Young Madden was more concerned, however, over the prospect for crops. He wrote that the corn was nearly all frostbitten, and most provisions would have to be brought from Missouri. He made several trips to St. Joseph with a team and wagon to get supplies for himself and other settlers. He was often stuck in the mud on these trips and had trouble fording streams and rivers. Once he had to leave part of his load along the way to be picked up later when the land was drier. On February 22 he noted: "Snow is 20 to 24 inches deep on a level. It was drifted in some places nearly over the tops of fences. The roads have been lined nearly all winter with teams. Corn can be had now for 50 cents per bushel in lower part of Taylor and Page counties... It is said that some

here are paying 30 per cent interest for money to buy provisions."

Much stock had died for want of food. It was no wonder land was still at a low price, unimproved tracts bringing only four to eight dollars an acre and improved land only eight to twelve. The county seemed threatened with starvation and by April 14, 1857, it was almost impossible to obtain money, even at 40 per cent interest. At that time Madden made a trip to Clarinda, which then had 30 or 40 houses. He wanted to get some seed corn, and as he needed every penny for the corn and it would have cost a dollar a day to buy feed for his horses, he solved the feeding problem by emptying his mattress of the hay it contained. He pulled through with the horses so weak it seemed "like murder" to work them.

Madden cut and sawed cottonwood trees to be taken to the mill for cutting into shingles. He could not afford to buy them at four dollars a thousand.

A steam mill belonging to Hawley, Curtis, and Holmes burned in April, but though in running order again by June it had very little business. Madden observed: "Persons passing from the mill with only one-half a bushel or a peck of meal and emigrating to the west can be daily seen in Hawleyville."

The town had a lively period in midsummer when the Methodists held their quarterly meeting June 13 and 14, 1857, bringing together "the largest assemblage of people that ever assembled in Hawleyville."

Madden made two trips that year to Adams County. On one he and other wayfarers were sheltered overnight by a man named Isaacs who lived in a hut about 14 feet square. Then it "rained through roof and everything about the house was wet and most of the people soaked to skin, floor was wet completely. Had two beds for 16 persons to sleep in. Finally packed away tight and close to rest under the bed of the wagons, etc." On the second trip he attended a camp meeting and approved most of the people he saw, who were "generally dressed plain and neat but we saw one girl with hoops on her dress. She would have done to have taken to a county fair for the rowdies to look at."

Late that summer the grasshoppers, appearing in great numbers, added to the settlers' troubles by devouring the crops and vegetables, including buckwheat, turnips, and cabbage. But fruit - plums, crab apples, and grapes - were plentiful.

But young Madden was happy in spite of hardships because on August 27 of that year, 1857, he was married to his

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sweetheart at Mount Pleasant. The entries for the following months were filled with notes of home building and furnishing. He made a pair of bedsteads by nailing together some rafters that had been left over when the house was finished.

The mill to which Madden referred in his diary had been built by Elisha Thomas in 1849 on the north bank of the East Nodaway River. It had begun as a sawmill, but Henry McAlpin and A. M. Collier had bought the site in 1851 and added some rude grinding machinery. Later, in 1854, it was purchased by Doctor A. H. and Thomas East, who in 1859 installed new flouring machinery. They would carry flour by the wagonload to St. Joseph, Missouri, where it sold at \$1.50 a hundred.

## CHAPTER 4

### THROUGH THE CIVIL WAR DAYS

As the people of Page County were largely farmers it was natural that an agricultural society should, soon be organized. George Ribble was elected its first president and Dr. Samuel H. Kridebaugh the first secretary at the society's first meeting in June 1859. Plans were then made for the first of its annual fairs. Part of the James A. Jackson and Henry Farrens farms a half mile north of Clarinda were selected for the event because of a fine grove of trees, convenient water for the stock, and two good springs.

As money was still scarce, no cash prizes were offered. The committee even feared that the receipts would not cover the expenditures. Non-members of the society/ could exhibit cattle and stock on payment of 50 cents but all the ladies were allowed to show their handiwork without charge. This probably explains the preponderance of exhibits by women -- vegetables and jellies, elaborate examples of embroidery, sewing, and quilting, all hung on clotheslines strung about among the trees. The promoters did their best to insure impartiality by ruling that "no relative of a person having property on exhibition be permitted to serve on an awarding committee where he would be liable to award his relative a premium. "'

This fair was a scene of "spirited competition" in the showing of horses and equestrianism. The public square served as a race course, four times around constituting a mile. The first day was rainy but the second was clear and a large crowd attended. That first fair exceeded the most optimistic hopes, the total receipts amounting to \$117.50.

The next year, 1860, the society leased ten acres of ground including part of that previously used. Those acres served as fairgrounds until 1865 when a tract just east of the site of the railroad depot was purchased. In that year the association was reorganized and legally incorporated as the Page County's Agricultural (Stock) Society. The land was cleared and buildings were put up.

The fair and the Fourth of July were always the high occasions of summer, for Memorial Day and Labor Day had not yet been set aside as holidays.

Fourth of July celebrations were usually held in the grove at the edge of town or on the former fairground. But after the picnic and the patriotic orations the people would return to the public square for fireworks. The Clarinda Herald-Journal once described this part of the program:

Through, the Civil War Days

"Fireworks were manufactured by taking bark from flax, rolling it into balls and dipping then in turpentine. These balls were stuck on the end of long willow poles, ignited and thrown from the poles in relays around the square. Balls of fire were kept in constant motion from each relay point to the next so that it looked as if there was a streak of fire around the square."

Page County as well as its towns was beginning to show public improvements by 1860. In the winter of 1856-1857 the first bridge was built across the East Nodaway River at Hawleyville. John McLean and A. P. Richardson constructed it at a cost of \$200. At the January 1858 session of the county court, the county was divided into seven civil townships: Dyke (changed to Valley the following September), Douglas, Pierce, Tarkio, Nodaway, Nebraska, and Amity. Washington Township was created at the November term, of court.

In 1853 printing equipment was hauled to Clarinda from Sidney, Iowa, in a lumber wagon and on May 24 C. B. Shoemaker, its owner, published, the first issue of the Page County Herald, the first newspaper in the county. Shoemaker belonged to the new Republican party and that fact was evident in the pages of his paper. When Shoemaker was commissioned a major in the Twenty-ninth Iowa Infantry in 1862 he put T. R. Stockton in charge of the Herald.

As Page County was crossed by one of the main routes to the Missouri River it was traversed by thousands on their way to the goldfields of California, to Kansas, to the mines of Colorado, or to the Mormon territory of Utah. One group of Mormons tarried in the county and eventually formed a colony at what they called Manti. Three-quarters of a century later, traces of the Mormon Trail could still be seen back of the Oak Grove schoolhouse east of Clarinda, and through Grimes' field. The old stagecoach road followed the course that later became State Highway 3, north along Snake Creek near Yorktown, and then west. The Miller house west of the Baker Cemetery, a few miles northeast of Norwich in Tarkio Township, was a place where travelers could get food and, when necessary, shelter.

The people who were devoting themselves to farming and home building in Page County often speculated about the single men, married men, and families who kept pushing eagerly westward, talking so enthusiastically in Iowa of what they expected to find. They knew that not all of the dreams came true, for frequent tales of disappointment drifted back and sometimes they would recognize, in the tired drivers of dejected, scrawny horses or oxen, the very same people who only a few months or a year or so before had expressed boundless superiority over the prospects ahead. But those who could still ride back in their own wagons were fortunate. George



## Through the Civil War Days

Madden wrote in his diary on May 25, 1859: "It is reported that the suffering of returning Pike's Peak emigrants is dreadful in the extreme. Hundreds and thousands are begging their way back to their homes and families."

During the same period Negroes were fleeing to safety in Page County, for Missouri was a slave state while Iowa was free. A line of the Underground Railroad was operated through the county and the town of College Springs or Amity was the first station north of the line. It became known as "Stop and Start" among the black men for there they stopped to rest after escaping from the slave country, and from there they started again toward the safety of Canada. After the Civil War broke out in 1861 some of the Negroes remained and at one time formed a considerable part of the population of the little town. While many young men were in the army Amity College had difficulty in finding students, and during one year classes were closed entirely and the buildings were used to house the Negro refugees.

From Amity the refugees were usually dispatched to a station at the home of Dr. Albert Heald, some four miles north of Clarinda. The trail next led to Grinnell, beyond which there was little danger.

At the beginning of the Civil War Page County had neither railroads nor telegraph lines, so news traveled slowly, but as soon as word of hostilities was received, groups of men organized themselves into groups of home guards and active combatants. Steps toward the formation of the Clarinda Home Guards were taken at a meeting held on April 30, 1861. Twenty-eight men volunteered after patriotic speeches and resolutions had been made. Fifty-two men in all were formally enrolled on May 1. They chose Thomas M. Bowen captain and G. W. Burns first lieutenant. Thirty-nine men banded together at Amity on May 4, calling themselves Border Guards No. 1. The same day a company of dragoons was organized at Clarinda with J. Cramer as captain and R. F. Connor first lieutenant. Within the next week other companies were formed in Harlan, Buchanan, and Amity Townships. The men who had arms furnished their own rifles and muskets, but there was a great scarcity. Finally the Capitol Guards at Des Moines yielded 60 muskets to the Amity company, which was believed to be closer to the enemy. Captain Bowen of Clarinda had to go to Council Bluffs to get 75 Enfield rifles for his company.

In their first enthusiasm the volunteers of the various units were uniform-conscious and took considerable pleasure in devising striking and smartly-cut combinations. Thus the dragoons chose blue roundabout coats, blue caps, and black trousers with red stripes one inch wide running down the outside of each leg. A red leather belt completed every out-

fit. After serious discussion two additional rows of buttons were added to the coats. The Amity Border Guards No. 1 decided on black glazed caps, blue trousers with one-inch red stripes down each outers eam, and grey or steel-colored over-shirts with red collars and ruffles. The Harlan Blues concentrated on the color for which they were named. The Amity and Buchanan Township company, formed on May 3, 1861, adopted grey shirts with collars and cuffs trimmed with red and black, blue denim trousers with red stripes running down the outside of each leg, and hats instead of caps.

As there were few if any professional tailors in the county, women kept their home sewing machines humming to turn out the brightly trimmed suits for husbands, sons, and friends. When the uniforms were donned by the volunteers, sweethearts and kinsfolk viewed the companies with pride. Although protective coloration in dressing soldiers was then unknown to military science, when the home and border guards were drafted into Federal service they had to put on the official Union blue.

With the Missouri border so close- the people felt nervous and really needed armed forces on guard near them. The attack from the South which was constantly expected was the subject of a news editorial in the Faye County Herald for May 24, 1861: "Intelligence reached us yesterday of a contemplated attack upon Amity, and in response to their call for assistance, Captain Bowen of Clarinda Guards, marched his company to the threatened place. Captain McCormick of the Harlan Blues also marched down with his company as did Captain Smith with his company. The news of an attack reached Amity through a Union man residing in Missouri, and his information was such, that there can be no doubt but the hell hounds were congregating at Grave, six miles below Amity, for the purpose of making an attack upon the town, but the presence of 300 armed and drilled men may have deterred them from their purpose for the present, but there is no doubt but that another attack is contemplated and will be made as soon as suitable opportunity presents."

This article is said to have been inspired by the "general staff of the military command of the vicinity" to impress the enemy and to disguise the fact that the total of men enrolled was 120. These had been drilling for less than three weeks in the intervals between plowing for corn. Some folks credited the editorial with warding off attacks, for none was ever made.

There were occasional exciting incidents, of course. Once three strangers on good horses rode up to the front of the Delevan House in Clarinda, hitched their animals to the signpost of the hotel, idled about town a short time, made a few purchases, then mounted their horses and rode away to

the west. The leader, a tall man wearing a white hat, attracted especial attention. Speculation was rampant. Eventually it was decided that the man in the white hat had been old "Pap" Price - General Sterling Price, who commanded the armies in Missouri. The other two, of course, had been Rebel spies plotting the route for an attack on Iowa and the capitol at Des Moines. In a little while a detail of the home guards was pursuing the three riders, making the several crossings of the Nodaway River and Buchanan Creek. The visitors were overtaken in Fremont County, where there was a light skirmish before "the Rebels" escaped. Their identity was never verified.

On another occasion suspicion was aroused, by a pile of bedding on an old wagon drawn by a team of sorry-looking horses. The driver, who said he was a "mover", made a brief stop on the north side of the square at Clarinda before urging the tired animals on their way. Suspicion grew with each foot the wagon moved, and by the time it was out of sight everybody in town was positive that kegs of gunpowder were concealed under the blankets and quilts and were on their way to Southern sympathizers in Nebraska. Captain W. D. Barrel of the local company sent out a squad of men to investigate and seize the contraband. The guards overtook the wagon at Snake Creek, four miles west of the town, where the mover had made camp. They swooped down on the wagon, lifted the blankets, and there sure enough were some kegs. These were triumphantly seized and examined. They contained nothing but soap grease,

George Madden, the diary-writer, was one of the first to enlist in the local guards - a "horse company" of 40 men organized at Hawleyville under leadership of Captain John McLean. Some members believed fighting with the Indians would take place that fall in western Iowa. During the summer Madden had many lively events to report in his journal:

"June 26, 1861 - They are working on my pants for the uniform. (Old) Mrs. Ralings is making my coat. Mrs. Stilliams my cap and Lizzie my pants. June 29 - There will be a regiment to organize next Wednesday at Clarinda. Our Company then expects to return to Hawleyville to spend the Fourth of July, have a splendid dinner and a nice silk flag presented to them by the ladies. July 5 - Spent the 4th in Hawleyville. A fine free dinner. The Nodaway Rangers were presented by the ladies with a silk flag. A great deal of cheering was manifested by all, especially the Nodaway Rangers. July 8 - Excitement at Hawleyville caused by a report of a body of 400 or 500 secessionists at Maryville, Mo. arresting Union men. Most of our company and other companies have started down to fight them. July 13 -- Nodaway Rangers returned. Arrested a good many secessionists. Several companies proceed under Colonel Morledge; many return when we

reach the; state line. July 23 - Col. Morledge decides we should return. About half go on under Lieut. Col. McCoun. July 24 -- Peace made between Union men in Missouri and the Secessionists, Iowa men wanted to fight. There was probably 1,200 men."

Young Madden left for active service in the South in the late summer of 1862 and died a few months later of "camp fever", possibly typhoid or dysentery. His brother Alfred, a member of Company I, Twenty-eighth Iowa Infantry, died of the same disease at Helena, Arkansas, in August 1863.

The Missouri campaign mentioned by Madden was generally known as the Gentry War because belligerents in Gentry and 'Worth Counties, Missouri, threatened the Iowa border.

While the home sector was being so pugnaciously defended, other groups of men were enlisted and sent to fight with the forces farther south. The company commanded by Captain T. M. Bowen was inducted into service with the First Nebraska Infantry. Hundreds of people gathered on the day of their departure, June 19, 1861, to bid them farewell. The ladies of Clarinda had provided them with a flag fashioned at home of woolen fabrics and sewed with linen thread.

A second company, captained by Jacob Butler, soon followed and. both were ordered south in August 1861 as part of a regiment collected in Nebraska. They participated in Fremont's Missouri campaign and in the battles of Fort Donelson, Shiloh, and Corinth. After November 1863 they were mounted on horses and the regiment was known as the First Nebraska Cavalry.

The Reverend J. M. Rush, a Methodist in charge of the Hawleyville circuit, helped recruit men from Page County for the Fourth Iowa Cavalry. Serving as second lieutenant, he had as brother officers two other clergymen, Captain Rector and Lieutenant Guyle of Fremont County.

A company of the Fourth Iowa Infantry under Captain Joseph Cramer was raised during the latter part of August 1861 and on January 22, 1862, joined the Army of the Southwest under General Curtis for two and a half years of active service. General Curtis declared this regiment "won immortal honors" at Pea Ridge. There Colonel Morledge's law partner, Lieutenant James T. Chittenden of Company K, fell in battle. He died on April 29, 1862.

The Fourth Iowa Infantry moved from the Ozark Mountains across Arkansas and to Helena, thence to Chickasaw Bayou and up the Arkansas River to Arkansas Post, to Vicksburg, Memphis, Chattanooga, and with Sherman against Atlanta. Altogether this regiment met the enemy in eight Southern states and fought more than 30 battles.

Another -cavalry company, organized by Doctor Rumbaugh of Hawleyville, joined a Missouri regiment in August 1861. The company disbanded after the battle of Lexington, but Rumbaugh organized another that was assigned to the Twenty-fifth Missouri Infantry. He was' appointed major. Captain John M. Young, Lieutenant C. A. B. Langdon, and another company of cavalry left Page City September 2, 1861, for Omaha to join a Nebraska regiment. First known as the Curtis Horse, the unit was assigned to Iowa on June 25, 1862, and renamed the Fifth Iowa Cavalry. The Fifth Iowa took part in the campaign around Atlanta and was at one time reduced to 30 horses.

The largest group to enlist in one body from Page County was probably that forming Company F of the Twenty-third Iowa Infantry. The 92 men went into service in 1862.

Late in August 1863 Captain G. W. Burns, who had been with the First Nebraska Cavalry, returned to Iowa and recruited a company for the Eighth Iowa Cavalry. These were mustered into service the following September 30. The regiment was sent to Kentucky in October and then started on the march for Nashville, Tennessee. The men took part in all the battles around Atlanta. Of 292 enlisted men and 24 officers who started on the McCook raid only 20 men and officers returned to the Union lines. The rest had been taken prisoner.

Fourteen men from Page County served under Major Charles B. Shoemaker with the Twenty-ninth Iowa Infantry and there were others with the Fourth Missouri Cavalry, the First Iowa Cavalry, the Seventeenth Infantry, and the Eleventh Missouri Cavalry. Dr. A. H. East, who served as a surgeon with the Union Army, had been admitted to the bar at Clarinda in 1856-1857 and was appointed prosecuting attorney. After returning from the war he abandoned the law and continued medical practice until his death on September 19, 1872.

Page County, with a population of 4,419 persons at the time of the Civil War, furnished 512 soldiers to 14 different commands. Fifty-eight died of wounds or disease and 13 were killed on the battlefields. While the men were still in the field Governor W. M. Stone of Iowa proclaimed that he would award a silken banner worth \$100 to the county that made the largest contribution toward the support of the families of soldiers. Page County won the flag and with it the title of "Banner County of the State." East River Township led the townships in the county.

## CHAPTER 5

### RAILROADS AND RAILROAD TOW

As early as 1859 Page County farmers were working to bring a railroad into their territory. What was to be known as the State Line was planned to run from Farmington in Van Buren County and west through a region including the southern tier of townships of Page County. But like many similar dreams this one came to nothing.

On March 23, 1860, at a meeting held in Clarinda, a committee was appointed to confer with railroad companies at St. Joseph, Missouri, and point out the advantages of building a road up the Nodaway Valley. This attempt was also unsuccessful and the people in the county had to wait 11 years more for better transportation facilities.

Finally in 1871 the Burlington and Missouri (later the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy) constructed a branch from Red Oak to Nebraska City on the Missouri River. In Page County it followed the boundary between Pierce and Fremont Townships and crossed Grant Township. There were, however, only two Page County stations on the line — Essex in Pierce Township and Shenandoah in Grant.

The road, however, did not run through the county seat, and citizens there, including Colonel Hepburn, redoubled their efforts to provide another line. They formed a company in 1872 to construct a road from Villisca to Brownsville, Nebraska, by way of Clarinda. It was to be called the Brownsville and Nodaway Valley Railroad and was to be partly financed by taxes, a provision which roused some disapproval. On June 1, 1872, the people in Nodaway Township voted on the question of transferring the five per cent tax already voted to the Chillicothe Railroad to the Brownsville and Nodaway line. In addition \$30,000 had to be raised. The promoters were successful.

Editor N. C. Ridenour of the Page County Democrat, who was also one of the incorporators /' wrote in his issue of July 4, 1872: "For the past few months our citizens have been working for a railroad almost day and night, and we are glad to announce that they have at last achieved the long-talked-of project, and on the first day of October 1872, Clarinda will have railway connection with the outside world. In this work our citizens have done nobly. They have acquitted themselves with credit and we, with most of our citizens, rejoice that such liberality and enterprise was manifested in securing this road. It is true we have had many drawbacks, some of our would-be leading citizens making a display of what they called independence which in our opinion

will not be of any advantage to them in the future. On Thursday last the contract for building the Brownsville and Nodaway Valley Railway was let to Messrs. Fitzgerald and Reinick."

Construction was begun almost immediately and completed in about two months. The last rail was spiked down at Clarinda on September 24, 1872. A station on the line in section 20, Valley Township, was named Hepburn to honor the colonel for his help in promoting the road. The road was always known as the Brownsville and Nodaway Valley, although it soon passed to control of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy. It was extended to Burlington Junction, Missouri, in 1879.

In 1878 Clarinda businessmen tried to have the St. Louis and Council Bluffs road brought into the town, but when the road was built it passed southwest of Clarinda and passed through Shenandoah instead. The route, eventually acquired by the Wabash system, entered Page County at Blanchard in Colfax Township, to cross Lincoln, Morton, and Grant. There were four stations: Blanchard, Coin, Bingham, and Shenandoah.

Promoters at Clarinda next decided to try to get a branch line constructed, for the new town of Shenandoah with its railroad facilities was growing rapidly and newspapers there had hinted at a drive for transfer of the county seat. Clarinda citizens felt they had to show more initiative. Taxes were voted in Buchanan, East River, and Nodaway Townships and the line was built. It served stations at Clarinda, Morseman, and Crooks for some years, then patronage declined and a receiver took over the property. After the last train was run in December 1889 the rails were taken up.

The Humeston and Shenandoah road was built in 1880-1881 by joint efforts of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy and the Wabash. It was about 90 miles long, beginning in Humeston, Wayne County, and entering Page County in Nebraska Township, running west to Shenandoah where it met the Wabash. Stations were at Clarinda, Yorktown, Norwich, and Shenandoah.

During the construction of this road a great cut had to be dug through the hills near Clarinda. While the men were working a smallpox epidemic broke out, and people in the neighborhood became so frightened that Clarinda officials obtained the services of a young Doctor Enfield from Rush Medical School, Chicago\*. The doctor and Sheriff Tom Brooks kept the victims of the disease isolated in the railroad camp a mile from town, and there were no cases in Clarinda. The two men not only had to care for the sick but also to bury the dead. Most of the laborers who died were Irish

Roman Catholics, As there was no cemetery near the camp and no Catholic graveyard in town, Doctor Enfield and Sheriff Brooks placed the bodies at the east end of the big cut and covered them with earth taken from the digging. For years afterward the burial plot could be seen from the windows of passing trains.

Another railroad to enter 'the county was the Denver Short Line owned by the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy company but incorporated as the Clarinda, College Springs and Southwestern. It ran from Clarinda southwest to Northboro in Washington, the southwest township of the county, where it met the Kansas City, St. Joseph and Council Bluffs, This line, constructed in 1881-1882, also connected at Clarinda with the Brownsville and Nodaway Valley road, which formed a junction with the main line of the "Q" at Villisca. The Denver Short Line stations in the county were Page City, Coin, and Northboro.

Many years later the Clarinda Commercial Club was excited over the prospects of a 17-mile line south through College Springs that was incorporated as the Iowa and Southwestern Railroad company. Funds for it were raised by subscriptions and gifts, and teams and labor were provided by the farmers. The road was not finished until 1911-1912 and did not pay its way because automobiles and motortrucks were by that time carrying many passengers and much traffic. The steel rails from this track were torn up during the first World War and it is believed were sold to China.

The railroad produced a number of boom towns, at least on paper, but some never got beyond the point of being stations. Some vanished altogether, others lingered, for people who had become accustomed to living in a certain neighborhood continued to make their homes there regardless of railroad transportation.

The town of Shenandoah' in the western part of the county was one that flourished with the advent of railroad and attracted residents from the neighboring farms and communities. 'Its history began in the summer of 1870 when the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy was under construction. The first settler was Daniel O'Day, who put up a shack and boarded some of the railroad workmen. The land, sloping gently westward at that point, offered a far view of the Nishnabotna Valley where the railroau followed the winding tree-fringed river. Tarkio and Walnut Creeks flowed through the same district. When the soil proved to be of unusual fertility it soon attracted not only fanners but nurserymen, who set out thousands of acres of trees and shrubs. For some obscure reason the place was first called Fair Oaks, though the excellent stretches of 'timber did not include any memorable groves of this tree.



A site some two miles south had been tenanted since 1846, when some of the hundreds of Mormons driven from Illinois and moving west toward Utah had stopped and made camp along the way. A number of the Saints, who disagreed with the leaders or were discouraged with the prospects ahead, dropped out of the company and took up land in the county. One such group settled near a patch of trees known as Fisher's Grove. Presently the settlement was called Manti. Although closely associated with Page County, it was just across the line in Fremont County.

The settlement persisted for 14 years. After it was abandoned a graveyard was for decades a reminder of the Mormons. Among the persons interred there was Alpheus Cutler, a presiding officer of the dissident sect that was formally recognized in 1862 as the Church of Christ of the Latter Day Saints. Just before the Civil War, Cutler prophesied that if hostilities broke out the streets of Manti would run blood to the depths of a horse's bridle. Later, when people heard of bushwhacking in the vicinity, they feared his dire prediction was coming true.

When the railroad approached, the possibilities of living in a town with good transportation facilities drew many of the people of Manti to Fair Oaks. But Manti retained its identity up to 1878. A bronze plaque placed on a red memorial boulder bears the inscription: "'1852 - Manti - 1878. Site of pioneer village of Manti, and intersection of cross country stage coaches. Old burying ground southeast of brow of hill. Marked By Manti Cemetery Association." Donations and some money allotted annually by trustees of Fisher Township helped keep the plot in fair condition. The seedsman, Henry Field, in 1916 bought a five-acre tract covering Manti for \$750 and built on it his summer home, Hickory Hill.

The town of Shenandoah was formally named on August 6, 1870, the day the first house (put up by J. N. Holcomb) was completed. After that the population grew rapidly. A sale of land held in August 1870 by a town company offered every alternate lot to buyers at \$50 each and the intervening lots at \$100 each. It was not until September 15, however, that the town was platted by J. N. Denison.

Within a few weeks several commercial establishments had been opened and a little business center was active. S. P. Carpenter moved a building over from Manti and opened it as a boarding house. This was the beginning of the Shenandoah House, by 1880 considered the finest hotel in Page County. O. S. Rider had all framework of another building hauled over from Manti. It was set up at the corner of what became Sheridan Avenue and Maple Street and became a general merchandise and implement store. Just opposite W. E. Webster put up a drug store on October 16, 1870. Less than a

## Railroads and Railroad Towns

week before, J. H. Shugart and Company had opened a hardware establishment. By the next year several more kinds of wares and services were available to the community - J. D. Sprigg was selling shoes, Monzing and Gillespie operated a blacksmithy, and Collins and Son a wagon shop. Brison and Brother and J. J. Castor and Company were providing lumber.

A post office was granted and in 1871 Shenandoah was incorporated. Sixty-one votes were cast at the first election on August 22, 1871, and the following officials were elected: Mayor, J. H. Shugart; recorder, W. E. Webster; treasurer, B. M. Webster; marshal, T. J. Warner; and councilmen, Benjamin Lake, A. J. West, R. B. Cross, J. S. Johnson, and S. P. Carpenter.

Essex, the second town on the Burlington railroad in Page County, was in sections 26 and 27 of Pierce Township, in the valley of the Nishnabotna River, a region regarded by many people as the most fertile in Iowa. R. B. Wood built the first house on the townsite, northwest of the railroad station, in April 1870. That year the town was surveyed by A. B. Smith and B. J. Austin with J. C. Cummings as draughtsman. It was platted by J. N. Denison on September 15, 1870.

The community grew up close to the railroad, which was completed and ready for business in April 1871. Most business and social meetings took place in the station and occasionally even music for dances rang through its walls. There, too, religious meetings were held, and February 22, 1873, the local Methodist Episcopal Church was organized.

R. B. Wood, appointed postmaster, kept office in his house, but in return sometimes received only a dollar a month for his services. What little mail came in could easily be kept in a cigar box, and there seems to have been little demand for the stamps whose sale governed the size of the postmaster's income.

Essex soon became the business center for most people within walking or driving distance. Previously there had been two other settlements in the neighborhood, about six miles apart: Nyman, four miles east of Essex, and Franklin Grove, about four miles north. But as soon as the railroad was built through the valley and a station established at the new town, these small places lost their population to Essex.

Franklin Grove had been platted April 18, 1860, by Martin Jones. The first schoolhouse in Pierce Township had been built there in 1857 and taught by A. C. Gilmore for \$15 a month. It was a frame structure that local boosters said was "the best schoolhouse in the county." M. A. Jones became postmaster when a mail office was established in 1860.

The community also had the first brick house in the county after A. C» Gilmore burned some brick and built a dwelling in 1866.

But business developed slowly in Essex. W. O. Pendleton, who was brought to the place in 1871 when he was seven years old, later told even then there was hardly anything there; he remembered only a tent on the ground where the First National Bank later stood. It was owned by a Dr. Brackney, who operated the first store in town. About that time a merchant was much embarrassed by a customer who came in and asked for half a pound of tea - a large order for the day in the region. Two men tried to start a saloon in their cabin with a keg of beer ordered from Red Oak. Though they nailed up a big charcoal-lettered sign not a single patron appeared. After the beer soured the would-be dealers gave up their project.

By the fall 'of 1875 enough people had arrived to incorporate a town, which was done on December'10. At the first election, held the following March, H. T. Burdick was elected mayor.

Essex used a cemetery two miles east of town that'had started as a private burial place for the Hadden family. A creek was also named for these people, whose homestead stood for years just below the hillside graveyard and near a large grove of oaks that had furnished the family with fuel and lumber. The graves in the burial plot slowly increased in number until there were 75, but in 1942 only 14 of them could still be identified. The spelling on the broken and leaning stone markers varied: Hadden, Haddan, Haddin, and Haden. The oldest slab, decorated with a carved weeping willow, bore the inscription, "John Haddan, born July 22, 1810, died Nov. 11, 1853." Many stories grew'up about this cemetery 'but few facts were ever known about the family that had started it.

This was not the only graveyard near Essex. An Indian burial ground was discovered about six miles to the northeast, and the many relics found in the vicinity and in the old stone quarry nearby indicated that the valley must have held one or more semi-permanent camps.

The Clarinda Herald Journal on October 31, 1938, in reprinting historical sidelights, reported that B. M. Halland, a Swedish Lutheran clergyman of Burlington, Iowa, promoted the buying of railroad land in the territory by his fellow countrymen and worked up excursions of Swedes from Illinois. Advent of these people did not especially please old settlers. One of them said wryly, "It was a question of whether the rats or the Swedes' would take Essex but the Swedes won out," He was referring to the rodents that long plagued

the townspeople because of the amount of wheat stored there for shipment.

The Swedes long preserved their native customs, including annual fall and spring festivals and a school homecoming celebration. Each year they held a holiday sale of Swedish foodstuffs.

Among the natives of Essex were 'Walter Leonard, who became an American consular official; Gordon Enders, a writer on travel; Lawrence Moore, an instructor in the University of Egypt; and several Swedish people who became missionaries.

John Dragoo and George Thomas, the first teachers in Essex, had conducted classes in part of a house but soon sessions were transferred to the first floor of a building owned by E. E. Pendleton, who used the second story to store wheat. The first structure built for a school was erected on the hill about 1871 or 1872 but within a few years it proved too small. In July 1876 bonds were issued to the amount of \$4,100, but a considerably larger amount was spent by the time the projected brick building was completed.

The old schoolhouse was bought by the Swedish Evangelical-'Lutheran St. John's Church of Essex, organized July 8, 1876, and was remodeled into a religious edifice. The congregation built their own house of worship in 1893. A new pipe organ was installed about 1907 or 1908. This church was struck by lightning and burned and the congregation had to build anew. A brick church costing about \$10,000 was constructed and is in use today (1942).

The Swedish Evangelical Mission Church of Essex, organized January 22, 1904, has its own church building, as does the Presbyterian Church organized December 8, 1878.

The modern \$22,000 Essex school was built in 1907 and kept constantly improved.

## CHAPTER 6

### CLARINDA, COUNTY SEAT TOWN

Clarinda in 1865 had a population of 427, including "a right smart sprinkling of darkies", according to their own report. After the war refugees from Missouri remained in the town. Among these were "Laughing Rafe", whose voice could carry a mile; Mose Carter and Thomas Carter, former Union soldiers; Big Ed Nash, an orator; Howard Moss; the Reverend Mr. Ashford and his wife Sophy; Andy Cook; Jim Louneer; ' Big Aunt Louise; Liza Cason; and Dr. Thomas Gordon Jones, who was reported to have said, "Aftah the wah Ah made up ma min\*, ef Ah couldn't be leader of the gang, that Ah wouldn't gallop with the flock." He was a tall, slender man who wore on his cheeks the stylish sideburns of the period.

Dr. Jones always arranged the Emancipation Day program, held annually on August 4 by the Negroes. He would collect the money for it from the Clarinda townspeople and business men, lead the parade, and introduce the speakers. When the great barbecued beef, bushels of potatoes and fried chicken were ready he would walk among the crowd ringing a bell and crying, "Dinnah is ready, ef you aren't hungry, get hungry." Sometimes as many as 10,000 or 15,000 people, white as well as Negro, attended the celebration.

In 1866 the citizens of Clarinda presented a petition to the county judge, Colonel John R. Morledge, for incorporation of the town, a request that was granted immediately. In that same year M. B. Moore and J. McIntyre established a bank for the community — one of the first in southwest Iowa, it first did business under the name of the two men, but later when the State banking laws went into effect was called the First National Bank of Clarinda.

Also in 1866 a singing school was started by a Mr. Osgood, bachelor brother of one of the partners of the firm of Osgood and Kimble, which sold lumber. The singers at once began serious study of a work called The Heart of Juda, From those days on the people of Clarinda ' had'r a dec ided interest in. music. Mrs, J, H. Conine, the wife of the doctor who owned the Pioneer Drug Store, had the first piano in town. Piano lessons were given at the town hall in 1866 by someone whose name has long since been forgotten, and two years later appeared Miss Carrie Little who taught music and freely contributed entertainment at community gatherings. Miss Little later married Henry Loran, and their daughter, Carrie, in time became organist at the First Presbyterian Church, A Mr. Keller organized a band at Clarinda in 1871 to furnish music for the celebration when the railroad wa's completed. This group adopted C. B. & Q. Band for its name in honor of the transportation company.

By 1867 the county business had grown to such proportions that "a new and large" courthouse was needed, but for some reason it was difficult to obtain the approval of the people.

Unlike many of Iowa's 99 counties, Page did not experience a "county seat war."<sup>0</sup> There was no fight for the possession of the county seat. Clarinda never had any serious rivals in spite of the growth of Shenandoah. But in the late fifties and early sixties some other towns offered mild competition. One of these was Page City, platted on August 18, 1858, by William Pike. It was in Harlan Township, about half a mile west of the younger town of Page Center. The promoter started talk of having the county seat moved and there followed a fleeting real estate boom during which lots were sold at high prices. But the idea was soon forgotten, and although a post office was established at Page City in 1859 it lasted only until 1882 and the town never became a real competitor of Clarinda.

Tarkee City met a similar fate. It was platted in 1859 in Tarkio Township at a point eight miles west of Clarinda and between the East and Middle Tarkio Rivers. Robert Miller laid out the town, reserving two public squares, one for business purposes and the other for a church. In 1859, at the time lots were advertised for sale, some buildings were already there - a schoolhouse, a meeting house, and three dwellings. The material for construction of two business buildings was also on the ground. The settlers cherished some vague hopes of having the county seat moved to Tarkee City but the idea was gradually forgotten.

Since there was no strongly organized effort to move the county seat from Clarinda, it seemed strange that the taxpayers would not agree to build a new courthouse. They defeated the proposal submitted to them in 1867, and again in 1870. After three more years had passed it seemed certain that the need of adequate quarters for county offices would be recognized. Yet in 1873 the cautious voters once more disapproved the proposal.

After that the irate supervisors took matters into their own hands and passed a resolution to erect a two-story courthouse 44 feet wide and 60 feet long at a cost of \$7,456. They authorized the county auditor to issue warrants for labor and material and a building was constructed. It was small, and more vault space was especially needed.

At long last, in the summer of 1882, most people realized that the county had to have a more adequate courthouse. Four hundred persons signed a petition asking the supervisors again to submit a proposal for it to the voters for a fourth time. The measure carried but it was 1885 before the

building contract was awarded. Then it went to a pioneer resident of Clarinda, William Butler, at a set price of \$71,000. The large two-story brick building and its furnishings cost \$86,500 in all. It had a tower about 150 feet high with a railed observation platform that offered a splendid view of the surrounding country. Although space was left in the tower for a clock it was not until 1922 that one was installed — it had served Center School since 1877.

About the time that the first measure to build an adequate courthouse failed, in 1867, Colonel William Peters Hepburn, who was to become one of Clarinda's leading residents, moved to the town. Colonel Hepburn had been born of an army family in Wellsville, Ohio, on November 4, 1833; his father was Lieutenant James S. Hepburn of the First United States Artillery and his mother Ann Fairflax Catlet Hepburn, daughter of Surgeon Hanson Catlet. His mother was also a granddaughter of Matthew Lyon, the Irishman who had been Congressional representative of Vermont and Kentucky and had in turn achieved wide notice when he violated the Territory of Arkansas Alien and Sedition Act by publishing an attack on President John Adams. Mrs. James Hepburn was in addition the granddaughter of Thomas Chittenden, first governor of Vermont, Lyon having married the governor's daughter after his first wife, a niece of Ethan Allen, died.

The Hepburn family moved to Iowa in 1841, and the young William went to school in Iowa City and after classes worked in a printer's office. He studied law and had already started on a political career in Marshalltown when the Civil War broke out. Young Hepburn volunteered and was made captain of Company B, Second Iowa Cavalry. By the end of the conflict he was a lieutenant-colonel on the staff of General Philip H. Sheridan.

In June 1867 Colonel Hepburn moved to Clarinda. He and his wife, Melvina Morseman, loaded their household goods into lumber wagons and drove from the end of the railroad. They reached town just before sunset one summer evening and, stopping to rest and admire the view from the hillside, decided to make their home on that site.

Colonel Hepburn started law practice at once and also purchased an interest in the Page County Herald, the Republican paper which in a few years<sup>1</sup> time had been owned successively by W. T. Smith, Horndobler and Aldrich, and George H. Powers. He worked hard to build up the Herald and in later years took pleasure in telling about the days when he could set four sticks of brier in an hour, and the way they used to "sweat and puff" running off the 500-copy edition of the paper on the old hand press in half a day. He had some competition, however, for a second newspaper, the Page County Democrat, was started at Clarinda in August 1868

by James Arrick. On its masthead flew the flag of Horatio Seymour and Francis B. Blair Jr., candidates for the offices of President and Vice President of the United States. Interest in Blair was particularly keen because he was a resident of the neighbor State of Missouri. But although General Ulysses S. Grant and his running mate, Henry Wilson, were elected to the offices that year, the Page County Democrat remained in business and was published until January 31, 1927.

Both newspapers supported the campaign to bring adequate railroad transportation to Clarinda. After this had been accomplished Hepburn sold his interest in the Herald and devoted himself to politics. In 1880 he was elected representative to Congress from the Eighth District. He was defeated for reelection in 1886 but three years later President Benjamin Harrison appointed him solicitor of the treasury. Colonel Hepburn retained that office until his election to the Fifty-third Congress, and he continued in the House for the next 16 years. During this period he was a member of the committee on interstate and foreign commerce and for 14 years its chairman.

Hepburn was representative of a rural' population, always promoted the interests of the farmer, and among other measures championed initiation and extension of the rural mail service. ■ The Eighth Iowa District became one of the chief districts of the country in the number of rural delivery routes,

Hepburn's Yankee interest in various practical devices caused him in 1869, while still in Clarinda, to experiment with heating stoves for the purpose of saving fuel. He invented and patented an apparatus which, when used with an ordinary stove consuming two and a half pounds of wood in a room a dozen feet square, raised the temperature within 16 minutes from 40 to 104 degrees.

Another of Clarinda's prominent public men was William Butler, the builder of the third Page County courthouse. He had moved from Indiana to Henry County, Iowa, in 1855 and the next year preempted land in Harlan Township, Page County. In 1865 he bought 305 acres in Nodaway Township, a tract that later became the site of the State Hospital for the Insane. In 1872 in partnership with S. M. Crooks, Butler built the first grain elevator in Clarinda, and he was an innovator in another respect — building the first windmill in Page County in October 1872. It rose 40 feet from the ground.

For years Butler was principally concerned with buying and selling livestock. Between 1879 and 1890 he and his brother shipped 1,700 carloads of stock. Butler was also a



## Clarinda, County Seat Town

member of a syndicate that handled more than two million bushels of grain. Butler, Thompson and Company erected a brick block of buildings in Clarinda.

Butler began a successful political career on January 7, 1861, when he represented Harlan Township on Page County's first board of supervisors. He remained on the board until 1864, and in 1869 was again a member, that time representing Nodaway Township. In 1869 he was elected to the Iowa Legislature, and after being reelected several times obtained for Page County Iowa's third Hospital for the Insane. The institution was opened near Clarinda in December 1888. This was considered a valuable acquisition because it provided some work for local people and also a market for some produce.

Several fine mansions were built at Clarinda during this period of growth, and at least three of them were still standing in 1942. One was the Nelse Olsen home, erected about 1870 and later acquired by J. G. McKnight. The lumber was hauled overland in sections by wagon trains. The house had a French mansard roof, a little tower with an iron railing extending above and around it. The tower was shingled as was the slope of the roof. Oval-topped windows were placed in the tower. Brackets extended at least two feet below the cornice. ,

M. B. Moore, a lawyer, built a brick residence in 1877 at Eighteenth and Chestnut Streets. Walnut and oak were used lavishly for the interior woodwork, and an unusual newel post finished the hand-carved stairway. People considered this residence one of the finest in Iowa. For several years it was used as a hospital then reverted again to a private dwelling.

Then there was the house constructed at Eleventh and Washington Streets for an early railroad official. The three-story building was covered with 12-inch boards set vertically and "batted" like a barn. There were fireplaces throughout the house. Mrs. Herb Scott later acquired this dwelling.

The Clarinda Educational Institute was started in 1892 in an imposing house on West Clark Street. The reception hall had a tiled mosaic floor and was finished in oak. Each room was finished with a different wood - the "front room" in walnut, the living room in bird's-eye maple, and the dining room in cherry. The fireplaces were made of black marble or ebony. Classes were held on the second floor.

Sam Green, one of the students\* in later years recalled that a Presbyterian minister had given a talk at the first chapel service and that everyone was asked to join in sing-

ing "Blest Be the Tie that Binds." That song was adopted for the daily opening exercises and was sung regularly for a long time afterward. But some of the pupils, seeking a lively inspiration, constructed a college yell they confidently expected would be long remembered. It was:

Rickety bold, purple and gold

Boom ter rah, ki yi

Hickety yickety rickety role

Vive la Vive la C. E. I.

That yell did outlive the school, and a Greek letter society of former women students, Sigma Delta Phi, has continued its meetings regularly since about 1900. In spite of enthusiasm, however, the Clarinda Educational Institute had only a brief life, passing out of existence in 1896.

During the 1880's and 1890's the public schools throughout the county made considerable progress. Each community had one schoolhouse, while in the two large towns more ample accommodations were provided. Clarinda's large three-story brick building, put up in 1877 at a cost of \$20,000, was no longer adequate, and what was known as the North Ward building was erected in the northern part of the town in 1885. The younger but fast-growing Shenandoah found it necessary in 1876 to make a four-room addition to the two-story brick building constructed three years earlier. In 1896 a modern four-room building went up in the second ward. It cost \$15,000.

By 1890 there were 11 churches in Clarinda.

William Orr, who organized the Christian Church and served as Sunday School superintendent for 30 years, helped bring the Chautauqua to Clarinda. Orr was a lawyer who had come to town in 1880 and entered the law office of Colonel W. P. Hepburn. He was always active in community affairs, serving as city attorney, member of the school and library boards, and in later years giving an annual New Year's dinner to underprivileged boys and girls.

The Chautauqua in Clarinda was first held at the fairgrounds in 1897. The three weeks' program aroused enthusiasm throughout Page County and people traveled for miles to attend. The enterprise was then incorporated under the title of the Clarinda Chautauqua Assembly and shares of stock were sold. When annual meetings were established the program averaged ten days in length. Every summer a tent city rose on the grounds and streets were laid out and named. The campers used the Floral Hall belonging to the Fair As-

sociation as a dining hall, and there was a daily Chautauqua delivery of mail. By 1904, 500 persons had developed the custom of moving to the tent city for the season, and at least 1,000 were said to have traveled to Clarinda by railroad to attend the sessions.

It was fortunate in more ways than one that the fairgrounds could be put to such good use because in 1896 the Page County Agricultural Society had failed and the grounds had been sold at a sheriff's sale. The city of Clarinda' obtained possession in 1901. The success 'of the Chautauqua acted as a spur, perhaps, for on April 13, 1903, the Clarinda Fair Association was organized. The following year this group held its first fair on the old fairgrounds and the event was duplicated for many years to come.

In 1913, while Judge Earl Peters held office as mayor, Clarinda adopted the city manager form of government. It was the first city in Iowa, and among the earliest in the United States, to adopt this plan. At the time no State statute existed authorizing the appointment of such an officer. The plan was instituted under a provision of the Iowa law that allowed cities or towns to appoint the officers they needed for the good of the government. At the next session of the Iowa Legislature a statute authorizing adoption of the city manager plan was passed, removing all doubts on the legal status of Clarinda's government.

## CHAPTER 7

### GHOST TOWNS AND LIVE VILLAGES

Like most Iowa counties, Page had several villages that became flourishing communities and many others that dwindled and disappeared, largely as a result of changes in transportation facilities.

Many settlements that looked promising in the fifties or even in the eighties faded out of existence after railroads made other towns more desirable. Some, like Davison's in Buchanan Township and Binns in Fremont Township, had been only stagecoach stations and disappeared from the maps as soon as the stages were supplanted by trains.

Some of the places that passed but had odd names or nicknames. One was the North Mills, a post office at La Porte's mill about five miles north of Clarinda. It was generally known as Dogtown, though no one remembers why. In 1872 Burns and Norton' carried the mail to and from there three times a week. G. W. Hooper was the postmaster. The village was said to have been "quite lively." The mill itself, on the east side of the Nodaway River, was the most important business establishment, but there was also a blacksmith shop operated by George Flowers, a grocery store by George Hooper, and another store kept by Dave Wolf. The post office was closed in December 1873 and soon after that the very name was almost forgotten.

Slabtown was a community that grew up about a sawmill in East River Township. The people who worked in the mill or had land in the vicinity used the outside slabs of the timber sawed at the mill in constructing their houses. In 1861 the editor of the Page County Herald commented: "A few days since for the first time we visited the famous village of Slabtown,, better known as 'Blair and Frazier's Mill' on East River three'miles East-Sou th-East of Clarinda and must acknowledge our surprise at seeing so attractive and thriving a village. The steam mill at this place, run by Mr. Richardson is one of the best in the State and under present management is turning out a quality of lumber that can't be beat in the west, A good shingle machine is also located here, which makes a number one article of shingles."

Snow Hill in Lincoln Township was about one mile north of what became Coin. It had a post office in 1872 with S. D. Dunmire as the first postmaster. Snow Hill was never plat- ted as a town, being just a collection of houses near the Tarkio River. At one'time, however, it had a flouring mill there, a blacksmithy, and a store operated by Crooks' and Ansbach. Austin and Son added an iron foundry in 1882, and

there were enough children in the neighborhood to warrants school.

The post office and much of the population moved' to Coin after that town was platted on November 25, 1879, by the Western Improvement Company of Iowa on land purchased from James Hughes. Some men who were digging holes for the first foundations named the new town. They had been discussing the subject when one of them picked a coin out of the excavation and suggested that they name the village for it. His companions' agreed, and that was that. Sixty-four lots were sold at the first sale. S. M. Crooks moved his store over from Snow Hill soon after the town plat was made. He was soon followed by J. A. Delk, who started a hotel. A. G. Bacon was named postmaster. Mail was delivered tri-weekly from Clarinda by a carrier who drove a span of mules.

The region along the narrow divide between the East and West Nodaway Rivers attracted a number of Tennesseans. They felt at home on the rugged, oak-grown ridges above deep, fern-lined ravines, cold springs, hardwood timber, fruit, nuts, and game. The transplanted Southerners made a comfortable living up on the hill that they called Mutton Ridge, which was reached on the Washboard Road. The more conventional name of Oak Grove was adopted in later years. People living in other sections learned to appreciate the beauty of the ridge country and would drive up on Sundays and holidays to view the prosperous farms that produced corn, grain, and fine-flavored apples.

The coming of the Denver. Short Line was responsible for the beginning of Page Center, not far from the ghost town of Page City, in November 1881. E. S. and Mart Huston had the site platted. An elevator was built, a lumberyard established, and a post office opened. Various stores prospered spasmodically between 1887 and 1918, and the Methodist and United Presbyterian congregations were active. By 1942, however, the village contained only a dozen buildings - a few houses, a school, and a garage and filling station. One of the residents, Mac Pruitt, had converted an old store into a gathering place called the Mess Hall which had been the scene of many family dinners. It had complete cooking equipment and a wind charger providing power for electric lights and a large heater.

Northboro was started in 1881 as a station on the Denver Short Line and was platted on September 8 of that year by C. E. Perkins. The first train came through on July 4, 1882. Although there was no elevator, thousands of bushels of corn were shipped out from a siding near the town. The farmers could scoop the corn directly from their wagons into the railroad cars. A large brick school was built in Northboro in 1924.

Crooks was platted on May 19, 1880, by I. W. Blanchard on the southwest quarter of section 29, township 67, range 36. According to some of the older settlers in Page County, there was a saloon and perhaps a few stores at the site until the Wabash railroad was abandoned and people drifted away.

I. W. Blanchard also platted the town of Morseman, named for a lawyer at Clarinda, on March 19, 1880. This town in Buchanan Township began as a station on the Wabash railroad, halfway between Shambaugh and Braddyville. The railway was abandoned in 1890 and by 1940 the last landmark of the former town, the depot, had been moved to a farm nearby.

Blanchard, in Colfax Township, is on the State line. All the business section and part of the houses are in Iowa, but the rest of the residents live in Missouri.

Early settlers still living in Blanchard in 1942 remembered when the boundary line between the two states was finally established. After the government surveyors finished their work, 500-pound iron posts were hauled by ox team from St. Joseph, Missouri, and placed every ten miles along the border. In time, however, most of the posts sank below the level of the ground.

Before Blanchard was laid out the site was covered with blue grass. Wild turkeys and deer were plentiful and even the shaggy black hulk of a buffalo occasionally loomed on the prairie. Indians, too, lingered in the vicinity. In 1870, 500 Sioux camped six miles south of the site. Even after the town was started there were many Indians nearby. The old settlers said they were peaceable and "the white people had lots of fun with them."

When work was started on the railroad a man named Joe McMahlon opened a saloon in a tent in what was to be the center of Blanchard. He did a good business as long as the railroad construction camp was there but the people who came to live in the new town were poor customers. They took over the building that had succeeded the tent and on September 20, 1880, opened the town's first school in the remodeled Milwaukee Beer Parlor.

Blanchard was platted on October 13, 1879, by the 'Western Improvement Company of Iowa and was named for a vice-president of the Wabash railroad. A certain Dr. Rogers, it is said, wanted the town placed on the south side of the road, in Missouri, and offered a large sum of money and the right-of-way if it was so platted and if it was called Blanchard Blaze. Instead the town was platted in Iowa.

Joseph D. Parrott, who had the first drug store in Blanchard, was appointed postmaster when the office was established in 1879. He was also one of the first mayors and while serving in that capacity set aside one day for the planting of trees and shrubbery. The post office for the vicinity was first at Willsburg, northwest of what became Blanchard, but when the railroad came was moved to the new town. A number of the first buildings were also moved from other points.

For years Jack and Jennie, twin mules owned by J. J. Bean, were familiar sights about Blanchard. They helped their master collect supplies when he set up storekeeping, hauled the delivery wagon converted into a hearse by draping it with black, and generally made themselves useful. When Jack died at the age of 35, Jennie carried on alone, visiting the blacksmith and delivering ice without the directions of a driver. Dating from the pre-machine age, she never learned to fear or even respect automobiles. When one winter she fell ill and Bean thought she deserved a merciful death, no one could be found who was willing to shoot her. Jennie recovered, and died a natural death at the age of 45.

James Braddy platted Braddyville on June 1, 1878, on the southwest quarter of section 30, township 67, range 36. An earlier platting by Braddy was never placed on record. The second was recorded because in 1878 the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy was built through from Clarinda to Burlington Junction, Missouri. The site was one of the oldest trading points in the county, and a post office had been established there some time after 1851. During the early years of the Civil War, William Henry Allen, a descendant of the Ethan Allen who helped capture Fort Ticonderoga during the Revolutionary War, started to build a "castle" for his bride. Choosing land about two and a half miles north and east of Braddyville, he cut timber there and hauled it to a neighboring mill for sawing. He himself finished every piece of walnut for the interior. He dug limestone from the Nodaway River and burned it for plaster and took brick clay from a nearby creek to bake in a homemade kiln. Allen spent nearly a year completing the 11-room house. In December 1935 the foundation, then in ruins, was removed to make way for a modern farmhouse.

Samuel Farrens, son of George Farrens, the first settler in Page County, plowed the streets of Braddyville, thus marking off the blocks for the town lots. He used a 12-inch stirring hand plow for the work. At that time there were only five houses there, as well as a store that also served the post office, and a one-story schoolhouse. A man named Lummary is believed to have operated the first grist mill there. People were so anxious to have this mill that they volunteered to help build it. As there was no bridge across

the Nodaway River, Lummary constructed a foot crossing over the water so that he could get trade from both sides. Before long the crossing had to be replaced and from time to time better bridges were built, only to be washed away by high water. Finally an iron structure was put up in 1873.

The mill passed into the hands of the Braddy brothers, who added a saw run by waterpower, and soon lumber was available for building purposes. In those days a rail fence extended across the site where the Braddyville town pump stood later. Anyone who wished to cross to the other side had to stop and lift the rails down. When this well was dug, as a matter of convenience it was placed in the middle of the street in the business section. It became a popular resort, for almost everyone who passed through town would pause for a refreshing drink.

Several Page County communities were started by ministers. One of these was Nyman, which centered around a Swedish Evangelical Church whose congregation was organized in Fremont Township on May 19, 1870, by the Reverend B. M. Halland of Burlington. "Several families settled in the vicinity of Nyman in 1869# The next year some Swedish immigrants moved over from Illinois and on May 19 Halland organized the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church of Fremont and the Bethesda Church. These two churches are strong churches at the present time (1942), making their influence felt throughout the north part of the county especially, where they help maintain a high spiritual standard.

The Reverend Mr. Halland originally took charge of selling the land where the communities were founded, an activity that brought him some criticism. In self defense he wrote: "I did not make the least bit of profit on the land sales, but worked solely in the. interest of the Lord's cause and for the benefit of our people."

The congregation at Nyman was very active, and for a time'supported two parochial schools. The church, built in 1880, had a tower 99 feet high. Ten years later the only pipe organ in Page County was installed. A new church was built in 1902 and, because of the zeal and influence of the members of this denomination, has been called the outstanding rural church of Iowa.

Another religious leader who helped colonize in Page County was Bishop John M. Brenneman of Allen County, Ohio,- who visited Iowa in June 1867 on his way to visit a group of Mennonites who had left Ohio in 1864 for the cheaper lands of southeastern Page County. Among them were the John Good, Jacob Horning, and Henry Hoffman families, for whom "'Brother Good" had been selected to act as "'shepherd" and minister.



## Chost Towns and Live Villages

Others soon joined the original group. One of them was Noah Good, who had agreed to improve Henry Shenk's 80 acres of Page County land. Shenk, an Ohioan, paid Good \$420 and promised him six tent-free years in return for breaking and fencing the land, building a house, digging a well, setting out an orchard of 100 fruit trees, and planting a grove around it. Gradually a number of other Mennonites moved into the county, scattering through Amity, Buchanan, Harlan, and East River Townships, in the southeast. Shambaugh was chief market and business center for the people of this sect, who dressed plainly and were especially noticeable because of their beards and broad-brimmed black hats. They held religious services in their homes and in the schoolhouses, at Butler, Davis, Linn Point, and Olive Branch, with sermons delivered in both English and German.

Loy, a post office from 1883 to 1884, later became Yorktown. It was named for the postmistress but the railroad objected to this and a compromise was arranged whereby the post office retained the name of Loy for a while and the station was called Yorktown.

Yorktown was platted on April 3, 1882, by C. E. Perkins, just five miles west of Clarinda in Nodaway Township. William Snodgrass, who came to the place at the age of ten with his parents, afterward recalled that the site was then only an expanse of prairie grass. His mother boarded about 40 men who were working on the Humeston and Shenandoah railroad, and one of his earliest memories was of standing on a box to help her wash dishes. At that time the railroad company had a large reservoir there which held about two acres of water. The company sold it and for a while the boy was employed in winter to cut ice there, but finally it was drained. There were no trees on the town plat until the school teacher had the pupils set out trees around the schoolhouse. Another long-term settler, T. IL Notwehr, later told that his family of nine lived in a frame house 16 feet square, a luxurious dwelling compared to the one-room log houses common to some pioneer families.

Many ambitiously platted sites were destined soon to bebbme ghosts. Among these were Daisie, North Gfove, Tarkip, Norwich, Union Grove, Walkerville, Center, Nodaway Forks, Nodaway Mills, Nodaway, Meade, Bingham, and Franklin Grove. Dayton in East River Township was on the boundary line between Page and Taylor Counties. Only the section on the Page side was called Dayton, that on the other side of the line being Memory. Some of these little towns can still be identified, marked by a church, a school, or a gasoline filling station, with a few houses in the vicinity.

## CHAPTER'8

### THE NURSERIES

Page County is natural farming country but until the Civil War most of the homesteaders were content if they could raise enough to supply the needs of their own families\* They would have a few vegetables, a patch of wheat, and corn for "dodgers", mush, and fodder to "fat a beef" or hogs for home consumption. A few folks would haul their bacon to Savannah or St. Joseph, Missouri, to sell it for the cash required for implements and similar goods that could not be produced at home. It was hard to obtain real money locally unless a newly arrived settler had to have a cow or some oxen. Even then, however, prices for farm products were so low that many farmers must have felt like Edmund Chesnut of Harlan Township, who said that rather than sell his bacon at not more than two dollars a hundred pounds he would "sit up o'nights and eat it!"

It did not seem then as though Page County would ever be a profitable stock-raising country. But larger corn crops eventually provided feed for more stock, and by about 1861 the brimming cribs attracted outside' buyers. The farmers then established their own feed yards,'increased the number of livestock and fed corn to the cattle, and allowed hogs to follow up to eat the waste. Among the first to go into stock raising on'a large scale were "the West boys" - J. P. Isaac and Amos P. West, who had extensive farms in the Nod-away River valley in the northern part of the county. They brought in improved breeds of hogs and Shorthorn cattle, and their success set most of their neighbors to thinking about raising better stock.

The Civil War retarded development of agriculture, for prices were low in the first years of the war and many of the most hard-working men were in militaiy service. Their places on the farm had to be taken by fathers, young brothers, and even women and children. As their output was lower the supply was less than the demand and prices rose. Then came the post-war depression. Many ex-soldiers all over the country found it hard to settle down again. While'some veterans were glad to go home and resume normal life, numerous others were restless and wanted to try to make a living in some unfamiliar and possibly more exciting region - usually farther west. Even men too young to have served in the war caught the fever. While Iowa men tried Oregon, many New Englanders came to Iowa. One of these, David S. Lake of New Hampshire, arrived by way of Illinois and established Page County's most distinctive branch of agriculture - the nursery business. He reached Shenandoah in 1870 before the sale of town lots was held, leased a few acres of ground nearby -add

## The Nurseries

set out a bundle of young fruit trees he had brought with him from an Illinois nursery. It was a sound stroke of business and resulted in the town's most important enterprise - the Shenandoah Nurseries. As soon as a settler obtained land and built a cabin he would want to set out a small orchard, usually apple trees, David Lake supplied many of the necessary graftings and was often called the leading producer of apples in the Middle West at that time.

Another item much in demand in those early days was the osage orange, a handsome, spreading tree which the settlers planted in rows as a substitute for fences to enclose their land and crops. To supply the demand Lake would produce two or three hundred thousand osage orange trees annually.

After laying out their homesteads most farmers and householders thought only of growing fruit and timber for home needs, but as their properties matured they began to be interested in making their grounds more attractive. They would plant the shade trees, perennials, evergreens, and ornamental shrubs and vines that the Shenandoah Nurseries could provide in increasing quantities.

Lake's establishment grew steadily through the years until in later years more than 600 acres were covered with nursery and farm plants' and the annual payroll fluctuated between \$75,000 and \$100,000. A branch office was opened in France and for a while some items were imported from abroad.

On January 23, 1872, David Lake was married to a Shenandoah girl, Hannah O'Day. Their sons, A. F. and R. S. Lake, and a daughter, Clara B., carried on the business after Lake's death in February 1922.

Page County's fertile soil and southern Iowa climate proved especially suitable for the nursery industry. Noting Lake's success, several other firms started growing trees and plants at Shenandoah for the surrounding trade territory. One of these was the Mount Arbor Nurseries which T. E. A. Mason founded in 1875 with gardens and offices on a steep hill four miles southeast of Shenandoah. The combination of hill and an arbor vitae windbreak, which encircled the building, provided the name of the firm. In 1885 the property was acquired by Tom Howard and L. B. Latimer. Six years later E. I. Martin and Edward S. Welch bought the Mount Arbor Nurseries.

Welch, like Lake, had come to Iowa from Illinois, but he was only six or seven months old in the fall of 1869 when his parents loaded a covered wagon and drove west from their farm in Sangamon County. For a time the family lived a few miles west of Shenandoah then moved on to Kansas. They returned to Iowa in 1882. Edward Welch attended country

school, Shenandoah High School, and spent three terms at Western Normal College. He and his future partner, Martin, obtained their nursery experience while under contract to grow fruit trees and other stock for Lake's firm. When they bought the Mount Arbor Nurseries they had between them \$500 in cash and \$1,000 worth of plants. Ill health prevented Martin from continuing his association with the young firm, and in 1892 Welch became the sole owner. Luckily he was a cautious manager, for after 1892 there was a nationwide depression that persisted for several years. The nurseries were maintained on rented land until 1897, when Welch bought 66 acres at \$60 each. Gradually the property was increased to 1,200 acres. Some stock was grown in affiliation with nurseries in Washington, California, Nebraska, and Missouri.

While the Shenandoah and Mount Arbor Nurseries were supplying customers by local and mail order service, Henry Field, a small boy in the neighborhood, was growing up with determination to be a seedsman. Nearly a year before David Lake rode into Shenandoah with his bundle of graftings, Solomon E. Field of Conway, Massachusetts, had migrated to Iowa by way of Illinois\*. During the Civil War he had served 100 days in the Union Army. Then, mustered out on account of poor health, he had gone to Illinois to teach school. Several years later he started for Iowa, stopping on his way to view a county fair at Toulon, Illinois. Field had a hearty appetite for breakfast that morning, and he sought the most likely place to get a good meal — a dining tent managed by some church women. One of them was very young and attractive. Her name, Field discovered, was Lettie (Celestia) Eastman, and he decided to become better acquainted. Before he continued on to Iowa the two young people were engaged, and Field had promised to come back for Lettie the following year.

Field traveled west with all his possessions loaded on a wagon that often stuck in the muddy roads. He reached the site of Shenandoah late in September 1869 and bought 80 acres to the southeast for \$7.50 an acre. He divided this land with J. W. Alden, with whom he shared a thatched stable for several months.

In 1870 Solomon Field returned to Illinois and soon brought Lettie Field to Iowa as his bride. At Shenandoah they moved into a two-room cabin that friendly neighbors had helped to weatherboard and paint. Young Mrs. Field papered the interior with newspapers and pictures so that the unlathed and unplastered boards would not be noticeable. She covered the windows with hemmed flour sacks and could truthfully write home about her "dainty white curtains." Her family in Illinois would probably have been surprised to learn about her dining table — a threshing machine platform hinged to the wall.

Both Mr® and Mrs. Field taught school that first winter, starting out every morning on horseback, riding together some distance, then separating and continuing to their different schools, for Mrs. Field taught at Shenandoah while her husband conducted the Union Grove school in Washington Township.

Their son, Henry, was born at Sunnyside Farm near Shenandoah on December 6, 1872. The parents still rode horseback but now they,always took the baby with them. Each would carry him for awhile, passing the bundled boy back and forth to rest,their tired arms. During cold weather this practice had a disadvantage -- little Henry was so warmly wrapped up that it was difficult sometimes to tell whether he was right side up.

When the boy was able to walk he toddled about among the livestock on the farm, but the growing vegetables and flowers interested him more than the animals did. At the age of five he discovered a seed catalogue and decided at once to go into the nursery business. It was three years, though, before he had what he considered the necessary capital - \$4.65. This, invested in pansy seed, proved to be a total loss. The settlers were not yet willing to spend much money on such luxuries as garden flowers.

At the age of 21 Henry Field was married to Edna Thompson. He bought a small truck farm and raised fruit, vegetables, and seeds for market. Before long he was supplying many local people with seed and getting orders from outside the county. He put up a small building in 1902 and five years later built a larger office and warehouse. Most of the seed for his nursery was grown on farms farther out from town.

It was the Henry Field company that introduced radio broadcasting to Shenandoah on February 20, 1924. The art or science of putting programs on the air for the enjojnaent, of the public was still very young at that time. People still had to listen with earphones if they expected to get programs from a distance, and loudspeakers were funnel-shaped morning glory horns like those of the early phonographs. Networks had not yet been organized to'supply smooth-flowing, continuous, and varied radio programs. The patient listener was sure to pick up some music, perhaps furnished by a local pianist, a trio, or a dinner orchestra at the studio where the broadcast originated. Or he was likely to tune in on a record playing -- "an electrical transcription made for broadcast purposes only." Wherever one turned the dial there was jazz - or so at least it seemed to Henry Field as he sat at home working with his receiving set. He wished that he could hear good old-fashioned heart and home pieces. It occurred to him that he might start a station of his own

## The Nurseries

and put on programs that would attract a large audience of listeners with tastes like his own,- As a result, station KFNF was started at Shenandoah on a 266-meter wave length.

The experiment was successful. The farmers of the region especially liked the old-fashioned music and the neighborly talks by Henry Field. Two thousand of them participated in buying a memorial organ that was installed in the studio in August 1925' and dedicated to the seedsman's dead wife, Edna Thompson Field. The station's wave length was afterward changed to 890 kilocycles.

Shenandoah's second radio station, KMA, owned and operated by the Earl. May Seed and Nursery Company, first went on the air in August 1925. May, a Nebraska man, had worked his way through college selling garden seeds in the Midwest and South. He had come to Shenandoah in 1915 to work in the. Mount Arbor Nurseries. 'In 1916 he was married to Gertrude. Welch, daughter of E. S. Welch, the president of the company. Three years later he organized his own seed, nursery, and landscaping business. In 1924 May started broadcasting over station WOAW in Omaha through use of 66 miles of wire between Omaha and Shenandoah. Then he set up EMA in the Mayfair studio, an annex to his plant with an auditorium seating 1,000. The sending wave length of 252 meters was later changed to 930 kilocycles and the 500-watt power was increased to 5,000. Earl MAY proved to be a very popular announcer and, receiving 450,000 votes from appreciative listeners, won a gold cup offered by the Radio Digest. In 1939 station KMA won a plaque awarded by the publication Variety to the farm station that had the best showmanship and gave the most evidence of improving its programs.

A third radio station was opened in Rage County on November 2, 1925. This was KSO, owned and operated by the Berry Seed Company in its main building at Clarinda. The first wave length was 242 meters and the power was 500 watts. Toe Faassen, secretary of the Berry Seed Company, became known to listeners as "Uncle Joe." Response from the radio audience was good. One day the station received 20,000 telegrams and on another 93,000 letters and postcards arrived in the mail. In 1931 KSO was sold to the Iowa Broadcasting Company and moved to Des .Moines.

The Berry Seed Company had been started in 1894 when A. A. Berry began raising seed on his father's farm. He built his first warehouse in 1899 and incorporated his firm in 1904.

For years both Henry Field and Earl May Seed ..Companies sponsored annual jubilees or fiestas. Flowers and shrubs were displayed, free meals were furnished to all visitors, and free entertainment was provided in the broadcasting studios.

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Through the various nurseries, the vicinity around Shenandoah was transformed into a garden. Plants and flowers bloomed there at least six months a year. Three thousand acres near the town were planted with young blue spruce and other kinds of evergreen trees as well as shrubs and perennials, stretching in rows to the horizon. At Clarinda numerous pine trees in the front yards of homes served as living memorials to an early local nursery that had been especially successful in growing trees of that type.

## CHAPTER 9

### ADVENTURES IN EDUCATION

Of the first school in Shenandoah, Lettie Eastman Field later wrote: "First, you must imagine a little house of two rooms standing alone in the prairie grass where C. S. Keenan's residence now stands. A family was living in the west room and, the east room used as a school, was but 12 by 14 and had only one window, a north one. . There were a north and a south door, and a stove stood in the middle of the room. This first school held 18 pupils at first, but as the little city grew, the number rapidly increased and by April there were 40. The pupils were requested to bring chairs from home but in those days an extra chair or two, or three or four, was more than many a home could boast and so some brought boxes which were used both as seats and for holding books. One little fellow found a seat on a nail keg belonging to the woman who lived in the other room. The keg was half full of beans, which furnished our material for work along kindergarten lines, for all grades were represented from kindergarten to high school. The children were newcomers from north, south, east and west, and had textbooks from all known authors."

Every morning Mrs. Field rode two miles cross country through the native grass to school. The boys watched for her to come over the hill and raced for the honor of helping the teacher alight and tending her horse.

The Independent School District of Shenandoah was organized in 1872, A year later, during the summer and fall of 1873, the town's first structure erected for educational purposes was built. It was of brick, two stories high, and had two rooms, halls, and cloak rooms. A four-room addition was built in 1876 and after that the space was adequate until 1896, when a modern school was built in the second ward.

The Clarinda school of 1860, boasted of as "the best school in southwestern Iowa and for miles to the south and west of Iowa", prospered during the Civil War, for many pupils from neighboring counties and from Missouri sought admission to its classes. In time a second building of the same size, 32 feet wide and 52 feet long, was provided. These accommodations served the region until 1877, when a large three-story brick structure was put up.

While grade schools were growing up rapidly all over the county, steps were being taken toward the founding of other and higher institutions, so that the local boys and girls could continue their education without going great distances from home. The first of these was Amity College



in College Springs, which had been established in 1857. The long duration of the Civil War took its toll of Amity as well as of most contemporary institutions. From 1862 to 1864 the college was absorbed into the public school system and the next year the plant was used only as an Underground Railroad station. In 1866 a company of men leased the property for five years, assumed all financial responsibility for it, and reengaged a Mr. and Mrs. Armour of New York, who had been executives of the school from 1860 to 1862. But it was difficult to meet expenses and after three years Armour himself took the college over "for what he could realize from it."

At about that time business was very bad. According to a family history written by a Mrs. Tomlinson: "Flour was seven dollars a hundred, corn meal made us all sick, (we had) no fruit of any kind except wild plums and the tiny strawberries. Pumpkins and squashes were plentiful, but when they were all sweetened with molasses you could hardly tell the difference. There was no use to complain and everybody had the same thing, the only difference being it was their birthright and not ours." This remark is explained by the fact that Mrs. Tomlinson was English. Her family had left home planning to go to Canada, but followed a friend and found themselves in a country somewhat the worse for four years of civil war. She continued: "They did, however, have better houses and they did know not to buy wet -willow wood to keep them warm in zero weather. Their women did know how to make candles and soap and salt-rising bread."

Amity College was always a center of social activity and interest to the people who lived in the neighborhood, even at times when it was hard sledding to make expenses meet. For instance, the women of College Springs during Professor Armour's tenure once held a chicken-pie supper and with the proceeds bought a large bell for the college. It was installed and used to announce classes but also to toll deaths in the community - it could be heard as far as Clarinda. Unfortunately the bell finally broke.

It was the custom of Amity College students to give an exhibition of their literary and dramatic skill at the end of the winter quarter. They presented their valedictory entertainments in the Presbyterian Church 'where a stage was built across the front of the auditorium, supported by the tops of the pews and covered with borrowed carpets. Often such long programs were planned in order to 'give equal opportunity to a number of performers that the performance began at 6:30 in the evening. People would drive in from long distances to attend, bringing box suppers with them and arriving early so that they could get good seats. On some occasions, when the students who were to take part arrived, they found their way to the platform blocked by the audience

^n\^a^ ^° mi^3 over "khe tops of pews with help from friendly hands. That accommodating Presbyterian Church was later remodeled for a girl's dormitory.

Amity's collegiate standards were raised with its reorganization in 1871 with control by a board of trustees. It was then chartered by the State and given authority to confer all academic degrees and honors. A year later the ^e^@rend A. T. McDill assumed charge with the assistance of a Professor" Grimes of Iowa College. As the number of students increased steadily in 1876 it was necessary to add north and south wings to the building. The following season 106 were enrolled.

President McDill resigned in 1877 and was succeeded by the Reverend S. O. Marsh'who left in 1883 and was later followed by.the Reverend T. J. Kennedy, The Reverend Mr. Kennedy revised and enlarged the curriculum. Comfortable new buildings were added and attractively furnished. Additions were also made to the museum and college library and the campus was improved. In 1885 a commercial course was initiated and about the same time Will Whiteman began teaching music there. During his two or three years at Amity he would probably have been skeptical had anyone prophesied that some day his son Paul would be internationally famous in a new kind of music - jazz and swing - not yet invented at the time.

The Reverend W. A.'Campbell, appointed financial agent of the college in 1888, succeeded in increasing the endowment fund and again equipment and buildings were improved. For a number of years until 1931 Amity prospered under the supervision of a carefully chosen faculty. Although Amity College owed its existence to deeply religious men and its early years were supervised by clergymen, it makes the claim of being the first non-sectarian college in the State.

While Amity was making progress, promoters started a normal college at Shenandoah. On February'12, 1882, Mayor W. P. Ferguson received a letter from I. E. Wilson, president of a normal school at Bushnell, Illinois, about the prospects of successfully establishing a similar institution in Iowa. The mayor was enthusiastic but it soon appeared that Shenandoah would not be able to provide enough backing and Wilson would have to look elsewhere. But the idea had aroused such interest locally that a meeting was held in the opera house to discuss it. By unanimous decision of those who attended it was determined that an effort should be . made to obtain the school, and a committee was appointed to promote the project. As a result Wilson came to Shenandoah on March 24, 1882. 'He offered to move his school over from Bushnell if #0,000 and suitable grounds were donated. He agreed in return to erect a brick four-story building, the

main part a hundred feet long and half as wide, with an extension 40 feet wide, at an estimated cost of \$30,000.

Accepting the proposal, the people appointed a college fund committee composed of R. B. Cross, P. H. Mentzer, D. S. Priest, T. J. Williams, and Z. D. Mathus. The whole amount demanded was subscribed by members of the community and payment in two installments was guaranteed - one-half June 1, 1882, and the second half on August 1 of that year.

It was not easy to agree on the college site. Various locations were urged on the committee but finally the choice fell on a big hill in the eastern part of town, tendered by the residents of East Shenandoah. The building went up according to the agreement and on November 14, 1882, opening exercises of the Western Normal College were held in the chapel in the presence of 47 students, a number of visitors," and the following faculty: I. E. Wilson, president; E. B. Farr, professor of mathematics; L. M. Disney, professor of natural science; Miss Emma Felton, professor of languages, grammar, and history; W. F. strong, music director; and Miss May Black, instructor in music.

But in spite of a promising beginning the normal college soon had'trouble meeting expenses. As a result, on January 9, 1884, William M. Groan purchased a half interest in the school and assumed the position of treasurer and secretary. A little more than a month later he bought the remaining interest from Wilson and became the sole proprietor. Early in 1889 it became apparent that larger quarters were necessary, and Groan suggested at a meeting in the opera house that if the citizens of Shenandoah would'subscribe \$5,000 he would match the amount and build a \$10,000 addition to the college. The people raised their contribution within ten days and the new addition was put into use on November 5 of that year, though it was not entirely finished until January.

The next two years were prosperous and the outlook for the future seemed favorable. Then on December 2, 1891, a fire broke out in the night and destroyed the whole building and most of its contents, leaving-500 students without dormitory or classrooms. But the people of the vicinity were unwilling to give up their cherished project which not only offered educational facilities for their children but also increased business for the town, and they made great effort to keep it going. They threw open their churches, the city hall, the opera house, Bennett's hall, and many houses in town for use as classrooms. The faculty cooperated by volunteering to continue teaching at reduced salaries. The people-; of Shenandoah immediately started plans for rebuilding but, strangely, were not encouraged by Groan. ' He rejected an offer from them to add \$25,0 00 to his \$15,00 0 obtained from the insurance.

The people who lived near Shenandoah decided to raise money themselves to build a new and better normal school and soon had promises, amounting to \$37,000. They next visited Groan and from him obtained the college lands and brick debris. Groan promptly went away to Lincoln, Nebraska, with his faculty and there promoted another Western Normal College. The venture did not prove successful and neither did an off-shoot of it, the Normal University, started in the Lincoln suburbs by J. A. Saylor, who had taught science back at Shenandoah. Some students who had also gone over into Nebraska and tried one or other of these schools eventually returned to their original alma mater.

Plans for rebuilding at Shenandoah progressed. The bricks from the old building were cleaned and proved to have some value, and it was estimated that the funds and property amounted to nearly \$50,000 in value. All the residents of Shenandoah who could afford to give anything made contributions to the cause and many prominent citizens of southwestern Iowa also made donations. Plans called for the construction of a modern fireproof building for the school. The contract was awarded to George F. Cotrill of Shenandoah and building began in August 1892.

The next step was to find a college president who could invigorate the reopened institution, win back former students, and attract new ones. After thoroughly prospecting the field of eligibles, the trustees made a choice unusual for that era - selecting a man who was only 29 years old. J. M. Hussey was probably the youngest president of a higher educational institution in Iowa.

Hussey leased the new Western Normal College at a rate sufficient to pay the insurance and make necessary repairs and improvements. Sessions began on September 15, 1893, and the school prospered. Democratic standards were introduced. Faculty and students ate in the same dining room and had the same kind of food. Temptingly economical terms were offered: students could get well-furnished rooms for 50 cents per week, and board was available at from \$1.75 to \$2.00 per week. Ten dollars covered the tuition for a term of ten weeks. Although classes were preceded each morning by chapel exercises from 9:30 to 10 o'clock, the students were not compelled to attend.

Groan's Western Normal College in Lincoln closed less than two years after Hussey assumed the presidency of the Shenandoah school. Hussey himself went over to Nebraska to escort a number of the students there back to Iowa. Later, when the rival Normal University burned, even more pupils who had followed some favorite instructor across the Missouri River returned to Shenandoah to resume their studies. The college maintained high standards and was able to meet every financial obligation.

Shenandoah's Western Normal had, in addition to its Normal School, a College of Letters and Sciences, a Business Institute, a Shorthand College, a School of Penmanship, a School of Elocution and Oratory, a Conservatory of Music, a Preparatory School and the Summer School. The length of the school year was 48 weeks. Students came from as many as 16 to 20 states and the enrollment exceeded 800.

After an inspection in 1902 by the State Board of Examiners of Iowa, the institution was accredited by the State of Iowa as an "approved training school for teachers for the public schools of Iowa."

Hussey remained at the head of Western Normal College for 20 years, but toward the latter part of his presidency it became apparent that the institution could no longer continue as a privately operated concern. This was the result of an act of the State Legislature which had provided \$750 a year for each public school with a teacher training department. At this time pupils graduating from rural and village schools lacking a four-year high school course were able to attend a higher school at the expense of their district. Naturally, few of these would pay to go to a private institution when they could attend a public school without tuition cost. Some would doubtless have preferred to attend Western Normal College but could not afford to do so. Shenandoah itself needed a new high school building, as the one in use had been put up in 1896 and was inadequate. At a public meeting the citizens decided to turn the normal property over to the school district. The school board agreed to maintain a normal department. The institution was reopened in September 1913 with the usual four-year high school subjects, also teacher training and business and vocational classes.

Affection for the old institution persisted and the residents of Shenandoah were deeply distressed on April 12, 1917, when the building caught fire. Almost everything was destroyed except the walls and the tall tower. Classes were continued in the basement of the Methodist Church to enable the class of 1917 to graduate. Insurance of \$25,000 for the burned building was paid to the school district which enabled it to build a new high school on the site of the old building. The combined high and normal school plan was discontinued.

A story told by Shenandoah people linked the wife of "Professor" W. J. Kinsley, penmanship teacher at the college in its heyday, with the Indiana poet James V/hitcomb Riley. Before her marriage Mrs. Kinsley, who was Kate Myers, met Riley, then an unknown newspaperman, in her native town of Anderson, Indiana. Riley asked Miss Myers to marry him, but she was obliged to refuse because her family considered him

a "drinking man\*" Years later, when she was living in Shenandoah as the wife of Kinsley, and Riley had achieved great popularity, she confided the story to friends. One day while she was driving to call on Mrs. Frank Anshutz of Shenandoah the horses became frightened and bolted, throwing her into the street and causing fatal injuries. When her body ■ was taken back to Anderson for burial, Riley attended the funeral and placed near the casket an unpublished verse.

## CHAPTER 10

### THE STATE HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE

Iowa's third hospital for people having mental diseases was opened in Clarinda in December 1888. The first had been built at Mount Pleasant in 1861 and the second at Independence in 1873.

The Twentieth General Assembly of Iowa appropriated \$180,000 to construct the third hospital, and Governor Buren R. Sherman selected a commission to decide where it should be placed. Immediately much rivalry for the institution sprang up among the towns of southwestern Iowa but Clarinda won out, largely through the efforts of William Butler, who was then serving his third term in the legislature.

A brick building costing more than twice the amount appropriated was completed on a 300-acre tract north of the business district in 1888 and opened for patients in December. Two weeks later the hospital had 241 male patients from a district including 26 western Iowa counties. A board of trustees was selected by Governor William Larrabee and the legislature appointed P. W. Lewellen superintendent of the hospital.

One of the first people to enter Clarinda State Hospital as a patient was a German who had attracted county-wide attention two years before, and in the twentieth century was still sympathetically remembered by many southwestern Iowa people. This man was August Werner, a cabinet maker, who had a farm of which he was very proud just over the line in Fremont County. Werner often visited I. L. Gwynn, whose property near Shenandoah adjoined his own, and the two men would talk over the problems of the day. Then suddenly 'Werner grew interested in the startling theory that a man could build a machine in which he could fly. Perhaps he, like his countryman, Otto Lilienthal in Germany, had evolved the idea while watching the flight of storks. Lilienthal had built a successful glider with curved surfaces on the wings and made more than 2,000 flights before an experiment resulted in his death in 1896.

In 1886 Werner set to work to prove his theory. One day Gwynn found him constructing a strange-looking object out in the middle of a field. It had a wooden body with an overhead propeller and wooden cogs and was about 16 feet long and perhaps ten or twelve wide. Cumbersome wings were being fashioned from heavy canvas. Werner announced proudly that it was a flying machine and that when it was finished he would fly it across the ocean and visit his old home and his mother. Wouldn't his mother be proud of him then?

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Gwynn strolled over often in the evening to see how the work was progressing and at last was told that the machine would be ready for demonstration on the coming Fourth of July. Lots of other people had heard about the experiment by that time, and while most of them did not take it seriously, there were some who did\* Werner said that within one day \* he would be able to fly to Washington, D. C., and arrive in time to have dinner with President Cleveland.

"Imagine I" said the scoffers. Surely nothing like that would ever happen in this world. Yet some preferred to reserve their comments until they could see the trial flight. After all, they thought, there might be something to the notion that a machine made like a bird could fly.

On July 4, crowds drove to the field at Imogene, ten miles northwest of Shenandoah. Werner was going to demonstrate his flying machine and perhaps, once in the air, he would keep going until he had reached the other side of the world,. Expectations ran high, with skeptics hoping for the worst. And it happened.

August Werner had his airship arranged at the top of an incline. He started the propeller, jumped into his seat, and waved to the crowd as the plane moved slowly down the incline. It reached the bottom, then stopped. It could not rise from the ground, having no gasoline engine to provide power, and it was improperly constructed for gliding. The wooden cogs of the propeller, so difficult to make, had been sheared off. Werner sat there stupefied. He had lived with and for that machine. It could not possibly fail him at the last minute J The hot blood mounted into his cheeks as he looked out at all the staring faces of the crowd - some sympathetic, some disappointed, others frankly triumphant at his failure. August Werner's dreams had crashed about him, or maybe he was just what people said - "crazy'"

Fifty-five years later, in 1941, Werner's former neighbor, J. L. Gwynn, said that a great many persons had believed the inventor had the right idea'. Gwynn himself had almost been convinced. He said that Werner lacked only the power to propel his machine.

Two and a half years after his attempted flight, in December 1888, August Werner was committed to the State Hospital at Clarinda. He never recovered from his disappointment at the failure of his flying machine. During the more than 42 years he spent in the hospital the outside world changed, and manmade wings not only flew over the building where he lived but also on regular flying schedules spanned the ocean just as he had said they would, Werner died in September 1931 at the age of 82.



## The State Hospital for the Insane

The first building of the State Hospital at Clarinda was only half the size specified for it in the plans, even though it had cost twice as much as planned, and it soon had to be enlarged. Later additions produced a large number of units^joined together in an irregular pattern that brought sunshine into every room. A walk through the corridors of the building covers six miles. Landscape gardeners have made the spacious grounds beautiful.

By 1890 accommodations of a new type were built and housed 100 to 152 men. This was South View Cottage, providing more ample quarters that gave the patients freedom of movement not advisable in the main building. The windows were not barred.

Nearby was a large workshop with machines^and tools for the manufacture by patients^of baskets, brooms, benches, bed springs, tables, bookcases, chairs, desks, cabinets, mattresses, and other articles used by the institution.

Occupational therapy, the treatment of patients by interesting and training them in various activities, was made possible in this and other shops. On the second floor of the main building a large sewing room was equipped with power machinery for the production of garments as well as linens and other furnishings. Knitting, embroidery, and similar types of handiwork could be taught or supervised by special instructors. The gardens, greenhouses, dairy, orchard, poultry yard, canning plant, and electric ice and soap manufacturing plants were manned by patients under supervision of trained employees. Thus, while the patients were offered opportunities for normal work and hobbies, the institution was enabled to become to a great extent self-sustaining.

Willowdale, a large farmhouse on the grounds three-quarters of a mile east of the main building, afforded a home for about 25 patients who did not need constant attention. There they could live and work in homelike surroundings under guidance of a married couple who were paid attendants.

As the number of persons admitted to the hospital constantly increased, more facilities were needed and were added from time to time and the standard of living was improved.

In 1898 the State Hospital for the Insane at Clarinda was fortunate in obtaining^a director of exceptional ability in Dr. Max Ernest White. He remained head of the institution until his death in 1933, proving his theory that both work and the feeling of freedom were important in the treatment of mental illness.

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u K<sup>Dr</sup>' Witte, born near Berlin, Germany, January 31, 1859, had. been brought to Galena, Illinois, by his parents at the TH??\* °£ ^V?\* kater they moved, to Jackson County, Iowa.

j? attended, the German Lutheran College at Galena, but studied medicine at the State University of Iowa. He joined the staff, of Iowa's first hospital for the insane at Mount Pleasant in 1881 and was an assistant physician when he accepted the position at Clarinda.

Dr, Witte made many constructive changes in the grounds, personally supervising their care and the vegetable gardens and. orchards. He himself loved the out-of-doors and accompanied .by a favorite dog spent hours inspecting the farm. He initiated much of the work carried on by patients on the farm, in the gardens, orchards, and dairy, which developed one of the finest herds of Holstein cattle in Iowa. He also started much of the program of recreation and amusement that is still part of the plan of treatment.

.About the' time of Dr. Witte's death the hospital at Clarinda had 1,055 acres, most of them under cultivation. A number of buildings had been added in 1909 and later. Among them was a cottage called North View, similar to South View Cottage, and accommodating 100 to 150 patients. Other modern buildings included Sunset Cottage, Hope Hall, and Pine Cottage. This collection of modern farm buildings and industrial plants had become a kittle city in itself and had begun attracting hundreds of visitors annually. The most modern improvement is a cafeteria and kitchen costing \$183,000, partly provided by the State and partly by the Federal Public Works Administration.

Until this cafeteria was built one of the chief problems of the institution was serving food hot. Cold food could not possibly rouse the appetites of sick people, but it was impossible to provide quicker service with the old equipment. The cafeteria, where 700 can be served at a time, has walls of salt-glazed cream and red brick, a gray floor, modern steel tables, and chairs of modern design. Food is brought from the kitchen on an automatic elevator and kept hot in electrically heated tables. Modern machinery and facilities make the work in the kitchen easier and more efficient. They include a large ice cream freezer, a fish box, electric potato peeler, six pressure cookers, six steam kettles, a huge food mixer, six gas ranges, two three-tiered roasters, an electric conveyor-toaster and two coffee urns. Over the heating units was placed a stainless steel canopy. Soiled dishes brought down from the cafeteria by dumb-waiter are washed, steamed, and put in their proper place almost untouched by human hands. Seven large cold storage rooms and a meat-cutting room adjoin the kitchen.

When Dr. R. D. Smith, successor to Dr. Witte, died in

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1940 he was succeeded as superintendent by Dr. Norman Rehder, who had additional ideas for improving the institution. ' An important innovation was installation of a beauty shop in charge of a trained operator and a barber shop where two barbers are kept busy cutting hair and shaving customers. Finger waves were made available to the women patients without charge, with facilities for giving about 35 daily. Permanent waves are provided for patients who can pay for the materials.

The old dining room was converted into a library and funds were set aside to enable monthly purchases of books. Modern motion picture equipment installed in the remodeled auditorium affords additional facilities for recreation, in quarters brightened by new rugs, curtains, and furniture.

## CHAPTER 11

### STRIDES OF PROGRESS

County and civic improvement programs were partly abandoned during the short little Spanish-American War of 1898 and the later campaign in the Phillipines. Company E, Fifty-first Infantry, Iowa National Guard, was formed from Page County men, while companies B, C, and M of the same regiment each had volunteers from the vicinity. When the call to active service was received, the companies were mobilized at the State Fairgrounds in Des Moines. From there they entrained for San Francisco and remained at the western seaport for weeks before being ordered to the Phillipines. The army was quite unprepared to provide modern medical care or even to set up sanitary camps, and some of the men died of illness on the Pacific Coast. Those who went on to Manila saw action. There were few casualties. The regiment returned in October 1899.

The years between the Spanish-American War and the first World War brought better living conditions than had ever been known. Electricity, telephones, automobiles, waterworks, paving, and plumbing were the chief conveniences that made life more efficient and more pleasant. Fast transportation, communication, and public utilities made the surviving pioneers conscious of the vast gulf that separated their own day from the twentieth century.

As automobiles increased the daily stream of traffic around the courthouse at Clarinda, the people of the town began to realize that streets and sidewalks needed paving. In 1904 a contract was signed authorizing the construction of 12 blocks of paving about the public square and one block on each of the eight streets entering the square. Those were the first paved streets in town. In the next year ten more blocks of paving were laid. Gradually pavement covered nearly every bit of dirt road in town. The board walks were torn up, too, and by 1910 every sidewalk in the city was of cement or brick. The passing of the old wooden walks caused some sorrow among the children of the neighborhood who, when in need of "pennies", had resorted to fishing down between the cracks of the boards for coins dropped by passersby. Now they would never again have such a chance to find dimes or nickels.

Old residents were reminded of another change that had brought many sighs from school boys and girls of an earlier generation. This was substitution of coal for wood as fuel. In the days when wood was used, the teacher would stuff the stove full, sometimes leaving long pieces sticking out. If this happened, warm sap would drip down to be consumed like candy by the eager youngsters.

The first coal mine at Clarinda was opened by Judd Ingraham on the Lawrence Davison farm south of town, where he struck coal in February 1900. Tom Johnson began mining about two miles west of town in June of that same year and continued operations there until 1915.

Coal had been discovered in Page County more than 30 years earlier, but local people were afraid to buy coal stoves for fear there would not be enough to supply them. They judged the production rate by the experience of Fountain Cooper, whose mine yielded only 20 bushels a day. He sold it at an average price of 23 cents a bushel. By 1869, however, six small companies were mining, and a year later an ambitious firm called the Page County Coal Company planned to sink a shaft south of Clarinda and prospect the beds there. For some reason, probably financial, the project was dropped. Those first Page County mines were worked by the drift method - miners tunneled into a hill and dug the coal from the ground with picks. The modern mines were started during the early part of the twentieth century. Machinery was installed and shafts were sunk to reach the coal 250 feet below the surface. The output of the mines was steady but never very large. The biggest total in their history was reached in 1940 when 40,599 tons were produced by 149 men working in the six modern mines.

Several successful businesses besides the nurseries were begun in the county during the late 1890's and early 1900's, most of them agricultural in character.

The Clarinda Poultry, Butter & Egg Company was incorporated in 1900 with a capital of \$250. But in time branches were established in southern Iowa and northern Missouri and offices were opened in New York and Chicago. Swift and Company of Chicago bought the business in 1912 and expanded to produce butter, dressed poultry, feed, dried buttermilk and cheese, eggs for shipping and for storage, and ice cream. A 40,000-egg hatchery was installed. The company's fleet of trucks circulated throughout eastern Nebraska, southwest Iowa, and northwest Missouri, picking up cream, poultry, and eggs. During the fall and winter the plant at Clarinda was employing about 165 persons and in the lighter seasons 100 or less.

Berry's Poultry Farm started business in Clarinda about 1900 to sell purebred poultry and hatching eggs by mail. Thousands of mature fowls and hatching eggs were shipped to customers, but gradually the raising of baby chicks and turkeys became a specialty! During some seasons more than 50,000 baby chicks and 7,000 baby turkeys were hatched weekly\* .

Well-boring and well-drilling machines were manufac- .

tured locally. From time to time other products were added — cream separators, lawn mowers, garage tools, and magnetic parts for automobiles and airplanes. Another popular item made at Clarinda was a wind-driven generator. A Shenandoah company won a wide reputation for its patented two-thumbed mittens and gloves. As the thumbs were the first to wear out, especially in corn husking, workers welcomed this reversible glove with its extra thumb.

On March 29, 1907, a tornado that started about two miles north of Clearmont, Missouri, swept northward into Page County and up the valley of the East Nodaway to a point a mile east of Braddyville. There it wrecked houses and barns belonging to John Burch, J. M. Hunt, and Ira Hodges. Next it jumped to Crooks, a settlement on the Wabash railroad right-of-way east of Braddyville, where Will Akin's house was moved off its foundation and dashed against a tree with destruction of everything breakable. Jim Burge's house was moved, and Si Hostetter's kitchen was torn away. The tornado demolished barns and fences belonging to Henry Lush, Ethan Kelley, and Lawrence Snodgrass. Fortunately no one was hurt, though the property damages amounted to thousands of dollars. The storm was a typical tornado, with a funnel-shaped cloud; its terrible force drove hay into posts to a depth of an eighth of an inch. The twister traveled about 15 miles, attacking a strip of land a quarter of a mile wide.

A little more than a year later, on the evening of May 12, 1908, what the Clarinda Herald described as "probably the most terrific cyclone in the "history of Page County" swept away nine homes and left devastation in the vicinity of Coin and Northboro. The storm swept over from a point in Fremont County about six or eight miles west of Northboro, entering Page County— near the middle of the western side of Washington Township. It traveled in a northeasterly direction to a point west of Coin, destroying the Finley and Higgins houses, the Lone Willow House, and the farmhouses of John Wieland, E. L. Benedict, . Claus Myers, George Dalbey , Tom /aiderson, and Cliff Carpenter.

The people in the path of the approaching cyclone awaited it with a kind of fascination. As the Herald reported, "The awful roar of the big storm was distinctly audible in Clarinda for nearly three quarters of an hour, and great apprehension was felt here as to the probability of the storm reaching this city. As it was, the storm lifted near Coin and passed overhead within five miles of Clarinda, leaving its last work of devastation at the Fred Herzberg farm in the northwest corner of this township."

Claus Myers furnished the newspaper with a graphic description of his own experience. He sent his family to safety in the cellar, himself remaining at the cellar door to

watch. He saw the storm pick the Benedict house from its loundation as if it had been paper, hide it "in a whirling <sup>mas</sup>s in which all sorts of debris from other homes was visible." Myers hoped the storm would miss his house but seeing .that the cloud was moving directly toward him, he dodged into the cellar just in time to save himself. "He says," continued the Herald, "that he ran to his wife and children, and in a moment the house moved above them and then settled back for a moment and then a second later was whisked away completely while bricks and boards fell around the family huddled in the corner of the cellar. When the dust cleared away, Mr. Myers said, there was one of his horses standing in the cellar right beside them."

The storm picked up stock and set the animals down at varying distances - a steer was carried one and a half miles, some sheep for seven miles, and a lat-pound pig was dropped 80 yards away, where it was driven nose downward into a plowed field until its tail and hind feet protruded. At Tom Anderson's place an iron pump was torn up from the cistern and the cistern itself was left without a drop of water.

Some people were injured, but again no one was killed. More than 150 men in the devastated area immediately went to work with teams, hauling lumber, sand, and lime, and putting up temporary houses and sheds. Their wives gathered up the scattered bedding and clothes to have it washed and made ready for identification by the owners. The Ladies' Aid Society of the Methodist Church at Coin furnished meals for the homeless families, while neighboring farmhouses were turned into shelters and first aid stations. The stores at Coin closed so that owners and clerks alike might go out and help with work. The people in the district immediately raised \$3,000 in cash for the relief Of the victims.

Except for these storms, 1907 and the years following are memorable for several pleasant happenings. The Fourth of July celebration at Clarinda in 1907 broke all records - 20,000 people arrived by special train from all parts of Page County and other sections. A guest, Lafayette Young, editor of the Des Moines Capital, reported his impression of the prosperous county in an article headed "'The Kingdom of Page."

The Shenandoah Chautauqua held its first season of eight days beginning June 27, 1907. The program was a success and another was planned for the following year. In 1909 the popular courses were offered later in the summer, during the latter part of August and early September. Outdoor contests and sports were organized for the children. "'Bryan Day" attracted huge crowds. This Chautauqua was held for many years with many prosperous seasons, some less successful, but was finally discontinued in 1928.

The Clarinda Chautauqua purchased land next to the fair grounds in 1907 and a large circular auditorium, 140 feet from eave to eave and 37 feet high in the center, was built. It seated 3,500 persons, The grounds and building, costing about \$12,000 in all, were dedisated in August 1908. During the succeeding seasons, topics of historical and current interest were discussed by various people of prominence including Judge Ben B. Lindsey, founder and promoter of the juvenile courts, Mrs. LaSalle Carbell Pickett, widow of General Pickett, and Billy Sunday. The evangelist appeared on three annual programs and in 1911, following an afternoon lecture, umpired a ball game between Clarinda and Shenandoah.

For years the only motion pictures shown in that part of southwest Iowa appeared on the screen at the Clarinda Chautauqua. Later the farm camps, where boys and girls could study under instructors from Iowa State College, proved a great attraction. Interest in the Chautauqua declined with the passing years, and in 1932 plans for the season had to be abandoned because of the "'bank holiday,"

In the spring of 1909 both musical circles and people who liked martial airs welcomed the arrival of George W. Landers of Centerville, chief musician of the Fifty-fifth Iowa National Guard Regimental Band, Landers, who had performed at Chautauqua the previous year, proposed to make Clarinda the home of his organization if the town would pay him an annual salary of \$1,400 and build an armory suitable for concerts, The necessary support was promised at a local mass meeting. Twenty members of the Clarinda band agreed to join Landers' organization and to provide part of his salary, in return for the privilege of working under him. Fifty Clarinda businessmen expressed their willingness to pay \$800 a year for 16 public concerts and to sponsor an armory that would cost not less than \$15,000.

The armory, a large brick building, was built Qn West Washington Street, half a block from the public square. A Stage and seats for 850 people were provided so that the place would be useful for entertainments and lectures as well as concerts. For years high school graduation exercises were held there, and musical programs were presented by noted artists and organizations. When the building was seriously damaged by fire on November 15, 1912, it was repaired at once through the volunteered efforts of the townspeople. It later became a motion picture theater.

Major Landers remained as manager until 1916 when he and the band, as well as National Guard Company E of Shenandoah and several units from surrounding towns, were mustered into the United States Army for service on the Mexican border. A struggling local band carried on until 1921, when the Clarinda Municipal Band was organized-. It was directed



by Major Landers and by Dr. J. W. Sellards. Major Landers originated the Iowa Band Law, which went into effect in Iowa in 1921, allowing municipalities to vote a tax in order to support their bands'. Twenty-eight other States and Canada have adopted similar laws.

Samples of corn from Page County took sweepstakes in Iowa and second place at the International Corn Exposition held at Omaha late in 1908. Lenus Ilagglund of Essex, a consistent prize winner for years, exhibited ten prizewinning ears that were pictured in leading farm papers and magazines. Early in January 1909 Hagglund won first prize for Boone County White corn in the pure breeds class at the lanes Short Course.

It was also in 1909 that W. C. Brown, who had a farm near Clarinda, visited large breeding stables in France and purchased eight horses which, he shipped to America. Among them was Halix, a coal-black three-year-old Percheron stallion weighing 2,220 pounds. This horse had become Grand Champion at the Paris show and when brought to America and exhibited won a number of honors, including first place at the International Livestock Show in Chicago, championship in his class, and a gold medal as the best stallion recorded with the Percheron Society of America. Several other horses shown by Brown won high honors. After showing the animals, Brown shipped them to his Page County farm for breeding purposes. '

Brown, a railroad official, was the son of the Reverend Charles E. Brown, a Baptist minister of Maquoketa and Davenport. After gaining a reputation for efficiency in railroad management in Iowa he went east in the early 1900's and became a vice-president of the New York Central Railroad. He served as president of the road from February 1909 to November 1913, when he retired.

On November 30, 1909, the Clarinda Herald noted: "There are some things being undertaken right under our noses by the supervisors of Page County, that will rank with the greatest enterprises ever undertaken by any commonwealth of like dimensions and resources. V/e are apt to overlook those things that are so close at home and fail really to see the importance of the development being made in our own county."

The project thus mentioned consisted in the straightening of the East and West Nodaway Rivers and the digging of a ditch from Coin to Blanchard. These improvements were expected to increase the value of the land about \$25 an acre. The channels were made to follow the lowest ground and so planned as to divide as few farms as possible. The kinks were removed from the rivers, considerably shortening the distance between various points. This greatly changed the

appearance of the streams, which lost some of their romantic look but afterward the East Nodaway would almost dry up at times, while the West Nodaway lost its natural depth. The value of the improvement to the land, however, far outweighed these disadvantages.

Meanwhile some fine new buildings had been erected in the county. Construction of a Federal building to house the post office at Shenandoah was begun on October 5, 1909. Mrs. Hannah O'Day, the oldest citizen in town, removed the first shovel of dirt. Public libraries were built in Shenandoah and in Clarinda.

The first movement for free public library service in Page County originated in Shenandoah in 1903, when a committee was organized to ask for the assistance of Andrew Carnegie and to help raise local donations. Thomas H. Read was the chairman and the other members were W. A. Murphy, Alice Priest, C. N. Marvin, Father Bulger, A. J. Crose, Mrs. Sarah Anshutz, Ed Welch, and C. W. Fishbaugh. After \$10,000 had been promised by Mr. Carnegie and the citizens had furnished the ground, books, and equipment, a library organization was formed as provided by law, and the city council voted a tax to raise \$1,000 annually to support the library. The committee served as the first board of trustees and Mr. Read was made its president. The library was built at the corner of Elm Street and Thomas Avenue and was opened in August 1904 with Miss Berdine Jay as librarian. Since that date, Miss Jay has continued as librarian.

From the beginning the Shenandoah library furnished books free to all rural people in both Fremont and Page Counties, as well as to local residents. This free library service was given to honor a promise made to rural donors to the first fund. Later, township trustees, town councils, and school boards were induced to vote contracts and tax levies with which to pay for free library service, and the money thus raised paid the library for keeping collections of books where the branch service was desired. Free borrower's cards were still furnished as a personal privilege to all citizens of Page and Fremont Counties who wanted them.

The Clarinda Public Library Association was organized at Clarinda in 1905 and a library room was started in rented premises on the south side of the public square. Books were purchased by private subscription. Mrs. Clara B. Willis, the wife of a Clarinda lawyer, was chosen librarian and served in the capacity until her death several years later. The first library board consisted of the Rev. J. N. McLean, F. N. Tomlinson, Mrs. O. H. Park, Mrs. Annie L. Lorz, William Orr, Mary Berry, J. N. Miller, the Reverend W. T. Fisher, and F. E. Hensleigh, the chairman. The organization was perfected on July 7, 1906, after the city of Clarinda had provided for a tax-supported, free public library.

## Strides of Progress

A committee was appointed to confer with the trustees of the townships of Nodaway, Harlan, and East River, and urge them to levy a tax to provide for the maintenance of collections of books to be kept in the schoolhouses and at a centrally located place in each of these three townships. The agreement was made and this was really the beginning of the movement toward tax-supported, county-wide library service in Page County. Nearly half of the townships in the county later made similar contracts. Miss Anna Driftmier of Clarinda, who was on the library board at the time, is the present librarian.

Andrew Carnegie agreed to give \$15,000 for a building if the city would maintain the library at an annual cost of not less than \$1,500. William G. Richardson gave two lots at the corner of Sixteenth and Chestnut Streets where the library was built and opened early in April 1909.

When Miss Mabel Searl was elected county superintendent of schools in 1927 she gave her enthusiastic support to the public library extension service. At her suggestion, on July 14, 1932, the boards of trustees of the Shenandoah and Clarinda public libraries met in joint session with the county board of supervisors at Clarinda. A three-year contract was signed by the three groups providing for a tax averaging about \$3,500 a year and giving all residents in rural areas the right to borrow from the two public libraries. It was also arranged to keep collections of books in each rural schoolhouse under the supervision of the teachers in each district in the county. New contracts were signed in 1936 and again in 1940, the latter effective until June 5, 1950.

In 1941 the total combined circulation of the Shenandoah and Clarinda libraries was more than 200,000, an average of more than eight books per capita. The town councils and independent school boards of small towns in the county also entered into contract with the two libraries for separate collections of books. As a result, the report of the State Library Commission showed that more than 9.3 per cent of the population of the county had free library service — the highest in Iowa. Thus what has become known as the "Page County Plan" has been developed and is now being put into effect in other counties of the State.

## CHAPTER 12

### "THE BEST RURAL SCHOOLS IN AMERICA"

As Page County grew in population and wealth, increased attention was paid to the schools. From 1850 to 1858 the office of county superintendent was included in the work of the school fund commissioner whose term was for two years. The duties were administered in turn by Philip Boulware, A. H. Farrens, and B. B. Hutton. From 1858 to 1912 the county superintendents were elected by popular vote. The first thus chosen were B. B. Hutton, 1858; J. L. Anderson, 1859; and J. H. Maughlin, 1861. From that time on most of the superintendents served one or more terms of two years each. They included J. A. Wood, 1865-69; Elijah Miller, 1869-73; H. Morton, 1873-75; Elijah Miller, 1875-79; S<sup>^</sup> E. Wilson, 1879-85; Lottie E. Granger, 1885-90; C. C. Hodges, 1890-95; H. E. Beater, 1895-1901; George H. Colbert, 1901-06; Jessie Field, 1906-1912.

After 1912 the superintendent was elected by representatives of the school boards at the county convention held annually for that purpose on the second Tuesday in May. The superintendent chosen for a three-year term would take office on the first day of the following August. Since 1912 the county superintendents have been Mrs. Sarah Huftalen, 1912-15; Agnes Samuelson, 1915-23; Lora G. Culver, 1923-27; and from 1927 on, Mabel Searl.

When Jessie Field of Shenandoah was elected county superintendent in 1906 a new chapter began in the scholastic and agricultural history of the county. Within three years' time Miss Field's methods had attracted national attention and educators and magazine writers from the East and the South were beating a pathway to the county.

Miss Field was the daughter of Solomon and Lettie (Celestia) Eastman Field, the couple who in the early days of their marriage had ridden horseback across the meadows to teach in their respective schools. She was also a sister of Henry Field, the nurseryman.

After being graduated by the Shenandoah High School, Miss Field attended Tabor College in nearby Fremont County. Having received a degree of bachelor of arts in 1903, she taught at Antigo, Wisconsin, at Shenandoah, and for the 1905-06 season was principal of Jefferson School at Helena, Montana. Out of this varied experience Miss Field developed the theories that she put into practice as soon as she assumed the office of superintendent of the schools of page County.

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First of all she became acquainted with every teacher and every pupil in the county and carefully studied each school to decide the kind of teacher best suited to its scholars and their neighborhood. Then in confidential talks with the school directors she would convince them that the instructors she recommended should be engaged regardless of cost. Soon the wisdom of this course became apparent and good salaries were offered to attract the desired teachers. A program of study was worked out for each school, and the teacher was advised to follow it closely, but to specialize in some subject in which she was especially strong. Thus, in addition to their regular studies, the pupils learned many subjects not then to be found in the ordinary curriculum of the country school -- art, manual training, music, literature, farm arithmetic, domestic science, and experimental agriculture, including soil testing, corn judging, and milk testing by the Babcock method.

Miss Field's philosophy of teaching was based on the idea that organization and friendly competition stimulate interest. She organized her teachers into round table groups banded together as the Page County Progressives. Spirited and well-attended meetings followed.

Carrying her theories of competition further, in the spring of 1908 Miss Field organized the Page County Boys' Agricultural Club to arouse a friendly rivalry among farmers' sons in the study and practice of modern farming. The undertaking was so very successful it was primarily responsible for much of the publicity soon given to the county. The first season 125 boys took part in a corn-growing program, using seed corn donated by the best corn breeders in the county. The boys experimented on their home farms, and from time to time heard helpful lectures on corn culture given by visiting authorities.

One of the members of the club caused a sensation by exhibiting and taking first prize on a peck of corn in competition with adult corn growers at the fair in Clarinda. At the same time people began to appreciate the value of the county experiment station, maintained since 1905 under supervision of an instructor from Iowa State College at Ames. They realized that through scientific seed corn testing, and experiments with various methods of planting, the boys were gaining knowledge that the most industrious, and intelligent man did not learn through experience.

On November 14, 1908, the club members participated in a corn judging contest conducted at the Page County courthouse by A. V. Storm of Ames. The boys, ranging from 10 to 20 years of age, each brought five ears of selected seed corn. A few weeks later, in December, they exhibited at the Farmers' Institute at Essex. Many other successes followed

and, not to be outdone, the girls of the Page County schools banded together to practice domestic science and agriculture. Interested citizens contributed \$300 in premiums for a corn show and industrial exposition in which both boys and girls participated.

To encourage more boys to show the results of their work, Miss Field designed a pin, a three-leaf clover, to represent scientific' agriculture. The letter H placed on each leaf stood for head, hand, and heart. In the center was a kernel of corn bearing the word Page. This pin was awarded to each boy who exhibited an agricultural product, Later a fourth H was added, symbolizing first home, and then health. When the girls were organized they, too, wanted to wear the pin and were granted it for work accomplished. Township groups for both boys and girls were formed. This was the beginning of the 4-H clubs, now promoted all over the country by agents of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

P. G. Holden, a professor of the extension department of Iowa State College of Agriculture, cooperated with the county superintendent and the teachers to introduce improved methods of farming. One of these was the testing of seed corn by means of a wad of rag. This device caught the popular fancy and appealed to the young experimenters as a 'Tag doll.'" Enthusiasm over this and the Babcock milk test was strong in the boys' and girls' clubs. Holden had previously helped organize Farm Project clubs in Mississippi and understood the problems of rousing and holding the attention of club members\*

While so much activity was taking place in Page County, O. H. Benson, superintendent of the Wright County schools, was working along similar lines and he helped bring the 4-H clubs to the attention of Federal authorities.

The Clarinda Herald of January 20, 1910, reported: "'The triumphant march of the Page County schools under the leadership of Jessie Field goes on unchecked. The series of victories, complete, far-reaching, unbroken,' reads like a page from the Arabian Knights." The Herald was referring to the success of Edwin Sawhill, Martin Johnson, and Bernard Hagglund, who had won the \$250 championship trophy offered by Kimball's Dairy Farmer of Waterloo for the best work done by a team of three boys under 18. Seven other teams competed for the prize, including one from Hardin County that had been coached for weeks by an Iowa prize winner at a competition held in Chicago. The Page County team won by 56 points.

Meanwhile Miss Field had planned a series of scholarship contests to include every pupil in every country school. One year the subject was spelling. The champions of each school met for a township contest, and the winners had a

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grand spelling match at the Clarinda Chautauqua, with prizes of cash. The attraction drew even bigger crowds than Bryan Day -- and that was saying something, for throngs always turned out to hear the eloquent orator, William Jennings Bryan. Another season, contests were conducted in ciphering, with the finals held at the Shenandoah Chautauqua. That was in 1909, and for months boys and girls trained to enter the various divisions -- the primary, for pupils under 9 years; intermediate, from 9 to 11; grammar, 12 to 14; and advanced, 15 and older. The winners in multiplication and addition in each division received five dollars apiece, and the winner in the advanced division was also awarded a year's tuition at Amity College, pupils who could draw were invited to try their skill at making maps of the county, and those who liked to write had a chance to compete for prizes that were offered by the Farmers' Institute for the best essay on "Why I Like to Live on the Farm."

Miss Field paid close personal attention to the contests. She maintained close relations with the teachers by visiting every school at least twice a year. The success of her activities soon attracted so much attention that students of education and other people came to discuss them with her and to observe teaching in the Page County schools. One of the most notable groups included 15 superintendents from Southern states, who expressed their opinion that, since "the limelight of public interest and curiosity has been focussed on that wealthy corn country", it was the "best place in the world to study a progressive rural school system."

The group, visiting Northern schools through sponsorship of the Southern Board of Education of Nashville, Tennessee, came to Page County in October 1909 on the recommendation of Dr. A. W. Winship of Boston, Massachusetts, editor of the Journal of Education. A report of the trip, reprinted in the Clarinda Herald August 11, 1910, said in part: "What have they there in Page County that is different? In exactly what manner was it brought about? How has the public been aroused to finance and push the system? These were the questions which the southerners found satisfactorily answered. Page County has had strong enough men at the head of its schools for years, but many regard Miss Jessie Field, the present superintendent, as a genius. A young woman still under 30, born and reared on a Page County farm, she is that marvel, a prophet in her own country. Those who have watched the work intimately the last four years, however, realize that her 'genius' is merely a large belief in country boys and girls, a sisterly love and care and understanding of her teachers, and a masterful capacity for hard work. Combine with these gifts a keen executive ability, a marvelous tact in dealing with all kinds of people, an unswerving belief in doing what is best for the child or school no matter what

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the precedent or personal interest involved and you have Miss Field."

When the Southern educators visited the classes and listened to the recitations of the country boys and girls and watched them judging corn and testing soil, they wondered if the results had not been prepared in advance. The visitors satisfied themselves, however, by subjecting the pupils to a constant fire of questions and in the end had to confess that "in every case .the children came off calm and victorious."

The visitors concluded with frankness that the first essential of education was to train the right kind of superintendents, who could then be depended upon to obtain good results.

Dr. A. E. Winship, of Boston, himself visited Page County in the fall of 1909 to see what he had been admiring from a distance. He made the rounds of the schools and talked to students, teachers, and farriers. He was pleased with the neat and attractive appearance of the little schools - all well kept and framed with trees and shrubs. Dr. Winship was so much impressed with the coordination of classroom and home duties that he wrote an article entitled "The Best Rural Schools in America", which, was published in the December 25, 1909, issue of the magazine Farm and Fireside . He concluded: "The boys do more work on the farm than formerly, work cheerfully and intelligently, they have taught and inspired their fathers to plant better seed, to rotate and vary crops, to keep better stock, to work to better advantage. Several farmers who are in position to know, say that in this section all raisers of milk profit by the Babcock test, that all farmers use first-class seed and keep only profitable stock, and they attribute this largely to the schools. One farmer told me that the schools were worth tens of thousands of dollars a year to the farmers of the county. What Tessie Field is doing many other men and women are approximating and what she has achieved others may accomplish."

Publicity feeds on publicity, and for months to come the visitors and inquiring reporters traveled considerable distances to see and write about the Page County schools. The New York Times of June 9, 1910, thus analyzed the situation in part: "Out in the State of Iowa, where the flower of the Nation's great farming land lies, they have found a way to check the tide, which, ever since the days of the Civil War, has been carrying the farmers' boys away from the soil and into cities and towns, there to grow up among the marts of trade far removed from the fields their forefathers tilled. One does not have to travel far in certain sections to find model farms. Page County, for instance, is full of



them. The vehicle used in arousing enthusiasm in the sons of farmers is not alone a vehicle of verbal arguments. Nor is it alone the object lessons presented by those model farms and model farmers. Both help, it is true, but there is another and even more important vehicle among the farmers' sons, a rivalry in the study of modern farming which puts them upon their mettle, drives all thought of the city from their minds, and starts them along the trail of up-to-date agriculture, which leads to success early in life."

The Times continued: - ''Perhaps the keynote of this rivalry among the farmer lads of Iowa is to be found in the boys' agricultural clubs which had been founded there in recent years. Starting with one small club in Page County several years ago, these organizations of country boys have spread throughout the State, have overlapped the boundaries of Iowa, and have been crawling eastward until they are now at the threshold of New York State and ready to step in. Page County, Iowa, the heart of the State's model farms, was the logical county to inaugurate the boys' agricultural club. With only a few youngsters, some of whom had never been to college, but were interested in those things pertaining to the growing of crops, the agricultural club was started a few years ago\* It has grown to a membership of some 3,000 boys, and is growing larger all the time."

An article in the magazine World's Book paid tribute to the students' knowledge of grains and blooded stock as well as the more conventional subjects usually taught in the classroom. It pointed out: ''All this has been attained without new laws or large appropriations - in the same schoolhouses in which the earlier generations had their monotonous grind in the 'Three R's.'" Then Miss Field decided to match her boys and girls and their work against the world. From August 15 she let them enter scholastic competitions of various kinds in the county, at the Chautauqua, at the State Agricultural College, at the State Fair, and at the National Corn Show. They took first prizes everywhere - in arithmetic, in composition, in geography, in drawing, in manual training, in needlework, in raising and judging corn. In cash premiums these school boys received \$1,357.50. They won a Brush runabout valued at \$550, the first prize at the International Corn Show, and gave it to Miss Field.

As might be expected, once Miss Field's ability had been publicly recognized and acclaimed, she was invited to broader ' fields of work. But she remained the Page County superintendent of schools for six years. During this time she wrote a text on farm arithmetic, another called the Country Girl's Creed, and a book, The Corn Lady, published in 1911. On January 1, 1913, she resigned her position in Page County and became National Secretary for the small town and country work of the Young Women's Christian Association,

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with headquarters in New York. She devoted the next four years to this work. In 1916 she wrote with Scott Nearing the textbook Community Civics. The next year, however, in June 1917, she was married to Ira William Shambaugh of the pioneer milling family and returned to live in Clarinda. She continued to be active in many kinds of community activities and movements. After she took up flower gardening as a hobby she gathered an unusual collection of dwarf iris and of violets. In 1931 Mrs. Shambaugh established the Sunny-side Gardens, eight city lots planted with rock plants and perennials, for which there was a wide market in southwest Iowa.

Another young woman from Shenandoah, Agnes Samuelson, became county superintendent of schools on September 1, 1915. She also won an excellent reputation. Graduated from Shenandoah High School, Western Normal College, and the State University of Iowa, she had been a rural teacher, a high school principal, and a town superintendent of schools.

Continued improvement of the rural schools was Miss Samuelson's ambition. She installed uniform textbooks and uniform courses of study to enable the rural students to enter high schools without delays that could be caused by non-standard texts. She wrote educational plays and pageants that were produced by the teachers and students and herself directed public games and exercises of several thousand children at Chautauqua Park. Miss Samuelson also was active in the Page County Young Women's Christian Association, the Red Cross, the Farm Bureau, and public health work.

In the fall of 1923 Miss Samuelson resigned to take a position with the Extension Department of Iowa State Teachers College as consultant for the 99 county superintendents of Iowa schools.

Four years later Miss Samuelson became State Superintendent of Public Instruction, a position she left in 1939 to become secretary of the Iowa State Teachers' Association. In the year 1935-36 she was also president of the National Education Association.

Particularly after 1920, Iowa made great effort to equalize advantages between town and country pupils. The "superior school" movement, with standards to be met by country schools, aroused the interest and cooperation of every county. Scholarships were awarded to rural students, and health education was encouraged among them. Districts lacking high schools were required by law to pay tuition for their students to neighboring districts having the requisite facilities.

Construction on Page County's first consolidated school

was begun at College Springs in 1913 and finished by 1917. Part of the material used in the three-story \$75,000 building was brick taken from old Amity College, where the last session had been held in 1913. Vocational agriculture with a Smith-Hughes teacher in charge proved to be one of the most attractive and beneficial courses offered at this school.

The Coin Consolidated School was organized in 1921 and a fine building costing \$80,000 was erected. The large auditorium and gymnasium provided ample space for assemblies and recreation.

Good school buildings were also erected in Blanchard, Essex, Northboro, and Braddyville.

The number of country schools was decreasing but on September 1, 1941, 87 opened for the year of 1941-42. The buildings were all kept in good repair, with modern equipment. A close teacher-pupil relationship was developed, and the rural school was used as the center of community life and activities. A long-time program visualized by the county superintendent embraced the idea of continuity from the time the pupil entered school until the course was finished. Physical, mental, and emotional characteristics were individually considered to help the child master his work and derive pleasure from routine.

Under the supervision of Miss Mabel Searl, county superintendent since 1927, several innovations have been adopted. A primer grade has been added. A detailed course of study from the primer grade through the fourth grade has stressed reading and language work, combining the study of health, science, and art. Definite outlines are worked out for all subjects from the fifth through the eighth grades. The regular, school work is exhibited at state and county fairs and other educational meetings. Pupils learn to conduct business meetings and to discuss timely topics at the For Iowa Clubs organized in each school.

Although the study of agriculture so ably started by Tessie Field in 1906 has largely been taken over by the 4-H organizations, the fundamentals are still learned in the classroom. Since 1937 soil conservation has been studied in all rural schools. Various phases of the subject are discussed, including the damage and effect of soil erosion and its remedies. An annual essay contest is sponsored jointly by the Kiwanis Clubs of Clarinda and Shenandoah in cooperation with the county superintendent.

The school program as a whole has a wide variety, with time available for play, for creative work and hobbies to develop each individual child's abilities and to increase

## "The Best Rural Schools in America"

opportunities for enriched living, and social well-being. Pupils are helped to "find themselves." Their successes in acquisition of various skills, knowledge, attitudes, and appreciations are celebrated to make them eager for more learning. The motto is "Plan your work and work your plan", and the general hobby is "Work."

The availability of free library service for all rural areas in Page County has contributed immeasurably to an appreciation of the best books.

A wholesome relationship between parents, school boards, and the county superintendent makes possible a high standard of achievement.

## CHAPTER 13

### FROM 1916 TO 1942

It seemed likely in the summer of 1916 that there might be war between the United States and Mexico. Company E of the Shenandoah unit of the National Guard, Major Landers and his military band, and several units from surrounding towns were ordered to the Mexican border. Fortunately, war did not develop and the men returned to Page County late in February 1917 after spending nearly eight months in the South. A short time later the United States entered the first World War. National Guard companies were again ordered out and one regiment, the Third Iowa Infantry, was sent overseas with the first American Expeditionary Forces in the fall of 1917.

Company E of Shenandoah had a comparatively long history. It had been organized in April 1878, two years before the National Guard law went into effect, and was known as Company E of the Eighth Regiment of Organized Militia. Under provisions of an act passed by the State Legislature it became Company E of the Fifth Regiment, Iowa National Guard. The members formed a civil corporation in 1894, and, as the Shenandoah Military Company, built an armory. In 1917 Company E was brought up to wartime strength and sent abroad with the Iowa regiment, the 168th Infantry (formerly the Third Iowa) of the Forty-second or "Rainbow Division."

While Company F originated in a neighboring county, Montgomery, with headquarters at Villisca, many boys in the northeastern part of Page County enlisted in it because its headquarters was so close to their homes. Company F also went to France and distinguished itself in service with the 168th Infantry.

Soldiers of Companies E and F were among the first Americans to see action in France. Fred C. Brummett of Clarinda was the first Page County boy to be killed in action. His comrades fought in some of the fiercest campaigns of the war at Champagne, Chateau Thierry, and Argonne Forest. Captain Oliver Yates of Shenandoah, the leader of Company E, was cited on July 18, 1918, for exceptional gallantry at the battle of Suippes.

The people of Page County bought more than their quota of Liberty Bonds and in every way helped as much as they could. On Easter morning, April 20, 1919, the people of Shenandoah planted 11 oak trees, dedicating each tree to a local man who had died in the service. The residents of Clarinda adopted 21 French orphans, one for every Clarinda boy killed. A fine new bridge spanning the Nodaway River

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east of Clarinda was named for Fred C. Brummett. A block directly east of the railway passenger station, allowed for years to remain a junk yard, was cleaned up and made into an attractive landscaped area and named the Clarinda Memorial Park. In 1920 the brick Memorial High School at Blanchard was built to honor the 99 men from the vicinity who had enlisted.

Horace Warren, a former Page County resident who had been a member of Blanchard High School's graduating class in 1896, served as an engineer on General John Pershing's staff during the war. Afterward General Pershing assigned him to construction of the army stadium in Paris.

Warren had a varied career. He worked on the railroad in Panama, and was loaned by the United States Government to build wharves in Ecuador, and after the World War was put in charge of building the railroad between Seward and Fairbanks, Alaska, work that included placing two bridges across the difficult Manana and Yukon Rivers. In 1938 Warren supervised a Mississippi River channelling project between Hannibal, Missouri, and Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Most of the Page County veterans had returned home from the first World War by the early summer of 1919. Soon posts of the American Legion began to appear. The Sergy Post of Clarinda was formed on July 11, 1919, and the Shenandoah Post No. 80 was organized on July 30, 1919.

The Page County Farm Bureau, set up early in 1918 as a war agency for extension work, was the last to be organized of Iowa's 99 counties. It was actually the one hundredth in number, because Pottawattamie County had two farm bureaus.

After the Armistice of 1918 educational work was emphasized, rather than the marketing services stressed in some other counties. Under the program all general subjects of agriculture applicable to southwestern Iowa have been taught, with particular attention paid to soil conservation and 4-H club work.

In its history thus far (1942), the Page County Farm Bureau has had only two agents. The first was E. L. Eichling, an agricultural teacher at Iowa State College. He served from June 1918 to September 1922 when he was succeeded by another Ames graduate, Don Griswold. After teaching in Texas and Porto Rico and doing county agent work in Denton County, Texas, Griswold took the post in Page County, where for two decades he has helped the farmers weather the changing years.

The presidents of the Page County Farm Bureau from 1918 to 1942 were Lenus Hagglund of Essex; Ed Henderson, Coin;

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Leo Borthwick, Coin; Dave Cutter, Shenandoah; Earl Watts, Shenandoah; Ed Fulk, Clarinda; and Earl Annan, Yorktown. Fulk resigned early in 1942 to devote his time to the Page County draft board, of which he was chairman. At that time the Farm Bureau was put on a war basis. Cooperators were appointed for every rural school district area in the county. These were 126 men and 127 women trained to contact the 15 to 20 farm families within their respective territories to help stimulate production of meat, fat, milk, eggs, and vegetables.

Much constructive health-building work was accomplished in the county between 1918 and 1942. The Henry and Catherine L. Hand Memorial Hospital at Shenandoah was opened in November 1918. Mr. and Mrs. Hand bequeathed nearly \$60,000 for the construction and maintenance of the Hospital. The modern brick building was provided with the latest scientific equipment. It had 17 private rooms, whose furnishings were donated by various individuals and firms, and two three-bed wards, one for women and one for men. It was necessary to build an annex in 1938, bringing the hospital's capacity to 38 beds and seven bassinets.

In August 1939, about a year after the Hand Memorial Hospital was enlarged, the Clarinda Municipal Hospital was completed at a cost of \$140,000. It had 40 beds, with emergency provisions for more patients. Considered one of Iowa's best and most completely equipped small hospitals, it has been designated a typing station for pneumonia.

Shenandoah staged a memorable golden jubilee celebration from October 9 to October 14, 1921. The climax was a pageant in an outdoor amphitheater on Clarinda Avenue. Six hundred persons participated. The pageant, written by Blanch Alden, Dorothy Foscett, and Mrs. Helen Field Fischer, was elaborate and imaginative. Historical scenes were presented on the pages of an immense book — the spectators saw Queen Isabella giving her jewels to Columbus to finance his voyage, Columbus landing on American soil, Father Marquette preaching to the Indians, friendly Indians and trappers making trails for the Iowa pioneers, and the Black Hawk Purchase. A party of Sioux Indians from the agency near Niobrara, Nebraska, took part in one of the scenes and wore their finest feathers and richest furs. The Farrens family was shown welcoming pioneers arriving in uncovered wagon. The Spirit of the Pioneer followed the trail and was attacked by the Spirit of Adversity and his assistants, Fever, Blizzard, and Pestilence. The last episode revealed modern Shenandoah. Boy Scouts carried in a large map of Iowa, while representatives of industry in Shenandoah called and left specimens of their products. Public school teachers led a group of children who formed a huge star. An American flag was draped about the map and representatives of the 13 pioneer churches of the town placed a white cross above it.

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Construction of Clarinda's new high school costing \$171,800 was begun in 1922, and it was opened in September 1923. The two-story brick, stone-trimmed building has a gymnasium, showers, and dressing rooms below the first floor level. The shady grounds are landscaped with curved walks and terraces. One year of junior college work was offered at a tuition fee of \$100, and later a second year course was added.

On June 16, 1926, another cyclone struck Page County and passed directly through Clarinda. Late in the afternoon the residents had noticed a dark cloud approaching the town at great speed. It started its destruction about three miles southwest of Clarinda, laying waste a path five miles or more through the southern edge of town to a point northeast beyond the eastern ridge. Nineteen dwellings were destroyed and many others damaged, cars were wrecked, livestock was killed, and a number of persons were injured. The Red Cross gave immediate aid to the victims, residents of Clarinda and nearby towns helping to provide clothing and shelter for the homeless. Members of the National Guard directed traffic and guarded the damaged property, working in shifts for five days and sleeping in the armory basement. Much of the damage was repaired and life went on again as usual.

Fred Christensen of Blanchard was selected as health champion- at the State Fair in Des Moines in 1927 and a few months' later, in November of the same year, he was adjudged the national health champion at the International Livestock Exhibition in Chicago. The young man, 18 years old, had grown up at the farm home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Christensen, and attended high school at College Springs. He was five feet, ten inches tall and weighed 152 pounds. His score at the International show was 99.

In February 1927 a small group of people from Shenandoah, including Mrs. R. B. Lindsay, Mrs. W. A. Pancake, and Mrs. Charles Handley, decided to organize a county-wide social service league. After consulting Miss Louise Cottrell of the Extension Division of the State University of Iowa, they completed an organization and named J. O. Rennie of Shenandoah president. A social worker was engaged in July 1928 and the Page County Social Welfare League undertook the relief, employment, medical care, education, and assistance in general of underprivileged families. Eventually two offices were established, one in Clarinda, serving all of the county but Grant and Pierce Townships, which came under the jurisdiction of the Shenandoah office. Each office had its own staff, including a trained social worker.

Through the years the question-of good roads had become of public importance, and as a result several fine thoroughfares were built across the State. On September 21, 1928,



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Governor John Hammill officially opened newly paved State Highway 3, at a point on a stretch extending from the eastern boundary of Page County to the city limits of Shenandoah. This was a gala day for the whole county. Hundreds of people drove to Clarinda for the formal exercises dedicating the road. About a year later U. S. 71 was paved. Transportation was also improved with the paving of State Highways 194 and 48.

Two fine swimming pools were constructed in Page County at about the same time. The American Legion swimming pool at Clarinda was constructed in 1928 near the east city limits on highway 71. It attracted swimmers from many parts of southwest Iowa and considerably increased interest in water sports. The municipal swimming pool at the Shenandoah fairgrounds was dedicated in July 1930.

In 1924 the Pleasant Ridge brass band of 50 members, organized by George Baker and Samual Mulkins, was meeting once a week in the old Union Church. The band was popular in the locality and its practice sessions made a welcome weekly break in that rural neighborhood. But one night in June 1928 the Union Church was struck by lightning and the building burned to the ground. Although farmers who lived nearby hurried to the scene, nothing could be done to save the church. As they watched it disappear in flames, the spectators wondered where the band could meet to practice. With \$550 due in insurance on the building, they decided to try to match that fund and build a real community hall.

Residents of the neighborhood, and of Clarinda and Shambaugh as well, responded but less than the necessary \$500 was raised. Finally someone discovered that an old school at Braddyville was for sale at a low price. The committee decided to buy it, wreck it, and move the lumber to the building site. Fifty men and boys volunteered and the school went down as one observer said, "almost as if a Cyclone had struck it."

The community hall was then put up, with no paid labor except that of the carpenter. The men borrowed a cement mixer and built a trough running from the mixer to the forms. A worker was stationed every two yards along the trough to push the cement on with a paddle. The work was done so quickly that the building was dedicated on February 8, 1929. The frame hall was 64 feet long and half as wide, and seated 450 people. It had a balcony, a basement, a stage 18 feet deep, and its own electric light plant. George Baker planned good stage curtains, scenery, and skillfully placed lights. A window was so placed that the ticket-taker could see the show while at his post.

Pleasant Ridge Community Hall was put to many uses.

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Home talent plays and guest speakers were presented, and toys' and girls' clubs and Sunday School classes met there. Young and old people met once a week in singing school with an instructor from Clarinda. The band practiced regularly at the hall and kept baseball equipment there during the summer season. In 1930 Wallace's Farmer and Iowa Homestead awarded Pleasant Ridge a plaque and a prize of \$100 for being the outstanding rural community of the State in its activities .

In 1934-35 Clarinda was ranked as the most beautiful town in Iowa in contests conducted by the Federated Garden Clubs. With its well-kept lawns and unusually numerous and varied shade trees, the whole town resembled a park. The large maple tree in the Walter E. Anderson yard, said to have been planted in 1865 on the day Lincoln was assassinated, was judged the second most beautiful soft maple in Iowa because of its vigor, size, and spread.

Twice within four years a high school livestock judging team from Clarinda won the State title for excellence in that work. In 1930 the team represented Iowa in the National contest and took fifth place. At Ames, from May 10 to May 13, 1933, Lyle Miller, Lee Roy Warden, and Melvin Cabbage swept the judging field and took all six first cups offered at the State High School Agricultural Contests and the Iowa Association of Future Farmers meet. The cups were awarded for sweepstakes in judging livestock and for firsts in judging beef cattle, horses, dairy cattle, sheep, and hogs. Twenty-one boys from Clarinda attended the contest at Ames, and several others placed among the prize winners in individual judging, livestock, management, farm management, open forum, and leadership, and won citations as good Iowa farmers. In addition, Kenneth Fulk was named southwest Iowa director and vice-president for Iowa of the Future Farmers of America, while William Alexander was elected director-at-large. Again, in 1941, a team from Clarinda won first in the livestock judging contest at Ames.

In October 1929 the Clarinda chapter of the Future Farmers of America was organized. It was named the Brokaw Chapter in honor of Miss Eva J. Brokaw, principal of the high school when the course in vocational agriculture was started there four years earlier. Several of its members were awarded the American Farmer degree by the national F. F. A. organization. William Stitt, the winner in 1931, was also voted one of eight outstanding vocational agriculture students in the Middle West and received a \$100 cash award given by the Kansas City Star. The three other American Farmers from the Brokaw Chapter were Kenneth Fulk, 1934; Alfred Sump, 1938; and Wayne Strong, 1939.

Two other F. F. A. groups were formed in Page County --

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in 1936 .the.Amity Chapter at College Springs, and in 1937 the Radio City Chapter at Shenandoah. Members from both have won Iowa Farmer degrees. Many of the same boys belonged to the Page County Aberdeen Angus Breeders' Association, which dates from 1936. By 1942 the influence of this association had spread to Fremont, Taylor, and Ringgold Counties.

With the assistance of the Clarinda Board of Education the Brokaw F. F. A. members started building a chapter and recreation. house near the high school in September 1940. The work included the hauling of rock from farms in the vicinity, as well as the actual construction and masonry. It was finished in February 1941. This house, with its stone fireplace, shuffleboard court, and ping pong tables, is open to F. F. A. members and rural students and may be made available to other groups as a part of the Clarinda public school system.

Clarinda already had a new athletic field, constructed in 1935-36 on a site two blocks east and a block south of the main business district and adjoining the junior high school. The stands can seat 3,000 spectators. A cindered quarter-mile track encircles the field, leaving ample room in the infield for other sports and track meets. Night lighting was provided.

In 1934 a dumping ground three blocks southwest of the Shenandoah high school between Nishna Road and Crose Highway was purchased by the city for an athletic field. During the next year it was reclaimed and graded and named the Mustang Field. Frank Nye Jr., who was enthusiastic about the name, also suggested providing the press and broadcasting booth. The 10-acre field has a five-lane, quarter-mile track and bleachers seating 3,000 people. The transformation of the former dump into the attractive Shenandoah High School athletic field has been one of the city's most constructive accomplishments .

Clarinda's school concert band was ranked . first by judges in the western section of the Iowa State Music Contest held at Carroll on May 6, 1939. Many students also won individual honors.

From 1935 to 1940 Page County ranked first in soil conservation in the State. The soil conservation experiment station on the J. B. Lawson 200-acre farm in Tarkio Township, about ten miles west of Clarinda, was the first established in the northern states and the only one of its kind in Iowa. It was known as the West Tarkio Water-shed Soil Conservation Demonstrational Project, and its primary purpose was to study soil and water losses and their casual factors, under the direction of the United States Department of Agriculture

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and Iowa State College. The station, established in 1931, was sponsored partly by the Chambers of Commerce of Clarinda and Shenandoah and the Page County Farm Bureau, which assumed responsibility for the payment of taxes on the farm. The U. S. Soil Conservation Service took over the station in 1935. Two hundred forty-three persons were under contract to the Government in 1942 in connection with the project.

Largely because of the existence of this experimental station, Civilian Conservation Corps camps were established at Shenandoah and Clarinda. Experiments showed the rapid erosion of soil on farm lands and demonstrated how soil erosion could be checked through the use of proper corrective measures. Many local farms were improved. The boys of the camps worked on dams, ditches, fences, terraces, the construction of contour furrows, and the improvement of forest stands. Equally important was the practical training in general soil conservation that was given the hundreds of young men trained at the camps. In 1939 the camp at Clarinda was transferred to Merville, Woodbury County.

By 1941 Shenandoah had become the hybrid corn center of Page County and, to a large extent, of Iowa. This had been brought about by years of experiment. In 1910 Eeury Field started his first cross of corn on a 29-acre tract. The amount of work needed to produce the hybrid made the price high - \$10 per bushel. Farmers were slow to adopt this so-called "mule corn" and it did not become popular until after years of development. The hybrid was recommended by Wallace's Farmer, and in 1930 Field formed a partnership with Henry A. Wallace, using some of Wallace's hybrid seed on the basis of royalty on each bushel of corn produced. Mule hybrid corn was grown on test plots in 15 Midwest states, and plots were planted in every section of Iowa to test growth in all types of soil -- alkali, gumba, sand, thin upland, bottom land, sod land, and timber land. Every lot of corn had to test 94 per cent production before it was sold. By 1941 the price was \$4'.75 per bushel and at that time more than 500 men were producing the corn for Field.

After extensive study of parent stocks Earl May developed his own Maygold hybrids. He stressed the importance of de-tasseling.

In April 1941 the DeKalb Agricultural Association began construction of a \$150,000 processing plant on the west side of State Highway 59 at Shenandoah. The company contracted for 1,800 acres in southwest Iowa, furnishing seed to the farmers to cultivate and harvest.

Echoes of the first World War resounded in the county in September 1939 when hostilities again broke out. in Eur-

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ope. The United States immediately began to consider means of defense. All men from 21 to 35 were required to register for selective service on October 16, 1940. Altogether 2,527 men registered in Page County. Lawrence Beard of Clarinda, a Negro, held the first number drawn in the National draft lottery - 153. One hundred forty-six more men who had reached the age of 21 since the previous October registered on July 1, 1941. Page County's two National Guard units -- Company E, 168th Infantry, of Shenandoah, and the Anti-tank Company, 168th Infantry, of Clarinda - were mobilized in February 1941 and a few weeks later left for Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, for training. Seventy people, representing 12 Iowa towns, traveled from Shenandoah to the camp in special coaches late in May 1941, taking flowers, magazines, and other gifts to the soldiers.

Many men from Page County volunteered to enlist in other branches of the armed forces, while the people of the county hoped to uphold their high past record in the new test of strength to which the Nation was called.

One hundred years had passed since the first settlers had come up from Missouri, raised their cabins, and planted patches of corn. During that century the people of Page County had transformed the river valleys and the old Indian hunting grounds into a prosperous and widely known garden spot. Like the red men, they paid homage to Mondamin, the Corn God, but in the American way. They were pioneers in teaching the study of scientific farming along with regular classroom subjects in the public schools. As a result page County emerged as a leader in good farms, good homes, good schools, and -- most important of all - good citizens.

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