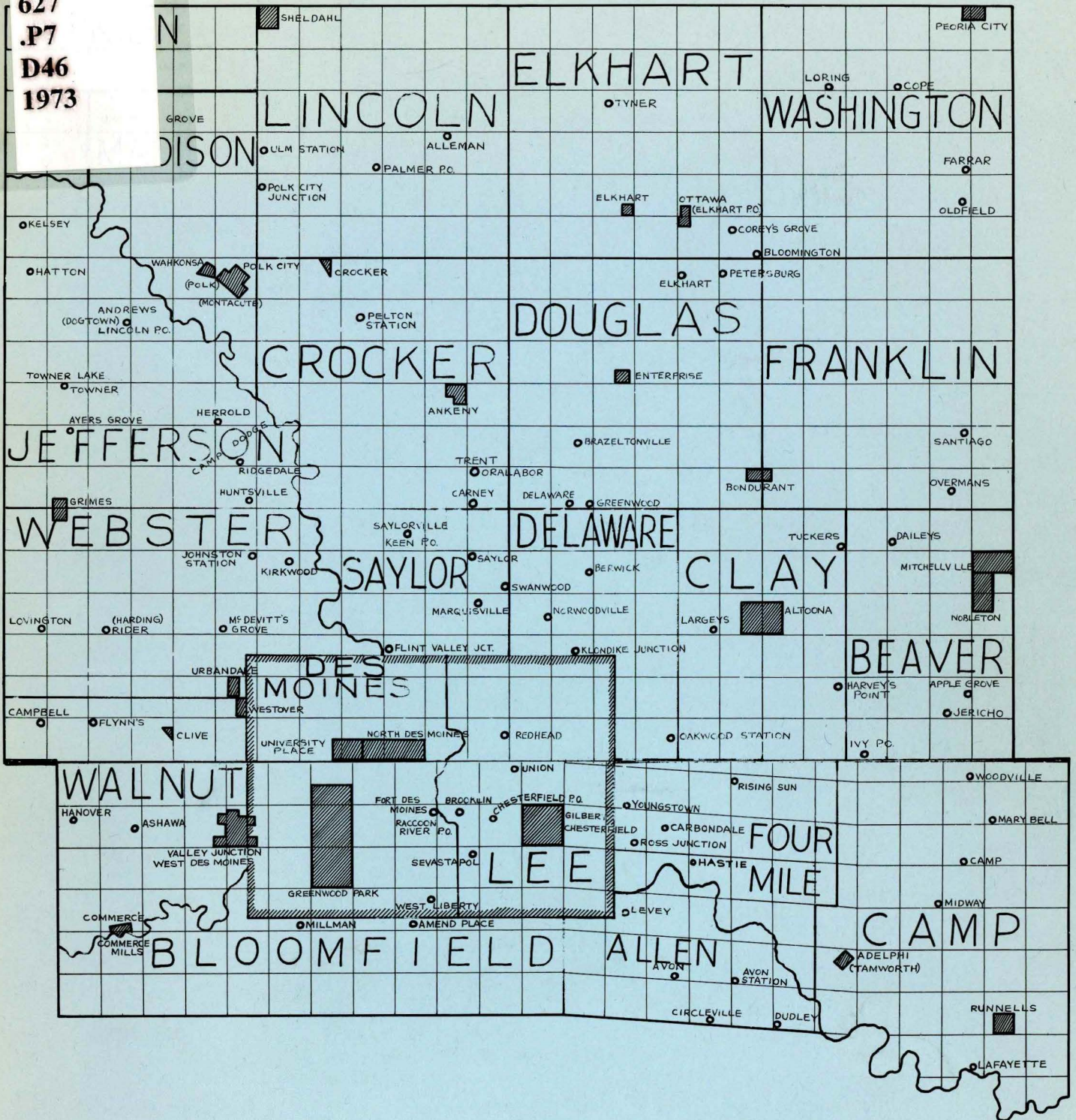


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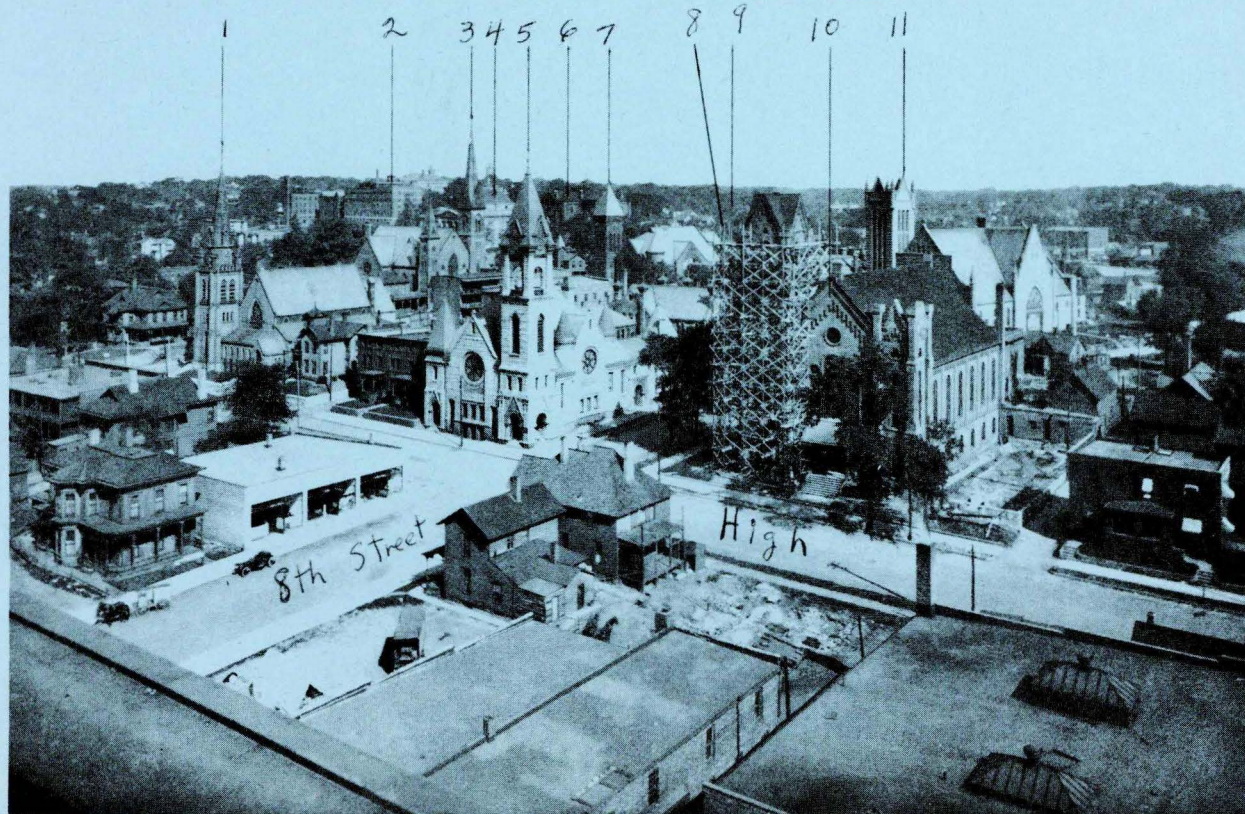


Highlights of Polk County History

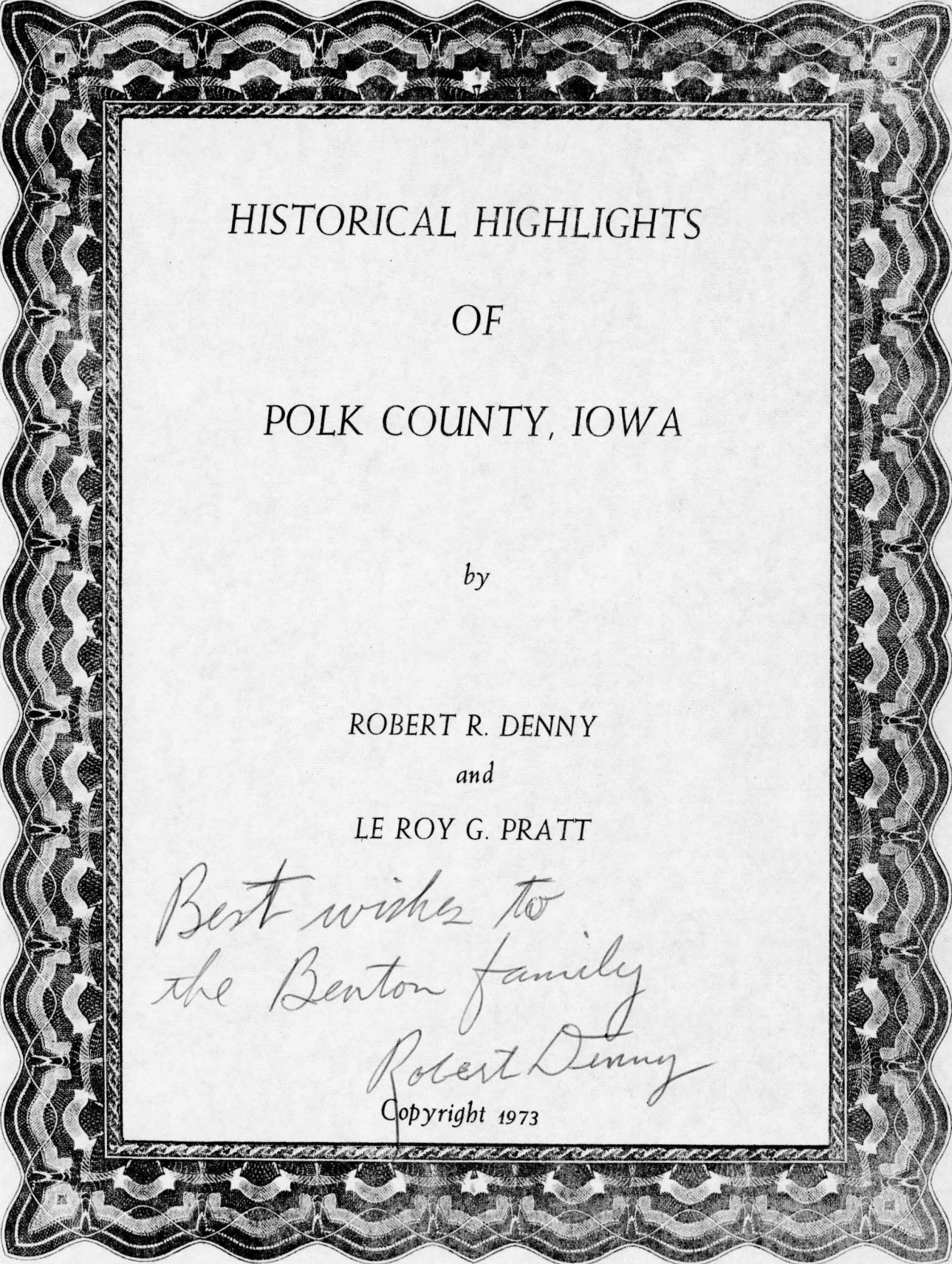
by Dr. Robert R. Denny and Mr. LeRoy G. Pratt

Des Moines' Piety Hill in 1914

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 9th & High | 7. Central Christian Church (N.E. corner)
9th & Pleasant |
| 2. Methodist Hospital, 1200 Pleasant | 8. B'nai Jeshrun Synagogue,
8th & Pleasant |
| 3. "Old" First Methodist Church (S.E. corner)
9th & Pleasant | 9. First Church of Christ Scientist,
8th & Pleasant |
| 4. "New" First Methodist Church,
10th & Pleasant | 10. Central Presbyterian Church,
8th & High |
| 5. First Baptist Church, 8th & High | 11. Plymouth Congregational Church,
8th & Pleasant |
| 6. "Old" Irving School (N.W. corner)
9th & Pleasant | |



SCENE FROM CENTRAL LIFE BUILDING.



HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS
OF
POLK COUNTY, IOWA

by

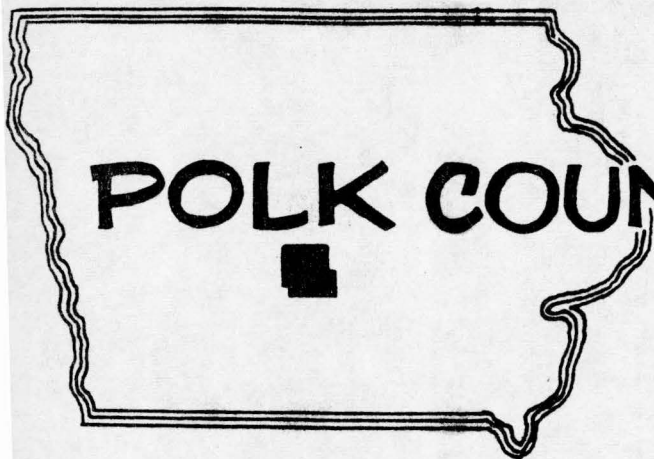
ROBERT R. DENNY

and

LE ROY G. PRATT

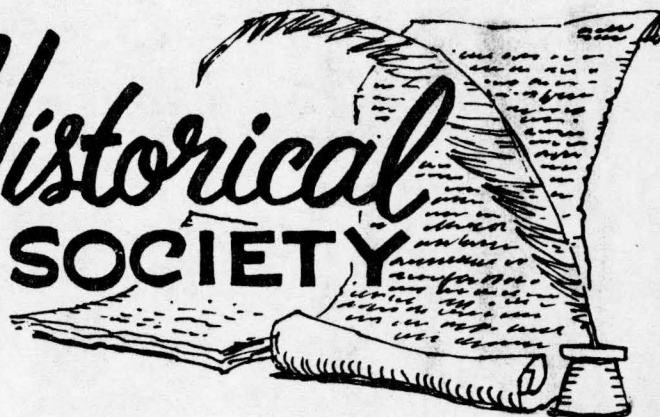
*Best wishes to
the Benton family
Robert Denny*

Copyright 1973



POLK COUNTY

Historical
SOCIETY



TO: The Students of Iowa History

This booklet has been written for the use and enjoyment of students of Iowa history of all ages. It concentrates upon Polk County and is part of the observance, in 1976, of the Nation's Bicentennial. Polk County Superintendent K. W. (Bill) Miller has assisted with the printing and binding of this booklet. The pictorial pages of early photographs were reproduced and printed by students at Des Moines Tech High School. This booklet is being provided to every elementary and secondary school in Polk County.

Robert R. Denny compiled the information in Section I pertaining to the early history of Polk County. It is hoped the pictures that are included will help the reader to visualize some of the historical events and buildings of earlier times. LeRoy G. Pratt prepared Section II on the origin of Polk County names.

In all such endeavors the assistance of a great many individuals is gratefully acknowledged. Many questions have arisen about early towns in Polk County as well as the location of buildings in and around the City of Des Moines. We wish to acknowledge the kindness and help of others who have assisted in some of the ferreting out of facts, names, and dates. Sometimes sources of information can be incorrect and faulty. Thus, the writers trust that there are not too many errors or inaccuracies in this booklet. Additional information that persons may have, and corrections, in regard to dates, times, and names certainly should be transmitted to the authors so that future editions may be updated.

This booklet hopefully will provide some historical highlights of the settlement and development of Polk County and Des Moines. As we are launched into our second century of progress in Polk County and Des Moines, it is well to look back on our past.

We hope this booklet helps to give understanding of our past and that it will serve as a guide in meeting the demands of the present as we go forward to meet the new challenges that face Polk County, Des Moines, and indeed the Nation.

Robert R. Denny

LeRoy G. Pratt

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Historical Overview

by

Dr. Robert R. Denny

EARLY HISTORY OF POLK COUNTY

The early history of Polk County and the State of Iowa is very much the same as that of other territories in the Midwestern portion of the United States. This land has experienced various changes of ownership and jurisdiction.

If you had come across the Atlantic Ocean with Columbus and traveled to Polk County and lived here ever since, you would have lived under three different national governments and within the jurisdiction of the United States, under six different political sub-divisions.

Taking your nationality from the governments under which you have lived, you would have been

- twice a Spaniard
- twice a Frenchman
- once an American

And as an American, you would have been

- an Indianian
- a Louisianian
- a Missourian
- a Michigander
- a Wisconsinite
- an Iowan

In brief, you would have lived under nine flags. We have covered a period of seven hundred years so let's take time and review this history.

1492

First you were a Spaniard because Christopher Columbus was financed by the Spanish government. Under the principle of the Right of Discovery whatever was found by Columbus belonged to Spain.

1682

Our next chapter has to do with the French explorer, LaSalle, who spent 20 years of wandering over the American continent. LaSalle discovered the mouth of the Mississippi River and took possession for his King, Louis XIV, of all that was touched by the mighty river and "extending westward to the sea."

A lead plate on which were inscribed the names of LaSalle and his company was erected on the spot and the colors of France were raised. LaSalle named the whole vast territory "Louisiana" in honor of his king. Of course, Spain made some protests, but the buccaneering spirit of the seventeenth century prevailed.

1763

At the close of the Seventeen Years War, France ceded the Louisiana Territory to Spain. Historian Bassett in his UNITED STATES HISTORY, VOL. 1 pointed out that Louisiana had been costing France 300,000 livres (about \$60,000) a year without any income to offset this expense. Possibly France thought that the territory of Louisiana could never be worth what it was costing and thus a liability.

1800

By 1800 Napoleon was emperor of France and enjoying great fame and power. He regretted the fact that 37 years previously France gave the territory to Spain. On October 1, 1800, by the Treaty of Ildefonso, Spain returned the Louisiana territory to France. It would seem that Napoleon had in mind to sell this land to the new United States government.

1803

By a treaty made April 30, 1803, and commonly called the Louisiana Purchase, all the above named territory was ceded to the United States.

Thomas Jefferson, as the third president of the fledgling republic, carried out the negotiations and paid \$15,000,000 for Louisiana. Great waves of protest crashed throughout the thirteen colonies. However, President Jefferson calmly defended his actions and accurately predicted, "The time will come when every American will know that this act has been replete with blessings for unborn generations."

1804

On October 1, 1804, by act of Congress, what is now Iowa, was placed under the jurisdiction of the territorial government of Indiana, and named "District of Louisiana." In 1805 the "District of Louisiana" was reorganized under the name of "Territory of Louisiana."

In 1812 Congress again reorganized it under the name "Territory of Missouri." Through an Act of Congress on June 28, 1834, it underwent another transformation; and what is now Iowa was made a part of the Territory of Michigan. Another reorganization on July 3, 1836, placed it under the jurisdiction of the Territory of Wisconsin.

In 1838 the Territory of Iowa was formed and in March, 1845, provision was made by Congress for admission of Iowa as a state. Various boundaries were proposed by Congress and the people. Finally, the lines were agreed upon and on December 26, 1846, Iowa was admitted as the twenty-ninth of the United States; the sixteenth admitted under the federal constitution.

CONGRESSIONAL TOWNSHIPS

The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 outlined the political path for the land west of the original 13 states so that it could progress from wilderness to statehood. It set up an arrangement whereby an appointed governor and three judges would rule the territory until the population reached 5,000. At such time the citizens could elect a legislature and then when the population numbered 60,000, the territory could apply for admission to the union as a state on a full basis of equality with the original 13. Other significant provisions of the Northwest Ordinance guaranteed the protection of liberty, property, religious freedom, and interestingly enough also prohibited slavery. Thus, it can be seen that the Continental Congress contributed to the organization of the west in significant ways. However, as we know in most other areas, it was somewhat less than successful. Having set up the congressional township by the ordinance of 1787, it remained for the civil township on the other hand to become a unit or basis for local government. Thus, the civil township was an arrangement whereby every county is divided into several civil townships and each township given a name.

This system is known as the Congressional Survey. By it all government land that has been surveyed is divided into plots six miles square, and each of these plots is again divided and subdivided. The lines upon which these large divisions are based are known as principal meridians, range lines, base lines and township lines.

Survey in Iowa. The fifth principal meridian forms the basis of the United States land survey in Iowa. It extends due north from the mouth of the Arkansas River, crosses Missouri and the eastern part of Iowa, and passes out of the state at a point between Clayton and Dubuque counties. The base line extends due west from the mouth of the St. Francis River in Arkansas, and crosses the principal meridian forty-eight miles north of its starting point. By surveying lines six miles apart parallel with the base line, and others the same distance apart parallel with the principal meridian, the land is divided into blocks six miles square. Each of these blocks is called a congressional township.

6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36

FIGURE 2

Figure 2 shows how a township is divided into sections.

Townships and Ranges. To locate land by this system of surveys two sets of numbers are used, one designating the townships north of the base line, and the other the townships west of the fifth principal meridian. Land may also be surveyed south from the base line and east from the principal meridian. For convenience the tiers of townships east or west of the principal meridian are called ranges, and those north or south of the base line are called townships. All the land in Iowa is surveyed from the fifth principal meridian.

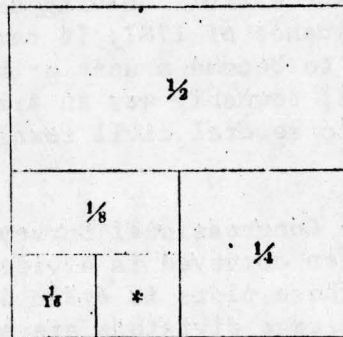


FIGURE 3

Figure 3 shows the divisions of a section. Suppose this is Section 15 of Township 5 north, Range 3 west of the 5th principal meridian, the description of these subdivisions would be as follows:

- N. $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 15, T. 5 N., R. 3 W., 5th P. M.
- S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 15, T. 5 N., R. 3 W., 5th P. M.
- N. $\frac{1}{2}$ of S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 15, T. 5 N., R. 3 W., 5th P. M.
- S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 15, T. 5 N., R. 3 W., 5th P. M.

The information on Congressional Townships is provided to show how Polk County land was surveyed and plotted. The surveying of the terrain of Polk County was no small task. It was a very necessary step in the orderly progression from unsettled land to that of provision for homesteads for settlers.

ROBERT LUCAS, TERRITORIAL GOVERNOR

As mentioned earlier, the Iowa territory was created by an act of Congress on June 12, 1838. Robert Lucas was commissioned to act as the first governor and Indian agent for the newly formed territory. His duties as Indian agent were probably as difficult as that of being governor since he had to deal with the woes and problems of nearly all of the Sioux and Sac and Fox tribes. These groups had been deadly enemies from the early times as well as enemies of other tribes to say nothing of the whites who were in the territory at this time.

In 1825, the Sioux and Sac and Fox had agreed with Lewis Cass and William Clark, acting for the United States, that the line dividing their respective hunting grounds should be about from where the northeast corner of the State of Iowa now is, to the Des Moines river, now in Humbolt County, then to Wall Lake in Sac County; then along the highlands which divide the waters of the Missouri from those of the Des Moines rivers. But if the head chiefs of these warring tribes knew where the limits were, their game and fur quarry did not and where leads humanity, especially primitive tribes, no mere imaginary line acts as a restraint. Thus, trespass was almost inevitable and in a way almost excusable. But by Indian standards it was also a warrant for homicide, and although the Sac and Fox were given undisputed possession of all of the land south and east of the line above described, west of the Mississippi and north of the State of Missouri, they had to fight the Sioux on one hand and "treat" with the encroaching whites on the other until in 1842, they sold all of their interest in Iowa, reserving the right to occupy that part lying west of the "painted red rocks,"

a line located through the red rocks on the Des Moines river in Marion County in the State of Missouri and on the south through the neutral strip on the north, until 1846.

LIEUTENANT ALBERT LEA'S EXPLORATIONS IN POLK COUNTY

The earliest published record of explorations along the upper Des Moines is printed in the little book titled "Notes on Wisconsin Territory." It was written by Lieutenant Albert M. Lea, United States Dragoons, and is in substance the author's report to his Chief, Colonel Kearny, in 1835.

Lieutenant Albert Lea gave an intimate, personal touch to his description with the following record:

"Thence our march was still through rich prairies interspersed with lakes and groves across the Des Moines River which we descended to the mouth of the Raccoon Fork, a grassy and spongy meadow with a bubbling spring in the midst, near which my tent was pitched; and the side of a fat young deer was spitted before the fire and dispatched with great gusto by the aid of two brother officers and a bottle of fine old French brandy obtained from Chouteau's stock and carried the whole campaign in my wallet, untasted." The capital of Iowa now encompasses that site.

"The next morning a bright Sunday, I got orders to reconnoiter the Des Moines River by descending it in a canoe to ascertain the practicability of navigation with keel boats with a view to the establishment of a military post. We made the trip without accident and leaving our canoe at the trading house (Keokuk) we footed it to the fort where we arrived many days before the main body who returned leisurely by land."

THE FOUNDING OF FORT DES MOINES

In 1833 Congress provided for the defense of the frontier west of the Mississippi River by the raising of the regiment of Dragoons. Secretary of War, Lewis Cass, reported to President Monroe on November 29, 1833, that about 600 men had been enlisted to provide

protection for the region west of the Mississippi River. One company under the leadership of Lieutenant-Colonel S. W. Kearny was dispatched to the Indian country near the mouth of the Des Moines River. Here at the present site of the present town of Montrose, Iowa, in Lee County, the first "Ft Desmoines" was erected. It received its name from Secretary Cass in recognition of the river upon whose bank it was located.

In 1841, two years before the founding of Ft. Desmoines, a party of Sioux, Sac, and Fox Indians had several encounters. It was reported that the Sac and Fox tribes lost seven but the Sioux Indians left more than 300 dead on the field. These problems of the Indians plus the fact that there were a number of horse thieves and illegal traders in the territory were the reasons for looking for the establishment of the new fort inland from the Mississippi River. In December, 1842, Captain James Allen of the first Dragoons sent the following report to the War Department in Washington, D.C. The report pertains to the junction of the two rivers--the Raccoon and the Des Moines.

The report is as follows:

"I went up as you know last month as high as the mouth of the Raccoon River and had in view at a time to look out a suitable point for the stationing of troops for the time required and I did select with a view to recommend the point made by the junction of the Raccoon with the Des Moines."

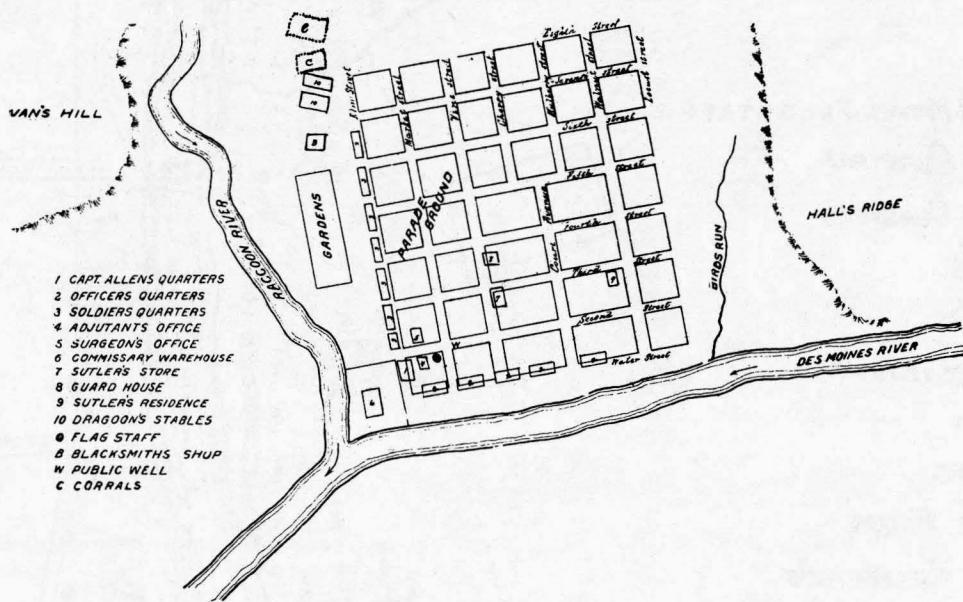
"My reasons for selecting that point are these: the soil is rich and wood, stone, water, and grass are all on hand. It would be high enough up the river to protect these Indians against the Sioux and is in the heart of the best part of their new country where the greatest effort will be made by the squatters to get in. It is about equal distance from the Missouri and the Mississippi Rivers and offers a good route to both, the direct route to the Missouri passing around the heads of the many ugly branches of Grand River. It will be 25 miles within the new line, about the right distance from the settlements and above all of the Indian villages and trading houses. It will also

be about the head of the keel boat navigation on the Des Moines River. I think it better than any other point further up because it will be harder to get supplies higher up. No point or post that may be established on this river need be kept up more than three years until the Indians shall leave. A post for the northern boundary of future Ioway will go far above the sources of the Des Moines."

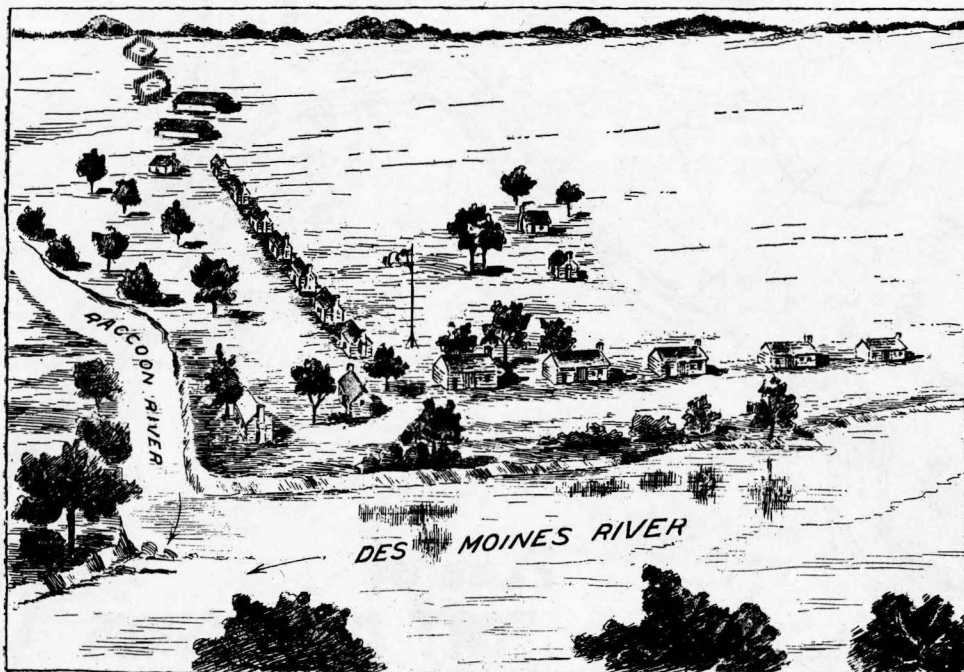
Captain Allen's recommendations found favor with General Scott and with the War Department and Colonel **Kearny** was directed to proceed to establish as soon as weather would permit "a temporary post on the River Des Moines at or near the junction of the Raccoon for the protection of the Sac and Fox Indians and the interest of the government on the frontier." The order designated Captain Allen's company of Dragoons and company of infantry from Ft. Crawford on the Mississippi for garrison duty at the new fort. The site of the post was to be designated by Captain Allen. The Captain was also given full charge of the erection of the requisite buildings for the **accommodation** of the command. The only limitation put upon him was that the buildings should be constructed "with as strict regard to economy as may be consistent with the health of the troops."

On the 29th of April, 1843, Captain Allen started up the Des Moines River. They arrived on the 18th of May at the site of the Raccoon and Des Moines Rivers which turned out to be the second Ft. Des Moines.

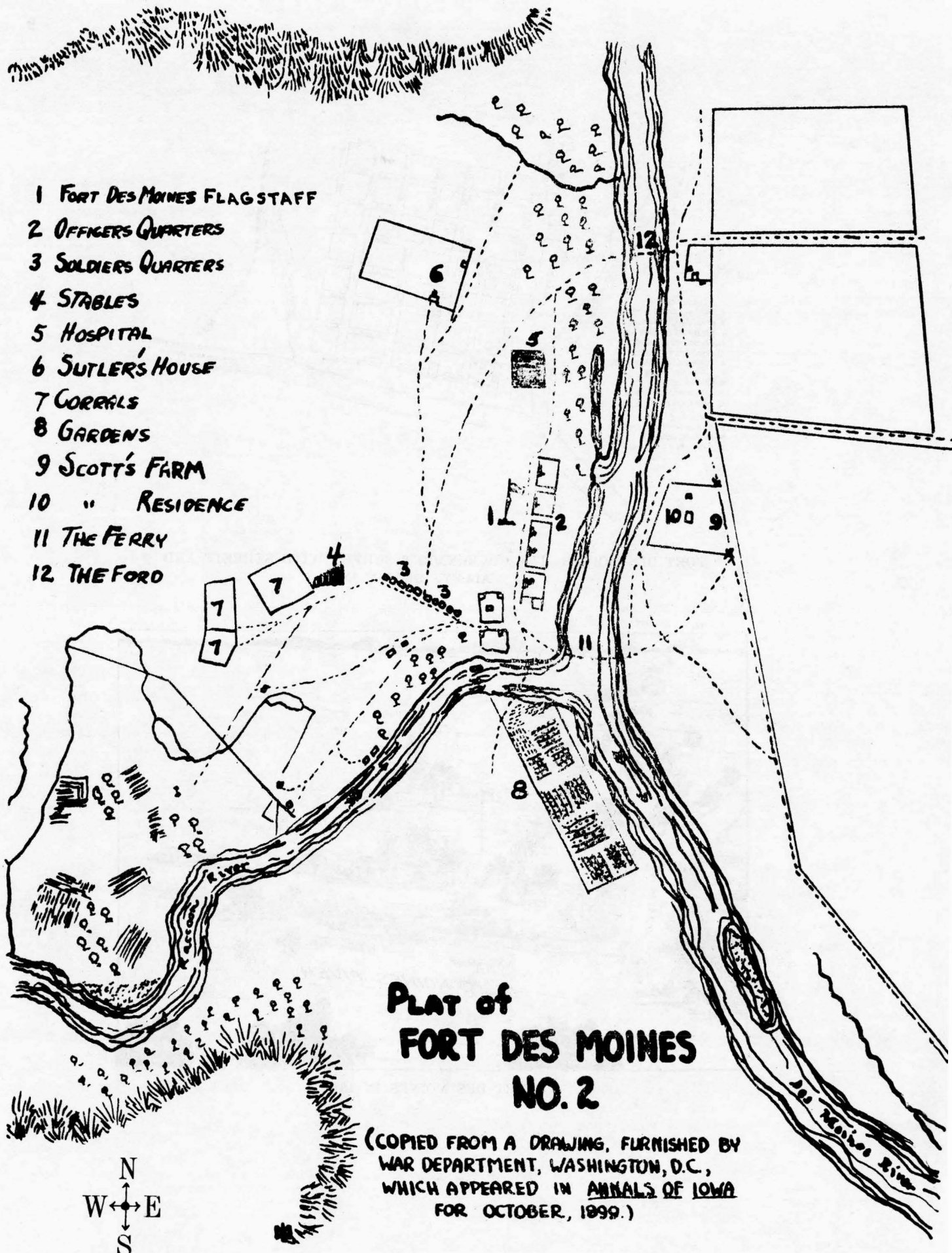
Originally, Captain Allen, after he sought the site, wrote the Secretary of War to sanction his choice of a name for the proposed fort that he was in the process of building. His choice was "Ft. Raccoon." "I have recommended this name, he wrote, because the place has a great notoriety under such designation for a great distance around it as the Raccoon River, Raccoon Forks, The Raccoon, etc, etc.



FORT DES MOINES--THE GOVERNMENT SURVEY WITH STREETS AND ALLEYS DRAWN IN



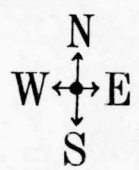
FORT DES MOINES IN 1844



- 1 FORT DES MOINES FLAGSTAFF
- 2 OFFICERS QUARTERS
- 3 SOLDIERS QUARTERS
- 4 STABLES
- 5 HOSPITAL
- 6 SUTLER'S HOUSE
- 7 CORRALS
- 8 GARDENS
- 9 SCOTT'S FARM
- 10 " RESIDENCE
- 11 THE FERRY
- 12 THE FORD

**PLAT OF
FORT DES MOINES
NO. 2**

(COPIED FROM A DRAWING, FURNISHED BY
WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D.C.,
WHICH APPEARED IN ANNALS OF IOWA
FOR OCTOBER, 1899.)



By all of which it is known as perhaps the most conspicuous point in the territory and no other name will so well designate the new post."

Adjutant General Jones forwarded the report to the Secretary of War with the endorsement:

"Ft. Iowa would be a very good name; but Raccoon would be shocking; at least in very bad taste."

A few days later General Scott informed Captain Allen that the word raccoon was not considered a proper designation for a military post and unless otherwise directed, he would call the post "Ft. Desmoines." General Scott's choice of the name was settled in both official and general correspondence. Thus, it is that the capital city of Iowa properly owes its present name-- a name of value because it has no duplicates--and also because of its inevitable association with the historic middle river or river of the mounds or river of the monks, or of Moingona River as called by the Indians.

Although the object of establishing troops at Ft. Desmoines was for the very purpose of keeping out white people, the group of soldiers and civilian attendants with barracks and cabins and the regular visits of conveyors of post supplies helped to destroy the isolation and gave the place further fixed homes, commerce, and civic life.

DRAGOONS LEAVE

Captain Allen and most of his detachment of dragoons marched away in the fall of 1845. By the same authority and at the same moment entered the vanguard of settlers. The order for vacating the post and conveying the Indian rear guard to Kansas home was dated

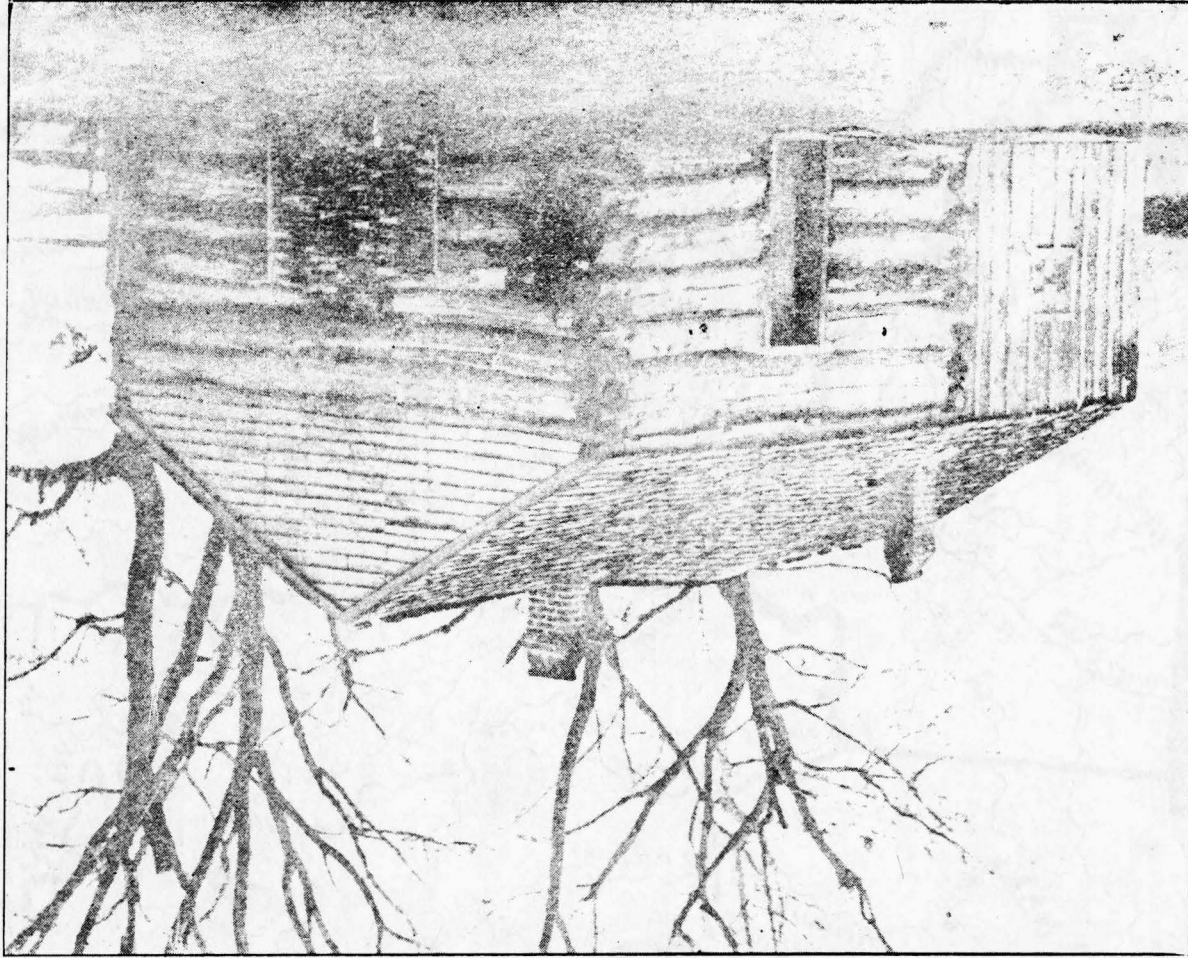
February 23, 1846. First Lieutenant Grier, in command during the absence of Captain Allen carried it into effect on March 10, 1846. Squatters who had been thronging into the country, having had the claim of rights since the treaty period of Indian occupancy had expired the previous October 11, quickly constituted the region around the river forks as being a county and named it Polk. They named the town itself as "Ft. Des Moines" and fixed upon it as the county seat of Polk County.

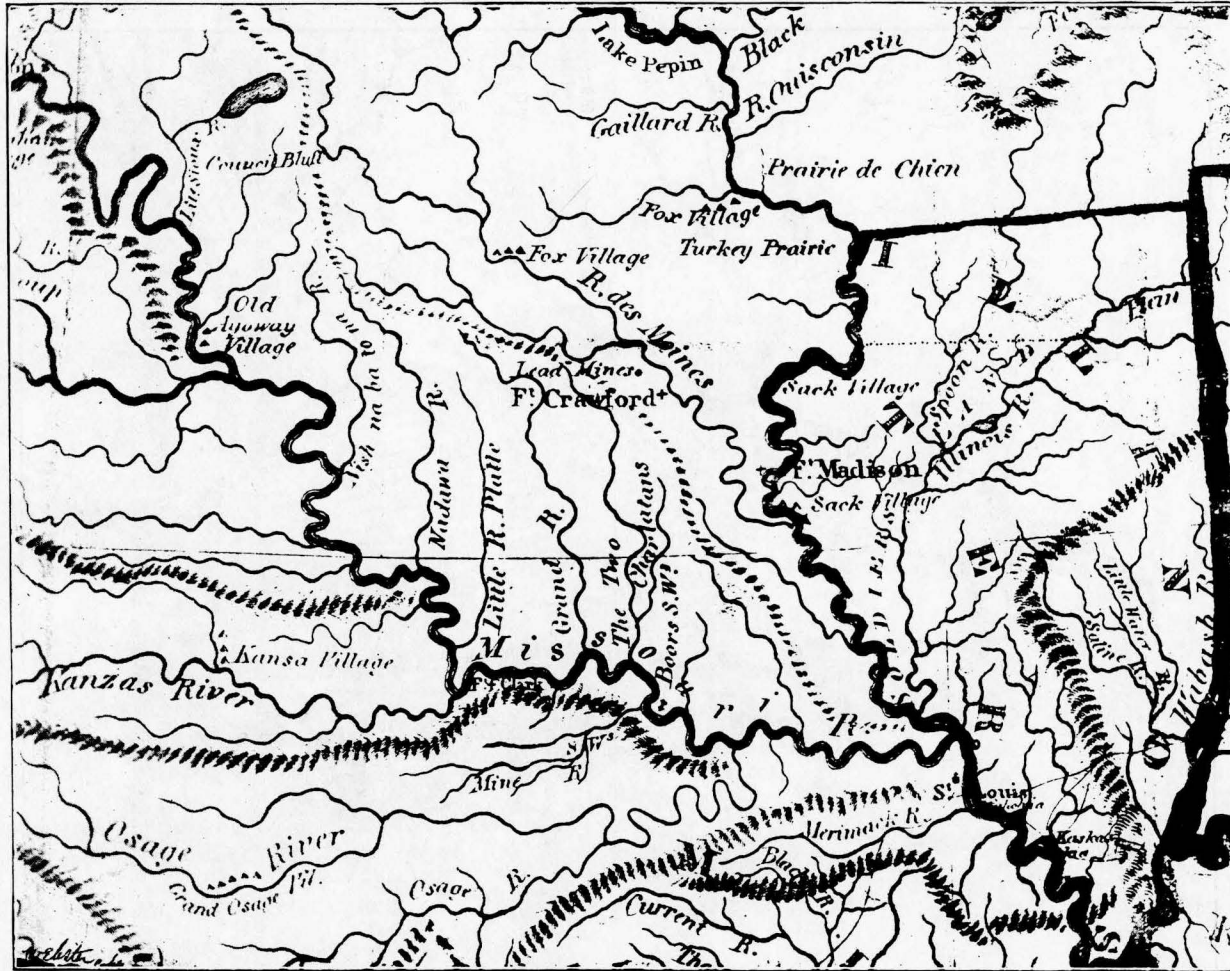
In 1847, there were 127 persons residing at Ft. Des Moines and a floating population of several times that number in the immediate region. It appears that in the entire county of Polk, there was a fixed population of about 1,300. The sale of lots in Ft. Des Moines on the liberal terms of 1/6th of the purchase price down and the balance in three equal installments of six, twelve, and eighteen months, began on the 15th of July, 1846. The first officers elected April 6, 1846 were Reverend Thompson Bird, president of the council; Hoyt Sherman, P. M. Casady, L. B. Sherman, C. B. Reinking, R. W. Sybher, and Jessie L. Dicks, members.

THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME DES MOINES

All historical references tend to agree that the first white men to set foot upon Iowa soil were Missionary Father Marquette and explorer Louis Joliet. It is thought that they landed on Iowa soil on the west side of the Mississippi River near the mouth of the Des Moines River. The Indians called the river the Moingona. The French later established themselves on the Mississippi River and they adopted the Indian name of Moingona.

FIRST LOG CABIN AT FORT DES MOINES





THE MOINGONA OR DES MOINES IN 1763

From "The History of Louisiana, or of the Western Parts of Virginia and Carolina: containing a description of the countries that lye on both sides of the River Mississippi: London, 1763."

Maps published in France and in England show the Moingona River spelled several ways. The French were accustomed to shortening long names and spelling them phonetically. Thus, the river came to be termed ultimately "La Riviere des Moines." Through the years in the publications in this country the following are some of the various spellings of the name: DeMoin, Des Moines, Demoin, Demoir, Demon, and De Moyen.

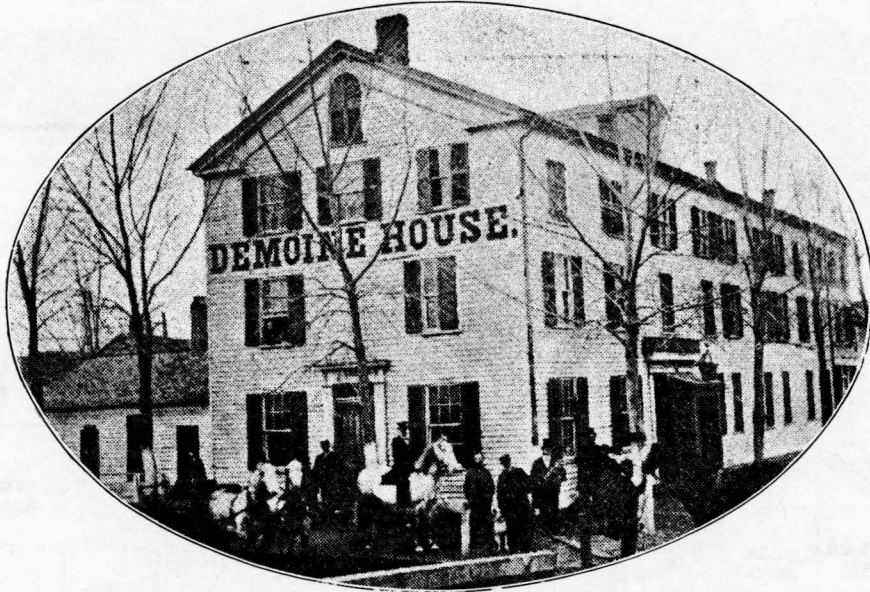
It is pointed out that Noah Webster in the early 1800's was struggling to come up with standard spellings of words. His famous blueback elementary spelling book was published by the American Book Company in the era and was the first attempt to really standardize American spelling nomenclature. Large number of Americans at this time could neither read nor write and thus there was not a very heavy penalty and certainly a great deal of tolerance in regard to various spellings of names and places. Thus we have the several derivations of "Des Moines."

Some writers state but without a great deal of authority that the name Des Moines signifies "the mounds," referring to the many mounds that were to be seen near the mouth of the river and near the Raccoon Forks. Others have written that it applies to the "monks," who were said to have lived in huts on the bank of the river near its mouth on the Mississippi. Bancroft speaking of the visit of Marquette and Joliet says, "The river was the Mon-in-gon-eno or Moingoun of which we have corrupted the name into Des Moines." In any event Des Moines with its various spellings was quickly applied to the river that was the largest stream in Iowa between the Mississippi and the Missouri Rivers.



MAP OF IOWA

As It Would Have Been Had the Constitution of 1844 Been Adopted with Boundaries Fixed by Congress



THE OLD DEMOINE HOUSE
1st and Walnut



Mulberry Street
Probably looking east from Sixth to Fifth
Street

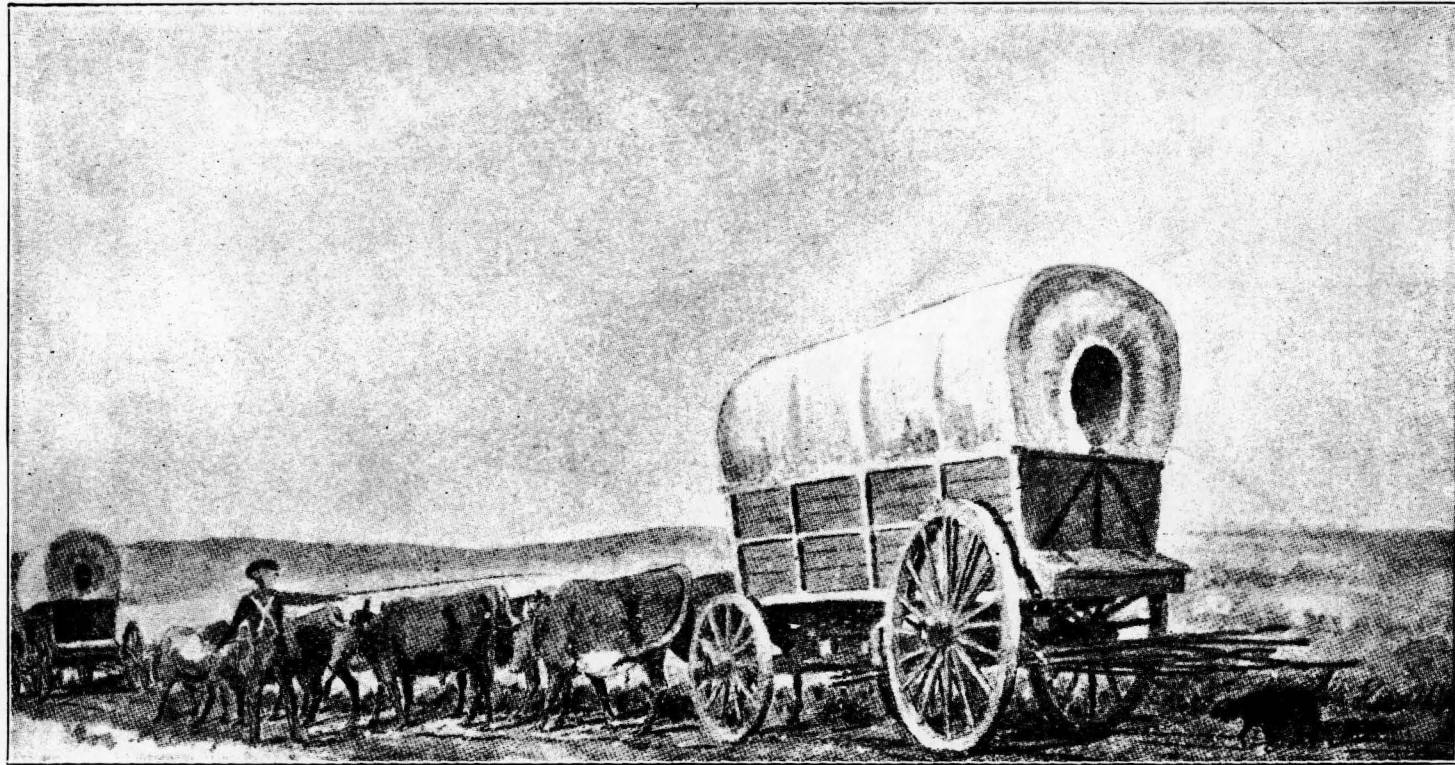


Probably looking north on Fourth Street from
Court Avenue

THE WESTWARD MOVEMENT

Probably the most important and certainly the most interesting element of prosperity except that of opening of farms and founding of business houses, was the travel to and from the east and west through Ft. Des Moines. The migration of the Morman Church from Nauvoo across southern Iowa to Council Bluffs, then to Salt Lake City, began in the spring of 1846. Missionaries who had been reaping harvests of converts in eastern states and even in Europe were sending their recruits to Nauvoo, Illinois, when the expulsion from that city occurred. Many of the Mormans in 1846 traveled through the southern part of Iowa on a course between Utica and Van Buren County and Lewiston in Cass County. In 1847, 1848, 1849 and each year thereafter until 1856, these immigrants thronged to the road through Iowa City, Marengo, and Ft. Des Moines onward to join the Morman trace at Lewiston and then to Council Bluffs which was their outfitting place for the big trip across the plains to Salt Lake City.

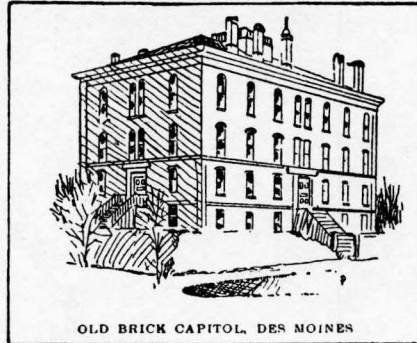
Ft. Des Moines was the "jumping off place" from 1849 to about 1856 for a large part of the moving population of America as they started early in the springtime and avoided the hilly passage across the Des Moines river. Many of them took the easy level of the dragoon trail up through Agency, Dalonega, Oskaloosa, and Pella. Some of the ambitious travelers forced themselves ahead of the growing of grass into the environment of Des Moines and waited there until messengers came from the Nebraska and Colorado plains with word that there was now enough green grass there to maintain the livestock for them to begin advancing westward. This congestion while an interesting and important matter in the life of Ft. Des Moines, was of course a big phenomenon at Council



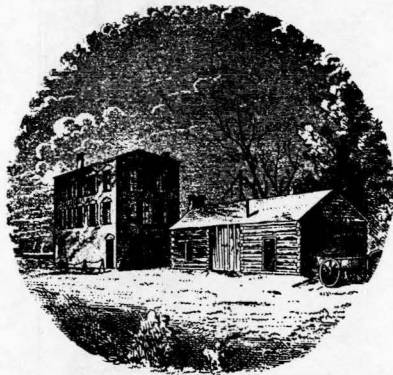
EMIGRANTS COMING TO IOWA, FROM 1833 TO 1854



Old Indian Agency at Des Moines
(From a daguerreotype)



Old Brick Capitol, Des Moines



First Brick Building in Des Moines, built
by Jim Campbell at 'Coon Point



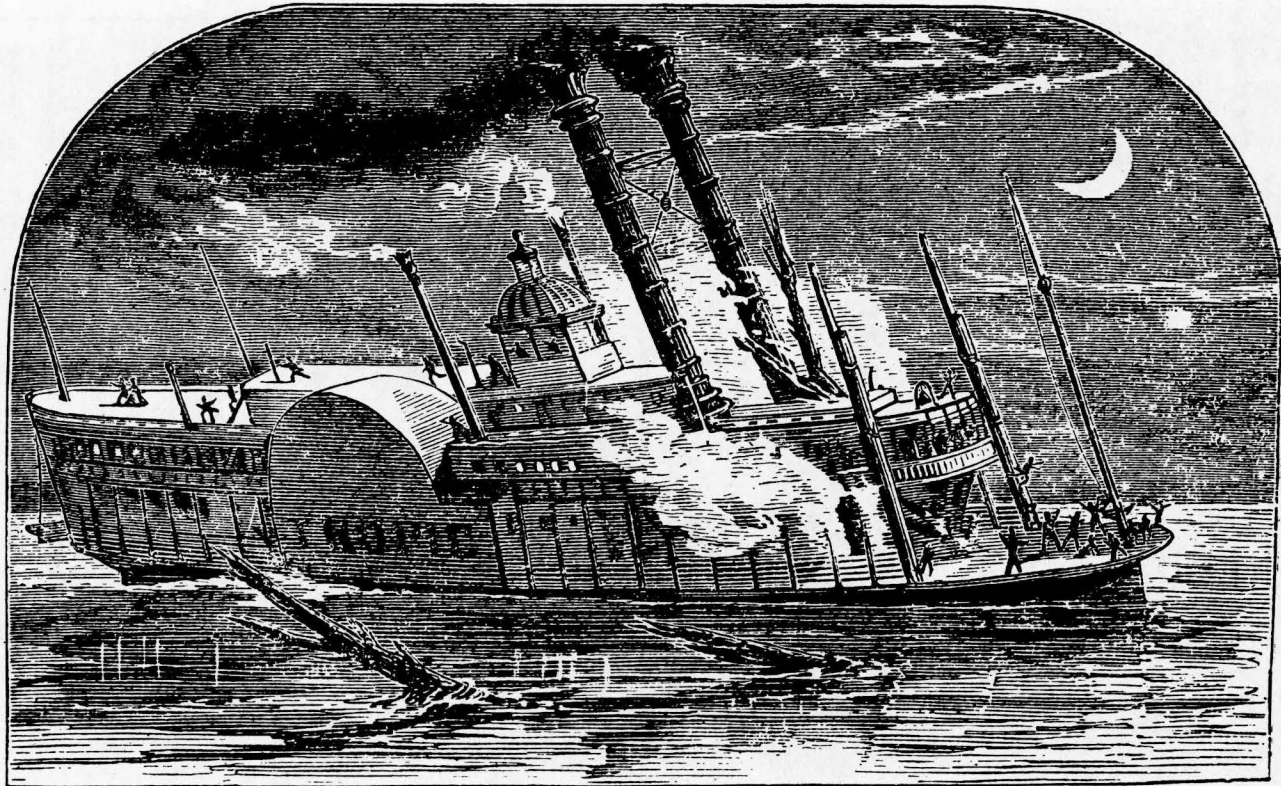
First Public School building in Des Moines, at
Ninth and Locust Streets, built in
1855 at a cost of \$11,000. Torn
down in 1869

Bluffs. As indicating an amount of travel, a Des Moines pioneer conversant with affairs, has left a record that in the spring of 1850 up to May 24th, the ferries at Ft. Des Moines had transferred 1,081 teams. A team was considered all of the animals and equipment going with one four-wheeler and as a rule, the plainsman calculated from three to five persons were with each team. What this meant to the outpost of Ft. Des Moines or the "jumping off place" especially to the industrial share of the population where everything was made by hand from a rifle barrel to a prairie schooner requires little imagination.

The traveling throngs were made up of all sorts of people from mechanics, tradesmen through professional men who had with them means for the expense of themselves and their families and were traveling to the Pacific coast. Many of them possessed courage and shrewdness. It is interesting that many of the level-headed ones decided that the prospects at Ft. Des Moines warranted them settling here. Thus there was an invaluable permanent acquisition to the population of Ft. Des Moines and Polk County and great resources were added during the ten years--1848 to 1858--from this vast throng of travelers.

EARLY RIVER STEAM BOATS

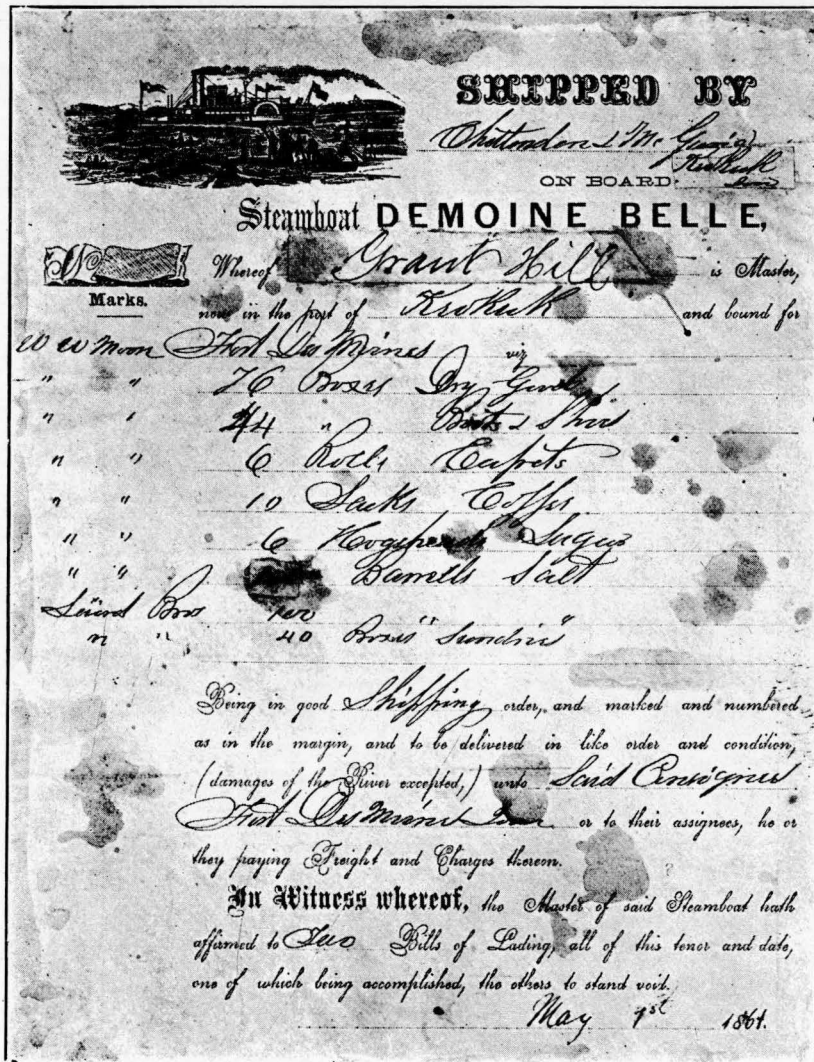
During these early years of the founding of Des Moines and Polk County areas, the Des Moines river played an important part. Indeed throughout the history of civilization the rivers and streams have been regarded as arteries of commerce. Thus, the Des Moines river had been looked upon from the earliest times as the final and principal way from the fertile interior of the new Iowa country to the markets of the world. The U.S. government



A MISSOURI RIVER STEAMER SNAGGED



CERTIFICATE OF STOCK, DES MOINES RIVER STEAMBOAT COMPANY



BILL OF LADING—DEMOINE BELLE

had a policy of improving its inland waterways and this certainly included the Des Moines river. It was the object of engineering skill and navigation and great plans were made for a series of locks and dredging of the depth of the riverbed itself.

A record of business kept at Keosauqua in 1853 showed that the passage of not less than 12 steamboats between Ft. Des Moines and St. Louis and Keokuk. Thus, the river was a factor of transportation considerable if not indispensable up to and including the year of 1862 when a combination of circumstances in the development of the railroads through the region ended the use of steam for commerce.

RAILROAD BOOM IN THE U. S.

The great race for railroad building that swept over the western country in the 50's centered in Iowa at Ft. Des Moines. The first one was the old "Des Moines Valley Road" and later this became the Keokuk and Des Moines branch of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific and was organized in Keokuk as the "Keokuk, Ft. Des Moines and Minnesota Railroad Company." The first locomotive reached Des Moines in August 1866.

STATE CAPITOL

One of the greatest achievements of the local citizens was the removal of the capitol of Iowa to the Fort. While this actually occurred in 1857, it in effect had its beginnings almost ten years earlier. In 1844, when the territory of Iowa was proposed to be admitted to the union as a state, the constitution then offered to define the boundaries as to make its western border not the Missouri River, but a meridian about two-thirds

of the way from the Raccoon Forks to the Missouri River, while that to the north was somewhat beyond and parallel with present state line. Territorially, the center of the state, admitted under the boundary provisions of the constitution of 1844, would have remained more nearly at Iowa City. That constitution was rejected. In 1846, the constitution proposed for the State of Iowa had our present boundary descriptions. Thus, the extending the western edge of the State of Iowa to the Missouri River and bringing the northern boundary down to its present position in 1846, actually gave to Ft. Des Moines the advantage of being more geographically in the center of the state. Considering the lines of communications and the modes of travel, it was indeed logical to settle upon it as a permanent capitol. It was however, the adoption of the constitution in 1846 and a long slow process and campaign waged by the politicians of Ft. Des Moines which resulted in the actual legal and physical removal of the seat of the government of Polk County.

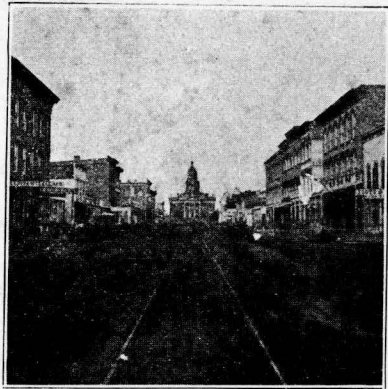
DES MOINES CREATED BY LEGISLATIVE DECREE - 1857

The town of Fort Des Moines ceased to exist and the city of Des Moines was created in an act of the legislature approved by Governor Grimes, January 28, 1857. The ward system was established in the law and seven wards were created for the entire city. Four of these were on the west side of the river with three on the east side with the provision against these being changed within two years after the incorporation. There were two ward districts, one on the east and the other on the west side of the river. The first city council under the new

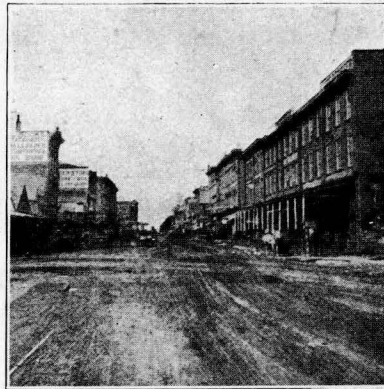
incorporation consisted of W. H. McHenry, mayor; B. D. Thomas, recorder; Benjamin Bryant, treasurer; William Deford, marshal; B. Callan, city engineer; Will Tomlinson, street commissioner on the east side and John MacNamair, street commissioner on the west side.

In 1856-1957, a three-story brick building, measuring approximately 60 x 100 feet, was erected by a group of Des Moines citizens and donated to the State of Iowa for its capitol. The capitol site of 13 acres was donated by Willson Alexander Scott, Harrison Lyon, and others. The Seventh General Assembly of Iowa convened in the "new brick capitol building" on the 11th day of January, 1858. They continued to use this building for about the next 26 years until the present capitol building was completed.

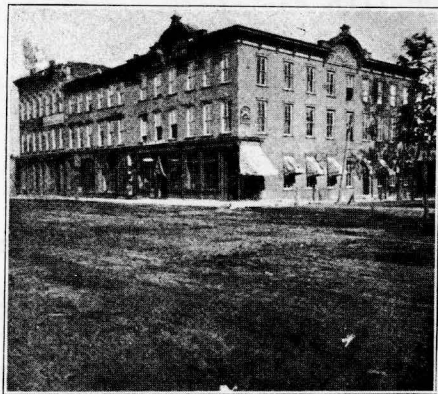
The Civil War brought out some of the finest qualities in the citizens of Des Moines. Along with many other Iowa volunteers who put on the uniform and marched off to war were a number of Des Moines men who became Company D, Second Iowa Infantry. Following the Civil War, Des Moines began a number of campaigns for industrial growth and transportation improvement. The Des Moines Valley Railroad had its first train in August, 1866. The first free bridge across the Des Moines river at Walnut Street was completed in September, 1866. Manufacturers were reported of flour, woolen goods, boots and shoes, blank books, furniture, clothing, harness, stoneware, tinware, copper, and ironware, woodwork, castings, machinery, paper, brick, and beer. The following were licensed to do business: wholesale dealers, 42; wholesale liquor dealers, 6; retail dealers, 149; retail liquor dealers, 42; manufacturers, 72; peddlers, 36; lawyers, 49; real estate brokers, 24; cattle brokers, 16; physicians, 26; insurance agents, 21;



Court Avenue



Walnut Street



B. F. Allen's Banking House.
Fourth and Court Avenue



Fifth Street looking south from Walnut



Walnut Street



Third Street

VIEWS OF DES MOINES IN EARLY DAYS
Probably 1870s or 1880s



FOSTER'S OPERA HOUSE

Now only a memory—long the only high grade theatre in Des Moines

8th & Walnut



AUDITORIUM

North side of Grand between 4th & 5th. Built in 1899 to serve convention needs. It seated 4,500. Used until 1909 when the 'new' and larger Colesium was built at 1st and Locust across from the Library. The Auditorium then served as a movie theatre with stage shows. Some of the upper floors of the Brown Garage are of this original structure.

hotel keepers, 15; eating houses, 14; butchers, 12; claim agents, 9; patent right vendors, 8; photographers, 5; commercial brokers, 5; stallion and jack keepers, 8; liverymen, 6; brewers, 4; bakers, 3; dentists, 5; billiard halls, 3; a gasfitter and an auctioneer.

The first city directory was issued in 1867 and contained 160 pages. In 1866 the first street railway was built. The structural activities in the late 1860's indicated by the report of manufacturers--11,150,000 brick and the handling of over 17,000,000 feet of lumber by local yards. The material prosperity of the city showed in a number of fine residences as well as commercial properties that were constructed on streets radiating out from the center of town. Because of its central location in the state and because of the fact that it was now served by a second railroad that arrived in 1868, the Missouri and Mississippi, which was later named the Rock Island Railroad, there were more and more local conferences and public meetings held in Des Moines. One of the greatest "early" conventions held here was the reunion of the Civil War veterans of Iowa in 1870. Beginning at this time the city took on a special nature and reputation of being a good convention city. Moore's Opera House was erected to take care of this demand for conventions and was open to the general public February 5, 1874.

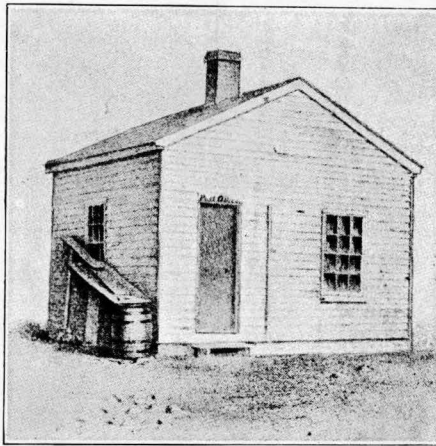
General Grant was a guest of Des Moines in September, 1875, along with General Sherman, General Belnapp, and others at the Ninth Reunion of the Army of the Tennessee.

In 1879, the Iowa State Fair was held under new conditions in the western part of Des Moines in Browns' Park where it was held annually until the present state fairgrounds were acquired in 1885.

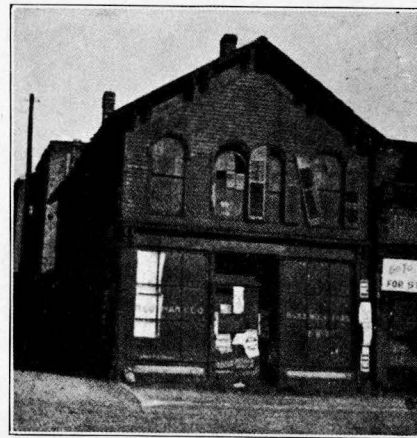
The postoffice was on the 1st floor of the Old Federal Building - 1870



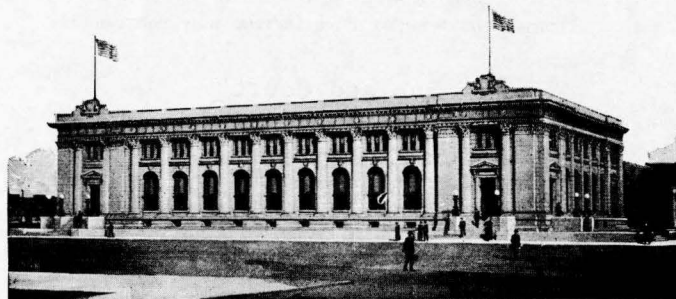
Old Postoffice



The First Postoffice in Des Moines erected by Hoyt Sherman in 1852, on Second Street, near Vine



The Third Postoffice in Des Moines, east side of Third, near Court Avenue Vacated 1870



New Postoffice

The above postoffice at 2nd and Walnut was opened in 1910. It was replaced by the latest postoffice at 2nd and University which opened in 1970.



DES MOINES SECOND COURT HOUSE
Torn down to make place for the new court house

5th and Court

The Northwestern Railroad was finished into the city in 1884 and the new capitol was dedicated in 1885. Electricity was substituted for horsepower on the street railways in 1898. A citizens' committee investigated an outline relief from tax burdens and other civic faults shadowing the greater Des Moines movement and the Des Moines plan of government. This was eventually to take place in 1906 with the Commission Plan of government being put into effect.

In 1881 Drake University was established. It was named for one of its founders, General Francis Marian Drake, who was later elected Governor of Iowa and served from 1896 to 1898.

GOVERNMENT OF DES MOINES

In 1907 Des Moines adopted the Commission System of city government at a special election held on June 30. This new form of local government became effective on April 1, 1908 and was known throughout the United States as the Des Moines Plan. It was based in part upon the Galveston Commission form of government that had attracted a great deal of national attention. The Commission System lasted until 1950 when the Council City Manager system form of government became effective. This system won approval in 1949 by a margin of only 810 votes. It was decided upon because of the weaknesses that became apparent under the Commission form of government that had been adopted in 1908.

Again in 1968 the voters of Des Moines decided to modify the Council City Manager form of government and organized a City Manager-Ward system of city government which became effective January 2, 1968. This was a seven-member council plan with a paid city manager hired by the council. Thus, Des Moines has had the following systems of government:

1. 1857-1907 - The Mayor-Alderman System
2. 1907-1950 - The Commission Plan
3. 1950-1967 - The Council City Manager System
4. 1968---- - The City Manager Ward System

SUMMARY OF POLK COUNTY CENSUS, 1840-1970

Polk County officially antedated the State of Iowa a few months, long enough to include one territorial election. This was held on October 26, 1846. The archives of Iowa hold the original certificate of this election, bringing out not only the small vote of the County in 1846 but also the first division of the County on party lines. In 1846 Polk County voted for a Democratic delegate to Congress by a majority of four votes more than the Whig candidate. Thus, even in 1846 the political power was rather evenly divided between the two great parties inasmuch as the Whig Party tended to become the Republican Party in later years.

The sixth federal census that was taken in 1840 does not record any population in the area that is now Polk County. Limited records for the year 1847 show that the entire population of the County including the northern tier of townships in Warren County, which was then a part of Polk County, was only 1,792.

The first census of the United States in which the State of Iowa has a place is that of 1850. The population of Polk County was placed at that time as being 4,513. Here is a tabulation of U.S. census figures.

1840 - 0	1910 - 110,438
First records 1847 - 1,792	1920 - 154,029
1850 - 4,513	1930 - 172,837
1860 - 11,625	1940 - 195,835
1870 - 27,857	1950 - 224,920
1880 - 42,395	1960 - 266,315
1890 - 65,410	1970 - 286,101
1900 - 82,264	

TOWNSHIPS OF POLK COUNTY

Following the history of Polk county's varying boundaries to the point at which they became fixed--probably for all time--we now turn to a law passed by the Fourth General Assembly, and approved January 14, 1853, entitled "an act to change the boundaries of Warren county," the effect of which was to restore to Warren the northern tier of townships borrowed by Polk in '46--"provided that all that part of township 77 north, of range No. 22 west, which lies north of the Des Moines River shall remain as a part of Polk county," By the act of '53 the boundary line of Warren on the north and Polk on the south--with the one exception noted--was "the line dividing townships 77 north, of range 25 west."

The county of Polk was, on February 2, 1847, divided into four townships,--Des Moines, Madison, Camp and Skunk. The several sub-divisions of these townships are noted in returns made to the Secretary of State in 1882. The township history of the county is epitomized in these returns, of which the following is a summary:

Allen township was organized January 4, 1848; its territory was taken from Des Moines and Richland townships,--the latter now in Warren county; post offices, Avon station and Levey.

Beaver was organized January 9, 1850. It was taken from Camp and Skunk townships; post office, Mitchellville.

Bloomfield was organized September 20, 1858. It was taken from Des Moines township; post office, Sevastopol.

Camp, one of the original townships, parts taken to form Four Mile and Beaver; post offices, Runnells and Adelphi.

Clay was organized in 1878 from parts of Beaver and Delaware; post office, Altoona.

Crocker was organized December 26, 1870 from part of Saylor, etc.; post offices, Trent, Crocker and Ankeny.

Delaware was organized October 9, 1850, from Four Mile and Skunk townships.

Des Moines, one of the original townships. Its territory has since formed parts of Allen, Four Mile, Saylor, etc.

Douglas organized September 6, 1858, from part of Des Moines township; post office, Greenwood.

Elkhart organized 1851, from Des Moines township; post office, Ottawa.

Four Mile, one of the original townships, part taken from Skunk in 1848, and from Delaware in 1850, and part of Camp added to Four Mile in '58; post office, Rising Sun.

Franklin organized from Des Moines township, March 6, 1856.

Grant organized September 7, 1870. Renamed Union.

Jefferson organized January 2, 1851, post offices Lincoln, Clive, Ridgedale and Towner's Lake. Part of its territory was transferred to Walnut in 1860.

Lee was organized September 28, 1857. Part of Four Mile was attached to Lee, September 21, 1858.

Lincoln was organized December 26, 1870; post offices Sheldahl and Palmer.

Madison, one of the four original townships. Its territory has since formed parts of Lincoln, Crocker, Saylor, etc.; post office, Polk City.

Saylor was organized from Des Moines and Madison townships, January 4, 1848; post office, Saylorville.

Skunk, one of the four original townships, absorbed, first, in part, by Four Mile, and later, by Washington, Elkhart, and Franklin.

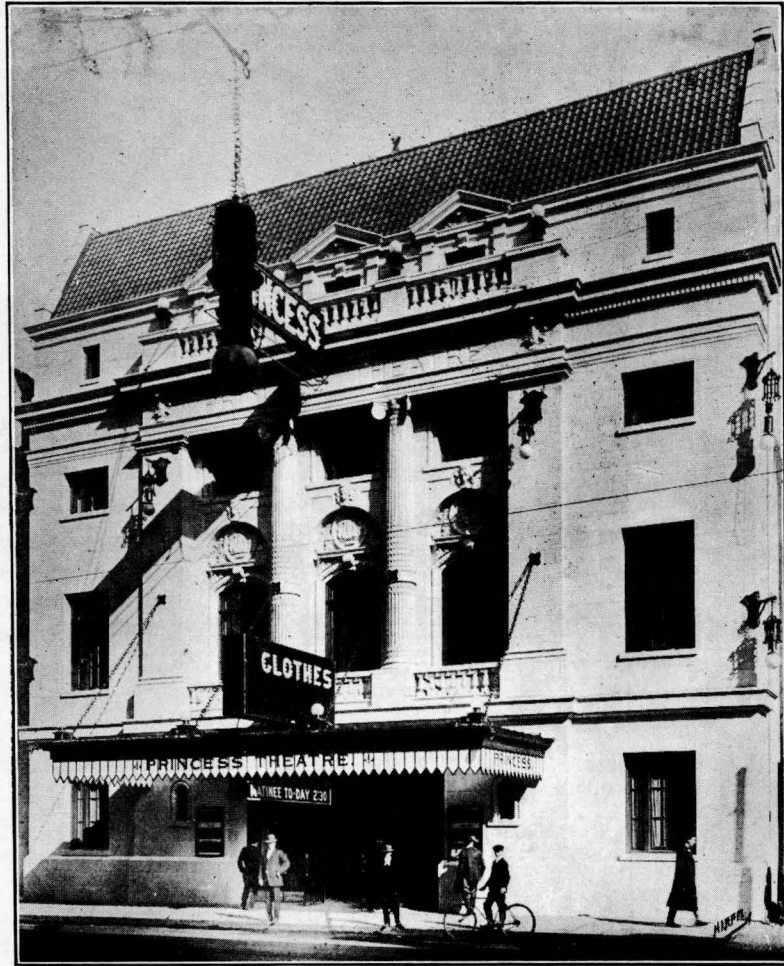
Union was originally named Grant.

Valley was organized March 26, 1860, from Des Moines and Jefferson townships. Valley Township was absorbed by other areas and has ceased to exist.

Walnut was organized January 7, 1860, from Jefferson and Des Moines townships; post offices, Commerce and Ashewa.

Washington was organized from Des Moines township, March 6, 1856; post office, Peoria City.

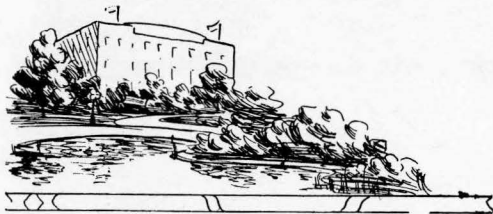
Webster was organized in 1878, from territory in Walnut township.

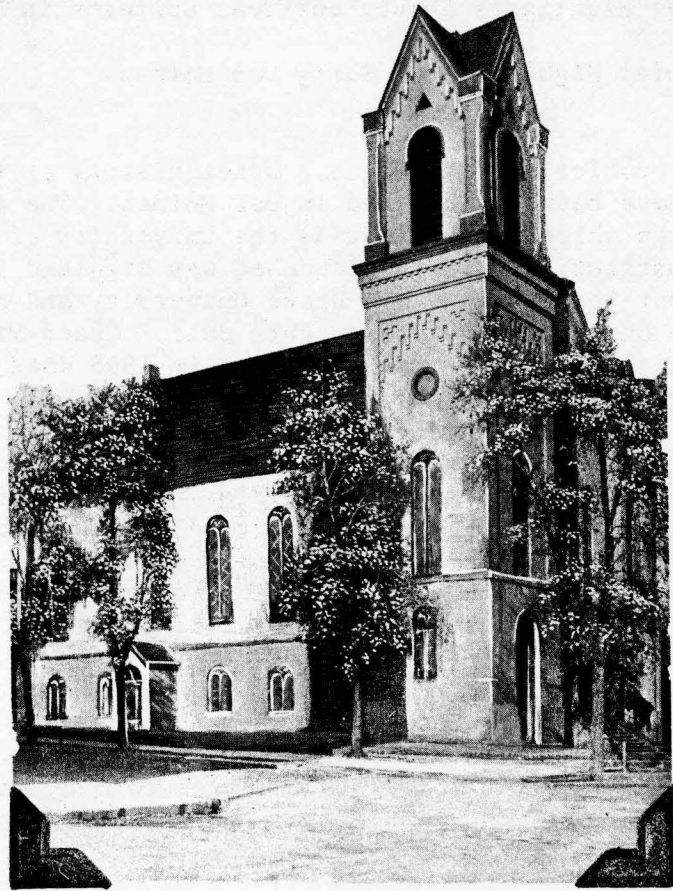


PRINCESS THEATRE
4th Street between Locust & Walnut



Federal Building





Central Presbyterian Church, 8th and High
replaced by Bankers Life Building



Historical Highlights About Four-Year Colleges in Des Moines

Pictorial Highlights of Early Des Moines

This section of the booklet is devoted to a brief history of the four-year colleges that have been established in Des Moines. The first was Des Moines College which started out as the University of Des Moines. Another four-year institution that was launched was Highland Park College. A third four-year college was Drake University and of the three it is the only one that survives to this date. Grand View College and Theological Seminary which was begun in 1895 does continue today as an outstanding junior college in Iowa.

Other pages in this section are devoted to pictures of a number of fine homes built in the early part of the 1900's. A number of these have been demolished to make way for the increased urbanization of Polk County and Des Moines. They have been replaced by high-rise apartment buildings, retirement homes, office buildings, and other commercial ventures. Some of these homes are still standing today and are indeed still family residences.

Many of the buildings in street scenes in downtown Des Moines no longer exist, having become victim to the wrecker's destruction ball. The one view of Piety Hill may bring nostalgic memories to many who recall some of the clusters of early churches that occupied several square blocks around 8th to 9th and High to Pleasant.

It is hoped that many of the individual pictures of former homes, businesses, and scenes around Des Moines may help to recreate pleasant memories on the part of the reader. In a like manner several pages of "advertising" at the end of the book may help you strike some long-past memories of movie theaters, downtown soda fountains, businesses, and department stores, many of which have ceased to exist.

In a small way, may the pictorial section serve to rekindle and recreate some of the early scenes in Des Moines. Using the remark that each picture is worth a thousand words, may these help create several small volumes of memories for the reader.

FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES

Several four-year colleges have been launched in Des Moines and Polk County; Des Moines College, 1864-1918; Drake University, 1881-continuing; Highland Park College, 1889-1918; Des Moines University, 1919-1929. Of these institutions, only Drake University has had the vigor, stamina, and leadership to survive to the present day.

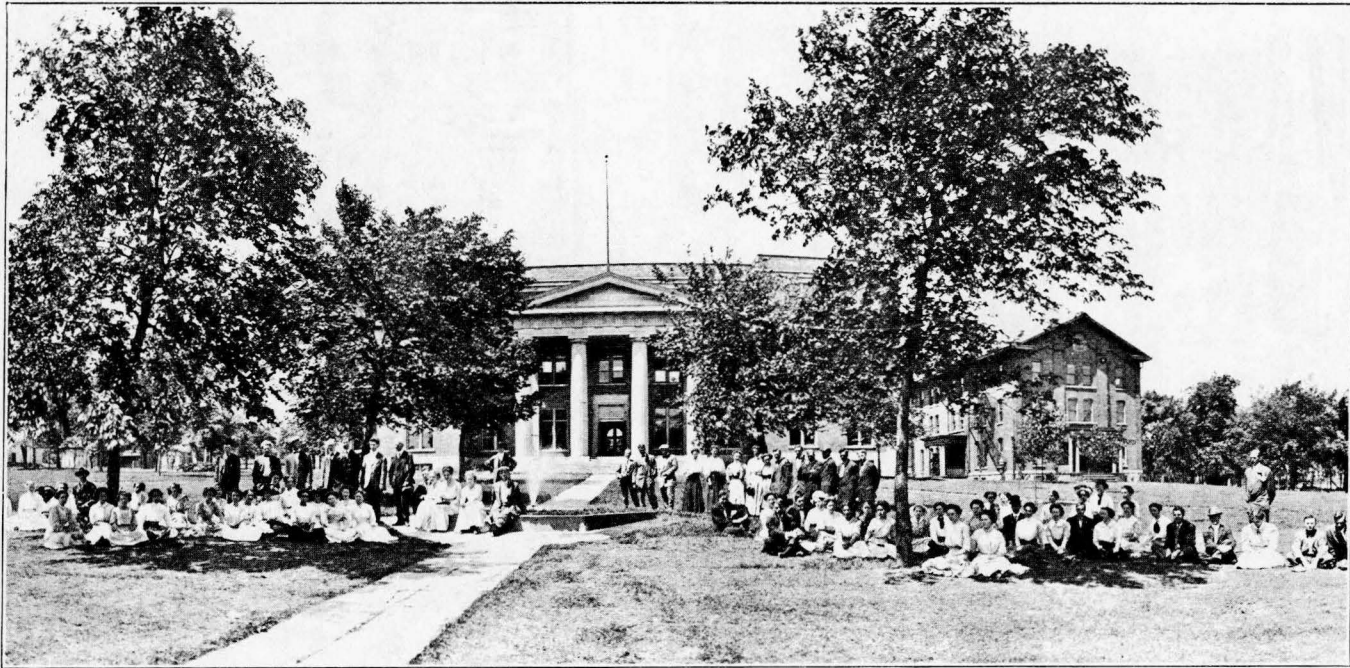
It is pointed out that Grand View College and Theological Seminary was launched in 1895. It continues today as a prominent junior college in Iowa which has the unique distinction of offering the third year as one of its options.

The story of Des Moines College is one that carries a great many of the highs and lows of human endeavor. It carries a great deal of high hope and lofty ideals coming into conflict with the pride of individuals who wish to support a college in another city. In this case, there was a great deal of dissension within the ranks of the Baptist Church members in regard to supporting a new college in Des Moines or supporting more adequately an institution called Central University at Pella, Iowa.

In October, 1862, at the Baptist State Convention held in Des Moines, several of the delegates were charged to survey the new settlements of northwest Iowa in regard to the possible establishment of a new college. On their report as they passed through Des Moines, they noticed an abandoned Luthern College building--a three-story brick structure--which had long since passed into the hands of creditors. It was located near the present corner of 15th and Woodland Avenue.

The delegation seized upon this as a unique opportunity to buy a good building at bargain rates. They called upon the local pastor, Rev. J. A. Nash, and asked his advice. Rev. Nash was at that time conducting along with his pastoral work a seminary of learning called Forest Home School. The seminary at that time was located near 9th and Forest Avenue. Rev. Nash was most agreeable to the project and indeed said that he had a vision of a great Baptist University which would be founded in Des Moines.

At subsequent Baptist conventions, delegates from Burlington and Pella, each community with a church college of its own, expressed fear that a new institution might be in competition with them for students and affect their efforts to pay off their indebtedness. They delayed. It was not until 1864 that agreement was reached to purchase the building and to begin a Des Moines College. The articles of incorporation read, "to establish, support, and govern in Des Moines...a university to consist of a primary department, an academy, and a college and such other departments appropriate to the university as patrons and trustees shall find themselves able and shall deem it advisable to maintain; said university to be forever under the special control of the Baptist denomination."



DES MOINES COLLEGE
9th & College
1910



East High School
East 12th and Court



West High High School
15th and Center

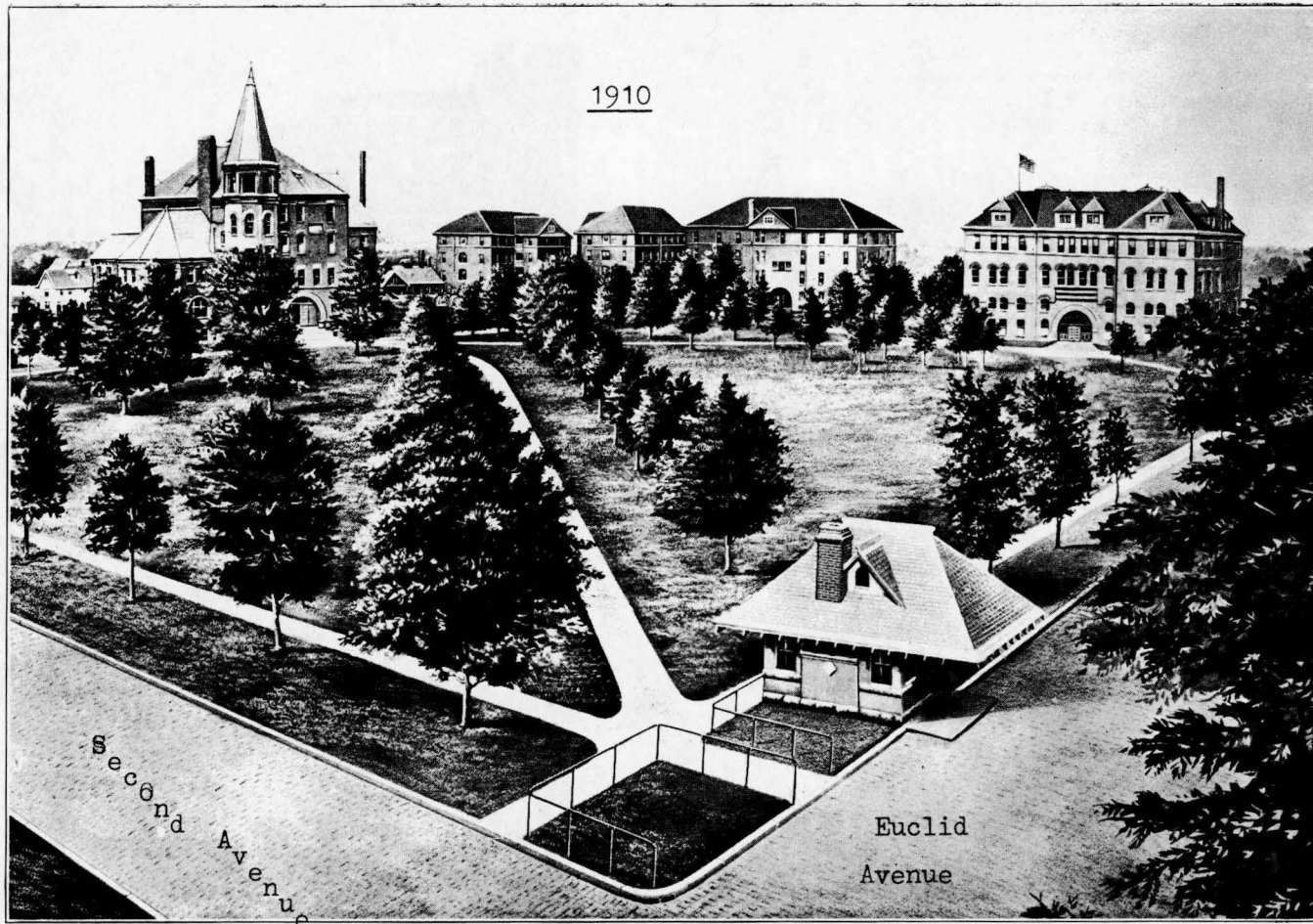
The University of Des Moines began its existence at the 15th and Woodland address and remained there until the old campus was abandoned for a new site on West 9th and College. The old building was taken down and re-erected on the north side of the new campus. Contracts were let immediately for the erection of a new and larger main administration building. It was to be complete with Greek columns to give it an appropriate college atmosphere. College financing continued to be a real problem because of the conflict between Pella University and the University of Des Moines. Continuing at each of the annual Baptist conventions, there was a question of whether there would be but one Baptist university in the State of Iowa which would be the recipient of funds and support of the church. Early in 1899, the Des Moines Board changed the name of the institution from University of Des Moines to Des Moines College. Des Moines College later purchased from the Presbyterians, Highland Park College and moved to the latter's campus at Second and Euclid.

The name of the new institution in 1918 ultimately became Des Moines University. Des Moines University existed from 1918 until it closed in 1929. But first the beginnings of this was in Highland Park College which was organized in 1889 by a company of businessmen in Des Moines. They were real estate men basically interested in North Des Moines and Highland Park.

Highland Park College had some problems in 1889 with the erection of new buildings due to strikes but attendance for the first year was some 825 students. The attendance for the second year of operation was over 1200 and the third year, 1500. The panic of 1893 was disastrous to many of the men behind the college and there were financial troubles for the next few years. However, it was reorganized in 1896 and a large science hall was erected. An engineering college was launched. The engineering department was inspected by the government and placed upon the list of approved government engineering schools. The college of pharmacy was admitted to the ranks of the pharmacy schools society of the nation. The Normal College was first accredited in accordance with the new normal law of Iowa. Henry Sabin, a former State Superintendent of Education, headed up the department of pedagogy, and enrollment, both with the residence normal school and its correspondence school, included some 800 to 900 students.

In January, 1911 the school was transferred to the Presbyterian Church and later was accepted by the Presbytery of Des Moines. The Highland Park College operation remained largely unchanged under the Presbyterian Board. Its growth continued at a slow but regular pace. It is estimated that approximately 40,000 students attended Highland Park College in the first 25 years. The school had eight colleges and an extension division. It encompassed a wide range of studies with a number of short courses being one of the features of the offerings.

In 1918 the school was purchased by the Baptist Church. Its name was changed to Des Moines University. The Des Moines College campus at 9th and College was closed and all facilities concentrated at the Highland Park College site. The purpose of the college remained about the same as under the Baptists and there was a continuity in the faculty and student body.

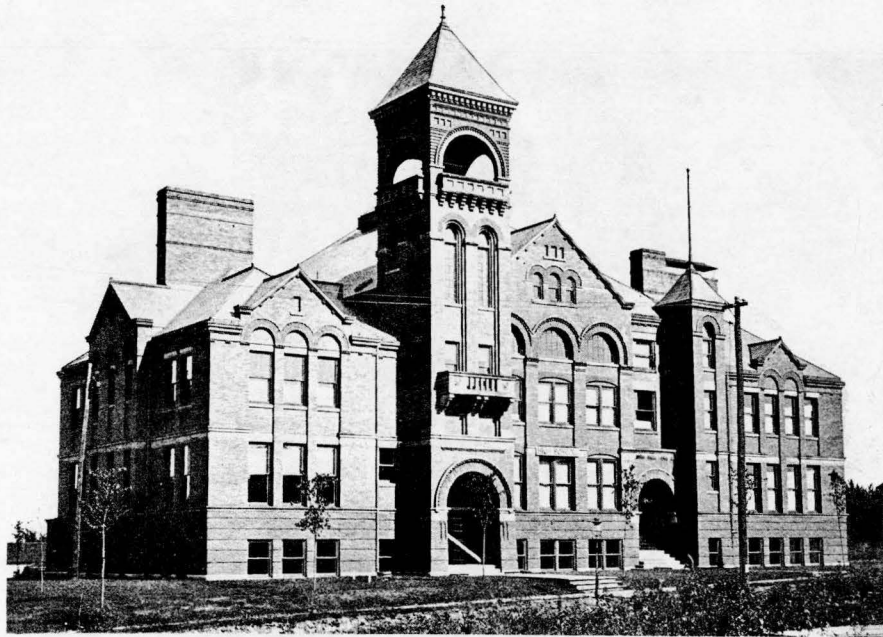


1910

Second Avenue

Euclid Avenue

HIGHLAND PARK COLLEGE



North High School

8th and College



Forest Home School

13th Place and Forest

In 1927, the University was purchased by a fundamentalist church group known as the Baptist Bible Union of North America. Although Dr. Harry Wayman was inaugurated as the president of the university, Dr. T. T. Shields of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, president of the Bible Union and president of the university board of trustees, was the man in power.

The Baptist Bible Union required that all faculty members of the university agree to the 18 articles of faith of the union. Needless to say, staff members started to resign and leave for other positions. The most eminent of these to leave at the first was Dean Kagy of the pharmacy department. Prior to his resignation, Kagy was questioned about his religious belief and being a Unitarian, he said that he knew "my faith was not sanctioned by the Bible Union." Very quickly, Dean Kagy and Professor Earle Galloway teamed to propose a new College of Pharmacy to be located in downtown Des Moines. Carl Weeks, President of the Armand Company, joined with Dr. Lowell Chamberlin, Frank Waterbury, Fred W. Fitch, and R. M. Gibson in backing this new school. Thus, the new pharmacy school opened after only a short time of preparation and took all but two of the 72 pharmacy students from Des Moines University.

Incidentally, the Des Moines College of Pharmacy continued until 1939 when it became a part of Drake University and Kagy continued as the Dean of the College of Pharmacy at Drake until his retirement in 1941.

STUDENT PROTESTS

The students of the 1970's would be interested to learn that in the 1920's the faculty was not the only target of the new Des Moines University administration. Restrictions were clamped on students also. Tensions between school administration, faculty, and students multiplied until there was a confrontation in the spring of 1929.

Dr. Shields and a Miss Edith Rebman, secretary of the board of trustees, criticized student behavior. Miss Rebman said that she was "shocked" at a dance given in a vaudeville skit at the school. The three girl students who participated in the vaudeville skit where they turned old-fashioned cartwheels were taken before a disciplinary committee for action. In the meantime another interesting action was taken when Dr. Shields and Miss Rebman were accused of moral turpitude. After an investigation the board of trustees repudiated the charges.

A short time after being cleared by the board of trustees, Dr. Shields announced "that the entire faculty has been dismissed." This was on May 11, 1929. Such action prompted hundreds of students to join in a march on the administration building. Police helped disperse the marchers but it was only a temporary lull in the storm. That evening some five trustees, Dr. Shields, and Miss Rebman were meeting in the administration building when approximately 150 students gathered in front of the locked doors.

The students threw rotten eggs and rocks at the building. Windows were broken. Some of the mob broke through the front door and ran

through the building in a futile attempt to find the school officials. The trustees and Dr. Shields and Miss Rebman were at this time hiding in a closet under a stairway.

The police arrived and put an end to the hour-long demonstration. About 11:00 p.m. Dr. Shields and the trustees left by train for Toronto, Canada. They were given police protection to the Rock Island depot with students following the escort. Thus, in May, 1929, the end came to Des Moines University. The official closing came September 2, 1929 when the board of trustees announced the school would be discontinued.

The buildings stood vacant all through the 1930's and early 1940's. All of the science equipment was in its place in the science laboratories just as it had been left in 1929. Books were on shelves, desks were in place, and the still trim orange and black Des Moines University banners hung alongside of instrument cases in the music department. Band uniforms were hung neatly in closets. In 1939 the administration building burned in a spectacular fire.

ALFRED LAWSON PURCHASES CAMPUS

In 1943, Alfred W. Lawson, founder of Lawsonomy, purchased the main campus of old Des Moines University plus approximately 150 nearby residential lots for \$80,000. Mr. Lawson who held basic patents in aviation founded a cult that had certain specific teachings about "suction" and "inpenetrability" and "other basic knowledge of the universe." His philosophy had devised certain specific laws that pertained to mankind, economics, and the universe. He had devised a Lawsonomy course for individuals to pursue so that they would be knowledgeable in his ideas. It took 30 years to complete the course.

Lawson erected a high fence around the property and operated with a degree of secrecy and mystery that intrigued the citizens of Des Moines. Members of the cult lived in some of the dormitories and kept pretty much to themselves.

LAWSON SELLS SITE FOR PARK FAIR SHOPPING CENTER

Lawson kept the property and his Des Moines University of Lawsonomy going for 11 years. In 1954 he sold the property to F. A. DePuydt, a Des Moines businessman for \$250,000. It became the site for the Park Fair Shopping Center. All of the buildings were demolished with the exception of the gymnasium on the east corner of the campus. This was the newest of the DMU buildings and was converted into what in 1972 is the Western Auto store. It is a two-story building with the gymnasium roofed over for a sales floor on the top level.

The one division of the old Des Moines University (or Highland Park College) that still survives is that of the pharmacy college which is now a division of Drake University.

DRAKE UNIVERSITY

Drake University had its beginnings initially as Oskaloosa College which was chartered in 1857. A convention of Churches of Christ in Iowa had chosen Oskaloosa because of their \$30,000 dollar

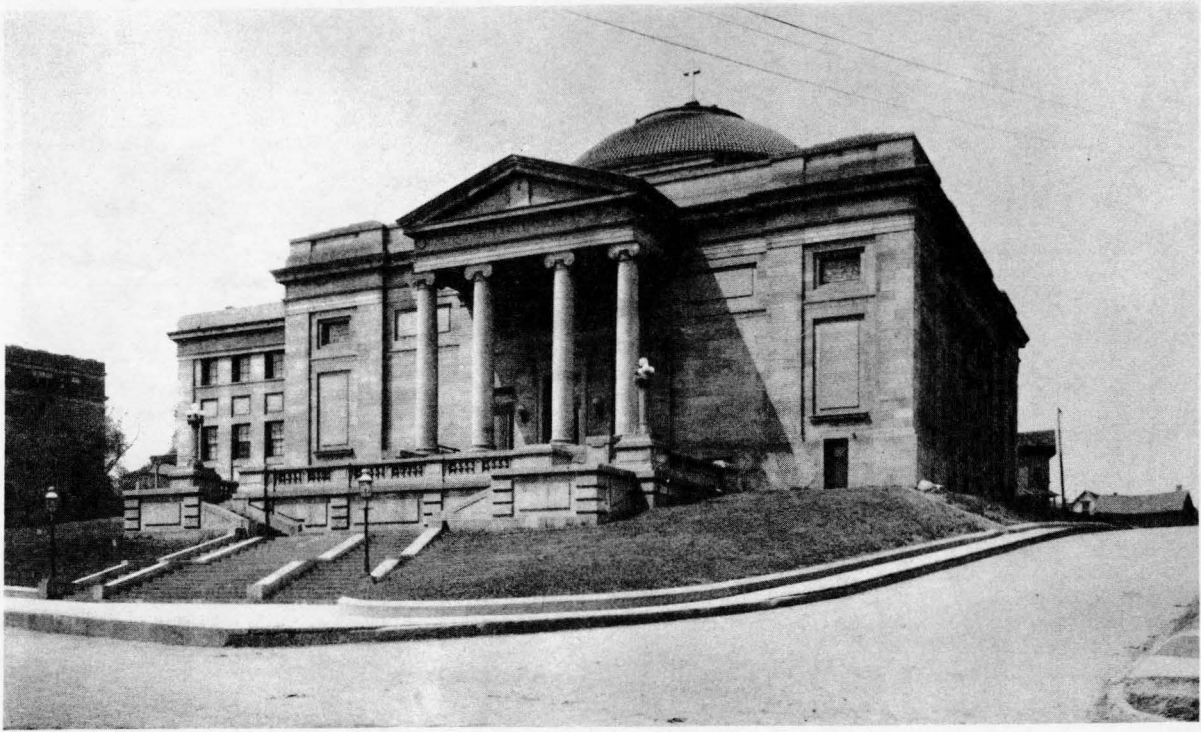


RESIDENCE OF DR. W. W. PEARSON.

1914



RESIDENCE OF J. H. COWNIE.



FIRST M. E. CHURCH.

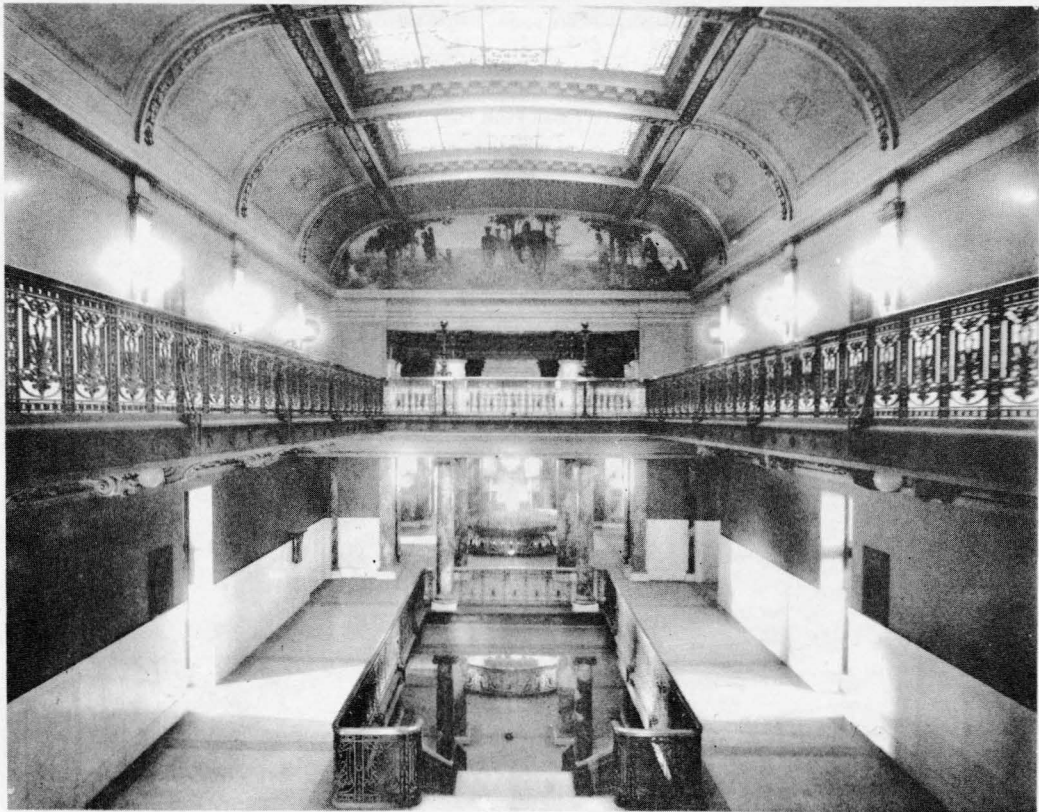
1914



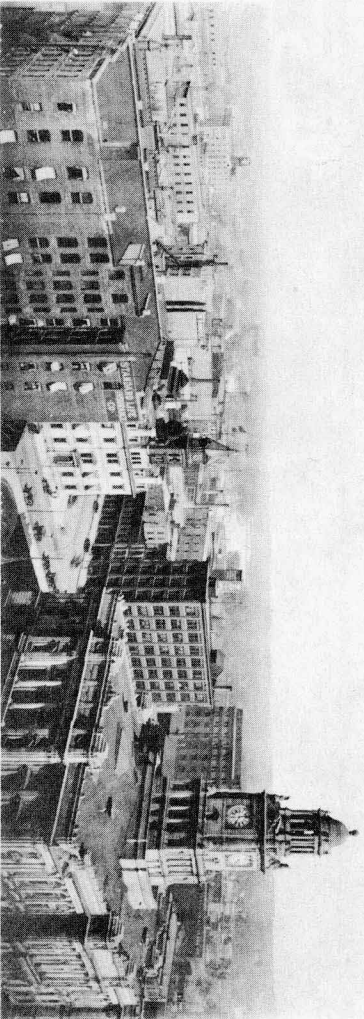
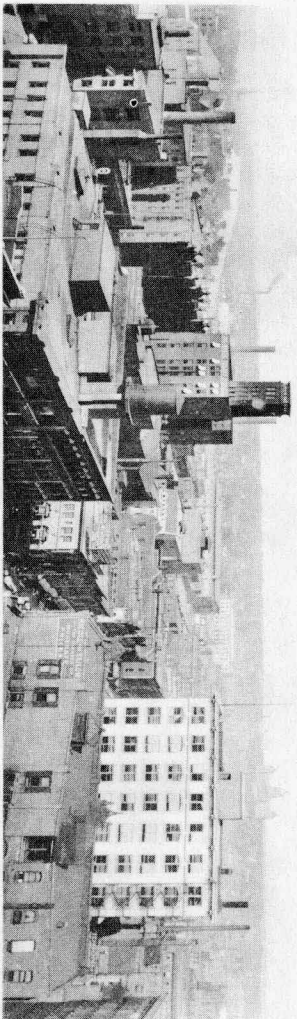
Y. W. C. A.



POLK COUNTY COURT HOUSE.
1914

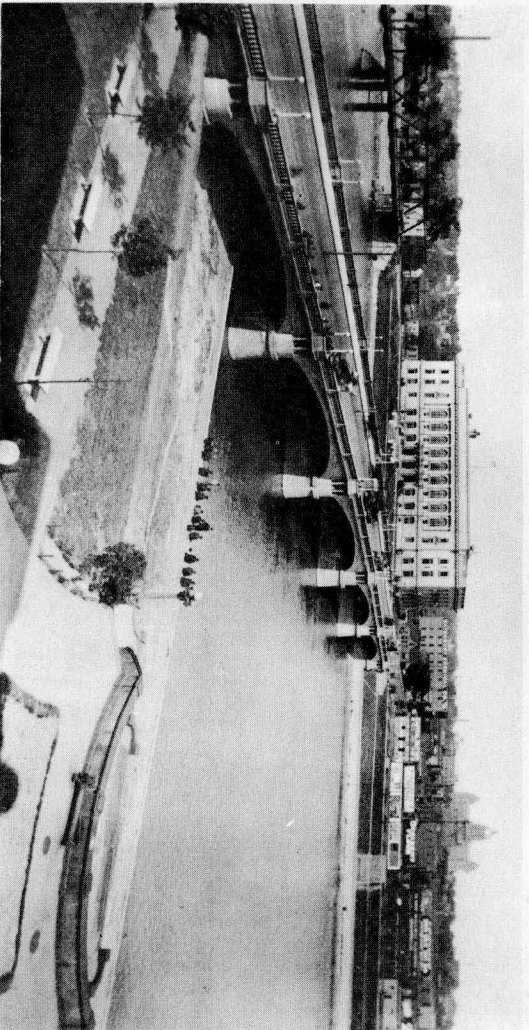


INTERIOR POLK COUNTY COURT HOUSE.



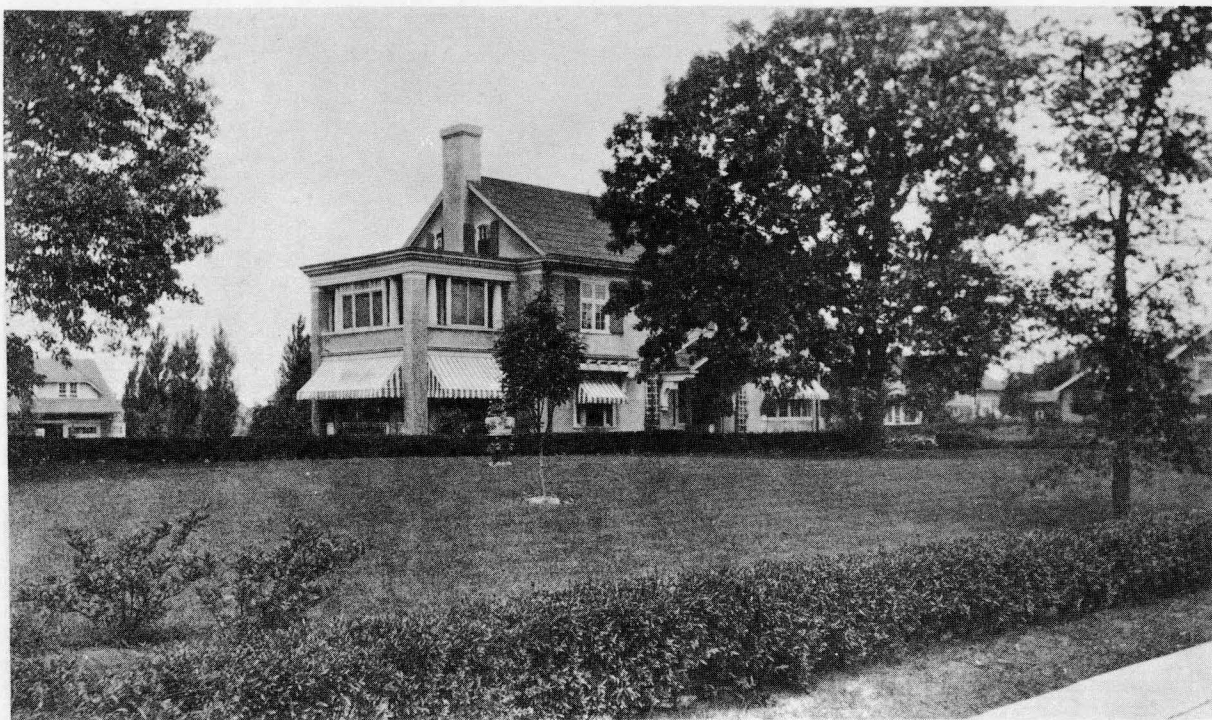
BIRDEYE VIEWS FROM FLEMING BUILDING.

1914



LOOKING EAST FROM PUBLIC LIBRARY.

1914



RESIDENCE OF E. T. MEREDITH.

1914



RESIDENCE OF F. C. WATERBURY.

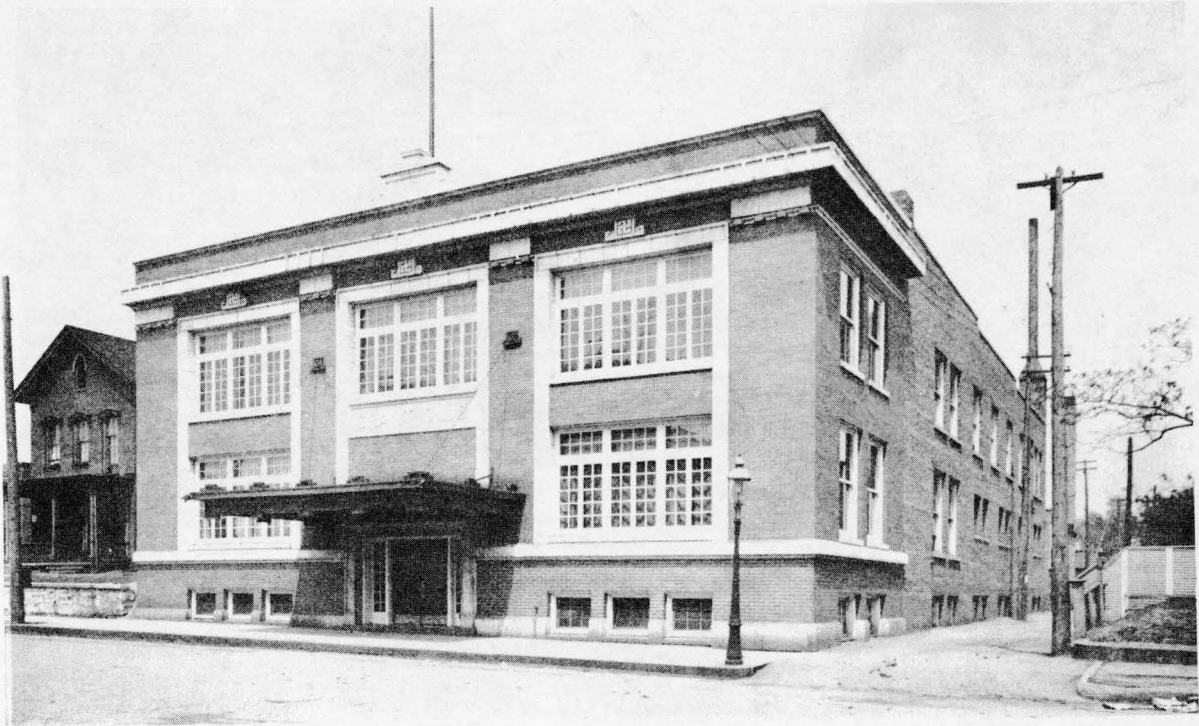


GRENEDEN—RESIDENCE OF FRANK O. GREEN.

1914



RESIDENCE OF D. S. CHAMBERLAIN.



GRANT CLUB.

1914



Y. M. C. A.



RESIDENCE OF F. A. SPENCER.

1914



RESIDENCE OF CARL J. KURTZ.



RESIDENCE OF C. R. PROUTY.

1914



RESIDENCE OF CHAS. H. WEITZ.

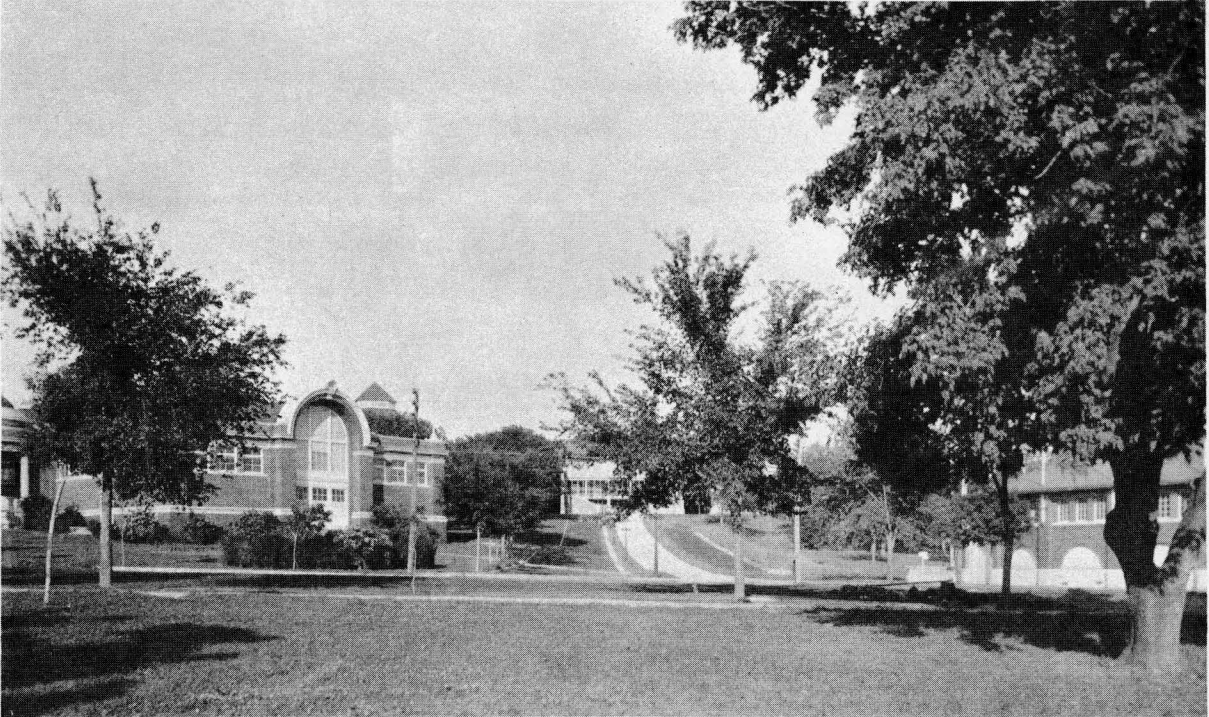


RESIDENCE OF C. L. HERRING.

1914



RESIDENCE OF ADDISON M. PARKER.

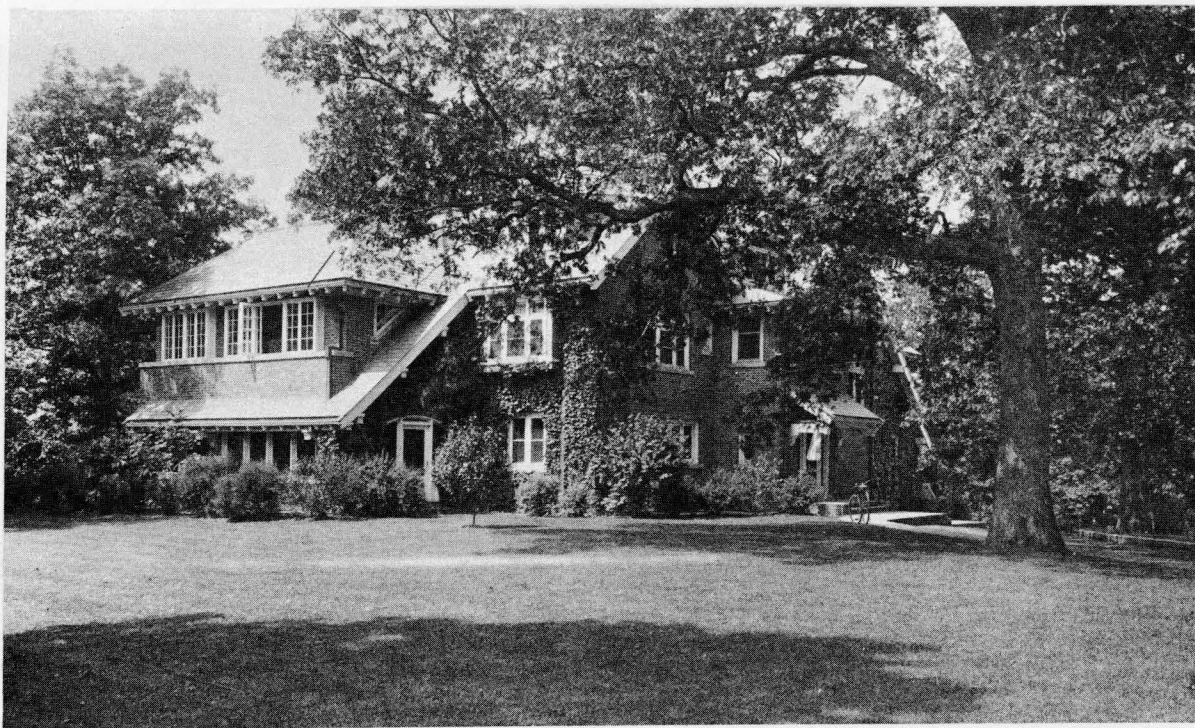


IOWA STATE FAIR GROUNDS.

1914

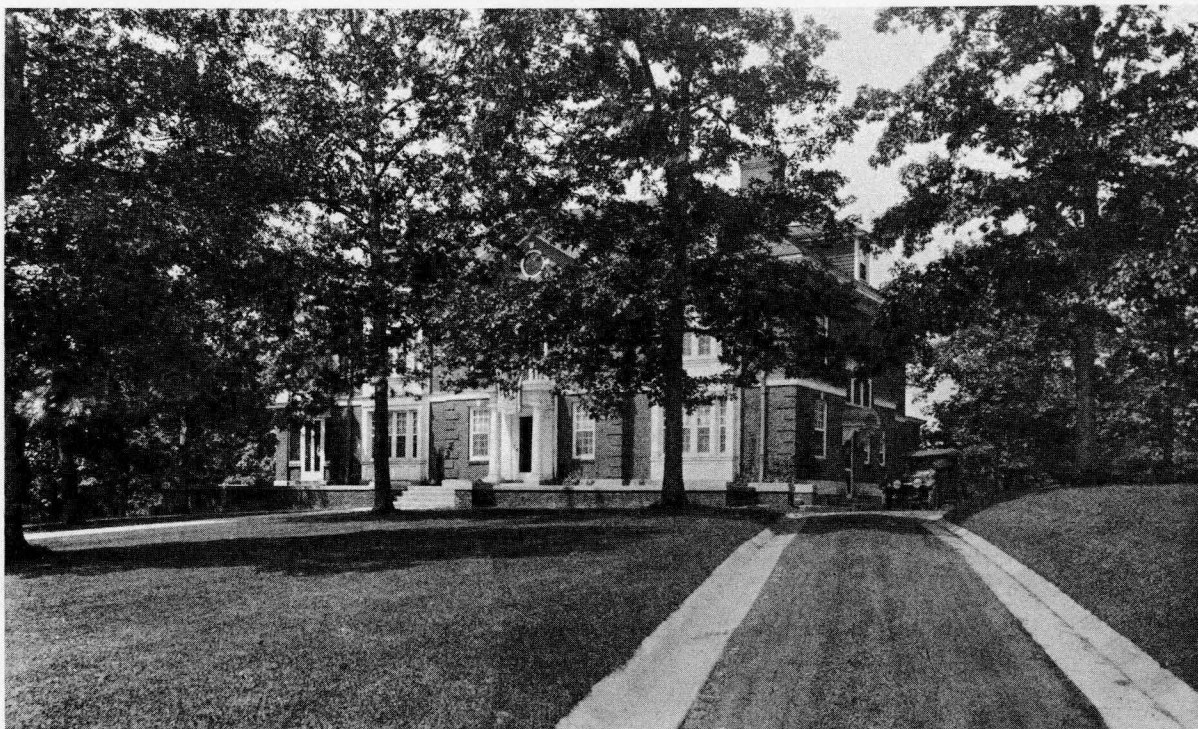


HIGHLAND PARK COLLEGE.

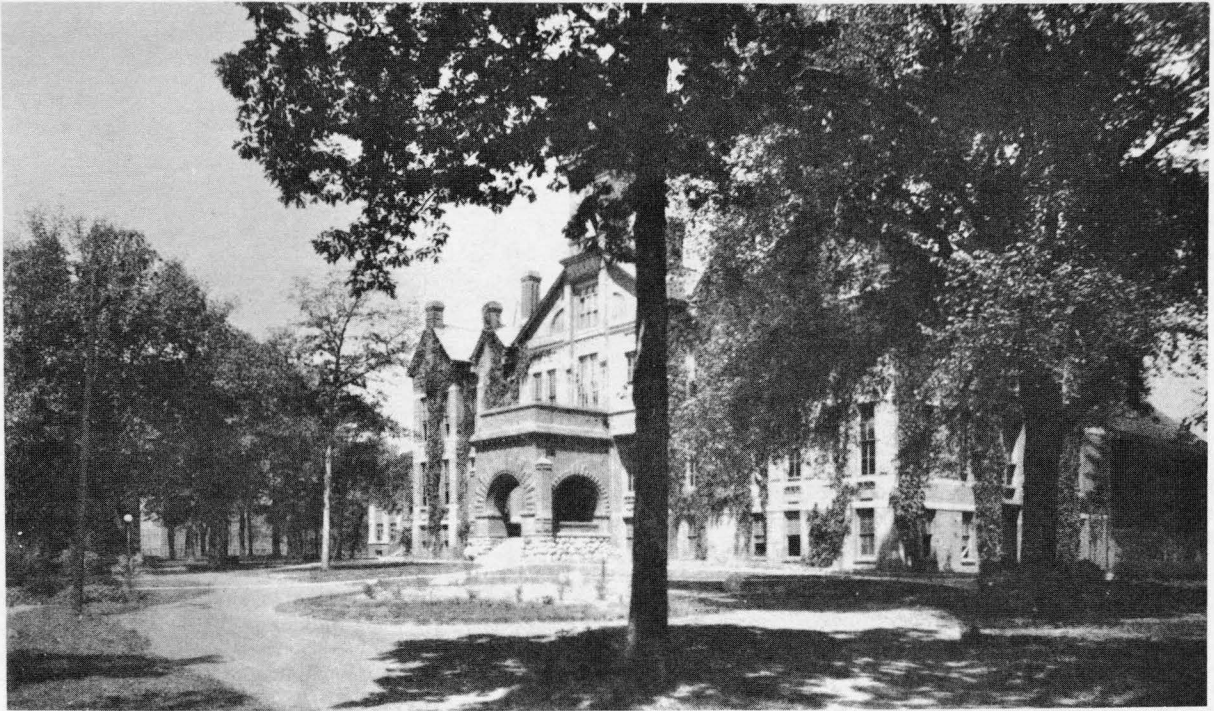


RESIDENCE OF GARDNER COWLES.

1914



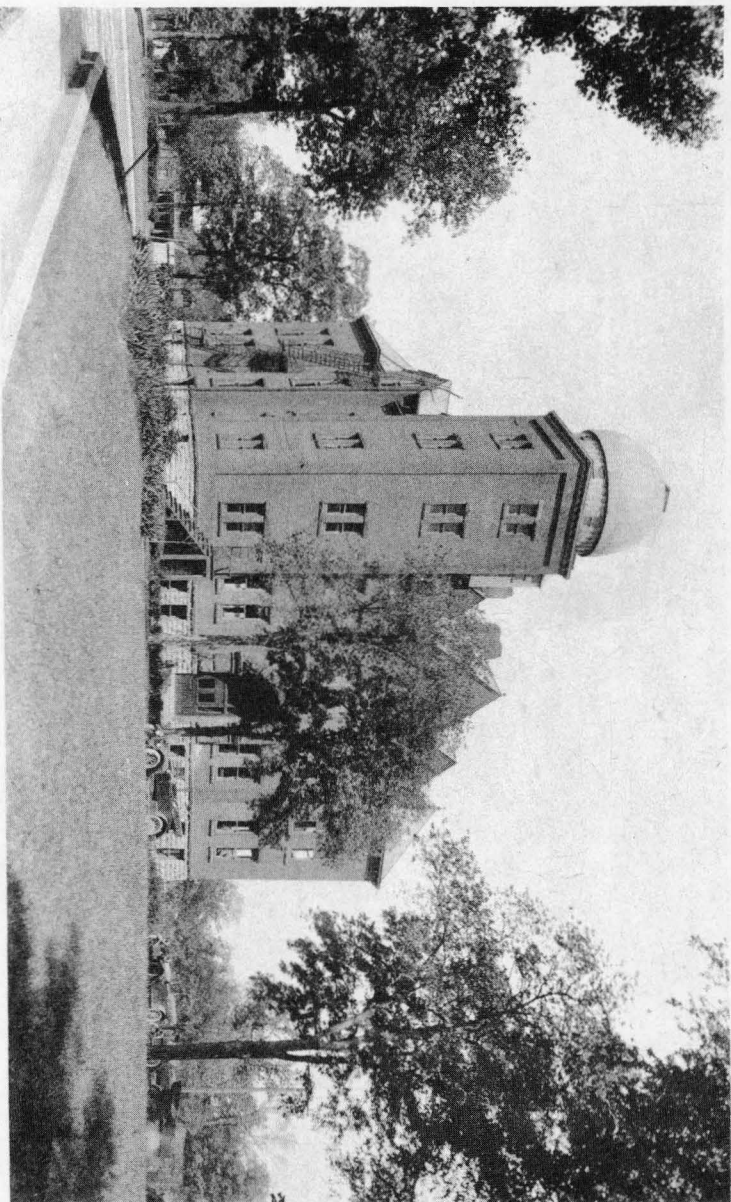
RESIDENCE OF H. C. WALLACE.



VIEWS OF DRAKE UNIVERSITY.

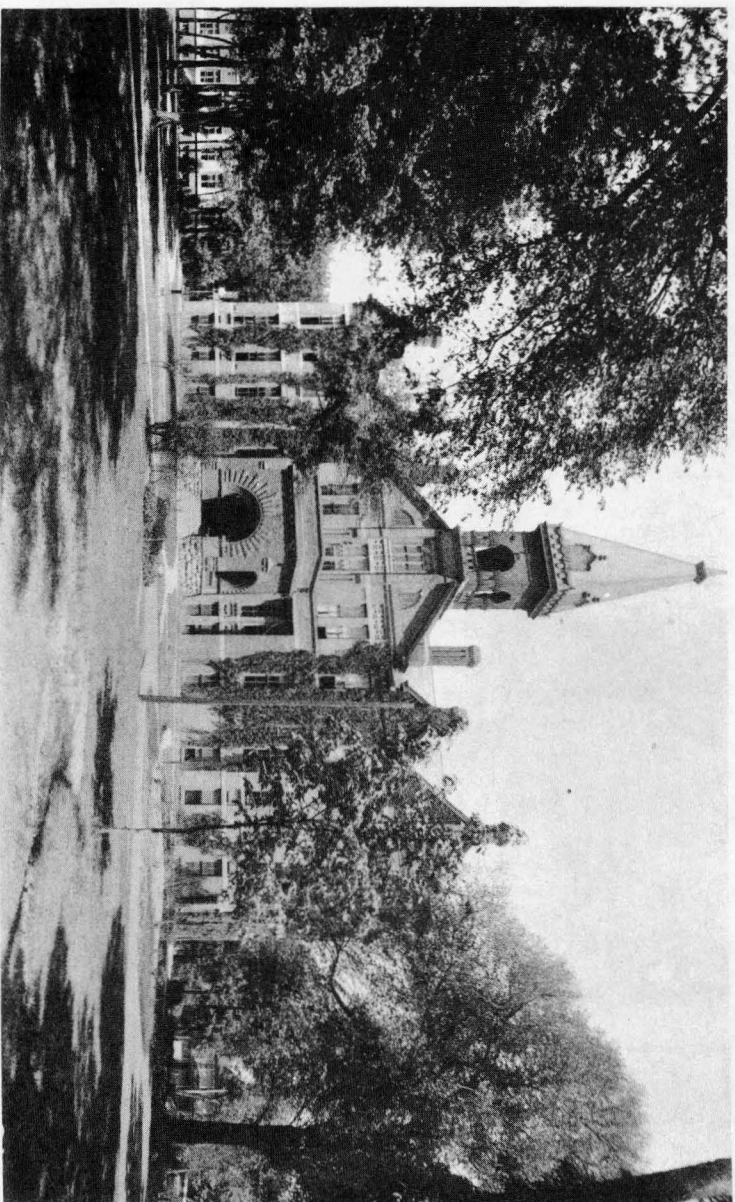
1914





VIEWS OF DRAKE UNIVERSITY.

1914



other colleges across the land. The colleges were being graded by the American Medical Association as to acceptability. The most difficult requirements were for college-owned hospitals, laboratories, and full-time faculty members. In a note of realism, the Drake Medical faculty on April 4, 1910 recommended that the college be discontinued. A student protest spread over the campus, and indeed the city, and the faculty rescinded their proposal a short time later.

Popular support from civic groups began to raise a minimum of \$150,000 that was needed to save the medical college. The Iowa Methodist Hospital agreed to set aside 100 beds under control of the medical school in lieu of a university-owned hospital. In January, 1913, the American Medical Association reduced the Drake Medical College to a second rank in its classification, primarily because of inadequate hospital service. Because it would take approximately \$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000 to meet the deficiencies, the General Education Board from which Drake had been seeking financial assistance recommended the discontinuance of medical education. Reluctantly, steps were taken to carry out this unpleasant task. The Dental College too shared the same fate. Thus, with the closing of the Medical School which was located downtown, Drake University became a one-campus institution.

The records of the Drake Medical College were transferred to the Medical College at the University of Iowa giving to the Drake graduates a second alumni connection. The Drake Board of Trustees had another problem and that was the empty building at 406 Center which became vacant. This building was ultimately sold in June, 1918, to the City of Des Moines. It became the original Broadlawns Hospital and was later torn down when the Veterans Auditorium was built.

DRAKE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Extension classes had been offered at various periods throughout the history of Drake University. Late afternoon classes have for many years served the special needs of not only Des Moines teachers but teachers of central Iowa. Following World War II, the State of Iowa raised its requirements for teaching certificates. Matters of certification and higher salaries created new demands of college courses.

To meet this need, the Drake University, Community College, was opened in the spring semester of 1946 with John Hutchinson serving as the dean. The enrollment grew from a few hundred to thousands of students meeting in a two-hundred mile campus that stretched across the entire State of Iowa.

It was a unique development that placed the stamp of Drake University upon the mold of Iowa and made it truly a state institution, meeting educational needs in all parts of the state. The Community College's name was later changed in the 1960's to the University College but continues to serve the same role.

The selection of a president of an institution is always a difficult task because it is that individual who becomes the focal point for

spearheading that institution's trajectory not only in the present but also into the future. Drake University has been fortunate in having dynamic individuals at the helm of the institution during its upwards of 100 years of growth and development. These individuals have been:

George Thomas Carpenter, 1881-1893
Barton O. Aylesworth, 1893-1897
William Bayard Craig, 1897-1902
Hill McClelland Bell, 1902-1918
Arthur Holmes, 1918-1922
Daniel Walter Moorehouse, 1922-1941
Henry Gadd Harmon, 1941-1964
Paul F. Sharp, 1966-1971
Wilbur C. Miller, 1972-

Law College known as the Iowa College of Law had been affiliated with Simpson College at Indianola since organization in 1875. The Iowa College of Pharmacy organized in 1882 was affiliated in 1887 and the Des Moines College of Dentistry in 1900. These completed the circle of colleges as originally planned by the founder of the university. The main administration building at Drake was begun in 1882 and completed in 1883.

One of the acts of the administration of Chancellor Bell was to bring all of the professional schools under the direct ownership and control of the University. Prior to this, they had held their own charters and were private corporations with little more than a nominal relationship to the university. In October, 1908, Keokuk Medical College was merged with Drake University College of Medicine and all of its assets transferred to Des Moines. The attendance for 1910-11 was 1,827.

After the administration building, the next to be built was the Science Hall erected in 1890 at 27th and University. A telescope with an 8½" objective was added in 1893, a gift of General Drake. In 1900, the auditorium was built with money supplied by General Drake. In 1903, the same donor provided funds to build Howard Hall for the use of the Conservatory of Music. At about the same time the General proposed to give \$10,000 towards a building for a Law School, \$10,000 for a Medical School, and \$10,000 for a Bible building, conditioned on the raising from other sources further sums necessary to complete these buildings. The funds necessary to secure these gifts were promptly raised and the Medical building was erected in 1903, the Law building, Cole Hall, in 1904, and the Bible building, Memorial Hall, in 1905. In 1907 the Carnegie Library was erected, with Mr. Carnegie contributing \$50,000 for the building and the citizens of Des Moines a like sum for endowment. A \$25,000 heating plant was added the same year. In 1909 the men's gymnasium, Alumni Hall, was erected and a women's gymnasium was equipped in the north wing of the administration building adjoining the auditorium.

GENERAL DRAKE'S DEATH

Francis Marion Drake had been a tremendous factor in securing money for the move from Oskaloosa College to Des Moines and ultimately becoming Drake University. He continued to donate his time, efforts and money to seeing that the new university continued to have the physical facilities and plant necessary if it were to become a viable institution. Drake's President Bell visited General Drake at his home in Centerville in November, 1903. At that time he gave assurance that made the building of Cole and Memorial Halls possible and without a burden of debt. It is sad that within a few days on November 20, his death occurred. Services were held in the auditorium by the students at the same hour when the last rites were being held at Centerville for this magnificent benefactor.

A survey made in 1905 by Professor C. O. Denny totaled his gifts to the university as \$232,076.46. In all likelihood this figure is too low because there were certainly occasional gifts in one way or another that he gave for the university's good. Figured in terms of 1972, General Drake's gifts would amount to somewhere between \$1,000,000 and \$2,000,000. In dollars alone, this is an impressive amount. It adds significance when seen that these benefits and monies came as the institution was beginning to grow. They were crucial in establishment of a physical plant that would serve the student body for decades to come. It would not be before the late 1940's that significant contributions were again derived to carry out much needed expansion of Drake University's physical plant.

In the early 1890's Drake University was in essence a three-campus school. The main one, of course, was at 25th and University. A second campus location site was that for the education division or the Callanan Normal College which existed from 1888 to 1893 in the Callanan Building at 1200 Pleasant. It is in 1972 yet the center part of the Iowa Methodist Hospital and a part that is slated for demolishing within the near future to be replaced by a new hospital wing.

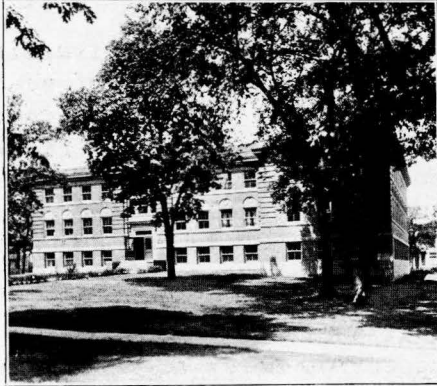
At that time it was the teacher education division for Drake University. It moved then in 1893 and was known as Drake's Normal College from 1893 to 1906. It was known from 1906 to 1908 as the School of Education; from 1908 to 1911, the College of Education and 1911 to 1914 it was known as the School of Education in the College of Liberal Arts and since 1914 has been the College of Education. The Normal College was moved to the Science Hall, 2700 University, which was later officially named Sage Hall. It was torn down in 1949 when the new Harvey Ingham replaced it. The marker placed upon its site south and west of Cole Hall records the name of Sage Hall in recognition of a gift by Mrs. Russell Sage. Twenty-seventh Street which used to run from University north to Carpenter was deeded to Drake University by the city and has been filled in so that the campus could be more spacious.

With the removal of the Normal College to the Science Hall, Drake changed from the three campus to a two-campus institution. The downtown Colleges of Law and Medicine were still located there.

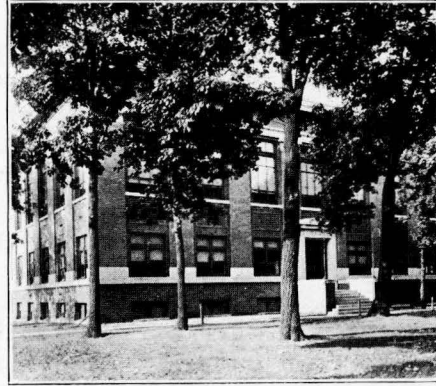
As mentioned earlier there was a College of Medicine at Drake in the 1890's. In 1908 the Keokuk Medical College was in financial distress and requested a merger with the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Drake. This was effected in 1908. With the Medical College came the Keokuk College of Dentistry which conveniently moved into the quarters vacated by the Des Moines College of Dentistry affiliated with Drake from 1901 until it was discontinued in 1906.

Nationally, there was a movement in the early 1900's towards increasing standards for medical training which were beginning to be felt not only by the Drake Medical College but as well by

1910



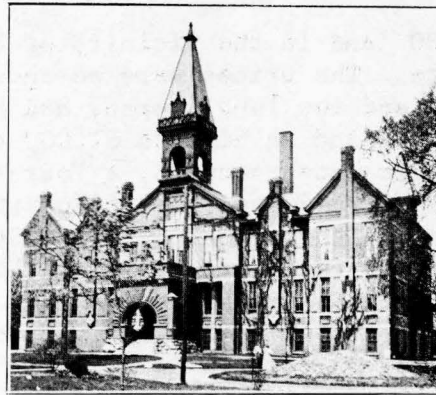
Institute of Fine Arts, Howard Hall



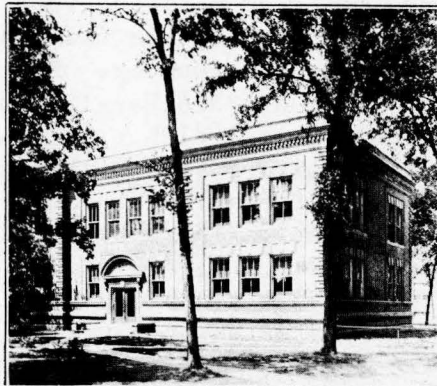
Carnegie Library



Science Hall



Administration Building



Cole Hall—Law College



Memorial Hall

GROUP OF DRAKE UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS

subscription which went over Marion's \$25,000 pledge. Oskaloosa College was under the sponsorship of two brothers, George T. and W. J. Carpenter who for 20 years tried to keep Oskaloosa College as a going concern, but the financial struggle was a losing one and faculty after faculty was literally starved into resignation. It was decided that Oskaloosa was not a very promising place for the continuance of a college so they looked to Des Moines.

George Thomas Carpenter, the first president of Drake University was a man of great energy, vision and devotion to the cause of education. In 1881, Northwest Des Moines was a wilderness. The undergrowth was such that it was so dense as to be penetrated with difficulty. The streetcars stopped at 15th and Woodland which was the last of the houses in Des Moines. Dr. Carpenter looked the ground over by climbing an elm tree to survey the site for what is now the Drake University campus.

He enlisted a number of responsible citizens and formed the University Land Company. They purchased 140 acres of land, set aside a portion of it for a campus, and proceeded to sell the rest, devoting a portion of the profits to the university. Part of the money was for endowment and part for contingent funds.

In 1880 land in the vicinity of 25th and University sold for \$15.00 an acre. The prices were advanced at the prospect of the new school and the land company had to pay \$80.00 for its first purchases and as high as \$1,000 for tracts secured later. With the first money secured, a four-story wooden building was erected on the site of the present Howard Hall at a cost of about \$11,000. It bore on the front the name "Students' Home" and it was designed ultimately for a dormitory and boarding school. For several years, it served all of the purposes of the college. About 50 students, mostly from Oskaloosa College, were present at the opening, September 20, 1881. Incidentally, local interests in Oskaloosa reorganized and maintained a struggling school of sorts for nearly 20 years before they gave up.

General Francis Marion Drake, soldier, railroad builder, and a man of affairs, was associated with the new enterprise from the beginning. He was indeed a brother-in-law of Carpenter. The general took a particular delight in making his brother-in-law his agent in dispensing a large portion of his wealth. Carpenter possessed the initiative, the power to inspire others with his ideals, and great executive and administrative ability. General Drake contributed business wisdom and counsel. The general was president of the board of trustees from 1881 until his death November 20, 1903. At critical emergencies he came forward with large gifts and the school could not have started or lived through its earlier years without these two.

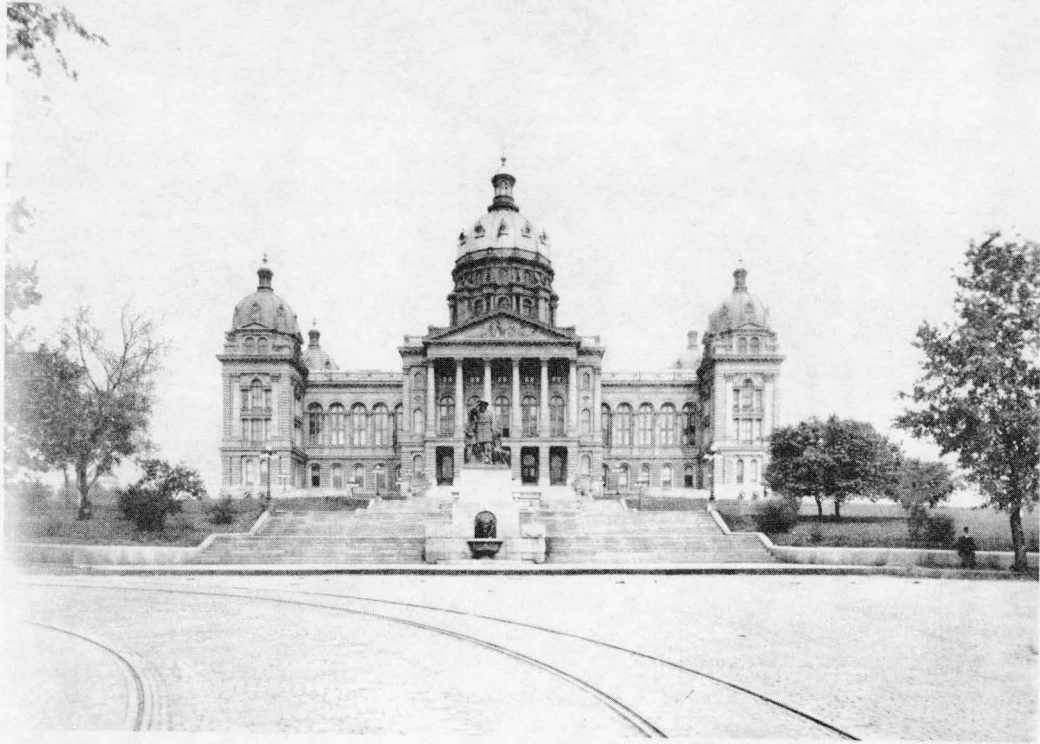
The new school, Drake University, started with departments of Liberal Arts, Bible, Music, Art, Oratory, and Commerce. A Law College and a Medical College were secured by affiliation. The



INTERIOR DES MOINES CLUB.
1914



BILLIARD ROOM—DES MOINES CLUB.
1914

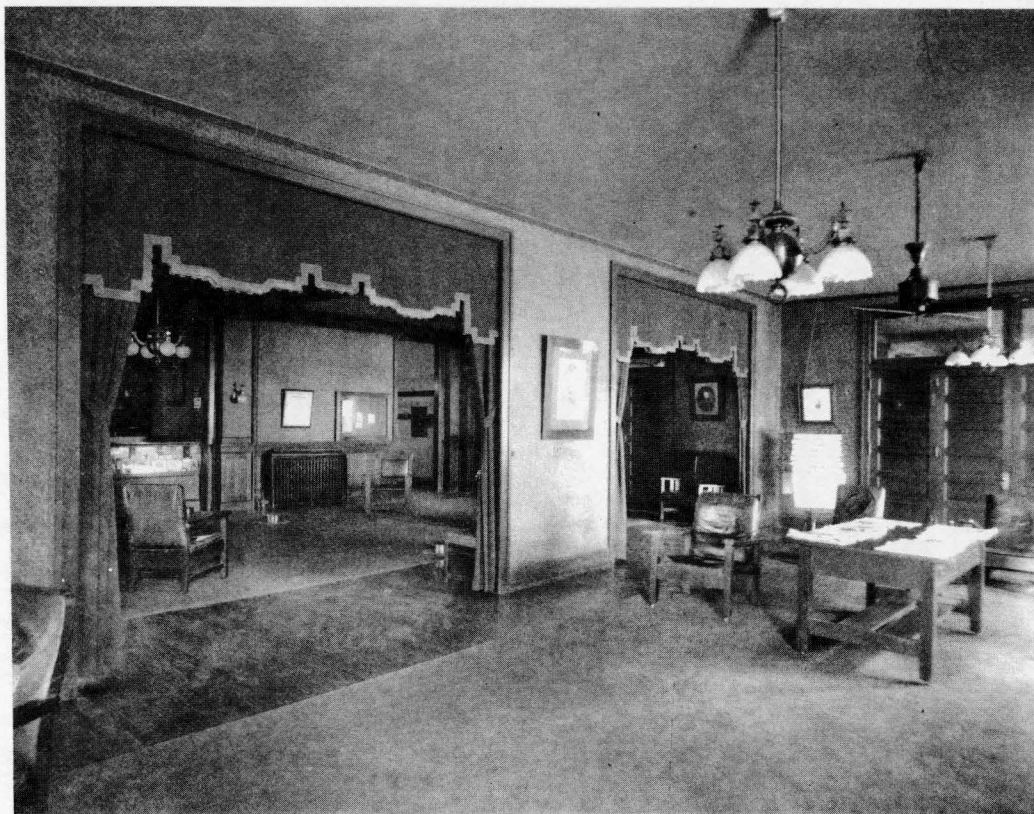


IOWA STATE CAPITOL.

1914



SENATE CHAMBER IOWA STATE CAPITOL.



INTERIOR GRANT CLUB.



LOUNGING ROOM—CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.
1914

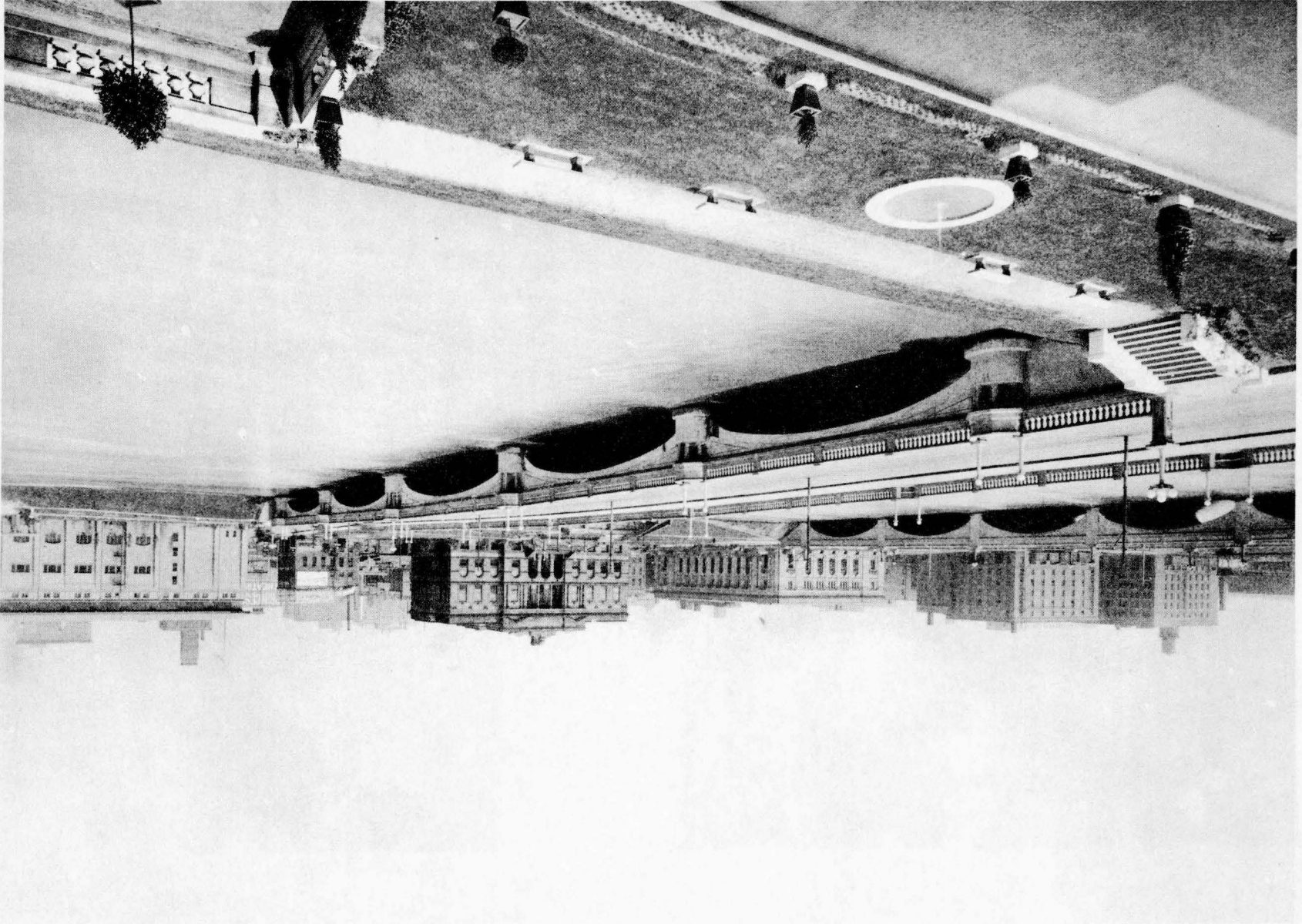


SCENE ON LOCUST STREET, At 5th Street.
1914



WALNUT STREET FROM FOURTH—LOOKING WEST.
1914

SCENE FROM MUNICIPAL BUILDING.
1914

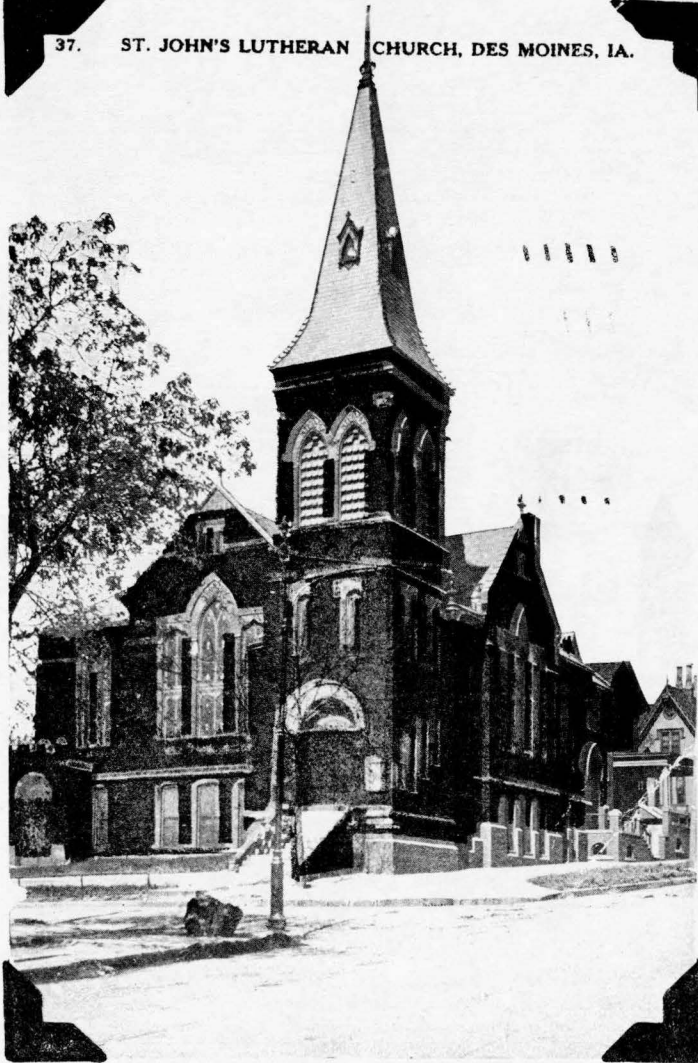




HYPERION CLUB.
1914



GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB.
1914

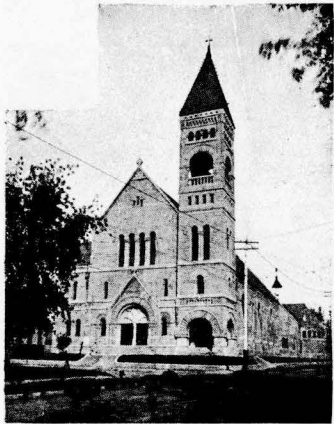


St. John's Lutheran Church, 6th and Keo
1908

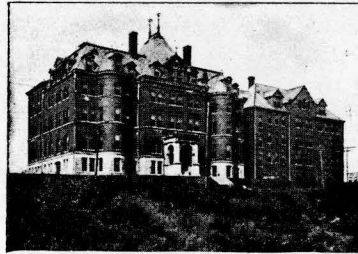


From early 1900's --
Seven Church Spires

1910



ST. AMBROSE CHURCH



MERCY HOSPITAL



HOME FOR THE AGED AND INFIRM
2815 University Ave.



UTICA BUILDING
6th & Walnut



HARRIS-EMERY COMPANY
7th and Walnut
Later it was Davidsons---
Demolished 1972 for the
Financial Center.

1910



FLEMING BUILDING



YOUNKER BROTHERS



YOUNGERMAN BUILDING
5th and Mulberry
Site of the new Penneys.

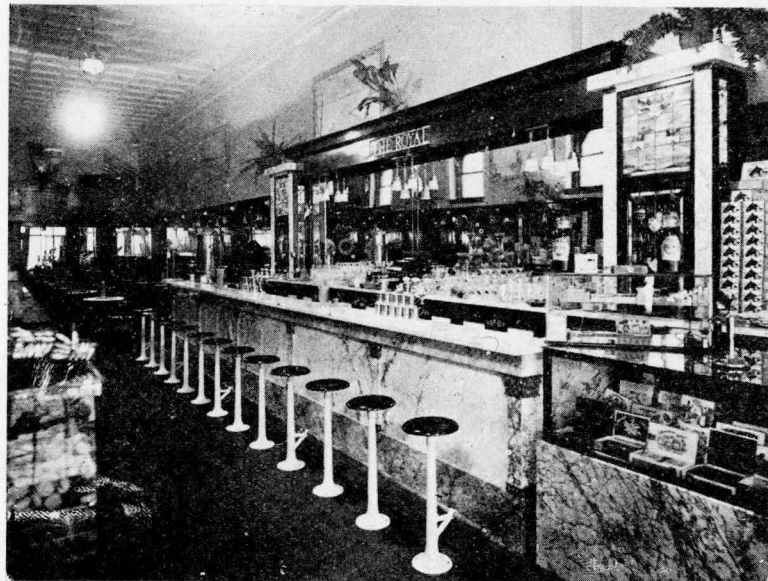
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<p style="text-align: center;">Directors</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: auto;"/> <p>D. W. Smouse W. E. Coffin Geo. E. Pearsall J. G. Rounds S. T. Slade C. E. Brenton C. L. Gilcrest C. R. Brenton J. H. Blair</p>	<p>C. E. Brenton, President Geo. E. Pearsall, Cashier J. H. Blair, V-Pres. I. M. Lieser, Asst. Cash.</p> <h2 style="margin: 10px 0;">State Savings Bank</h2> <p>DES MOINES, IOWA</p> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">DOES ONLY A SAVINGS BUSINESS</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">❧</p> <p>Is the Depository of the Penny Provident Association of Des Moines</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; margin-top: 20px;">❧</p>
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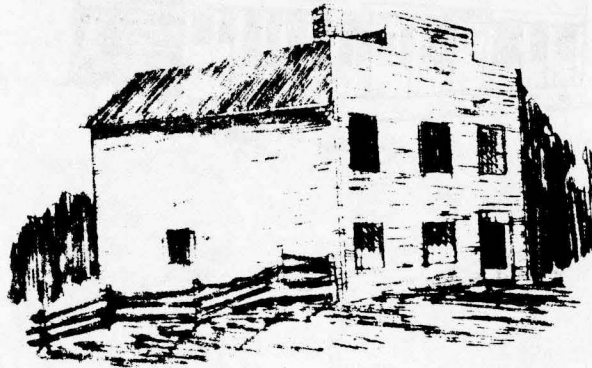
5th and Court Avenue

Distributors Studebakers and Packards

Iowa's Territorial Capitol

1836-1837

Belmont, Wisconsin



Iowa's Territorial Capitol

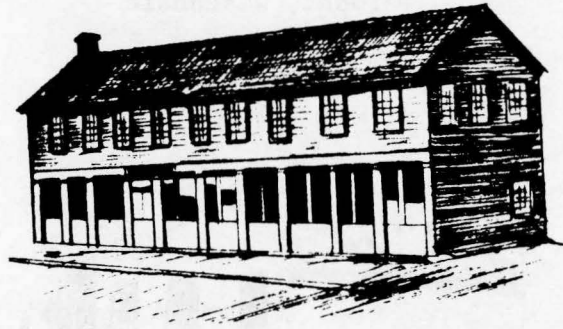
Old Zion, Burlington, Iowa

1837-1841



Iowa's Territorial Capitol

Iowa City - 1841-1842



Iowa's Territorial and State Capitol

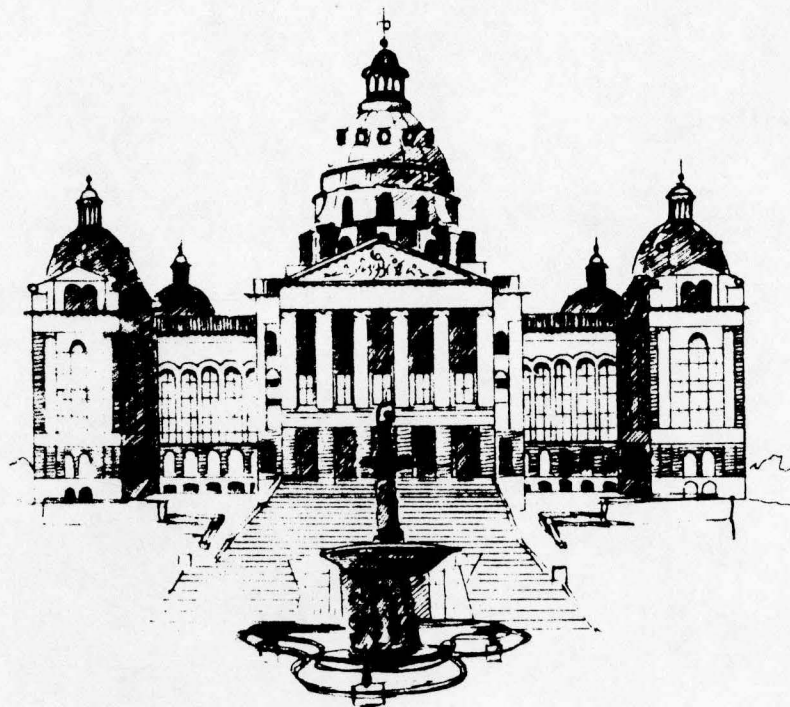
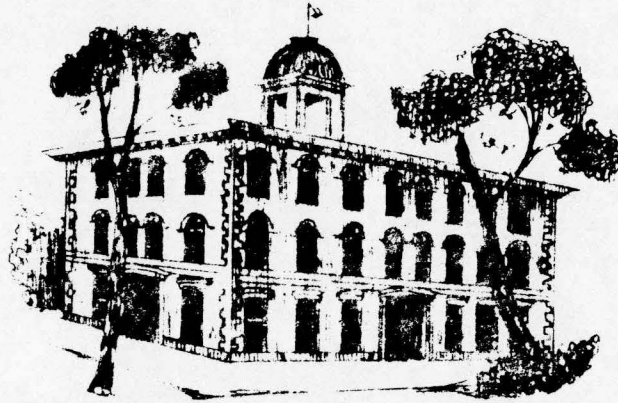
1842-1857

Iowa City



First Capitol in Des Moines
1857-1886

Built on the site of the
present Soldiers and Sailors
Monument

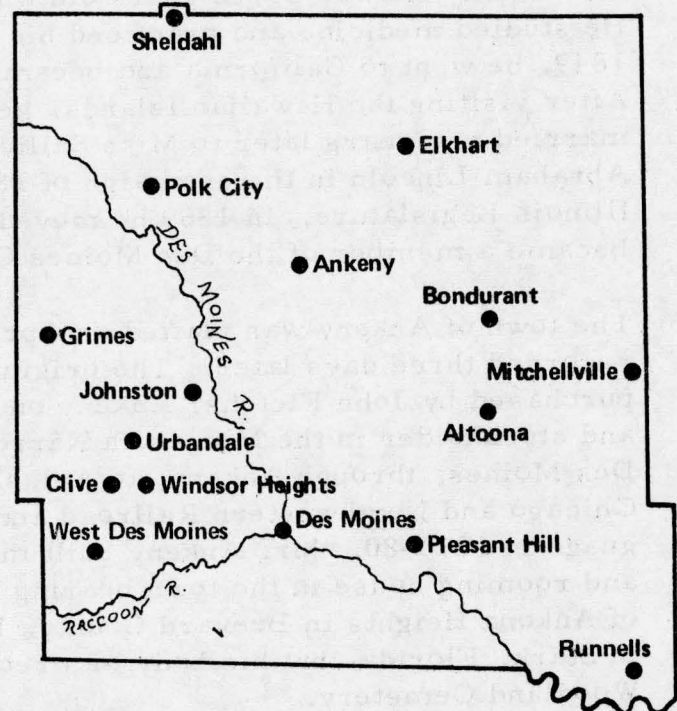


Origin of Polk County Iowa Names

by

LeRoy G. Pratt

To answer the question, "What's in a name?" the following is a brief summary of the origin of the names given to Polk County and to the 16 incorporated municipalities within the County.



POLK COUNTY [Incorporated April 22, 1846]

Named for the 11th President of the United States (1845-1849), James Knox Polk (1795-1849). The lawyer-statesman was born in North Carolina, but moved with his family at an early age (in 1806) to Tennessee. He was the first "dark horse" presidential nominee in U. S. history; served as a hard-working, strong, and effective President; and enjoyed great prestige within the Democratic

Party. His major problems were diplomatic and military. The Oregon boundary dispute with Great Britain was an issue, and the Mexican War (1846-1848) was fought during his term in office. Gold was discovered near Sutter's Mill in California in 1848, stimulating the migration of the Forty-niners. Both Iowa (in 1846) and Wisconsin (in 1848) entered the Union during his administration. The first U. S. postage stamps were issued in 1847 and carried pictures of George Washington and Benjamin Franklin. On Polk's last day as President, in 1849, the Department of Interior was established. Polk fell ill with cholera only three months after leaving office and died on June 15, 1849, when not yet 54 years old. Mrs. Polk lived until 1891. In 1893, their tombs were moved to the grounds of the Tennessee State Capitol in Nashville.

Ankeny [Incorporated February 27, 1903]

Named for John Fletcher Ankeny (1824-1886) who was of French Huguenot ancestry. His parents, Joseph (1802-1876) and Harriet (Giese) (1801-1897) Ankeny, came to Iowa in November 1867. Mr. Ankeny had entered land near what is now the town of Ankeny in 1854. John Fletcher Ankeny was born on a farm in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, where his father was also born. He was seven years old when he moved to Ohio with his parents. He studied medicine and practiced his profession in Ohio and Kentucky. In 1849, he went to California and became clerk of that state's first legislature. After visiting the Hawaiian Islands, he moved to Illinois in 1854 and was married two years later to Miss Sallie Wolgamot. He was associated with Abraham Lincoln in the campaign of 1860 and was elected a member of the Illinois Legislature. In 1869 he moved to Des Moines with his family, and became a member of the Des Moines City Council in 1872.

The town of Ankeny was platted on April 19, 1875 and the plat was filed and recorded three days later. The original town site consisted of 80 acres, purchased by John Fletcher Ankeny on July 1, 1874. He was a promoter and stockholder in the Minnesota Narrow Gauge Railroad, which ran from Des Moines, through Ankeny, to Ames. This later became a branch of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad and the track was changed to standard guage in 1879-80. Mr. Ankeny built the first combination hotel, boarding, and rooming house in the town bearing his name. He also founded the town of Ankona Heights in Brevard County, Florida, in 1882. Mr. Ankeny died in Stark, Florida, but his body was returned to Des Moines and buried in Woodland Cemetery.

When Ankeny was incorporated in 1903, the city limits were extended to include one square mile (640 acres). The official 1970 census indicated an increase in population of almost 209 percent for Ankeny compared with 1960 (2,964 to 9,151).

Altoona [Incorporated March 11, 1876]

Julian B. Bausman, the surveyor who laid out the town site in 1868, discovered that it was the highest point on the old Des Moines Valley Railroad between Keokuk and Des Moines -- 966 feet above sea level. He named the town Altoona from the latin word, "altus," meaning high. The area was first settled in the mid-1850's and was called Yant's Siding or Yant Station for the pioneer who owned the land, Anthony Yant. The plat was recorded July 30, 1868. In September of that year, the Chicago-Rock Island and Pacific Railroad arrived in Altoona.

Bondurant [Incorporated December 23, 1897]

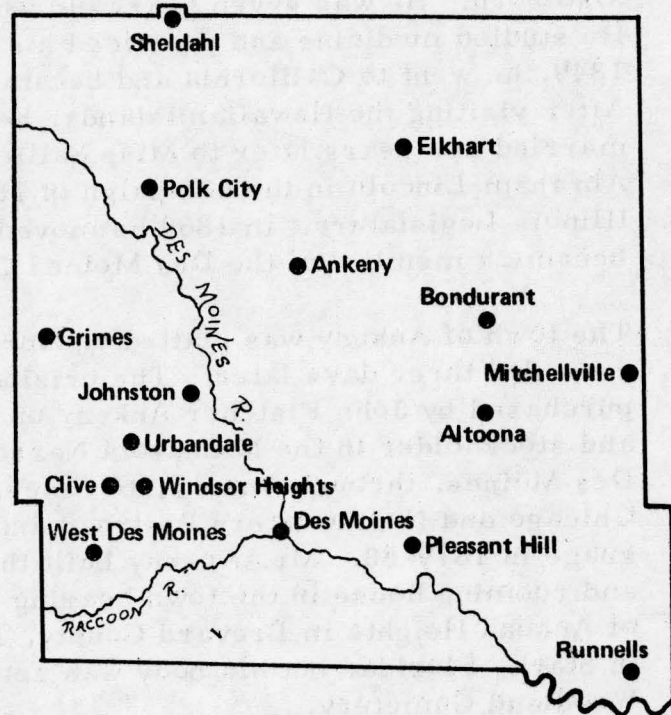
Named for the town's founder, Alexander C. Bondurant (1829-1889). He settled here in 1857, and became one of Polk County's largest landowners.

Origin of Polk County Iowa Names

by

LeRoy G. Pratt

To answer the question, "What's in a name?" the following is a brief summary of the origin of the names given to Polk County and to the 16 incorporated municipalities within the County.



POLK COUNTY [Incorporated April 22, 1846]

Named for the 11th President of the United States (1845-1849), James Knox Polk (1795-1849). The lawyer-statesman was born in North Carolina, but moved with his family at an early age (in 1806) to Tennessee. He was the first "dark horse" presidential nominee in U. S. history; served as a hard-working, strong, and effective President; and enjoyed great prestige within the Democratic

Party. His major problems were diplomatic and military. The Oregon boundary dispute with Great Britain was an issue, and the Mexican War (1846-1848) was fought during his term in office. Gold was discovered near Sutter's Mill in California in 1848, stimulating the migration of the Forty-niners. Both Iowa (in 1846) and Wisconsin (in 1848) entered the Union during his administration. The first U. S. postage stamps were issued in 1847 and carried pictures of George Washington and Benjamin Franklin. On Polk's last day as President, in 1849, the Department of Interior was established. Polk fell ill with cholera only three months after leaving office and died on June 15, 1849, when not yet 54 years old. Mrs. Polk lived until 1891. In 1893, their tombs were moved to the grounds of the Tennessee State Capitol in Nashville.

Ankeny [Incorporated February 27, 1903]

Named for John Fletcher Ankeny (1824-1886) who was of French Huguenot ancestry. His parents, Joseph (1802-1876) and Harriet (Giese) (1801-1897) Ankeny, came to Iowa in November 1867. Mr. Ankeny had entered land near what is now the town of Ankeny in 1854. John Fletcher Ankeny was born on a farm in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, where his father was also born. He was seven years old when he moved to Ohio with his parents. He studied medicine and practiced his profession in Ohio and Kentucky. In 1849, he went to California and became clerk of that state's first legislature. After visiting the Hawaiian Islands, he moved to Illinois in 1854 and was married two years later to Miss Sallie Wolgamot. He was associated with Abraham Lincoln in the campaign of 1860 and was elected a member of the Illinois Legislature. In 1869 he moved to Des Moines with his family, and became a member of the Des Moines City Council in 1872.

The town of Ankeny was platted on April 19, 1875 and the plat was filed and recorded three days later. The original town site consisted of 80 acres, purchased by John Fletcher Ankeny on July 1, 1874. He was a promoter and stockholder in the Minnesota Narrow Gauge Railroad, which ran from Des Moines, through Ankeny, to Ames. This later became a branch of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad and the track was changed to standard guage in 1879-80. Mr. Ankeny built the first combination hotel, boarding, and rooming house in the town bearing his name. He also founded the town of Ankona Heights in Brevard County, Florida, in 1882. Mr. Ankeny died in Stark, Florida, but his body was returned to Des Moines and buried in Woodland Cemetery.

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Bondurant [Incorporated December 23, 1897]

Named for the town's founder, Alexander C. Bondurant (1829-1889). He settled here in 1857, and became one of Polk County's largest landowners.

Mr. Bondurant was a leading member of the Christian Church, and was one of the builders of Drake University. This was an early railroad town, on the Great Western Railroad.

Clive [Incorporated October 9, 1956]

It has been said that the town was named for a British general, but it has not been possible to confirm this. Robert Clive, the famous "Clive of India," was born in 1725 near Market Drayton, Shropshire, England. He served during his intensively active career as soldier, administrator, and founder of the British Empire in India. He used opium to dull his physical and mental suffering, and committed suicide in a fit of depression at his home in Berkeley Square, London, on November 22, 1774. Had he lived longer, he very likely would have succeeded General Thomas Gage, in command of British troops at Boston against the rebelling American colonists.

The original plat of Clive was filed on January 18, 1882 by the Union Land Company, whose officers were Jefferson Scott Polk (President), John S. Runnells, and Frederick M. Hubbell (Secretary). The purpose of the corporation was "to purchase coal lands, stone quarries, land for town sites and lands generally in the State of Iowa, and the holding, dealing, selling and leasing of said lands." This was an early rail shipping point. A petition was filed on July 24, 1956 by qualified electors to incorporate the Town of Clive. As described in the petition, the town is hemmed in on three sides by Urbandale, Windsor Heights, and West Des Moines, and on the fourth side by Interstates 80-35. In the decade of 1960-1970, Clive had the second fastest growth rate of all Iowa communities -- an increase of nearly 300 percent (from 752 to 3,005).

Des Moines [Fort Des Moines incorporated September 22, 1851]

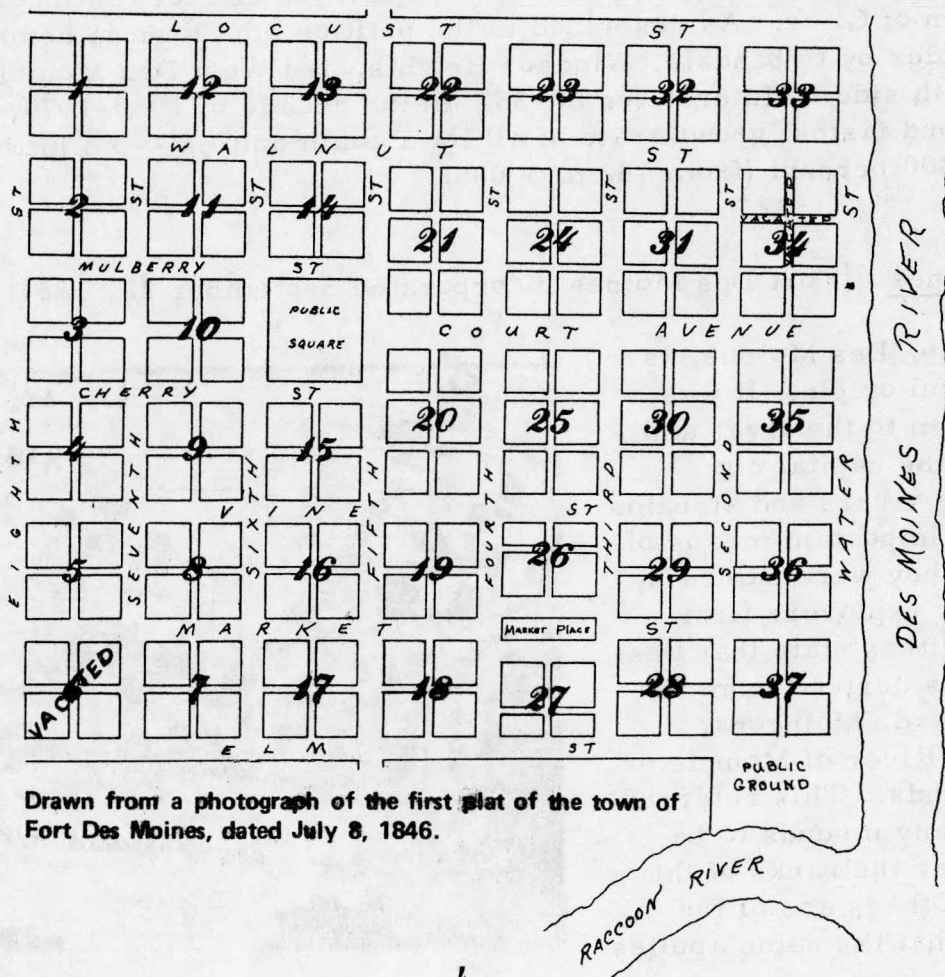
The name, Des Moines, is of doubtful origin. It was first given to the river and later to the capital city. Since the rivers and streams were an important means of travel, they were named by the early explorers first. Some writers state that Des Moines is derived from the Indian word, Moingona, meaning River of Mounds or The Mounds. This referred to the many mounds to be found near the banks of the river. Others are of the opinion that the name applies



to the Trappist Monks (Moines de la Trappe) who lived in huts near the water, at American Bottom, at the mouth of the Des Moines River. The French voyageurs referred to the river as La Riviere des Moines. Since words were spelled phonetically, there are many different spellings -- De Moyen, Demoir, Demoin, De Moins, De Moin, Demoine, and Des Moines. The term, De Moyen, has been translated as "middle," referring to the principal stream between the Mississippi and the Missouri Rivers. Another suggested meaning is "the less" or "the smaller," referring to a small tribe of Indians living on the river opposite another larger band of Indians called the greater.

The consensus appears to be that Des Moines is merely an abbreviation or variation on the name Moingona, Moingonan, Moingouena, Moingoun, Mohingona, or Moningouinas, as shown on early maps.

The city grew up around the site of Fort Des Moines (No. 2), which was established on May 20, 1843, when Captain James Allen (1806-1846) and his company of U. S. Dragoons arrived by river steamer from Fort Sanford. This entire area was officially opened to white settlement at midnight of October 11, 1845. A part of the military reservation was ceded to Polk County on January 17, 1846, just four days after the county was established. On February 23, 1846, the order to abandon Fort Des Moines (No. 2) was signed at St. Louis and, on March 10, 1846, the post ceased to exist as a military establishment. The town of Fort Des Moines was surveyed in June and the plat was filed by the surveyor, A. D. Jones,



Drawn from a photograph of the first plat of the town of Fort Des Moines, dated July 8, 1846.

on July 8, 1846. It was not until September 22, 1851, that the town of Fort Des Moines was incorporated. On January 28, 1857, the name was changed to Des Moines. This was the year of the Indian uprising, climaxed by the Spirit Lake Massacre (March 8-13). On October 19, 1857, Des Moines was officially declared to be the new State Capitol by Governor James W. Grimes.

Elkhart [Incorporated July 27, 1904]

Originally laid out in 1853 in Section 2, Douglas Township, and named for Elkhart, Indiana by the settlers who came here from the Hoosier State in pioneer days. When the original town declined, the post office was moved 1 mile north to Ottawa and later to the present location.



Grimes [Incorporated May 7, 1894]

Named for James W. Grimes, Governor of Iowa (1854-1858). The first house was erected in Grimes in 1881. Grimes was Governor when the name of Fort Des Moines was officially changed to Des Moines (1857) and, by proclamation, he declared Des Moines to be the new State Capitol (October 19, 1857). Governor Grimes was the first governor to occupy the old brick capitol, which was located south of the present Statehouse where the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument now stands. The building completed at East 14th Street and East Grand Avenue in 1968 was officially named the James W. Grimes State Office Building on July 25, 1969, in honor of Iowa's third elected governor.

Johnston [Incorporated September 19, 1969]

Named for John F. Johnston, freight superintendent for the railway when the town was called Johnston Station. The town dates back to around 1905 when the old interurban started its run between Des Moines and Perry. There were about 25 homes in the area at that time. During the Civil War period much of the land which now comprises Johnston was a part of the 1,200-acre Robinson farm. The original proposal to incorporate the town was in December 1967, but voter approval was not obtained until 1969.

Mitchellville [Incorporated September 30, 1875]

Named for pioneer Thomas Mitchell (1816-1894), who founded the town in 1856. Mitchell operated a tavern (hotel) and ran the following advertisement in the Harris Overland Guide of January 1852:

TOM MITCHELL!!!

Dispenses comfort to the weary (!) feeds the hungry (!)
and cheers the gloomy (!!!) at his old, well-known
stand, thirteen miles east of Fort Des Moines.

Don't pass by me.

Mitchell also donated the ground for the Universalist Church, built in 1868, at Mitchellville, and was the first moderator. In addition, he founded a seminary of learning whose buildings were later acquired by the State of Iowa for the Iowa State Training School for Girls.

During his lifetime, Thomas Mitchell served as sheriff, county supervisor, state representative, and senator. When he died, more than 1,000 persons crowded into and around the Universalist Church for his funeral services. The church, reminiscent of New England, was donated to Polk County Conservation Board in 1970 by the Iowa Universalist Convention as a historic shrine, for use as a museum. In addition, the 104-acre farm of Thomas Mitchell has been acquired by Polk County Conservation Board and is being developed as the Thomas Mitchell Pioneer Park.

Pleasant Hill [Incorporated May 12, 1956]

When the town was incorporated on May 12, 1956, it took its name from Pleasant Hill Rural Independent School District. This non-high school district went out of existence in 1962 when the area was attached to the Des Moines Independent Community School District. Pleasant Hill had an increase in population from 1960 to 1970 of 286 percent (497 to 1,535), the third highest growth rate in Iowa.

Polk City [Incorporated March 13, 1875]

The namesake town of Polk County (see above) was laid out by George Beebe in 1850. He was the first to settle here, in the spring of 1846. The attractive area was formerly the site of the Indian village, Wauconsa. There were three rival towns in the Big Creek settlement. These were Montacute (laid out in June 1849), Corydon (laid out in May 1853), and Polk City. The Beebe cabin was located just south of the present town of Polk City. Beebe opened the first general store here and erected a mill. He also donated the land for the town park or square.

Polk City was one of the contenders for the county seat, losing out to the town of Fort Des Moines. During the Civil War, Polk City was the storm center of patriotism in the northern part of the county.

Runnells [Incorporated May 21, 1903]

Named for John S. Runnells (1844-1929), a citizen of Des Moines, who played a prominent role in organizing the town, then a coal mining center. The town was platted in 1881. Mr. Runnells came to Des Moines in January 1868 to serve as private secretary to Governor Samuel Merrill, and was later on the editorial staff of the Iowa State Register before being admitted to the bar in 1871. He was a prominent Republican in Iowa and served as United States District Attorney for Iowa from 1881 to 1885. Two years later, he became general counsel for the Pullman Company in Chicago, and was president of that corporation from 1905 to 1911, then was named chairman of the board.

Sheldahl [Incorporated January 18, 1882]

Founded in 1856 by Reverend D. Kjaldahl. Actually, the town was named for him, but because of the difficulty of pronouncing his name, it was anglicized to Sheldahl. The town is located at the intersection point of four townships, and is located in three counties -- Polk, Boone, and Story. The largely Scandinavian settlement was platted in 1874 by Jefferson Scott Polk.

Urbandale [Incorporated May 3, 1917]

The origin of the town's name is in doubt. Some accounts state that it was named by the wife of a real estate salesman who lived in the area. Others have held that the town was named for "a man named Urban" or for the street car line that ran along Urbandale Avenue to Walker's Station, a turn-around at the end of the line. At one time there were 4 operating coal mines in the Urbandale area. No. 6 mine was right in the heart of the present city. The last of these mines closed down in 1940. With the shift in population from Des Moines to its suburbs during the decade 1960-1970, Urbandale experienced a growth of 148 percent (5,821 to 14,434).

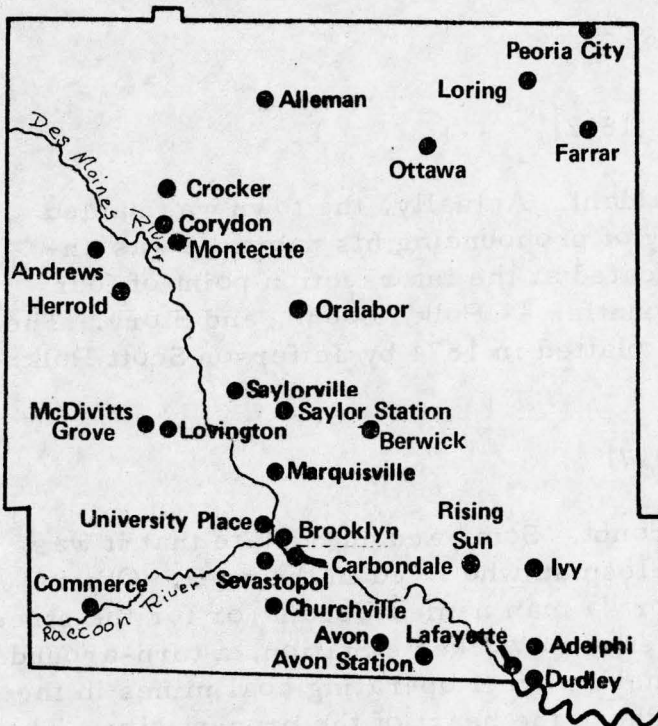
West Des Moines [Valley Junction incorporated August 16, 1893]

Named as a suburb of the Capital City. The town, a former railroad center for the Rock Island railway system, was originally called Valley Junction (1892-1937). The name was changed by popular vote, effective in January 1938, and for many years the local Chamber of Commerce used the slogan, "Next to the largest city in Iowa."

Windsor Heights [Incorporated July 19, 1941]

Named for Windsor Elementary School at 58th Street and University Avenue. Henry Clay Windsor settled near here in 1840, and the Windsor family donated land for the school in memory of their son. The original Windsor building, constructed in 1918, was beyond the end of the street car line (49th and University). It had no telephone, so when the Armistice was signed in November 1918, Windsor did not get the news and the school was not closed for the rest of the day as were all other schools.

Unincorporated and Ghost Towns



In addition to the 16 incorporated towns and cities located in Polk County, there are many unincorporated and ghost towns. The origin of their names is also of historic interest. The following information tells about a number of these early settlements in Polk County. However, it is a mystery today where some of their names originated.

Adelphi

The town was located along old Vandalia Road in the southeast corner of Polk County, on Spring Creek, near the Des Moines River. Adelphi was once the largest settlement in Camp Township. A post office was in operation from October 1, 1856 to June 29, 1935. After this, mail was serviced through Runnells. The town slowly died out and, with the building of Red Rock Dam, the remaining buildings were moved away except for the old store.

Alleman

Named for John L. Alleman, who gave a considerable tract of land to the Fort Dodge, Des Moines & Southern Railway for right of way, out of appreciation for the transportation and shipping advantages that the railroad would afford the locality. Upon completion of the line, a station was established and the town grew up at that point. Mr. Alleman came to Iowa with his father at the age of 12 years. He later engaged in general farming and the raising of livestock. He built a livery stable in Alleman, and was also instrumental in establishing a bank, grain elevator, store, and implement business in the town.

Andrews

A town laid out in 1857 in the eastern part of Section 9, Jefferson Township, about one mile west of the Des Moines River. A 1907 plat book shows that north and south streets were named First, Second, and Third, while those running east and west were called North and Main. Lincoln Cemetery and a public school were at the edge of town. The name of its post office, which was in operation from July 5, 1861 to December 22, 1870 and April 7, 1871 to June 10, 1886, was Lincoln. In later years the town went by that name. It was also sometimes called Dogtown.

Avon

The original town of Avon was laid out in 1855 in Allen Township. In 1856-57, the village was a market for butter and eggs. A post office was established on August 15, 1857, and it became a flourishing town in the 1860's, being situated on the Knoxville-Fort Des Moines turnpike. The town was later relocated one mile southeast and called Avon Station on the I. & W. R. R., then was called Avon again. A post office operated at Avon (No. 2) from June 18, 1863 to January 30, 1904 and from April 1, 1904 to March 31, 1921.

Berwick

Founded by Henry Taylor in the late 1800's. Local residents wanted to call the town Taylorville, but Mr. Taylor declined the honor. Instead, he suggested that the new town be named after his birthplace, Berwick, Maine.

Brooklyn, Brooklin, or Brookline

Named for Dr. Thomas K. Brooks, a physician who came to Fort Des Moines in September 1845 and, for a time, made his home with the Indian Agent, about 1/2 mile east of the present Capitol grounds. Settlers began coming in considerable numbers when central Iowa was officially opened to white settlement at



midnight on October 11 of that year. Dr. Brooks served as the first postmaster of Fort Des Moines and built the first brick dwelling on the east side of the Des Moines River, where the town of Brooklyn was laid out. He also exerted his influence to make Brooklyn the county seat of Polk County in 1846. Other contenders for the county seat were Dudley, Fort Des Moines, and Polk City. When the commissioners arrived at a decision, it was Fort Des Moines that was finally selected on May 26, 1846. After losing out in this contest, the town of Brooklyn was vacated by Act of the First General Assembly of the State of Iowa, approved January 28, 1847, and disappeared from the map.

Carbondale

In 1889, a new coal field was discovered 3 miles southeast of the Iowa State Fairgrounds on what has come to be known as the Runnell's Highline. This ended a search for a new supply of coal near Des Moines after the coal producing mines within the corporate limits of the capital city showed signs of diminishing. Carbondale, the name chosen for the new community, was undoubtedly derived from the words carbon (or coal) and dale (a description of the geography of the countryside).

Mine Number 1 was sunk in the summer of 1889, and houses -- mostly company owned -- soon covered the hillside. There were approximately 175 of these unpainted houses, which were built on wooden supports and had 4 rooms, each 11' x 12'. These houses rented for \$6.00 to \$8.00 per month. Single men lived in boarding houses, paying \$4.00 per week for room, board, and laundry.

In subsequent years, Mines Number 2, 3, and 4 were opened, but in 1908, the last ton of coal was hoisted. The houses were sold, one by one, the company store was closed, and the camp became only a memory.

Many of the families who lived at Carbondale were Swedes. In 1940, the first reunion of Carbondalers was held at Union Park, in Des Moines, It was later decided to hold the annual meetings in June, at Carbondale, in the old Groundhog School.

Churchville

Named for Jeremiah (Jerry) Church, "the fiddling pioneer," who urged this as the location of the county seat of Polk County. The settlement was situated "some distance south" of Fort Des Moines.

Commerce

Located on the Raccoon River in the southwestern part of Polk County, the town was formerly called Commerce Mills. During its heyday, the town had several stores, churches, a stockyard, depot, mill, and sand plant. The town was named Commerce "probably because at one time there was quite a lot going on," according to an old-time resident. There was a post office at the settlement from 1870 until 1944. The Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad runs through the town. The north and south streets were named West, East, Bridge, Anderson, and Vannerstrom Avenues, while School, Pleasant, (now High) and Railroad (now Commerce Drive) Streets run east and west. A ferry operated on the Raccoon River before the highway bridge was built in 1889. This bridge was washed out in a flood on April 1, 1965 and has not been replaced. Except for a body shop and the reorganized Commerce Community Church, the town is now all residential.

Corydon

A town laid out in 1853 by J. H. Skidmore on the Des Moines River, in Section 12, Madison Township, 1½ miles south of Polk City. New Corydon was later added to the original plat. The town's north and south streets were named Water, Main, and Jefferson. Running east and west were North, Queen Ann, Washington, Madison, Monroe, and South Streets. In its early days, the small settlement had a ferry landing, school, store, saw mill, and blacksmith shop. All that remains to remind us of the town today is Corydon Drive and the old iron bridge across the Des Moines River.

Crocker

Named for the township, which was named for Col. Crocker, a prominent citizen of Des Moines. The town was platted by the Western Town Lot Company in 1880. A 1907 map shows the town had a store and post office, depot, wagon shop, elevator, stock yards, lumber yard, and a Congregational Church, and was served by the Chicago and North Western Railroad. Streets were named Hume and Railroad (both paralleling the railroad tracks), Bancroft, Hallem, Prescott, Martin, and Gibson.

Dudley

A tiny town located on the Des Moines River, just south of the mouth of North River, near the southeast corner of Allen Township, about 2 miles east of the present town of Carlisle. It was one of several settlements competing with Fort Des Moines as the county seat of Polk County. Dudley was laid out in 1846 by a surveyor hired by Jeremiah (Jerry) Church, who has been described as a speculative, itinerant genius of that day. He also founded the town of Churchville. Dudley had two stores, a grocery, a blacksmith shop, and two doctors, and prospered until 1851 when the Des Moines River flooded the village. One story is that Jerry Church climbed onto the roof of the last building defying the wild torrent and fiddled over the destruction of his town, just as Nero did when Rome was burning. Church then laid out the town of Carlisle, situated about two miles back from the river, and most of the citizens of Dudley moved to the new town.

Enterprise

Located near the center of Douglas Township on the Des Moines, Iowa Falls and Northern Railway. This was the home of the Enterprise Coal and Mining Co. The post office was in existence from March 26, 1903 until September 10, 1920. A 1907 Plat Book of Polk County (Northwest Publishing Co., Des Moines, Iowa) shows a city park, school, depot, railroad section house, stores, stockyards, warehouses, ice house, livery stable, hotel, and numerous homes along named streets -- Washington, Flannery, and Coskery Avenues (running east and west) and Elm, Lynn, and Pine Streets (running north and south).

Farrar

Located in Washington Township, the town is bisected by the old Newton and Northwestern Railroad. A plat book published in 1907 shows Ash Street and Railroad Avenue on either side of the railroad right-of-way. North and south streets included Maple, Elm, and Main, while those streets running east and west were First Avenue and Second Avenue. An elevator, stock yards, and a lumber yard were located near the railroad. Other businesses at that time included several stores, a livery stable, restaurant, bank, and several shops. A post office, Methodist Church, and cemetery are also shown on the 1907 map. Today, the town has a population of about 50. There is an elementary school, the Methodist Church, a garage, and an antique shop in the old general store. The post office was discontinued in 1971.

Herrold

A triangular-shaped settlement in Jefferson Township, bounded by the old Interurban Railway (Perry and Des Moines Line), Beck Street (north boundary), and Eastern Avenue. A plat of the town published in 1907 shows a depot, elevator and warehouse, tool house, stock yards, and store. The town was named for

the family who owned a horse-powered sorghum mill there. Camp Dodge was established in 1917, adjacent to Herrold, which was then referred to as Boomtown. The Army hospital was at Herrold, and there was a large soft drink bottling plant in operation during World War I years. The town was popular with the soldiers who went there for entertainment. Today, there are a few homes, an elevator, garage, an old schoolhouse still standing, and stretches of cement pavement dating back to World War I days at Camp Dodge.

Ivy

When residents of the community wanted to establish a post office, a number of names were suggested by each of several families. Ivy was among the names that were submitted to Washington, D. C. The first post office was in the home of the Davis family. A post office was located at Ivy from January 17, 1883 to July 8, 1886 and from February 12, 1887 until March 31, 1902.

Lafayette

Now a ghost town, Lafayette was an important town for many years, until other towns built up with the coming of the railroads. In 1850, one of the largest celebrations ever held in Polk County was at Lafayette. There were long tables "spread with the choicest dainties" and covered over with "a leafy bower" which added "a spicy fragrance to the feast." Orators enlivened their speeches with "wit and patriotism." Lafayette was located in Sections 3 and 10, Camp Township, on the north bank of the Des Moines River.

Dr. A. Y. Hull, (who was from Ross County, Ohio) advertised in the Fort Des Moines Iowa Star in December 1849 the sale of lots in Lafayette. The date of the sale was January 12, 1850. The terms offered were one-third down, one-third in 6 months, and one-third in 12 months. A number of lots were sold and cheap buildings erected. House warmings were common during the winter.

On April 9, 1850, a license was issued to Charles W. Freel by the Board of Commissioners of the town of Fort Des Moines to operate a ferry. The 5-year license required the posting of a \$500 bond, and was for an area one mile above and one mile below Lafayette. Rates of ferriage ranged from 4¢ per head for crossing loose hogs and sheep, to 12½¢ for a man and horse, and 50¢ for a wagon and 4 horses or 4 oxen.

Loring

A settlement located in Washington Township, southwest of Peoria City, on the old Newton and Northwestern Railroad. In 1907, the town had a depot, elevator, stock yard, and lumber yard, all near the tracks, as

well as numerous residences, a post office and store, and the Mt. Zion Church and Cemetery. First and Second Streets ran north and south, and Walnut, Cherry, and Elm Streets ran east and west.

Lovington

Laid out in 1854 in the southeastern part of Section 18, Webster Township, near the mouth of Beaver Creek. The plat was filed on December 2. A hotel was situated in the center of the village, on a sand ridge. The town had great expectations, but was short-lived. Lovington Road remains to remind us of the pioneer village.

Marquisville

This village in Saylor township was named for its founder, Clifford S. Marquis, born in 1880. His father, Richard W. Marquis, was a miller by trade. He came to this country in 1852 and settled in Iowa in 1870, where he was engaged in the real estate business in Des Moines. Clifford joined his father's office after attending Des Moines Business College. Upon his marriage, he moved to a 160-acre farm presented to him by his father. Recognizing a need for a village in the vicinity, he platted 20 acres of his land. Cottages were built and rented to the coal miners and a general store was established. Marquisville had a Post Office from November 4, 1892 until December 31, 1907.

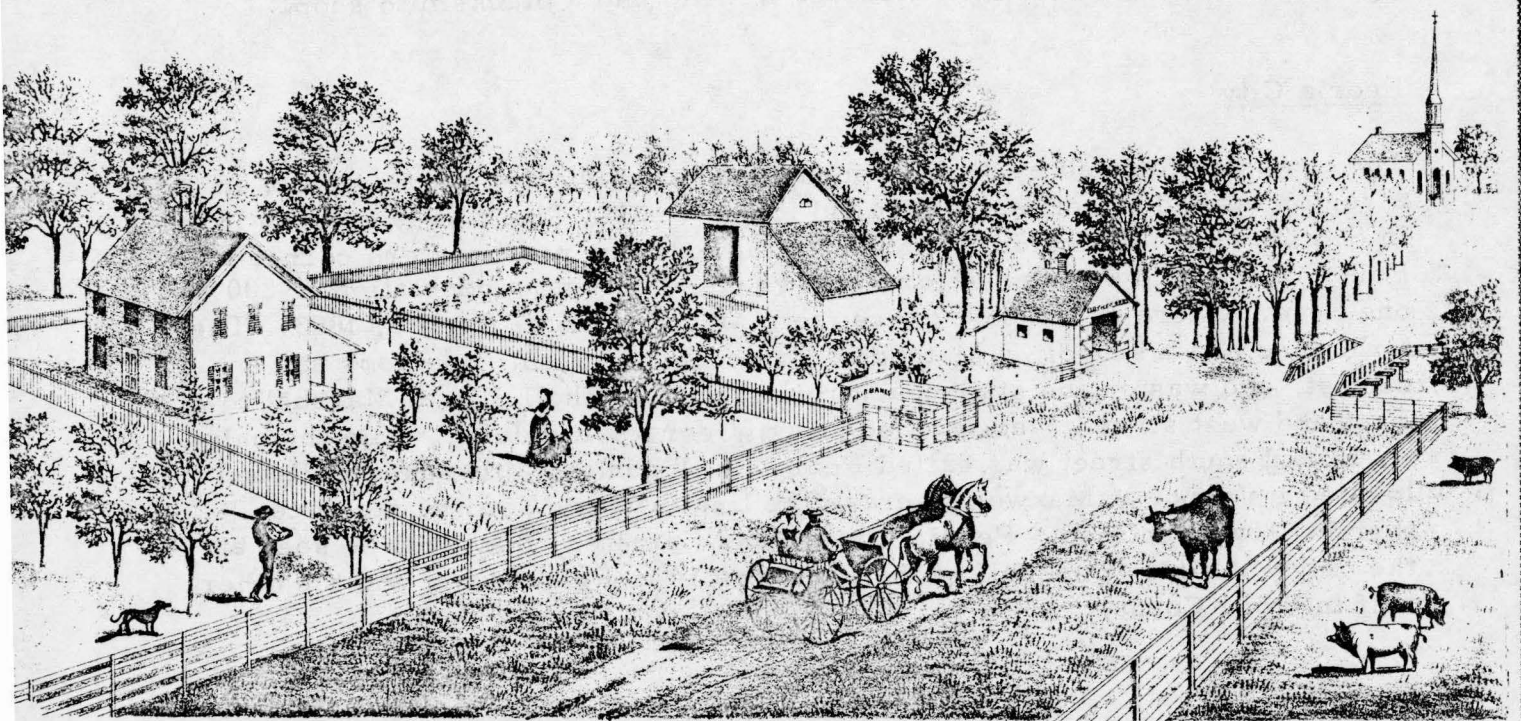
McDivitt's Grove

Named for William McDivitt, who purchased 150 acres of land from John Watts in 1853. Watts had taken out a patent for the land in 1848. McDivitt set up a blacksmith shop, sold enough of the land for a schoolhouse, and applied for a post office, naming the settlement McDivitt's Grove. Its post office was in existence from January 21, 1879 until June 20, 1883. The town was located in Walnut Township, just north of the present town of Urbandale. The name was later changed to Mc Divitt, and this post office was in operation from June 20, 1883 until December 15, 1884. The first postmaster of the town of McDivitt was Nancy McDivitt.

In 1870, Mr. McDivitt deeded ground for a cemetery and Methodist Church. The church was built by the congregation during the summer of 1875. Heat was provided during the winter from coal, obtained from the mines nearby. The coal cost \$3.25 per ton at the mine. The closest of these was Riders Mine, a couple of miles west of the church. A bell was later added to the belfry. It called everyone to church, tolled for funerals, and was used as a means of communication in the pioneer community.

McDivitt Methodist Church was dismantled in 1950, after having been

leased for a period of years by the Church of the Open Bible. The furnishings of the church were auctioned off. The sturdy walnut pews were made into tables and put to use in the new Church of the Open Bible at 68th Street and Urbandale Avenue, while the bell was moved to the Urbandale Congregational Church. McDivitt's Cemetery remains at the corner of Northwest Meredith Drive and 70th Street, a silent reminder of the old community.



RESIDENCE OF W^m M^c DIVITT, WALNUT T^p, POLK COUNTY, IOWA.

Montacute or Springfield

The town was laid out in June 1849 by John Houser, and was once a rival of Polk City. Houser built a store and post office, and got himself appointed postmaster. Montacute had two houses. The mail was brought up from the Fort Des Moines post office once every two weeks in Postmaster Houser's pocket. Later, mail service was placed on a weekly basis, with mail being brought on horseback. The Montacute post office was in existence from November 5, 1849 until August 12, 1852, when it was changed to Polk City.

Oralabor

Named by John Albrecht, who owned the land where the village was established on the Chicago and North Western Railway, in Crocker Township. The significance of the name, if it ever had any, is not known.

Ottawa

A town laid out in 1856 by Walter Cory and the central park of Lavish Grove (or Cory's Grove), at the corners of Sections 26, 34, and 35, in Elkhart Township, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of the present town of Elkhart. Situated on the mail route to Peoria City, the place had a hotel, post office, (removed from the original town of Elkhart upon its decline), McClary's Mill, and a blacksmith shop.

Peoria City

The town was founded by J. K. Hobaugh and a number of his relatives, in a region opened to settlement around 1852. Peoria City was laid out in 1856 in Section 1 of Washington Township in the extreme northeastern corner of Polk County, and prospered for many years, boasting a population of 200 at one time. There was a post office from May 8, 1856 to April 5, 1883. The town once had a school, a Methodist Protestant Church, 3 doctors and a dentist, and was on the stagecoach route from Mitchellville to Marshalltown. East and west streets were named Lucy, George, and John, while the only north and south street was called Pearson. When the Milwaukee Railroad located its depot at Maxwell, across the line in Story County, the once thriving town declined. Peoria Church and Cemetery may still be seen at the original site. One-half of the cemetery is in Polk County and the other half in Story County.

Rising Sun

The village was first laid out in 1854 by Lewis Barlow, however, there were a number of settlers here before the town was platted. It was located on the northeast quarter of Section 3, and the northwest quarter of Section 2, in Township 78 of Range 23. The settlers had come from Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, and Virginia. The original settlement soon shifted to the north and a new Rising Sun was laid out by Henry Barlow.

With the town established, a plat of ground was set aside for a cemetery just north of the village. The first burial was Lewis Barlow, the small child of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Barlow, in 1854.

By 1860, the town had a population of nearly 300, and had business establishments which included 3 hotels, 3 blacksmith shops, a harness shop, shoe store, shoe repair shop, tailor shop, grocery, general store,

and a chair factory. A one-room schoolhouse was built, and there were several churches.

Rising Sun was on the main stage line, and had a post office during the years 1853 to 1902. The first postmaster was John T. Roberts, appointed January 10, 1853.

With the coming of the railroads to Iowa, a site was selected for a depot at Rising Sun, but the Des Moines Valley Rail Road was located to the north. Altoona was founded, and little by little the town of Rising Sun dwindled in size.

Saylor

Named for the township, which was named for Thomas Jefferson Saylor, an early settler. The post office for Saylor was Marquisville. The town was located on the Chicago and North Western Railway, north of Des Moines.

Saylorville

In 1850, John B. Saylor laid out the town of Saylorville, and made additions to the original area 5 years later. Homes, churches, schools, hotels, stores, and shops were built, and the town became one of the most flourishing in Polk County. In fact, the town rivaled Fort Des Moines for the location of the county seat. When the railroad missed the town, however, it dwindled away.



John B. Saylor and his family were among the first to settle in what is now Polk County -- in April 1845, when the country was occupied by Indians and wild animals and Captain James Allen was in command of Fort Des Moines No. 2 at the junction of the Raccoon and Des Moines Rivers. At the time,

"there was nothing between them and the North Pole." The county was organized the following year and John B. Saylor was awarded the contract to build the first Polk County Courthouse for the sum of \$2,050. It was to be "the biggest and most imposing structure in Central Iowa." Before the building was completed, Mr. Saylor asked to be released from his contract, was paid \$550 for work done, and the courthouse was completed by the Commissioners.

Benjamin Saylor, father of John B., also came to Polk County and settled near his son. In return for the permit obtained from Captain James Allen authorizing him to settle here, Saylor agreed to raise provisions for the garrison.

A half-brother of John B. Saylor, Jehu P. Saylor, (1823-1882), was another of the early arrivals here, and the two men furnished beef and hay for the military post at Raccoon Forks (Fort Des Moines No. 2) and, in 1850, for Fort Dodge.

A post office was established at Saylorville (or Saylorville) on May 11, 1850, and existed until November 2, 1855. John B. Saylor served as the first postmaster. The post office was re-established on July 7, 1856 and operated until October 16, 1895.

Sevastopol

The town was laid out by James Sherman, May 6, 1862, and was incorporated in 1878. Located in the northeast quarter of Section 15 and the northwest quarter of Section 14, Township 78, Range 24, just south of the Raccoon and Des Moines Rivers, Sevastopol is now included in the southern part of the City of Des Moines. At one time, this was an extensive coal mining region. Here was also located the R. F. Young soap and candle factory and the Munzenmeier brewery. The Sevastopol post office was in existence from February 24, 1880 to December 12, 1889.

University Place

Incorporated in 1883, the town was later included in the central-western part of the City of Des Moines. It was located in the southwest quarter of Section 33 and the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 32, Township 79, Range 24, and had a post office from April 5, 1886 to December 12, 1889.

It was not intended that this listing of Polk County towns and villages be all inclusive. Many more settlements have existed to take their brief place in history. Others that might be listed include:

Apple Grove, settled by Thomas Mitchell in 1844, in a wild apple grove near Camp Creek, north of the road to Iowa City, in Beaver Township.

Ayers Grove, in the southwest part of Jefferson Township.

Bloomington.

Circleville, platted by William Buzick in Allen Township, in 1848, near Avon Station.

Corey's Grove, named for Walter Corey and located in Elkhart Township, south-east of the town of Ottawa.

Four Mile Settlement.

Greenwood, in Douglas Township.

Harvey.

Hopkins' Grove, in Madison Township, considered a village of good promise in 1857.

Huntsville, laid out on February 21, 1854 in Jefferson Township, another of those towns started on paper that no longer exist.

Keokuk Prairie, the abode of Chief Keokuk, embracing all of the bottom lands between the Des Moines and North Rivers, a short distance north of what was later Avon Station. The Chief had his winter residence in the timber, while during the summer he lived on the prairie. The tepees or wigwams of the encampment could be seen in 1846.

Kirkwood, in Webster Township.

Lavish, in Franklin Township, named for Michael Lavish, who settled here in 1846.

Midway, a promising town in the 1850's.

Mitchelltown, laid out in 1857 by Thomas Mitchell on the road leading from Newton to Des Moines. At one time it had a dozen houses, two hotels, and a school, but various causes retarded the town development and it ceased to exist.

Mud Creek.

Nobleton, a station on the Keokuk and Des Moines Railroad, located three-fourths of a mile south of the town of Mitchellville, and noted for its grain trade.

Ridgedale.

Saylor's Grove.

Taylorville.

Trullinger's Grove, named for the pioneer Eli Trullinger who settled there, in Franklin Township, in April 1846.

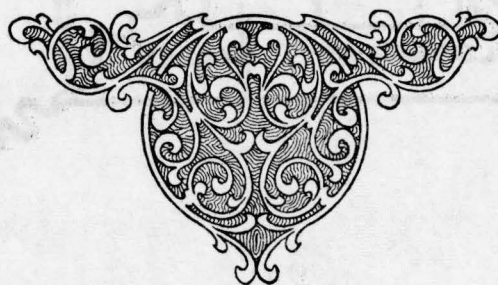
Union.

Wallace's Prairie, in Camp Township, where Lafayette later stood.

Walnut Creek, west of the Des Moines River.

West Liberty.

With the passing of the years it becomes increasingly difficult to obtain detailed, reliable information about these towns. The origins of many of their names have long since been forgotten. Perhaps the publication of this brief history will bring forth more information about early Polk County settlements.



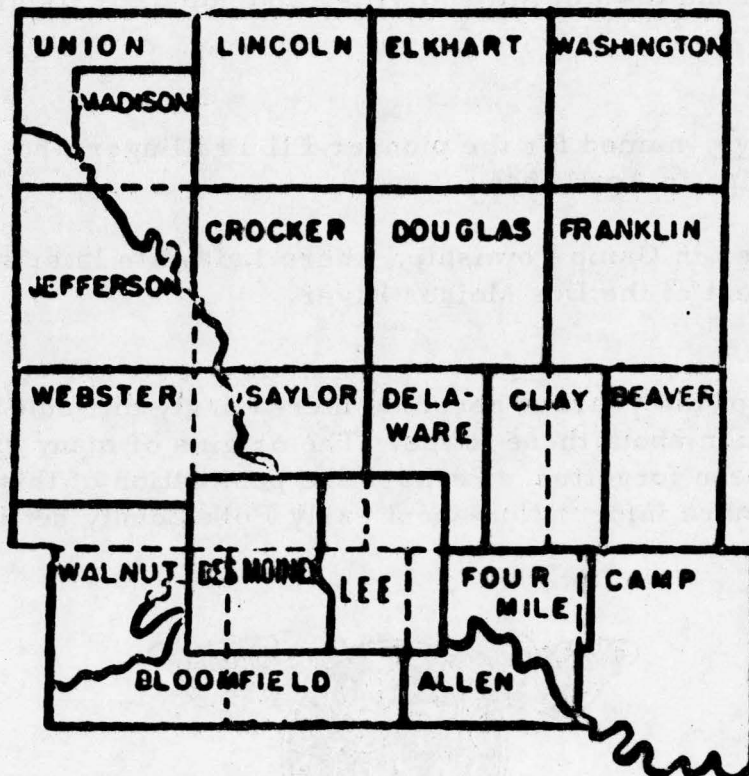
Townships of Polk County

As of January 1973, Polk County consisted of 21 Townships, as follows:

Allen
Beaver
Bloomfield
Camp
Clay
Crocker
Delaware
Des Moines
Douglas
Elkhart
Four Mile

Franklin
Jefferson
Lee
Lincoln
Madison
Saylor
Union
Walnut
Washington
Webster

At other times in the history of Polk County there have been the additional Townships, Grant, Jackson, Skunk and Valley. These have been absorbed by the remaining Townships listed above.



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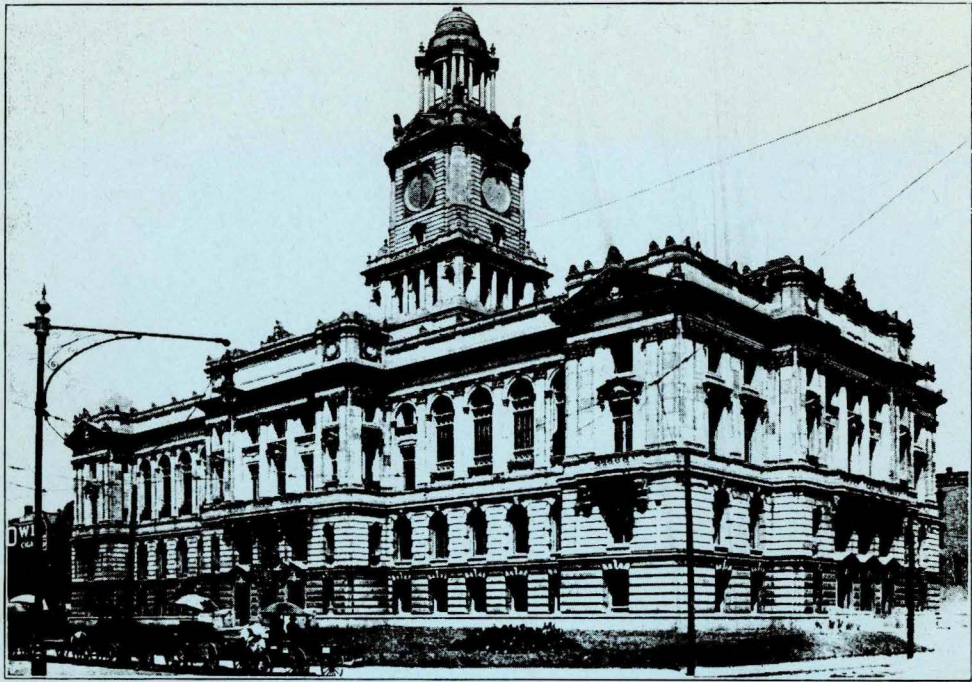
Many of the longtime residents of Polk County communities were also consulted, and in conversations with these persons, additional information was obtained.

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