FRANKLIN COUNTY HISTORY

IOWA

Compiled by workers of the
Writers' Program of the
Work Projects Administration
in the State of Iowa

Sponsored by the
County Superintendent of Schools
Franklin County

Cover Design

The Maysville Schoolhouse, built in 1868, is still standing in 1941, its sturdy construction and clean lines an emblem of the pioneer ideal maintained through the years. An account will be found on page 27.

1941

Federal Works Agency

John M. Carmody, Administrator

Work Projects Administration

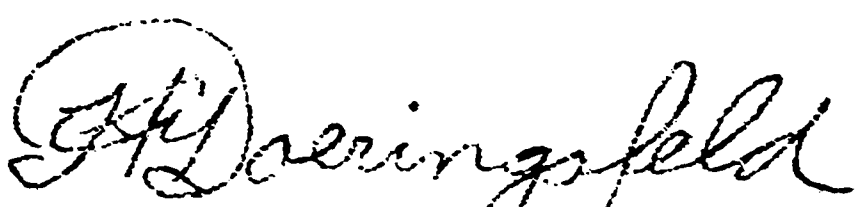
Howard Hunter, Commissioner
Florence Kerr, Assistant Commissioner
George J. Keller, State Administrator

FOREWORD

Today when Democracy and Freedom have become doubly precious to the American people, it is important to look back upon the foundations which have made possible our heritage. The roots of our way of life are sunk deep in our soil. Planted by the pioneers who first broke the earth and fought to wrest a living from the prairie, and cultivated by succeeding generations, our American life has flowered to its present perfection.

A study of this glorious growth is essential to the making of good citizenship. By learning to understand the problems of the builders of a county and a community, the student of today can find the faith and inspiration with which to face the trials of modern life.

With this thought in mind, pleasure is taken in presenting a new History of Franklin County, which has been carefully prepared by the Iowa Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration. Its pages carry the reader through the detailed development of the county and its people from the colorful days of Indian occupation down to 1941. Events and dates have been selected with discrimination and with all possible accuracy to achieve a well-balanced whole. This history is presented as an educational contribution to the making of good Americans.



County Superintendent of Schools,
Franklin County

CONTENTS

1941

I N T R O D U C T I O N

Behind the simple words on four bronze plaques lies hidden the story of the restless-hearted who dared to leave the old paths and travel the buffalo and Indian trails to the unknown prairie lands across the Mississippi. In Franklin County, the earliest comers reached to the end of their trails in Reeve Township and there began another outpost on the fringe of civilization - a cabin, a school, a post office - the nucleus of an organized community. The cabins and the log schoolhouses, the marks of their effort, are gone, but the granite boulders that mark the sites are witnesses that fine results came from their toil. The story of their lives begins the unrolling of Franklin County's history.

Much of their work was near Maysville, south of Hampton in Reeve Township, and there the Franklin County D. A. R. have placed monuments commemorating them.

One reads, "Site of the First School House in Franklin County. Built in 1855. First Burial Ground in County." Another tells us of our county's first building: "First cabin in Franklin County, Built by Reeve, Mayne and Phelps in 1852."

A third bears record of rapid frontiering progress: "Franklin County Pioneers 1852, James B. Reeve, Adaline Reeve, County Judge, Captain of Company H.32nd Iowa." And the fourth records the first hard-won industry: "Maysville, 1856-1890. One Rod North Stood E. L. Clock's Store In Which the First Post Office in Franklin County was Established 1856, Discontinued 1890. Maysville Had a School House, Hotel, 2 Blacksmith Shops, 2 Stores and a Steam Sawmill. Population about 150. Maysville Post Masters: S. C. Brazelton, J. Dayton, B. B. Morris, J. Dunn, E. H. Sparling, A. H. Birdgeman, A. H. Brown, G. H. Mitchell, W. C. Boyles, E. L. Clock, J. H. Stevenson, E. White, H. Wheeler, G. W. Wilton, S. Chrysler, J. H. Clock."

The substance of their dreams lives on in the splendid schoolhouses and comfortable homes of Franklin County. No distance was too far for these people to travel to build the law and order and justice that laid the ground for the future they saw. The simple words on the four obscure bronze plaques tell of the dreams they realized, and set the story of our county in motion.

CHAPTER 1

EARLIEST PRAIRIE SCENES

"In the land of the Ojibways,
In the pleasant land and peaceful,
Sing the mysteries of Mondamin
Sing the blessings of the cornfields."

When the prairie was new and untouched, Franklin County was a land of groves and these seemed to the settler the greatest possible treasure, for groves of hardwood and soft-wood trees were what they needed to build the first cabins and to kindle the first fires. Mayne's Grove was the largest. It was filled with oak, basswood, black walnut, honey-locust, soft maple, elm, box elder, cottonwood, and hickory. It was named for John Mayne, the first settler to reach Franklin County, and covered more than six square miles. Since that time many of the trees have been cut down but timber land in 1941 still looked like a forest, on either side of the graveled road along the hills near Hampton.

Other forestations were Otis Grove on the Iowa River, Van Horn's Grove in the central part of the county, Tharp's Grove, Shobe's near which Sheffield was founded, and Bailey's in the north portion, all from 800 to 1,200 acres each. Smaller groves were Towhead and Blake's Grove, Four Mile, Highland, Hartgraves' and Allen's Grove. The groves were not destroyed, and the one at Beed's Lake was replanted in 1939 to become as beautiful as the original groves of native timber.

The principal streams of Franklin County are the Iowa River, passing through 13 sections in the southwestern portion, Beaver Creek, Mayne's Creek, Hartgraves' Creek formed of Square, Spring, Otter, and Buffalo creeks, and the West Fork of the Cedar.

The West Fork of the Cedar enters Franklin County six or seven miles west of its northeast corner and runs southeast, leaving the county at the northeast corner. Bailey's Creek and Mayne's Creek empty into it and the Beaver Creek empties into the Cedar.

Now that we know the streams and groves of our County let us pretend that we are wandering over this land as it was when the first settlers saw it. There are no towns, roads, bridges, or fences - not even one cabin or farm house

Herds of elk and buffalo feed along the quiet streams, wild roses bloom and muskrats work in the sloughs. Let us pretend that it is early morning in summer - perhaps 1830. The sky brightens until it is flaming like a majestic bonfire, with red and golden light. Down in the slough the whip cups of the Canadian anemone are tangled with the green and shining stems of the blue spiderwort and wild iris. Every grass blade flashes with dew. There is nothing on the lonely prairie but waving miles of grass and dark groves of trees in the distance. Suddenly a band of Indians rides into view over a distant slope. Each Indian carries a knife and spear, for they are hunting elk. They ride in a great circle and gradually close in upon game. When the elk are exhausted and confused the Indian riders lean down and cut their throats without leaving the backs of their hard ridden ponies.

Now there is blood on the prairie and the grass is trampled down. Here the Indian squaws will skin the game and make camp. Here they will build fires and feast for days until the meat is gone. A white man visiting the camp would find the smell of the bloody skins and the decaying bones intolerable. But the Indians do not mind. They are happy as long as there is plenty to eat. When the meat is gone they go without eating until another hunting party is ready to go out. For fuel they find buffalo chips, rosinweeds or wood. After eating, stuffing and then starving, for three or four days or a week, they move on. But the smell of old buffalo and elk hides is still bad. Even the white man's horse would shy away from it.

Fall comes and the prairie is clean again. The Indians have moved eastward toward the Mississippi River to fish and hunt. The prairies are now a misty purple with the ripe bluestem. Here and there are the high gold heads of yellow rosinweed, sunflowers and golden rod. The grass bends in the wind showing yellow grass stalks, scarlet rose berries and brown seed heads of grass. There is no sign of habitation anywhere. Then over a far hill lurches a Conestoga wagon, and the history of Franklin County has begun.

CHAPTER 2

THE INDIANS IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

Among the first of the Indian tribes to be found over this region were the Ioways. They were of Siouan stock and spoke the language of the Sioux. They were a roving people and it is thought that they came down into Iowa from the woodlands of the Great Lakes. They were constantly at war with larger tribes--the Sacs and Foxes and the Sioux. When the white men came, the Ioways were often stricken with smallpox and their numbers gradually diminished until there were only a few left. In 1836 these went to Kansas where some of them still dwell on the Great Nemaha Reservation there.

The Sacs and Foxes, two tribes that were always united for war and mutual defense, came into Iowa about 1733. They became very powerful and drove almost every other tribe away. The braves shaved their heads except for a tuft on the crown, and to this they fastened a distinctive crest made of a deer's tail and horse hair. Both of these tribes were woodland Indians of Algonquian descent and both had the same customs and religion. When Zebulon Pike explored Iowa in 1805, he found about 2,850 Sacs and 1,750 Foxes.

There was one tribe of Indians which the Sacs and Foxes could not drive out of Iowa--the warlike Sioux, who called themselves Dakotas, a word meaning "allies." Armed with war clubs and lances and daubed with hideous paint, these dangerous Indians defied all enemies.

The first white men who came into Iowa wanted furs and skins and began to trade knives, axes, bright-colored cloth, and blankets, beads and guns for the pelts which the Indian hunters brought in. Soon fur trading posts were built along the rivers and as the fur trade increased the white men made more and more money and the Indians learned to depend on the trading posts for the things of the white man.

Indian agents were sent out by the United States Government to look after interests of the Indians, to teach them, to interpret their language, and to keep the peace between the tribes and between the Indians and the white men. The greatest troubles were between the Sacs and Foxes and the Sioux, so a treaty was arranged. In the summer of 1825 William Clark and Lewis Cass, representing the United States Government, called a great council and invited all the tribes in the region to assemble at Prairie du Chien, a town directly across the river from what later became McGregor, Iowa.

Indians came by the hundreds and camped along the shores of the river and on the islands between. The Sacs, Foxes, and Ioways were the last to arrive. The pipe of peace was passed around for all to smoke and the white men gave presents of beef, corn, sugar, tobacco, and a little whiskey. The Indians became friendly and agreed to live in peace forever. A line was run near the present border of Franklin County, the Sioux agreed to stay north of it and the Sacs and Foxes promised to keep to the south.

Within five years, however, the Indians had forgotten this imaginary line and the Sacs and Foxes had killed some Sioux warriors along the Cedar River. In the meantime another Indian agent, Joseph M. Street, was sent out by President John Quincy Adams to take charge of the Winnebagoes in Wisconsin and was stationed at Prairie du Chien. When, Street heard about the new trouble among the Indians he called another council at the same place.

On that day the Sioux Indians saw their chance for revenge. Hiding about fifteen miles down the river they waited for their foes to come by. At sunset the canoes of the Sacs and Foxes slipped up the river and moved to the shore and unloaded to camp for the night. The Sioux jumped to their feet with a horrible yell and started killing the unsuspecting Sacs and Foxes, who thought everything would be peaceful as it had been before. They could not escape and were all killed but one boy and one warrior.

The Indian agents made another effort to establish peace, and called a council at which the various tribes were asked to give up land to be set aside as a neutral ground to separate the warring nation. The Sioux agreed to give a strip 20 miles wide and the Sacs and Foxes consented to give another strip of the same size. Thus a swath of land 40 miles wide was created, running from the Mississippi River on the east to the Des Moines River on the west, and Franklin County was within this neutral ground.

All went well again for a short while but it was not the nature of the Indians to forget a wrong. The very next year a war party of the Sacs and Foxes discovered a camp of Sioux near Prairie du Chien and killed 17 braves and some women and children during a night raid.

So the warfare continued. The Indian agents tried another plan to establish peace and also make room for the white settlers who were becoming thicker in Wisconsin. The Winnebago Indians were moved from Wisconsin to the Neutral Ground in Iowa and protected from the Sioux and the Foxes by Fort Atkinson, a post built by the Government on the Turkey River.

Because Franklin County was in the neutral strip and under the protection of the soldiers, there was not much trouble between the whites and the Indians there. There were frequent scares, however, and in 1846 the Government again asked the Winnebagoes to move, this time into Minnesota. The Indians were slow to respond and the trouble continued. A white man was murdered the following spring and a band of Sioux killed several Winnebagoes near the Cedar River. Agent Street had built two schools for the Indians, where Indian children were taught to speak English and to read and write. He had also tried to teach the Indian men to farm, but they would not learn. They thought farming was squaw-work. They tore down the fences and turned their ponies in to feed on the wheat stacks. Soldiers were kept busy chasing Indians and trying to keep them all in order.

At last, in 1848, the soldiers made ready to move the Winnebagoes out of Iowa. They rounded them up and helped them to collect wagons, teams and food at the fort. When the march began there were 2,000 Indians, 1,600 ponies, 160 army wagons and a large band of mounted soldiers.

This was the last of the main camp of the Winnebagoes but a few Indians straggled back and six years later there was another frightful scare which drove every settler from Franklin County. This scare was caused by a tragedy at Clear Lake in which a boy was massacred. Clear Lake was also regarded as within the neutral ground between the Sioux and the Sac and Foxes but because of the lake this region was considered the best hunting ground and the Indians were reluctant to leave it. The Sioux especially were jealous of the Winnebagoes because this fine region had been given to them.

In 1851 a man named James Hewitt, who had been a trader among the Winnebagoes, settled at Clear Lake. He was well liked by these Wisconsin Indians and in the fall of 1853 several Winnebagoes brought their families and located near his cabin. Their chief was called To-Shan-ega or Toshanaga, the Little Otter. They called Hewitt Nock-a-Shook which is, Winnebago for "hew it."

These Indians hunted by day and, as some of the white men have said, "made night hideous with 'music' and dancing!" "Pagainena" was supplied to them by dealers in a nearby settlement. The name of this drink is made from two Winnebago words, "pageda", fire, and "nena", water, the whole just being whiskey.

The Sioux who lived farther north heard of this band of Indians and determined to exterminate them. About 500 Sioux came down to the lake and set up camp. Two of them entered the Winnebago camp, pretending to be very friendly. The Winnebagoes entertained them but all the time suspected mischief. Toshanaga told Captain Hewitt of their suspicions but the white men thought the Sioux really meant friendship

and persuaded the chief that all would be well. That evening, when Toshanaga's son rode Hewitt's horse after the cows as was his custom, those at the camp heard a shot and soon the horse came galloping back riderless. Toshanaga was sure now that the boy had been murdered. Hewitt examined the horse and found drops of blood and a small piece of bone on its back. Then he too was frightened, and went with Toshanaga to look for the boy. Down the road they found the headless body of Toshanaga's son.

The Winnebagoes buried the body and that night Hewitt and two other white men, fearing that more trouble would follow, helped the Winnebagoes load their wagons and started them toward Fort Snelling in Minnesota. Messengers were sent out to all white settlements to warn the people about the Sioux. Soon after the Winnebagoes started, a detachment of 50 soldiers arrived at the lake and the report spread through northern Iowa that a massacre of whites was expected at any moment. This was the night of July 4, 1854.

In the middle of the night the alarm was spread. "The Indians! The Indians!" It was carried hurriedly over the miles from cabin to cabin. When each pioneer, more asleep than awake opened his door he was told "Four hundred Sioux warriors are at Clear Lake and moving this way."

By daylight the whole settlement was ready to go except John Mayne and Dr. Arledge. Arledge's wife had died only a few days before and the settlers thought that he remained because of this. John Mayne and his family went to the Iowa River. As they had only two horse teams and the rest were oxen their progress was slow. They had to drive their cattle along and part of their livestock was left behind. When they came within sight of the grove in which stood the Down's cabin all the Down's family rushed out to look at the long train of wagons. The Maynes were by that time so nervous and frightened that in the half light of early morning they thought at first the members of this white family were Indians coming out to pillage the train. It was impossible to get away with the heavy wagons so they called a halt and the little party got ready to defend itself from the wagons.

When the Down's family came nearer, however, they saw that they had made a mistake and were much relieved. The Down's had no team but went on with the party on foot. At night they camped and sentinels were posted. Miss Octavia Smith, the pioneer teacher of the county, who taught a few pupils in one of the homes in Reeve Township, insisted on taking her turn in standing guard with the rest.

Some of the moving families went to the place where New Hartford later was founded and some went to Cedar Falls. Some returned to their homes in about two weeks, while others stayed until after the harvest and returned to find

that most of their sod corn and vegetables had been destroyed by whatever livestock they had left at home.

It is not known whether Mayne ever returned with his family to the grove which had been named for him. There was something mysterious about him which his neighbors could never understand. He was quick-witted and sharp but could neither read nor write. He seemed to prefer living on the verge of civilization for as soon as a place became settled he would move on. He divided his time between trapping and hunting and making claims. He never referred to his past life so many thought he had escaped to the west to avoid the arm of the law.

It is a strange thing that everyone remembered Mayne after he had gone to "follow the heels of the buffalo farther west", but they did not know how to spell his name. On the first maps which located the grove and the creek it was spelled "Main" but later W. N. Davidson, an attorney at Hampton, drew a large map of the county and in marking the creek spelled it "Mayne." This became accepted.

Some accounts say that a settler named Van Horn first brought the news of the Indians to Mayne's Grove, that he carried the word to Moon's and that Silas Moon carried it on. This Van Horn came to the Garner cabin before bedtime and the families immediately started getting ready to leave. But as Garners had a large flock of chickens and as the women did not like to leave them, it was thought that the best way to take them along was to kill, pick and cook them. They had to have food for their journey anyway, so this plan was adopted and they all went to work. The job required nearly all night but by daylight they had a large supply of savory chicken to take along, and everything was loaded. They started, taking the trail which led down Mayne's creek. The first night they camped at the "Horse Neck" near what was later to be known as Willoughby in Butler County. This was a long drive for ox teams. The next day they went to Cedar Falls. The Garner family remained away about three weeks. This flight delayed the settlement of Franklin County and caused loss and trouble to all.

CHAPTER 3

EARLY SETTLERS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY

The men who were forced to move from their homes in such haste that terrible night of July 4, 1854, had come to Franklin County during the two preceding years. Addison Phelps was one of the first. He started with his family from Ohio to found a new home in Iowa in 1852. He brought with him also one of his neighbors who wanted to examine the territory. This was James B. Reeve who was employed by Phelps to drive a team and take a load of goods. Phelps had relatives along the Cedar River and when they reached the home of these relatives the Phelps family stayed there while Phelps and Reeve went on farther west. They were joined at Hardin City, which was then called Rice's Mill, by a man named Moore. After traveling some distance they came to a large grove where they camped.

This grove of oak, hickory, and cottonwood was a wonderful sight to the pioneer. It was a vast dark green island of trees in the midst of an unending sea of waving grass. It was a place where firewood could be gathered, where logs could be found for cabins and rails cut for fences. The pioneers knew that the winter winds would be shut out by these dark woods and that game would always be plentiful there. One of the party went out immediately and shot a prairie chicken for supper. The noise of the gun echoed back from the surrounding hills, and then another white man, who had also arrived that day, suddenly appeared, walking out from the trees toward them. "I knew that was no Injun's gun" he said, "so I lost no time looking up my new neighbors."

This man was John Mayne for whom the grove was afterward named. He had been hunting and trapping and in following up the river had found the grove. He had driven all the way from Indiana in an old Hoosier wagon drawn by two yoke of oxen. In the wagon were his wife and child, a bundle of beaver and mink traps, his rifle, and a scant supply of domestic utensils. When he saw the three men he suggested that all of them might camp together. Mrs. Mayne got supper for the party, made the first biscuits in Franklin County! Hot biscuits shortened with coon's grease, and served with fried prairie chicken! No wonder Phelps and Reeve decided that here was the place to stay.

With Mayne's oxen they broke furrows to mark the boundaries of their claims. Then while Phelps and Reeve went back to get the family and more provisions, Mayne built his cabin, which stood near the ford and was the first building erected in the county. It was made of logs with a dirt floor and shingles of basswood bark.

When Reeve with Phelps and the Phelps family returned they lived with the Mayne family in the newly built cabin. Phelps started to build a cabin for his family but got it only three or four logs high when cold weather set in and he had to give it up. Winter came on too fast. They had not gathered enough hay for the horses nor hauled enough provisions to last all winter. Phelps and Reeve went to Janesville with the horses and arranged to have them kept there all winter. Then they returned and began hunting and trapping. They thought that with plenty of fresh meat they could get along until spring but when they ran out of flour and meal they decided that someone must go for supplies.

Reeve said he would go and he set out on foot for Janesville to get his team so that he could haul back plenty of food. Soon after he had started, however, it began to snow and a north wind made it bitterly cold. He walked on as fast as he could but toward night he found that his hands and feet were freezing. He was so worn out and cold that he wanted to lie down in the snow and give up but he kept on. At last he reached Allen's Grove on the West Fork of the Cedar. He had some matches and here he found wood and built a fire. He then took off his shoes and found his feet frozen and in terrible condition. There was no one to help him, and his feet became more and more painful until he almost cried aloud in agony. Night came on the prairie and the wolves started howling. There with the wolves, the little bonfire, and the extreme pain in his hands and feet, Reeve waited until morning. By the time it was light enough to see his feet had become so swollen that he could not get his shoes back on. He kept cutting them down and cutting them down in hope of getting them on, until there was not much left of the shoes, but he did finally get them on and started out for Bealer's Grove, a settlement now called Marble Rock. He arrived there late that night, almost dead from cold and fatigue.

After resting two or three days and trying to get his feet well again he left for Janesville, having got a team. There he stayed for weeks, impatiently waiting to get well, at least well enough to walk. He returned to Mayne's Grove in March to find that the Phelps family had become discouraged after so many hardships and so much hunger, and were leaving the country.

After Phelps left, Mayne and Reeve divided up the winter's catch of furs. Mayne gave Reeve a small dun mare and promised him a certain number of weeks' board for his share of the furs. A few days later Mayne started a quarrel with Reeve, and the younger man thought that Mayne wanted him to leave to save paying the board. He refused to go. Later in the spring a sort of peace was "patched up" but the men never became real friends.

What sort of man was James B. Reeve? Years later his friend, M. M. Trumbull wrote of him, "The people of Hampton will never know how much they owe to Judge Reeve. He was a magnificent specimen of western production: a great, big, brave giant of a man, with a heart tender as a woman's. He was hospitable and generous to a fault, if such a thing can be. He was an incorruptible officer and a thoroughly honest man. He was a great reader and had rare practical sense."

Leander Reeve, brother of James, came out from Ohio in May, 1853, and took the Phelps' claim. James broke ten acres on his claim and Mayne, who had by now made an additional claim, broke ten acres on that. Late in June George Sturms, Henry Garner, and a Mr. Fairchild came with their families to the grove. Mayne claimed all the best locations He sold his original claim with its shanty to Sturms, the second of his claims to Henry Garner and another place to Fairchild. Then like many pioneers of that time he moved farther west, this time taking a claim in a grove above Maysville.

Later Samuel and Job Garner came. The latter applied to James and Leander Reeve for a piece of good land they were holding in reserve for a friend back East. The settlers often chose desirable land near their own farms and claimed it for some friend or relative who had not yet arrived. If the expected person failed to appear, the claim would be for sale. Thus the Reeve brothers had taken up a farm for Andrew Coffin, a friend in Ohio, but when he did not come they offered the claim to Job Garner for $200. Garner was a preacher; since they needed one at the settlement, he offered to give his services to pay for the land. James and Leander Reeve were not churchgoers but they agreed nevertheless. Some accounts say that Garner preached only once, at the home of Fairchild. All we know is that several historians tell us the first religious services were held in the spring of 1853 in Fairchild's cabin.

That summer James Reeve returned to Ohio to bring his wife and eight children to Iowa by team and wagon. They arrived September 15, 1853 and spent their first winter in the cabin begun by Phelps.

Some time afterwards, Silas Moon and Peter Rhinehart arrived, and as it was then too late in the season to build a cabin, Rhinehart spent the cold weather with Sturms. Two men named Crouch and Webb came next and both took claims. Crouch was Mayne's brother-in-law, and moved in with that family.

During this winter the Crouch baby died. It was the first death in the county. Mrs. Mayne went to the James Reeve cabin on horseback to borrow sugar two days before the baby died. The child was then very sick, and she told the

Reeves when to expect the funeral. "Come day after tomorrow," she said, "for it will surely be gone before that time." When she spoke it was Sunday; and on Tuesday the funeral was held.

In April, Webb died while he was at work at Rice's Mill. His burial place and that of the Crouch baby, near the west end of Hayne's Grove, have been mistaken for Indian graves.

These are the families which wintered at the Grove that first year: Judge Reeve, Job, Samuel and Henry Garner, John Hayne, James Fairchild, George Sturms, Peter Rhinehart, Silas Moon, Crouch, Webb, and Dr. Arledge. It was a year later, in 1854, that these same people were frightened from their homes by the Indian scare. Two children were born that first winter when the Sturms and the Samuel Garners each had a son. Abner Sturms was the first white child born in Franklin County.

James Van Horn came in 1854 and took a farm about a mile north of Hampton. This Van Horn was the man who first got word of the Indian trouble and came to Hayne's Grove to warn the other settlers.

John I. Popejoy left Ohio in 1854 to look for a farm his father had taken in 1853 in Warren County. Not finding anything, he went to the land office located at Des Moines and noted that there were timber lots not yet entered in Franklin County. He entered a forty acre tract in Highland Grove, "unsight and unseen", then drove out to find his land. When he reached what he called "his woods" and found a spring there, he was very happy and immediately decided that right there by the spring he wanted to live. But at that moment two men came out of the woods at the same spot and challenged his right to the claim. Each man had a gun and one of them pointed his threateningly at Popejoy, asking him to leave at once because he who held the gun, had first claim to this land.

Popejoy had been resting near the spring and he now rose to his feet and said, "Let me see your gun." Taking it without resistance, he raised it and fired at a tree a few rods off. "Now," he said, "I want this grove. If you have a claim on it I will buy you out. If you haven't I will make one in a few minutes."

The fellow who had threatened him with the gun then led him up a hill and showed where he had begun a cabin. When Popejoy saw the cabin he realized that this stranger had a real right to the land. He paid him $50 for the claim and then returned to Des Moines where he bought enough land adjoining the grove to make an entire section. After that he drove back to his home. Popejoy was the second man to settle in Oakland township where this farm was located.

About this same time Fairchild got into a difficulty which forced him to leave Layne's Grove. Among the settlers the greatest crime known in the community was "jumping a claim", or taking someone else's farm. Often a new settler would make some trifling mistake in marking his claim, such as failing to measure or stake off boundaries correctly, or not giving the proper notice to the land office in registering the claim. There were men who took advantage of these small mistakes and would lay claim to land even when it was being farmed. Such men were often speculators who wanted only to get control of a large area of land but who did not care to build homes on the land or to farm it. All such "claim jumpers" were much hated and often punished or driven out of the community by bands of angry farmers. In June such a speculator came to Layne's Grove and while exploring the region he took a fancy to Layne's claim. As Fairchild was Layne's neighbor the man made friends with him and found out that Layne's claim was defective or not properly registered. He then "entered Layne out", taking over the land. This raised such a feeling against Fairchild that he had to leave. One settler remarked after he was gone, "T'was the best thing he could do for he would have been shot if he had stayed."

During the same month Charles Leggett and a man named Loomis came from Ohio and walked from Waterloo to Layne's Grove. Often they could not find springs from which to drink and were forced to drink from the sloughs. To do this they had to find a hole where an elk or buffalo had stepped into the soft ground leaving a depression filled with water. Into this hoof-track they lowered a pint bottle until it filled with water. The water was luke-warm, murky, and disagreeable but to find even this was considered luck. They finally reached their destination, however, and both took farms. Loomis immediately hired a man to break sod on his farm and after that the two men engaged Judge Reeve to drive them back to Cedar Falls; from there they returned to Ohio for their families.

Leggett later told of killing an elk in September 1855. This must have been one of the last of the elk in Franklin County because L. B. Raymond, one of the pioneer editors of the county, has recorded that the elk disappeared about 1856 and the last of the buffalo went two years earlier, in 1854, although James Reeve and William Braden killed an immense buffalo bull on the prairie in Hamilton Township as late as June 1856. The huge animal was just jumping the channel of Layne's Creek when a shot brought him down. The carcass was found to be so heavy that it took several men to get it out of the creek. All through the years of settlement, whenever a stray beast was located in the neighborhood, all hands turned out for the hunt until the beast was shot.

Leggett's elk was one of these unfortunate animals who had, like certain of the Indians, strayed back into old pastures and crossed the line into the region of settlement. Leggett and Staley, a neighbor, were making hay that fine fall day when they saw the elk feeding about half a mile off. Each man jumped on a horse and carrying pitchforks they started in pursuit. Leggett overtook the elk and stabbed him with the pitchfork but did not kill him. The elk got away with the tines of the pitchfork lodged in his shoulder. But the two men still followed and as the elk tried to cross a small creek the pitchfork handle was caught between two trees and held firmly, until Leggett could get close enough to catch hold of it again. Staley came up next with his fork and held the struggling elk on the other side. They had captured the animal but they could not kill it.

Just then a lucky thing happened. Another neighbor, Dr. Mitchell, came into sight over the hill. He had been out after prairie chickens and still carried his shotgun. Leggett called to him and he came up very much excited and said he would shoot the elk. He took aim and fired but missed completely. He tried again with the other barrel of the gun but again he missed. The pioneers called this "buck ague", when a hunter became so excited that he couldn't hold his gun steady. Leggett joked with Mitchell saying he was having this trouble, and asked him to hold the pitchfork while he shot the animal. But Mitchell would not give up the gun. He was more than ever determined to finish the elk even if it took all the powder he had in his horn. So he reloaded the gun and walking up to the animal, held the muzzel about six inches from its head and fired. This time the elk fell dead and provided many meals of fresh steak for the families of the settlers.

There are many other hunting stories. Late in the fall of that first year in Franklin County, James Reeve and John Mayne saw a herd of about one hundred buffalo in a ravine in Reeve township. They fired into them but without effect. The baffaloes moved northward and the men followed, getting a shot now and then when the herd came to a stream and were huddled together at the crossing. But they could kill none of them. They followed on, however, although it was now getting dark. Four or five miles west of Shobe's Grove they caught up with the herd again and, hiding behind a bluff, they crept up close to the animals. From this place they got a good shot and killed two before the herd could get away. But now it had started to snow and in the darkness they could not get their bearings. They were lost. It was getting colder and they had to have shelter. There were the two buffalo. The men skinned both animals and wrapping themselves in the hides, lay down and slept until morning. By daylight they could see the grove and knew where they were. They reached home safely by noon.

CHAPTER 4

THE ORGANIZATION OF FRANKLIN COUNTY

Franklin County was created in 1851 by an act of the State Legislature, but it was not organized until 1855. Until that time there were not enough settlers in the vicinity to hold an election; therefore Franklin County was attached to Hardin and Chickasaw counties. But on August 5, 1855, by an order of the county judge in Chickasaw County, an election was held at the home of James B. Reeve. Forty-eight men voted and chose the following officers; James B. Reeve, county judge, Isaac Miller, treasurer and recorder; Dr. Mitchell, clerk of courts; John Popejoy, assessor; H.P. Allen, surveyor; A. A. Jordan, prosecuting attorney; C. M. Leggett and Jones, justices of the peace; and Solomon Staley, sheriff. The new county was called Franklin for Benjamin Franklin, statesman of Revolutionary days.

Franklin County was the fifth county west of the Mississippi in the third tier from the northern boundary of the State, lying between the ninety-third and ninety-fourth meridians. It contained 16 Congressional townships, each one six miles each way, which were finally named Reeve, Morgan, West Fork, Osceola, Ingham, Geneva, Oakland, Hamilton, Grant, Lee, Wisner, Richland, Scott, Marion, Ross, and Lott.

After the election the returns were sent to Bradford, the Chickasaw County seat, and the newly elected Judge James Reeve and the treasurer Isaac Miller made the long journey to Davenport to get the books and various blanks to be used in the business of the county. The Reeve home became the first courthouse and sometimes the family had little room left for themselves, for the settlers gathered there for meetings and filled every inch, it seemed, of their log cabin.

The first census was taken in the new county in 1856; the population at that time was found to be 780. Four years later it was 1,309. For some years the population in the counties farther west continued to be small. Even Cherokee County had only 15 people during the winter of 1862-63, because of Indian scares. This shows the difference in the progress of settlement between middle counties of Iowa and counties farther west. Even as late as 1880 Sioux City, which was settled early, was still only a community of about six thousand people. It took many years for western Iowa to catch up with the eastern part of the State. The middle counties had the two advantages of nearness to the more settled eastern section and of a location safely distant from the frontier counties.

After Franklin had been organized, it was necessary to locate the county seat. By this step the people were nearly made the victim of a group of speculators. District Judge Cave J. McFarland disregarded the petition presented by the settlers asking men whom they had chosen to be appointed as commissioners. He said flatly: "I appoint Dr. Ault one of the commissioners, and I don't care if the people of Franklin County like it or not. And I also appoint M. M. Trumbull, of Butler County, and J. D. Thompson, of Hardin County who voted for me, as the other two commissioners."

The commissioners met several times, and in spite of Trumbull's protests, decided to locate the county seat on land owned by Thomas Abel and to call the new town Jefferson. Trumbull voted for a site on property owned by Job Garner. The Franklin County settlers did not like the commissioners' choice, for Thomas Abel actually made his residence in Marshall County to the south. They felt it was a plan to make money at their expense, for any town site always becomes a valuable piece of land when it is divided up into lots and sold. The Franklin County citizens, believing that the county seat question had become an excuse for land speculation, filed a petition asking the commissioners to order a vote on the subject at the next April (1865) election. A condition of this petition required the site for the new town to be located on the farm of Job Garner, a resident of the county. The petition was properly posted, signed, and filed in Judge James B. Reeve's court.

At the April election the settlers gathered to defeat the commissioners and the land speculators, and by their votes decided almost unanimously for the Garner site. It is said that in this contest the Jefferson site received only two votes. Thus with the help of Judge Reeve, who wanted to see fair play, and the untiring work of another man, M. M. Trumbull, the pioneers' wishes were respected and their rights maintained.

Two Franklin County men, Job Garner and George Ryan, gave 40 acres of land, which was platted and sold for town lots regardless of how the commissioners felt about it. The sale of these lots made the county enough money to build the courthouse, to do the necessary work such as laying city streets, building roads, and paying the costs of surveying and platting. On June 2, 1856, H. P. Allen, the county surveyor, finished the work of platting the village and the plat was recorded. Two sons of Job Garner helped in the work of surveying. Allen Garner worked as chainman and received $4.35 for his work and also $4.50 for carrying or setting surveyor's stakes. Matthias Garner received $5.87 for his work as chainman, according to county records, and also hauled stones which were set up at each corner for markers. His wages for the latter job are not stated.

S. B. Jackson, a young lawyer who had come west to "Grow up with the country", earned $4.35 as chainman and Asa Platt, who sought to buy land, hauled surveyor's stakes for $1.75. William Easterbrook, chainman, received $3.12.

The name Benjamin, honoring Franklin, was chosen for the new town by both Garner and Ryan, and was used for some time. R. F. Piatt objected, however, on the ground that there was already another Benjamin in the State, and Judge Reeve was induced to change the name to Hampton, after Hampton Roads, Virginia. Piatt was among the first lawyers to practice in Franklin County and had taken a prominent part in its early development and organization.

Hampton, two miles east of the center of the county, surrounded by as "good farming land as lies out of doors", was later to be connected with the rest of the world by good roads and two railroads, but at the time of the organization of the county there was no road at all and there were very few horses or oxen. When a settler desired to hear from friends he either trudged on foot or rode a horse all the way to Cedar Falls for his mail, or entrusted the errand to a neighbor who was going that way. Two-cent postage stamps were then unknown and even the modern envelope had not come into use. The sheet of writing paper would be folded in a certain way and made secure with sealing wax. This was then addressed to its destination and the person receiving it would often be called upon to pay as high as twenty-five cents for the letter.

When the railroads were built each town soon had a post office of its own with weekly delivery of mail. Later deliveries were made semi-weekly and finally they were made daily. In 1857 a post office was established at Maysville and most of the mail for Hampton was obtained there. Later in that year an office at Hampton was chartered and on December 19 Robert F. Piatt was commissioned the first postmaster. In 1869 the Hampton post office was made a money order station.

In the winter of 1856-57 Franklin County had a private school. S. H. Van Kirk taught in Hampton in a small building on the corner of Reeve and Second streets. He was a well educated man and gave the few pupils instruction for about three months. This was not a public school; the parents subscribed a certain sum of money for its upkeep. In the spring of 1857 a real schoolhouse was built in Hampton. It cost a little more than $100 and was not equipped with desks. Clara Wyatt, a girl still in her teens, taught this school. The second, a frame structure, was built the following year by F. A. Denton and E. O. Evans, and was paid for with public funds raised by taxation as soon as the county was completely organized.

The first house within the corporation of Hampton was a log cabin erected by Job Garner in 1855. The town was incorporated in 1871. The first mayor was William Raymond.

The first church edifice built in Hampton was the Baptist Church erected in 1869. The first church organized in the county was the Congregational in 1857, its pastor the Reverend W. P. Avery.

The first graduate in the Hampton high school acted as valedictorian and salutatorian and composed the whole student body of the class of 1881. He was Charles W. Wilcox.

In after years, however, his favorite memories were of extra-scholastic activities. Chief among these was his first camping trip. His father gave him 15 cents for his expenses and the father of the other boy provided a horse and buggy. They stayed away from home one whole night and went fishing. Wilcox caught a turtle instead of a fish.

Octavia Smith, the first Franklin County teacher in that earlier trying season of 1854, had married H. J. Mitchell. Long afterward, looking back on those pioneer days, she wrote: "I was young, not quite seventeen, and had earned a little money teaching school at one dollar and a half per week. My husband...said one day before we married, 'I have twenty dollars, do you think we could commence house-keeping?

"I thought we could, so we were married and began keeping house and only used thirteen of the twenty dollars, that included our furniture, cook stove, dishes and groceries." The stove cost $1.50, the chairs 50 cents apiece. While her young husband built a table and bedsteads, the bride put a curtain around an empty meal barrel and used it for a center table to hold the family Bible and hymn book.

But soon the young couple felt very rich indeed. Mrs. Mitchell's father gave her $30 with which to buy a cow. The cow yielded enough cream to churn $12 worth of butter in four months.

When they had been married three years the cow died. This, she says, was a great loss as they had no butter to eat or to sell. They had a pig to kill, however, and when the pig had been slaughtered she sold part of the lard to buy herself a new calico dress. But there was only enough lard to pay for seven yards, so the dress turned out to be rather short. One of her neighbors came in shortly afterward and told her it was too short, but Mrs. Mitchell was not greatly troubled by this. "It will be long enough before I get another," she said.

She tells of how very cold it was in the winter of 1856-57, that hard winter when the Sioux Indians almost starved and the horrible massacre at Spirit Lake took place. There was no food anywhere except in the settlers' cabins. Even the elk died on the prairies. The hungry Indians prowled around begging for food and finally they killed 32 white people who had settled near Spirit Lake. Toward spring the frightful news reached Franklin County. Two years before people had been frightened out of their homes by an Indian scare, their crops destroyed and much of their livestock lost, but this time they refused to move.

Rumors reached them that Indians were coming to massacre all the people of Iowa. Many came from Fort Dodge and farther west. Each reported the Indians only a few hours journey behind them and rapidly coming east. The eight families at Oakland were asked to join those fleeing to escape death, but none of them could be easily persuaded to leave the homes they had worked for so hard and which they had made pleasant and comfortable. In order to protect the women and children, however, they did evacuate their homes and gathered at Mitchell's place which was turned into a temporary fort.

Beds were made up on the floors both upstairs and down and the men brought guns and powder and for a week kept sentinels at their posts day and night to guard the people within the house. The Popejoys, who had to remain at home to feed and care for their livestock, kept a team of horses harnessed to a wagon ready to race toward "Fort Mitchell" at a moment's notice. But after days of vigil and many sleepless hours of darkness, it was decided that the anticipated Indian attack was a false alarm, and all the families returned safely to their own households.

CHAPTER 5

DEVELOPMENT AND THE CIVIL WAR

The first white settlers often arrived before the land had been surveyed, and staked off their own property. They stepped off distances instead of measuring and thus many of the claims were not accurately marked and some overlapped. When Government surveyors came into the country the early lines were corrected and every effort was made to give the squatter his rights. After the land had been measured, each squatter paid the United States Government $1.25 an acre for his land.

In 1860 the homestead law was passed and the settler could take up 160 acres if he lived on it and made certain improvements such as building a cabin, breaking a certain number of acres or fencing a given area. After that the settler was called homesteader instead of squatter.

By 1860 Franklin County was well settled, and had a number of flourishing towns. In 1857 it had even been crossed, although only at the extreme southeast corner, by its first railroad, the Dubuque-Sioux City line. That year, unfortunately, the whole country was swept by a financial panic. Money was scarce, and those who had it feared to invest or to allow their funds to be used for purposes of building and expansion.

Nevertheless, by 1860, Hampton, the Franklin County seat, was a "bustling burg, of 200" with two general stores, a printing office and a flour mill. A newspaper, the Franklin Record, established March 28, 1859 by Thomas Drummond, advertised the reopening and refitting of a hotel - Hampton's first hostelry. It was a story-and-a-half frame building, put up in the spring of 1857 by John E. Boyles . The advertisement read: "The subscriber invites public attention to this establishment which he had lately reopened and refitted, and intends to keep as nearly as possible up to the handle. He will use his best endeavor to make his house a pleasant spot by the wayside, and solicits the patronage of all hungry, starved souls, promising them that they shall have the best that can be procured in this region. He professes to be a knight of the ribbons, and accordingly takes the best possible care of the 'nags' -- having the largest and best stable in Franklin County and 'ostler who knows how to 'do the thing up brown'". The wording of this notice to the public shows the spirit of optimism and enterprise shared by many of the early business men and settlers in Franklin County.

During the period from 1854 to 1860 the pioneers had suffered many hardships -- the inconvenience of living in primitive log cabins on the prairie, the recurring fear of attacks by Indians, and during the long winter months, the constant fight against bitter cold weather. In January 1857 a Mrs. Ryan was frozen to death near the Haecker place in Mott Township. She and her husband had been visiting friends one evening; when they started home the wind was blowing heavily and there was a thick snowfall. The couple lost the path and wandered helplessly through the storm. Finally Mrs. Ryan sank exhausted on the bank of a little hill -- she could walk no farther. Her husband turned back to hunt for help, but it was daylight before he returned with several would-be rescuers, only to find Mrs. Ryan still seated on the hillock, frozen to death.

There were other accidental and natural deaths in the county, too -- of children, old people, and persons of various ages. But, since even during difficult times, life cannot be all sorrow, as a counter-balance there were many good times -- "house raisin's" -- when the settlers met to help put up new log houses and celebrate their occupancy -- weddings, and community religious and educational gatherings.

The first wedding to take place in the county -- that of James Martin and Nancy Garner -- was solemnized in the summer of 1856 at the home of Abe Bacon in Otisville. The bride and bridesmaid had to ascend to the "loft" and dress by the light of a "slut" lamp, made of a hollowed-out turnip filled with hog grease and lit with a cloth wick. The bridegroom had to put on his "best suit" within the shelter of the corncrib.

A typical wedding celebration of a few years later when living conditions had become relatively comfortable, was that of R. E. Train, teacher of the first school at Otisville in 1856, and superintendent of a Sabbath School organized in 1860, to Huldah Jane Morgan. This was an event of 1861. The Bible class leader, E. A. Howland, a wedding guest, was warned by the bride's mother not to "plague" the girl and thus annoy the bridegroom. Howland, dressed up in a borrowed suit, did not feel at home in his temporary finery, but forgot his own embarrassment in helping dispel the confusion of Train and of Squire Jebediah from Oakland who was officiating. Howland was compelled to interrupt the ceremony when it was about half through to change the position of the bride and groom, "as I did not want them married left-handed."

After the ceremony there was a basket lunch and then the guests enjoyed playing the game of "Copenhagen". In this game a ring was formed with rope. Each player held his hands on the rope and there were one or two inside. If the persons inside the ring could strike the hand of one of the

opposite sex outside, it was their privilege to kiss the latter before he or she could also dodge inside. This game brought forth much laughter and teasing and was considered great fun by the crowd. Just imagine the grown-ups of today indulging in such sport!

While this game was being played at the Train wedding festivities, Howland thought up what he considered a capital joke. Among the players were John I. Popejoy, "the cattle king", who on his arrival in Franklin County in 1854 had acquired 286 acres of land. There was also a Mrs. Walters, who quickly called Popejoy's attention to his horse tied up in the yard, and then took advantage of his momentary distraction to strike him a sound blow on the hand. Popejoy was so astonished that she had kissed him before he could recover enough to dodge inside the rope. Afterward Popejoy declared that this cured him of the habit of smoking for two years. . . Thus the pioneers amused themselves. There was always laughter on the frontier.

But soon the normal life of the settlers was saddened by the Civil War -- that great war fought between the North and the South of our own United States. Men had to leave their shops and plowshares to fight and kill their own countrymen. In Franklin County, as well as all over Iowa, the building of roads and railroads was halted or postponed, as was the construction of new mills and bridges, stores and homes.

The names of 130 soldiers from Franklin County are listed in the records of the Civil War. Forty-five of the men died in the service of their country. Among these was James B. Reeve, captain of Company H, 32nd Iowa Infantry who was killed January 24, 1863, and his son Fernando, who died September 21, 1864. Elias Moon was taken prisoner and died of starvation at Atlanta, Georgia, while one of the last battles between the North and the South raged outside the city walls.

Franklin County was represented first in the 6th Volunteer Infantry, and in companies of other regiments. Besides the 130 listed there were 100 men in the 44th Infantry, some in the cavalry forces, and a number in the Northern Border Brigade.

A 9-year-old girl's impressions of the war's beginning, printed in the Franklin Recorder in 1892 gives a vivid picture of the times; "I well remember the morning the news came that war had broken out. My father was standing at the gate waiting for the mail carrier to deliver the paper, when he rode up excitedly and said, 'They have fired on Fort Sumpter'. Then my father raised his hat solemnly 'And now so help us in heaven we will free the slaves'". The child stood awe-stricken watching her father in his blue uniform the

morning he was to leave. She wondered if it could be possible that bullets would hit him. "But we heard the beat of the drums and knew that Co. B. was marching down the street and that his time with us was short. They halted at the gate and with hurried embraces to mother and the little ones, he took me by the hand and led me to the gate with him... Climbing the fence, I commenced to wave my little flag and sing at the top of my voice 'The Union Forever' and the company joined in and when they passed out of sight I could still hear their voices as back from the hills came the words, 'The Union Forever'". Alas, that father never returned home alive, but losing his life as an after-effect of the strain of helping a wounded comrade, was brought back the following year in a flag-draped coffin.

A more cheerful story was that of James Wheeler McKenzie, who fought with the Army of the Tennessee. McKenzie was conspicuous for his bravery under fire during an attack of the enemy on Altoona, Georgia, October 5, 1864. General Sherman's signal corps had been trying to send dispatches from Kenesaw to General Corse. The messages were read but unanswered because of a thick hail of enemy bullets. General Corse sought Lieutenant McKenzie, temporarily in charge of a signed company, and declared he had to get word through to General Sherman, who had just wig-wagged, "Hold the fort for I am coming." Corse wrote out and handed McKenzie the following message (or so it was reported in the Franklin Recorder for January 18, 1882):"To Gen. Sherman: I am short a cheek bone and one ear, but can whip hell out of them yet. General Corse."

McKenzie took the message and the signal flag and called for a volunteer. No one responded..."It seemed like certain death to anyone to undertake it. At this moment of hesitation, the General seeing no man going forward said to me firmly, 'Lieutenant, I thought you said this message could be sent?' I replied, 'It can,' and without further delay I mounted the signal station and commenced sending the message expecting every moment to be shot. The flag was about eighteen feet long, and the wind was blowing some, and I found it very hard work, and felt as though I must give out before I was done. At this moment, when it seemed I could stand it no longer, a stranger, not a member of the signal corps, came up behind me, put his arms around me, took hold of the flag staff, and standing behind me, helped me to wave the answer back to Sherman."

McKenzie died at Hampton in 1882. On June 16 of that year,14 comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic organized the J. W. McKenzie Post, named in his honor. The G. A. R. regulations provided that each Post should bear the name of a dead comrade. Capt. Rufus S. Benson was the first commander.

Some years later the taxpayers voted to build Memorial Hall for the use of the former soldiers. The Hampton city council donated a lot, and the building was dedicated August 27, 1890.

A marble tablet bearing the names of all soldiers who enlisted from Franklin County and were killed in battle, or died of wounds or disease, was placed on the walls of the Memorial Hall. As other veterans, citizens of the county, began to die, the Women's Relief Corps sponsored a second tablet to carry the names of former soldiers who had met death since the Civil War. It was placed on the wall in the spring of 1895. At that time the Post had 100 members.

Gradually, as the years went by and the survivors of the Civil War became fewer and fewer, the Post activities were carried on with the assistance of veterans of the Spanish American and World wars. The last local survivor of the Civil War, Levi Lyons Conner, died September 27, 1937 at the age of 91.

The first G. A. R. Post in Franklin County was organized in December 1866 when a few veterans living in Reeve Township met at the schoolhouse at the east end of Mayne's Grove. Col. A. T. Reeve assisted at the meeting and at following gatherings, but no records remain. The following besides Colonel Reeve are known to have participated: Captain Clock, O. G. Reeve, Capt. A. B. Hudson, G. W. Soper, L. B. Raymond, R. S. Benson, J. S. Hurd, L. P. Hurlin, James H. Beed, L. P. Berry, W. A. Franklin, D. H. Van Hoen, J. D. Haecker, W. P. Ashley, J. H. Plant, and J. Y. Lamber. These men constituted the charter members of the encampment of the G. A. R. known as Post No. 115, District 11, of the Department of Iowa. L. B. Raymond was authorized to muster in the Post at the courthouse July 5 and July 9, 1867.

The meetings were not held for very long. Both the men and their families wanted to forget the war. It had ended with victory and justice, but now people wanted to experience progress in ordinary normal life. They wished to farm their land, build enduring homes and towns, and share in the future benefits of civilization.

CHAPTER 6

RAILROADS IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

"Fizzel, fizzel, squeak, ding, dong, rumble, rumble, hurry, skurry, puffing and rolling onward and westward through forests, over prairies" and across creeks and rivers. That is how the first railroad trains came into Iowa. But before they could come rolling in, bridges had to be built, road beds graded up, hills cut down and filled in, and last the steel track and high trestles had to be built. A great deal of timber had to be cut down also and hewed square to make the ties. Fences had to be built to keep livestock off the tracks and towns and stations had to be laid out along the way. All this preliminary work took a long time and a great deal of money. Crews of men were hired to build the lines across the state and every day the noise of these workmen driving the huge steel spikes could be heard along the new tracks.

There were two ways for the railroad companies to get money to build the roads. One was to lay out new towns and sell building lots to merchants and householders who would settle there, the other was to sell the free land given by the United States Government to encourage the building of the roads. This gift of land was made up of every other section for ten miles on each side of the tracks. Some men have judged that about one-ninth of the land in the state was given to the railroads in this way. And as this railroad land lay close to the railroad centers it could be sold for a higher price per acre than the $1.25 an acre which was paid to the Government for it. In spite of the great amount which had to be done then, there was money to do it with and as early as 1857 there were four parallel railroad lines building toward the west.

The line which lay farthest north was the one which cut across the southeastern part of the county. This was the Dubuque and Sioux City Railroad which was to pass through Fort Dodge and afterward became part of the Illinois Central. But due to the panic of 1857 work soon stopped on all lines and was not started again until after the Civil War.

During these years while the settlers waited eagerly for the coming of the railroads, stagecoaches carried mail and passengers across the state and from town to town. Sometimes men went on snowshoes with the mail, but somehow it was delivered. Twice a week by way of Algona mail was carried from Fort Dodge to Mankato, Minnesota, and there was a weekly service from Cedar Falls to Hampton and from Newton to Fort Dodge.

The first railroad to reach Hampton was built from south to north and was called the Iowa Central Railway, later the Minneapolis and St. Louis. This line was built by the Eldora Railroad and Coal Company, first from Eldora to Ackley in 1867-68 and from there to Hampton in 1870.

It was almost the Fourth of July, June 28, 1870 to be exact, when Hampton held its railroad jubilee. A great celebration had been planned and all was excitement. Flags and bunting were everywhere and children carried firecrackers and small red tissue-wrapped torpedoes in their hands as they came down to the tracks to watch for the new train. The town was filled with a gala crowd and all the hitching posts were taken up by the long lines of teams and saddle horses tied along the streets. Almost everyone in the county had come to town with picnic baskets packed and smiles on their faces. Holiday clothes and holiday spirits were in evidence. The band was waiting near the road playing frequent bursts of music and the people stood in little groups along the tracks joking and laughing as they waited.

About noon it came, and what a sight it was. There was a long hoarse whistle and then the locomotive came puffing up the track with fifteen or sixteen flat cars, loaded to the stakes with excursionists enjoying their first railroad ride. Each flat car bristled with green bushes stuck along the sides to provide shade from the hot June sun. The multitude on the flat cars cheered and the people of Hampton shouted back greetings, as the band played ferociously and the train panted to a stop.

The two groups, visitors and home folks, then came together in a roaring crowd which streamed off slowly toward the grounds where the celebration was to be held. The sunlight flashed from bunting and flags and at the head of the parade rode the Marshal of Hampton mounted on a splendid horse carefully groomed for the occasion.

When everyone had reached the grounds they ate their picnic lunches. All were gay and everyone talked about the railroad. The speaker of the day was Tom McKenzie. Perhaps he was one of the McKenzies who settled in Richland township in 1868. There was Roderic McKenzie who bought out John Shobe near Shobe's Grove and for whom the McKenzie School House and the McKenzie church were named. Then there were James and John McKenzie who were both active in the Civil War. At least it was Tom McKenzie who spoke and who read both the Declaration of Independence and the Emancipation Proclamation, as well as he could with "the constant popping of firecrackers" around and above the speakers' platform. But the noise was glorious. It was all a part of this day which celebrated the Fourth as well as the new railroad.

But while this gay time was being enjoyed at Hampton, in another part of the same county sadness and discouragement prevailed. For just six miles to the south lay the town of Maysville and this town had been skipped entirely by the railroad - a body blow from which it could never recover. Maysville had been an ambitious and active town up to this time. Its citizens had made strenuous efforts from the first to get the county seat located there, and later on to get the railroad. Only a short time before someone had predicted "Maysville will have a railroad before Hampton after all the fuss" and"consequently the county seat will be eventually removed to this place. The site of the courthouse will be fixed upon soon." But in spite of this optimistic statement and in spite of the fact that Dr. Mitchell had a steam sawmill at Maysville and tried hard to get the judgeship for himself away from James B; Reeve and the county seat for his town, it was not to be. The railroad was built leaving Maysville outside. And so the thriving little village on the stage line between Ackley and Hampton became a dying town and when the last person had moved away, a ghost town. One building only was left standing in 1940 to mark the place -- the old stone schoolhouse -- a two-story building still solid and still used -- situated near the highway within sight of Mayne's Grove. This building, erected sometime shortly before 1870, was at that time the best schoolhouse in Franklin County.

In 1876 another railroad passed through Hampton. This was an east-and-west line known as the Chicago Great Western and there was no celebration to mark the event, but there was great joy for the people needed this road to reach the Chicago markets with their grain and livestock.

In 1881 the third road was built through Hampton--another north-south road--the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern. This line, entering the county at Lee Township and passing through Dows and Popejoy as well as Hampton, became part of the Rock Island system. The stream-lined Rocket train was later to thunder over this same road giving its long cry of warning outside of each city; its modern siren, frightening in its intensity, matched the awe-inspiring speed of the new steel horse skimming steel-shod over the prairies.

CHAPTER 7

BEED'S LAKE

A blue lake where once was forty acres of corn -- a mill pond where once was wilderness - that in part is the peculiar history of the Beed's Lake area. Here is a blue lake circled with growing trees, winding foot paths and picnic places, with a wide and sunny beach on the south shore and fishing boats tied up along the old dike which extends out into the water, forming a dock or pier - the lake of Beed's Lake State Park. Twenty years earlier this land had been a cornfield. Seventy years before that it had been a mill pond, and before that, a spot in the wilderness through which ran the clear, cool waters of Spring Creek.

Let us begin at the time the first settler came into the valley of Spring Creek. He was a Campbellite preacher who was also a business man looking for just the right spot to start a new industry. When he found this natural valley, and the creek flowing between steep hills, he stopped. He explored the stream and found that it was twelve or fourteen miles in length, that it seldom or never ran dry, for it was fed by numerous cold water springs which flowed continously during both summer and winter. He examined the limestone rock which faced the slopes of the hills on the north and south and decided that here a dam could be built across the stream. As this was a good place for settlement, it was also a good place for a mill. The name of the preacher was T. K. Hansberry and the time was 1854.

After he had made his plans Hansberry lost no time in getting to work. First he secured the water rights from David Matthews and then started the building of the dam. The dike when finished was about 80 rods long and 10 feet high. It was made chiefly of gravel from nearby gravel pits and the black earth of the top soil, with field stones and rock to give it added strength. The mill race or channel was built next and extended toward the east for nearly one-half mile before it connected with the mill proper where the machinery was to be set-up. The stream of water directed through this mill race was to furnish the power to turn the wheels of the mill.

The first mill set-up was a sawmill, for everyone needed lumber for new homes and there were plenty of trees growing close by on the hills. Besides that, Hansberry needed lumber himself to build the outside structure of the gristmill he had planned. So the sawmill was set-up immediately and in a short time rafters and siding and shingles were being turned out for new cabins and the new mill.

The foundation was laid carefully of limestone blocks cut from the hillside and on this the framework was built and at last the mill itself. It was a two-story structure and looked very tall and very imposing to those early settlers who came hurrying up the creek to take a look, or to lend a hand with the work. The sunlight shown down on newly cut oak shingles and shining new walls as the pond gradually filled and water began to trickle through the new spillway. Workmen hurrying, bent their backs to the installing of the millstones. Everywhere was activity, everywhere was excitement. It was a wonderful thing to have a mill in the county.

When the mill at last opened, farmers came from miles around with their grain to be ground. The great water-wheel outside began to turn and the mill-wheels turned and soon the first sack of flour was ready to be carried away. It was a great day. Everyone joked and shouted, you had to shout to be heard above the mighty noise of the mill-wheels. Farmers went home with light hearts that evening in 1859, proud that there was a mill in their own county.

The millstones were very heavy and it was hard to haul them across country for the early mills. Some were made in Georgia but the best ones had to be brought across the Atlantic ocean from France. Each stone was grooved on the inner surface and the two were placed together on a spindle. The lower stone was stationary and the upper stone was turned by the machinery of the mill. The grain to be ground was poured into a hopper and passed down through an opening in the center of the upper stone and was crushed as the stone revolved. The flour was caught in a wooden trough as it sifted down from the millstones and was then sifted or bolted to remove the bran. One-half bushel of wheat made about twenty pounds of flour, eight pounds of middlings, and three pounds of bran. A special kind of cloth called bolting cloth was used for sifting the flour. In 1843 the amount paid to the miller was set by law at about an eighth part.

By 1861 Hansberry found that he had more than he could do in caring for the mill and acting as one of the first preachers in the region, so his brother-in-law John McDonald came from Marietta, Ohio, to take charge. But even after that, running the mill remained a big problem and was not always profitable. During the winter season the water in the millrace would freeze solid and the mill could not be worked. In Spring, floods came to wash away the dam and repairs were constantly being made. Then in the summer dry spell, the water would get so low that it would not turn the wheels and again the mill had to close. This went on until in November, 1864, McDonald and Hansberry sold the mill and water rights to William Beed of Hampton for $6,500.

Mr. Beed immediately began improving the mill and dike. He raised the dike another ten feet so that more water could be stored and hence more power gained. Next he went to work on the mill race which he considered too narrow and too shallow, and without sufficient fall to keep the water flowing fast enough to prevent its freezing. He started the new channel at a point ten feet higher than that of the old one to give it the necessary fall and to make it deeper and wider. The work was completed in 1872.

From that time on, Beed kept making improvements. He enlarged the original building making it four times as large with a third story for extra storage room. He also built a lean-to facing west to cover the scales and to make it easier to unload the grain and load the flour in bad weather. He bought millstones made in France so that he might have the very best in equipment in order to turn out the very best flour.

In 1882 he made another change. This time a roller system was installed, equipped with burrs and rollers. This increased the speed of grinding so that by 1883 the mill had a capacity of 150 barrels of flour a day and eight men were employed to run the machinery. An elevator and warehouse were built near at hand and the mill became known as the Franklin Roller Mills. For forty years this mill was an important factor in the growth of Hampton and the development of settlement in the county.

William Beed was always progressive and sought to build up the community. When he noticed that the farmers of the county had stopped raising wheat and that all the wheat for the mill was being shipped in, he tried to encourage the raising of more wheat. He sent to South Dakota for a carload of their finest seed wheat and offered to sell it to the farmers at cost. But the farmers did not want to raise wheat and only about half of it was sold. Franklin County had become a corn country as had most of Iowa. Gradually year by year the flour mills of Iowa closed and finally the Franklin Roller Mills closed also. The great flour mills had been located in other states, where wheat was a stronger crop. Oats continued, however, because oats follows corn in the crop rotation and because oats was necessary food for horses. Perhaps because of this the greatest oatmeal mills in the world came to be located in Iowa at Cedar Rapids.

After the mill closed the mill pond remained for many years and was used as a picnic place and vacation spot. Here families gathered on Sundays to rest and fish and young people came to enjoy picnics and boating. Oney Fred Sweet, formerly of Hampton, remembers an early day quartet of young men's voices, singing from a boat under a shining moon which "hung low over Beed's pond." The four men, Derwin Peck, Dick Webb, Roscoe Palmer, and Charlie Osborne sang "Way Out

Yonder in the Cornfields" while the frogs kept their accompaniment and their youthful audience applauded from the shore.

J. M. Menning, whose father built just west of the mill in 1870, recalls the rude shelter the Menning family put up the first winter. It was a dug-out made in the steep banks of Spring Creek. The south side and the roof were made of boards and on the south wall was one window and a door. Sod was plowed up and cut into lengths to build the other walls of the shelter. The north side especially was made thick-walled and tight. This dug-out when finished was about 16 x 16 feet.

The first winter the snow fell until there were snow-banks ten or twelve feet deep. The door of the dug-out was buried in snow and a hole had to be dug through to the outside before the Mennings could get out. At night, wolves trotted over the snow and often they would pass directly over the roof of the dug-out. Inside, the Menning family would hear them howling across the snow and the children would gather close around their mother and someone would throw more wood in the fire to make a high, cheerful blaze to light up the darkened cabin so they could forget their fear of the wolves.

But in the spring all was pleasant again. Wild ducks and geese came chattering in from the south to alight on the pond. You could shoot wild mallard and teal or go fishing almost in the front yard, for the creek ran by just below the house. Red-winged blackbirds came in hosts to build their nests in the tall cattails and rushes near the pond.

In the days before Beed's Lake was drained, and when the old mill-wheel was still turning, there were so many muskrats that William Beed offered a bounty of 10 cents for the tail of each one killed in or about the lake. The little animals caused so much damage that Beed was also glad to furnish a boat to boys for hunting purposes. One October day three boys set forth in the boat and had an adventure recalled by D. W. Parks in the Franklin County Recorder for October 6, 1926.

As the boat glided over the smooth water, one of the boys happened to look up. Coming out of the north at a very high altitude was a flock of something which in a later day might have been taken for airplanes. After they had come nearer, one of the boys said, "They are geese!"

As the aerial group moved into plain view the boys thought they must be Canadian geese, because they were so unfamiliarly large, "With a loud smack that sprayed the water for 20 feet in every direction they lit on the surface a few hundred yards away. When they were settled and

stretched out their long necks it was concluded by all present that they were swans, just like we all had seen in the picture books."

The boys started rowing toward the birds, but "'the swans', three in number, paid little attention and the rowing continued until the party was within fair shooting distance, when they arose." The young hunters fired and shot the three birds, one by one.

They eagerly took their "swans" home and were surprised to learn that they were really pelicans, the only ones ever seen in Franklin County. The largest measured 9 3/4 feet from tip to tip, and had a pouch that "one could easily put a foot into."

The Henning family built their new home the next summer. At that time J. M. Henning was about twelve years old. For many years he continued to live near the mill, helping Beed to rebuild the dam, improve the mill and keep it running through the years. He later stated that flour ground at the mill was graded in this order: first grade, White Lily; second grade, White Rose; third grade, 4-X; fourth grade, Bar-X. Various feeds, such as cracked corn, were also ground at the mill.

In 1900 the first telephone was installed at the mill. Four years later the mill was closed. William Beed died in Des Moines, Iowa, January 1, 1912.

After the closing of the mill floods continued to wash against the dam and when a portion was destroyed it was not rebuilt so the dike got lower and lower and the pond smaller and smaller until the picnickers and even the fishermen deserted the place. The old mill building was torn down and the lumber carried away. Finally, in 1917, Henry Paullus bought the place and decided to drain the pond and slough, which covered nearly forty acres, so he could grow corn on it.

When the people of Hampton heard that the pond was to be drained many were sorry to see the old landmark go and, according to a story in the Hampton Chronicle, hundreds went out on the day set for the draining to take a last look at the historic body of water which had been there ever since the county was first settled and which held so many pleasant associations for them. Some of them came to fish also, for there were many fish still left in the pond. The largest of these were the carp, some of them weighing as much as twelve pounds. These large fish were allowed to go down stream into Spring Creek and here men were already stationed, standing on rafts, and waiting for them. They carried pitchforks to spear the fish and in this manner could take a

large number in a short time. Two men landed 240 pounds of carp that morning. It was November 10 but the weather must still have been quite warm as the story in the Chronicle states that the mud was six feet deep and the fishermen used rafts in order to keep out of it. According to other accounts of the day, many families brought picnic baskets, held fish fries and watched the progress of the work as the water was gradually drained away from the big pond.

Thus it was that the old mill site became a cornfield, lost among the millions of other cornfields of Iowa. But the place and its story were not forgotten. Just nine years later, in the fall of 1926, plans were again astir for a county project to reflood the old lake bed and bring the fish and game back to Franklin County. An Isaac Walton League chapter was organized in Hampton and plans were drawn up for the new dike which would have to be built. Max Hickethier, county engineer, made a survey of the vicinity where the new dam would be built and estimated the cost with improvements necessary at about $40,000. On October 24, 1926, a large booster meeting was held at the Coonley Hotel and about one hundred sportsmen were on hand to approve the plan before it was presented. The people were to vote at the regular general election November 4, on the proposition that provided for a tax levy to raise the $45,000 necessary to rebuild the lake. Frank Ridgeway, Judge S. A. Clock, Mrs. Francis Whitely of Webster City, Senator C. P. Johnson of Sheffield, David Evans of Mason City, and D.V. Parks, chairman of the new Isaac Walton Chapter, attended the meeting and heartily approved the plan which would bring not only a recreational center but a wild life refuge to Franklin County. But in November voters in nineteen precincts failed to back the venture. Many people who lived in the county but outside of the Beed's Lake area, did not favor the levy of the county. After that, the plan was laid aside for six more years. Even the Isaac Waltonians allowed their new organization to lapse.

In 1933 a new plan was devised, and this time it was decided to get State aid before the project could be successful. The Isaac Walton League was revived and a meeting called. A committee of three, Dr. H. H.Johnston, Wayne Ferris and Dr. J. C. Powers, was appointed to work out a plan for the restoration of the lake. It was not an easy task that confronted these men. At last, after many months of debate, telephone calls, trips, and earnest conversation, the members of the State Conservation Commission agreed to help the project if the land for the new lake were deeded to the Commission free and clear of all encumbrances.

The committee's next step was to buy the land but there was no money with which to pay for it. So they went out first to see how much it would cost. Henry Paullus owned most of it and he agreed to sell at the regular market price, which was not high at that time. The other land own-

ers agreed to sell theirs in the same way. To finance the purchase of this land, approximately 254 acres, the committee went next to the council board of the city of Hampton. This board, together with city park commissioners, approved of the plan for the lake and the city council offered to issue $8,000 worth of bonds.

The money from the sale of these bonds, together with money which would be received by the Isaac Walton League, from the sale of building lots along the shore line of the proposed lake, was thought sufficient to purchase the land necessary for the project. The city of Hampton wished to retain title to two acres of land on the northwest side of the lake for a city park. This park together with the larger park and picnic areas maintained by the State would provide an inviting resort for visitors and residents of Hampton.

The lots platted off by League members were 63 in number and were located along the northern shore, 300 feet back from the shore line. The State of Iowa was to have title to the lake bed and all the land within 300 feet of the shore together with sites on the east, west and south shores to be used for picnic areas and for a wild game refuge and bird sanctuary.

The Hampton Post of the American Legion agreed to buy eight lots, these lots to be adjacent to each other and as near to the city park as possible. All lots were sold for $125 each and it was not long before the League had money enough to buy the land for the new lake. The Hampton Rotary Club donated $150 also. The State Conservation Commission planned to reforest the entire lake shore. The lake was to be about a mile and a quarter in length from east to west and one-quarter to one-half mile in width. The water was to be about forty feet deep nearest to the dam. The dam was to be erected just northwest of the old mill site, extending between two limestone hills that border Spring Creek. Sixteen more acres were purchased by the State from August Varrelman on the east, to be made into a fish hatchery and nursery pond, creating a total park area of 270.53 acres.

In the meantime something was happening in the entire Nation which no one could have foreseen but which had a direct and immediate effect on the Beed's Lake project. It was 1934 and drouth had struck the land. Drouth on the prairies was serious. Cornfields withered under the intense heat and creeks, springs and sloughs dried up rapidly. Farmers had to haul water from dwindling rivers for their stock. When food and water gave out animals were sold or shot in the fields. The great plains of the west became known as the "Dust Bowl" and many farmers had to leave their land and go elsewhere. In the Middle West, dust storms became as common as thunder storms had been before. Even in

the early days of spring there was no rain and the sunlight looked cold and white as it fell over roof tops and porches. Clouds of dust were carried by the western winds and at night shrouded the lampposts of Chicago, Philadelphia, finally even New York. The soil which had been so productive in the early years was now blowing away. Something had to be done, before the grasslands which had been plowed up should become a barren desert.

It was at this critical period that the Federal Government began the organization of a vast program for drouth relief, and a part of this program was the formation of the Civilian Conservation Corps made up of unemployed young men. The Franklin County Fair Board provided land for a CCC Camp site for the men who would work on the Beed's Lake project, and a new company, 2717, organized July 4, 1934, was installed there.

Now there was three agencies at work on the same problem: the Federal Government, represented by the Civilian Conservation Corps, the State Government, represented by the State Conservation Commission, and Franklin County and the city of Hampton, represented by the new chapter of the Isaac Walton League. It is not surprising that with so much cooperation the lake and park turned out to be more extensive than it had been planned at first.

The new lake covered 110 acres, and the entire park about 170 acres. The dam was built across a natural gorge which almost enclosed the valley. The spillway of this new dam was 170 feet long and about 34 feet high. This made the water about 35 feet deep on the east side because of the depression of the stream bed. The abutments and spillway were anchored far beneath the surface in bedrock and could not be washed away by any flood. They were built to take care of a large overflow and could handle a flood created by the drainage from 32 square miles of tributary watershed.

Railings were built along the high banks of the dam and lake on the north and south sides, and water constantly flowing over the spillway was guided through the fish hatchery east of the dam.

The old dike built by Hansberry and Beed was left just as it had been with the exception of some reinforcing, accomplished by riprapping along the shores with field stones. About midway from the new dike to the old, along the south shore, a small bay was excavated where boats could be brought in to the shore and docked. All of the lake bottom was leveled and dangerous stumps were removed. The deepest part of the lake, known as the danger area, proved to be along the north shore.

The swimming beach was placed on the south shore, which sloped very gradually toward the west and north, with no dangerous drop-off for swimmers. Flagstone steps led up from the beach to the bathhouse or lodge, which was built very large, measuring about 83 feet long and 28 feet wide. Leading up to the lodge an automobile drive was built and to one side on a gentle slope the picnic area was laid out. Tables and benches, cooking ovens, water and sewage improvements were made and trees planted all around the lake to give beauty to the scene and provide pleasant shade for picnickers.

The Ferris nursery donated many of the hundreds of trees planted. Among the trees and bushes started in this reforested area were arrowwood, snowberry, Russian Olive, river birch, white birch, pin oak, sugar maple, mannyberry, wahoo, honey locust, black walnut, white ash, wild plum, red oak, maple, red dogwood, wild rose, sumac, elder, hawthorne, wild crab, black locust, hazel brush, Colorado spruce, white pine, ponderosa pine, Scotch pine, white spruce, Norway spruce, American elm, catalpa, cattails, round and giant bullrushes, and Carolina poplar.

A continuous footpath about three and one-third miles long was laid out, winding through the trees around the lake shore. A woven wire fence was built to enclose the park and to keep out livestock. There are three entrance gates leading into the park. This area as a whole was intended for a game refuge but the west end of the old lake had been set aside especially for this purpose. Here was built a sanctuary for wild fowl, with feeding stations and protection of all sorts for the birds.

The greater part of this work was accomplished by the Civilian Conservation Corps camp which had been established on the Franklin County fair grounds at Hampton. The matter of getting this C.C.C. camp was not easy. Dr. Johnson and A. C. Wilford worked hard to get the project assigned to this, their own territory, and a large company of C.C.C. boys was organized July 4, 1934. July 12, Captain Carl W. Tamminen arrived in Hampton to take charge. Tents were put up to house the 195 men who arrived July 14. On the first night they were there, a severe storm came up which almost demolished their tent city. When the wind and rain were over, only two tents were left standing, but the next day they were put back up and work at the camp started. Permanent buildings were started August 31, to house the officers and men through the coming winter. Nine barracks, a hospital, mess hall, recreation building, combination bathhouse and latrine, officers' quarters, and administration buildings were erected.

This C.C.C. company worked for several years on the project of Beed's Lake. The educational advisor, Earle M.

Briggs, carried out a comprehensive educational program throughout the time that the camp was stationed at Hampton.

When the lake was finished, the multi-colored figures of the bathers in bright caps and suits, the dark green of the growing trees, the white sandy beach and blue rippling water, the solitary forms of a few fishermen, and the small boats bobbing at anchor contrasted strangely with the memory of former scenes at the old mill.

By 1940 the State Conservation Commission had approved a proposed purchase of an additional 30-acre tract for fish-rearing ponds. With the additional ponds it was expected that there would be ample hatchery facilities to supply all the fish needs for Beed's Lake, and also a sufficient number to supply most of the State-owned lakes, except the big ones at Spirit Lake and Okoboji.

Later, a contract for the construction of additional fish nursery ponds for the Beed's Lake State Park was awarded to Weldon Brothers of Iowa Falls by the State Conservation Commission. The project was to cost approximately $12,000. The plans, put into execution immediately, called for a large minnow pond and two bullhead ponds north of the ponds already in use, and three ponds in the area east of the Rock Island tracks to be used for game fish.

CHAPTER 8

HAMPTON - THE COUNTY SEAT

The site of Hampton was first settled in September 1854 when, as related earlier in this story, Job Garner acquired a claim from James and Leander Reeve, and built a cabin at a bend of Squaw Creek, near a grove and a flowing spring. It was Garner who with George Ryan founded the town in 1856 and called it Benjamin. It kept that name for several years, until the place became the county seat. On October 8, 1926, the Hampton chapter of the D. A. R. set up a bronze marker to identify the site of Garner's original cabin.

Some records state that A. Freetoe came to Hampton in 1855 and brought with him the machinery for the first sawmill of the county, which had a capacity of 3,000 feet of lumber per day, and was operated by steam. It was probably located on Spring Creek north of Hampton, for we know that in 1858 T. K. Hansberry built a dam over Spring Creek and set up a gristmill and sawmill which he afterward sold to George Beed. The mill site became a part of Beed's Lake State Park. This grist mill was probably the first flour mill in the county, for Squaw Creek was no doubt too shallow a stream to turn the wheels of a mill.

After the town was platted, the first building to be erected was a story-and-a-half structure made of logs and put up by T. T. Rawson and his brother-in-law, Frank Geiger. It was stocked with groceries, dry goods, hardware, and whiskey and became the first store at Hampton. Other additions that year were a blacksmith shop kept by Jacob Shidler, and another by James Thompson. In 1857 T. B. and H. H. Carpenter started another store. That was the year when J. D. Thompson was made district judge.

During these early years Hampton grew rapidly. The steam sawmill turned out more and more lumber for new buildings. All about Hampton, and at Maysville too, oak trees and tall cottonwoods, hickory and black walnut trees were being converted into cabins, stores and business buildings. The Franklin County Agricultural Society was organized and the first newspaper was published.

The newspaper was started by Thomas Drummond of the Vinton Eagle who came to Hampton in the fall of 1858 to secure the delinquent tax list for publication. Since there was no newspaper in the entire county at that time, the field looked good to him so he went back to Vinton, secured old material from the Eagle office and started the new venture in Hampton during February, 1856. Thus began the Franklin Record, a six column folio, all home print. The Hampton post office had already been established in 1857

with Robert Piatt as postmaster, and was now a money order station. The newspaper did not appear regularly, however, because Hampton's growth was retarded during the Civil War. Men were leaving every day for the front, and everyone was uncertain and anxious about the future. Printing supplies were hard to get and finally in 1863, the Record stopped altogether.

J. C. Whitney bought the equipment of the defunct paper for $350 and started another called the Franklin Reporter. The first issue came out in May 1866. During the following summer, Whitney hired a war veteran, Levi Beardsley Raymond, to work in the newspaper office. Raymond, a strong six-footer with blue eyes, light brown hair and a sandy beard, was said to be a "warm friend and a bitter enemy." Invalided from the army in 1863, he had been employed to teach the first term of school in the new building erected between the lots on Reeve Street later occupied by Cannam House and Gray's Fur store.

After working on the Reporter that summer of 1866, Raymond went back to teaching in the fall. He had a school near the foot of Mayne's Grove. The next summer he worked as agent for a school furniture house and in the fall assumed some distinction with his election as superintendent of Franklin County schools. After retaining this office for two years, he started the successful Hampton Free Press.

In 1872 Raymond visited the northwest part of the State returning with a "violent attack of western fever." Pioneers were always moving westward and he wanted to go also. He sold his Hampton Free Press to Whitney and moved to Cherokee in Cherokee County where he started a journal called the Cherokee Leader. He next purchased the O'Brien Pioneer in O'Brien County and the Sioux County Herald at Orange City. He started a fourth paper at Doon in Lyon County and a fifth at Newell in Buena Vista County. Later he raced with a blizzard and almost froze to death driving back to Cherokee in time to start the Sheldon Mail to beat out a prospective rival. But in 1874 Raymond had to close the offices of his various newspapers.

The grasshopper scourge came to northwest Iowa, crops were wiped out, and many farmers had to begin all over again. Money was scarce and Raymond lost so much that he was forced to move on and try his luck elsewhere. After working for a time in Des Moines he went to Hampton where in December 1877 he started the Hampton Leader. This paper was later consolidated with the Franklin Recorder.

Raymond had married Mary O. Leverich in 1868. One of his daughters was to become Mrs. Mae Rule, the wife of Dr. J. S. Rule.

In the meanwhile Whitney had combined Raymond's earlier paper the Hampton Free Press with the Reporter, and changed the name to the Franklin Recorder. On May 29, 1872, J. C. Harwood purchased a half interest, acquiring complete control in August 1876. An early history of Franklin County was published as a serial in the Recorder in 1880.

When Whitney sold the Recorder to Harwood, he purchased The Magnet, which had been established in 1871 by W. C. Eaton. This had been a good paper, filled with interesting news and sustained by good advertising patronage. Whitney changed the name to The Chronicle and printed his first issue August 2, 1876, editing it with a view to expressing the opinions of the Republican party. This was to become the leading newspaper of Franklin County.

Business had prospered in Hampton after the close of the Civil War. The first drug store was opened then by Dr. O. B. Harriman, who was to become owner of the first opera house. The first furniture store was started by U. Weeks and a shoe store was established by G. M. Spencer. Henry and Jonas Schlesinger's clothing store was already in operation. After that in rapid succession came a milliner's shop, a barber shop, a jewelry store, a restaurant, a tobacco store, a harness shop, and a lumber yard. John Lambert and his son were the first wagon-makers in Hampton; Charles Rogers, the first baker; Dr. M. H. Ross, the first dentist, and Stephen Murphy, the first tailor. The first meat market was opened by a man named Newton, and G. H.Brock kept the first book and stationery store.

Hampton's first hotel has already been mentioned. It burned in 1876, but by that time the guests were already being attracted to Andrew J. Cannam's "Cannam House",built in 1875. It was a large frame structure opposite the city park, and contained thirty-one rooms. The Phoenix Hotel, opened by E. S. Stiles in 1865 was also very popular, and lasted until the spring of 1912, when it gave way for the Windsor Theater. In 1918 the new Coonley became one of the leading hotels in northern Iowa.

By 1865 Hampton had outgrown the old schoolhouse and a new one was built. This was a stone structure, two stories high and containing four large rooms. So fast did Hampton grow that in a few years extra rooms had to be rented for this school.

In 1867 the courthouse was finished. It was 48 x 72 feet and cost $15,000. In 1870 Hampton was incorporated by special election and the first church was built, a Baptist Church building put up at a cost of $6,000. From that time on Hampton's growth was more and more rapid and on January 20, 1893 Governor Boies of Iowa granted it a charter for a city of the second class. The population of the newly creat-

ed city was 2,539. In 1940 this figure had increased to 4,002. The population of the county, which in 1860 had been only 1,309 had become 16,303 in 1940.

As Hampton became a city, more churches were built until there were the First Methodist Episcopal, Congregational, First Baptist, Christian, Catholic, and Albrecht Evangelical. Industries developed and more conveniences were added. In 1890 the people voted to have a waterworks installed. Five acres of land were purchased by the city from H. A. Harriman in the east section of town and here a deep well was dug, a reservoir and power-house erected and machinery installed. Between the courthouse and the city park a steel standpipe went up, a hundred feet in height. Pipes were laid, the waterworks for the city was finished, and a plentiful supply of pure water flowed into the homes of Hampton and into the public buildings. Just thirty-five years before, the first homes of Hampton had been built beside flowing springs from which came all the water used. And just as part of the prairie land was plowed up and turned into fields in a remarkable short time, so equally fast other prairie lands were turned into towns and cities, marked off into blocks and streets, piped and paved, measured and named. Thus the "little prairie towns" grew into big prairie towns.

In 1892 an ordinance was passed for the brick paving of Fourth Street, from Reeve to the Iowa Central depot. From time to time other paving was done and in 1912 forty-two blocks were paved with concrete and finished with concrete curbing at a cost of about $65,000.

Also as early as 1892 the city had already granted a franchise for the erection and maintenance of an electric light plant. E. Buck of the Hampton Light and Power Company had the franchise, which is a permission to build and operate, and that year a plant was erected and put to work. In the fall of 1913, 56 electroliers were put up along the principal streets and from that time on the city was well lighted.

A new $20,000 school building had been erected in 1876 on the east side. The same year the town was incorporated, 1893, this school burned down and a new one had to be built. Made of brick, it consisted of two stories and a basement, and cost $32,000. This new building was dedicated January 19, 1894.

Oney Fred Sweet, the Chicago newspaperman, was a small boy in the fifth grade at Hampton when the schoolhouse burned. In his own words: "There was a wild night wind blowing and from a spectator's standpoint the conflagration was the most satisfactory in the town's history." He went on to point out the secret hope in the minds of the school

children, especially the boys who watched, hoping that the firemen would fail to stop the blaze so there would be no school tomorrow. It was a three-story brick building, sturdy and well built, and at first many thought it could be saved. But by midnight the flames had reached the high belfry and the firemen stepped back. They had given up the fight. Soon the high walls fell in with a mighty crash and smoke and flames roared skyward. Now everybody knew there could be no school tomorrow. But it was not many days before temporary arrangements were made in other buildings and school went on. The fifth grade had a schoolroom downtown on the second floor of the Beed Hotel, and the children thought it a great novelty to go downtown to school.

Extensive improvements in schooling facilities were under consideration during 1941. Hampton was given approval of the proposed Federal grant of $99,000 if the voters of the Independent School District of Hampton would match it with a bond issue of $120,000 to erect a new school building on the west side, and to make improvements and an addition to the present high school building on the east side.

According to estimates, the cost of the new addition and the improvements to the high school building would reach about $170,000. The cost of the proposed new school building on the west side was figured to be close to $30,000, and would run that much, taking the new equipment into consideration.

On the east side there was to be an addition to the high school, built at the east and housing an auditorium seating about 1,000 persons. Too, a modern gymnasium was included in the plan, with ample seating capacity not only for Hampton high school games, but also for tournaments. The regulation floor was planned 45 x 75 feet, with all seats arranged between the baskets to afford equally good views.

A new heating plant and building was also to be installed under the proposed building program.

The program that took place on the east side school grounds at the laying of the cornerstone on July 21, 1938, at 2:30 o'clock, was in charge of Superintendent Arthur E. Rankin. The cornerstone laying ceremony was in charge of L. H. Davis, president of the board of education. Senator Guy M. Gillette and Congressman John W. Gwynne were the outside speakers.

In telling of school games, Oney Fred Sweet has said that football was locally introduced by Earl Ferris, who came home from college for vacations and taught the game to the boys at Hampton. Before this, football had seemed to belong to the great schools of the East, such as Yale or Princeton. Eagerly the students studied the rule book and

learned to play, but the game did not easily become a favorite. Golf, too, was adopted slowly and played little. Baseball, however, was as native to Hampton as the prairie sod, and that was the game everyone understood and liked. It was the game of the pioneers and was carried on by their children and their grandchildren. Other games mentioned by Sweet were "One old cat", "duck on the rock", "roly poly", marbles and a night hide-and-seek game called "tally ho."

The Hampton children loved to go to the shows at O. B. Harriman's Opera House. There behind the kerosene footlights they saw the most wonderful dramas ever staged, or so it seemed to them. The players stayed at the Beed Hotel and it was always exciting to watch them come and go. Cora Warner and her Comedy company stayed for a week and gave a different show every night, and the Beach and Bowers Minstrels entertained gaily at many different times. Money was scarce in early days and the boys would try to get jobs carrying hand bills or running errands for the players, for a free ticket. If they failed to earn their tickets they sometimes tried to get in free through the skylight window at the front. E. J. Stonebraker, the janitor, often caught them at it and because he seemed rough and hard-hearted the boys called him "Stoney." He was really a good citizen, a veteran of the Civil War, and one of the youngest members of McKenzie Post. In 1926 he became State Commander of the G. A. R. organization.

The Phoenix Hotel was the old hotel of the town and had been built during the early days when it served as a stopping place for stagecoaches. When the stages pulled up to the hotel a familiar sight for travelers was E. S. Stiles (old man Stiles), who was forever patching up the plank sidewalk in front of the Phoenix Hotel with pieces of tin. Many years later the tall Coonley Hotel was built by John E. Coonley, another of Franklin County pioneers, and replaced the grand old Phoenix.

Other early business men and settlers Sweet mentions are: the Motts' for whom Mott township was named. These Motts were landowners and there were three -- Albert, C. J. and Delos W. Mott. There was also three Harriman brothers, Henry, Walter F. and O. B. Harriman. Walter later became State Senator. Fred Harriman, who may have been one of the sons, was an early automobile owner, and was killed in the county's first automobile accident, when his car plunged off the road while traveling at a speed of thirty miles an hour.

N. W. Beebe was an early lumber dealer and his son, Edwin A. Beebe, stayed on in Hampton except during the time of his enlistment in the Spanish American War. Sons of Isaac Robinson continued the banking business and the Schlesinger boys carried on the clothing trade. L. S. Patterson, a merchant, called his drygoods store "The Temple of Economy."

His son, too, went on with the business. Charles Lockwood Beed adopted the hardware business founded by his father, Charles Beed. These were the "horse and buggy" days when men drove "fringe topped" phaetons or surreys and the first porcelain bathtubs were being introduced into newly built homes. The Gay Nineties were prosperous days for Franklin County.

It was in 1890 that the third of Franklin County's three courthouses was erected. Franklin County's first courthouse had been constructed in 1857, a one-story frame building, 18 by 30 feet in size. It had only one room. The second building of stone was erected in 1866 and was two stories high and 48 by 70 feet in size. It cost something more than $12,500. The third was started in 1890 and completed in 1891 at a cost of $60,000. It measured 76 by 102 feet on the ground and rose to a height of 133 feet. During this time Sweet, whose mother taught school in the stone building which served as courthouse until the new one was ready, was a small boy. He told in 1940 of how he had climbed over the scaffolding,and how at last when the building was almost done, he saw the bronze statue of Justice placed at the very tiptop of the high dome to stand there for all time, blindfold but holding her balanced scales over the town. One night during a severe windstorm the statue of Justice lost her scales. The next morning, by way of a joke, someone said "Now there is no more justice left in Hampton." But quietly above the tops of the maples in the square the statue held her place. The familiar figure had become part of the life of the town.

There were three Ferris families of Hampton, all engaged in horticulture, on three sides of the town. They were Ben Ferris, Sol Ferris and John C. Ferris. The Ferris men, members of the G. A. R., all raised various kinds of trees at first, which were sold by agents in Iowa and in the Dakotas or wherever farmers needed trees to plant for groves or windbreaks on their farms. Then in 1905 Earl Ferris, son of Sol, started a mail order business and sold seeds, trees and plants. This business grew rapidly until in 1940 Mr. Ferris was selling nursery stock in every State in the Union and two hundred employees were hired during rush seasons to wrap, mail and ship the stock.

The Franklin County Fair, scheduled each September "when the grapes were beginning to purple and the nights were starting to cool" was in 1890 a celebration as exciting as the Fourth of July. From all over the county gay throngs of people came in buggies, wagons or surries until the streets were full of horses trotting back and forth with dusty hooves. All roads led to the Fair Grounds. Here were many attractions: the grandstand where the baseball games and races could be seen, Floral Hall, where jellies, cookery, patchwork quilts and embroidery were displayed, the stock

pens where prize-winning animals were kept, and tents for side shows, booth and concessions. In front of Floral Hall was a pump where cool water could be had and thirsty fair-goers drank from the tin cup that hung by the well. There was also the cane rack, the pounding machine where lusty farmers tried their strength by pounding on a contrivance with a sledge hammer, and last but not least was the merry-go-round, music and glamour irresistible! Here, where wooden horses galloped under a high canopy, resounded the laughter and rhythm of the carnival, and here the frolicking persistence of hurdy-gurdy tunes won more nickels from children than would whole stands of pink lemonade.

Other business men and places of the day of the 1890 fair were Will, Lou, and John H. Rule, Lane's Book Store, Refsneider's restaurant, Bailey's Barber Shop, and Mrs. Whitcomb's Millinery Shop. New hats were as important in the "nineties" as in later days and each year a "trimmer" came from Chicago to introduce new styles in felt or straw.

The Bailey's Barber Shop and the Phelps Livery Barn were both important places at that time. Here reigned a political forum and Cyrus Robert's shoe repairing shop was called "Tammany" because so many national issues were brought there for heated and prolonged discussion. L. B. Raymond and later Tom Purcell, both editors, had state-wide influence as leaders in political affairs. W. D. Evans of Hampton became a State Supreme Court judge but still kept his Hampton residence. John W. Luke was a Hampton attorney who became State Railroad Commissioner. Luke, called Cap Luke by his friends, was a veteran of the Civil War and a loyal citizen of Hampton. His wife is remembered as a lovable and jolly woman who was always on hand to serve hot coffee and baked beans at G. A. R. "Campfires." All these people contributed toward the making of a progressive community.

During the presidential campaign of 1896 William McKinley spoke at Hampton from the rear of an Iowa Central railway coach. At that time Ed Brandon, who had named his son William McKinley Brandon, lifted the boy over the heads of the crowd so that the child could present the presidential nominee with a bouquet of prairie wildflowers. The incident was played up in Chicago newspapers the following day.

It was during McKinley's administration, April 1898, that America declared war on Spain. Volunteers were immediately called and boys from all over Franklin County enlisted in the army. Flags were displayed at all the towns and a company of soldiers was organized at Hampton. This was Company D and was only partly filled when orders came for the company to go to Des Moines to the first training camp. Later on this organization was sent to camp at Chickamauga, Georgia. It was very hot in Georgia and an epidemic of ty-

phoid fever broke out in camp. Five boys from Franklin County died. They were John W. French, Ned L. Clock of Maysville, John Brophy, William Demo, and William Mowery.

Some of the men fought at Santiago, Cuba with Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders, and others sailed across the Pacific Ocean to fight in the Philippine Islands. J. C. Foughty of Hampton was sent to Manila. Here Commodore Dewey destroyed the Spanish Fleet and in a fierce battle the Americans defeated the Spanish on land. Foughty says it was unbearably hot and the bullets flew as thick as hail stones. Finally the American troops were victorious on sea and on land, peace was declared, and the Spanish American War was over. The United States had gained Cuba, the island of Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines.

Soldiers from Hampton and from Franklin County who enlisted are named as follows:

Earl Clock	Ned L. Clock	J. P. Meyers
Edgar Dolson	Charles Chesterfield	Harvey Roemer
Raymond Dolson	M. F. Clark	Frank Scott
Charles Homer	John C. Ferris	Ernest Meyer
D. A. Page	John C. Foughty	Baer Frank
Clay L. Pearse	John W. French	Durr Leach
E. A. Beebe	John W. Harriman	J. B. Baylis
George A. Burns	G. T. McGrillis	Aldinger
Samuel E. Campbell	William Mowery	
Wm. Wichersheim	Alfred Feene	

The coming of the twentieth century heralded many improvements and additions for the city of Hampton. Early in 1902 a sewage system was installed and in 1910 a sewage disposal plant was added to the system to keep Franklin County streams from pollution.

In 1905 a franchise was granted to John Howie, T. J. J. Leckband and others for the manufacture of gas, and by the fall of 1906 this plant was in full operation.

The Hampton Public Library was the result of the steady and concerted effort of Hampton citizens led by Col. L. B. Raymond, for many years editor of the Franklin Recorder. He made two trips to Washington, D. C. in behalf of the library and helped to obtain from the Andrew Carnegie foundation the grant by which the library was built. The Carnegie donation was $10,000 for the building and books. The city of Hampton paid $3,660 for the site. Other expenses brought the entire cost to $16,916.35. The library was opened October 6, 1905. This library has proved of great value to the entire county. The librarian in 1940 was Miss Mary Kingsberry.

A new $60,000 high school building and larger grade schools on the east and west side were to become a part of

Hampton's educational equipment. A normal training course was made a part of the high school curriculum in 1912. The Hampton High School was one of the first in the State to offer education courses to prepare students for teaching positions.

In 1914 members of a group of German Lutheran Churches in the northern part of Iowa decided to build a hospital at Hampton, and for this purpose formed the German Lutheran Hospital Association. The Reverend Otto von Gemmingen of Hampton was elected president; E. Hempel of Bradford, Iowa, vice president; the Reverend H. A. Maas of Hubbard, Secretary; and Edward Dohrmann of Hampton, treasurer. The cornerstone of the completely modern hospital to be built on Reeve Street fronting on the city park, and to be equipped to accommodate 75 patients, was laid with elaborate ceremonies in December 1914. The Reverend Mr. Steger of Fairbanks delivered a sermon on the text, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself", and in thanking the citizens of Hampton for their aid, emphasized that the hospital would be open to all regardless of creed, nationality, conditions, or the possession of this world's goods. The Reverend Otto von Gemmingen proclaimed the cornerstone laid according to the laws of the German Lutheran Church. The hospital was opened in September 1915.

When the United States entered the World War in 1917, Franklin County men were as quick to respond to the call for service under the colors as they had been in 1861 and 1898. More than five hundred are estimated to have put on their country's uniform and entered the various branches of the army, the navy, and the marine corps. The majority belonged to the Eighty-eighth Division, which was trained at Camp Dodge and sent to France in the late summer of 1918.

The first of Franklin County's "Gold Stars" was hung in the home of Eilert Johnson, who died at Camp Pike, Little Rock, Arkansas.

George Arthur Aldinger was the first Hampton man to be killed in action. He died on the battlefields of France on August 10, 1918.

Two Red Cross nurses, Maud Andrews and Letha Shafer, died in the service and were buried at Hampton.

A Hampton-born officer who attained unusual distinction in the World War was William Daniel Leahy who attained the rank of captain, after being in command of the U.S.S.Dolphin in the Mexican punitive expedition of 1916. A graduate of the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1897, he had first seen active service in the Philippines during the Spanish American War. Leahy was chief of staff during the Nicaraguan occupation in 1912 and later held the same position in

Haitian campaign. He was promoted to the rank of Admiral in command of the battle force in 1936 and 1937 and was chief of naval operations until his retirement in 1939. He is said to have been the only officer in American naval history to have been the chief of the important bureaus of Ordnance and Navigation, as well as chief of naval operations. After leaving active service, Admiral Leahy was appointed Governor of Puerto Rico in 1939, and in 1941 United States Ambassador to the Vichy Government in France. Admiral Leahy was born in Hampton on May 6, 1875, the son of Michael and Rose Leahy. The family moved to Wisconsin during his boyhood.

A huge mass-meeting and celebration was held at Hampton on October 17, 1919 in honor of the soldiers and sailors and others who were returning from their various fields of service. Twelve thousand persons attended the exercises, at which the Hon. Nathan Kendall was the principal speaker. A free ox dinner was served to all.

The first American Legion post in Franklin County was organized at Hampton August 30, 1919 and named the George A. Aldinger Post No. 183. Louis Rogers was the first commander. Afterwards the men from Sheffield and other towns organized their own posts.

At 5 o'clock in the morning December 29, 1936, the first trans-Atlantic telephone call in the county was made from Hampton. Mrs. Fred Schmidt made the call to Berlin, Germany, to congratulate her mother on her eighty-first birthday. Mrs. Schmidt had not seen her mother for seven years and the three minutes of time she could talk seemed to go very fast. Soon the operator in New York was saying, "Time is up. Will you please say good-bye now," and the call was over.

The long distance wires carried the call first from Hampton to New York and thence the Rocky Point, Long Island, where it was broadcast to Caper, Scotland. From there it went by wire to London and thence by submarine cable under the English channel to the coast of Germany and then by wire to Berlin. The return message did not follow the same route but traveled from Berlin to Rugby, England, by cable, thence by broadcast to Houlton, Maine, then to New York, and from there to Hampton over the same long distance wire.

The designation of Highway 65 as a national highway in 1927 opened a new future not only to the county seat, but to all the residents of Franklin. The proposed program included some necessary changes in the countryside, such as the raising of low spots near the Sheffield corner, grading from Sheffield corporate limit to the north county line, rebuilding the grade from a point one mile north of Hampton to three miles north of the city, cutting down the hill and filling in low places near Four Mile Schoolhouse, putting new bridges over Squaw and Nayne Creeks, and cutting down

the hill near Squaw Creek. But when the work was completed, Franklin County land was linked integrally to the wonderful national highway system. The days of grazing buffalo, rumbling prairie schooner--even of the old spring wagon -- had long been gone. But the days of pioneer motoring, of big awkward automobiles plowing their way through muddy roads or sticking fast in the gumbo until pulled out by horses or tractors, had faded, too. Now streamlined cars could speed over a streamlined highway and an ever increasing overland traffic would connect Iowa and Franklin County with the north, south, east, and west. Improved State and County roads formed a network for transportation. On the south border of the county, U. S. Highway 20 was soon to provide direct contact east and west.

Three Iowa farm boys, Harlan Leonard, Lester Olson and Raymond Monahan, comprising the Franklin County Farm Bureau's champion junior cattle judging team of the United States, represented this country at the International Dairy Cattle Show, held at Chichester, near London, England, July 7 to 11, 1925. The boys were awarded the trip, with a $4,000 appropriation to pay the expenses, because they had won the State honors at the Dairy Cattle Congress held at Waterloo, and captured first honors with a lead of 136 points at the National Dairy Show, held in Milwaukee. Governor John Hammill signed the bill of appropriation without hesitation.

"The victory of the Iowa team is a boost of Iowa dairying," declared Charles E. Hearst, president of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, "as these boys got all of their training in judging Iowa dairy cattle. It is a distinct honor for Iowa to send its championship team to represent the United States at the International Show."

A cablegram received at Hampton brought the joyful news that the three Franklin County boys, representing "the U.S." at the International junior dairy judging contest held in England, had been pronounced "world champions."

The team was coached by V. B. Hamilton, county agent of Franklin County, who deserved much credit for the success of the boys. Mr. Hamilton, with Earl Weaver, head of the dairy husbandry department of Iowa State College at Ames, and Mrs. Hamilton accompanied the trio on their trip to Europe.

A $250 gold trophy was awarded the team as the result of the contest in England and it was theirs to take home with them. The trio was credited with "placing Franklin County on the map." Not only the people of Iowa, but those living all over the United States felt pride in their junior champion team and their excellent coach.

One of the largest crowds that ever assembled in the Hampton city park, conservatively estimated at 3,500 people, met together to tender the champion judges a whole-hearted welcome on their return, and to shower congratulations to the trio and their coach, County Agent V. B. Hamilton.

Franklin County's importance in the agricultural world was again demonstrated in April 1928, when Brown Swiss history was made by the record sale of the C. F. Osborne estate's herd. Doctor Osborne, who had died suddenly in February of that year, had been for 12 years chief surgeon at the Lutheran Hospital in Hampton and in addition was known throughout the Middle West as a breeder of fine cattle and the owner of the Iowa Brown Swiss Company. Buyers from a number of states including Minnesota, Michigan, New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Ohio, and Nebraska, as well as Iowa were among the 1,500 persons who attended the auction. The 47 cows, bulls and heifers sold brought a total of $31,850, said to have been the highest price ever recorded for a Brown Swiss herd -- an average of $677.65 an animal. Frank J. Zoller of Schenectady, New York, paid the record price of $5,400 for Silver Bell, a 10-year-old world champion cow. Zoller also bought Swiss Girl, a 6-year-old, for $3,250, and Nancy May, a 7-year-old cow, for $700. A. P. Ternes of Detroit purchased 11 head of cattle for $5,000 including College Ethel W. at $1,100. A brother of Andrew Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury, bought I.B.S.C's. Silver Chimes, an August bull calf, for $1,075, to be sent with an 8-year-old cow, to the Mellon Rolling Rock farm near Philadelphia. The sale dispersed a great herd to different parts of the country. Four animals, however, were purchased for Franklin County herds, by Dallas Harrison of Hampton, Fred Fralle of Latimer, and John Christianson of Coulter.

In 1931 Robert T. Hamilton and A. T. Hamilton, among the most prominent feeders of cattle in northern Iowa, made the largest single shipment of fat cattle ever to go to market from Franklin County. It consisted of 550 yearlings and two-year-old steers and made up a special 26-car train from Bradford, Iowa to the Hormel Packing Company of Austin, Minnesota. The shipment totaled approximately $58,000.

Fred Witte, who lives two miles east of Latimer, sold 173 hogs averaging 330 pounds to the Decker Company buying station in Hampton, and received a check for $5,638.12. Nels T. Halm, manager, expressed the belief that this check was the largest ever given to one individual by that station.

On October 16, 1940, pressed by the emergency of a new and formidable world crisis, the United States called on all her youth between the ages of 21 and 35 to register for training service. Earl LaVonne Floden, Howard Benjamin Walsh and Nels Walter Dewey Christensen all of Hampton, were among the first seven men from Franklin County called out

for duty in 1940-41 under the Selective Training Service Act. Robert Wayne Lumley held the first number drawn - 158. Francis Burt Gentry and Russell DeForest Morehouse of Sheffield, Loran Cliffton Noble of Chapin and Howard Andrew Brown of Coulter were also in the first group summoned. Twenty-four volunteers had already offered their services to their country.

CHAPTER 9

SHEFFIELD, CHAPIN, AND GENEVA

Sheffield, the second largest town in Franklin County, took the place of an earlier settlement known as Shobe's Grove. John Shobe, the original settler, was commissioned postmaster October 8, 1861.

The first school had been held in Clinton Township where the grove was located, in the winter of 1859-1860, when a Miss Holt gave instruction to two pupils in an old log smokehouse built on Section 1. Better quarters for teacher and students were found the following spring.

During the Civil War three of Shobe's sons went to the front and fought with Capt. James B. Reeve in the fierce battle of Missionary Ridge. Captain Reeve died in the war, and Charles Shobe was severely wounded, but all three of the brothers lived to return home.

Like most communities, Shobe's Grove did not really begin to grow until the middle years of the post-war reconstruction. Then the Gilmans came along. Albert Gilman, President of the Central Iowa Railway, had been a resident of Marshalltown. He platted a town in February, 1874, and named it in honor of his friend Sheffield, who lived in Dubuque, but who was said to have been the original owner of some of the land used. On March 27, 1874, the old post office of Shobe's Grove was closed and a new one opened at Sheffield. At that time W. S. Bowen received his appointment as postmaster.

A frame depot was the first building put up on the new town site. Soon afterward James Thompson built a small frame house and displayed a stock of merchandise for sale in this first store. Dr. J. M. Potter was the first physician.

The first schoolhouse was built in 1875 and the first teacher was A. C. Hemming. This building served as a meeting place for community gatherings, festivals and religious services. The Baptists used it as a church until May 1881, when they occupied their own new house of worship, built at a cost of $2,300. The Baptists, organized in 1863, had been admitted to the Cedar Valley Association in 1864.

The Sheffield Methodist Church was organized in November 1880, with a membership of 40. In 1882 the church building was constructed at a cost of $2,250. It was dedicated in November of that year. The first pastor was the Reverend F. M. Coleman.

Two other churches were organized during the course of the next few years. D. S. Staebler of Belmond supervised the establishment of the Zion Evangelical Church in Sheffield in 1888. He built a parsonage there the following year. In 1896 a group of German people of the Baptist faith began holding their own meetings, with the Reverend Jacob Jordan as pastor. Services were held in the schoolhouse and occasionally in other churches, until the German Baptist Church was built in 1900.

Elias Whitney built and operated Sheffield's first hotel in 1874. A rival establishment was soon built by John Bolton, who operated it for many years. E. C. Schader was ready for the business renaissance of 1880 with his Galena House. Judge Vermilya of Mason City built what was said to be Sheffield's first modern-type hotel about 1899.

The town's pioneer bank was the Sheffield Bank, a private financial institution which began business January 1, 1880. Ten years later a new home for the bank was erected on the corner of Gilman and Second streets; this was the first brick building in town. In time a neat and pleasing array of buildings, many of them two stories in height, appeared in the center of town. Pressed brick was the prevailing material. The school, churches, elevator, creamery and hotel were all typical of a prosperous, well built rural town.

Frank Morgan issued the first number of the Sheffield Press, a five column folio, in 1880. The well-edited and well-printed journal secured generous support from the start. The founder had begun his career at the bottom of the ladder in a printer's office in Wisconsin. Later he practiced his trade in Hampton. Morgan remained editor of the Press until the fall of 1884, when he returned to Hampton as part owner of the Hampton Chronicle. The Sheffield Press was still being published as a weekly, on Thursdays, in 1940, with Lester G. Benz its editor.

Sheffield had been incorporated as a town in 1876, and municipal officers were elected May 12 of that year: M. S. Bowen was the first mayor; H. Crawford, the recorder; R. Wilde, H. K. Phelps, S. E. Spaulding, P. A. Pope, and G. A. Culver the first trustees.

From 1880 on, the town grew steadily. At that time the best land in the vicinity was selling, when improved, at $25 an acre; unimproved land brought six to ten dollars.

Two severe fires occurring within five years of each other destroyed most of the original section of Sheffield. Much damage was caused by the first conflagration in 1889, but the second, in 1894, razed practically the whole business part of town and caused a $60,000 loss of which half

was covered by insurance. Neat, harmonizing buildings replaced those damaged or razed by the flames.

Among the structures burned in 1894 was the headquarters of Mulligan Post No. 102, G. A. R. All the Post's records were lost. Later the Post secured funds to build a frame structure, the Grand Army Memorial Hall, which was used for years as a meeting place by the American Legion and the Masonic and Odd Fellows lodges. Charter members of the Post had been mustered in by Capt. R. S. Benson and others of Hampton's McKenzie Post on October 20, 1882. The Sheffield Post was named for Col. James R. Mulligan of the Twenty-third Illinois Infantry, who had been shot down at the head of his command at the battle before Winchester, July 24, 1864. Mulligan Relief Corps, No. 303, was organized in 1895.

Sheffield Lodge, No. 422, I.O.O.F. was established October 20, 1881. Their early records too were lost in the fire of 1894. An auxiliary, Daughters of Rebekah, was formed in 1897.

The Sheffield Masonic Lodge was organized in 1880, the Order of the Eastern Star in 1895, and Argyle Lodge, Knights of Pythias, in 1895.

During Sheffield's middle years of growth the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad was extended northward from Hampton, as was the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific.

Mrs. M. C. Perrin, Sheffield librarian, was the guest of honor at a silver tea in the library room March 14, 1941, when nearly 100 patrons called to pay their respects to her who had served as librarian since the organization of the library association there in 1923. Mrs. Perrin celebrated her birthday anniversary two days afterward, March 17.

The visitors at the tea registered in a special booklet which was given to Mrs. Perrin in commemoration of the occasion. She was also presented with a bouquet of flowers and a gift, a token from the four study clubs in the community and the library board of trustees. Silver, contributed at the tea, was turned over to Mrs. Perrin who planned to use it for purchasing a suitable gift for the library, to perpetuate her memory among library patrons in the future.

One of the largest industrial concerns in Franklin County, the Sheffield Brick and Tile Company, was founded by a very large deposit of Devonian shale at Sheffield, about 200 acres in extent, remarkably free from foreign matter and requiring little refining or cleaning. Only three deposits of this clay have been found in the State, and all are located in northern Iowa. In 1908 the company was incorporated with a capital stock of $150,000 by L. B. Carhart, C. C.

Carhart, H. L. Carhart, and C. L. Smith.

At first, common brick and drain tile were the only products of the plant but in 1924 the business was enlarged and the output broadened to include drain tile, hollow building tile, floor beam tile, face tile, hearth cubes, face brick and common building brick. This new plant half a mile south of town developed until, with 13 great kilns, it had a capacity of 12 carloads daily, employing 60 men. The various products were scheduled to meet the demand of a trade territory embracing seven States - Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, the Dakotas and Nebraska, while some shipments were sent to Winnipeg, Canada. The management of the company in 1940 had passed into the hands of five controlling directors with S. J. Galvin the president, G. H. Galvin, vice president, and C. R. Galvin, office manager.

Much clay from the company's pit was used in the construction of the Bailey Creek Dam, on the creek of that name in 1936. Volunteers working under the sponsorship of the Sportsmen's Conservation Club built the dam of wood, stone and earth to reconstruct an old pioneer bridge in Sheffield City Park. Some of the original timbers were used, and a rustic footbridge now spans the creek on piling that had supported the bridge over which pioneers once crossed with their ox teams. The pool was stocked with fish common to Iowa streams.

H. L. and C. C. Carhart organized the Sheffield Electric Light and Power Company in 1909, furnishing lights for the streets, business houses and private residences.

CHAPIN

Chapin, in Richland Township, was laid out by J. B. Grinnell, the founder of Grinnell College, and was given the maiden name of his wife, Julia Chapin Grinnell. Among the earliest settlers were A. S. Ross and his family, and the B. C. Breckenridges, who were influenced by Grinnell to move from their homes near Brooklyn, in Poweshiek County. They arrived May 15, 1857. H. H. Ross, a youth at the time, later wrote down some of his memories of those days; "J. B. and H. H. Grinnell and father bought a steam sawmill together. Henry went to Chicago after it was three weeks with ox teams getting it here from the end of the railroad -- at that time, I think, a little east of the Mississippi River. In the meantime, other people were moving in. Obadiah Smith did the surveying and I carried the chain when the town was laid out."

When the mill at last was brought in and set up to work Chapin started a boom which lasted for the next three years. Sometimes the mill was run day and night to fill the demand for building lumber.

" The winter of 1857-58 was the cornmeal winter," Ross recalled. "There wasn't a 50 pound sack of flour in the whole neighborhood. We spent most of the time those long winter evenings sitting straddle of a spade over a washtub, shelling corn. The neighbors would take turns going around and gathering it up and take it to Iowa Falls to get it ground. In the spring a man drove into Hampton with a load of flour. Father paid him $9.00 for one sack, this was then mixed with cornmeal to make it go as far as possible. We had to get back on wheat bread gradually."

J. B. Grinnell himself wrote of that season: "The hard times of 1857 were a reality. Coffee gave way on our tables to a substitute made of rye and sweetened with sorghum. Sugar was a luxury as was fine flour . . . Taxes were unpaid for years, drawing heavy penalties."

Yet in spite of these difficulties people managed to maintain a lively social intercourse and to attempt to "keep up" with the world east of the frontier. Young Ross complained,". . . and if there were errands to do I was lackey for the whole town; had to climb trees to cut grape vines for the women, with which to make hoopskirts that were coming into fashion then . . ."

Chapin's first school was a double log house at the north side of Tharp's Grove, where in 1857 Mrs. Mary Wright instructed the children of the neighborhood. In 1858 and 1859 Miss Hattie Lovering taught in her father's house. During that winter the pupils noticed Mr. Lovering doing an odd bit of carpenter work that looked to them like a coffin. Asking who was dead, they were told, "No one just now, but my wife is very low, can't live but a few weeks, and I'm making it so as to have it handy."

A machine for making hardwood shingles was set up by the Varker brothers on their arrival in the spring of 1851. Although they did a big business, they sold out in the fall to Thomas Morris, who planned to make shingles in warm weather and to trap otter, beaver, and mink through the winter.

A combined church and schoolhouse was built at Chapin in 1859 and was then said to be the best in the county. Mrs. J. B. Grinnell, pleased that the town carried her maiden name, Chapin, donated a fine bell weighing 400 pounds for the belfry of the new building. That bell must have been the biggest then in Franklin County!

H. H. Grinnell was appointed postmaster when the office was established in 1860.

During the stirring days of the Civil War, patriotic Chapin gave 21 soldiers to the Union forces, a record for a town so small.

The first religious services were conducted in the summer of 1857 by the Reverend Mr. Wilcox of Iowa Falls, who traveled over to Chapin regularly every two weeks to hold a 5 o'clock service at the schoolhouse.

The Reverend William Avery came from the East and organized the first Congregational Church at Chapin, the Baptists established a church in 1864, and the Methodists formed a class in 1870.

B. D. Robinson, one of the earliest settlers, introduced sheep-raising into the county in 1860. J. B. Grinnell also became interested in sheep and brought in several hundred head which he let out on shares to the farmers of the township. By 1863 there were 8,000 head of sheep in Franklin County.

The first herd of purebred Holstein cattle west of the Mississippi was assembled during the seventies by W. B. Barney. The standard set by this herd was for many years to prove a criterion for the dairy industry of northern Iowa. Franklin County was found to be an unusually favorable region for the raising of corn and stock, with an abundance of water and excellent grazing land, besides rich soil well-adapted for cultivation and the growing of grain. One of the Barney cows at the age of six years and three months made in seven days' time a record production of 536.4 pounds of milk, equivalent to 25.1 pounds of butter. Another Holstein cow, sold by Barney to Charles A. Mark of Cedar Falls in 1912, and named Florence Jewell DeKol, II, brought a price of $174 at the age of ten years. She continued to be both a heavy producer and a show cow.

In 1908 when the attendance at the annual meeting of the Iowa State Dairy Association was steadily falling, W. B. Barney, then president of the organization said, "Farmers will come a long way to see a good cow, but they'll stay at home and pitch hay rather than listen to anybody explaining a good cow." He won agreement from the handful of delegates and the following year a dairy cattle exposition was held in connection with the convention in Cedar Rapids. Twenty-five cows were shown, and more delegates showed interest in the meeting. That year the convention voted to hold the 1910 convention and exposition in Waterloo. That was the birth of the Dairy Cattle Congress for Waterloo saw the potentialities of the project and determined to make it an institution. The Cattle Congress was incorporated in 1913.

The Barney herd of purebred Holstein, was credited with being the first herd of its kind west of the Mississippi

River. His son, C. H. Barney, continued to develop the herd on the same farm at Chapin.

Meanwhile, the original town of Chapin had become a ghost town. Officials of the Iowa Central Railway had chosen a station two miles east of it when they built through in 1871. The result was the platting of New Chapin July 28, 1872 by George Beed and Obadiah Smith, surveyor. The first post office was established on completion of the railroad, and the first school was built six years later.

January 20, 1922, the Chapin Consolidated School, a modern brick building, was dedicated in open house ceremonies with an elaborate program. During the afternoon, music was furnished by the Chapin band; an early dinner was served in the gymnasium by the ladies of the community, and in the evening there was a concert by the orchestra. Several outstanding Iowa educators made speeches.

In 1941, inhabitants of the prosperous, harmonious town could trace their ancestry back to many countries in Europe as well as to original settlers from Indiana or the East. Focal points of commercial and cultural activity were two grain elevators, two churches, and the American Legion hall.

GENEVA

Geneva, a station on the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad, formerly the Iowa Central, was laid out and platted by William J. McVey in September 1871. A post office had been established on the site as early as 1858, with William H. Thompson as postmaster. Several people had been living nearby since 1854, among them Job Garner, Peter Rhinehart, and Martin Boots, whose home was the gathering place for the religious-minded.

The first schoolhouse was built in 1857, and taught by William Thompson. A more permanent school was constructed in 1862 and used until 1873, when it was sold at auction. H. C. Clock purchased the building, had it moved to Geneva and after it had been enlarged and decorated, opened it as Geneva House, a hotel. Clock had put up the first store in town in October 1871 and ordered a stock of $8,000 worth of goods to be sold locally. He became postmaster, then he sold the hotel in 1875 to A. P. McCardle and himself went into the grain and lumber business. By 1881 he was operating the Geneva Creamery, a concern that within two years' time was handling a heavy share of the county's milk. Like Chapin, Geneva became a leading dairy center.

Tidd and Silence opened a drug store in 1880, but soon this was operated by Doctor Tidd alone, the only physician in the community.

A tract of land of 233 acres was purchased from Clock in 1886 and there a two-story frame house and some barns were built as the nucleus of the County Home. Through the years the property was improved and modernized to meet changing standards.

A Methodist Episcopal Church was organized at Geneva in 1873 by the Reverend Bargelt and services were held in the local schoolhouse until a $2,000 church building was erected in 1882. St. Paul's Catholic Church was organized by the Reverend J. C. Wienke in June 1913 and the cornerstone for the church laid November 16, 1913. This group had been meeting formerly in Woodman Hall. Geneva was incorporated as a village in 1903.

Iowa's first auto fatality took place between Geneva and Hampton the night of Sept. 29, 1905, when F. A. Harriman, A. W. Beed, H. L. Harrison and N. A. Inglis were driving in Harriman's car. They were returning from a trip to check up and take formal possession of the Geneva Savings Bank, organized in 1902 as a private institution and purchased in July 1905 by a group including the motorists and others. At 9 p. m., the party started home, taking the old Maysville road, and motoring down a steep hill at the hair-raising speed of 30 miles an hour. Harriman lost control of the steering wheel. The front wheel of the car struck the bridge with such force that the occupants were thrown from the machine. All escaped serious injury except Harriman, who was picked up unconscious from concussion of the brain. He died soon afterward.

One of Franklin County's most disastrous storms struck Geneva on a late midsummer afternoon in 1927, damaging the consolidated school. The roof was ripped off, holes torn in the boarding, an entire section of window frames torn out and most of the glass on two sides of the building broken. Rain poured through the wrecked roof and soaked walls, floors, and furniture, contributing to the $3,000 damage. The storm had apparently come from a point southeast of Hampton, sweeping across a stretch two miles wide, and reaching the height of its fury about a mile northwest of Geneva, damaging the crops and trees in its path.

Local residents have distinguished themselves in Iowa's most typical match of prowess, the corn husking contest. Arthur Raisch of Geneva won the Franklin County title in 1939 and successfully defended it in 1940 while crowds of interested onlookers followed the bare-headed and shirtless huskers working their way down the rows of corn to the tune of flying ears that struck the bangboards. His load amounted to 2,858 pounds of net corn. Herman Richtsmeier, also of Geneva, won second place in 1940 with 2,657 pounds. Rudolph Meyer of Hampton came in third with 2,606.65. The contest was held October 18, at the W. C. Pralle farm west of Hampton.

At Four Mile Grove are the graves of Thomas Jones and other members of the Jones family. These people were prominent in the history of the vicinity. Levi Jones had come to Franklin County in 1854 with his son-in-law, Isaac Mulkins. Both bought land. In the spring they were joined by their families and also by Jabish Jones, another brother. Later on Alpheus Jones sold his property in Buchanan County and joined the others.

Another old cemetery, somewhat farther north, and earlier known as God's Acre, was on the south side of Highland Grove. During the winter of 1857 David Church and his wife buried their infant son there on the crown of the bluff. A few years later several other children were laid to rest by the side of the first. Thereupon Church donated an acre or more of his land to serve as a cemetery, and this was added to from adjoining land by W. H. Thompson. From this hill was a far-reaching view, extending in the northwest toward Hampton, to the west over a wide expanse of prairie dotted with many groves, and toward the south over the site of the village of Maysville and along the winding course of Mayne's Creek.

CHAPTER 10

OTHER TOWNS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY

Like so many other towns, Alexander was first located as a station on the Iowa Central railway, in 1881. It was not platted, however, until June 8, 1885, when W. F. Kelley laid it out for F. E. Carter. E. B. Hill, appointed postmaster in 1882, opened a general store at that time. Soon thereafter a grain elevator was erected, and the town grew to be a busy trading center. It was incorporated in 1902.

Alexander was soon recognized as one of the most important communities in the county, situated as it was in the best of Iowa's countryside, where in spring every mile was checkered with vistas of black-plowed ground and pale green pastures, and in late summer and early fall the fields were laden with heavy golden grain.

Saturday night was always an "event", anticipated throughout the entire week; and after counting the hours, farm folks finished up their final chores, in a hurry to hitch up the horses and ride into town to hear a stirring concert by the Alexander Brass Band. The musicians, who were local business men as well as - dentists, lawyers and merchants made an impressive sight in their colorful uniforms, and the audience, young people and old alike, felt the urge to march or dance to the tunes of the Washington Post March or The Beautiful Blue Danube as the strains floated down from the outdoor bandstand. In later years, when hitching posts gave way to parking spaces on the main street, a swelling chorus of automobile horns would encourage the musicians to give generous encores.

Alexander kept up with the times, and there came a day years later when one of the best-known residents of the community, 81 year-old Jerry DeVries, took his first airplane ride and joined the ranks of the county's "air-minded" citizenry. Mr. DeVries said he experienced no pangs of fear, but on the contrary had an exhilarating thrill from his first trip in the air. He said he would anxiously await his next opportunity to fly.

The days of early natural hazards had passed. No longer did the settlers need to be on the lookout for prairie fires, and snug homes and adequate heating systems thwarted or minimized the intense cold of winter. However, there was one type of Nature's fury that could descend without warning from the skies. Such was the twister or tornado that struck Alexander and the farm families living northeast of town in June 1925. It left a long line of wrecked homes and farm buildings from Alexander to the I. T. Deam and Henry Gerfin farms northwest of Chapin.

The storm came from the southwest and hit Alexander first, destroying houses and uprooting trees. Windows were blown out and two churches demolished. A train loaded with hogs was blown from the tracks and the cars turned upside down. No one was hurt however, and only about twelve of the hogs were killed. In the depot nearby were E. S. Packard and his two small sons, Harold and Ed. When Packard felt the force of the storm against the building, he stood close to the boys and waited. Suddenly the wind took the walls of the station and three persons were thrown to the floor. When the storm had passed on they got up and found that everything was gone except a pile of papers and office records which had been scattered over them.

Many farm buildings were destroyed but few people were hurt and none seriously. Chris Larsen, marshal at Alexander, suffered a broken leg; Alfred Anderson and his son, Donald, received head wounds and bruises; Henry Pals suffered a fractured hip. The Harvey Hemme's place was entirely wiped out but the Hemmes family, seven in number, found shelter in the basement of their home and were saved. Hemmes had two teams of horses standing in the barn with their harnesses on. The wind took the barn first and then the horses. It carried the animals through the air, over the top of a grove and set them down three-quarters of a mile away on the edge of the Ike Depping lawn. When the horses were found by Hemmes they had no sign of a harness on them but, as the story goes, they were not badly injured, although they were shot full of splinters. Seven hundred little chickens at the Hemmes place were lost in the wind.

At the I. T. Deam farm the buildings were a total wreck. The W. J. Evans family lived here and when they saw the twister coming they started for the cellar but were too late. The house was whirled away and Evans was injured, and his mother also. She was taken to the Hampton hospital where she recovered.

The property and livestock losses in this Franklin County storm were estimated at $250,000. In addition to the machinery damaged, buildings blown down and livestock killed, there also was a heavy loss in crops which were ruined by the wind. In some places furrows were plowed through the fields by the wind, leaving the land bare, and at other places the corn was stripped of leaves and only stubs left standing in the ground. Hundreds of Franklin County people who were untouched by the storm went out to help their neighbors clean up debris and start the rebuilding of their homes. More than a hundred men went out from Hampton and others from Coulter, Chapin, Latimer and Sheffield. People gave linen, towels, and household supplies to those who had lost their homes. This storm, while not so severe as the Pomeroy Cyclone, was one of the worst in Iowa.

One of the worst storms that ever swept over Franklin County struck early in February, 1936 during a cold wave that had continued for 28 consecutive days with minimum temperatures below zero. Roads were blocked and trains and autos stalled when Miss Phyllis Smith, daughter of a farmer living three and one-half miles northeast of Alexander, was suddenly stricken with appendicitis. The Smiths called Alexander and Hampton for assistance, but no physician was able to reach them. After an anxious night and a recurrence of the attack, they resolved to get their daughter to a hospital where she could have an operation. She was bundled in blankets and packed into a large bobsled filled with straw, and her father and her brother Leonard harnessed a team in the 20-below-zero weather and started for town. All along the way, crews of men living at the farms en route came out and helped to shovel a path through the snow-packed road, while from the Alexander end another group started shoveling through the 10 and 12 foot drifts there. The Hampton Chronicle of February 13, 1936, described the heroic journey, in part, as follows:

"When the party finally reached Alexander the weather was so ferocious that only the serious condition of the girl dared them to go farther. Another team was hitched to the sled and the party started south to Highway 10 where State Highway snow plows were striving desperately to clear the roadway.

"After the first half mile of struggle through the drifts the team was exhausted, and another team took over the job of pulling the sled through six and eight foot drifts, which, though packed hard, allowed the teams to sink through. Shovelers several times had to dig out the teams after they had floundered and also break a path for the sled."

Two more teams in turn had to be hitched to the sled and by late afternoon, when within two and a half miles of the highway, the fourth team floundered and was unable to go any farther. "Then the crew of men, many with frozen faces, some with frozen hands, and at least one with frozen feet, hitched themselves into the traces like so many Eskimo dogs and dragged the heavy sled down across fields, through drifts and over frozen ground to the highway, which they reached at 4:30 in the afternoon after covering the seven and a half miles in seven and a half hours."

An ambulance and State Highway plows met the sled and the crew at the highway and the sick girl was conveyed as speedily as possible to the Lutheran Hospital at Hampton. After an emergency operation had been performed, young Phyllis Smith commenced a recovery that progressed unimpaired by the hardships she had earlier suffered.

Conrad Westweber, one of the men who helped the team to get through from Alexander to the highway, had his feet frozen on the walk back and later also had to be taken to the hospital. His condition was serious, but he also recovered.

Although all the names of the men who had helped battle through the drifts and cut a path for the sled could not be learned, the Chronicle published the following partial list: Chris Larsen, Russel Larsen, Dick Smith, Heiko Pals, Lloyd Butterbaugh, Ray Richard, Heiko Frohling, Fred Larsen, Lloyd Green, Jack Hill, Clifford Hansen, Merle Hansen, Wilburt Hansen, Henry Schulte, Glenn Neal, Matt Strife, Louis Jacobs, Neil Stoffer, Oscar Hansen, George Kaduce, Chris Schulte, Conrad Westweber, Oscar Hansell, Barlow Deering, Henry Hoddermann, Bill Tinkey, Clyde Blau, John Blau, Henry Bowman, Barney Olson, Ernest Harms, Charles Showalter, Jerry Beenen, Henry Beenen, Frank Bohlen, Charles Winwood, Arthur Winwood, Clauss Hoddeman, Carl Barkema, Clarence Smith, Peter Pals, Robert Rodemeyer, and John Osterdorf.

LATIMER

Latimer was named for J. F. Latimer, who laid out and platted the town in November 1882, about the time the Iowa Central Railroad began operations. The point was made a station on the line, and a post office was established there in September 1882, with H. A. Clock as postmaster. In that year the firm of Clock and Clock began a general mercantile business.

Several vigorous religious denominations became identified with Latimer. One of these was St. Peter's Danish Lutheran Church, organized in 1883 with the Reverend N. Peterson as pastor. The first house of worship, built about four miles from town in 1893, was destroyed when it was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. A new building was erected in 1903. The Latimer Methodist Episcopal Church was organized April 7, 1893. The Reverend A. S. Flanigan dedicated the church building November 11, 1893.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church was organized March 3, 1895, the Reverend C. A. Dietrich presiding at the first meeting, held in the Latimer schoolhouse. The group's own building was put up the following year. July 7, 1935, this church celebrated its fortieth anniversary. The small group that had organized in 1895 had grown to nearly 500 persons. A week-long observance was arranged by the pastor, the Reverend E. H. Grummer, and included several former pastors, church notables and former members of the congregation. Among these were the Reverend Theodor Hannsen of Chicago, The Reverend Otto Beer of Springfield, Illinois. The Reverend Mr. Beer, who had grown up in the Latimer congregation,

was ordained a minister and spent 10 years in the missionary field in Brazil before locating in Illinois. A brief history of the organization compiled for the occasion acknowledged the former church at Millpond (Beed's Lake) as the mother church. The difficulties of attending early services were described as follows: "Roads that at certain times of the year were almost impassable had to be negotiated with horses and lumber wagon. Forced to cross creeks and marshes, the horses at times mired down, singletrees broke, and traces snapped in an attempt to get an empty wagon through low places."

When it was found that enough Lutheran families resided in and near Latimer to justify the holding of additional services in the community, the Reverend Dietrich, pastor at Millpond at the time, was asked to preach in a schoolhouse in Marion Township, three miles north of Latimer, in 1894. The services were so well attended that plans were made for a permanent organization.

Many busy years were ahead of Latimer.

The Farmers' Cooperative Creamery was founded in 1895.

During the early 1900's the annual Harvest Home Festival was celebrated at Latimer. Neighborhood gatherings were arranged with races, baseball games, glee club and band music in the daytime, and in the evening dancing and dramatic entertainments.

Latimer was incorporated as a town in 1901.

In 1902 a city waterworks was voted and installed at a cost of $6,000.

The Latimer Star, a four-column quarto newspaper, ran from 1901 to 1918, when publication ceased and all news was transferred to the Latimer column in the Hampton Chronicle.

Constructed without issuance of a bond and without Government aid, the Latimer Gymnasium was built by the district in 1935, at a total cost of $14,000. Seats were installed for 500 court fans. Serving as an auditorium for plays, the gymnasium could accommodate about 800 people.

The basketball court was built 40 by 72 feet and the stage 35 by 18 feet with a dressing room at each side. The boys' and girls' shower and locker rooms were located in the basement. The building was heated by a forced-draft furnace. An annex contained a large home-economics room which could also be used for dinners and banquets. The building was constructed of face tile, zinc flash in color, with a hard maple floor.

BURDETTE

Burdette, a station on the Rock Island Railroad, formerly the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern, was founded, about 1890 to provide a shipping point for the farmers in the surrounding country for their vast supplies of grain, milk, and livestock. It was established through the influence of a large land-owner with the somewhat unusual name of Hazel Boddy. Boddy had 1,760 acres of land, including three of the four corners joining the cross road nearest his home. An astute dealer and livestock shipper, he persuaded the railroad company to put side tracks and stockyards at a point nearest his feeding pens, less than a quarter of a mile between his homestead and the railroad tracks.

At first the community which grew up around this station was known as Hazel Boddy's Switch, but by September 1890 it had received the equally picturesque name of Elevator Gap. The following month the place was officially christened as Burdette.

The local post office was originally operated from the home of the D. D. Goodenough family. Trains did not stop for the mail, but the mail bag was hung on a frame near the railroad tracks and trainmen grabbed it as the train rushed by the place. The in-coming mail was thrown out in another mail bag. After the store and depot was built the train made regular stops, a service which continued until 1933.

The Lee Center Church was built in 1890. Byron Derbyshire donated a corner of his farm for its location and the railroad company sent a special engine from Iowa Falls with the lumber for the building. Everyone was proud of the new church. It stood very tall against that early skyline. Citizens would point it out to visitors, proudly saying, "Look, our church can be seen five miles away." The church, was organized largely through the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. J. I. Boganrief, Byron Derbyshire and others who contributed in every way that they could. The building was dedicated February 1, 1891, with the Reverend Mr. Kirk presiding and the Reverend Mr. Clinton delivering the sermon.

During its years of growth -- from 1890 to 1900 -- Burdette had a schoolhouse and a number of business firms, two grain elevators, a general store, a hardware store (which served as the town hall), a creamery, a blacksmith shop, livery stable, and scale house. There were many corncribs and some dwelling houses.

The creamery was a busy place. Customers and patrons met to talk things over at the pump, just outside the building. At one time a skimming station was felt necessary, but after cream separators came into general use the skimming station was discontinued and a few years later was almost

entirely forgotten. However, the old pump remained, and was still identified as the "Town Pump."

Two churches that were active organizations in Burdette for several years were originally formed and held in the schoolhouse. One was the Congregational Church which, with the Reverend Mr. Wyatt as pastor, built its own house of worship in 1894, and the Methodist Episcopal, which was also able to build in 1895, under the leadership of the Reverend Cade Coulter.

In 1897, Hazel Boddy, who had been almost entirely the life of the town, left Burdette. He exchanged his 1,760 acres of Franklin County land with L. W. Conover and B. H. Henry for 20,000 acres of Texas land, and moved south with his family. Boddy had shipped hundreds of fat cattle and hogs to Chicago every year. One year he shipped 50 carloads of cattle alone.

HANSELL

When the Dubuque and Dakota Railroad, later to become the Chicago Great Western, was first mapped through this region about 1873, the station of Hansell was built. The line to Hampton was finished in 1876.

The town was named for George W. Hansell, who became the first postmaster when the post office was established there in 1880. The town was called Hansell's for a time, in tribute to the man who handed out the mail, but the possessive "s" was soon dropped. Hansell was platted in the fall of 1880, and by the summer of 1881 covered a territory of 15 acres.

George Hansell built an elevator in 1880 with a capacity of 14,000 bushels. In 1882 he built another with a 20,000 bushel capacity. Like so many others of the times who found it profitable to engage in several different types of business at once, Hansell also carried on a lumber and stock business, and in 1883 erected a large store building.

The Union Ridge post office, established in 1860 with Isaac Stover as postmaster, was moved to the homes of the succeeding postmasters, and moved to Dumont when the railroad came through. When the Hansell post office was established in 1880, the Cream Hill post office was discontinued.

POPEJOY

A station on the Rock Island Railroad was platted by the Cedar Rapids, Iowa Falls & Northwestern Town Lot Company on September 28, 1880, as Carleton. The name was afterward changed to Popejoy, honoring the early settler, that 'cattle

king" who had been such a colorful character in the early days of Oakland Township.

A new $46,000 Popejoy high school and grade building was officially dedicated on Friday, June 9, 1939. Dedication ceremonies took place in conjunction with the annual Oakland township school picnic. A portion of the funds amounting to $20,700 was secured by a PWA grant.

Like some of the other towns in Franklin County, Popejoy, or rather the settlement that preceded the town of that name, was once struck by a tornado. The county history published in 1883 relates: "Those living in Oakland Township in 1875 can never forget the fearful tornado which swept through their township the summer of that year. It unroofed many houses, tore down fences, and picked up cattle and horses, carried them to a great distance and crushed them to pieces. Barns of large proportions were moved from their foundations and demolished; stately trees which had withstood the storms for a century were uprooted and tossed about like slender shrubs. A schoolhouse, located on Section 19, in which Miss A. Popejoy was teaching, was blown to pieces, she having left the building but a short time before the storm came up."

A post office was established June 18, 1888 at Popejoy, with J. W. Finch first postmaster.

The town was incorporated in 1908.

COULTER

Coulter's post office was established and George Propst was commissioned postmaster April 30, 1902.

A station had existed at this point since the 1880's when the Chicago, Great Western Railway began operations through that territory. The settlement grew into a trading center with a creamery and a grain elevator in addition to various stores and shops.

Large crews of volunteer workers from Coulter assisted stricken farmers to repair the damages done to their property July 1, 1933 when a severe wind and rain storm ripped across the southern part of Franklin County. The storm broke at night, about 11:30, wrecking barns, corncribs, hog-houses, windmills and other farm buildings, uprooting large trees and killing and dispersing livestock. The damage in Franklin County was estimated at $150,000. The storm continued across northern Iowa into Illinois, finally spending itself over Lake Michigan. Large trees were uprooted and whole groves dating from pioneer days destroyed. Evergreens in the Morgan Township Cemetery and at the Mount Hope Cemetery were snapped off. Farm animals were killed and many

persons escaped death by narrow margins. Fallen trees and debris blocked the entrances to some homes so completely that the residents had to chop their way out. Henry F. Lubkeman, president of the Franklin County Farm Bureau, sent out many volunteers who helped clean up the wreckage, stack grain, and help farmers carry on with their harvesting.

BRADFORD

Bradford, the newest town in Franklin County, was laid out and platted November 10, 1906, by the Bradford Town Site Company, of which G. A. Dodge was president and J. W. Souder, secretary. An elevator, coalyards, stores and homes were constructed and soon the community began to draw trade from a large radius of the surrounding country. The Bradford Savings Bank was established in 1908. The Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1912 at a cost of $3,000.

Although the town of Bradford was not organized until years after other places in the county had been well established, settlers had lived in the vicinity since 1860. The first persons known to have made their homes in the general locality were James Sayre, Amos Roberts and two men named Macey and Stoddard who were residing there just prior to the Civil War. The Reverend Mr. Woods of Maysville, a Methodist minister, preached the first sermon at the house of J. E. Moats in 1869. Also held at the Moats home was the first school, taught in 1869-1870 by Jennie Roberts.

FAULKNER

The post office at Faulkner was established in 1871. Seven years later the town was laid out and platted as a station on the Iowa Central Railroad, later the Minneapolis and St. Louis. The first grain buyers were the firm of White and Austin, and the first merchants, McLain and Son.

Although never incorporated, Faulkner remained a trading point with a lumberyard and a grain elevator. Its growth was halted in November 1908 by a disastrous fire which razed the post office, the general store, and a number of other buildings nearby. The fire started in the general store, located in a double store building, and soon spread to the surrounding structures. Its origin was a mystery.

Ghost Towns

Fourteen of the towns established in the gradual development of the county were later abandoned as population and interest shifted with the county's growth. Maysville in

Reeve Township was the first platted in the county. It was laid out by William May in 1856 and was named for William May, a soldier in Company H 32nd Iowa Infantry during the Civil War. It had a post office from 1867 to 1875.

Coldwater, in West Fork Township, was a post office from 1867 to 1875 when it was moved into Butler County. Congress, in Hamilton Township, was a post office, 1873-75. Cream Hill, in Ingham Township, was a post office in 1878.

Elide was listed as a post office in the U. S. Official Register, 1873, but is not given on the maps of that period. Ingham, in West Fork Township, was a post office, 1867-1875. Menzie, in Ingham Township, was a post office from 1871 to 1876. Oakland Valley was a prosperous village in Oakland Township, platted in 1857. It had a post office from 1862 to 1897. Otisville, partly in Wright County, was a post office from 1857 to 1880; it was moved when the railroad came, and its name changed to Dows.

Reeve, in Reeve Township, had a post office from 1893, to 1900. Shobe's Grove in Richland Township, was named for John Shobe and his wife, Eveline "Wood" Shobe. It was a post office from 1863 to 1873 and was known widely for the thick woodland which "abounded in fine hardwood trees. There were plenty of walnut, butternut, hickory-nut, wild plum and cherry trees... also red haws, crab apples and basswood and wild grape vines. There were refreshing springs of pure water which the people sought out and built their homes beside them." When the railroad was built this town was moved and called Sheffield.

On the exact site of Reeve, the R. E. A. power plant began operation in 1937, and eventually served six different counties over 2,700 miles of line. Franklin County was the first county in the United States to receive funds appropriated to build such a plant. The plant was at first equipped with one 750 horsepower, one 1,000 horsepower and one 1,500 horsepower Diesel engine, developing 525, 700 and 1,050 kilowatts respectively. To meet additional needs, the government appropriated another $180,000 for the installation of a 2,000 horsepower engine. The service reached 6,000 customers in 1941, and the fuel consumption was about 45,000 gallons, at a kilowatt production of about 550,000. To satisfy a growing demand, the kilowatt production was expected to be raised to 1,150,000 by 1944.

Union Ridge, in Ingham Township, was a post office, 1859-75. Washburn, in Ross Township was a post office in 1871.

CHAPTER 11

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE

Seventy-five years had passed over the city of Hampton and the domain of Franklin County since John Mayne had brought his oxen to a halt before the woods which were to bear his name. With the recurring seasons the prairie rose had bloomed again and again; ragged fringes of asters, rosinweed, goldenrod, and black-eyed Susans had starred the roadsides in autumn, while the hickory leaves burned to gold, and the red sumacs blazed. Seventy-five Novembers had brought the wild geese flying low over Hampton again in smoky flocks.

Three-fourths of a century of harvest had filled the granaries of Franklin County with the fruit of progress. In the month of June 1931, Franklin County celebrated the passing of these years with the Diamond Jubilee.

The celebration started Sunday, June 18 with special services at all the churches of Hampton. Orsen G. Reeve, son of James B. Reeve the oldest pioneer settler, was at the head of the invitation committee and thousands of people flocked into Hampton for the two-day jubilee. It was estimated that there were from 8,000 to 12,000 visitors on Sunday and from 15,000 to 20,000 on Monday.

The most striking feature of the jubilee program was the pageant parade of the second day. Colorful and impressive, it stretched out for 40 blocks and told in graphic outline the long history of Franklin County. There was John Mayne and his family in a covered wagon and on the next float were James B. Reeve and Addison Phelps, re-enacting the story of the meeting with Mayne, the setting up of the first tent and the building of the first campfire. So the long album of events was recorded as float after float passed by. Even old Doc. Mitchell was portrayed, and with his long whiskers and flowing beard was the humorous figure of the parade.

The second half of the parade was devoted to agriculture and showed the development of that phase of Franklin County life. The fullness of the county's growth was shown from the breaking of the first sod and the planting of the first fields of flax to the introduction of tested and highly productive dairy herds. The raising of fine hogs, cattle, sheep, and poultry, the later planting of alfalfa and of corn and other grain crops were all portrayed.

The committee in charge of the parade was headed by George D. Patterson who acted as grand marshall, and the

event was carried off on time and with no accidents in spite of the fact that there were at least one hundred teams of horses used and these horses were accustomed to the quiet fields of outlying farms and not to the gay color, the shouting crowds, and the stirring music of the bands.

After the parade was over there was a league baseball game between the Waterloo and Rock Island players which left Rock Island victorious with a score of 7 to 6.

In the evening Cimigotti's trained horses entertained the crowds gathered on the grassy hillsides which surround Mott's field and the Musquakie Indians from Tama put on a colorful program. The Indians presented first a concert by the Tama Indian Band under the direction of Eddie Davenport. This was followed by an eloquent address in the Indian tongue by Young Bear, which was translated by his son, George Young Bear, a university graduate. Young Bear told how his people had been sent away to Kansas by the Government to make way for the white man, how they could not bear the hardships on the dry, barren plains there after they had known the plenty of Iowa, how they had saved their Government money to buy land and had at last returned to their native state to buy back their former homes. He said that now they owned 3,300 acres of land in Tama County and that there were about 300 members of the tribe who made their homes there. He also expressed his pleasure at the spirit of friendliness shown to his people by the white people of Iowa and hoped that the two races might sometime come to an even better understanding of each other. George Young Bear gave a brief sketch of the very early history of his people and then took charge of the Indian ceremonial dances put on by 30 members of the tribe. He explained each dance, showing the meaning it held for his people.

Sunday afternoon, however, was the real homecoming for Franklin County people. Crowds poured into Hampton. Oney Fred Sweet was back from Chicago to give the afternoon address which he called "Back Home." Judge Sherwood A. Clock, himself a member of one of Franklin County's original families, introduced many of the pioneers and read the names of those who were not there. The Reverend C. J. Barth, pioneer minister of the county and pastor of Marion Center Church for 31 years, gave the benediction. Music was furnished by the Hampton Municipal Band, the Hampton Chanters, the Minneapolis and the St. Louis Quartet and by a county choir of nearly one hundred voices organized and directed by Burton E. North, superintendent of the school at Chapin. Congressman T. J. B. Robinson, of the Third Iowa District, presided at the afternoon program. The Reverend John D. Clinton of Fayette, a former Hampton boy and son of the Reverend DeWitt Clinton, gave the invocation.

In the evening the invocation was given by the Reverend J. E. Prichard of Chapin, the scripture reading was by the Reverend H. L. Michael of Hampton, and the benediction by the Reverend Henry L. Rust of Sheffield.

Mayor Ralph R. Stuart introduced Judge W. D. Evans, the first speaker of the evening,and Mrs. Evans as the mother of a family of children making names for themselves, typical of all the mothers who had played an important part in the building of the county. Judge Evans talked on "Looking Back Through the Years", a speech full of incident and action and heart-stirring stories of early Franklin County days.

M. M. Joyce of the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad Company and a native of Iowa gave events of interest in the early railroad history of Iowa, especially as it affected Franklin County.

The final address of the evening was given by Edgar R. Harlan, then curator of the Iowa State Historical Memorial and Art Building at Des Moines. He paid tribute to Franklin County and gave an outline of the findings of the first surveyors to visit the county. These men had come in 1849 before there were any settlements and made an official and authentic record of the finding of buffalo, deer and elk on the prairies of the early day.

Thousands of historic relics had been collected from all parts of the county by a committee headed by L. E. Gray and these, displayed in numerous store windows, drew crowds of interested spectators during the two day celebration. No concessions, side-shows or outside attractions were permitted by the Jubilee committee. This was a county affair and was carried through from start to conclusion by the county's own citizens and former citizens.

When the celebration was over the people of Franklin County went home. Knowing the past they could feel secure for the future, a future as significant as the still vivid past, preserved in the four obscure bronze markers, placed south of Hampton by the D. A. R.