

HISTORY
OF
LOUISA COUNTY
IOWA

From Its Earliest Settlement to 1912

By ARTHUR SPRINGER

ILLUSTRATED

VOLUME I

CHICAGO
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY
1912

PREFACE

Louisa, though the smallest county in the state, and containing one hundred and fifteen thousand acres less than the average, has a history, which, in some respects, is fully as important, and, in most respects, is as well worth preserving as that of any of Iowa's ninety-nine counties. It is a matter of keen regret that the importance of preserving our local history, has not only never been properly recognized, but has often been entirely lost sight of. For many years after the settlement, and even long after the organization of the county, we had no newspaper here, and because of neglect on the one hand, and destructive fires on the other, we now have only fragmentary files of such newspapers as were published. The early settlers were too busy making history to give much time, or take much thought, toward recording or preserving it, and so it happens that, while the affairs of the county from the very beginning were transacted in a fairly businesslike manner, and while we have much important and interesting matter concerning the official doings of those early days, it is still a lamentable fact that many papers and documents which must have at one time been among the county archives are missing, nor are they to be found in print. Beginning with the entry of the late John Hale, and soon after of W. S. Kremer, into the service of the county, much greater care was taken toward recording official transactions, and preserving official papers. The writer has heard Mr. Hale describe the almost indescribable confusion in which he found the papers in the clerk's office when he entered it—all kinds of documents in the same pigeon hole without any order or system, papers of all kinds and dates piled upon the tables and scattered upon chairs or on the floor, or thrown in the corners of the room—and most of the old files which we still have show us, by the labels in his own handwriting, that it was John Hale who sorted and saved them, and they still remind us how greatly we are indebted to his thoughtfulness and care. It is hoped that those who peruse this history will, if they should find it "full of omissions," charge at least a part of them to circumstances which cannot now be remedied.

Other omissions there will be, due to various causes. Some of these omissions will be due to the failure of those who have important documents in their possession to make the fact known, and other omissions may be charged to the fact that this work is done amid the interruptions of business, and because of the anxiety of the publishers to complete, and of many of the subscribers to receive the promised history. One could easily spend years in making a detailed investigation of any one of the several subjects presented by the history of a county created three quarters of a century ago, and within whose borders is the historic spot where, more than a century and a half before the county existed was held the first council between the white man and the red man in the valley of the

mighty Mississippi. Nevertheless, it is hoped that this work will pass for an attempt at a County History, and even this could not be claimed for any previous publication concerning Louisa county. The work done by O. I. Jamison, published in the Columbus Junction Gazette in 1906 and 1907 is of very great value, and would have been far more so if his health and life had been spared to complete it as he had planned. Most of the writings which have heretofore passed for county histories are so inaccurate that they often hinder more than they help, although considerable valuable material has been taken, after making some corrections, from the County Album published in 1889 by the Acme Publishing Company. A sample of quite a number of mistakes in that work is its statement that John Bevins was the first postmaster of Wapello, when in fact he was never postmaster here at all.

As stated in the prospectus, the chief energies of the writer of this work have been devoted to a study of the early days, of the things which happened, and the men who lived, forty or fifty years ago, or more. These events and the men who were concerned in them are not only of much greater interest and importance, historically, than those of a later date, but their history is much more difficult to secure; besides, the later events, even if important, can hardly be said to have passed into history, and the accounts of them are comparatively accessible.

This work contains a number of important tables or groups of facts, some of which will be found in the body of the work and some in the Appendix. Attention is called to the list of Charters, Laws, Treaties, etc., which bear upon our County history. If, as was said by one of Iowa's noted constitution makers "Law is history," then the table of laws and charters ought alone to justify this publication. The material for it has been taken from official publications, and from Dr. Thorp's "American Charters, Constitutions and Organic Laws" and Dr. Shambaugh's "Documentary Material Relating to Iowa History," both of which are official to students of history.

Another list which will be found in Chapter X contains the names of the county officials from the organization of the county to the present time; also senators and representatives and other kindred information. This was a very difficult list to prepare and it is possible that some errors may be found in it, although great pains have been taken in its preparation.

In the chapter on the Military history of the county will be found an alphabetical list of all the soldiers who enlisted from Louisa county during the war of the Rebellion, so far as could be learned.

For the most part, an effort has been made to merely state the facts of our county history in a plain and unvarnished way. In the preparation of this work, two serious difficulties have been encountered, one was to know what should be included and what should be left out. Another was to know how to arrange and in what chapters to put the things that were included. It goes without saying, that many people would have excluded things which have been made use of, and would have included many of those that have been left out. This is a matter of judgment upon which the author is by no means infallible.

The liberality of the publishers has been such that nearly every known source of information concerning our early history has been sought out.

The author is under obligations to Hon. E. R. Harlan, Curator of the State Historical Department, and to Hon. Johnson Brigham, State Librarian; to John

M. Helmick, Esq. of Davenport; to Rev. T. O. Douglas of Grinnell; and to present and former residents of Louisa county too numerous to mention, though it is proper to say that special thanks are due to Mrs. J. L. Kent, Mrs. Martha McDill, J. R. Smith, Ed. Hicklin, Col. J. W. Garner, Oscar Hale, W. S. Kremer and N. W. McKay. Special thanks are also due to Hon. C. A. Kennedy for his persistent and successful efforts in getting information from the government records at Washington. But, to those who are familiar with recent developments in Iowa Historical research, it will be readily believed that the greatest assistance has come from the publications of the Iowa State Historical Society at Iowa City, and from the writings of Dr. B. F. Shambaugh, *facile princeps* among Iowa historians. The library of the Iowa State Historical Society is a wonderful mine of information, and Dr. Shambaugh and his assistants have explored it so thoroughly, and are so uniformly accommodating, that he who seeks information there needs but "ask and he shall receive."

Because of relationship to some, and an intimate acquaintance with many of those who reared our county structure, this work has been largely a labor of love, my chief regret being that I have not had more time and leisure to devote to it.

ARTHUR SPRINGER.

WAPELLO, IOWA, January —, 1912.

township. We give this story for what it is worth. We have not looked up the records as to the election of township officers for the purpose of verifying it, as the story is good enough without this.

February 6, 1854, A. D. Hurley presented a petition to the county court signed by the citizens of Florence township asking that that portion of the township east of a line commencing at the quarter section corner of the south boundary of section 34, running due north to intersect the quarter section corner of the north boundary of section 22; thence north to the corner of sections 15 and 16 and 21 and 22; thence north to the corner of sections 9 and 10 and 15 and 16, all in township 73 north, range 3 west, be attached to Wapello township, and it was so ordered.

UNION TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHED.

On February 6, 1854, Andrew Gamble presented a petition of the citizens of Oakland and Columbus City townships asking for the formation of a new township of the territory of Columbus City and Oakland, to be bounded as follows: Commencing at the southwest corner of section 7, township 75 north, range 5 west; thence east to the Iowa river; thence up the Iowa river to the county line; thence west to the northwest corner of township 76 north, range 5 west; thence south on the county line to the place of beginning; the new township to be called Union. Among the signers to this petition were John Albaugh, Robert Todd, Peter Rineley, W. W. Orr, Patrick Colton, Nelson Alloway, Michael McGuire, G. W. Duncan and S. S. Wilcox. There was some opposition to this petition from the east side of the Iowa river but it was granted, and Union township established.

MORNING SUN TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHED.

On May 1, 1854, a petition was presented to the county court, signed by about fifty citizens of Florence township asking that the name be changed to Morning Sun township, and it was so ordered. Among the signers to the petition we note the names of Jesse Hamilton, Arch Johnson, Forgay Owens, William P. Brown, Robert Hewitt, Josiah Vertrees, James C. Brown, O. A. Taylor, B. F. Lee, J. R. Wilson, Hamilton Brown and Thomas McClurkin.



OTTER CREEK TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHED.

On July 5, 1854, John Corson and others petitioned for the formation of a new township to be called Otter Creek and the court established said township with the following boundaries: Beginning at the northwest corner of section 19, township 74 north, range 4 west; thence south on the range line five miles to the southwest corner of section 7, township 73 north, range 4 west; thence east six miles to the southeast corner of section 12, township 73 north, range 4 west; thence north five miles to the northeast corner of section 24, township 74 north, range 4 west; thence west six miles to the place of beginning. And the first election was ordered to be held the first Monday in April, 1855, at Hope Farm. The petition in this case does not seem to be among the files.

On March 17, 1855, Otter Creek township was changed at the request of E. W. Siverly and others by taking from it the following territory and attaching the

Section 33

Lewis Benedict1840
 Thomas Harrison1840
 Samuel Smith1840
 David McCoy1840

Section 34

Samuel Pitt1840
 Richard Staige1840
 William Cromley1840

Section 35

William H. Creighton.....1839
 James Gordon1839

Section 36

Richard Staige1840
 William H. Creighton.....1840
 William Cromley1840

LAND ENTRIES IN TOWNSHIP 73 NORTH, RANGE 3 WEST.

Section 1

Henry Warnstaff1840

Section 2

James Warnstaff1840
 Sterling Seeley1840

Section 3

John H. T. Gaff.....1840

Sections 4, 5 and 6 were not entered
 until later, mostly in 1851 to 1853.

Section 7

John S. David.....1840

Section 8

John S. David.....1840
 William Gregory1844

Section 9

Nathan Gregory1840

Section 10

Nathan Gregory1840

Section 11

James W. Isett.....1840
 Daniel Biggs1841
 Sterling Seeley1840

Section 12

James W. Isett.....1840

Section 13

Reuben Wanzer1840
 James W. Isett.....1840
 Thadus Stoddard1840

Section 14

James W. Isett.....1840
 Thomas L. Rose.....1840

James Wilson1840
 John Atchison, Jr.....1840

Section 15

Samuel Jamison1840
 Thomas Gregory1840
 Merit Jamison1840
 George Jamison1840
 John Davenport1841

Section 17

Reuben P. Bolles.....1840
 John Smith1840
 Erastus Cowles1840
 Benjamin Cutburth1840
 Abraham Hill1841

Section 18

John Dreskill1839
 Riley Dreskill1839
 John A. Lewin.....1840
 Jesse B. Webber.....1840
 Jesse and Silas Hamilton.....1843

Section 19

John Smith1840
 Josiah Vertrees1841
 Thompson Brown1842
 James McClurkin1844
 James C. Brown.....1845
 H. C. Blake.....1845

Section 20

Henry Hobbs1840
 Erastus Cowles1840
 Mathew McClurkin (Recorded as
 McLurkin)1840

9926211

William Wooley1840
 Thomas D. Evans.....1844

Section 21

Thomas Gregory1840
 Levi Gregory1840
 Henry Hobbs1839
 John Davenport1840
 Garrett B. Garrison.....1839
 Tobias Brogan1840
 James Marshall1840
 Mathew McClurkin1840
 James Wooley1840
 William Wooley1840

Section 22

Samuel Jamison1840
 George Jamison1840
 Albert Jamison1840
 Garret B. Garrison.....1840
 John Flack1840

Section 23

John Millard1839
 David Hurley1840
 Benjamin Ogle1847

Section 24

Samuel Smith1840
 George Newell1842
 Robert Newell1843
 Stephen Newell1843

Section 25

John Deihl1840

Section 26

John Deihl1840
 David Hurley1840
 James K. Williams.....1840
 David D. Webster.....1842

Section 27

J. Nelson1841
 D. H. Fisher.....1841
 James K. Williams.....1840

Section 28

Mathew McClurkin1839
 Thomas McClurkin1842
 James McClurkin1844

Section 30

David A. Lough.....1841
 Josiah Vertrees1840
 David McClurkin1845
 Cicero Hamilton1845
 James McClure1843

Section 31

James Hamilton1844
 James M. Swan.....1846
 Henry M. Ochiltree.....1848

Section 32

Samuel Barr1840
 James Popenoe1840
 John O'Laughlin1840
 Decey O'Laughlin1840
 James Marshall1840
 Hamilton Brown1846
 John D. Welch.....1845

Section 33

John O'Laughlin1839
 Samuel Barr1840
 John Wilson1840
 George W. C. Miller.....1842

Section 34

John Flack1840
 Mark Davison1840
 John Wilson1840
 James Wilson1840
 John Brogan1841

Section 35

John Flack1840
 Mark Davison1840

Section 36

Reuben C. Mason.....1840
 James W. Isett.....1840
 Robert Newell1842

LAND ENTRIES IN TOWNSHIP 73 NORTH, RANGE 4 WEST.

Section 1

Lewis Benedict1838
 Samuel Dunham1838
 John Brent1839
 Thos. Swan1839
 Alex. Hunter1839

Jan. 1903 to May 29, 1907—B. F. Ogden.

May 29, 1907, to date—F. T. Ives.

TREASURER.

1837—Zadok C. Inghram, acting.

1837—P. B. Harrison, elected member county commissioners' court and probably resigned.

1838—Zadok C. Inghram, gave bond as appointee. April 16, 1838.

1838—Hiram Smith, gave bond October 13, 1838.

1839—John Bevins, gave bond April 6, 1839.

1840—Cicero M. Ives, gave bond October 8, 1839.

1840—George F. Thomas, gave bond October 5, 1840.

1841—George F. Thomas, gave bond August 14, 1841.

1842—George F. Thomas, gave bond August 8, 1842.

1844—George F. Thomas, gave bond October 12, 1844.

1846—George F. Thomas, gave bond August 10, 1846.

1847—Samuel Townsend (and recorder), gave bond August 9, 1849, resigned March 27, 1849.

1849—Dennis Williams (and recorder), gave bond March 28, 1849.

1851—Samuel Townsend (and recorder), gave bond August 11, 1851.

1853—John C. Tucker (and recorder), gave bond August 10, 1853.

1855—Samuel Townsend (and recorder), gave bond August 9, 1855.

1857—William A. Colton (and recorder), gave bond August 17, 1857.

1859—Benjamin F. Coe.

1864-5—Benjamin F. Coe.

1866-73—W. S. Kremer.

1874-5—John L. Merrill.

1876-7—W. S. Kremer.

1878-81—Edson F. Smith.

1882-87—Milo J. Smith.

1888-95—N. W. McKay.

1896-1903—R. F. McConnell.

1904 to date—J. F. Chandler.

SHERIFF.

Samuel Smith, appointed December 8, 1836, oath of office, February 18, 1837.

1837—Martin Harless.

February 21, 1839, to November 2, 1840—C. M. McDaniel.

August 11, 1842—William H. R. Thomas.

1845—C. M. McDaniel.

1847—William H. R. Thomas.

September 4, 1849—Samuel Smith.

August, 1851—Samuel K. Helmick.

August 10, 1853—A. M. Taylor.

August 10, 1855—A. M. Taylor.

August 17, 1857—A. M. Taylor.

1860—A. M. Taylor.

1862-3—Henry McClurkin.
 1864-5—Henry McClurkin.
 1866-7—E. B. Lacey.
 1870-1—John L. Grubb.
 1872-3—John L. Grubb.
 1874-5—John L. Grubb.
 1876-81—Albert Ellis.
 1882-87—John C. Smith.
 1888-93—Isaac Black.
 1894-99—William Deford.
 1900-06—W. C. Saunders.
 1907 to date—Jacob C. Smith.



SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

1858—J. B. Brigham.
 June 28, 1858—W. R. Woodruff.
 1859—R. N. Fee—O. H. Miller, sworn in May 24, 1860.
 1861—S. E. Jones.
 1862-3—J. K. Sweeny.
 1863-4—A. S. Prather.
 1865—William J. Ronalds.
 1866-7—A. Millmine.
 1868-9—J. B. Porter.
 1870-1—L. A. Riley.
 1872-3—W. C. Sigafos.
 1874—C. H. G. Frye, to fill vacancy.
 1874-5—D. T. Campbell.
 1876-7—J. A. Kennedy.
 October 16, 1877—Daniel Helmick, to fill vacancy.
 1878-9—Daniel Helmick, elected.
 1880-3—Milton D. Nicol.
 1884-7—Mrs. L. G. Murdock.
 1888-91—W. A. Lester.
 1892-1897—Lizzie Hughes.
 1898-1901—C. M. Donaldson.
 1902-7—C. R. Wallace.
 1907 to date—R. R. Hunt.

SURVEYOR.

1839—John Gilliland, bond October 8, 1839.
 1840—John Gilliland.
 1841—John Gilliland, bond August 28, 1841.
 1842—John Gilliland, bond August 8, 1842.
 1843—John Gilliland.
 1844—Aaron D. Hurley, bond August 15, 1844.
 1845—Aaron D. Hurley, bond August 18, 1845.
 1847—Aaron D. Hurley, bond August 16, 1847.
 1849—Aaron D. Hurley, bond August 23, 1849.

1846

Merit Jamison, John McGannon, Henry Rockafeller.

1847

Merit Jamison, John McGannon (retired August 16, 1847), Henry Rockafeller, James G. Hall (August 16, 1847).

1848

James G. Hall, Henry Rockafeller (retired August 21, 1848), Merit Jamison, Jared H. Trask (August 21, 1848).

1849

James G. Hall, Merit Jamison (retired), Jared H. Trask (retired), Morton Brown (August 20, 1849), Leonard Robinson (August 20, 1849).

1850

James G. Hall (retired), Morton Brown, Leonard Robinson (retired), Thomas Stoddard (August 19, 1850), John N. McConnell (August 19, 1850).

1851

Morton Brown, Thomas Stoddard, John N. McConnell.

August 11, 1851, county court organized with Wright Williams as county judge.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS—1861.

Samuel Townsend, Wapello; Samuel Reiner, Columbus City; T. M. Parsons, Jefferson; S. C. Curtis, Grandview; Robert A. White, Union; Shakespeare McKee, Oakland; C. F. Stauber, Elm Grove; G. W. Maxwell, Eliot; Albert Ellis, Marshall; G. H. Crow, Port Louisa; Henry McClurkin, Morning Sun; David Edmondson, Concord.

1862



Samuel Townsend, John Drake, Wapello; Thompson Parsons, Jefferson; Shakespeare McKee, Oakland; Henry Beane, Eliot; Samuel Reiner, Joseph L. Paschal, Columbus City; George H. Crow, Port Louisa; T. R. J. Ellis, Marshall; Henry J. McCormick, Elm Grove; J. Livermore, Concord; Robert A. White, Union; S. C. Curtis, Grandview; John A. Brown, Morning Sun.

1863

Robert A. White, Union; G. H. Crow, Port Louisa; T. R. J. Ellis, Marshall; H. J. McCormick, Elm Grove; D. P. Curran, Morning Sun; Cyril Carpenter, Oakland; John Drake, Wapello; F. A. Duncan, Columbus City; Enoch Potter, Jefferson; Jacob Kremer, Eliot; S. C. Curtis, Grandview; J. Livermore, Peter Knott, Concord.

1864

F. A. Duncan, Columbus City; John Drake, Wapello; G. H. Crow, Port Louisa; Benjamin Jennings, Elm Grove; John Hunter, Concord; James Harman, Union; Meredith Hardesty, George S. Nichols, Marshall; S. C. Curtis, Grandview; C. Carpenter, Oakland; D. P. Curran, Morning Sun; Enoch Potter, Jefferson; Jacob Kremer, Eliot.

1865

C. S. Curtis, Grandview; G. H. Crow, Port Louisa; Benjamin Jennings, Elm Grove; James Harman, Union; John Hunter, Concord; C. W. Bras, Jefferson;

1874—Joseph D. Miles, Fifteenth.

1876-78—William Wilson, Sixteenth and Seventeenth.

1880-82—John W. Prizer, Eighteenth and Nineteenth.

1884-86—Francis A. Duncan, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Twentieth and Twenty-first.

1888—S. T. Chesebro, Twenty-second.

1890-92—John M. Gobble, Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth.

1894-96—C. A. Carpenter, Twenty-fifth, Twenty-sixth and Twenty-sixth Extra.

1898-1900—George M. Titus, Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eighth.

1902-04-06—F. M. Molsberry, Twenty-ninth, Thirtieth and Thirty-first.

1907-09—Jay I. Nichols, Thirty-second, Thirty-second Extra and Thirty-third.

1911—Alexander M. Garrett, Thirty-fourth.

The following senators of the above list resided in Washington county: Senators Everson, Miles, Wilson and Prizer. The following resided in Muscatine county: Senators Chesebro, Gobble, Titus and Nichols. Those interested in the matter can find when the various senatorial districts were changed by reference to the table in the appendix, showing the various charters, laws, etc.

MEMBERS OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Wright Williams, First, First Extra and Second.

Andrew Gamble, Third.

John Cleaves, Fourth.

Micajah Reeder, Fourth.

John C. Lockwood, Fifth.

Lewis Kinsey, Fifth Extra.

N. W. Burris, Sixth.

Andrew J. Kirkpatrick, Sixth.

Royal Prentiss, Seventh.

D. N. Sprague, Seventh.

John H. Williamson, Eighth and Eighth Extra.

John Cleaves, Ninth and Ninth Extra.

Enoch Potter, Tenth.

N. T. Brown, Eleventh.

Albert Ellis, Twelfth.

George D. Harrison, Thirteenth.

Francis A. Duncan, Fourteenth.

Benjamin Jennings, Fifteenth.

Robert E. Benton, Sixteenth.

George Jamison, Seventeenth.

William A. Colton, Eighteenth.

Francis A. Duncan, Nineteenth.

Oliver H. P. Linn, Twentieth.

L. A. Riley, Twenty-first and Twenty-second.

J. F. Holiday, Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth.

Harry O. Weaver, Twenty-fifth, Twenty-sixth and Twenty-sixth Extra.



Hilton M. Letts, Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eighth.

E. L. McClurkin, Twenty-ninth, Thirtieth and Thirty-first.

Robert J. Reaney, Thirty-second, Thirty-second Extra and Thirty-third.

James M. Brockway, Thirty-fourth.

G. H. Crow was elected in 1866, on account of the death of N. T. Brown, but did not serve.

Andrew J. Kirkpatrick resided in Washington county and represented what was called a floating district composed of Washington and Louisa counties. This floating district was changed and Des Moines and Louisa counties were made a floating district and D. N. Sprague, residing in Louisa county was a representative of the floating district composed of Des Moines and Louisa counties.

LOUISA COUNTY MEMBERS OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS.

Convention of 1844—John W. Brookbank, William L. Toole, Wright Williams.

Convention of 1846—John Ronalds.

Convention of 1857—Francis Springer, chosen president.

Other offices held by Louisa county citizens:

James M. Clark, President Legislative Council, Extra Session, 2nd Ter. Assembly, 1840.

Francis Springer, President Pro Tem Sixth Legislative Council, on account of failure to elect a president, he presided from Dec. 4, 1843, to Jan. 11, 1844.

George W. McCleary, Speaker of the House, Eighth Legislative Assembly, 1845-6.

George W. McCleary, Secretary of State, from Dec. 2, 1850, to Dec. 1, 1856. (After his election in 1850 Mr. McCleary became a resident of Johnson county.)

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENTS TO OFFICE OF PERSONS IN LOUISA COUNTY.

Dec. 8, 1836—Samuel Smith, Sheriff.

Dec. 8, 1836—William Milligan, Justice of the Peace.

Dec. 8, 1836—Christopher Shuck, Justice of the Peace.

Dec. 8, 1836—Isaac Rinearson, Justice of the Peace.

Dec. 8, 1836—William L. Toole, Justice of the Peace.

Nov. 25, 1837—Seratus C. Hastings, District Attorney.

Jan. 15, 1838—James G. Hall, Justice of the Peace.

Jan. 15, 1838—Zadock C. Inghram, Justice of the Peace.

Jan. 15, 1838—John Reynolds, Justice of the Peace.

Jan. 15, 1838—William Kennedy, Justice of the Peace.

Jan. 15, 1838—Isaac Parsons, Justice of the Peace.

[John Reynolds should be John Ronalds, and Inghram's first name should be spelled Zadok.]

Jan. 19, 1838—Seratus [Serranus] C. Hastings, District Attorney for Louisa County.

All the foregoing appointments were made by Gov. Henry Dodge of Wisconsin.

Jan. 16, 1839—Ruben S. Searls, Judge of Probate.

the construction of the railroad, and he declared that he would not issue them without such a provision, unless clearly convinced that such was the desire of the people of the county.

We find on the county court records under date of December 10, 1855, a proclamation for a vote of the people of the county on the question of subscribing \$50,000 to the capital stock of the Keokuk, Mount Pleasant & Muscatine Railroad Company, the election to be held on January 12, 1856. Toward the close of this proclamation is the following clause: "The adoption of the above proposition will be considered an expression of the opinion of the people of the county in favor of authorizing a subscription to the Philadelphia, Fort Wayne & Platte River Air Line Railroad Company, which was voted on the 3d of September, 1853."

The insertion of this last clause gave great offense to all the friends of the Air Line project. How it was looked upon by some may be gathered from the following communication, which was published in the Wapello Intelligencer of January 1, 1856: "It is a custom in all countries governed by constitutional authorities, for the rulers to give an account of their actions to the governed, whenever called upon, and those rulers who do not explain to the satisfaction of the governed, any or all of their actions, are looked upon as acting despotically. In the columns of your paper is a proclamation, calling upon the citizens of this county to vote upon a question upon which they have already given a very decisive voice. A large and respectable portion of the voters of Louisa county would like to have Mr. Francis Springer's reasons for submitting the question anew, as to whether the county shall take stock in the Philadelphia, Fort Wayne & Platte River Railroad. You may rest assured, Mr. Editor, that a large portion of the voters of the county feel outraged by the latter clause in the proclamation. Perhaps Mr. Springer would favor us through your columns with the reasons for his actions in the premises. It is an old axiom that 'the salve must be as broad as the sore.'"

The attitude of Judge Springer on the subject of issuing Air Line railroad bonds was a matter of extended comment and rather exciting debate all over the county, and it is said that at one time while he was holding county court here, an immense throng of people attended the session of court and were very excited and demonstrative in urging the issuance of the bonds. The writer well remembers to have heard from the lips of the then county judge that he did not issue the bonds until he had been presented with petitions signed by a respectable majority of the legal voters of the county, including many of the largest property owners and most prominent citizens; but in subsequent years the fact that such petitions were ever presented, has been doubted by men who were supposed to be quite well informed about such things. It was with some satisfaction, therefore, that we found these petitions with the signatures attached (some nine hundred and seventy-one names), and we append herewith as a necessary part of the history of this transaction a copy of one of the petitions, with the names of some of the leading signers.

To the Hon. Francis Springer, County Judge of Louisa County, Iowa.

The Undersigned, voters of Louisa County, having understood that, from the recent vote upon the proposition to subscribe Stock, you did not feel authorized

to take the stock in the Philadelphia, Fort Wayne and Platte River Air Line Railroad, we would respectfully request you to subscribe said Stock, authorized by the vote September 3rd 1853: Wm. J. R. Flack, T. W. Bailey, Alanson F. Bemis, Edward B. Isett, John M. Brown, Jesse Vanhorn, James Davison, J. S. Marshall, John R. Sisson, James Cummings, Franklin Griswold, John N. Beldrige, T. R. J. Ellis, Wm. Kemp, J. C. Stirlen, Jerry Browning, Forgay Owens, R. S. Strong, V. Willoughby, John Hurley, Henry Marsden, H. P. May, James F. Patton, Robert Coulter, Oliver Benton, Wm. T. Nichols, James H. Marshall, Joseph Higbee, J. B. Nichols, Joseph Bates, J. T. Cowles, John Keck, J. C. Tucker, J. L. Browning, William Shoop, James Keever, Jeremiah Smith, John Hays, Thomas G. Taylor, E. Keach, W. A. Knowlton, John L. Sweeney, Wiley Gregory, Samuel Jamison, Harvey Bell, John Deihl, George Jamison, John R. Springsteen, Samuel Hamilton, Alexander Hamilton, Mark Davison, Henry Myerholz, James Brogan, William Clark, Wm. Shipman, Francis Wykert, Amzi Donaldson, Henry Thompson, Dennis Williams, C. W. Bras, George L. Coe, Wm. L. Toole, George H. Mosier, T. M. Parsons, G. W. Wesley, John Hale, George Grasham, Ephram Owens, S. K. Helmick, H. Hawkins, John Griffith, John Morgan, D. W. Herrick, Thomas Newell, A. D. Hurley, Peter Lambert, George Presbury, James R. McDaniel, J. M. Herrick, Francis Curran, William Brogan, John M. Wilson, George Vanhorn, Oliver Mickey, S. B. Cleaver, B. H. Druse, Samuel Barr, Fredrick Weber, John Allison, G. F. Thomas, William Keach, George Nearhood, R. E. Archibald, J. R. Kinsey, John Jenkins, John Sprinkle, James A. Fleming, J. H. Trask, Nathaniel J. Ives, C. Morgan, M. Jamison, William Jamison, James Semple, John P. Walker, George Hutchison, Abram McCleary, Thomas Fleming, Samuel Duncan, George Key, S. G. Blackburn, B. F. Wright, F. M. Ong, W. J. Hewitt, O. A. Taylor, J. B. Miller, Franklin Bras, D. N. Sprague, J. H. Graham, Ozias Smith, Aug. Wehmier, James Sterrett, Samuel Chaney, A. M. Taylor, H. McClurkin, R. Archibald, W. B. Robison, Dennis Gregory, Chas. Downs, Royal Prentiss, Lewis Kinsey, J. B. Latta, George Beck, Andrew Brockert, David Grimes, William H. Creighton, Richard Staige, Robert Gillis, John Huff, J. D. Barr, Samuel Bell, Levi Woodruff, L. P. Wells, A. Hodge, W. H. Milligan, Wm. Owens, Merit Jamison, Ernst Winter, J. B. Grubb, W. J. Ronalds, H. T. Cleaver, H. C. Blake, James Drake, J. G. Umphreys, John A. Brown, A. P. Hensleigh, R. W. Gray, Hugh Paisley, John L. Foor, V. Massie, M. P. Vanhorn, Joshua Marshall, Joseph Mickey, Levi Bozman, Jesse Hamilton, John Stafford, H. H. Mickey, D. P. Curran, Jno. Bell, Oliver Ball, Parkis Woodruff, Gustavus Jones, Thomas Stoddard, Alfred Limbocker, Joseph Storey, John Bird, H. Christy, Joseph B. McDill, James Blanchard, T. A. Ball, Kennedy Storey, G. B. Williams, G. A. Hook, Harmon Mallory, Willard Mallory, Harvey Harris, Henry Jennings, Barton Jones, Joseph Paschal, Jos. L. Derbin, J. W. Isett, Wm. McClemm, John Reed, Elias Marshal, John Le Cornu, James Crawford, John Milligan, Abiathur Williams, Wilson R. Woodruff, P. C. Brown, David Woodruff, Zebina Williams, B. P. Weston, George England, Gideon Bayne, J. S. Hurley, Christian Heins, Joseph Schofield, Jacob Mintun, Jesse Graham, David McMichael, James D. Martin, Stephen McKinley, Thomas Garvin, H. J. N. Parsons, Joseph P. Parsons, Jacob Syphrit, John Kennedy, G. H. Crow, B. F. Coe, H. J. McCormick, John Dill, David McKinley.



The election on the question of subscribing \$50,000 to the Keokuk &c. railroad enterprise, was held on January 12th, 1856, and it was found that the returns from Wapello, Morning Sun, Oakland, and Union townships did not meet the legal requirements. By throwing out these four townships, the proposition would be carried by 27 votes; by counting these townships, it would be defeated by 30. The county judge solved the difficulty by again submitting the question to the people, and it was carried.

From about 1850 to 1858 several counties in Iowa issued their bonds in aid of railroad building, exchanging these bonds for a like amount of stock in the railway enterprise. The question of the validity of these bonds was not long finding its way into the courts. One of the early cases, perhaps the first one, was that of Dubuque County vs. The Dubuque & Pacific Railroad Company, reported in 4 Greene, p. 1. This decision held that the bonds were valid obligations against the county: it was followed by some six or seven more similar cases, decided the same way, the last one of these being a Johnson county case, decided in 1859, and reported in the 10th Iowa, p. 157. In the latter case, and in most of the others, there was a marked division of opinion among the Supreme Court judges, and some strong dissenting opinions were rendered. In 1862, in a case from Wapello County, the Iowa Supreme Court took a different view, and reversed its former line of cases, and held that the county bonds in aid of railroads were invalid, and they continued to hold to that view as to all bonds issued during the period we are considering. But, about 1863 a case reached the Supreme Court of the United States, involving these same questions, as to bonds of the city of Dubuque, which had been issued and sold under the sanction of the first decisions of our court, holding such bonds to be valid. The United States Supreme Court followed the earlier decisions of our Supreme Court, and held the bonds to be valid, and that court continued to hold the same day as to all such bonds which were issued and sold under the authority and sanction of the first decisions of our court.

Then came the question as to paying the bonds, and as to the power and authority of the State and Federal courts in the matter, as to how in case the Federal courts proved to be the more powerful, they would go about it to have the judgments paid.

On January 26, 1856, it is recorded that the board of directors of the Air Line company applied for the county subscription of \$100,000, and desired to have their application considered in connection with sundry petitions, and we may presume that the sundry petitions were those to which we have already referred. At that time it was ordered that the further consideration of the application be continued until the next regular term of the court and that the contractors be requested to furnish the court with a certified copy of any contracts they had made for the construction of the road and an official statement of the actual available means of said company.

There seems to have been, about this time, a very good list of signers to a petition asking the county judge not to issue the Air Line bonds. There are two of these petitions among the old papers of this date. They are not in very good condition and some of the names can hardly be distinguished. The prime mover in getting them up seems to have been J. B. Latta, Sr., and these petitions contain one hundred and sixty-one names, chiefly from Grandview and Concord

East Morning Sun laid out by Josiah Nicol on September 4, 1870, beginning at the southwest corner of the west half of the northeast quarter of section 30, 73-3.

Samuel Reid's addition to Morning Sun, consisting of four lots, surveyed by Peter Houtz, county surveyor, March 13, 1873, and appears to be situated in the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 25, 73-4.

Samuel Hamilton's addition to Morning Sun, surveyed by W. S. Kremer, September, 1873, and laid out on the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 30, 73-3.

Wilmering's addition to Morning Sun, laid out by Herman Wilmering, better known as "Dutch Jake," in April, 1874, surveyed by Peter Houtz, county surveyor, and laid out on the south half of the northwest quarter of section 30, 73-3.

There are a number of subdivisions of lots and out lots which cannot be properly classed as additions but are found on the plat book. There is also a plat of the railway depot grounds at Morning Sun.

W. T. Vertrees' addition to Morning Sun, surveyed by W. S. Kremer, April 22, 1895, and situated on the northwest part of the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 30, 73-3.

Nancy Wilson's addition to Morning Sun, surveyed by W. S. Kremer, April 23, 1892, and situated on the northeast corner of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 30, 73-3 and adjoins Gifford's addition on the east.

Hayes' addition to Morning Sun, surveyed by W. S. Kremer, for A. D. Hayes, August 15, 1899, and laid out on the east six acres of lot 1 in the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 30, 73-3.

In the records of the county court is found the account of the filing of a petition of H. C. Blake and twenty others asking Judge Derbin to order an election to be held in the village of Morning Sun to decide on the question "Shall the addition to Morning Sun laid off by Wilson Giffin, and generally known as Giffin's addition to Morning Sun, be added to and become a part of said village"? This election appears to have been ordered, and held on Nov. 7, 1857, resulting in a majority in favor of the proposition.

The first settlement in the vicinity of the present town of Morning Sun is thought to have been made by Jonathan Harkeman, from Ohio. He came in 1836. He was a blacksmith by trade, and was the inventor and maker of the first diamond plow. The first school in this vicinity was probably taught by T. P. Brown, a little north of the town.

The first postmaster in Morning Sun was W. P. Brown, but the first postoffice in Morning Sun township was at "Virginia Grove," and the office was called by that name. Mr. Brown had the postoffice before the town was laid out, and it is believed that he gave Morning Sun its name. H. C. Blake was the second postmaster at Morning Sun.

W. P. Brown also built the first house in the present limits of Morning Sun, and his son, J. C. Brown, opened the first store in this building. Other early merchants were Wright, Blake, Hurd, Stormont and Jamison.

Cicero Hamilton had a saw mill in the early days of the town. The town of Morning Sun was incorporated in 1867; on June 3rd of that year Henry McClurkin, J. C. Brown and Henry C. Blake presented to County Judge Wm.



G. Allen the petition of 44 residents, asking for incorporation, and on same day the order was made for the organization of the town. J. C. Brown was the first mayor, and was elected in August, 1867.

In September, 1874, W. E. Smith, M. M. Carson, James Higbee, Elliot Frazer, J. W. Cavan and others petitioned the circuit court for an election upon the question of annexing the additions known as Wilmering's addition, Morning Sun Station, East Morning Sun and eight acres adjoining East Morning Sun. The court appointed M. M. Carson, James Higbee, W. E. Smith, J. C. Shirk and J. W. Cavan commissioners to hold an election in the territory proposed to be annexed, and they held an election on Oct. 31, 1874, at which a majority of the people voting were favorable to the proposition; and on Nov. 12, 1874, the council, by resolution approved the annexation.

Present officers are: P. A. Yohe, mayor; W. B. Garvin, clerk; J. W. Smith, treasurer. Councilmen: J. F. Holiday, W. R. Smyth, J. L. Vertrees, E. L. McClurkin and T. E. Skinner.

Morning Sun has always given good support to its schools.

In 1867 it built the finest schoolhouse in the county at that time. A few years ago the building was destroyed by fire, and Morning Sun immediately replaced it with a modern edifice which is also the best in the county.

The population of Morning Sun at the various census enumerations has been as follows: 1869—279; 1870—314; 1873—445; 1875—785; 1880—812; 1885—880; 1890—881; 1895—987; 1900—948; 1905—981; 1910—897.

Morning Sun is a thriving, up-to-date place, with two railroads, two good banks, a newspaper which has one of the best job-printing offices in this part of the state, and a number of good stores and strong church organizations. One of the churches was the Associate Reform congregation of Virginia Grove, and is said to have been organized by Rev. Samuel Finley in 1840. It is now known as the United Presbyterian church of Morning Sun. John Wilson, John Hamilton, Henry M. Ochiltree and Wilson Giffin were elders, and Rev. Jackson Duff pastor in its early years. Rev. William M. Graham, Rev. Thomas Samson, and Rev. T. C. McKilday have been pastors, Rev. Fred Elliott is the pastor at this time.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

No authentic record of the earliest Methodist services in the vicinity of what is now Morning Sun can be found. It is believed that the pioneer itinerants preached in various residences and neighboring schoolhouses as early as the forties. It is well known that Methodist preachers by the names of Wilson, Prather and Wayman held revival meetings near Morning Sun before the Civil war. The first regularly organized class in Morning Sun was formed by a Rev. Mr. Paschal of Columbus City, soon after the war, and the charter members were Samuel Hamilton and wife, R. Delzell and wife, M. Jarvis and wife, Dr. O. Reynolds and wife and Mrs. Cramer. We find that this class was supplied with preaching by local preachers by the names of Pell and Bird, and pastors of neighboring charges. The services were first held in the home of William P. Brown, afterwards in the Presbyterian church and still later in Schenk's hall.

Morning Sun was officially organized as a charge of the Iowa Conference in 1871 and Bishop Ames appointed as its first pastor Rev. Morris Bamford. Con-