

THE PLACE-NAMES OF DES MOINES COUNTY, IOWA

BY T. J. FITZPATRICK

University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska

(Continued from October, 1937)

HAWKEYE CREEK. This small stream rises in the southern part of section 23 and the northern part of section 26 of Yellow Spring Township, in the vicinity of the north side of the village of Mediapolis, runs eastward, near the north side of the village of Kossuth, thence north-eastwardly, reaching the lowlands in section 13 of Huron Township where the stream reaches drainage ditches which carry it southeast across the central part of sections 19, 20, and 21 to Huron Slough. The former name of the stream was Swank Creek (see below). The later name of Hawkeye was due to a pioneer post office and a rural school near the stream in section 14 of Huron Township, long known by the name of Hawkeye, in this sense a locally descriptive name.

HAZEL GROVE. The sylvan name given to a pioneer cemetery located in or near the eastern half of section 2 of Yellow Spring Township in the vicinity of the home of Philip Cox, which has the same name. In this cemetery some of the early settlers of the vicinity were interred.⁹¹

HAZEL GROVE. The name of a rural school and of an early school district number 7 in Yellow Spring Township. The school census taken in 1859 gives sixty-five pupils of school age. In 1873 the schoolhouse site was near the forks of the highway in the southeastern part of section 2. The name is locally descriptive.

HAZEL GROVE. The more or less locally descriptive name of the farm home of Philip Cox in the east central part of section 2 of Yellow Spring Township. A picture of the home and surroundings is given in *Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County, 1873, page 53, where the name is spelled "Hazle Grove."* Mr. Cox was a native of Fairfield County, Ohio. He came to Des Moines County in 1848. The former nearby schoolhouse as well as the school district has had the same name.

HEATON'S POND. This body of water was mostly in the southwestern quarter of section 16 of Huron Township. It has disappeared now, due to drainage.⁹² Andreas and Merrill in their maps give the name as Heaton Pond. The pond was the remnant of a slough of the Mississippi River, becoming in time through silting the "dead head" end. The name is presumably for an early local landowner, probably Samuel Heatou who lived in or near the vicinity before July, 1836.

⁹¹Merrill, *Yellow Spring and Huron, 1897, p. 36.*

⁹²Antrobus, *History of Des Moines County, Vol. I, p. 460.*

HICKORY POINT. This name was an early one for the hamlet of Northfield. The site was at the margin of an upland grove of native trees, many of which were presumably shellbark hickory (*Hicoria ovata*), hence the name is locally descriptive. See Northfield.

HINSON CREEK. A small, short stream in the northeastern part of Benton Township, rising near the center of section 3, runs eastward across section 2, reaching the lowlands in section 1, in the vicinity of Kingston Station. It enters a drainage ditch in section 6 of Jackson Township. The stream was named for a local resident, apparently Eve Hinson, of section 1.⁹³

HOLLAND. The name of a rural school at the forks of the highway in the southern part of section 11 of Augusta Township. The name of the school is for an early resident, Laban Holland, a large landholder of the vicinity, on whose farm the schoolhouse site was located.⁹⁴ The Census for 1836, page 85, gives the name as Laben Hollen.

HONEY CREEK. This short stream with its branches rises mainly in sections 27, 35, and 36 of Flint River Township, in the vicinity of the village of West Burlington, runs northward to Flint River in the central part of section 24. In pioneer days honey was obtained from trees along the course of the stream, hence the name.

HONEY CREEK. This stream rises in the southeastern part of section 2 and the northeastern part of section 11 of Washington Township, runs eastward and northeastward, leaving Des Moines County on the north side of section 5 of Yellow Spring Township. This name was given to the creek by the pioneers who gathered honey in the timber along the lower course of the stream.

HOPE. The name of a rural school on the north side near the northwest corner of section 10 of Washington Township. This ethical name is apparently for an ideal of the community.

HUNT ROAD. The name given to a highway which runs southwestwardly from the southwestern part of the city of Burlington diagonally across the southeast central part of Union Township to the Skunk River Bottom Road. This road lies mainly in section 13, 14, 23, 22, 27, and 33. The highway was apparently named for Samuel Hunt, an early resident in section 13.

HUNTER. The name of a rural school at the cross highways on the north side of section 18 of Tama Township, about three miles north of the limits of the city of Burlington. The school was named for William Hunter, an early resident of the vicinity.⁹⁵ Hunter was a native of Ireland, born in 1812. He came to Des Moines County in 1839.⁹⁶

HURON. The name of a township in the northeastern part of Des Moines County, east of Yellow Spring, and north of Benton and Jackson

⁹³*Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County*, 1873, p. 61.

⁹⁴*Andreas' Atlas*, p. 93.

⁹⁵*ibid.*, p. 85.

⁹⁶*History of Des Moines County*, 1879, p. 674.

townships. It comprises the fractional part of range 1 west, along the Mississippi River and the four eastern tiers of sections of range 2 west, all of township 72 north. Huron was originally a part of Yellow Spring Township from which it was separated in April, 1848, by order of the Board of County Commissioners. Settlement began in 1835 when Joshua Swank and Wesley Swank, brothers, established their homes under the sheltering bluffs on the west side of section 12 and in the southeast corner of section 11, respectively. The township was doubtless named for the pioneer village of Huron which was founded in 1847, in section 16, becoming an important, early, shipping port.

HURON. A village with this name was early established in the northern part of section 16 of Huron Township, on Huron Slough or Huron Chute which was navigable for steamboats. The site was laid out in 1847 on the highest land of the vicinity. A store was opened by James Hemphill of whom, a year later, Alexander T. Hamilton was a partner. John Hector ran a small store and a blacksmith shop. A third store was opened in 1850 by Alexander Adams from near Keithsburg, Illinois. Joseph Gray erected a steam mill and Obed Eams a sawmill, and a fourth store was opened by J. A. Swezey. A schoolhouse was built and was used for school and by the local organization of the Methodist church. A large warehouse was used for grain and much of it shipped by steamboats making regular calls. After the high water of 1851, which had submerged the town, the people moved away and the town site was abandoned. A farm has since covered the place, being used and later owned by Philip Cox, though earlier owned by Alexander T. Hamilton.⁹⁷ The village or hamlet of Huron was named for the nearby Huron Island.

The name Huron is derived from an old French word *hure*, Norman French *hure*, meaning bristly, rough hair, head of man or beast, as a wild boar, and the suffix *-on*, meaning to deprecate. The name *Huron*, often with some added epithet as *vilain*, was in use in France as early as 1358, expressing contumely, contempt, indicating derogatory signification as an unkempt person. When the peasants rebelled during the captivity of King John in England they were known as Hurons; contempt being thus expressed by the name. In America the name was applied by the French to a tribe of Indians of Algonquian stock dwelling about the Great Lakes, Huron, Erie, and Ontario, in Canada and in New York. The Indians were somewhat repulsive, having shaggy, cropped heads, suggestive of wild boars, hence unkempt persons.

So far the writer has found no record as to the transference of the name Huron to Des Moines County but in all probability it was through some French source as a settler, trader, or voyageur. The sequence of the name in Des Moines County is: 1st, Huron Island, 1838 or before; 2nd, the hamlet of Huron, by the island, 1847; 3rd, the township of Huron, 1848; and 4th, the post office of Huron, 1863.

⁹⁷Merrill, *Yellow Spring and Huron*, 1897, pp. 371-372.

The name Huron is used for a large lake; counties in Michigan, Ohio, and in Ontario; three townships in Michigan, others in Ohio, New York, etc.; a county-seat in Beadle County, South Dakota; and a number of minor places.

HURON. The name of an early, inland post office still in existence as late as 1902. It was then located in the northwestern corner of section 24 of Huron Township, about four miles west and a mile south of the old village site of Huron. The post office was named for the township in which it was situated.

The post office of Huron, Des Moines County, Iowa, was formerly an older one in the vicinity known as "Hawk Eye," (see above). Under the administration of Orville Swank, who was appointed postmaster on August 4, 1862, the name of the post office was changed to Huron on March 2, 1864. His successors were: Jerome E. Hedges, April 6, 1863; John Delaplain, July 28, 1863; Lucindo Delaplain, July 13, 1866; Hugh L. Creighton, August 4, 1873; and Jerome E. Hedges, December 22, 1873, under whom the post office was discontinued on June 30, 1902.

HURON. A station and hamlet on the Muscatine, Burlington, and Southern Railroad near the center of section 13 of Huron Township. The name appears to be directly or indirectly for the township in which the station is situated and for the early post office of Huron in the vicinity in section 24, hence as here used a locally descriptive name.

HURON ISLAND. A long, irregularly shaped island, lying mostly in sections 3, 10, and 15 of Huron Township, being separated from the mainland by a narrow channel known as Huron Slough or Huron Chute. The island comprises about 1500 acres. Permanent settlement began in 1873 with Louis Charbonneaux, a French Canadian, who with his family became long-time residents. Other settlers followed. A school was established in the fall of 1889 with Agnes Fox as teacher.⁹⁸

The island was doubtless directly or indirectly named for the Huron tribe of Indians through some French-Canadian source. French-Canadians have been dwellers on the island but the island appears to have had its name long before permanent settlements were made.

The map of Iowa by Jesse Williams, published in 1840, though prepared before July 4, 1838, indicates Huron Island with its name. Of the island he says: "The Mississippi river passes this township from north to south; there is a large island four and a half miles long by one and a quarter wide, covered with a heavy growth of timber, principally bottom oak, maple, cottonwood, and willow."⁹⁹

HURON AND NORTHFIELD ROAD. The locally descriptive name of the highway beginning at the site of the hamlet of Huron in the northern part of east section 16 of Huron Township, running mainly westward to the village of Northfield, situated about the common corner of east sections 5, 6, 7, and 8 of Yellow Spring Township.

⁹⁸*ibid.*, pp. 275-280, 365-366.

⁹⁹Jesse Williams, *Description of the United States Lands in Iowa*, 1840, p. 43.

HURON SLOUGH. A narrow channel of the Mississippi River, extending from the north side of section 3 southward about five miles, to near the southern part of section 27 of Huron Township. It is also known as Huron Chute. It was named for Huron Island, along the west side of which it passes.

INDEPENDENT. The early name of a rural school in sub-district number 4 of Union Township. In 1882 the school district was made Independent District number 4, whence apparently the name.

INDIAN SPRING. The name given to an unusually large spring with a waterfall near the city of Burlington. A full page illustration of this spring is in *Iowa Geological Survey*, vol. 3, facing page 414. The same illustration occurs in Gue's *History of Iowa*, vol. 3, facing page 341.

IOWA CITY ROAD. The name of a highway which runs diagonally, mainly northward, bearing westward, from the city of Burlington across Flint River, Franklin, and Yellow Spring townships to the county line at the northeast corner of Washington Township. In early days this was the road taken by travellers from Burlington to Iowa City in Johnson County, hence the name, a locally descriptive one.

IOWA SLOUGH. A narrow channel, coming from Louisa County. It crosses the northeastern part of section 4, entering Huron Slough in the southwestern part of section 3 of Huron Township. It is one of the arms or channels of the mouth of the Iowa River, hence the name. As the portion in Huron Township is somewhat enlarged the slough also has the name Iowa Slough Lake, which name appears on the U. S. soil map, 1925.

IRISH RIDGE ROAD. The name given to an early highway running north from the city of Burlington to the Round Prairie settlements in Yellow Spring Township. In the main this road followed the divide near the west sides of Tama and Benton townships and near or along the east side of Yellow Spring Township, ending in the Northfield and Huron road, one mile east of the hamlet of Northfield. The name has reference to Irish settlers along the road, hence more or less locally descriptive.

ISLAND 365. The more or less locally descriptive name given to an island in the Mississippi River about a mile and a half long and about a quarter wide, lying northeast of Fernal Island and south of the ferry line from Oquawka, Illinois. The island extends southwestwardly, being separated from Fernal Island by a narrow channel, and is mostly in sections 22, 27, and 28 of Jackson Township. See U. S. soil map, 1925.

ISLAND 371. This locally descriptive name is given to an island in the Mississippi River about a mile long and a half mile wide, extending southwestwardly in east section 6 and sections 1 and 12 of Tama Township, about a quarter mile south of the pumping station. See U. S. soil map, 1925.

JACKSON. An irregularly shaped township, consisting of seventeen sections, lying on the east side of Des Moines County. It is south of Huron and east of Benton townships. It comprises the fractional part of congressional township 71 north, range 1 west. The Mississippi River forms

the eastern and most of the southern boundary. The remainder of the southern boundary, about a mile, is the line between Jackson and Tama townships. The township was doubtless named for General Andrew Jackson (1767-1845), the hero of the battle of New Orleans, seventh president (1829-1837) of the United States, a man who throughout his political and military career was both ardently loved and violently hated. Many places and localities have been named for him.

Jackson Township was formerly a part of Benton Township. On April 8, 1850, the Board of County Commissioners on consideration of a petition presented by Stephen Tallman and sixty others made the following entry of record: "Wherefore it is ordered, that township number 71 north, range 1 west, be and the same is hereby set off from the township heretofore known as Benton Township, and that said portion of territory set off shall from this date form a separate township and district and known as Jackson Township."

JACKSONVILLE. The name of an early, rural post office established on February 1, 1838, in Des Moines County, Territory of Wisconsin, with the appointment of John Burkhart, postmaster. The location was near Sperry in Franklin Township, on a farm afterwards owned by Mrs. Miller. The name of the office was changed as well as removed to Yellow Spring, in Des Moines County, Iowa, on June 16, 1841, with the appointment of Elijah Wood, postmaster. See post office of Yellow Spring.

"In 1836 [1938] John Burkhart was commissioned post master and his office, near Sperry where Mrs. Miller now lives, was named Jacksonville, in honor of the then president [1829-1837], and under whom Burkhart had seen military service. Maj. J. B. Newhall, Iowa's first historian, was his deputy. From this point mail for this region was distributed till after the land sales. In 1841, Rev. E. Carter Hutchison, of Washington, D. C., became proprietor of Columbus and through his influence with the Whig administration had the Jacksonville office moved to that point and renamed, and Mr. Wood made postmaster."¹⁰⁰

JIMTOWN. The early, local nickname¹⁰¹ given to a small hamlet of pioneer days situated in or near the south central part of section 5 of Danville Township, along the highway running northwest from Middletown to New London in Henry County. In or near the year 1840 James Dukes of Indiana established a wayside inn known as Duke Hotel. He is remembered as a genial individual with a marked personality, popular with his guests, and familiarly known as "Jim." The little hamlet that clustered about his inn became known as "Jimtown," he being recognized as the leading personage of the vicinity. The hamlet in its prosperous days comprised an inn, a trading house, and three or more dwellings. In a few years the place waned and ceased to exist. Only a vestige of the hamlet, including the inn, remains. On May 11, 1930, a marker was placed on the site as a memorial.

¹⁰⁰Merrill, *op. cit.*, p. 382.

¹⁰¹*Portrait and Biographical Album of Des Moines County, 1888*, p. 213.

JOHNSON ISLAND. An island, over a mile long and about one-fourth mile wide, in the Mississippi River, mainly in section 27 of Huron Township.¹⁰² It was probably named for the owner or a resident.

JOHNSON'S SPRING. See Breckenridge Spring.

KEMPER. The name of a station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad, five miles south of the city of Burlington, in the north-western part of section 29 of Concordia Township according to Huebinger's *Atlas of the State of Iowa*, 1904, and the map of Iowa by the Railroad Commissioners, 1904 and 1915. The same railroad company also uses the name for a station in Jersey County, Illinois, 47 miles north of the city of St. Louis, Missouri, and about 24 miles north of Alton, Illinois. The station in Illinois, however, is an old one; the one in Iowa is of late origin, appearing only on recent maps. The name is probably for a railroad official or a local resident.

KINGSTON. The original village of Kingston was laid out on both sides of the highway in the northwest one-fourth of the southwest one-fourth of section 1 of Benton Township. The location is at the foot of the bluffs, about midway between Haight and Hinson creeks. The village was laid out by W. King, after whom it was named.¹⁰³ The old settlers in the vicinity were James Gordon, A. J. Hedge, and Thomas J. Duryea.¹⁰⁴

The post office of Kingston, Des Moines County, Iowa, came into existence from a post office in the near vicinity known as Bluff Dale, (see page 64). This post office was removed to Kingston and the name changed on June 27, 1855, with the appointment of Lucius H. Frazell, postmaster. His successors were: John Crutchfield, March 18, 1856; Andrew J. Hedges, September 20, 1856; George Fox, March 12, 1858; Thomas J. Duryea, June 8, 1859; William Swank, October 28, 1862; Alvin Barnes, March 7, 1865; Charles W. Littleton, November 16, 1866; Alvin Barnes, July 13, 1871; Josiah Brockway, April 6, 1875; William G. Miller, October 24, 1877; James W. Gibson, August 27, 1885; Levi A. Gibson, March 29, 1888; Mary E. Criner, May 10, 1889; Levi Gibson, May 17, 1893; and Frank Volkmer, September 20, 1894, who served until the office was discontinued on June 30, 1902. The post office was re-established on January 13, 1913, with the appointment of Clarence C. Krause, postmaster. His successors were Milom A. Brewer, May 19, 1913; Henry Husel, January 17, 1914; Miss Sylvia Gibbs, February 5, 1930, and Henry Husel, November 14, 1930, the present postmaster.

KINGSTON. The name given to the independent school district number 2 of Benton Township which included the village of Kingston, whence the name.

¹⁰²U. S. soil map, 1925.

¹⁰³"The town was named Kings-town, after its founder, one, W. King." Antrobous, *History of Des Moines County*, 1915, I, 513.

¹⁰⁴*History of Des Moines County*, 1879, p. 615.

KINGSTON STATION. The locally descriptive name given to a station on the Muscatine, Burlington, and Southern Railroad, about a half mile east of the old village of Kingston, near the east side of section 1 of Benton Township.

KLINE. An inland place represented on some maps as being in section 28 of Franklin Township. The location was at the forks of the highway near the center or north central part of the section. A church still exists on or near the site. The place was probably named for Vandemark Kline, an early resident of the vicinity, whose estate was on the south side of section 21.¹⁰⁵ The Railroad Commissioners' map of Iowa for 1904 gives the site in the northeast corner of section 32. Evidently the location was a movable one.

The post office of Kline, Des Moines County, Iowa, was established on June 5, 1893, with the appointment of Mary Kopp, postmaster. She was succeeded by Charles Kopp, June 3, 1897, who served until the office was discontinued on May 31, 1901.

KNOTTY CREEK. This stream rises in or near the southern part of section 11 of Franklin Township, flows southward to Flint River in the north central part of section 24 of Flint River Township. The winding channel and the numerous crooked branches probably suggested the name, a locally descriptive one.

KOSSUTH. This village is mainly located in the northwest central part of east section 30 of Yellow Spring Township. As a neighborhood settlement it began in 1835 when Job Carter built a cabin and made claim to the land on which the site was subsequently located. School was taught in 1837 and a log schoolhouse was built in 1839. The place was then known as Carter's Spring. Jefferson Academy began in 1845, later becoming Yellow Spring College. A store was opened in 1849 by W. H. Cartwright and J. J. Crowder, who moved from the nearby hamlet of Yellow Spring. A post office was established in 1850 with the name Kossuth, J. J. Crowder, postmaster. Soon after another store was started by S. S. McBride. In 1855 a flouring mill was built by Oliver and Yost. In 1856 Dr. S. Fullenwider built the Kossuth House. Yellow Spring College continued until 1869. Kossuth Academy began in 1873.

In the park in the western part of the village of Kossuth is located the soldiers' monument, erected in 1866 in memory of the soldiers of Yellow Spring Township who lost their lives in the service during the Civil War, an unusual instance of local appreciation. See illustration in Merrill, *Yellow Spring and Huron*, 1897, facing page 324.

The village of Kossuth was named for Louis Kossuth (1802-1894), the Hungarian patriot and exile, leader of the revolt of 1849, a marvelous linguist and a very effective public speaker. He made a tour of the United States in 1851-52, where he delivered many eloquent addresses in behalf of the independence of Hungary. The village has the American

¹⁰⁵Andreas, *op. cit.*, p. 65.

pronunciation, Kōs'-sūth, the Hungarian's name was pronounced Kosh'-oot.

The post office of Kossuth, Des Moines County, Iowa, was created by transferring an earlier post office in the vicinity, known as Yellow Spring, with change of name, to Kossuth. This was done, May 1, 1850, on the appointment of John J. Crowder, postmaster. His successors were: Robert J. Harper, November 17, 1851; Samuel D. Collum¹⁰⁶, March 29, 1855; Dr. William E. Grier, September 3, 1861; Frank Hamilton, January 18, 1867; Benjamin F. Stahl, December 12, 1867; Frederick Heizer, February 10, 1874; John Bridges, March 8, 1878; and Richard S. Hedges, August 3, 1893, who served until the post office was discontinued on June 30, 1903.

In 1869, the founding of the thriving village of Mediapolis on a railroad, a little more than a mile to the west of Kossuth, caused the rather rapid decline of the latter village.

KOSSUTH. The name given to the early school district number 10 of Yellow Spring Township which included the village of Kossuth. The school census taken in 1859 gave 152 pupils of school age. The name of the school is locally descriptive.

LAKE STARKER. The name of an artificial lake near the center of Crapo Park, city of Burlington. It was named for Charles Starker, one of the park commissioners of the city.

LATTY. A station on the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific (the old Burlington, Cedar Rapids, and Northern) Railway, on the west side of the northwest quarter of section 29¹⁰⁷ of Benton Township. The place is also known as Latty Station. The station was named for Mathew W. Latty, a pioneer of the vicinity and owner of the land containing the site. Mr. Latty settled here about 1835-6.¹⁰⁸

Mathew W. Latty,¹⁰⁹ the first permanent settler in Benton Township, was a native of Maryland, born in 1794. He was a soldier in the War of 1812. Lived in Kentucky from which state he came to Des Moines County, Iowa, arriving on April 17, 1834. He entered the northwest quarter of section 29. Here he dwelt until his death in 1877. His son, Warren, remained on the home farm where he was born until his death in March, 1915. There were two other sons, John and James; the latter was a soldier in the Civil War, living until 1872. There were two daughters, Mary and Sarah.¹¹⁰

The post office of Latty, Des Moines County, Iowa, was established February 5, 1870, with the appointment of Mrs. Lucetta Latty as post-

¹⁰⁶Spelled Colburn by Merrill in *Yellow Spring and Huron*, p. 383, an evident error in reading longhand manuscript.

¹⁰⁷Erroneously given as section 20 in *History of Des Moines County*, 1879, p. 615. The name of the station is erroneously given as Latz in Tuttle and Durrie, *History of Iowa*, 1876, p. 489.

¹⁰⁸Andreas, *op. cit.*, p. 61.

¹⁰⁹*The Census of 1836*, p. 77, gives the name as Matthew Latta.

¹¹⁰*History of Des Moines County*, 1879, pp. 712-713; Antrobus, *History of Des Moines County*, 1915, I, 512.

master, who served until the office was discontinued on February 25, 1875. The post office was re-established on July 7, 1875, with the appointment of William Gardner as postmaster. He was succeeded by Anna M. Gardner on May 1, 1895, who served until the post office was discontinued on August 30, 1902. The office was again re-established on March 24, 1904, with the reappointment of Anna M. Gardner as postmaster, who served until January 15, 1918, when the post office was finally discontinued.

LATTY. The name of an independent school district in Benton Township which includes the village of Latty, hence locally descriptive.

LAVEGA. The name of an early, inland post office established before 1860. *Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County*, page 45, locates this post office in the north central part of section 22 of Washington Township. The name on some of the early maps is given as La Vega. Hair's *Iowa State Gazetteer*, 1865, page 172, gives the name as La Vego. Haskell's map of Iowa, 1876, erroneously gives the name as Latega.

La vega is Spanish, meaning *the flat land, the meadow*, a tract of level and fruitful ground. As the site of the post office was on the level, open prairie, its name appears to be locally descriptive.

The post office of "La Vega", Des Moines County, Iowa, was established November 10, 1858, with the appointment of Eden Lotspeich, postmaster. His successors were: Henry Starker, January 25, 1875; James R. Lines, January 19, 1877; and Charles V. Woodford, March 24, 1880, under whom the name of the post office was changed and removed about a mile westward to Yarmouth (see below) on November 18, 1881.

LAVEGA. The name of a rural school on the north side of the northeast quarter of section 21 of Washington Township, about one-fourth mile north of the village of Yarmouth. According to *Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County*, page 45, the schoolhouse site was formerly in the northwest corner of section 22, in the same section with the early post office of Lavega after which it was doubtless named.

LEWINS POINT. In 1839 a log-cabin schoolhouse was built in or near section 29 or 30 of Flint River Township in the vicinity of the pioneer hamlet of Middletown, not then in existence. The school was known to the pioneers as Lewins Point, so named after one of the early settlers of the vicinity,¹¹¹ presumably John A. Lewin whose name appears in the Census for 1836, page 87.

LIBERTY. The name of a rural school on the south side of the south-east quarter of section 32 of Flint River Township, a mile south and about two miles east of the village of Middletown.

LIBERTY. The name of a rural school at the cross highways in the southwest corner of section 17 of Washington Township, about one-fourth mile north and a mile west of the village of Yarmouth. The name is more or less ethical, in harmony with the prevailing sentiment of the time.

¹¹¹*History of Des Moines County*, 1879, p. 606.

LIMESTONE. The name of a school and school district along the bluffs near the central part of Huron Township. A log schoolhouse was built in this district near the residence of the pioneer, Henry Coonrod shortly after 1840.¹¹² The name was given because of the outcrops along the bluffs of the neighborhood.

LIMESTONE. The name of an early, inland post office in a farm-home at the foot of the bluffs in the west central part of section 25 of Huron Township. It receives its name from the limestone exposures in the nearby cliffs, hence more or less locally descriptive, also probably for the further fact that the post office was in or near the school district known as Limestone, so named for the same reason.

The post office of Limestone, Des Moines County, Iowa, was established on October 18, 1854, with the appointment of William H. Swank, postmaster, who served until the office was discontinued on September 24, 1860.

William H. Swank came to Huron Township in 1852 and resided there until his death in 1865. He left numerous descendants.¹¹³

LINCOLN. The name of a rural school in Huron Township.¹¹⁴ The school was named for Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865), the sixteenth president (1861-1865) of the United States.

LIND GROVE. The name of a fine belt of timber in the southwest corner of Yellow Spring Township, mainly in sections 29, 30, and 31, extending along the Cedar Fork of Flint Creek through the eastern side of Pleasant Grove Township. The name of the grove is due to the frequency of the linden tree (*Tilia americana*).

LIND GROVE. The name of a rural school and of an early subdistrict number 3 in the southwestern part of Yellow Spring Township. The schoolhouse was apparently at or near the forks of the highway on the south side of section 29. The school census of the district made in 1859 gave 64 pupils of school age. The name is due to Lind Grove, a strip of woods which runs through the district and in which grove the schoolhouse was built.

LIND GROVE. The name given to a Presbyterian Church at the cross highways in the southwestern corner of section 29 of Yellow Spring Township. The congregation was organized in September, 1856. The church was erected in 1864. The congregation was dissolved in 1895. The name is for the grove by which the church is situated.

LINNS POINT. The name of a cemetery in the east central part of section 25 of Danville Township, about a half mile north of the village of Middletown. The name is presumably for a local resident.

LINTON. The name of a rural post office on the Burlington and Wapello stage road near the northern line of Des Moines County, probably near the north side of the northeast quarter of section 3 of Yellow

¹¹²Antrobus, *op. cit.*, I, 532.

¹¹³Merrill, *Yellow Spring and Huron*, p. 199.

¹¹⁴*ibid.*, pp. 163, 355.

Spring Township. The office was named for Nathan Linton, a native of Pennsylvania, and one of the very early settlers of the vicinity. His house was apparently over the line in Wapello County. In 1869, when the Burlington, Cedar Rapids, and Minnesota Railroad (now a part of the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific system) was built, a station was established in the northeast corner of section 8 of Yellow Spring Township. The old Linton post office was then, or shortly after (probably 1870 as stated by Merrill), moved about a mile south and two miles west of the railway station. Linton continued to be the name of the place for many years until it was renamed Garland, (see page 138).¹¹⁵

The village of Linton was founded by John H. McElhiney, a native of New York City, born July 9, 1827. His father, Robert McElhiney, was a native of Ireland, born in 1795. Both came to Louisa County in 1841. In the spring of 1855 John H. McElhiney settled in the vicinity where the village of Linton was subsequently laid out. In 1869 when the Burlington, Cedar Rapids, and Minnesota Railroad was graded to his farm he laid out fourteen acres into town lots. He also gave the railroad company eleven acres for depot grounds. "In the fall of 1869, J. H. McElhiney, J. McElhiney, and R. R. Armour opened in the depot building the first store in Linton, the firm being styled "R. R. Armour & Co." "¹¹⁶

The post office of Linton, Des Moines County, Iowa, was established on June 4, 1846, with the appointment of Samuel Bell, postmaster. His successors were: John A. Downer, November 23, 1853; James W. McCrea, September 26, 1860; John A. Downer, January 7, 1862; David Dotson, July 21, 1865; George Van Horn, June 10, 1867; Mrs. Olive Full, August 13, 1867; Isaac Panline, December 21, 1869, who served until the post office was discontinued on April 9, 1872. The post office was re-established on May 23, 1872, with the appointment of G. W. Vansickle, postmaster. His successors were: Josiah D. Paris, February 27, 1874; Austin Smith, June 4, 1879; and Joseph McElhiney,¹¹⁷ February 26, 1883, who served (over twenty-three years) until the post office was finally discontinued on October 31, 1906.

LITTLE FLINT CREEK. This small stream rises by two branches on the eastern side of sections 14 and 23 of Danville Township. The upper branch flows eastward and the lower northeastward, the two uniting in the southwestern part of section 17 of Flint River Township, continuing eastward and northeastward to Flint River on the eastern side of section 16 of the same township. The name is in contradistinction to Flint River of which Little Flint Creek is an affluent, hence a locally descriptive name.

LONG CREEK. This stream rises in the northern part of section 15 of Danville Township, in the vicinity of the village of Danville, runs south-

¹¹⁵*Andreas' Atlas*, p. 49; Merrill, *op. cit.*, pp. 152, 370-371, 382.

¹¹⁶*History of Des Moines County, 1879*, p. 613.

¹¹⁷Spelled McElhinney by Merrill, see *Yellow Spring and Huron*, p. 382, ff.

ward and southeastward across Augusta Township to Skunk River on the east side of section 30 of Union Township. The stream is indicated by name on Albert M. Lea's map, 1836. The stream probably derived its name from the fact that it is a much longer one than the neighboring Brush and Spring creeks.

LONG CREEK. This name is given by Huebinger's *Atlas of the State of Iowa*, 1904, to the stream which crosses Benton Township, better known as Yellow Spring Creek for which see below.

LONG CREEK. The name of a rural school in the northwestern corner of the northeast quarter of section 4 of Augusta Township, near Long Creek, after which it was named, hence locally descriptive.

LONG CREEK. The name of a rural church in the northwestern corner of section 3 of Augusta Township nearby Long Creek, whence the name. A cemetery is across the highway to the north in the southwestern corner of section 34 of Danville Township.

In the immediate vicinity, in or near section 4 of Augusta Township, a pioneer Baptist church was organized on October 20, 1834, in the cabin of Noble Housley, which organization took the name of Long Creek after the nearby stream. Eventually the congregation erected a building in Danville. This congregation is reputed to be the first Baptist church organized in Iowa.

LONG CREEK ROAD. This road begins near the east side of section 36, in the southeastern part of Benton Township, runs in the main westward along or near the middle line of sections, crossing Long Creek in section 35, after which it is named, ending in the Wapello Road in the middle of section 35 of Franklin Township.

LONG CREEK SCHOOL No. 2 The name of a rural school in or near the southwestern part of section 9 of Augusta Township, near the Skunk River. The school seems to have been named in contradistinction to Long Creek school situated about two miles north and a mile east.

LOVERS' LANE. On the east side of Crapo Park there is a narrow way under a projecting cover of rock. The local name for this pathway is Lovers' Lane, a more or less fanciful, locally descriptive name.

LOWER AUGUSTA ROAD. The locally descriptive name given to the highway which runs southwestwardly from the city of Burlington to the village of Augusta, passing through the south central part of Union Township. From the village of Augusta the road is mostly in sections 19, 20, 21, 15, 14, meeting the Middle Augusta Road in the central part of section 11, and continuing with it to the city of Burlington.

MCELHINNEY. The name of a rural school and of an early sub-district Number 1 in Yellow Spring Township, apparently in the northwestern part. The name is doubtless for Samuel McElhinney, a pioneer, living in the west section 6. The school census of the district taken in 1859 gave 60 pupils of school age. *Andreas's Atlas of Des Moines County*, 1873, page 49, locates the schoolhouse site at the cross highways in the southeast corner of west section 6.

MALCHOW CREEK. This stream rises in the southern part of section 26, with a branch from the central part of section 35, of Huron Township. The two branches unite near the center of section 36, the general course being southeast and east to the drainage ditch in the southwestern part of east section 31. The stream was named for John Malchow, a resident of section 36 near the stream. See map of Huron Township in Merrill, *Yellow Spring and Huron*.

MASON. The name of a rural school at the forks of the highway in the northeast central part of section 18 of Concordia Township. The school was named for Charles Mason, an early settler in the vicinity and on whose farm the schoolhouse site was located.¹¹⁸

MEDIAPOLIS. This village is on the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific (the old Burlington, Cedar Rapids, and Minnesota or Northern) Railway, extending from the center to the east side of section 26 of Yellow Spring Township. The railway was built through the vicinity in 1869, and a station was established. In the fall of 1869, W. H. Cartwright, a business man of Kossuth moved to this vicinity, purchased the farm of Isaac N. Ware and laid out the portion of the new town east of the railroad and north of Main street. Soon after W. W. King bought the land and laid out the portion west of the railroad and north of Main street. Andrew Hemphill laid out on a part of his farm the portion west of the railroad and south of Main street. Various businesses were established and the village continued to grow. The post office was established in 1870 with Avina Messenger, postmaster. In 1875 Mediapolis was incorporated; Charles P. King was elected the first mayor. In time it became the largest village in Des Moines County.

The name Mediapolis was suggested by the fact that the town site is approximately midway between the cities of Burlington and Wapello, the county seats of Des Moines and Louisa counties respectively,¹¹⁹ hence a locally descriptive name.

The post office of Mediapolis, Des Moines County, Iowa, was established on March 11, 1870, with the appointment of Avina Messenger, postmaster. His successors were: John J. Crowder, April 5, 1880; Henry T. Husted, January 4, 1886; Elisha D. Gillmore, May 17, 1889; James A. Bridges, May 17, 1893; J. Ken Mathews, May 2, 1897; Jacob A. Cowger, March 1, 1915; and Claude I. Patterson, acting postmaster, August 5, 1923, regular postmaster, December 19, 1923; Emil R. Nordstrom, appointed April 12, 1932, took charge of the office June 1, 1932, still serving in 1935.

MIDDLE AUGUSTA ROAD. The locally descriptive name given to the highway which runs southwestwardly from the west side of the city of Burlington across the central part of Union Township to the village of Augusta. It lies mostly in sections 12, 11, 10, 15, 16, 17, and 18. The

¹¹⁸*Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County*, p. 86.

¹¹⁹*Portrait and Biographical Album of Des Moines County*, p. 722.

name has reference to the intermediate position between the Lower and Upper Augusta roads, hence locally descriptive.

MIDDLETOWN. This village is a station on the Chicago-Burlington, and Quincy Railroad in the southeastern part of section 25 of Danville Township. The village was laid out in December, 1846, on land owned by Josiah T. Smith, the surveyor being T. L. Sergent.¹²⁰ The land had been entered by James Cammins.¹²¹ The first house was built by Theodore Folensbee who later became the first postmaster of the village. The first store was established in 1851 by T. L. Sergent in a brick building. The name of the village, Middletown, was proposed by John Sharp from Pennsylvania. The name is sometimes erroneously given as Middleton as in *Andreas' Atlas of Iowa*, 1875, page 424, and by Antrobus, *History of Des Moines County*, vol. 1, page 539.

Just why John Sharp named the village Middletown at first seems a little uncertain but it was probably after West Middletown, in Washington County, Pennsylvania, his home county and state. John Sharp was born in 1812 in Washington County, Pennsylvania. His father was a native of Scotland, his mother a native of Ireland. In 1844 he came to the vicinity of Mount Sterling, Brown County, Illinois, and in the spring of 1846 he settled on a farm in Danville Township, in section 14, about a mile and a half east of the village of Danville. He died on January 7, 1882, and was interred in the cemetery near Middletown which he had named. See his portrait and life in *Portrait and Biographical Album of Des Moines County*, pages 537-538.

The post office of Middletown, Des Moines County, Iowa, was established on December 23, 1847, with the appointment of Theodore Folensbee,¹²² postmaster. His successors were: Angus L. Martin, September 17, 1849; Milton N. Copeland, December 20, 1849; William B. Dement, March 2, 1852; Robert Steel, May 26, 1852; Thomas L. Sergent, January 7, 1854; John Jefferson, August 4, 1862; Miss Martha K. Jefferson, April 4, 1872; John Hodgens, December 15, 1873; Mrs. Roda L. Hodgen, August 16, 1880; Elijah Beans, April 16, 1890; John Lauritson, April 26, 1894; Nels C. Matson, June 15, 1898; Nettie C. Matson, June 26, 1902, under whom the office was discontinued on August 30, 1902. The post office was re-established on March 21, 1904, with the appointment of Mark E. Toothacre, postmaster. His successors were: Claude W. Brown, February 2, 1909; Heino O. Fimmen, August 27, 1919; George S. Kern, February 23, 1922; Veda B. Kern, October 4, 1924; O. B. Conn, February 24, 1926; Arthur Conard, acting postmaster, March 11, 1927, and Mrs. Grace Conard, August 24, 1927, still serving in 1931.

MIDDLETOWN ROAD. The locally descriptive name of the highway running west from the northwestern part of the city of Burlington through the villages of West Burlington and Middletown to the county line. This

¹²⁰T. L. Sargent by Antrobus, *History of Des Moines County*, I, 546.

¹²¹*ibid.*, p. 546.

¹²²Post Office Department gave the name as Folmsbee.

highway runs along the north side of the south row of sections in Flint River and Danville townships and has twelve miles of straight road and as such is the longest one in Des Moines County. The nearest competitor is the north and south highway through Mediapolis which is eleven and a half miles long. Most of the other straight highways are much shorter.

MILLS PRAIRIE. This name was given by the pioneers to a small prairie occurring in the woods, the location apparently being in the southeast quarter of section 4 of Benton Township. The pioneer claim to this prairie was made by Jacob Mills after whom it was named. He did not become an actual settler but passed his claim to Josiah Anderson who dwelt there several years. The two sons of Jacob Mills, Frank and Webb (Noah W.), were the well-known, long-time publishers in the city of Des Moines.¹²³

MOFFAT'S.¹²⁴ A place indicated by Albert M. Lea on his map, 1836, as being at or near where the village of Augusta now is. It was named for Levi Moffet, the founder and builder of Augusta, see pages 59-60.

MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD. This highway starts in the northern part of the city of Burlington, runs westward through West Burlington and Middletown, thence northwestward through Danville on to Mount Pleasant in Henry County, whence the name. An early name was the Plank Road, which see.

MOUNT VERNON. The name of a rural school at the forks of the highway in the southeastern corner of section 28 of Washington Township. The name of the school is presumably for Mount Vernon, the home of General George Washington, on the Potomac River in Fairfax County, Virginia. Mount Vernon, Virginia, was named by Lewis Washington in honor of Admiral Edward Vernon, of the British navy, under whom he had served.

MUD LAKE. A small pond across the line, near the middle, separating sections 19 and 30 of Huron Township. It is a remnant of former extension of Swan Lake. The pond was shallow with muddy shores and bottom, hence the name is locally descriptive.

MULLAHY. A station on the Muscatine, Burlington, and Southern Railroad in the southwestern part of section 24 of Benton Township. It is presumably named for a local resident, possibly for some one connected with the railroad company.

MUSCATINE, BURLINGTON, AND SOUTHERN RAILROAD. The locally descriptive name of the railroad running northwardly from the city of Burlington to the city of Muscatine. In Des Moines County the route is along the foot of the bluffs. On some maps the name is Muscatine, North and South Railroad. In recent years (about 1925) the line has been abandoned.

NAVARRE. An early name of the post office at Dodgeville, (see above). The map of J. Calvin Smith, 1854, erroneously locates Navarre about

¹²³Merrill, *Yellow Spring and Huron*, pp. 31, 68.

¹²⁴As spelled by Lea.

eight miles north of Dodgeville, in the northern part of Yellow Spring Township about where the post office of Linton was subsequently located. Colton's map of Iowa, 1852, properly locates Navarre on the site of the present village of Dodgeville. A village in Stark County, Ohio, has the same name, after the province in Spain. The early Iowan post office was doubtless named either for the village in Ohio or directly or indirectly for the Spanish province.

NICHOLS. The name of a rural school at the forks of the highway on the east side of east section 18 of Yellow Spring Township, about a mile and a quarter south of the village of Northfield. The school was named for John Nichols, a resident of the vicinity and on whose farm the school-house site was located. John Nichols was a native of Fayette County, Ohio, son of Reuben Nichols who came with his family to Des Moines County in 1839.

NORTHFIELD. A small inland village about the common corner of east sections 5, 6, 7, and 8 in the northeastern part of Yellow Spring Township. For a long time at least the place was not regularly laid out as a town. The land was first claimed in 1836 by J. K. Frazier,¹²⁵ a Canadian, but to William Phinney¹²⁶ and Silas Kelknap is given the credit of being the earliest permanent settlers. The location is at the northeast corner of North Prairie. For some time the place was known as Hickory Point. In 1851 William McMillan¹²⁷ and William Moore started a carding machine which was purchased in 1852 by W. F. Robinson and Thomas Davis. With improved machinery soon purchased and a large building erected in 1855 they extensively manufactured woolen goods. A post office was established as early as 1853 with Joseph Coty, postmaster, and given the name Northfield. A store was established in 1853 by Coty and Hiatt. In 1855 Joshua Downer started a store. Later other stores or shops were opened. "The town lots were laid out by William Phinney, and surveyed by J. Wilson Williams, in 1866."¹²⁸ For many years Northfield was a lively point of trade for the surrounding country. Some time after the Civil War business drifted to the nearby village of Mediapolis which was on a railroad and Northfield waned to a mere hamlet.

The village of Northfield is situated on the north edge of the prairie known to the early settlers as North Prairie. From this circumstance was the name of the village derived.

The post office of Northfield, Des Moines County, Iowa, was established on September 27, 1853, with the appointment of Joseph Coty, postmaster. His successors were: William F. Robinson, March 20, 1854; David Austin, December 12, 1855; David Darlington, October 3, 1861; Isaac Sager, April 17, 1865; Jacob W. Scott, September 12, 1873; Abra-

¹²⁵The name is also spelled Fraser and Frazer. The correct spelling is doubtless Frazier as given by Merrill.

¹²⁶Also spelled Phinney.

¹²⁷Spelled McMullen in *History of Des Moines County*, 1879, p. 612.

¹²⁸*History of Des Moines County*, 1879, p. 612.

ham H. Wycoff, September 29, 1876; Wesley M. Vannice, November 9, 1881; George W. Downer, July 3, 1884; David G. Bulon, March 16, 1888; Mrs. Ellen McConnell, December 5, 1889; Mrs. Mary E. McConnell, January 7, 1890; Samuel B. Darlington, July 9, 1892; Anna M. Hall, May 18, 1898; and Silas P. Brogan, June 20, 1900, who served until the post office was discontinued on June 30, 1902.

NORTHFIELD. The name of an early school district number 8 of Yellow Spring Township which included the village of Northfield, hence the name. The school census taken in 1859 indicated 51 pupils of school age.

NORTH FORK OF FLINT CREEK. The more or less locally descriptive name given by *Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County*, page 49, to the north or upper branch of Cedar Creek. It rises in section 11 of Washington Township, runs southeast to near the center of section 21, thence southwest to the other fork of Cedar Creek in the northern part of section 31 of Yellow Spring Township.

NORTH HILL. The locally descriptive name for a prominent hill in the northern part of the city of Burlington, by the Mississippi River, the east side rising in a mural escarpment about two hundred feet high, composed mainly of Burlington limestone and Kinderhook shales.

NORTH PARK. A park in the city of Burlington, the locally descriptive name for a strip of ground along the bluff on North Hill, east and north of Franklin Street. It was so named by ordinance of the city council passed February 28, 1899.

NORTH PRAIRIE. This was the name given to a prairie in the northeastern part of Yellow Spring Township, mainly in east sections 5, 7, and 8. The location on the prairie suggested its name, hence locally descriptive.

NORTH PRAIRIE. The locally descriptive name of a school district in the northeastern part of Yellow Spring Township. It was so named because the district included the prairie in the vicinity of where Northfield now is and which was known as North Prairie. In 1850 or thereabouts the district was divided. The southern part was named Bunkum,¹²⁹ (see above).

OAK GROVE. The locally descriptive name of a rural church of the Methodist denomination at the forks of the highway on the east side of the southeast quarter of section 33 of Union Township. The building was located at the side of a small oak grove, whence the name.

O'CONNELL ISLAND. This island, nearly three miles long and about half a mile wide, is situated in the Mississippi River about a mile northeast of the city of Burlington. It comprises portions of sections 15, 21, 22, and 28 of Tama Township. The island was directly or indirectly named for an individual, presumably a squatter or a voyageur.

(To be continued)

¹²⁹Antrobus, *History of Des Moines County*, I, 532.

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.