

THE PLACE-NAMES OF DES MOINES COUNTY, IOWA

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O'CONNELL SLOUGH. This slough is a narrow arm of the Mississippi River in the southeastern part of Tama Township, extending from near the east side of section 15 of the south side of section 28, separating O'Connell Island from the mainland, thus forming the northern and western boundary of the island. As the slough is adjacent to the island the name is locally descriptive.

OQUAWKA FERRY. This ferry runs from the village of Oquawka, Illinois, across the Mississippi River to the east side of section 21 of Jackson Township, Des Moines County, Iowa, about seven miles north and seven miles east of the city of Burlington. The ferry was named after the village of Oquawka, situated at one end of the ferry. The village of Oquawka, Henderson County, Illinois, was so named from the yellowish appearance of the river's banks, apparently from the approximate Sauk and Fox Indian word for yellow.

OTTER ISLAND. A small island about two miles long and a half mile wide in the Mississippi River in the eastern part of Tama Township and northeast of O'Connell and Rush islands. The island is apparently of fairly recent origin as it is shown on U. S. soil map, 1925, but absent from *Andreas' Atlas*. The island is presumably a fit habitat for the otter, hence the name, a locally descriptive one.

PARK. The name of a rural school on the highway in the north central part of section 20 of Concordia Township, over a mile south of the limits of the city of Burlington. The school derives its name from the city park located less than a mile northeast of the schoolhouse site, hence a locally descriptive name.

PARRISH. An early, rural post office in existence before 1850, situated at one time on the south side of the southwest quarter of section 33 of Danville Township, later apparently transferred to the forks of the highway in the southeastern part of section 32.¹⁸⁰ Colton's map of Iowa, 1852, gives the name as Parish; also Henn, Williams & Co's map, 1854; Hall's map, 1857; and various other maps.

The post office of Parrish, Des Moines County, Iowa, was established on February 29, 1848, with the appointment of William C. Hanna, postmaster. His successors were: James L. Hanna, March 31, 1859 (serving nearly twenty-two years); and John H. Bolton, December 13, 1880, who served (nearly nineteen years) until the post office was discontinued on October 14, 1899.

¹⁸⁰*Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County*, p. 73.

The post office was named for an early local resident, presumably for Noah Parrish who lived in the vicinity as early as 1836.

Villages with this name occur in Walker County, Alabama; Franklin County, Illinois; Swain County, North Carolina; Forest County, Pennsylvania; and Laglade County, Wisconsin. Places with the name Parish are in Manatee County, Florida; Chandler County, Georgia; and Oswego County, New York.

PATTERSON. A station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad in the southwestern part of section 30 of Concordia Township. The place was named for John Patterson, an extensive landholder in the vicinity. Mr. Patterson was a native of the vicinity of Cumberland, Maryland, and one of the early settlers of Des Moines County, arriving on September 28, 1835.¹³¹

PATTERSON'S HOLLOW. A hollow or ravine in the city of Burlington. In this hollow William and Stephen Hodges, murderers, were executed by order of the court on July 15, 1845. The place was what is now Mount Pleasant Street (then called the Mount Pleasant Road), about one hundred yards west of the railway track, at the foot of the hill near the Lincoln schoolhouse. The locality was presumably named for a local resident or landowner, probably for John Patterson, a native of Pennsylvania. He came to Des Moines County in 1840; for sixteen years he operated a brickyard in Burlington, from 1842 until his death in 1857.¹³²

PAUL CREEK. A small stream, rising by several branches mainly in sections 14, 24, and east 19, runs northeastward or northward and leaves Des Moines County in the northwestern part of east section 6 of Yellow Spring Township. The main stream is one-half mile west of Northfield. The stream was apparently named for O. A. Paul, an early resident of section 7, near the stream. *Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County*, page 49, erroneously names this creek Smith, which name belongs to the stream two miles farther west.

PEGTOWN. The name of a rural school near the center of section 4 of Benton Township.

PICNIC POINT. The local name for a stone quarry, and grounds in the vicinity, near the Mississippi River on or near the south side of section 20 of Concordia Township, about four miles south of the center of the city of Burlington. The name is due to the frequent use of the grounds by outing parties. As the grounds are on elevated land the name Point is also appropriate, hence Picnic Point is a locally descriptive name.

PINEY WOODS. The name of a rural school on the west side of section 14 of Benton Township. The school was on the border of a woodland and some of the trees were cedar or other evergreens, hence the name, a more or less locally descriptive one.

¹³¹*Andreas' Atlas*, 1873, p. 20, states that Patterson came to Des Moines County in 1840. His name does not appear in the *Census* for 1836, being probably hidden as a boarder or guest in some one of the reputed very large families which this erratic *Census* reveals.

¹³²*Portrait and Biographical Album of Des Moines County*, p. 401.

PISGAH. The name of a church, sometimes called Pisgah Chapel, erected in 1845 by the Baptists in section 4 of Benton Township. The church was of logs and was the first one in the township. Later maps do not indicate the site, hence the church has probably long since ceased to exist. It was probably in the vicinity of Pegtown rural school. The church was dedicated in memory of the biblical mountain in Palestine. The Pisgah Baptist Church was not incorporated until July 10, 1855, when record was made, and John Penny, Alvin Todd, M. H. Jackson, John T. Rodgers, John Busch, J. Seremore, Eben Hill, and Robert Turner were named as incorporators.¹³³

The congregation at Pisgah was organized as early as 1838 and is reputed to be the third Baptist church organized in Iowa.¹³⁴

"This was the beginning, and as the county grew, the church grew. Some time in the '50s, Pisgah built the brick church on the Wapello road, west of the present village of Sperry. Some time in the '80s a new house was built in the village of Sperry, and the old brick building was taken away. A few trees mark the spot where it stood for more than thirty years.'¹³⁵

PLANK ROAD. The name of a rural school at the cross highways in the northwest corner of the northeast quarter of section 8 of Danville Township, in district number 2. *Andreas' Atlas*, 1873, page 73, indicates the site one-fourth mile east by the old turnpike on the east side of the railway, probably the original location. The old turnpike from Burlington to Mount Pleasant was for many years a planked road, hence the name of the schoolhouse, thus being locally descriptive.

PLANK ROAD. The locally descriptive name given to an early toll turnpike from the city of Burlington to Mount Pleasant in Henry County. This road was corduroyed with heavy planks, hence the name. The turnpike was put into operation in 1853 and licensed to continue fifteen years. It was early abandoned as a toll road and became the usual highway.¹³⁶ A later name was the Mount Pleasant Road, which see.

PLEASANT GROVE. This township lies on the west side of Des Moines County, south of Washington, west of Franklin, and north of Danville townships. It comprises congressional township 71 north, range 4 west. The township was laid out in 1838, sectionized in 1839, and placed on the market in 1840. It was the last one in Des Moines County to be settled. Settlement probably began in 1835 with William Miller. This township when settled was over half covered with timber. The possession of these pleasant groves were eagerly sought by the pioneers and when obtained were a source of much comfort and pleasure, furnishing fuel and building material. Because of the numerous groves the township was named Pleasant Grove. The name is rather popular for local places. At least three other townships in Iowa have this name and Lipincott's *Gazetteer* lists nearly thirty places in the United States.

¹³³Antrobus, *History of Des Moines County*, I, 511, 512.

¹³⁴Cf. *Annals of Iowa*, third series, XXI, 265.—EDITOR.

¹³⁵Merrill, *op. cit.*, p. 343.

¹³⁶*History of Henry County*, 1879, pp. 392-393.

Pleasant Grove Township was created by the Board of County Commissioners during the session held on January 7, 1841. As originally constituted the civil township comprised congressional townships 71 and 72 north, range 4 west. Subsequently the township was divided and the northern half created into a new township and named Washington. The entry of record is: "Ordered that township 71 north, range 4 west, and township 72 north, range 4 west, be constructed and organized hereafter under the name of Pleasant Grove Township, and that an election be held for township officers on the first Monday of April, next, at the house of John Newland."¹³⁷

PLEASANT GROVE. The name of an inland village in the northeast central part of section 11 of Pleasant Grove Township. A post office was established before 1860 and continued many years. The name is locally descriptive for the township in which the village is situated.

The post office of Pleasant Grove, Des Moines County, Iowa, was established on April 21, 1851, with the appointment of James Shelledy, postmaster, under whom the post office was discontinued on August 16, 1852. The post office was re-established on July 26, 1853, with the appointment of Granville Christie, postmaster. His successors were: Onias Jackson, June 20, 1854; James Stucker, March 13, 1863; George Zion, November 21, 1866; William H. Gillespie, March 22, 1869; James L. Gillespie, December 20, 1872; James Stucker, September 12, 1873; Robinson Gannaway, July 12, 1880; James P. Minard, August 27, 1885; Robinson Gannaway, January 22, 1886; James P. Minard, October 6, 1890; and John Kuhlenbeck, February 12, 1892, who served (nearly eighteen years) until the post office was finally discontinued on December 15, 1909.

PLEASANT GROVE ROAD. The name of a highway which runs irregularly from the north central part of the city of Burlington westward and northwestward across Flint River Township and the northeastern part of Danville Township, northwardly across the east central part of Pleasant Grove Township, thence two miles into Washington Township, and from there westward to the county line. The road is named after Pleasant Grove Township through which it runs, hence a locally descriptive name.

PORTLAND. The name of a rural school at the cross highways in the northeast corner of section 7 of Washington Township.

PRAIRIE GROVE. The name of a rural school at the forks of the highway in the northwest central part of section 7 of Flint River Township, in district number 6, formerly sub-district number 6. The schoolhouse site is on the prairie, and at the time of location a small grove of trees was near, hence the name, Prairie Grove, a locally descriptive one.

PROSPECT HILL. The name given to one of the prominent hills in the city of Burlington. From the summit an extensive view may be obtained, hence the name is locally descriptive. Prospect Hill is situated by the Mississippi River in the southern part of the city of Burlington. The

¹³⁷Antrobus, *op. cit.*, I, 547.

core of the hill is composed of Burlington limestone and Kinderhook shales which rise about two hundred feet from the water's edge in a bold, mural escarpment.

RAY LAKE. A long body of water near the east side of section 29 of Huron Township, a remnant of a river slough, about a mile in length and from a few to ten or fifteen rods in width. This is the name given by the U. S. soil map, 1925. Formerly the lake was longer and much wider and was known as Clear Lake. For many years the adjacent land was owned by Harvey Ray, the third original owner. A brother ran the farm until his death, after which the management was for some years continued by his wife. Ray Lake was presumably named for Harvey Ray or the family.¹³⁸

REAM. A station on the Muscatine, Burlington, and Southern Railroad near the center of section 25 of Huron Township. The name is apparently for a local resident.

RICHLAND. A place indicated by Albert M. Lea on his map, 1836, as being near the headwaters of what is called Brush Creek, about eight miles west of the city of Burlington, thus being in or near the southwestern part of what is now Flint River Township, probably on the south side of section 32. The place failed of permanency. On Hinman & Dutton's map, 1838, the place is labeled "Richard T.," presumably a tavern or inn. The name was doubtless for the proprietor, probably Richard Land whose name appears in the Census for 1836, page 51. His neighbors would naturally refer to him as Rich Land, from which the place-name Richland obviously follows. Richard Land was one of the first justices of the peace of the vicinity, being appointed by the Governor of the Territory of Michigan.

REITER. The name of a rural school at the forks of the highway at the center of section 4 of Tama Township. The school was named for S. Reiter, an early resident, on whose farm the schoolhouse site was located.¹³⁹

RISING SUN. The name of a rural school on the highway on the south side of the southeast quarter of section 4 of Franklin Township. The schoolhouse site is out of the woods, or rising ground, and with a good view to the east, hence the name, Rising Sun, appears to be locally descriptive.

ROCK BOTTOM. The name of a rural school at the cross highways in the southeastern corner of the west section 6 of Yellow Spring Township, almost a mile west of the village of Garland, and near one of the branches of Honey Creek. The name appears to be due to exposure of limestone beds in the vicinity, hence locally descriptive. In pioneer days the term "rock bottom" was used literally and figuratively to indicate the end or limit of anything, as the lowest attainable depth, the end of one's resources, the last straw, a safe and sure foundation, etc.

ROCK POINT. The locally descriptive name of a rural school in the

¹³⁸Merrill, *op. cit.*, I, 387.

¹³⁹Andreas, *op. cit.*, p. 85.

south central part of section 28 of Benton Township. The name appears to be due to an exposure of rock in the vicinity. The school district has the same name.

ROCK SPRING. The name of a congregation of the Baptist denomination which had a meeting place in or near the central part of Union Township, about six miles southwest of the city of Burlington. The organization came into existence in about 1836 and after almost a decade became extinct. The chief promoters, Elders James Lemen, Moses Lemen, and John Clark, were from Rock Springs, Illinois, whence the name, a transferred one. This congregation is reputed to be the second Baptist church organized in Iowa.

ROCKY POINT. A local name for a more or less projected bluff along the highway next the bottom in Huron Township.¹⁴⁰ The name is locally descriptive.

ROSCOE. A station and small hamlet on a branch line of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad at the cross highways on the east side of section 24 of Washington Township. At this place a post office has been maintained over fifty years. Roscoe was named for Roscoe Montgomery, a republican politician.

The post office of Roscoe, Des Moines County, Iowa, was established on May 4, 1877, with the appointment of Thomas W. Thomas, postmaster. His successors were: John Williams, December 20, 1877; John T. Williams, January 28, 1878; Lincoln C. Hall, March 29, 1883; John W. Stromberg, February 7, 1887; Amanda Stromberg, November 27, 1895; John L. Jones, February 27, 1896; Joseph Barton, May 22, 1906; and Charles H. Barton, September 19, 1914, who was still serving in 1932.

ROUND PRAIRIE. The more or less locally descriptive name given by the pioneers to a small prairie in the southeastern part of Yellow Spring Township, in the main apparently comprising portions of the east sections 29, 30, 31, and 32, with an arm extending southeastwardly into sections 4, 5, and 6 of Benton Township. This small expanse was fringed with groves along the creeks which gave a circular outline to the view of the prairie. This name, Round Prairie, was well known to the pioneers and their successors for more than half a century. Round Prairie Sunday School, named after the vicinity, was organized in April, 1837, beginning its existence with thirty or forty scholars as they were then called. At first the school was held in private homes, later a local school-house was used.

"*The Round Prairie* is in the northern part of the county, and is one of the best settlements in the territory. It is moderately undulating, abounding with excellent springs, abundance of timber, and is in a high state of cultivation."¹⁴¹

"Round Prairie in Yellow Springs [sic] Township was called such, because it was almost surrounded by streams, along which timber grew."¹⁴²

¹⁴⁰Antrobus, *op. cit.*, I, 532.

¹⁴¹J. B. Newhall, *Glimpse of Iowa in 1846*, p. 24.

¹⁴²Antrobus, *op. cit.*, I, 29.

ROUND PRAIRIE. The name of a pioneer precinct of Des Moines County. It was created by the Board of County Commissioners on April 3, 1838, when the following entry on record was made: "Ordered townships 71 and 72 north, range 2 west including fractional parts of townships 71 and 72 north, range 1 west, be and are constituted Round Prairie Precinct, and the election be held for said precinct at the house of David E. Blair; and that David E. Blair, John Salladay and Ezekiel Blanchard are appointed judges of election for said precinct."¹⁴³ This newly created precinct comprised the present townships of Benton, Jackson, Huron, and the eastern two tiers of sections of Yellow Spring. This arrangement apparently held until January 7, 1841, when a new order was entered. The name, Round Prairie, was due to the presence of a nearly circular piece of prairie near the west side of the precinct, hence locally descriptive.

ROUND PRAIRIE. The locally descriptive name given to an organization of the Presbyterian church of Yellow Spring Township. This local church came into existence on August 24, 1839. The log building used was erected in 1841. The organization existed with various vicissitudes until April 13, 1870, when Yellow Spring and Round Prairie were united into the new organization known as First Presbyterian church of Kosuth.¹⁴⁴

RUNNING SLOUGH. The locally descriptive name for a narrow, winding channel running from near the southeastern corner of Huron Township (section 34) southwestward to the Mississippi River near the southwestern corner of Jackson Township (section 31), on branch, however, continuing southwestwardly to the foot of O'Connell Island, opposite the northern part of the city of Burlington. Having a current, the name is also in contradistinction to Dead Slough (without a current) situated in the vicinity of its upper portion.

RUSH ISLAND. A small island, about a mile and a half long and a half mile wide in the Mississippi River near the southeastern part of Tama Township, eastward of O'Connell Island, from which it is separated by a narrow channel. The island derives its name from the growth of rushes (*Scirpus*, *Juncus*, *Equisetum*) which occur abundantly.

SAND LAKE. A portion of a river slough extending southwestwardly through the west half of section 9 of Jackson Township has or had this name. Running slough passes through Sand Lake.¹⁴⁵ The name, Sand Lake, is due to the prevalence of sand about and in the lake, hence locally descriptive.

SAND RIDGE. Much of Jackson Township is in a drainage district. The overflow from the Mississippi River prevented early settlement except on a more elevated strip extending southwestward through the central portions of the township. This strip was known as Sand Ridge, a locally descriptive name.

¹⁴³Antrobus, *Ibid.*, I, 511, 518.

¹⁴⁴Blair, *Historical address*, pp. 5, 7.

¹⁴⁶Antrobus, *op. cit.*, I, ?.

SANDRIDGE. An early station on the highway to Fort Madison, about five miles southwest of the city of Burlington, in or near section 30 of Concordia Township, as given by Colton's map of Iowa, 1852. The name is more or less locally descriptive, there being a low sand ridge in the vicinity.

SANDRIDGE. The more or less locally descriptive name of an early rural school in sub-district number 5 of Union Township. In 1882 the school district became Sandridge Independent District number 5. The name also appears as Sand Ridge.

SAND RIDGE. The early name of a rural post office in the southern part of Union Township, presumably in the vicinity of the Sand Ridge schoolhouse. The name appears to be locally descriptive.

The post office of Sand Ridge, Des Moines County, Iowa, was established on January 14, 1848, with the appointment of Henry Walker as postmaster, who served until September 17, 1849. In the meantime the name of the post office was changed to Green Bay on April 17, 1849, (See above).

SHARON. The name of a church and congregation of the Reformed Presbyterian. The church building and cemetery are on the west side of the southwest quarter of west section 8 of Yellow Spring Township. The first regular pastor, James M. McDonald, was installed May 17, 1851, who resigned in 1872, dying a few months later. See portrait and sketch in Merrill's *Yellow Spring and Huron*, page 349.

The name was given to the church and congregation, in memory of the biblical name Sharon, which commonly refers to a district along the Mediterranean. The word *Sharon* is from the Hebrew *Sharon*, meaning a plain.

SHERMAN. The name of a rural school in the northeast central part of section 28 of Flint River Township, in independent district number 5, formerly sub-district number 5. The schoolhouse site, according to *Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County*, page 77, was formerly about a quarter of a mile eastward at the forks of the highway on the west side of section 27. The school was presumably named for General William T. Sherman by his admirers in the vicinity.

SHILOH. The name of a rural Methodist church situated near the forks of the highway, south of Brush Creek, in the northern part of section 21 of Union Township, on the north side of the Lower Augusta Road, about five miles southwest from the city of Burlington. A cemetery is across the highway to the southwest. The building was erected in 1846 and is still in use, thus being one of the early church edifices, if not the oldest, remaining. On Sunday, September 6, 1931, the eighty-fifth anniversary was celebrated with an appropriate program. About 1890 the church was remodeled, and again in 1910, when on the following October 2nd it was rededicated.

The local church was dedicated in memory of the biblical name Shiloh. The name is Hebrew and was used as a personal name as well as a place-

name. The original church was built on the farm of the pioneer, Robert Avery, and mostly at his expense. For this reason the church was known for many years as Avery's church. The material was native lumber from the nearby sections. The title to the building remained with the adjacent landowner until 1890, when Henry Avery, the son and successor of Robert Avery, sold the building and an acre of ground to the trustees of Shiloh Church. The name of Robert Avery appears in the Census of 1836, page 55.

SHINAR. The name of a Cumberland Presbyterian church in Pleasant Grove Township. On June 30, 1839, a number of people met at the home of George Gallaher, near where is now the village of Pleasant Grove. After services a temporary organization was effected. At a meeting held at the same place on August 10, 1839, the organization was perfected and Shinar proposed and adopted as the name of the congregation. The organization has been continuous. See illustration in Antrobus' *History of Des Moines County*, vol. 1, facing page 552.

The church organization was named in memory of the biblical name *Shinar* (Gen. xi:2) from the Hebrew *Shinar*, apparently meaning two rivers, that is, the alluvial tract through which runs the Tigris and Euphrates.

SHO-KO-KON. The name is the white man's approximation to the Fox Indian name of the vicinity of the city of Burlington. It is further claimed the meaning is Flint Hill. During the years of the trading post and of the incipient village up to 1834 the place was known as Flint Hills, apparently a translation of the supposed name given it by the residing Indians. The name Flint Hills is due to the presence of chert or flint, a hard compact, siliceous material, which frequently occurs in the exposures in the hills of the vicinity. Various spellings occur as Shoko-kon, Shokoquon, Shockokon, Shokoquon, Shakoquan, etc. The form "Sha-o-qua" also occurs.

According to S. S. White: "The Indian name of the region extending from the lower part of the high land up to the mouth of the Flint River, was Sho-ko-kon, meaning Flint Hills."¹⁴⁶

Nicollet's map, 1843, gives the village Shockokon as being about eight miles south of Burlington, Iowa, but in Illinois. This location is also given by Colton's map of Iowa, 1852, giving the name as Shokoquon, one of the variant, early spellings. Henn, Williams & Co's. map, 1854, gives Shokoquon.

SKUNK RIVER. This river forms the boundary on the southwest side of Des Moines County, separating it from Lee County. The course of the river is southeast, forming the southern boundaries of Augusta, Union, and Concordia townships. The main channel reaches the Mississippi River near the west side of south section 8 of Concordia Township, congressional township 69 north, range 2 west.

The name, Skunk River, comes from the Fox Indian word for the

¹⁴⁶*History of Des Moines County*, 1879, p. 472.

stream of which various approximations are given in literature as *Céga-go lu*, Shecaqua, Shikagua, etc. The most authentic word is *cegag wa*, meaning skunk; the proper diminutive should be *cegago la*, the word for onion. Before settlement by the whites there were large quantities of wild onions growing along the river. These gave a strong or obnoxious odor to the vicinity, hence the name given to the river. An early name of the river was *Bete Puante*, stinking animal, a name given by the French as their translation of the Indian name.

"Chacagua River is generally swift in current, rises and falls rapidly, seldom overflows the alluvial lands along its borders, and furnishes much excellent timber. There are many fine springs along its bluffs, and along the tributary creeks: and the whole body of its soil may be said to be of excellent quality. Large settlements have already been made upon the river, and its tributaries. In the autumn of 1835, there were about 120 families in the vicinity of Crookshank's Point; and arrangements have been made for as many more to settle on Cedar creek, this spring. The improvements have extended up the river and up Crooked creek to the line. The lands on Richland and Crooked creeks are said to be peculiarly fine."

"To what extent this river may be navigated, it is difficult to say. A small keel-boat has frequently ascended it, even at low water, a distance of 60 miles; and it is probable that it may be navigated much further. Steamboats have not yet been upon it; but there appears to be no reason that they should not perform upon it to advantage."

"Owing to the rapidity of its current, it affords great water-power. A large mill, both for sawing and grinding has been established about 10 miles above the mouth. To effect this, a dam has been thrown across the river; thus creating an obstruction to navigation, which must be abated as soon as the settlements above shall call for it. There are also a few snags in the mouth of the river, which will require removal."¹⁴⁷

"Shecaqua, or Skunk River, this river is about 150 yards wide and probably 200 miles in length; it [the country roundabout] is already thickly settled with an industrious and improving population. There are also several flourishing towns and villages on its banks, together with some fine mills. The soil is fertile, and the timber in many places is both abundant and of a good quality. This river empties into the Mississippi about 8 miles below Burlington, and 12 above Fort Madison."¹⁴⁸

SKUNK RIVER BOTTOM. The name given by the pioneers to the valley land along the Skunk River, largely in the southern part of Union Township. The name is locally descriptive.

"*Skunk River Bottom* is a rich alluvial soil of remarkable fertility, and its proximity to Burlington gives the farmers of that neighborhood a sure market for their surplus productions."¹⁴⁹

SKUNK RIVER BOTTOM ROAD. The locally descriptive name given to

¹⁴⁷A. M. Lea, *Notes on Wisconsin Territory*, 1836, p. 27.

¹⁴⁸Isaac Galland, *Iowa Emigrant*, 1840, p. 13.

¹⁴⁹J. B. Newhall, *Glimpse of Iowa in 1846*, p. 24.

the highway which runs northwestwardly along the valley of Skunk River from Skunk River Station through the village of Augusta to the west side of Des Moines County.

SKUNK RIVER STATION. A station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad in the southwestern part of section 34 of Union Township, in the vicinity of Skunk River, whence the locally descriptive name.

SKUNK SLOUGH. The name of a narrow channel in the southeastern part of Union (south section 1) and the southern part of Concordia (south section 6 and 7) townships, in the vicinity of Skunk River. The slough is a remnant of one of the mouths of Skunk River, hence the name. There is also a branch or arm from the Mississippi River, from near the west side of section 32, crossing southeast quarter of section 31 and entering main slough on the east side of south section 6. This arm was formerly known as Sullivan's Slough, (see below).

SMITH CREEK. This stream rises on the east side of west section 8 of Yellow Spring Township, meeting a branch from section 15 near the west side of section 2, runs northeast and eastward, leaving Des Moines County on the north side of section 2. The name is for a local resident, probably Jeremiah Smith who lived in the vicinity as early as July, 1836. Smith Creek is the name given to this stream by the U. S. soil map of Des Moines County, 1925.

SMITH CREEK. This name has also been applied to a stream in the vicinity west of Northfield. The stream has the name of Paul Creek on recent maps as the U. S. soil map of Des Moines County, 1925. Older maps as *Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County*, page 49, has the name Smith Creek, as does also the map in Merrill, *Yellow Spring and Huron*, issued in 1897. This use of the name for this creek is apparently for the pioneer, Samuel Smith, son of Jeremiah Smith, who settled near Northfield in the vicinity of the stream, probably as early as July, 1836. Both names appear in the Census taken in July, 1836, page 86, being then at least in the immediate neighborhood.

SNIDER. A station on the Muscatine, Burlington, and Southern Railroad near the south side of section 35 of Benton Township. The name is probably for a local resident or for some one connected with the railroad.

SNYDER. The name of a rural school near the forks of the highway on the north side of section 35 of Pleasant Grove Township. The school was named for Andrew Snyder, a pioneer resident of the vicinity. Mr. Snyder was born¹⁵⁰ near Steubenville, Jefferson County, Ohio, November 3, 1802, emigrated to Des Moines County, Iowa, in April, 1844, settling on the south side of section 26 of Pleasant Grove Township where he lived until his death, August 3, 1885. He was a man of marked individuality. The schoolhouse site was across the highway from his residence and farm.

¹⁵⁰The account here given follows *Portrait and Biographical Album of Des Moines County*, 1888, p. 437. Birth is given as November 2, 1802, and in Highland County, Ohio, in *History of Des Moines County*, 1879, p. 709.

SOUTH FLINT. The name of an inland post office in existence before 1865, near the Flint River, and probably in the vicinity of South Flint rural school in section 28 of Pleasant Grove Township. The name of the post office was doubtless suggested by its location, being near and south of Flint River, thus a locally descriptive one.

The post office of South Flint, Des Moines County, Iowa, was established on December 28, 1854, with the appointment of Edwin Carter, postmaster. His successors were: William Crocker, April 17, 1863; Edwin Carter, March 9, 1864; Aaron E. Dodds, March 28, 1889, who served until the post office was discontinued on January 30, 1891.

SOUTH FLINT. The name of a rural school in the southeast corner of section 28 of Pleasant Grove Township. The schoolhouse site is over a mile south of Flint River but near the headwaters of a south branch of Flint River which situation may have suggested the name for the school, thus a more or less locally descriptive one. It is more than probable, however, that the school was more directly named for an early inland post office in the vicinity, known as South Flint.

SOUTH HILL. The locally descriptive name for a prominent hill in the southern part of the city of Burlington. Crapo Park is on this hill.

SPERRY. The name of a small village along the highway on the south side of the southwest quarter of section 12 and the north side of the northwest quarter of section 13 of Franklin Township. It is also a station on the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific (the old Burlington, Cedar Rapids, and Northern) Railway. The village site is on the divide near the headwaters of Knotty Creek, and was laid out on land owned by John M. Sperry, after whom the village was named. Mr. Sperry was a native of Knox County, Ohio, born March 3, 1821. He became a residence of Des Moines County in 1851, in time becoming an extensive landowner. In 1869 he staked out Sperry Station as it was called for many years and in 1874 created a park. He established there the first store and was at one time postmaster; both office and store he conducted through many years.¹⁵¹

The post office of Sperry, Des Moines County, Iowa, was established on February 5, 1871, with the appointment of George W. Sperry, postmaster. His successors were: Aaron P. Jackson, January 2, 1873; Edward Jackson, March 14, 1876; William L. Deen, June 23, 1879; Judson E. Hill, November 22, 1881; William A. Arel, July 21, 1884; John M. Sperry, November 26, 1886; William M. Jones, October 6, 1892; Jacob Deen, January 22, 1894; Herman H. Riepe, November 27, 1894; Adolph L. Bergsten, March 19, 1901; Herman H. Riepe, August 17, 1901; Franklin H. Riepe, December 5, 1913; James E. Collar, February 28, 1920; Jacob E. Collar, acting postmaster, August 31, 1923; and George H. Ellerhoff, October 9, 1923, who was still serving in 1931.

¹⁵¹Andreas' *Atlas of Des Moines County*, pp. 20, 39, 65; *History of Des Moines County*, 1879, pp. 614, 680; *Portrait and Biographical Album of Des Moines County*, 1888, pp. 251-252, 719; Antrobus, *History of Des Moines County*, 1915, I, 555.

SPRING BRANCH. The locally descriptive name of a small run in the southwest part of the city of Burlington.¹⁵² It comes down through a ravine known as Bogus Hollow, (see above).

SPRING CREEK. This short stream rises in or near the southwestern part of section 28 of Flint Creek Township, flows southeastward across Union Township to the Mississippi River near the south side of section 29. It has numerous branches on the northeast side. The stream was so named because several springs feed it, hence a locally descriptive name.

SPRING CREEK. The name of a rural church on the highway near the southwest corner of the southeast quarter of section 3 of Union Township, along the west side of Spring Creek, whence the name. In recent years the building has been removed.

SPRING CREEK. The name of a rural school in the southeastern part of section 15 of Union Township. The schoolhouse site is by Spring Creek after which the school was named. In 1882 the school district, previously known as Sub-District No. 8, became Spring Creek Independent District No. 8.

SPRING GROVE. The name of a rural school at the forks of the highway near the north side of the northwest quarter of section 36 of Union Township, about a half mile south of Spring Creek and about a mile southwest of Spring Grove church. The school was named after the nearby station of Spring Grove.

SPRING GROVE. The locally descriptive name given to a body of native timber in the southeastern part of Union Township along Spring Creek, whence the name.

SPRING GROVE. The locally descriptive name of a church on the west side of section 30 of Concordia Township. The church site was located in a native grove and near Spring Creek, hence the name Spring Grove.

SPRING GROVE. The more or less descriptive name of a station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad near the west side of section 36 of Union Township.

STARR'S CAVE. The name of a natural cave in the northwest central part of section 19 of Tama Township near the northeast side of Flint River. It was named for W. H. Starr, the owner of the land. This is the name given by *Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County*, page 85. W. H. Starr built his home near the cave in or near the year 1860. The house still exists. The wooded place about the cave has long been used as a playground or outing place for parties from the city of Burlington. W. H. Starr, a reputed graduate of Yale, long resided in Burlington, where he practiced as an attorney. He was often confused with his cousin, Henry W. Starr, also a long-time resident of the same city. Originally both cousins had the same given names, William Henry. To prevent confusion one reversed his given names and became known as Henry W. Starr. This Mr. Starr was a native of Middlebury, Vermont, born July 26, 1815. He graduated from Middlebury College in 1834, studied law in

¹⁵²Antrobus, *op. cit.*, I, 101.

the office of his uncle at Cincinnati, Ohio, and was admitted to practice in the spring of 1837. In the following November he began to practice in the then village of Burlington. He rapidly became eminent in his profession, accumulated property, and remained the rest of his life (44 years) a substantial citizen. His death occurred on October 30, 1881.¹⁵³

STONE CHURCH. The locally descriptive name of a church edifice erected in 1847¹⁵⁴ by the Baptists under the direction of Rev. James L. Gilmore. The site is in the southeastern corner of section 9 of Franklin Township. A cemetery is adjacent. The building was erected of stone, whence the name.

STONEY LONESOME. A locality in the city of Burlington so designated by the pioneers. It was a rocky ravine or depression now more or less obliterated, which separated South Hill from West Hill and in which lived James Fox Abrahams, an influential citizen and an early postmaster. The name was more or less locally descriptive.

SULLIVAN'S SLOUGH. The early name of a river slough in the southeastern part of Concordia Township. It begins near the north side of section 32, runs southwest and south to Skunk slough near the east side of south section 6.¹⁵⁵ The slough was probably named for an early local landowner or settler in the vicinity, or possibly for a transient or a voyageur. As a coincidence it may be noted that in 1816 John C. Sullivan surveyed the northern boundary of Missouri near the vicinity of this slough.

SWAN CREEK. This name is erroneously given by Huebinger's *Atlas of the State of Iowa*, 1904, to a stream in Huron Township, better known as Swank Creek, (see below). The name, Swan Creek, was probably given because Swan Lake is in the course of the outlet of the stream, hence would be locally descriptive.

SWAN LAKE. A former lake, somewhat crescent shaped, about two miles long and nearly a quarter of a mile wide, situated in the southern part of sections 19 and 20 and the northern part of sections 29 and 30 of Huron Township. It was connected by a narrow slough with Bradley Lake situated a mile to the southwest.¹⁵⁶ Swan Lake was a remnant of an old river slough. It has been obliterated by drainage and detritis. This lake received its name from the fact that in pioneer days it was a frequent habitat for swans (*Olor columbianus*).

SWANK CREEK. The name given by *Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County*, page 7, to a stream later known as Hawkeye Creek. The stream rises in the vicinity of the village of Mediapolis, in sections 23 and 26 of Yellow Spring Township, runs northeastwardly, reaching the lowlands

¹⁵³*Andreas' Atlas*, 1873, pp. 16, 23-24; *Portrait and Biographical Album of Des Moines County*, 1888, pp. 245-246; Edward H. Stiles, *Recollections and Sketches of Notable Lawyers and Public Men of Iowa*, 1916, pp. 24-26, 292-293, 567; T. S. Parvin, *The Early Bar of Iowa*, 1894, pp. 12-14.

¹⁵⁴*History of Des Moines County*, 1879, p. 614; *Andreas, op. cit.*, p. 65, erroneously gives the date 1840, the year of the land sales, which is too early, doubtless a typographical error.

¹⁵⁵*Andreas' Atlas*, p. 86.

¹⁵⁶*Andreas, ibid.*, p. 57.

in sections 13 of Huron Township where it now enters a drainage ditch across sections 24, 19, 20, 21 to Huron Slough. Swank Creek is the older and more appropriate name. The stream was named for Wesley Swank who owned land about the common corner of sections 11, 12, 13, and 14, on both sides of the stream. He and his brother Joshua were the first settlers of Huron Township, coming in 1835. They were natives of Hardin County, Kentucky. Joshua, the oldest of thirteen children, was born in 1798. Wesley lived on his claim until his death in 1850. He was succeeded by one of his sons, J. Lewis Swank, who remained on the farm until his death in 1890. Joshua Swank lived on his farm just north of his brother for fifty years or more, dying at an advanced age in Kansas, but was interred in the cemetery near his old home in Huron Township. He was the first postmaster in Huron Township. The names of Joshua Swank and his brother, Wesley Swank, appear in the Census of 1836, page 82, the latter erroneously as Westley Swank. For a fuller account of the family see *Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County, 1873*, pages 32,57; and Merrill, *Yellow Spring and Huron*, pages 37, 57-59, 199. Huebinger, *Atlas of the State of Iowa*, corrupts the name Swank Creek to Swan Creek.

TAMA. The name of an early township created by the board of county commissioners on January 7, 1841, when the following record was made: "Also ordered township 71 north, range 2 west, including fractional township 71 north, range 1 west, be established under the name of Tama¹⁵⁷ Township, and that the election be held therein on the first Monday of April next at the home of Mathew Latty."¹⁵⁸ This early township of Tama comprised the present townships of Benton and Jackson.

This early township was named in honor of an Indian chief, Tama, a Sauk, who formerly resided in the vicinity. His village of wigwams was at the edge of the prairie in the southern part of Benton Township. Here he was buried. See Tama Town Prairie.

TAMA. An irregularly shaped township along the west bank of the Mississippi River, on the east side of Des Moines County, south of Benton and east of Flint River townships and north of the city of Burlington. It is the northern portion of the original Burlington Township and comprises the fractional part of congressional township 70 north, range 2 west. The growth of the city of Burlington separated the old Burlington Township into two isolated portions which led to the creation of two new townships.

The township was doubtless directly named after Tama Slough, the old time name for a channel of the Mississippi River in the northeastern part of the township. There is a probability that it may have been indirectly named for Tama, the Indian chief who had lived nearby in Benton Township.

Tama Township was created from the old Burlington Township by the

¹⁵⁷The spelling is Tamey in *History of Des Moines County, 1879*, p. 402.

¹⁵⁸Antrobus, *History of Des Moines County, I, 511*.

Board of Supervisors when they took action, June 10,¹⁵⁹ 1910, on a petition of Saint Vaughn and others asking for a division. Burlington Township was restricted to the corporate limits of the city of Burlington and the remainder of the old Burlington Township was created a new township with the name of Tama. On July 5, 1910, the Board of Supervisors restricted Tama Township to the portion north of the city of Burlington; the portion south of the city of Burlington was created a new township to be known as Concordia, which see.

TAMA SLOUGH. An old channel of the Mississippi River in the north-eastern part of Tama Township, represented by *Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County*, 1873, page 85, as beginning in the southern part of section 1, running west and southwest across sections 2, 10, and 15, to near the center of section 21 where it entered O'Connell's Slough. The U. S. soil map, 1925, still marks the slough in about the same relative position though drainage and detritis have produced changes. The name is apparently for the Indian chief, Tama, a former denizen of the vicinity.

TAMA TOWN PRAIRIE. In pioneer days Benton Township was largely a wooded district. In the southern part of the township a prairie opening existed. On the margin of this prairie the Indian Chief Tama, "the man who makes the rocks tremble," had a village of wigwams. Because of this the pioneers named the locality Tama Town Prairie in memory of the Indian Chief Tama.¹⁶⁰ The name is also written Tamatown Prairie.

"*Taime Town Prairie*, (which is the last resting place of "Taime," or "Taioimah," a Sac chief,) lies northeast of Casey, bordering upon the Mississippi bluffs. It is encircled with a heavy body of excellent timber, and is similar in character and cultivation to Casey Prairie."¹⁶¹

TIMBER LAKE. The name of a narrow channel in the southeastern part of section 16 and extending to the west central part of section 21 of Jackson Township. The above is as given by the U. S. soil map, 1925. *Andreas' Atlas*, page 58, represents the channel as longer, extending from the southwestern corner of section 10, across the east side of section 16, across 21 to near the center of 29. Drainage and detritis have made changes. As the channel was in the central portion of heavy, bottom timber, the name Timber Lake was locally descriptive. The channel is the remnant of an old river bed.

TORNADO. The name of a rural school in district Number 6 on the east side of section 23 of Danville Township, about two miles east and a mile and a half south of the village of Danville. This is where the school is located by *Andreas' Atlas*, page 73, and the U. S. soil map, 1925. Antrobus¹⁶² locates the school in the west central part of the section along the diagonal highway or the old plank road, over a half

¹⁵⁹Antrobus, *op. cit.*, I, p. 516, gives two different dates, June 10 and June 30, 1910.

¹⁶⁰Antrobus, *History of Des Moines County*, I, pp. 512, 516.

¹⁶¹Newhall, *Glimpse of Iowa in 1846*, p. 24.

¹⁶²*History of Des Moines County*, 1915, I, 539.

mile west of the true location unless there has been a removal. The exact location apparently is in the northeast corner of the southeast quarter of the section.

Mr. Howard A. Mathews, of Danville, Iowa, gives the information that the Tornado school was called the Carden school up to May 23, 1872, when a tornado destroyed the building. A new schoolhouse was built and the name changed to Tornado school, obviously in memory of the disaster, hence a locally descriptive name. See also Carden.

TYLER LAKE. On some maps it is Tyler's Pond. It was nearly a mile long and extended southeastwardly from the northwest quarter into the southeast quarter of section 17 of Huron Township. It was named for Jahalon Tyler, a pioneer resident of the vicinity.

UNION. This township lies on the south side of Des Moines County, south of Flint River, west of Concordia, and east of Augusta townships. It comprises the fractional part of congressional township 69 north, range 3 west, north of the Skunk River. The township was laid out in 1836, sectionized in 1837, and placed on the market in 1838. Settlement began in 1833 with Isaac Canterbury, followed by William Walters, Young L. Hughes,¹⁶³ Joseph York, John R. Moore, Samuel Hunt, and James and Alexander Hilleary, all of whom came in 1833.¹⁶⁴

Union Township was created by the Board of County Commissioners during the session held in January, 1841. As originally constituted the civil township comprised congressional township 69 and fractional 68, range 3, and township 68, range 2.¹⁶⁵

"On the 7th of January, 1841, the board of county commissioners of Des Moines County caused to be entered of record: "Ordered that township 69 north, range 3 west, and fractional parts of township 68 north, range 3 west, be constituted and organized a township under the name of 'Union Township', and an election be held on the first Monday of April, next, at the Union schoolhouse in said township."¹⁶⁶

The township originally had extensive areas of timber, such land being much desired by the pioneer settlers. The trees were usually oak, maple, walnut, ash, elm, hickory, etc.

The name of the township is apparently after that of the schoolhouse where the first election was held, as may be noticed in the constituting act, hence a locally descriptive name.

In the United States the name Union is very popular for minor local places. At least sixteen states have a Union County and in Iowa forty-one counties have a Union Township. The name is an ethical one, in-

¹⁶³The name of this individual is usually given in the local histories as T. L. Hughes. The *Census* of 1836, as published in 1898, page 85, gives the name as Young L. Hughes, presumably correct. The error is doubtless due to one form of the old-fashioned manuscript initial letter Y being easily mistaken for a T. The same *Census*, page 87, gives Isaac Canterbury as Canterberry, an unusual spelling if correct.

¹⁶⁴*Andreas' Atlas*, 1873, p. 89; *History of Des Moines County*, 1879, p. 591; *Antrobus' History of Des Moines County*, 1915, I, 509.

¹⁶⁵*History of Des Moines County*, 1879, p. 402.

¹⁶⁶Antrobus, I, p. 509. Hull, *Census of Iowa* for 1880, p. 685, erroneously gives the date "when constituted" as 1836. This is the year when the congressional township was sectionized by the U. S. surveyor.

dicative of sentiment prevailing at the time of the naming, "union now and forever, one and inseparable."

UNION. The name of a rural school, number 5, near the forks of the highway on the east side of section 9 of Pleasant Grove Township, over a mile and a half west of the village of Pleasant Grove. The claim is made that here was erected the first schoolhouse in Pleasant Grove Township.¹⁶⁷

UNION. The name of a rural school in the north central part of section 16 of Union Township. At this schoolhouse the organizing election of Union Township was held on the first Monday in April, 1841. The school receives its name from an ethical ideal of the community in which it is situated, hence a locally descriptive name. In 1882 the school district, previously known as Sub-District No. 7, became Union Independent District No. 7.

UNION. The name of a rural school at the forks of the highway in the southeastern corner of section 14 of Washington Township, a mile west and a half mile north of the village of Roscoe, and two miles west of Union school in Yellow Spring Township.

UNION. The name of a rural school near the northeastern corner of west section 19 of Yellow Spring Township, about a mile east and a half mile north of the village of Roscoe, also two miles east of Union school in Washington Township.

UNION ACADEMY. The first schoolhouse in Union Township was built of logs in 1837. It was situated near the bend of the highway in the northern part of section 27. This is presumably the school that was incorporated as The Union Academy of Des Moines County by the legislature of the Territory of Iowa by an act approved January 23, 1839. In 1840 the legislature of the Territory of Iowa enacted a law establishing the public schools.

UPPER AUGUSTA ROAD. The locally descriptive name given to the highway running southwestwardly from the west side of the city of Burlington across the north central part of Union Township to the village of Augusta. The highway is mostly in sections 1, 2, 3, 9, 8, 7, and 18. The name is in reference to the Lower and Middle Augusta roads.

VANCES FERRY. The name given to the ferry across the Skunk River, a short distance above its mouth, on the river road from Burlington to Fort Madison, by Colton's Map of Iowa, 1852. The name was doubtless for the proprietor.

VANDYKE. The name of a rural post office in existence before 1860. Colton's Map of Iowa, 1862, locates the post office in or near the west central part of section 8 of Union Township on the highway from Burlington to Augusta. The name frequently has the form Van Dyke. The post office was named for a prominent local landowner, probably J. Vandyke.¹⁶⁸

¹⁶⁷*History of Des Moines County, 1879, p. 615.*

¹⁶⁸*Andreas' Atlas, p. 89.*

The post office of Van Dyke, Des Moines County, Iowa, was established on September 14, 1857, with the appointment of Franklin Wilcox, postmaster. He was succeeded by Richard Stone, October 27, 1863, who served until the post office was discontinued on March 22, 1864. The post office was re-established on May 19, 1864, with the appointment of Nancy A. Storer, postmaster, who served until the office was finally discontinued on May 15, 1866.

WALNUT HILL. The more or less descriptive name given to the farm home of R. B. Foster at the cross highways in the northwest corner of the northeast quarter of section 17 of Danville Township. Mr. Foster was a native of Culpepper County, Virginia. He came to Des Moines County in 1852, where he became a prominent farmer.¹⁶⁹

WAPELLO ROAD. The locally descriptive name given to the highway running from the northwestern part of the city of Burlington to the center of section 11 of Flint River Township, thence due north, passing by the west side of the village of Mediapolis, continuing north over two miles, thence bearing westwardly leaving Des Moines County on the north side of the northeast quarter of section 3 of Yellow Spring Township, continuing northwardly to the town of Wapello, the county-seat of Louisa County, whence the name of the road.

WASHINGTON. This township is in the northwestern corner of Des Moines County, west of Yellow Spring and north of Pleasant Grove townships. It comprises congressional township 72 north, range 4, west. As the township was almost entirely a prairie it was settled somewhat later than were the other townships of Des Moines County which were more favored with supplies of wood and water. Among the first settlers were the members of the family of R. A. McElhinney, long time residents of sections 1 and 12. Washington Township was included in Pleasant Grove Township when the latter was created on January 7, 1841. Washington Township was established in 1852 by order of the county judge on presentation of a petition of certain citizens.¹⁷⁰ The township was doubtless directly or indirectly named in memory of General George Washington (1732-1799), the military leader of the American Revolution and the first president (1789-1797) of the United States.

WASHINGTON. The name of a rural school in the southeastern corner of section 2 of Washington Township, about three miles west of the village of Garland and at the headwaters of Honey Creek. The school received its name from the township in which it is situated.

WESLEY CHAPEL. A rural pioneer church on the farm of an early settler, C. W. Hukill. It was apparently located on the west side of the southwest quarter of west section 33 of Huron Township. *Andreas' Atlas* page 57, indicates a cemetery at this place. See also Merrill, *Yellow Spring and Huron*, pages 105 and 329. The name of the chapel was in memory of John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist church. The local organization was known as the Wesleyans. The original log build

¹⁶⁹*Ibid.*, pp. 19, 42, (pictures of home and vicinity) 73.

¹⁷⁰Antrobus, I, p. 555.

ing was erected at Yellow Spring. In 1846 the building was taken down and removed about two miles east and rebuilt as Wesley Chapel, where for ten or more years services were held. The congregation was disbanded in 1859.¹⁷¹

WEST BURLINGTON. This village is mostly located on the north side of the northwest quarter of section 36 of Flint River Township, about three miles northwest of the city of Burlington. The name is more or less locally descriptive. In the village are located the machine shops of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad and the foundry of the Murray Iron Works. The village was incorporated in 1884.

WEST HILL. The locally descriptive name for a prominent hill in the western part of the city of Burlington.

WHIPSAW SLOUGH. The name of a former blind slough, beginning near the north side of section 21 of Tama Township, ran southwest to near the southwest corner of the same section, thence southeast to O'Connell Slough in the northern part of the northwest quarter of section 28 of the same township. The general shape was that of a whipsaw, hence the name is a locally descriptive one. Drainage has more or less obliterated or changed the old slough. It is well represented in *Andreas' Atlas*, page 85; the U. S. Soil map, 1925, indicates considerable change.

WILLOW LAKE. A small body of water in the southern part of section 28 and the northern part of section 33 of Huron Township. The name is due to the growth of willows about the lake.

WINNEBAGO. The name of a rural school at the forks of the highway on the west side of section 8 of Union Township in the vicinity of a former post office known as Vandyke. In 1882 the school district, previously known as Sub-District No. 2, became Winnebago Independent District No. 2. The school was directly or indirectly named in memory of the Winnebago tribe of Indians.

WOLF BRANCH. The name given by the pioneers to a small stream in the southwestern part of Danville Township which led into Skunk River.¹⁷² Presumably the stream is the one which flows southward from section 31, crossing section 6 of Augusta Township. The name is due to the former prevalence of wolves in the timber along the course of the stream.

YARMOUTH. A village on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy (formerly the Burlington and Northwestern) Railroad in the north central part of section 21 of Washington Township. The village was apparently founded in the seventies. The Iowan village was doubtless directly or indirectly named for Yarmouth, on the east coast of England, County of Norfolk. Quite a number of settlers of Des Moines County were immigrants from England.

Yarmouth, England, is in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, 122 miles north northeast of London. It is along a tongue of land between

¹⁷¹Blair's *Historical Address*, 1876, pp. 5, 7.

¹⁷²*History of Des Moines County*, 1879, p. 578.

the North Sea and the Yare River; that is, at or near the mouth of the Yare, hence the name Yarmouth.

Places with the name Yarmouth are not numerous, but there are a county and a town in the western part of Nova Scotia, a village and township in Cumberland County, Maine; a village and township in Barnstable County, Massachusetts; and a village in Elgin County, Ontario. There is also Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, County of Hampshire, south coast of England.

The post office of Yarmouth, Des Moines County, Iowa, was created from a pre-existing post office in the vicinity (about a mile to the east) known as "La Vega" (Charles V. Woodford, postmaster) by change of name on November 18, 1881. The change of name was in accord with the newly established village of Yarmouth. The subsequent postmasters were: Charlie W. Woodford, December 6, 1881; John W. Albright, November 14, 1882; Henry W. Shirk, August 29, 1883; David Pickering, January 7, 1885; Ollie Oberman, February 16, 1887; Charles Frye, November 7, 1891; Albert L. Clive, April 9, 1894; George Zion, August 30, 1894; Amos S. Welch, March 16, 1898; John B. Jones, October 16, 1901; Lauretta Jones, June 10, 1912; Willis H. Featherby, October 1, 1915; Henry C. Abel, December 4, 1916; and Richard W. Carlson, August 6, 1919, who was still serving in 1936.

YELLOW SPRING. The locally descriptive name of a fine spring of carbonated chalybeate water near the middle of the south side of section 36 of Yellow Spring Township, about a hundred yards or so north of the south section line. Near this spring the first settlements in Yellow Spring Township were made in the fall of 1834, two of the settlers being Jacob Westfall and Allen Elliot.¹⁷³ The name of the spring was suggested by the yellowish deposit of iron (ferric) oxide. The maps of J. Calvin Smith, 1844 and 1854, give the name of Yellow Spring as "Yellow Spa."

YELLOW SPRING. The name given to a Presbyterian Church in Yellow Spring Township in the vicinity of Yellow Spring, whence the name. The congregation was organized on September 12, 1840, by Rev. J. A. Carnahan of Logansport, Indiana. On April 13, 1870, the congregation united with that of Round Prairie to form a new one to be known as the First Presbyterian Church of Kossuth.¹⁷⁴

YELLOW SPRING. The name of a pioneer hamlet or projected village supposedly in section 36 of Yellow Spring Township, near the locally noted Yellow Spring. Jacob Westfall settled in the vicinity in 1834. His claim included the spring. He soon afterwards platted a village site which he named Columbus. Some lots were sold and a few houses erected. A store and other small pioneer industries were apparently undertaken. When the establishment of the post office was impending,

¹⁷³Elliot is the spelling given by the *Census* 1836, and *Andreas' Atlas*, 1873. Merrill consistently gives the name as Eliot.

¹⁷⁴Blair's *Historical Address*, 1876, p. 5; Merrill, pp. 336-337.

on the suggestion of a resident, Dr. Samuel Fullenwider,¹⁷⁵ the proposed name was Yellow Spring, and the village took the same name. When the organizing election for Yellow Spring Township was held on the first Monday of April, 1841, it was held at the home of L. C. Hutchinson in the hamlet of Yellow Spring. A post office was early established and intermittently maintained for nearly twenty years. The nearness to Kossuth with its better location eventually caused the hamlet of Yellow Spring to lapse. The name is frequently given as Yellow Springs, as on Hall's map, 1857, and others.

YELLOW SPRING. This township lies on the north side of Des Moines County, west of Huron, north of Benton and Franklin, and east of Washington townships. It comprises congressional townships 72 north, range 3 west, and the west two tiers of sections of congressional township 72 north, range two west, thus having 48 sections, being eight miles east and west and six miles north and south. The civil township was created in April, 1838, under the name of Round Prairie Precinct, and as then constituted also included what is now Huron Township. In April, 1848, Yellow Spring Township was reduced to its present size by partition on creation of Huron Township.

Settlement began in 1834, in section 36, with Jacob Westfall and Allen Elliot (a brother of Mrs. Westfall). The land was placed on the market in 1838. Thomas and David E. Blair, natives of Pennsylvania, prospected the region the same year and soon afterwards the former settled in sections 20 to 29, the latter in section 30, in the vicinity known as Round Prairie.

Andreas' Atlas consistently, but erroneously, names the township Yellow Springs, as also does the *History of Des Moines County* issued in 1879. The name of the township is due to a fine large spring, known as Yellow Spring, situated in the southern part of section 36 of the township, hence a locally descriptive name.¹⁷⁶

Places with the name Yellow Spring occur in Blair and Lebanon counties in Pennsylvania, and in Hampshire County, West Virginia; and as Yellow Springs in Greene County, Ohio (the home of Antioch College), and in Hancock County, Tennessee.

Yellow Spring Township was created by the Board of County Com-

¹⁷⁵Merrill spells the name Fullenwider; Antrobus gives it as Fullenweider, also three or more times as Fullenwider. He was a member of the Senate of the First Legislative Assembly of Iowa and the *Official Register of Iowa* spells the name Fullinwider, which should be the correct form, but probably is not. Two of his sons, John Huston and Samuel, were members of Company K, Fourteenth Regiment Iowa Volunteer Infantry. In the *Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers*, vol. 2, page 805, the name is given as Fullenwider. This is also the spelling used by Blair in his *Historical Address* and is undoubtedly correct.

"He yet lives, at the age of ninety-two years, at the home of his daughter, the widow of the late Judge J. W. McDill, a Creston [typographical error for Preston], Iowa."—Merrill, p. 54. See his portrait in Antrobus' *History*, I, facing p. 428.

The *Biographical Review of Des Moines County*, 1905, p. 1081, states: "Dr. Fullenwider passed away at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Narcissa J. McDill, in Preston, Iowa, Nov. 19, 1896, and was survived by the following children: J. H. Fullenwider, of Missouri; Narcissa J., the widow of the late Judge J. W. McDill, of Preston; Samuel, who is living in Belleville, Ills.; and A. L. Fullenwider, of Colorado."

¹⁷⁶Merrill, pp. 19, 198.

missioners during the session held in January, 1841, and apparently christened Yellow Springs Township. As originally constituted the newly created township comprised the present townships of Yellow Spring and Huron. During the session held in April, 1848, the eastern portion was created into a new township and named Huron.¹⁷⁷

On January 7, 1841 the Board of County Commissioners entered on the record the following: "Ordered that township 72 north, range 3 west, and township 72 north, range 2 west, including the fractional township 72 north, range 1 west, be constituted under the name of Yellow Springs Township, and that an election be had at the house of L. C. Hutchinson in the village of Yellow Springs on the first Monday of April next."¹⁷⁸

YELLOW SPRING. The name of a pioneer post office in section 36 of Yellow Spring Township in the vicinity of a spring known as Yellow Spring after which the post office was named. The post office was established on June 16, 1841, with the appointment of Elijah Wood, postmaster, who served until the name was changed, and the office transferred, to Kossuth, on May 1, 1850. A previous name of the post office was Jacksonville, which see.

The post office of Yellow Spring was re-established on October 4, 1850, with the re-appointment of Elijah Wood, postmaster. His successors were: Cyrus Claypole, March 22, 1851; and William Messenger, February 4, 1852, under whom the post office was finally discontinued on September 24, 1860.

YELLOW SPRING CREEK. This stream rises by several branches in or near the west side of section 35, the central and northwest parts of section 36, and the west side of section 31 of Yellow Spring Township, flows southeast across Benton Township, receiving numerous branches from both sides, originally reaching Tama Slough near the south side of section 2 of Tama Township, but recently changed by a drainage ditch to a channel of the Mississippi River near the center of section 1. The name of the stream is due to the large spring, known as Yellow Spring, in section 36 of Yellow Spring Township, one of the sources of the stream.

ZION. The name of a rural school in the central part of section 29 of Franklin Township. The school was named for Jonathan Zion, an early pioneer and a prominent farmer of the vicinity whose farm was adjacent to or included the site of the schoolhouse.¹⁷⁹ Mr. Zion came to the vicinity in 1839 or before.¹⁸⁰

ADDENDA

With reference to Bluff Dale (above), when the post office was re-established on July 7, 1851, the postmaster was Eber M. Bradley, after whom Bradley Lake was named.

¹⁷⁷*History of Des Moines County, 1879, pp. 402-403.*

¹⁷⁸*Antrobus, I, p. 518.*

¹⁷⁹*Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County, 1873, p. 65.*

¹⁸⁰*History of Des Moines County, 1879, p. 614.*

SUMMARY

In Des Moines County there may be found as many as 326 place-names. Of these about 98 are repetitions, thus giving a net total of 228 distinct names. The repetitions, however, almost without exception name different places, or in other words in Des Moines County there are approximately 326 places or objects with names.

The places with locally descriptive names are by far the largest group. To this class belong 185 names, or a little more than 56.7 per cent of the total number. The percentage is apparently unusually large, doubtless due to the much varied topography. The places in the next largest group, numbering 71, are in honor of local pioneers or later residents. This group exceeds 21.7 per cent of the total number, which is strikingly large. Places named after prominent men number eleven or less than 3.4 per cent, seemingly small. The total number of personal names hence is 82, or slightly over 25 per cent. The transferred names are only ten, exceeding three per cent, a very small number. Only four names of biblical origin were found, little more than 1.2 per cent. Names of ethical import are 16, nearly five per cent, a much better showing. The former Indian inhabitants are remembered in eleven names or nearly 3.4 per cent. Six names refer to animals, over 1.8 per cent. Seven places have nicknames, nearly 2.1 per cent. The residue, less 1.5 per cent, comprises mongrel or miscellaneous names, usually there being about them a deficiency of information to classify properly.

Places with locally descriptive names comprise several natural groups, depending upon the reason for the naming, such as sylvan, topographical, proximity to other places, location, and for various other obvious reasons.

Names of sylvan origin, that is places with trees about or nearby, number 25. Of creeks there are Brush, Cedar (two of them), and Cottonwood; also Cottonwood Slough. Schools bear the names of Glenwood, Hazel Grove, Lind Grove, and Piney Woods; and two with patrons aspiring have the legend "Brush College." Three cemeteries are Aspen Grove, Greenwood, and Hazel Grove; and two farm homes are Hazel Grove

and Walnut Hill. Hickory Point was a hamlet, Lind Grove is a church as well as a strip of woods, Oak Grove is a church while Spring Grove is applied to a body of timber as well as to a station. The most important sylvan name is Pleasant Grove Township. The list concludes with Timber Lake and Willow Lake.

Places named after topographic features form an impressive list. Of post offices there were Bluff Dale, Green Bay, Lavega, Limestone, Northfield, and Sand Ridge. Localities are Bluff, Cascade, Dale, Rocky Point, Sand Ridge, and Stony Lonesome. Stations are Cascade and Sandridge. Other places here classified are Cascade, a waterfall; Flint Hills, a hamlet; Island 365 and Island 371; and Mediapolis, a village; a total of 19.

With the topographical names should be included the four hills of the city of Burlington, namely: North Hill, Prospect Hill, South Hill, and West Hill. The parks may well be enumerated here; Burlington Park, Central Park, North Park, Flint Hills State Park, along with Fair Ground (the place of exposition). Here also may be mentioned Bogus Hollow, a place of evil reputation. One hamlet was named from a topographic feature, Huron, after the adjacent island of that name. Of prairies there are North Prairie and Round Prairie; after the latter there was named a pioneer precinct as well as an early church. This gives a total of 34 places of topographic interest.

There are numerous schools and school districts which naturally fall into the list of locally descriptive names, the reasons therefore varying widely according to circumstances. Local, usually independent, school districts are frequently named after some hamlet included within the district. Such districts are Danville, Kingston, Kossuth, Latty, and Northfield. Other schools named after a nearby hamlet or a post office, existing or now defunct, are Augusta, Centerville, Hawkeye, Lavega, and Spring Grove. Thus ten are listed.

Schools which derive their names from some feature of topography are Belle Plaine, Big Slough, Buena Vista, Fairview (two of them), Limestone, Park, Prairie Grove, Rock

Point, and Sandridge. Here also may be included the school district of North Prairie. This gives eleven more to those of the preceding group, a total of 21.

Schools named after nearby creeks are Cedarville, Flint River, Long Creek, Long Creek School Number 2, South Flint, Spring Creek, and Dry Branch, seven more, total 28.

Schools in the list of miscellaneous locally descriptive names are Alpha, Border Ruffian, Center, District No. 1, District No. 7 (two), Independent, Plank Road, Rising Sun, and Rock Bottom. Two schools, Franklin and Washington, are named after including townships. These twelve bring the total to forty, which is slightly more than 21.6 per cent of the locally descriptive names or little less than 12.3 per cent of the total number of names in Des Moines County.

The names of the nineteen highways, with one exception, are all locally descriptive, usually indicative of origin, location, direction or destination, and occasionally construction or use. Each is usually called a road, preceded by its proper name, as Agency, Augusta-Danville-Yarmouth, Bottom, Fort Madison, Huron and Northfield, Iowa City, Irish Ridge, Long Creek, Lower Augusta, Middle Augusta, Middletown, Mount Pleasant, Pleasant Grove, Skunk River Bottom, Upper Augusta, and Wapello, in all sixteen. There is also an early turnpike known as Plank Road, the name indicating its construction. To this group may be added Lovers Lane, a total of eighteen. Here also may be included the three railways traversing the county, namely the Burlington, Cedar Rapids, and Northern Railway; Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad; and the Muscatine, Burlington, and Southern Railway; totaling twenty-one with descriptive names.

Creeks with locally descriptive names are Big, Big Hollow (two), Cascade, Crooked, Hawkeye, Honey (two), Knotty, Long (two), Little Flint, North Fork of Flint, Spring, and Yellow Spring. To this list belongs Flint River, little more than a creek; also Spring Branch, Cold Spring Branch, and Dry Branch. This gives a total of nineteen.

Places named after nearby creeks or rivers are Des Moines County; Flint River, a township; Long Creek and Spring

Creek, churches; Skunk River Station, a stopping place on the railway; and South Flint, a former post office. Here also may be included Skunk River Bottom, self explanatory, total seven.

Owing to much bottom land there are many sloughs. Those with locally descriptive names are Dead (two), Flint, Huron, Iowa, Running, Skunk, and Whipsaw, in all eight.

Lakes with locally descriptive names are Clear, Forked, Mud, and Sand, making a total of four.

Churches with locally descriptive names are Spring Grove, Stone Church, and Yellow Spring, all three very or quite early in organization and building.

Townships named after hamlets within their borders are Augusta, Danville, Franklin, Huron, and Yellow Spring; also Flint Hills, an early precinct. Burlington Township received its name from the city. Two townships, namely Concordia and Union, were named after included schools.

Miscellaneous places with locally descriptive names number fifteen and are Franklin Mills, Huron, Pleasant Grove, and Yellow Spring, post offices; Centreville, Danville, Danville Center, and Yellow Spring, hamlets; besides Huron Station, Picnic Point (locality), Tornado (school), Rush Island, Kingston Station, West Burlington (village), and Yellow Spring (a watering place).

When the imposing list of locally descriptive names is studied there appear some interesting comparisons. The sylvan names are over 13.5 per cent of the group; highways are slightly less than 11.4 per cent; lakes, sloughs, creeks, and near creeks combined are nearly 16.8 per cent; the schools are a little more than 21.6 per cent, or, including those of sylvan origin, over 24.8 per cent; topographic features name over 18.3 per cent, or if schools of topographic interest are included over 24.3 per cent. Miscellaneous items make up the remaining 18.4 per cent.

The next largest group is that of personal names, numbering 71; places named after local pioneers or later residents, along with eleven other places named in honor of a few prominent men of the outside in some way associated with the

lives of the settlers. All in all a survey of this group makes an interesting study.

Early pioneers are recalled by eleven local, usually short-lived, post offices such as Albright, Cora, Dodgeville, Fox's Landing, Kingston, Kline, Latta, Linton, Parrish, Sperry, and Vandyke. Of these only Sperry is still existing. Some of these post offices were in or near hamlets which waned with the passing of time, though a few increased and still exist.

Places or stations with the names of early or later residents are Burkhart's Point, Garland, Kemper, Moffat's, Mullahy, Patterson, Patterson's Hollow, Ream, and Snider. Early ferries are recalled in Gibson's Ferry and Vances Ferry. Casey Prairie recalls the sturdy pioneer, Randolph Casey of the vicinity of the later hamlet of Dodgeville. There is also Mills Prairie. Other men are recalled by Crapo Park, Hunt Road, Johnson Island, Linns Point (a cemetery), O'Connell Island, O'Connell Slough, Roscoe, Starr's Cave, and Sullivan's Slough; along with Richland Tavern, its like being a convenience or a necessity to the frontier rover. A formidable array, such as they are, in all 23 of them, so far total 34.

Twelve rural schools bear the names of early settlers as Carden, Clark's, Darbyshire, Holland, Hunter, Lewins, McElhinney, Mason, Nichols, Reiter, Snyder, and Zion.

The early settlers preferred to dwell near a stream where wood and water were convenient, the water a necessity of life and wood badly needed for construction and fuel. At least nine creeks bring to mind this trait and rescue from oblivion such men as Butler, Dolbee, Haight, Hinson, Malchow, Paul, Smith (two of them), and Swank. Even the ponds recall Barlow, Black, Bowers, Cook, and Heaton. Larger bodies of water called lakes give us Bradley, Gates, Ray, and Tyler. There is also the artificial lake known as Lake Starker.

Three springs bear the names of the owners or early patrons as Breckinridge, Carter, Clark, and Johnson. The first and last name being the earlier and later name of the same spring, at one time used as a baptismal font.

A church for many years had the name of its chief promoter,

the early pioneer, Robert Avery. There is in addition Dennet Chapel.

Prominent men who were household names to the early settlers were honored as follows. Among the presidents are Jackson with a township and a post office, Lincoln by a school, and Washington by a township. The statesman Benton has a township; Franklin, the philosopher and statesman, was supposedly directly or indirectly honored by a hamlet, long since defunct, but the name is preserved by the including township and a school within its borders; Kossuth, the Hungarian patriot, receives recognition with a village; and the admirers of General Sherman bestowed his name upon a school. The political followers of John Bell of Tennessee, legislator and presidential candidate, attached his name to a school. Wesley Chapel recalls John Wesley, the founder of a church which has greatly increased its membership with the passing years. Asbury Church brings to mind a noted, early bishop thus commemorated by his admirers. Only ten men with eleven places receiving recognition; truly a small number but greatly revealing the respect held by the early settler who at best had little contact with the world beyond the great river. The pioneer lived largely within a tiny realm circumscribed by his horizon. His information he gathered mostly from those who came from beyond unto him.

A perusal of the personal and transferred names plainly indicates that the early settlers were mostly if not entirely Americans of English ancestry.

The pioneers did not have much contact with the Indians, if the short list of Indian names is at all representative. The aborigines had apparently largely removed westward before the settlers appeared. The list though short is important. Heading the list is Black Hawk Springs followed by Huron Island, aboriginal enough. Tama Town Prairie indicates the village of the chief and where he found his grave. The derivatives are Tama, the pioneer township; as well as Tama, the present day township; then there is Tama Slough, the chief's hunting ground for waterfowl. The name of the tribe Winnebago is given to a school. Oquawka Ferry is directly named

after the village at the east end of the ferry in Illinois, but the name is also indirectly of Indian origin as it is a white man's approximation to a Sauk and Fox Indian word. There is also Skunk River, a poor translation of the name given it by the Fox Indians. In addition there is the name, "Shokko-kon," one of the forms as written by the pioneers, undoubtedly originating from a Fox Indian name of a place. The list concludes with Indian Spring, probably, another name for Black Hawk Spring.

The list of biblical names is short. Only four names appear, namely Pisgah, Sharon, Shiloh, and Shinar, all churches. The reflection of the religious life of the community, however, is greatly supplemented from other lists, thus being much more than the meager present list may seem to indicate.

The pioneer had ethical ideas which he often associated with his concepts of religion. These are portrayed in the naming of fifteen schools and a post office. These names are Amity, with its derivative Amityville (a post office), Columbia, Concordia, Eureka, Excelsior (two), Harmony, Hope, Liberty (two), Union (four), along with Union Academy.

Notwithstanding their great importance to the pioneers, animals get little consideration so far as the naming of places is concerned. Only three mammals are remembered in Buffalo Springs, Otter Island, and Wolf Branch. Three names are of avian origin: Eagle Island, Swan Lake, and Swan Creek, only two birds. The list seems astonishingly brief.

There are only four separate nicknames. Bunkum and Pegtown are the names of rural schools. Jimtown is the local name for a pioneer, short-lived hamlet. The sobriquet or nickname of the state of Iowa, Hawkeye, was formerly used for a post office and is now used directly or indirectly for two schools and a creek. In two other cases, a creek and a school, the use of the name Hawkeye appears to be locally descriptive. In all there are seven places with nicknames.

The transferred names number only ten. These are Augusta, Burlington, Columbus, Danville, Middletown, and Yarmouth, pioneer villages; Hartford and Navarre, early post

offices; Mount Vernon, a school; and Rock Spring, a church.

The residue comprises five names which may temporarily be classified as unknown. These are Diamond, a school, perhaps an ethical name; Fan, the name of a long since discontinued post office which may have been named for some member of the postmaster's family; Fernal Island, possibly a personal name or else in some way connected with the steamboat navigation; Green College, a school, perhaps a personal name or an allusion to color used in decorating the building; and Portland, a school, the name itself directly or indirectly going back to Portland, Maine.

An attentive review of the whole subject as here presented brings an overwhelming conclusion. The pioneer with innate spontaneousness evidently named places to fit obvious conditions. The process of thought must fit into his life or he would have none of it. Anything else was beyond his ken so far as he cared. Though many were heavily endowed with native ability, the inevitable mental concept, if any, was why should he live and work beyond his horizon or otherwise than as to him was obviously indicated.

The long list of locally descriptive names fitted conditions as the pioneer found them, becoming a part of his life and activities. The list records 185, or over 56.7 per cent. The names of 71 settlers are attached to the landscape or constructions throughout the county. The ten prominent men from the outside honored in eleven names were only those who reached the life of the settlers. The personal names add 82 in number and over 25.1 per cent, total so far 267 or 81.9 per cent. The transferred names, ten, over three percent, reflect old home ties or early attachments. Ethical ideas and religious affiliations gave twenty additions, over six per cent, total 297 or 91.1 per cent. That the Indians affected the settlers but little is shown by only eleven names; the animals, beyond the necessary routine of life, less, six names; the sense of humor found an outlet in nicknames, only a few of which have been preserved, seven names, total 321 names or nearly 98.5 per cent. So far as a reflection of the lives of the settlers is concerned, a full record of the five remaining

names would doubtless give an even hundred per cent. In other words the true pioneer in a large measure lived until himself; self-reliant, unafraid, immutable,¹⁸¹ and imperturbable. From him came the veterans for the impending conflict.

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