

John A. Kasson, a native of New York, began the practice of law in Des Moines, about 1857, the year following the removal of the capital there from Iowa City. He at once went to the front in his profession. Conservative in his instincts, of fine presence and genial ways, he became the choice of the young Republicans of Des Moines to represent them at the national convention in Chicago, and he was one of the men who assisted in bringing Abraham Lincoln before the people as presidential candidate. From that day until his presidency at the late Centennial in Philadelphia, Mr. Kasson has been pretty well known to fame. The little frontier town of 1857 has certainly a remarkable record in sending forth three such familiar names as Deacon White, John A. Kasson and Hub Hoxie. —An Iowa Newspaper, 1887.

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Ghost towns of Iowa retain interest for many persons long after the last hitching posts have vanished. Additions and corrections come frequently to the "List of Abandoned Towns, Villages and Postoffices of Iowa" compiled by David C. Mott, then editor of the Annals of Iowa and published some dozen years ago, giving the names of about 2,500 such places. Wilbur G. Benedict, secretary of the Guthrie County Historical society, writes from Casey, noting a change in the record of location of Ridgeway, due to a change in the township boundaries. Ridgeway was in Beaver township, but there were two Sections 28, and the one where Ridgeway was located prior to Civil War days was "in the north section of panhandle on the old Newton ridge trail." Members of the historical society recently made a tour of the county and retraced some of the old trails and decided upon location of such places as harbor Stage station, Gopher station and Dalmanutha. The marking of the sites of these and hundreds of other Iowa ghost towns would be a worthy project for the centennial year.

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