

may change the name of the Church to United or Union Presbyterian."

THE REFORMED PROTESTANT DUTCH CHURCH.

The Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Davenport, not mentioned in Mr. Barrows' history above, is here briefly sketched by the Editor of the Annals. It was organized, with eleven members, October 29, 1859, by a Committee of the Classis of Illinois, consisting of Rev. E. P. Livingston and Rev. C. D. Eltinge, Rev. C. G. Van Derveer, the minister of the congregation, being present.

The first Consistory of the church was composed of Elders L. S. Viele and Anthony Van Wyck, with Deacon John R. Rogers.

A neat church edifice, seating two hundred and fifty persons, was erected, at a cost of three thousand five hundred dollars, on Brady street, corner of Eleventh, and dedicated on the 16th of September, 1860, when Rev. C. G. Van Derveer was installed as Pastor. The church, in 1863, numbered forty members, and the Sunday School, ninety.

Rev. C. G. Van Derveer was educated at the Dutch Reformed Theological Seminary in New Brunswick, N. J. He has constantly officiated in his charge at Davenport, except during a short time as Chaplain of the Eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, which was captured at the battle of Shiloh or Pittsburg Landing. After which he resumed his charge at Davenport.

CHAPTER V.

PLEASANT VALLEY TOWNSHIP.

1833.—No one who has passed through that portion of our county lying upon the river, above Davenport, called Pleasant Valley, terminating at the point of bluff at the mouth of Spencer's Creek, can for a moment forget its natural beauty. A short distance above East Davenport, the bluffs recede from the river, leaving the bottom lands a mile wide, very little of

which ever overflow. The gently sloping bluffs continue for several miles, sometimes approaching and then receding from the river, forming at times landscape views of unsurpassed beauty. And now that these lands are dotted over with tasteful and well cultivated farms and gardens, from the river even to the top of the bluffs in places, it presents one of the most lovely rural scenes upon the Upper Mississippi. This lovely valley received its very appropriate name from one of its earliest settlers, Mrs. J. A. Birchard, who now lives there to enjoy the fruits of her early toil and privations. *

The first settlement of that valley was coeval with that of Buffalo Township. In the fall of 1833, Roswell H. Spencer, Esq., built a log cabin upon the bank of the river a little below the present ferry-landing from Hampton, on the opposite side of the river, to Valley City, a town laid out upon this side of the river. The same strata of limestone rock that underlay Rock Island and its vicinity crop out along the entire length of this valley and, in fact, to the head of the Rapids. There are some springs of pure, cold water, gushing forth at the base of the bluffs, near Messrs. Spencer's and Birchard's, on Duck Creek, and on Crow Creek, called in Indian "Kaw-ka-kaw-sepo." The timber lands, called "Spencer's Woods," were of immense value to this part of Scott county, in furnishing abundant material for the settlement of Pleasant Valley. Some of the best farms in Iowa are in this valley and upon the prairie back of it in the same township, owned by A. J. Hyde and brother, the Henleys, Donaldsons, Hawleys and others, who retain their original possessions obtained among the first of Scott county.

1834—During the winter of 1833 and 1834, J. B. Chamberlin, Esq., moved into the cabin built by Mr. Spencer, his being the first white family in the valley. In February or March, they had a son born, who was the first white child born in the township. In the Spring of 1834, Mr. Chamberlin built a cabin on the bank of the river, a little above the mouth of Crow Creek, which is still standing, and is upon the farm now owned by G. B. and D. S. Hawley, Esqs. In addition to Mr. Spencer and Chamberlin, the first settlers, were Mr. Daniel Davison, Calvin Spencer and James Thompson.

1835.—In 1835 Davis and Haskel built a grist-mill, the first ever built in the county, or in this part of the State. It was situated on Crow Creek just above where the present river road crosses that stream, and although of most rude primitive kind, having two common boulders, rough hewn, for stones, yet it was one of the most essential improvements of that age. Settlers came from a great distance for several years to this mill. It was a log building, and after serving the public faithfully for many years it was allowed to tumble to decay. A saw-mill, the first in the county, was also built in this valley in 1835, by Capt. Clark, of Buffalo. This was situated on Duck Creek, near its mouth. These two mills humble as they were, supplied the wants of the early settlers, not only of Pleasant Valley, but all the surrounding country for many miles. The immigrants into this township were Mr. M. J. Lyman, James Haskel, Thomas Davis, B. F. Pike, D. C. Davison, G. M. Pineo, H. H. Pineo, and Avery Pineo.

1836.—In the Spring of 1836, this little settlement found themselves struggling and buffeting against the pressure and privations incident to a pioneer life, but with brave hearts and iron nerve they toiled on, full of hope for the future. During the year they had an acquisition to their number of upwards of twenty families. This put new courage into their hearts, and the valley began to give way from her original beauty to that of the cultivated field and the benefits and blessings of a civilized life. Among the immigrants of this year, was Mr. John Works, who was elected subsequently to the office of County Commissioner, which office he filled till 1841. He was a plain, unassuming man of excellent judgment and sterling integrity. Also among others were Thomas Jones, Stephen Henley, Andrew J. Hyde, Alfred White, H. G. Stone, J. A. Birchard, Samuel and Wheeler Hedges, Anson Rowe, Lewis Blackman, William Trask, Franklin Rowe, Hiram Green, John Wilson, Royal Gilman, S. H. Gilman, John J. Clark, John Tuttle, Daniel Wyman, and Geo. W. Thorn, most of whom are now living and counted among Scott County's earliest and best supporters.

Messrs. Haskel & Davis built a saw-mill near the mouth of

Crow Creek on the Mississippi River, which was afterwards purchased by Stephen Henley, who made important additions and improvements, and it is still in possession of his heirs. A Post Office was established, called "Pleasant Valley," J. A. Birchard, P. M., an appointment which he probably held longer than any similar officer in the State. In June, Simeon Chamberlin was born, (son of J. B. Chamberlin,) who now lives in Le Claire, and probably the oldest person living who was born in Pleasant Valley Township. In the fall of 1836, Mr. Chamberlin's wife died and two of their children, one of which was the first child born in the valley.

1837.—The immigrants of this year were Lyman Smith, Ernest Gould, D. N. Pope, Capt. Isaac Hawley, Cyrus P. Hawley, William P. Eldridge, G. J. Hyde, Jerry Payne, Robert Scroggins, John Campbell and William Nichols. Messrs. Spencer & Work built the third saw-mill in the county, this Summer, on Spencer's Creek, a small stream that empties into the Mississippi near Valley City. This creek was called by the Indians Wau-pe-me-me-sepo (White Pigeon Creek.) The Messrs. Hedges built the second grist-mill and the saw-mill, of the county, this Summer, on Crow Creek, some four miles from its mouth, making the stones from common boulders found upon the prairies. It is a remarkable fact, that up to this date, although the settlement was begun and progressed rapidly up and down the river and back into the interior as far as the Cedar river, where mill privileges were numerous, yet Scott County had more mills in operation than all the country for forty miles and many settlers came that distance to mill.

1838.—The immigrants of 1838 were G. W. Fenno, Thomas Hall, Isaac Hedges, John Emerson, Lucius Moss, Horace Bradley and A. B. Lathrop. These settled in various parts of the Valley, many of whom still live. The progress of the settlement was slow but substantial.

1839.—Among the many who came in 1839, we notice the names of Johnson and Boyington, who built a distillery, the first we believe, ever introduced into Scott County. But, like many others who have undertaken the manufacture of spiritous liquors, they failed in the enterprise and removed to other parts.

1849.—Like other places in the Far West, this settlement found many difficulties to encounter during the long and dreary years from 1840 to 1850. The increase of immigration was slow. No public works or expenditure of Government money was expected at that day, and all depended alike upon the culture of the soil for sustenance. They built houses and opened farms; they instituted schools for the education of their children, and built churches in which to worship; so that in 1850, Pleasant Valley Township, as a rural district, stood foremost among the settlements of Scott county. The early settlers were men of nerve and ability, and well knew that honest industry was sure of reward; and many now live to enjoy the fruits of their early labor.

One peculiarity, not only of the adaptation of the soil of Pleasant Valley, but of her people, is the raising of onions. In all Iowa, and probably nowhere west of the Mississippi river, are there so many onions raised as in this township. Tens of thousands of bushels are annually shipped as the products of this Valley. From three to four hundred bushels to the acre is considered a common crop, while some have raised as many as *five* and even *six hundred bushels* to the acre. The onions raised are of a most excellent quality, and bring the highest price in the Southern market.

Among the prominent citizens of this township is Mr. J. A. Birchard, who represented this county in the Legislature in 1838-9. He has at times assessed the county, and been a public superintendent of the highways. His sound, sterling principles, have ever received the confidence and respect of all who know him. He is said to be one of the best farmers of our county, and takes much pains in raising stock and fruit. He retains the original lands occupied in his first settlement. Having erected new and substantial buildings, he lives at his ease, enjoying that comfort which his industry and perseverance have secured.

Roswell H. Spencer, one of the first settlers of the Valley, is a farmer, but his attention has been turned more particularly to mills and milling. From an early day, Mr. Spencer has furnished lumber for improvements in this portion of the

county, and done much towards advancing the interests of the settlement. In 1856 or '57, he erected, at a heavy cost, a large steam flouring mill near his residence in Valley City, which has done a very good business.

Capt. Isaac Hawley, another old settler, is, with his sons George B. and Daniel S. Hawley, one of the largest farmers in the Valley. His early success in raising onions was his first step towards his future prosperity. His life has been lengthened out to a good old age, and he lives, blest with all the comforts of life, respected by all who know him, happy in his declining years to look back upon the scenes through which he has passed, and feel that his life has not been spent in vain.

Stephen Henley was another of the pioneers who settled in the Valley at an early day, and did much towards the progress of agriculture, besides manufacturing lumber to considerable extent. He died about the year 1850, leaving a large estate to his children, and an unblemished character.

Christopher Rowe settled in 1851, and although he has been for many years a non-resident of the Valley, yet his early efforts in behalf of the infant settlement will long be remembered. His open and generous heart has often made glad the weak and discouraged, while his aid and his counsel inspired confidence in those who languished under the severe trials incident to a frontier life.

Andrew J. Hyde and brother were among the first who opened farms upon the prairie back from the river, and still retain the lands upon which they first settled, and rank among the best farmers of Scott county. Andrew J. Hyde was the member elect to the Legislature in 1846, and served with much acceptance to his constituents.

CHAPTER VI.

LE CLAIRE TOWNSHIP.

1834.—At the treaty in 1832, with the Sac and Fox Indians, at Davenport (see chap. first of this Hist.) they gave to Antoine Le Claire, Esq., a section of land at the head of the

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