

The
PALIMPSEST
APRIL 1945
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THE PURPOSE OF THIS MAGAZINE

THE PALIMPSEST, issued monthly by the State Historical Society of Iowa, is devoted to the dissemination of Iowa History. Supplementing the other publications of this Society, it aims to present the materials of Iowa History in a form that is attractive and a style that is popular in the best sense—to the end that the story of our Commonwealth may be more widely read and cherished.

BENJ. F. SHAMBAUGH

THE MEANING OF PALIMPSEST

In early times a palimpsest was a parchment or other material from which one or more writings had been erased to give room for later records. But the erasures were not always complete; and so it became the fascinating task of scholars not only to translate the later records but also to reconstruct the original writings by deciphering the dim fragments of letters partly erased and partly covered by subsequent texts.

The history of Iowa may be likened to a palimpsest which holds the records of successive generations. To decipher these records of the past, reconstruct them, and tell the stories which they contain is the task of those who write history.

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THE PALIMPSEST

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Large State or Small

The constitution of the United States provides that the "Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State". Accordingly, representation in the United States Senate depends, not upon geographical area, population, wealth, or politics, but rather upon Statehood. If any special interest prevails in a region, the support of that interest in the Senate is proportional to the number of States in the region. In the House of Representatives, however, population is the basis of representation, so that the will of the majority prevails even if the majority lives in a few States. Against the majority in the House a minority interest which is dominant in half the States can be sustained in the Senate.

In 1845 the division of the nation over slavery was perfectly clear. The populous North favored free labor while the South clung to Negro slavery. Since the agricultural South was outnumbered by the industrial North in the House of Representa-

tives, the Senate afforded the only bastion of political defense. It was imperative for southern statesmen to retain equal or superior voting power in the Senate. This issue, as everybody knows, became the primary consideration in the admission of new States into the Union.

By 1800 there were sixteen States in the Union — eight in the North and eight in the South. Ohio was admitted in 1803 and for nine years the North had the advantage until Louisiana became a State. Indiana and Mississippi were paired in 1816 and 1817, Alabama (1819) balanced Illinois (1818), the Missouri Compromise of 1820 legalized slavery in Missouri while admitting Maine as a free State, and Arkansas (1836) and Michigan (1837) maintained the political equilibrium of the Senate. According to the census of 1840 the thirteen free States had 135 Representatives in the House while the thirteen slave States had only eighty-eight.

At that time Florida had long been seeking admission to the Union. When Iowa applied for admission, a bill was promptly introduced in the House of Representatives, on January 7, 1845, to admit them both together. But a new factor presently altered the equanimity of the North. A joint resolution authorizing the annexation of Texas was introduced in Congress. The only compar-

able area in the North was Wisconsin and Iowa Territories, and the plains west of the Missouri River which were then thought to be barren and uninhabitable. Northern Congressmen, the natural political friends of Iowa, were anxious to form as many States as possible out of the country east of the Missouri River. Accordingly, Representative Alexander Duncan of Ohio proposed an amendment to the Florida-Iowa enabling act which would have materially reduced the size of the proposed State of Iowa. In presenting this matter he displayed a map of the revised boundaries to illustrate the relation of the new State to the remaining territory in that section of the country.

The men who had written the constitution of Iowa in 1844 had been filled with local pride. They had envisioned the new State as a great agricultural commonwealth lying between the two mighty rivers and extending north to embrace part of the rich valley of the Minnesota River. These were natural boundaries of this wide expanse of fertile soil, which the Iowa constitution-makers conceived as a geographical unit, not as a political pawn to balance the power of the South in the United States Senate. The natural boundaries, proposed by Robert Lucas, would have made Iowa larger than Michigan but not as large as Missouri.

The Duncan amendment would have substituted boundaries suggested by J. N. Nicollet who had recently explored and mapped the region. He thought Iowa ought to extend westward only to longitude $94^{\circ} 30'$, corresponding roughly to the divide between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. This line is about fifty miles west of Des Moines. Thus Iowa would have included only about two-thirds of the area embraced in the State as defined by the constitution of 1844.

The western and northern boundaries proposed by Representative Duncan would have included eleven counties in what is now southeastern Minnesota, but would have cut off thirty-one counties of the Missouri slope. The State would have been about one hundred and eighty miles wide from east to west, and about two hundred and fifty miles long from north to south. Thus, the geographical center of the State would have been in Black Hawk County and probably Cedar Falls or Waterloo would have become the capital.

Representative Aaron V. Brown of Tennessee, chairman of the Committee on Territories, replied that "There had been various propositions submitted to the committee; various maps had been examined by them; the question of boundary investigated by them with much care; and the conclusion to which they had come was to adhere to

the boundary asked for by the people of Iowa, who were there, who had settled the country, and whose voice should be listened to in the matter. The State, as bounded by the bill, and as agreed upon by the Committee on Territories," he continued, "was smaller than Missouri or Virginia, and about the same size as Michigan; and on the score of territories there could be no just cause of complaint. The committee believed that the boundaries, as designated on the map, and asked for by the people of the Territory, were the best ones."

Representative Duncan insisted that notwithstanding what the gentleman from Tennessee had said about the comparative sizes of States, Iowa as bounded in the constitution, would include "double or treble the valuable land" to be found in others. He said that the reason for proposing the change "was not political", but was done in order "to leave the boundaries in the best manner, so that other States could be formed." Iowa would still contain 39,400 square miles — "an area as large as Ohio or New York, and larger, in point of fertility of soil, than any two States in the United States."

Representative Samuel F. Vinton of Ohio favored the Duncan amendment and spoke vigorously in support of it. He said that Iowa with the

constitutional boundaries "would contain three or four times as much population as Florida." Moreover, he said that there was a proposal to divide Florida into two States when either part should contain a population of 35,000. He contended that if Florida were divided there should be a proviso for dividing Iowa, and he argued that "it would be safer to give political power to the West, than to the Atlantic States, for the West was the great conservative power of the Union."

While this matter was pending, Texas was annexed with a proviso that it might later be divided into five States. This tended to increase the weight of the arguments presented by Representative Duncan. Though Texas never was divided, that possibility continued to be a constant threat to northern supremacy in the Senate. In order to hold a balance of power, northern statesmen argued with great force that Iowa should be admitted only with the reduced boundaries. Indeed, so effective were these arguments that on March 3rd, Congress passed the legislative act as amended by the Duncan proposal, and the *Congressional Globe* reported that in the House of Representatives there were cries of "Good! That makes 29 stars." Apparently Texas was already being counted as a State on the basis of the annexation resolution adopted two days earlier, though the

act of admission was not passed until December 29, 1845.

The geographical curtailment imposed by Congress was a great disappointment to citizens of Iowa who had hoped for a new State that would extend from the Mississippi to the Missouri. They had voted in favor of Statehood in 1844 but popular ratification of the constitution which had been framed that year was delayed until Congress should approve. The date finally set for the election was April 7, 1845. During March resentment grew against the attitude of Congress.

On the day following the passage of the enabling act, Augustus C. Dodge, Iowa's Delegate to Congress, who had previously labored to obtain the larger boundaries, addressed a letter to his constituents, in which he assumed the rôle of a defeatist. Urging the people to accept the smaller boundaries, he said: "I must in all candor inform you that, whatever your decision on the first Monday of April next may be, we will not be able hereafter under any circumstances, to obtain *one square mile more* for our new State than is contained within the boundaries adopted by the act of Congress admitting Iowa into the Union."

Some of the leading newspapers of the Territory assumed a similar attitude. On March 15th, the Iowa City *Capital Reporter* expressed doubt

that the change was after all such a great loss to Iowa. The prairie lands were perhaps not as fertile as had been acclaimed. Suppose, the editor speculated, that the rich valley of the Mississippi should be inhabited by a dense population, but the comparatively barren country of the Missouri slope be capable of sustaining only a sparse population, would not discordant political interests develop? "Would it not be better that a State should be formed upon the Mississippi, another upon the Missouri, where the interests of each would be perfectly within its own control?"

A few days later the same editor pointed out that he had "never insisted that our Constitution was perfect;" but he did think it possessed "every essential feature of a good Republican system of government," and had no doubt that it would increase the happiness and prosperity of the people. Nevertheless he admitted that there were "some provisions, which, hereafter, may require amendment, but to reject the Constitution, for any fancied defect, would be an act of positive folly or something worse. To throw the expenses of another Convention and another Constitution upon our infant resources would be an act, at once unnecessary and suicidal."

To allay opposition to the boundary changes he held out the hope that Congress might, at the

next session, "increase our boundaries to the limits prescribed by the Constitution: or if we are unable to procure such favorable action, we say let us avail ourselves of the benefits of the Union under the best conditions we are able to obtain."

In order to emphasize this position, the *Capital Reporter* reprinted an editorial from the *Baltimore American*, arguing that Iowa with reduced boundaries would still be capable of sustaining fifteen million inhabitants. "The people of the West are accustomed to things on a gigantic scale," the writer said. "Their rivers, forests, prairies, cataracts and caverns are of the sublime order; their lakes are inland seas; they measure pork by the cord, and mass meetings by the acre. It is quite natural, therefore, that they should wish everyone of their States to be in dimensions an empire."

The question confronting the Iowa voters was confusing. Some entertained the view that to ratify the constitution would be to approve also the amendments made by Congress. Others thought that the constitution might be adopted and the amendments rejected or altered at a later date. Many had no opportunity to examine the act of Congress and were not clear as to its meaning.

Certainly the people of Iowa were not convinced that the advantages of Statehood outweighed the restricted area. They did not believe

that they had to accept the Congressional boundaries. They did not agree with the *Capital Reporter* that to incur the expense of another convention and another constitution would be suicidal. Nor were they hopeful that Iowa would ever approximate the population then occupying the whole nation — about twenty million. Rather they resolved to demand the larger boundaries, and so, on the first Monday in April, the people voted by a majority of 996 to reject the constitution as amended by the Congress.

The Legislative Assembly, in anticipation of the admission of Iowa into the Union, had postponed the regular session until May, 1845. In his message to the legislature, Governor John Chambers expressed regret that the constitution of 1844 had been rejected. He urged that a measure be passed for convening another constitutional convention.

Members of the Legislative Assembly, however, favored resubmitting the original constitution without the Congressional boundary changes. In support of this view, Shepherd Leffler, a member of the Council, argued that the boundaries as proposed by Congress would provide "a handsome little State, on a small scale, with dry lines". He would not accept this because he thought Iowa might "do a great deal better, and there is no

danger of doing worse." Congress would allow these boundaries any time. We have always "entertained the fond opinion", he said, "that Iowa was to become eventually, one of the largest and most powerful States of the confederacy — but if we accept these narrow strait-laced limits offered by Congress, we would be reduced at once and forever, to the condition of a fifteenth-rate State, shorn of all our glories, and might well exclaim in the language of the disappointed cardinal, 'a long farewell to all our greatness'." The only course then "which we can properly pursue," he contended, "is to submit the constitution to the people with the old boundaries as fixed by the convention."

Following this leadership, the Assembly on June 10, 1845, passed a bill to resubmit the original constitution to the people. This measure stipulated that the acceptance of the constitution did not imply an acceptance of the boundaries proposed by Congress. Furthermore, any proposed changes that Congress might make would not become operative until approved by another vote of the people. Governor Chambers did not approve this measure, but it was passed over his veto. And so the constitution of 1844 was submitted for the second time to the people of the Territory at the August election in 1845.

The Iowa City *Capital Reporter* expressed the opinion that Whig politicians sought to confuse the issue by again assuming that an acceptance of the constitution would amount to acquiescence in the smaller boundaries as proposed by Congress. Whether or not there was a deliberate attempt to confuse the voters, it seems clear that there was in fact a lack of complete understanding. It was reported that in Burlington alone, fifty people voted against the constitution under "false impression". Perhaps in other areas where information was less complete there may have been even more confusion. At all events, at the second election the constitution was again rejected, and this despite the fact that the legislative measure providing for the election specifically stated that an acceptance of the constitution did not imply an acceptance of the boundaries as proposed by Congress.

At the August election a majority of the votes in eleven of the twenty-two counties were favorable to the constitution, while a majority in the other eleven counties were opposed to it. The total vote for the constitution was 7235, and the total vote against it 7656. Thus the constitution was rejected by a majority of only 421 votes.

The act of Congress admitting Iowa and Florida to the Union still remained in the statutes at

large, but Iowa had no constitution for the formation of a State government. The decision still remained with the people. Even if Congress should approve of the original constitution of 1844, the citizens would have to ratify it at another election before the Territory could become a State. It seemed better to start all over again. The constitution of 1846 was submitted to and adopted by the people before it was submitted to Congress.

J. A. SWISHER

A Magic Lantern Lecture

In a diary of the late William Alexander Wilson of Waterloo, Iowa, is the following entry for Thursday, October 18, 1894. "A. Bonheur and brother here. To give entertainment later." On Saturday, November 3, 1894, reference is made to "A CHURCH ENTERTAINMENT" in connection with "COMPANY" at the Wilson home.

For many years the writer of this story has hoped to find more proof of the visit of "A. Bonheur and brother" to Cedar Falls and Mount Hope Church. But time has netted no profits for, as far as known, only two persons are now living who know of the Bonheur brothers' appearance at the rural church in Black Hawk County.

A conversation with the late Emma I. Allen of Waterloo in September, 1939, on the data recorded in Mr. Wilson's diary, served to refresh as well as confirm the memories of the writer, who was then twelve years of age. Mrs. Allen stated that "A" stood for Rosa Bonheur's brother "Auguste". It is entirely possible that the brother who was traveling with Auguste (who at the time was about 66 years old) was the younger brother Raymond, and that the lad with them, known "as

a nephew", was Raymond's son. Their identity must pass into oblivion as far as first names are concerned.

Coupled with family reminiscence and the diary of Mr. Wilson, the writer's memory runs as follows: Just home from school and dashing out of the house with the usual piece of "after school" bread, butter, and jam, I ran full tilt into my father and a strange man about to enter the house. At that moment my ever-present playmate, a dog "Boise", jumped up and grabbed my lunch out of my hand. It was a moment of chagrin for me as I stopped short with the impressive visitor amused at the scene, and my father looking very stern. I quickly skipped out of sight as the two entered the house, and I made a mental note of the so-called "livery rig" tied at the hitching post.

Mr. Wilson, who recorded the items in his diary, was my father. He was a trustee of the church and superintendent of the Sunday School of Mount Hope Church. It was through my father's friends at the State Normal School in Cedar Falls that Monsieur A. Bonheur had learned of the possibility of obtaining consent to present the magic lantern pictures and lecture in the church.

When the distinguished gentleman and my father came out of the house a little later, my

father said: "Perle, this is Monsieur Bonheur. He says he is a brother of the woman artist, Rosa Bonheur, and he is going to give us a program at the church soon." The man took my hand and laughed about the "dog getting my lunch". He then said, "Tell all the children at school about the magic lantern show, or pictures you are going to see. Get them all out, for they have never seen anything like it before. When I come back, we will have more fun with your dog."

How did it happen that Auguste Bonheur, his brother, and Rosa's nephew were giving illustrated lectures in Iowa in the fall of 1894? The gentlemen explained that during the Chicago World's Fair in 1893 they had come to supervise and guard the exhibit of their famous sister, Rosa, at the Fair. This afforded them a good opportunity to see America. After the Fair was over, the Bonheur brothers, who had also shown their scenic lantern views at the Fair, decided to travel farther west and finance their trip by their exhibitions.

Auguste Bonheur was himself an artist of note, but at the time of the Chicago World's Fair there was probably no artist in the world who held the admiration of the people of the United States more than his sister, Rosa Bonheur. Throughout the length and breadth of the land her handiwork

was familiar. Pictured on calendars, in colored prints, and in lithograph were to be seen "The Old Monarch", "Oxen Ploughing", "Coming from the Fair", "A Noble Charger", "On the Alert", "Changing Pastures", "Morning in the Highlands", "Lions at Rest", "Sheep", "Straits of Ballachulish", and, of course, the famous "Horse Fair", purchased by Cornelius Vanderbilt for the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

Publicity for events of public interest in 1894 was provided by advertisement in local weekly newspapers, hand bills placed in stores or public places, on doorsteps, or taken home by school children, or by word carried to their social affairs by the young people. Anyway, in those days before the telephone, radio, and daily paper, people did know what was going on and where.

On November 2nd, my sister Asenath and I were overwhelmed with excitement by the arrival of a "great golden wagon, drawn by white horses" at our Mount Hope Farm home. It is not possible now to describe the thrills we experienced at the sight of the spectacular wagon. It was not a circus wagon. I would like to call it a gilded trailer of the gay nineties. In this wagon the Bonheur brothers carried the mysterious magic lantern equipment. Built for them in France, it

was nearly square in shape. This elaborate wagon house was furnished with a charcoal stove, two berths "built in" on one side, a table, and a wardrobe for clothes. Directly in the center over the table hung a picture of various members of the Bonheur family grouped around Rosa. Other pictures were hung or fitted into the space provided for them. The outside was decorated with lions' heads, painted, we were told, by "our sister Rosa". In the front and outside of the wagon proper was a place for the driver. A small door opened into the main compartment. The young nephew, who drove the horses and cared for them, slept on the long seat in front.

I can not forget the fun we had with the lad and his enjoyment of our pets and beautiful surroundings. The lovely white horses were turned into a pasture to gallop and roll in freedom. Over the fence, perchance, these horses from France might have rubbed noses with the Morgan colts and Cleveland Bay trotters that my father raised.

Saturday, November 3, 1894, was the date of the Bonheur program. On the afternoon of that day the huge golden wagon was moved from the Wilson lawn to the yard of Mount Hope Church, and preparations were made for the evening performance.

When we arrived at the church that evening,

we found Monsieur A. Bonheur, dressed in his best Paris-made clothes: A frock coat, a high silk hat, and a cane which was later used as a pointer. The other two men were dressed in the French guard uniforms they had worn at the World's Fair. The church was crowded with people and it fell to my father's lot to introduce the speaker, A. Bonheur. The machine was operated by the other man. The lad sold the admission tickets from the wagon, and two local youths, Harry Allen and Frank G. Wilson, "took tickets" at the door.

The equipment of the Bonheurs apparently included a kinoscope which simulated moving objects. This kind of magic lantern was, of course, something to be marveled at, especially since several inventors lived in the community. One of them was then trying, in his own way, to invent perpetual motion. The kinoscope was a primitive type of motion picture projector. Lumière had been experimenting with this type of magic lantern in France, and Edison had developed a successful machine for taking and projecting pictures of races and other activities. My husband, Louis B. Schmidt, professor of history at Iowa State College, remembers "a much publicized event" at the Belle Plaine opera house in 1896 when a "boxing exhibit was presented on a screen

with a kinoscope." The Bonheur display in the Mount Hope Church was two years earlier.

Most of the pictures exhibited by the Frenchmen were of famous scenic places in Europe. A few showed Rosa Bonheur at her home and with the horses and other animals she loved to paint. I recall well "Highland Cattle" and "Monarch of all the Surveys". The scenes of Switzerland I still can see in memory distinctly.

It was the climax of the program that startled the whole audience and sent my sister and two little boy friends with us under the church pews for refuge.

The final picture was a moving train crossing a high trestle over a gorge. The bridge, suspended from mountain-side to mountain-side presented, in color effect, an inspiring scene. The spellbound audience applauded loudly and insisted on seeing the picture again and again. The brilliant colors, the dashing stream, and the sound of the little train seemed perfectly real. Suddenly the operator brought the show to a crashing climax. The bridge across the rocky gorge collapsed and down, down went the racing train with a deafening crash. Broken and in flames at the bottom of the stream, it came to its fantastic doom. The horror struck both old and young but, to my knowledge, we four youngsters were all that managed to duck

under the pews to safety. Well I recall being dragged out of our hiding place by our laughing parents.

On Sunday the Bonheur brothers went to church with the Wilson family in the afternoon. As usual guests came from the church service to our house for Sunday supper. This time the main attraction was to meet the Bonheurs and see their interesting wagon and the strong white horses. Autograph albums, one of which still exists, were brought out. I had a sketch of the paw of my kitten, "Cooky", drawn in my arithmetic book by A. Bonheur.

On Monday morning, November 5, 1894, the Bonheur brothers hitched up their horses to their wagon and drove away. I do not know their destination, but the inspiration of that childhood experience has endured. In fact every one around became potential artists, lecturers, or owners of a magic lantern. One young woman went away to study art in Chicago.

Many years later, when my sister and I stood for the first time before Rosa Bonheur's "Horse Fair" in the Metropolitan Art Museum of New York City, we could not refrain from reminiscing. If any other visitors had paused to listen, they might have been surprised at our conversation.

"Do you remember, when Rosa's brother held

your hand to guide it when drawing the head of a lion?" I suggested.

"Remember how you sat on the lap of Auguste Bonheur, when he drew your kitten's paw?" she replied.

Yes, inspiration did come to Iowa's youth "way back in the gay nineties". It really was a magic lantern lighting the way.

G. PERLE SCHMIDT

Six Miles Square

Iowa is divided into ninety-nine counties, and each county is divided into townships. Civil townships vary in size, in shape, in population, in productivity, in social, political, commercial, industrial, and religious interests. A typical Iowa township, however, corresponds to the land-survey township which is an area six miles square. Within that local area are families, schools, churches, and a multitude of other institutions, which, by and large, are very similar to the personnel, the schools, the churches, and the varied interests of any one of the hundreds of other townships in Iowa. Accordingly, Dayton Township in Cedar County may be regarded as a typical Iowa township, six miles square.

Dayton Township slopes gently from the north and south toward the center where a small stream called Mill Creek flows eastward. The name of the creek was derived from the circumstance that a mill used to be situated near its confluence with the Wapsipinicon River at Oxford Mills in Jones County. The higher ground of the southwest part of the township is the watershed between the Cedar and Wapsipinicon rivers. To the south of

this divide, Sugar Creek and Rock Creek which flow into the Cedar River have their origin. The northern part of the township is quite flat and, until tilled, was rather marshy. Other than the patch of timber in the east central part of the township which is called Onion Grove and is about a mile long and half a mile wide, the rest of the township was found by the earliest settlers to be prairie and covered by typical long tough grass.

Why did the pioneer settlers name this area Dayton Township, rather than Robinson or Mill Creek? There was a political reason. The first settlers came to this region in 1844, but were so few and far between that more than a decade passed before the township was given a permanent name. Meanwhile, James K. Polk became President of the United States and an area comprising three standard townships was organized as Polk Township, which was later divided into three parts. One of these parts was called Massillon Township for a city in Ohio. Another was called Fremont Township in honor of John Charles Fremont, the first Republican presidential nominee in 1856, and the third was called Dayton Township in honor of William Dayton, the vice-presidential nominee. If there were Democrats or Whigs in that part of Cedar County in those days they were not as aggressive as their Republican

neighbors in the matter of adopting place names.

The first settlers in what is now Dayton Township were Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Robinson who settled in the timber on the banks of Mill Creek. In 1847, a son was born to this pioneer family. Thus William S. Robinson was the first white child born in this area. In the same year, the Moses Garrison family migrated from Jones County to become the second family in Dayton Township.

Other pioneer families included those of William Laughrey, Mr. and Mrs. Snow, James Girard, and Mr. and Mrs. Ayers. The Frink and Decker families settled on the banks of Mill Creek in what came to be known as Dayton Valley in the northeast part of the township.

Mrs. Snow is charged with having brought the butter weed to Dayton Township. It was one of her dooryard plants in Ohio. She admired it and, in order to enjoy its bright yellow flowers, she brought some seed to Iowa. Here its eradication soon became a problem.

It is reported that an early election was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ayers and that the ballots that were used were strung on a needle and yarn as they were counted, in order to keep them together.

James Girard was destined to become more re-

nowned. The Girard family, we are told, moved to Kansas, to become the founders of the city of Girard in that State.

Early settlers found quantities of wild onions growing along Mill Creek. From this circumstance they called the body of timber Onion Grove. In May, 1854, a post office named Union Grove was established in Dayton Township, with Thomas Robinson as the postmaster. The post office was served by the carrier of the route which led from Iowa City to Dubuque. Mail was carried by horseback in saddle bags. Deliveries were weekly or bi-weekly depending upon conditions and events. Soon after its establishment the name of the post office was changed to Onion Grove.

Prior to 1856, religious services were held in pioneer homes. In that year regularly scheduled religious services were inaugurated in the Dayton Valley neighborhood. This was the origin of the Dayton Valley Wesleyan Methodist Church — the oldest religious organization in the township. The church building erected in 1869 has had an unbroken record of service from that time until the present. This is also presumed to be the oldest church of this denomination in Iowa.

In 1858, a railroad, then called the Chicago, Iowa and Nebraska Railroad, was graded and

tracks laid into Dayton Township about one-half mile east of the town of Clarence. There the work stopped for lack of funds and because of the approach of winter. A box car was switched to a side track to form the first depot. A farmer named William Hoey was the first station agent. In the following year the track was laid into the new town, the buildings of which had been moved from the original village site of Onion Grove two miles north. A celebration on the Fourth of July that year offered, as its principal attraction, a train ride from Clarence to Lowden, a distance of eight miles, and return. The new community continued to be called Onion Grove, however, and the village was platted under that name. In 1863, L. B. Gere, a merchant of that time, made the suggestion to change the name to Clarence in honor of his home town of Clarence, New York. The telegraph call letters for this station are still O. G. for Onion Grove.

On Sunday, June 3, 1860, a most devastating tornado swept into Dayton Township from the northwest. In the northern part of the township it struck the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Baker, killing both of them. It proceeded thence eastward roughly following Mill Creek and struck the home of Mr. and Mrs. McMackin, killing the entire family. Mrs. Elizabeth Decker, a widow

with her four children were residing on a farm directly in the path of the storm. Before the tornado arrived at that point it had sucked up the water and mud from the creek, and just as it was opposite the house that sheltered the terrified family, it let loose a blast as from a gigantic hose and literally plastered the outside walls with mud and sticks. The storm then lifted and descended again in Clinton County, and is known today as the Camanche Cyclone.

Many years later, on May 18, 1898, another destructive tornado formed two miles west of town and swept along the north edge of the Clarence cemetery, laying everything flat in its path. A little to the northeast it hit the farm long owned by the late Thomas Brink and tenanted then by the Charles Deke family. Fred Koch, Sr., who was working on the farm, spied the storm in time to warn the family and hurry them into the cellar not a minute too soon. The house was demolished over their heads but the floor was left in place. Mr. Koch's trunk, which he had brought from Germany, was dropped by the storm near Massillon. The barn roof was ripped off and carried intact beyond the Wapsipinicon River. About a hundred feet of hedge fence was uprooted, and the yard was littered with lumber, broken machinery, and grain.

The coming of the Civil War found the people of the community ready to support the Union. Almost a whole company was raised in this township — Company G of the Thirty-first Infantry which saw action around Chattanooga, Tennessee. Only one person from Dayton Township, however, lost his life in battle, Carlton Frink, a young man of twenty, was killed in the battle of Shiloh.

During the decade of the seventies, lured by cheap land, many families from this section began to move on into western Iowa and Nebraska. This displacement of population made an opening that was filled for the most part by sturdy German immigrants. Among the first of these was the Decker family. In the early seventies the Bauman, Bachman, Goldsmith, Hoffmeister, Hoffner, and other families came. The virtues of thrift, integrity, and frugality were deeply implanted in these people. Given an adequate economic opportunity, they were bound to prosper. Moreover, they were a reverent people — a characteristic which led them to band together for worship as soon as there were a few families in this region, and as a result St. John's Evangelical Church was organized in 1882.

It was a far cry, economically and mechanically, from the experiences of the early pioneers to the

conveniences and luxuries of our day. The first settlers broke up the tough prairie sod with a large breaking plow which had a sharp knife or disk mounted on the beam ahead of the plow-share itself to cut the sod so that it could be turned over. In order to rot the sod the ground was planted to small grain. Every farmer raised wheat enough for his own flour, and many of them produced wheat for the market. Flour mills were operated by water power of the Wapsipinicon River at Oxford Mills in Jones County, and at Toronto in Clinton County.

In the decade of the eighties, chinch bugs came to eat the wheat and the thrifty farmers of Dayton Township changed from the growing of wheat to the production of corn and hogs. Thus it was in a measure because of the little red chinch bug that Iowa came to be called the "State where the tall corn grows", and thus it is, too, that Dayton Township is renowned for its production of corn.

But this change did not come in a season. It came by way of the long road of evolution. The pioneer settlers did not have the specially selected strains of corn that we have today. There were yellow, white, and a "calico" corn in those days — the latter being a mixture of white and red grains on the same cob. Farmers as they husked corn saved the best formed ears for seed for the

coming season. The popular Reid Yellow Dent corn came much later, and the modern hybrid is of recent origin.

Drainage was a serious problem for the pioneer farmer. The slope of the land was so gradual that the water did not run off, and in wet seasons only the high ground could be worked and the flatter portions of the farms were allowed to grow up to slough grass.

One of the early devices to drain the land was a "mole ditcher" which went along below the surface about four feet deep and reamed out a small tunnel in the earth like a mole's burrow. These channels soon filled up with mud, roots, and the bodies of animals. The farmers finally turned their attention seriously to the possibilities of clay drain tile. At first only two-inch tile were used, but they soon filled up and it was found desirable to substitute four-inch tile. The "draws" on higher ground were tiled out first because they were adjacent to the land already under cultivation. Only after tiling had become very general was the lower land adequately drained.

In all of these developments, the settlers and residents of Dayton Township have had a part. Those who came a hundred years ago planned and served and passed. Their children and their children's children came to carry on the labors

that they began. The developments and improvements that have come have been well earned and well appreciated. There are those living today in Dayton Township whose great, great grandparents were here one hundred years ago. Marvelous things, indeed, have transpired within this township during these years. Dayton Township has come to be one of Iowa's many typical, progressive areas six miles square.

GORDON SMITH

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