

When Fonda Was Young

[In 1871 one who signed himself "H.B." took the east bound train from Storm Lake to visit the rapidly sprouting towns along the way — Newell, Cedarville [Fonda], Pomeroy and Manson. The opening of farms, the beginnings of churches and schools, and the coming of merchants, tradesmen, and professional men, were described by "H.B." in considerable detail, particularly in the case of Cedarville, a name chosen because of the location of the town on the Cedar River, a tributary of the North Fork of the Raccoon. Cedarville was originally named Marvin, and a post office established there on April 7, 1871, with Samuel N. Alford as first postmaster. Six weeks later, on May 23, 1871, because of the confusion of the name Marvin with Marion in Linn County and neighboring Manson in Calhoun County, the name was changed to Cedarville. Not satisfied with this name, the townsfolk petitioned the post office department to change Cedarville to Fonda because only one such post office existed in the United States and it was located in western New York. The name accordingly was changed to Fonda on December 3, 1873. The letters of "H.B." are from the Storm Lake *Pilot*, June 14, July 12, 1871. THE EDITOR.]

Dear Pilot: — As your ship is now sailing in the tranquil waters of prosperity's sea, I embrace the present opportunity of hailing you from the look out of Marvin.

Since my visit to your city I have passed through

some delightful portions of this part of our glorious Iowa.

Beautiful prairies, long and wide,
In which whole armies abreast might ride:
Beautiful fields as e'er were seen
Clothed in fresh robes of loving green.
You may search through the world for the richest and best,
And you'll not find a place to compare with the West.

Last Saturday I left Marvin for the eastern part of my work, comprising Manson and Twin Lakes.

On my way I passed through Pomeroy, which at present looks bloomingly healthful. Six or seven miles farther brought me to that noted place called "Purgatory." Now, I would not have you understand by this, that it is the intermediate place supposed by our Roman Catholic friends to have a location beyond this earthly existence, but Purgatory in Iowa is simply a vast slough near the head of Twin Lakes, over which a substantial cross way has been built affording safe passage for man and beast.

Thousands of immigrants cross the slough at this place, and they have cause to be thankful that they came across dry shod. Many of the early settlers can give amusing accounts of the swimming times they had when they first located.

A new school house has been erected on the east bank of the upper lake. It is large, well built, painted, has green window shutters, patent seats,

and in short all the modern paraphernalia of a first class school house.

To strangers it is a source of wonder how the people can afford such things, when they have little or no income.

The possession of a few hundred acres of land would clear up the mystery, yet to our country, and our clear minded sensible citizens, taxation is not a vexation when employed for such glorious purposes.

The good people of Marvin, talk somewhat of a celebration on the 4th of July, but as yet nothing has been decided upon.

Mr. Morris has painted his store building, and Mr. Haye, the proprietor of the hotel, has done the same to the *facade* of his house. We think this outreach of the spirit of improvement commendable, and would advise others to go and do likewise.

A copious shower of rain visited this place last evening, and moistened the ground in a thorough manner.

More Anon, H. B.

CEDARVILLE

LOCATION - BUSINESS FIRMS - &c.

On Saturday last we "shipped on board" of Conductor Doherty's train — or rather on Mr. Quimby's engine "No. 67" — and in a few minutes found ourself in the good town of Newell, situated ten miles east of Storm Lake. We found that some improvements were being made in Newell among which is the business house of Mr. N.

Sickel. Its size is 20 x 48 feet, and is well finished, and is being filled with a general stock of dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes, and everything needed to make a full stock for that market.

Mr. Wilson, of the firm of Hendrickson & Wilson, is putting up a residence. Mr. Batten is also supplying himself with a like useful institution.

We had "written up" Newell pretty fully in former issues of *THE PILOT*, and therefore concluded to go to

CEDARVILLE - LATE MARVIN,

at which place we had never stopped off. So taking the 2 o'clock freight we were soon landed at the "Cedar," and commenced a general interview of her citizens. Cedarville is located on the Iowa Division of the Illinois Central Railroad and is distant from Fort Dodge thirty-five miles and from Sioux City one hundred miles. It is in the county of Pocahontas, one and a half miles from the south line and two and a half from the western limits. The population is about one hundred people and all are live and progressive. The town was laid out in October 1870, and with the settlement of the county will grow to be a place of importance.

A magnificent country surrounds the town and thousands of acres of the virgin prairie are being plowed for the first time. In fact we have seen no part of Iowa which presents evidences of more rapid development than the country surrounding Cedarville. The Cedar River and its tributaries

furnish splendid drainage for the land and water for stock. The soil is very rich. We saw specimens of corn and vegetables which would make an old New Englander crazy.

THE BUSINESS of Cedarville now consists of three dry goods stores, one hotel, two lumber yards, one real estate agent, one boot and shoe shop, one blacksmith shop, one hardware and agricultural implement store, school house, depot and postoffice.

THE TOWN SITE is owned by the Iowa Railroad Land Company. Business lots range in price from \$80 to \$125; residence lots, from \$40 to \$100. The business lots are 25 x 100 feet in size; residence lots, 60 x 140. The same land company also own large quantities of land around the town.

SAMUEL HUGHES is the proprietor of the "Marvin Store," and keeps a full line of dry goods, groceries, stoneware, salt, tobacco, candies, &c. He also keeps a small stock of drugs and medicines, and in fact about everything that is wanted by the trade of that section. He owns and occupies a two story building -- size 20 x 36. The room on the second floor is used as a town hall where public meetings are held and where the young people dance. Mr. Hughes is a live business man, advertises in THE PILOT, and claims to have a large stock and that he is selling more goods and for less money than any of his competitors. He buys in

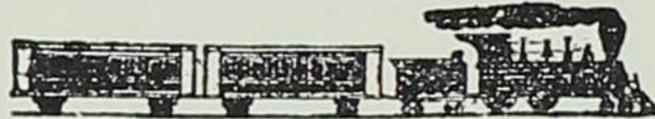
Dubuque and Chicago. He also deals in all kinds of country produce.

E. M. BUSBY, proprietor of the "Farmers' Store," flies the American colors from his sign post, and keeps a large and varied stock of dry goods, groceries, hardware, tinware, stoves, farming tools, flour, &c. His store room is the largest in town. It is well filled and Mr. Busby claims to sell cheaper than "any other man."

WILLIAM MORRIS keeps a general store

LOCAL NEWS.

Illinois Central R. R.--Iowa Division.



Trains East	Names of Stations.	Trains West
No. 2.		No. 3.
6-30 a. m.	.....Sioux City.....	12-16 p. m.
7-28 "	..... Le Mars,	11-15 a. m.
7-54 "	..... Remsen,	10-47 "
8-15 "	..... Marcus,	10-24 "
8-37 "	..... Hazard,	9-58 "
8-52 "	..... Cherokee,	9-41 "
9-15 "	..... Aurelia,	9-15 "
9-36 "	..... Alta,	8-53 "
9-50 "	... Storm Lake, ...	8-38 "
10-15 "	..... Newell,	7-51 "
10-35 "	..... Marvin,	7-30 "
10-56 "	..... Pomeroy,	7-08 "
11-14 "	..... Manson,	6-47 "
12-00 m.	..... Ft. Dodge,	6-00 "

ALL kinds of job work promptly done at this office.

If you want land or town lots call at the office of Barton & Hobbs.

MR. CHAMBERLIN has remodeled and fixed up his property on Cayuga street.

"Marvin Store."

SAMUEL HUGHES

ANNOUNCES to the citizens of

MARVIN,

And the "rest of mankind" that he has in store and for sale a large stock of

Dry Goods,

GROCERIES,

Boots and Shoes,

GLASSWARE,

Yankee Notions,

PROVISIONS, &c.,

And shall sell

Cheap as the Cheapest.

Everybody is invited to give him a call, and examine his

GOODS AND PRICES.

Marvin, Iowa, May 31, 1871. n321f.

Geo. A. Strong,
Practical Watchmaker & Jeweler,

in which may be found dry goods, groceries, hardware, &c.

K. TYSDAL is the village boot and shoemaker, and from an examination of specimens of his work we put him down as a good workman. He also does repairing in good style and at fair prices. In an adjoining room he has a stand from which he dispenses ice cold lemonade, good cigars, cakes, candy &c.

JOHN A. HAY is Postmaster and also a member of the Board of Supervisors of Pocahontas county. In the same room where the Postoffice is kept Mr. E. O. Wilder has a small stock of notions, stationery, drugs and medicines. He designs starting a full-fledged drug store. When completed he will have one of the neatest rooms in the town. Mr. Wilder is Deputy Postmaster.

J. SNYDER deals in lumber and farm machinery. He keeps a good supply on hand and says he will sell at prices as "low as the lowest."

GEORGE FAIRBURN is the station agent, telegraph operator, and also deals in lumber of which he has a good stock at a yard just west of the depot. He claims to have the most extensive supply in the town, and to sell very cheap. Mr. F. is now putting up a good residence.

WILLIAM MARSHALL deals in all kinds of agricultural machinery, hardware, stove, tinware, patent building paper, &c.

PETER IBSON is the "village blacksmith"

and has the reputation of being a splendid workman.

JOSEPH HAY is proprietor of the hotel at Cedarville, and attends to the wants of those who may call upon him.

WILLIAM SNELL is land agent and has on his books a large quantity of choice lands and town lots. He owns a farm two miles north of town which he designs for dairy purposes.

CHURCHES

Cedarville as yet has no church buildings, but services are held regularly in the school house. — Rev. Henry Brown, of the Methodist church officiates, and is liked very well.

SCHOOLS

There is a small school house in which quite a number of youths are commencing their education.

A FLOURING MILL would pay well here and the citizens are making commendable efforts to induce some mill man to come and locate in their midst. Mr. Hughes informed us that the citizens of town and surrounding country would guarantee a bonus of \$1,500 to any one who will erect a good mill.

MARVIN — name of the Postoffice until a few weeks ago, when, by authority of the Postmaster-General the name was changed to Cedarville. This was found necessary from the fact that "Marion," in Linn county, was often written so that it was difficult to tell whether the letters was really intended for "Marvin" or "Marion."