

**ANNALS OF IOWA.**  
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**A SKETCH OF CLARK COUNTY, IOWA**  
Historical, Statistical and Descriptive.

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Clark County was organized by the legislature of 1850-51, with the following boundaries, which are still retained: commencing at a point where the north line of township number seventy, north, crosses the westline of range number twenty-three, west, thence north, with said range line, eighteen miles, thence west twenty-four miles, thence south eighteen miles, and thence east twenty-four miles to the place of beginning, containing four hundred and thirty-two square miles, and embracing twelve congressional townships, according to the United States survey. It is bounded by the following named counties: on the east by Lucas, on the south by Decatur, on the west by Union, and on the north by Madison and Warren.

The county is situated in the southern central portion of the state—being the seventh county west of the Mississippi River, the fifth county east of the Missouri River, and the second county north of the Missouri state line. It is located near the summit of the great water shed, between the two great rivers of the west—in fact, it is said that the highest point between those two rivers, is situated but a few miles west of the centre of the county.

The first settlement of whites within the present boundaries of the county was made at a point some six miles south of Oceola, by John Conyer, and John and James Longley, about the year 1846. These men had started with their families in the great Mormon exodus of that year, from Nauvoo, Illinois, to cross the plains. In company with many other "latter-day saints" they intended to spend the winter near Council Bluffs, preparatory to a general march in the spring following. By some accident these families became separated from their brethren and lost their way. After wandering about for several days, they concluded to pitch their tents at the place before indicated, and await the coming of more genial weather. They erected some cabins and called the place "Lost Camps," by which name it is known to this day. In the spring they found many of their brethren but a few miles from them, but were so well pleased with their new location, that they remained and opened extensive farms. After a few years, however, they fell in with the tide moving westward, and gave room to other settlers.

In 1850, the next settlement was made by Bernard Arnold, James J. Arnold, I. Ellis, Robert Jamison, A. Collier, John Shearer and others, in the southern portion of the county, and were soon followed by a colony from Van Buren County, Iowa, who opened a large farm in the south-west part of the county and laid off the town of Hopeville. From that time to the present, the population has been steadily increased by such farmers, mechanics, tradesmen and professional men from the older states, as generally constitute western communities.

The organizing election was held at the residence of William Vest, three miles south-west of the present county seat, at which thirty-five votes were polled. The following officers were elected: John A. Lindsley, judge; Alonzo Williams, clerk; G. W. Glenn, treasurer and recorder; Ivison Ellis, sheriff; Robert Jamison, school fund commissioner; Jerry Jenks, surveyor; Dickenson Webster, Sr., John Sherer and Bernard Arnold, commissioners.

In the act of organization, Beverly Siercy, James Graham and Samuel D. Bishop were appointed commissioners to locate the seat of justice for Clark County. Their report is as follows:

" STATE OF IOWA,  
CLARKE COUNTY, ss

We, the undersigned, having been appointed by the legislature of the state above mentioned, at their last session of 1850-51, to locate the seat of justice of the county of Clark, and state aforesaid, do hereby report to the commissioners of said county, that we have located the seat of justice of said county on the south-west quarter of section seventeen (17), of township seventy-two (72) north, of range twenty-five (25) west. We hereunto witness our hands, this 16th day of August, A. D. 1851.

BEVERLY SEIRCY,  
JAMES GRAHAM,  
SAMUEL D. BISHOP

The bond for the deed of conveyance for the land upon which the county seat was located, is expressed in the following words:

"Know all men by these presents, that George W. How, of Clark County, and Seth Richards of Van Buren County, and state of Iowa, are severally held and bound unto the county commissioners of the county of Clark, of the state aforesaid, in the penal sum of one thousand dollars, to the faithful performance of which payment we bind ourselves, our heirs and legal representatives, firmly by these presents.

"Now the condition of the above bond is such, that whereas the said county commissioners of Clark County, have this day secured the right to purchase the south-west quarter of section number seventeen (17), in township number seventy-two (72), north of range number twenty-five (25), west, for the purpose of laying off the seat of justice of said county, and for no other purpose whatever; for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred dollars, to be paid to the said George W. How and Seth Richards, on the sixteenth day of August, 1852.

"Now if on the payment of said money above named, at its maturity, time being the essence of the contract, the said George W. How and Seth Richards, shall make unto the said county commissioners of the county of Clark and state aforesaid, a good and sufficient deed, by special warranty deed, in and to the above described land, then this obligation shall be void.

"In testimony whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and seals.

"It is understood and covenanted between the said parties above mentioned, that upon the non- payment of the said money at its maturity, time being the essence of the contract, the said George W. How and Seth Richards shall have a right to declare the above obligation void, forfeited, and determined to enter and take possession of said land, with all the buildings and improvements thereon, and to have and retain all payments that may have been paid upon the same. It is hereby expressly stipulated and covenanted, that the said county commissioners of Clark County, and state aforesaid, shall pay all taxes that may be levied or imposed thereon.

"In witness, we, the parties aforesaid, have hereunto set our hands and seals, this 16th day of August, 1851.

SETH RICHARDS, [L. S.]  
GEORGE W. HOW, [L. S.]

ATTEST: PEREZ COWLES,

ISRAEL MILLER  
G. W. GLENN, RECORDER  
PER A. WILLIAMS."

Across the face of the bond is written: " Canceled. John A. Lindsley, county judge."

The land on which the county seat was located was entered with a land warrant, at the office at Chariton, Iowa, on the 14th day of March, 1851, by George W. How, the number of the certificate of purchase being thirty-nine thousand nine hundred and seventeen.

At the first meeting of the board of county commissioners, held at John Conyers, August 31, 1851, the following order was made:

"Mr. Jerry Jenks, surveyor of Clark County, Sir: You are hereby notified and required by the board of commissioners of said county, to appear at the county seat, on Friday, the 29th day of August, 1851, on official business, prepared with instruments to survey said town."

The first entry in the original records which mentions the name of the county seat is as follows:

"A special court held by the commissioners of Clark County, state of Iowa, August 29th, A. D. 1851, at Oceola, the seat of justice of aforesaid county."

The object of this meeting of the board seems to have been only to superintend and assist in the survey of the town, which was commenced at that time, as no other business was transacted. The next entry reads thus:

"STATE OF IOWA,  
CLARK COUNTY' ss

"Regular session of board of commissioners of Clark County, state of Iowa, held at Oceola, in October, A. D. 1851. Present, John Sherer, Dickenson Webster, county commissioners, Alonzo Williams, county clerk.

"Ordered by said board, that the lots in the town of Oceola, the county seat of Clark County, shall be sold for one-third in six months, and one-third in twelve months and one-third in eighteen months from date."

The next meeting of the board was in special session, November 22, A. D. 1851, "held at Oceola, the county seat," at which all the commissioners were present.

The taxes levied at this session were " three mills for state purposes, two and a half for county purposes and one-half for school purposes.

At the meeting of the board, January 5, 1852, the plat of the county seat was accepted by the commissioners, and recorded. In the plat the lots are represented as being two hundred and fourteen feet six inches, by one hundred and seven feet three inches, except those fronting the public square, which are the same length, but only half the width, and two lots at each corner of the public square, which are only half the usual length. The streets are sixty-six feet wide, except North street, which is seventy feet, four and a half inches; East street, which is fifty-eight feet, nine inches and forty-six feet; South street, which is thirty-nine feet and fifty-nine feet nine inches; and West street, which is sixty-eight feet and sixty-six feet. The alleys are twenty feet seven and a half inches wide, and extend the whole length of the town, except four which are terminated by the public square.

At the same meeting, the road running east and west through the county was ordered to be platted and recorded, and a road running from Oceola in the direction of Winterset, to be surveyed. A road was also established as follows: " Commencing at a point

where the road running from Indianola, by the way of Smiths's Point, strikes the north line of Clark County, and thence through Ocoola to the south line of the county, in the direction of the county seat of Decatur County."

At the same session the following was adopted: " Ordered, that there be one township organized, embracing the whole county, to be called Ocoola Township, the election of said township to be held at Ocoola, on the first Monday in April, A. D. 1852."

The terms of payment on town lots were changed to the following; " One-fourth in hand, one-fourth in six, one-fourth in twelve, and one-fourth in eighteen months."

The sale of lots in Ocoola was commenced on the 13th day of October, 1851, upon which day eighty-five were disposed of at an average price of twenty-two dollars each. Among the first purchasers of lots were B. Arnold, B. Seircy, W. Buchanan, G. W. Conyer, G. W. How, J. Lewis, J. C. Smith, A. Williams, L. Gardner, D. Webster, I. Ellis, How & Richards.

The first house in the town was built by G. W. How, which is still standing, and was occupied by him as a store room; the second and third were dwelling houses, and were erected by John Sherer and Israel Miller. John Sherer had, for some months prior to the erection of How's store room, lived on the town site with his family, in a rail pen covered with straw.

The first birth in the town was that of Florence A. Lamson; the first death that of Mary Hurst. The first marriage in the town was consummated at the residence of John Sherer, between David A. Waynick and Martha E. Sherer, September 2, 1852.

The first marriage license issued in the county appears under date of April 29th, 1852, as follows: "Certificate of marriage license, Emanuel J. Henkle and Ann K. Stow, on testimony of John C, Smith, stating that the parties were of condition to marry, and one dollar being paid in the treasury."

The first marriage in the county was that of Dickenson Webster, Jr., and Louisa J. Perry, March the 18th, 1852.

In April, 1852, an election was held at the county seat, at which forty-six votes were polled. In addition to justices of the peace and constables, Dickenson Webster, Jr., was elected school fund commissioner, vice Robert Jamison; Israel Miller, clerk, vice Alonzo Williams; and Oliver H. Perry, prosecuting attorney.

The following order was made at a meeting of the board in June, 1852:

"Ordered by the court, that a court house shall be built in Ocoola, county seat of Clark County, Iowa, according to the plan and specifications in the office of the county clerk, to be completed within eighteen months from this date; for which sealed proposals will be received until the first Monday in July, at 10 o'clock A. M. of said day. The house to be enclosed and floors laid and one room overhead finished, on or before the first of December, 1852."

At the same term we find that all lots fronting on the public square in Ocoola, that are unsold, shall be increased five dollars per lot, above the apportionment of the county commissioners, and that all sales made after this date shall be one-third in hand, one-third in six months and one-third in twelve months."

At the session in July, 1852, it was "ordered by the court, that Union County be organized into an election precinct, embracing the entire county, which shall be known as Union precinct, and that Isaac Lamb, J. H. Starks and Henry Peters are appointed trustees of said precinct, and the first election is to be held at the house of Henry Peters, on the first Monday in August, 1852." At the same term it was "ordered by the court,

that township number seventy-one (71), north of range twenty-seven (27) west, be organized into a township to be known as Doyle Township, and that David Newton, Vincent Davis and Jacob Keplinger be and are hereby appointed judges of the election, to be holden on the first Monday in August, A. D. 1862, the election to be held at Hopeville."

At the same session of the board, it was further "ordered that the bid of John C. Smith, for nine hundred dollars, for the erection and completion of a court house in Ocoola, be and is hereby rescinded."

The following tax on the dollar was then levied: "county tax, five mills', school tax, one-half mill, road tax, one mill (personal property), and one-half mill (real estate): two dollars road poll tax, and a county poll tax of fifty cents."

The following is the deed of conveyance of the land upon which the county seat was located:

"Know all men, that George W. How, of Clark County, and Seth Richards, of Van Buren County, for and in consideration of one hundred dollars to them this day paid, by John A. Lindsley, County judge for Clark County, Iowa, do remise, release and forever quit claim, unto the said John A. Lindsley, county judge for Clark County, and his successors in office, all that parcel of land described as south-west quarter of section number seventeen (17), township number seventy-two (72), north of range number twenty-five (25), west of the fifth principal meridian, containing one hundred and sixty acres, more or less, with all its privileges and appurtenances, to have and to hold the same to the said John A. Lindsley, county Judge for Clark County, and his successors ill office, for the use and benefit of Clark County, Iowa, forever, so that neither we or any claiming by, through or under us, shall ever claim or demand any right or interest therein; and do covenant with said Lindsley, county judge of said county, and his successors in office, that during our ownership of said premises, we have not done or suffered any act whereby the same have become encumbered (except for taxes), and further, that we and our heirs and representatives, shall forever warrant and defend said premises to them against all persons claiming by, through or under, us, except as before stated. In testimony whereof we, and my wife, Cornelia Richards, wife of Seth Richards, who for one dime to her in hand paid cloth relinquish her dower in said premises, have hereunto set our hands and seals, this twenty-third day of July, eighteen hundred and fifty-two.

**GEORGE W. HOW, [L. S.]**  
**SETH RICHARDS,[L. S.]**  
**CORNELIA RICHARDS.[L. S.]**  
Signed, sealed and delivered before me,

E. PITKEN."

The deed is acknowledged in proper form on the same day, before "Erastus Pitkin, notary public, Van Buren County, Iowa," and recorded by "P. Cowles, recorder, by G. W. How, dep."

Sometime in the month of August, in the year 1856, Mr. Dickenson Webster laid out an addition to the town of Ocoola, extending along the entire western border, and containing sixty-two acres. In this addition the lots are one hundred and forty-two by seventy-one feet and six inches; the alleys running north and south are sixteen feet wide and the streets and remaining alleys correspond in width with those of the original town. It is known as West Ocoola.

On the 28th of July, 1856, Messrs. How and Richards made an addition to the original town by surveying some twenty acres which lie along the entire northern border, and known as North Ocoola. The streets are of the same width as the original ones; except the one on the east side which is 47 feet 7 inches wide, and those on the west and north which

are 66 feet wide. The lots are 71 feet 6 inches by 143 feet, except Nos. 3, 4, 9 and 10, in Block 4, which are 66 feet 6 inches wide, and of uniform length. With these additions the town covers two hundred and forty-six acres.

At the session of the board of county commissioners in November, 1852. O. H. Perry was allowed eight dollars and thirty-three and one-third cents for services as prosecuting attorney from April to August of that year, and in the settlement between the judge, clerk and treasurer, the fees from the 26th of July to the 20th of November, amounting to \$9.45, were divided equally between the three officers.

At the March term, 1853, it was "ordered by the court, that block number eleven (11), in the town of Ocoola, be and the same is hereby reserved for a public burying ground."

It is also "ordered, that How and Richards be allowed one hundred and fifty-four dollars, as payment in full for the town quarter."

At the June term, 1853, it was "ordered by the court, that township seventy-three north of ranges twenty-six and twenty-seven, west, be organized into township for election purposes, according to the extreme limits of said township, to be known as Madison Township, and that Lewis T. Perry, James Cadle and Christopher Bullin, be and are hereby appointed judges of the election to be holden on the first Monday of August, 1853, at the residence of Mr. Vanhorn."

At the February term of the court, in 1854, the following townships, as now known, were organized: Green Bay, first election to be held at the residence of Ivison Ellis; Franklin, first election at the residence of Abraham Ratliff; Liberty, first election at the house of Josiah G. Hanson; Knox, first election at the house of Jacob L. Chenowith. Other civil townships were organized from time to time, to conform to the congressional townships, twelve in number. They are Liberty, Fremont, Madison, Washington, Troy, Osceola, Jackson, Franklin, Green Bay, Knox and Doyle.

Upon the petition of sundry citizens asking for the erection and completion of a court house at the county seat, the board accepted the bid of P. J. Goss, of nine hundred dollars, and at the March term 1854, three hundred dollars were allowed him as a first payment. This resulted in the structure now occupied for county purposes.

By the same census we learn that there were in the county 15,051 acres of improved land; 90,958 acres of unimproved land; 1,095 acres spring wheat; 7,832 bushels harvested; 99 acres of winter wheat; 1177 bushels harvested; 871 acres of oats; 20,703 bushels harvested; 95 acres of potatoes; 12,122 bushels harvested.

This would give to each family about 21 acres of improved land; 257 bushels of corn; 12 1/2 bushels of wheat; 29 bushels of oats; 27 bushels of potatoes. The number of hogs reported sold that year was 1763, valued at \$10,444; No. of cattle sold, 873, valued at \$22,781.

Among the occupations of the greater part of the inhabitants we find, farmers, 771; mechanics, 106; laborers, 44; merchants, 19; physicians, 9; clergymen, 6; lawyers, 5.

Of the nativity of the greater portion, the report says there were born, in Indiana, 959; Ohio, 953; Iowa, 614; Illinois, 343; Pennsylvania, 202; Virginia, 197; Kentucky, 183; Tennessee, 111.

Upon the breaking out of the rebellion, in 1861, the citizens of Clark County showed a very patriotic disposition to uphold the standard of their country, which they maintained both at home and abroad, throughout that gigantic struggle. Several citizens enlisted in companies from other counties in the regiments formed for three month's service, and among the first under the first three years' proclamation of the President, Capt. S. P. Glenn organized a company in the county. This company was mustered into the United States

service, and incorporated into the Sixth Iowa Infantry, as company F, in July; 1862. with the following officers: Captain, S. P. Glenn; 1st Lieutenant, Calvin Minton; 2d Lieutenant, John T. Grimes; with ninety-six enlisted men. About one-half the men of company B, of the same regiment, under Capt. Isenimger, were residents of Clark County.

In the summer of 1869, another company was raised. This was mustered into the United States service and incorporated into the Eighteenth Iowa Infantry, in August, 1862, as company B. Its officers were Captain, Wm. Duncan; 1st Lieutenant, James M. Boering; 2d Lieutenant, Wm. Stonaker, and ninety-four enlisted men.

In the fall of 1862 another company was formed which was mustered into the United States service and incorporated into the Thirty-ninth Iowa Infantry, in November of that year, as company D, with the following officers: Captain, Lloyd D. Bennett; 1st Lieutenant, Wm. T. Mathews; 2d Lieutenant, Casper Carter, and ninety-five enlisted men.

In the fall of 1863, Capt. C. R. Johnson succeeded in raising a portion of a company of volunteers, which was afterwards filled up by citizens of other counties. This company was mustered into the United States service, and incorporated into the Ninth Iowa Cavalry, in November, 1863, as company H. The officers were, Captain, C. It. Johnson; 1st Lieutenant, E. S. Brownell; 2d Lieutenant, E. L. Cook, with ninety-three men.

Citizens of this county enlisted from time to time, in various companies from other counties, during the entire war. The exact number it is impossible to ascertain. The total number of men furnished by the county, as reported by tire Adjutant General of the State, is 432—leaving an excess over the quotas of 1861 and 1862, of 170.

The militia returns for the county are as follows:

For the year		1862 .....	888
"	"	1863 .....	708
"	"	1864 .....	653
"	"	1865 .....	629

By these returns it will be seen that about three-eights of all persons liable to military duty in the county enlisted in the army.

July the 4th, 1863, Capt. S. P. Glenn, having resigned his commission in the army, organized a company of militia, called the "Oceola Union Guards," and on the 10th of December, 1864, a regiment of militia was organized, with the following named officers: Colonel, Calvin Minton; Lt. Colonel, Thos. J. Lowe; Major, F. W. Johnson; Adjutant, A. H. Burrows; Quartermaster, Thos. C. Funston; Surgeon, E. M. Laws; Assistant Surgeon, J. P. Wood. Co. A, Capt. A. C. Rarrick; Co. B, Capt. H. C. Diggs; Co. C, Capt. John Deihl; Co. D, Capt. S. P. Glenn; Co. E, Capt. T. P. Johnson; Co. F Capt. J. Proudfoot; Co. G, Capt. L. J. Furney; Co. E, Capt. C. W. Loury; Co. I, Capt. A. McKeaver; Co. K, Capt. J. McDonough; Co. L, Capt. Geo. Weaver. The county also furnished a large number of one hundred days men.

In addition to local bounties given by the people of the various townships in their corporate and individual capacity, to encourage enlistments, the board of supervisors created a large county relief fund, by special taxation, for the support of soldiers' families, who might need assistance. This charitable fund has been liberally dispensed, and many a poor widow and suffering orphan has blessed the benevolent donors. This fund did not cease with the war, but it is yet generously dispensed to several persons whose protectors have sacrificed their lives upon the altar of their country.

About the middle of September, 1864, two soldiers by the name of Brown and Hamilton visited the house of Mr. Goble, in Fremont Township, and a difficulty arising between the soldiers, who were home on furlough, and the civilians, resulted in the former disarming the latter. Mr. Goble then repaired to a neighborhood in Washington Township,

and returned with some ten or twelve men for the ostensible purpose of removing his family to the latter place. These friends were all armed, and reached Goble's house after night.

This proceeding was known to many outsiders, and was of itself sufficient to fan the previous ill feeling of the parties into a flame. Runners were dispatched to various parts of the county, with inflammatory appeals and reports, and men eager for a fray rushed wildly to the spot, armed with whatever weapons that were most convenient. Early in the night, the house was surrounded by one hundred men or more, including a large number of Capt. Glenn's militia company.

About daylight, Capt. Glenn, under a flag of truce, sent a message to the men in Goble's house to surrender, and received in reply, on the point of a bayonet, the following remarkable document:

"September 17, 1861.

"To the men by whom these premises are surrounded:— Gentlemen:—The demonstrations which have been made today are of a very extraordinary character, and if either party has participated in fomenting such difficulty without cause, that party is certainly deserving of the severest reprehension. Now whether such is the case with you or not, we shall not say; but we feel sure that we verily believe that we were drawn together by a just apprehension of danger. It is this alone that caused us to convene, and whenever we have reason to believe that our opinions were ill founded, we shall then have no further reason to hold ourselves in preparation for deadly conflict. We intend to act strictly on the defensive. We shall molest no man. We have understood that you expected a riot; but you may be sure that you can have no conflict without being the aggressors. Should you assail us, then Heaven defend the right.

With proper respect,

PEACEABLE CITIZENS."

Later in the day a committee from Ocoola, consisting of Judge Rice, Esq. Knotts and Major Johnson, held a conference with the besieged, under a flag of truce, which resulted in the unconditional surrender of every man in the house. A few pistol shots were fired during the siege, but no one was injured. The prisoners were marched down to Ocoola and guarded over night. On the following day they were taken to Indianola, and the next day they returned and were tried before Esq. Proudfoot, of Liberty Township, and discharged. Thus ended the memorable siege of Ft. Goble.

In the meantime more fatal deeds were enacted in a distant part of the county, growing out of the same transaction. Two men, John Conner and Andrew Delong, who were among the first in the house of Goble, escaped in the night through the lines of the besieging party. As soon as this fact was known, parties were sent out in search of them—the rumor being that they had gone for reinforcements. They were tracked to the house of John Conner in Washington Township. Late in the night, a soldier on furlough, by the name of Barker, approached the door of the house and demanded to see John Conner. He was answered by a musket being run through a port hole in the door. Seizing a gun, he ran round the house and fired through a window, which was shaded by a number of quilts and comforts. Here the matter ended.

Upon examination, Delong was found killed outright and Conner mortally wounded—the gun being heavily charged with buckshot. Besides these two men, there were also in the house an old man by the name of Shippey, the wife of Conner and several children. They were all in bed at the time the gun was fired, except the old man Shippey, who ran the gun through the door. Barker escaped to his regiment, and is reported to have died in the service.

In the census report of 1865 we find the following items in relation to Clark County:

Number of males, 9,835; number of females, 2,851; total white population, 5,686. Number of colored persons, 30; total population, 5,716. Number of voters, 1,092; number of acres of land enclosed, 38,545; number of acres of spring wheat, 907; number of acres of winter wheat, 1,040; number of acres of oats, 4,542; number of acres of corn, 19,755; number of acres of rye, 635; number of acres of flax, 93; number of acres of sorghum, 221; number of acres of potatoes, 173; number of hogs, 4,906; number of cattle, 8,854; number of horses, 2,277; number of sheep, 9,455; number of pounds of wool, in 1864, 17,534.

The general surface of Clark County is a high rolling or undulating prairie, with a soil of a dark sandy loam, very fertile, and yielding in great profusion all kinds of cereals grown in this latitude, such as corn, wheat, oats, rye, barley, grass, sorghum, potatoes, onions, beans, flax, buckwheat, tobacco and garden vegetables. Apples, pears, grapes, plums, and other fruits do well, while berries of all kinds are abundant, many of them, such as the strawberry, raspberry and blackberry, growing spontaneously upon the prairies.

It is the best watered country in the world, and that too, of the purest limestone quality. The principal streams in the county are Chariton River, White Breast, Bee and Long Creeks, in the central and southern portion, and South Squaw, North Squaw, Brush and Otter Creeks, in the central and northern parts. Besides these, there are innumerable smaller streams interspersed throughout the county, having their sources in never failing springs, and water can always be found by digging a few feet.

Along these streams the timber is found—varying in width and size of the trees with that of the stream—consisting principally of oak, walnut, hickory, maple, cottonwood, elm and willow. The timber is of good quality, and of sufficient quantity to furnish fire wood, fencing and the rougher portion of buildings. Pine is imported for fine work. The present amount of timber can be easily maintained, if not increased, by planting groves, to which the attention of farmers is now being largely directed, and keeping the annual prairie fires out of the young timber.

The whole face of the county seems to be underlaid with a strata of limestone, which crop out upon the higher points, and is found to be of the very best quality for building purposes. Brick clay is also abundant. Coal has been found in various places, but has not been much sought, after—fire-wood being cheaper and easier of access. When the occasion demands it, coal will doubtless be mined in sufficient quantities for all practical purposes.

From the fertility of the soil the abundance of water and the general adaptation of the country to agricultural pursuits, the county is capable of sustaining, as it doubtless will sustain at no distant day, as dense a population as any in the West. The great difficulty under which the community, and especially the farmers, have labored in the past—want of communication with markets—is being rapidly removed by two railroads, traversing the county in different directions.

The Burlington and Missouri River Railroad, commencing at the city of Burlington, Iowa, on the Mississippi river, and terminating at Plattsmouth, Nebraska, on the Missouri River, enters the county near the middle of its eastern border, and passes out near the middle of its western border; while the Kansas City and Ft. Des Moines Railroad enters the county near the middle of the south line of the county, and runs out near the center of the north line. The former will be completed to Oceola by the first of January, 1868, and the latter is expected to be finished to the same point by January 1, 1870. The latter named road extends from Kansas City, Mo., on the Missouri river, to Des Moines, the capital of the state of Iowa.

The county offers great inducements to capitalists who desire to engage in the milling business, as there are but two grist and six saw mills in the county, situated as follows:

Hawkeye grist and saw mills, three miles north of Oceola; Smith's grist and saw mills, in Washington Township; White Breast saw mill, one mile south of Oceola; Benedict's saw mill, in Franklin Township; Smyrna saw mill, four miles east of Smyrna, Franklin Township, and Holden saw mill, in Doyle Township.

There is quite a history connected with the last named mill. Its proprietor conceived the bright idea of adding water power for grinding purposes, and hit upon the happy expedient of building a three story house, adjoining his saw mill, in the top of which he placed an immense reservoir. Underneath this, he placed a 'large overshot water wheel, some thirty feet in diameter, and attached the necessary burrs, machinery, &c. By his engine he proposed to pump water into the reservoir, which was to be let out upon the before mentioned wheel, and thus furnish the required power. The idea never seemed to have struck the proprietor that the same amount of power gained by the weight of water in falling on the wheel was expended in raising it up and into the reservoir, until his finances collapsed and the work was abandoned

The county has a good system of highways leading in all directions, and forming a perfect net-work. The larger streams are spanned by substantial bridges, and the roads kept in good repair. The county has the best natural roads to be found anywhere—the only difficulties to be overcome are the sloughs or draws, which it is necessary to "head" often unless they are bridged, as continual travel renders them deep, with precipitous sides—very trying to man, beast and vehicle.

Game is very scarce with the exception of grouse and quails, which are so plentiful as to seriously disturb corn fields and gardens, and an occasional deer or wild turkeys seen in the timber.

Iowa is not surpassed by any state in the Union for the thoroughness of her school system. Common schools seem to be indigenous, and flourish remarkably. Every county has its own superintendent, whose duty it is to personally inspect every school and examine every teacher. Clark County is not behind her neighbors in this important relation; but considering the newness of the country and the sparseness of the population, it is far in advance of many older communities. Her fund is ample, and kept so by liberal taxation. The number of persons of the proper age to attend school—between five and twenty-one—in the county, in 1865 was 2,437. The amount of tax levied in 1866 for school purposes, was as follows:

For the erection of houses, \$6,282.22; for repairs, fuel &c., \$2,129 79; for teachers, \$5,542.21. Total \$13,954.22.

The number and value of certain articles of personal property for 1866, are thus reported: Cattle, 5,224, \$71,101; horses, 2,576, \$181,060; mules, 118, \$12,993; sheep, 15,740, \$31,239; swine, 4,606, \$15,269.

Total amount of taxables for the year 1865, \$1,643,544; tax on same, \$24,166.74.

The citizens of the county are divided in their religious preferences among the following named churches:

Christian, Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Protestant, Baptist, Presbyterian and Friends. Several of these have houses of worship, but the greater number hold service in the numerous school houses. Of benevolent societies, there are three Masonic Lodges, one Odd Fellow's lodge, and sundry neighborhood associations. In politics, the county is Republican—the average majority at the last election being 225, out of a vote of 932.

The price of improved land varies with the location and value of improvements, from five to twenty-five dollars per acre. The ratio of assessment for taxation as fixed by the board of supervisors, for the present year is as follows:

"Unimproved prairie lands, shall be assessed according to location as follows

"Class number 1; \$4.00; number 2, \$3.00; number 3, \$1.50, and unimproved timber lands as follows: class number 1, \$12.00; number 2, \$8.00; number 3, \$4.00, and number 4, \$1.25 per acre."

The present officers of the county are, representative, J. F. Lands; judge, James Rice; clerk, A. H. Burrows; treasurer, W. G. Kennedy; recorder, H. H. Hess; sheriff, E. H. Ledgerwood; coroner, Samuel Webster; superintendent public instruction, James Jenkins, surveyor, A. C. Rarick.

Supervisors: W. N. Barnard, Robert Jamison, G. N. Tilletson, J. W. Thompson, Levi Koontz, Wm. Lafollett, Jos. Chambers, J. M. Linder, Samuel Crook, Geo. Carder, John Swabb, Jno. Stephenson.

Oceola, the county seat; is situated upon a high rolling prairie and on the dividing ridge between the valleys of Squaw and White Breast Creeks. It is forty-five miles south of Des Moines; twenty-eight west of Chariton, county seat of Lucas county; twenty-four north of Leon, county seat of Decatur, and twenty-eight east of Afton, county seat of Union. The Burlington & Missouri River Railroad and the Kansas City and Ft. Des Moines Railroad cross each other the in western part of the town.

It has five church organizations—Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Protestant, Old School Presbyterian, Christian and Paptists. The Methodist Episcopal society has a large frame church finished in fine style, and the Christian and Methodist Protestant a frame and brick church respectively, of good dimensions, nearly completed. The Presbyterians propose to erect a house this summer. There is also a flourishing lodge of Masons and a large one of Odd Fellows, that occupy a tastefully furnished room, belonging to the former.

Its mail facilities are excellent—stages arriving and departing in four different directions, six days in each week.

It contains ten general variety stores, eight grocery stores, three drug stores, one clothing store, two tin and stove stores, two saddlery shops, two hotels, one millinery store, one printing office (the Union Sentinel—J. H. Caverly proprietor), two photograph galleries, one jewelry establishment, two shoe shops, two cabinet shops, two tailor shops, one butcher shop, one woolen factory, one court house (containing all the county offices, but no jail), two wagon shops, two schools, four blacksmith shops, six carpenters, two plasters, three painters, six lawyers, six physicians, one dentist, four clergymen, six teachers, four land agents, one express and two insurance agents.

The town was lately incorporated by the name of Osceola, which it is presumed will determine its orthography henceforth. No corporate officers have been elected, as the time between the act of incorporation and the election, as determined by the statute, has not expired. The place is growing steadily, and the advent of the railroad will doubtless give it a fresh impetus. The lots are very large—those designed for dwellings occupying about one half an acre each. A high school, where the higher branches are exclusively taught, a large hotel, graded streets and more sidewalks are among the improvements sadly needed. Population about 850.

Hopeville, situated in the extreme south-western part of Doyle Township, as well as of the county, is the next town in importance. It is situated on the east half of the southeast quarter of section eighteen, of township seventy-one, north, of range twenty-seven, west, which was originally bought of the state, to which it was granted by the general government by the act of September 4th, 1841, by David Newton, November 21, 1854, by whom it was laid out. The town was originally surveyed by Nelson Westcoat, surveyor of Lucas County, March 17, 1851, and the plat recorded by G. W. Glenn, recorder of Clark County. It was again surveyed by Jerry Jenks, surveyor of this county, April 13, 1854. The streets are sixty-six feet, and the alleys sixteen and a half feet wide. The lots in blocks 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 10 and 11 are

four and a half by nine rods; in blocks 12 and 13, lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, are five by nine and a half rods, and 7 and 8, are four to four and sixty-four hundredths by nine rods; in block 14, lots 1, 2 and 3 are eight by ten rods, and lot 4 is seven and eighty-eight one hundredths by ten rods, and lot 5 is five by thirty-one ninety-two one hundredths rods, and lot 6 is thirty-two by four and ninety-two one hundredths rods; in blocks 3, 4 and 9, lots 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8, are eight by nine and five tenths rods, and lots 4 and 5 are nine and one tenth by four and seven tenths rods.

The town contains three church organizations, Christian, Methodist Episcopal and Methodist Protestant. The two former named have commodious houses. It also contains a Masonic lodge. It has three general variety stores, two grocery stores, one drug store, one school, one tin shop, one harness shop, one shoe shop, one wagon shop, two blacksmith shops, two lawyers, and three physicians.

Ottawa, the next town in size, is situated some ten miles east of the county seat, and one mile north of the line of the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad, in Jackson Township, on part of sections fourteen and twenty-three, in township seventy-two, north of range twenty-four, west. The land was originally entered by Benjamin Coppock, March 20, 1854, and October 18, 1854, by whom the town was laid out. It was surveyed March 21, 1855, by Jerry Jenks. An addition was made to the original town by L. Coppock, which was surveyed April 29, 1856.

It contains one church (Methodist Episcopal), one large school house, one Masonic lodge, one general variety store, one blacksmith shop, one shoe shop, one cooper shop, one harness shop, one wagon shop, two physicians and three clergymen. Population about one hundred.

Liberty is situated about eleven miles north-east of Osceola in the township of the same name, on the line of the Kansas City and Ft. Desmoines railroad, on the south-west corner of section five, and the south-east corner of section six, in township seventy-three north of range twenty-four, west. The land was originally entered by John Branner, September 21, 1853, and the town was laid out by Alfred Rhodes, and surveyed July 2, 1855. The streets are sixty-six, and the alleys sixteen and a half feet wide. The lots are sixty-six by one hundred and thirty-four feet.

It contains one church (Methodist Episcopal), one school house, two general variety stores, one blacksmith shop, and several mechanics. Population about fifty.

Smyrna is situated some twelve miles south east of Osceola, in Franklin Township, on the north-west quarter of the north west quarter of section thirty-two, in township seventy-one north, of range twenty-four west. The land was entered by Dickenson Webster, October 21, 1850, and by him laid off. It was surveyed by J. Jenks, March 31, 1853. Stephen Gates made an addition to the town March 17, 1857. The streets are sixty-six feet, and the alleys sixteen and a half feet wide. It contains one general store, one school house and several mechanics. The Friends have a large meeting house in the vicinity. Population about forty.

Green Bay is situated about nine miles south of Osceola, in the township of the same name, in the line of the Kansas City and Ft. Desmoines Railroad, and on the north-east quarter of the north-east quarter of section thirty-one, and part of the south-east quarter of the south-east quarter of section thirty, in township seventy-one north, of range twenty-five, west. Part of the land was entered by Ogden Gray, July 3, 1855, and part by William Cochrane, December 10, 1855. It was laid out by Gilham Overton, and surveyed June 12, 1862. The streets are sixty and the alleys ten feet wide. The lots are eighty-two and a half by one hundred and thirty-two feet. It contains one general store, one school house, and several mechanics. Population about thirty.

Jacksonville is situated in Liberty Township, on the southeast quarter of the south-east

quarter of section twenty-four, in township seventy-three north, of range twenty-four west. This land was entered by John Roberts, September 18, 1854, and by him laid out. It was surveyed by John Clark, March 11, and May 27, 1856. The alleys are ten feet wide and the lots are sixty by one hundred and thirty-two feet.

The street on the north side is thirty-three feet wide, on the east thirty-five, on the west forty-nine, and all others are sixty-six feet wide. It contains three or four houses.

Shelby is situated in Green Bay Township, on the corners of the north-west of the south-west and the south west of the north-west of section twenty-seven, and the north-east of the south-east, and the south-east of the north-east of section twenty-eight, in township seventy-one north, of range twenty-five west. The land was entered by Jesse Bartlett, June 29, 1853, and by Jerome Bartlett, July 12, 1854. The original proprietors were William T. Matthews and Esau Buckingham. The town was surveyed by John Clark, April 18, 1856. The streets are sixty-six feet wide, and the lots are one hundred and thirty-two by sixty-six feet. It contains no houses.

Lacelle is situated in Knox Township, on the east half of the north-east quarter of section seventeen, in township seventy-one north, of range twenty-six west. The land was entered by David K. Linger, June 29, 1854, and the town was laid out by S. French, J. French and D. Lindley. It was surveyed by J. Jenks, July 5, 1855. The streets are sixty-six, and the alleys thirty-three feet wide. It contains one school house and several dwellings. Population about thirty.

Laporte is situated in Madison Township, on the south-east of the north-west, and the north-east of the south-west quarter of section two, in township seventy-three north, of range twenty-three west. The land was entered by James Hall, February 10, 1855, and Wilson Wheat, September 26, 1853. Original proprietor, James Hall. Surveyed by Jerry Jenks, March 1, 1855. Lots sixty-six by one hundred and thirty-two feet. Streets sixty-six, and alleys sixteen and a half feet wide. It contains several dwellings. Population about 25.

Prairie Grove, in Washington Township, and Milford in Troy Township, were laid off, it is said; but no records are preserved of them. The former contains a mill, blacksmith shop, wagon shop, grocery, and several dwellings. Population about 40.

The following are the names and locations of the various post offices in the county:

Liberty Township, Liberty; Fremont Township, Balaka; Washington Township, Prairie Grove; Madison Township, Laporte; Troy Township, Milford; Osceola Township, Osceola; Jackson Township, Ottawa; Franklin Township, Smyrna; Knox Township, Lacelle; Green Bay Township, Green Bay; Doyle Township, Hopeville.

With its fertility of soil, abundance of water, sufficiency of timber, large beds of coal and limestone, extremely healthful climate, cheap farms, improved and unimproved, arable acres, extensive natural meadows, numerous schools and churches, favorable locality, accessible markets, and a community unsurpassed in morality and sobriety; Clark County offers inducements to the farmer, the laborer, the stock-raiser, the merchant and the mechanic, second to no county in the great north-west. Then the advantages of her railroads, extending as they do to every point of the compass, and affording ready and speedy transportation to every quarter of the country, can not be estimated. Among them, however, may be mentioned, a large influx of capital and labor, a general stimulation of the present inhabitants to renewed industry; a thorough development of our vast resources, a complete overthrow of all old foggy notions, a healthy diffusion of intelligence, sobriety, and religion, an everlasting banishment of all Rip Van Winkleism, and a universal desire and design to make "the wilderness bloom and blossom as the rose."