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**HISTORY OF SCOTT COUNTY, IOWA.**  
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THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, OR DISCIPLES.

On the 25th day of July, 1839, seventeen persons who had formerly held membership with the Christian Church at other points, mostly at Cincinnati, met at the house of D. C. Eldridge, and under the auspices of Elder James Rumbold, organized the Christian or Disciples' Church of Davenport. Of those persons twelve yet remain, three have removed to other points and two have died. As early as April of that year, the few Disciples in the town commenced meeting at the houses of the brethren, under the leadership of Owen Owens, of Cincinnati. Elder Rumbold arrived in Davenport on the 22d of July, 1839, and on the 25th organized the church.

A few words relative to Elder James Rumbold may not be amiss in this connection, as he stands intimately associated with the church here. Brought up in the kirk of Scotland and uniting with the Scotch Baptists at Aberdeen in 1824, he removed to this country in 1835, and settled in Troy, N. Y., where with his wife and two others, he organized a church on the Bible alone and commenced preaching to them. This was the nucleus of what is now a large and flourishing church. Elder Rumbold was subsequently instrumental in organizing other churches. In July, 1839, he removed to this city. In March, 1841, he assisted in the organization of a church at Long Grove, in this County, baptizing seven on one day, three weeks thereafter. In March, 1842, he removed to Galena, where he organized a church and baptized five—preaching awhile for them and then returning, to this city. During the time Elder Rumbold preached here he baptized about forty persons. On the 10th day of July, 1840, he baptized Miss Elizabeth Carroll, who was the first person immersed in Scott county. The fact that a mechanic, a foreigner by birth, without education, further than what he obtained by his own exertions, should have been able to accomplish so much, is evidence of the simplicity of Bible teachings and the facility with which they may be communicated to others.

In this connection we would pause to mention one of the noblest of God's handiwork, a pure humble-minded Christian, who long since has been gathered to his fathers. Early in the history of the church here we find the name of James Glaspell associated with it as an Elder, which capacity he continued to fill with great acceptance up to the year 1847, when he fell asleep in Jesus. As a sincere, pious believer we have rarely indeed met with his equal. As a citizen he stood high in the community, and when he died his church did not alone mingle their tears with the bereaved family.

After the organization of the church in Davenport, the brethren continued to meet on Lord's Days at their own residences until November 3d, 1839, when they rented Mr. Tapley's carpenter shop, on Second, between Main and Brady streets, at \$4 per month. In 1844, a lot was purchased on Brady, between Fourth and Fifth streets, and a brick meeting house, considered large for that day, erected at an expense of from \$700 to \$800. In 1855-6, the present house of worship, the "Christian Chapel," was erected on the site of the old one, the church in the mean time meeting at the Court House. This chapel was erected at an expense of about 8\$,500, is forty by seventy-five feet with basement, built in modern style with the latest appliances for heat,

light and ventilation.

In 1842, the Christian Church was incorporated by act of Legislature under the style of the Church of Christ, meeting in Davenport. John Owens, Richard S. Craig and Charles Lesslie were appointed Trustees under the act.

For five years, Elder Rumbold was the only preacher the church in this city had. In 1844, Dr. H. P. Gatchell, of Cincinnati, was employed by the church as their pastor. He remained in that capacity one year, when he removed to Rock Island, but preached occasionally for this church until 1847. In 1848 Elder Charles Levan, of Philadelphia, was employed as pastor, which position he occupied for nearly two years. For two or three years after his removal from the city, although the church was without a pastor, yet the members continued to meet regularly on Lord's Day for breaking of bread, exhortation and prayer. Elder Jas. E. Gaston succeeded Mr. Levan, and in turn was followed by Elder Alexander Johnson, neither of whom remained long in the position. Nov. 19, 1854, Elder J. Hartzell was employed by the church as a preacher, which capacity he filled until Feb. 7, 1858, when he was succeeded by Elder Eli Regal, of Ohio, who, on account of ill health, resigned his position on the 10th of October of the same year. Until August, 1859, the church was again without a preacher, the brethren in the mean time meeting regularly on Lord's Day for attending to the Lord's Supper and exhortation, and on Thursday evening for prayer. On the last named date, Elder Samuel Lowe was chosen and entered upon his duties as pastor. In December last, Elder A. Chatterton, who claims seniority as a Christian preacher in Iowa, having removed the Evangelist to Davenport, became a resident of this city.

The revulsion of business in 1857 slightly affected the numerical strength of this church, but during the last year it has been regaining and now numbers as large a membership as it has ever possessed, embracing one hundred and sixty members. The members meet on every Lord's Day morning for preaching and the administration of the Lord's Supper; in the evening for preaching, and at 3 o'clock in the afternoon for exhortation and prayer; also on Thursday evening of each week. Attached to this church is a Sunday School embracing about fifty scholars.

#### CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

Congregationalism in Scott County was introduced as early as 1836. The first sermon was preached at the house of Levi Chamberlin, Esq., in Pleasant Valley, in the Summer of this year, by the Rev. Asa Turner, now of Denmark, who was traveling through this country on a missionary tour. Mr. Chamberlain, who was a man of piety and zeal, was one of the first settlers of that Valley, and feeling the spiritual wants of the people, he earnestly desired that a man be sent among them of ardent piety, and one with a family, that he might be a permanent resident, and one who could reconcile himself to the hardships of a new country.

The members of this denomination worshipped in common with the Presbyterians and Methodists until the 30th of July, 1839, when twelve persons congregated in a small building on Main street, opposite the Catholic Church, (used afterwards as a school house, and then by the Episcopalians as a place of worship under the ministrations of Rev. Z. Goldsmith,) entered into covenant bonds and organized a church, the Rev. Albert Hale, now pastor of a Presbyterian Church in Springfield, Ill., and then Agent of the Home Missionary Society, presiding. Two Deacons were elected, Messrs. John C. Holbrook and Strong Burnell.

During the month of June, 1840, Rev. Sam'l Storrs Howe, now of Iowa City, then traveling through the West, spent several Sabbaths in the supply of this Congregational Church, by invitation of Deacon Strong Burnell. And, among other incidents of his sojourn at Davenport,

thus early in its history, may be mentioned his call, with Mr. Burnell, on Antoine Le Claire, Esquire, the chief Proprietor of the town, and his solicitation of a lot for a church edifice, which Mr. Le Claire cheerfully promised and ultimately donated to the Congregational Society, the avails of which went towards their church enterprise.

During his stay, also, Mr. Howe preached a funeral sermon on the occasion of the drowning of a young man by the name of Gates, in a pleasure sailing excursion on the Mississippi river on the Sabbath. In regard to which death, the preacher remarked that absent friends would doubtless have preferred that it should have occurred on any other day in the week, for they could not say, with the old proverb, "The better day, the better deed."

The preaching was held in the unfinished upper story of what was afterwards known as "Ziek's Grocery," a building on Front street, consumed by fire in 1858.

The Rev. I. P. Stuart, of Stephenson, III., who was commissioned by the American Home Missionary Society to preach at "Stephenson and vicinity," in August, 1839, supplied the pulpit at Davenport from July, 1840, to some time in the early part of Winter. A call was extended, in 1841, to the Rev. Reuben Gaylord, now of Omaha, Nebraska, to become the pastor, but was declined. Rev. Oliver Emerson ministered to the church part of that year. Rev. Mr. Hitchcock was sent as a Missionary to this place in the fall of 1841, and ministered here three years. During his ministry, thirty-two members were received. The church was aided by the Home Missionary Society until 1852.

The meetings for preaching and prayer were first held in a building on Ripley St., used by the Presbyterians, and since destroyed by fire. In 1840, the church met for a while in the second story of a building on the corner of Front and Brady Sts., since destroyed by fire, and once known as "Ziek's Grocery." A new place of worship was fitted up, however, on the corner of Ripley and Front streets, a building some 20 by 30 feet, and had been used by D. C. Eldridge and others as a store-house, post office, &c., and was known as "Brimstone Corner," afterwards consumed by fire. The Rev. Mr. Hitchcock first began his ministry here, and preached his first sermon in Davenport.

The 20th of June, 1840, the Rev. Mr. Emerson took charge of the congregation, and preached for a short time, when he removed to DeWitt. The next place of worship of this church was in the log cabin erected by the Harrison Club, on Third street, and when cold weather came on, they met again on Main street, in the school house, which was removed in 1843, to give room for better buildings. They next worshipped at a school room on the east side of Harrison street, above Fourth, where Mr. Wheeler now resides. This building was one of the frames brought out from Cincinnati, and occupied for some time by the Davenport Institute. This was the last rented place of worship. Two lots having been procured on Fifth street, between Main and Brady, the old part of the present edifice was erected in the Summer of 1844, by Strong, Burnell, Esq., being twenty eight by thirty feet. The building was dedicated the 27th of October, 1844. Mr. Hitchcock preached the dedicatory sermon, which was his last sermon here, having had a call to settle in Moline, Ills., which he accepted, and where he still preaches. In the evening of that day, the Rev. Ephraim Adams, who had been preaching to the congregation for some time, occupied the pulpit and continued to do so till May, 1855, ten years and six months. He was called to the pastorship in December, 1846, and installed early in 1847. Mr. Adams was the *first* Pastor. Long and faithfully did he labor, amid days of moral darkness in the church, and in the whole north-west. He was one of that little band of pioneer ministers, eleven in number, graduates of Andover Theological Seminary, who, in the fall of 1843, moved by a spirit of enterprise, and the cause of home missions lying near their hearts, turned their thoughts to the

far West. Iowa was their first point of destination, and as Denmark, in Lee county, was Headquarters for Congregationalism in that day, they all met there, and most of them were ordained on the 5th of March, 1843. Mr. Adams preached at Mount Pleasant in this State, for a short time, before entering upon his labors here, where for so many years he devoted himself to building up the Congregational Church in this city.

He began his labors in the little school room on Harrison street with a congregation of *twelve*, and after he entered the new house of worship for more than a year he had but about thirty-five hearers. But in toil and self denial he labored on, amid many discouragements. At the end of five years, there were about eighteen members, but he looked forward full of hope and faith, believing that the little church was of God's own planting, and that in due time it would spring up and bear much fruit. The whole number of members on the 31st of July, 1859, was 224. Total from its organization 423. In May 1856, the pastoral relation between Mr. Adams and the church was dissolved, and soon after the Rev. Geo. F. Magoun was settled. The whole number admitted during his pastorship, to the present time is 190, three-fourths of the present membership. During the ministry of Mr. Hitchcock and Mr. Adams, there was special interest from time to time, the greatest revival occurring in the Winter of 1855 and '56. There was a steady increase of the church both by letter and profession.

Mr. Adams is now settled over a church at Decorah, in this State. During his ministry in this place he made many friends. His uniform kindness to all, and persuasive manner as a minister, his daily walk among his fellow men, and his untarnished Christian character, justly entitled him to, as he had, the love and respect of all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance.

Seven of the lay members of this church have become ministers of the Gospel, including two of its early deacons, viz: Rev. John C. Holbrook, of Du Buque; Rev. Asa Prescott, of Cordova; Rev. Wm. Windsor, and Rev. John H. Windsor, of Mitchell Co; Rev. Joseph Bloomer, (deceased,) of McGregor; Rev. Wales Coe, of Crawfordsville, and Rev. Darius E. Jones, of Columbus City. Fourteen members of the General Congregational Association of Iowa have been connected with this church.

Rev. G. F. Magoun left the church in November, 1860. In August, 1861, a new organization was made, under the name of the "Edwards Congregational Church," of which Rev. William Windsor became the stated supply, with home Missionary aid. The old church has only a nominal existence, in connection with the property and edifice of the congregation, now much involved in debt.

#### PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The organization of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Iowa, and the history of the "Trinity Church Parish" we copy entire from "Davenport Past and Present," as we believe it to be correct in all its parts:

The organization of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Iowa was effected at Muscatine in August, 1853; but the election of a Bishop did not take place until the first of June, 1854. The Convention sat in Davenport, in the basement-room of the First Presbyterian Church, Trinity not being ready for use. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Kemper, Missionary Bishop of the Northwest, presided. The balloting resulted in the election of the Rev. Henry W. Lee, D. D., then Rector of St. Luke's Church, N. Y. The Bishop elect was consecrated at Rochester in October of the same year, and soon entered upon his new duties. Having made his first visitation to the Diocese, he selected Davenport as his place of residence, it being, in his judgment, the most eligible and

convenient point with reference to his duties. The Diocese of Iowa includes the entire State; and from thirteen parishes and eight clergymen in 1854, it has increased to thirty parishes and twenty-five clergymen in January, 1858. Bishop Lee, at the present time, has also the Episcopal charge of the Territory of Nebraska; this being, however, but a temporary arrangement.

#### TRINITY CHURCH.

The first and regular services of the Protestant Episcopal Church were commenced in Davenport on Thursday, the 14th day of October, 1841, by the Rev. C. H. Goldsmith, who was appointed as a Missionary by the Domestic Committee of the Board of Missions of the Protestant Episcopal Church, his time being divided at intervals between Davenport and Rockingham, which later place, at the time, promised to be of the most importance. A parish was regularly organized at Davenport on Thursday, the 4th of November, 1841, by the name and title of "Trinity Church Parish;" and a vestry was elected, resulting in the following choice: Ira Cook, J. W. Parker, W. W. Dodge, Ebenezer Cook, H. S. Finley.

The regular meetings of the Parish for public worship were held during a succession of years, and until November, 1853, in the small frame building still standing on the west side of Main street, between Fourth and Fifth streets, occupying the middle lot of that half block, when it was abandoned as no longer tenatable. Divine services were held during the same Winter of 1853, and until April of 1854, in the store room at the north-east corner of Rock Island and Second streets, and from April until the completion and occupancy of the new edifice of Trinity Church, in August of 1854, in the house of the Rector, Rev. A. Louderback, known as the Emerson House, on Rock Island and Perry streets.

The incumbency of the Rev. Z. H. Goldsmith continued until the Spring of 1849, when, in the following year, he was displaced from the ministry, and continued to reside here till his death, which occurred in the Summer of 1853. The resignation of Rev. Z. H. Goldsmith, which occurred on the first of April, 1849, was followed by the call and settlement of them Rev. Alfred Louderback, as Rector and Missionary, on the 5th of May following, making a vacancy of one year in the Parish. When he assumed the charge of this Parish and Station, at a salary of two hundred dollars per annum, with a like sum from the Domestic Committee, he found the Parish in debt in some seven hundred dollars, or twice the amount of what the church lot and building were then considered worth, with about nine communicants in all, and an immense and increasing prejudice against the church, and with but little prospect of its permanent and successful establishment. Patient, continued, and persevering efforts, however, amidst no ordinary discouragements, have met with success. For, frequently, after careful preparation for the duties of the pulpit, there would not be over ten or fifteen persons present to join in the services and listen to the sermon; while, at the same time, the Parish was without a Surplice, a Communion set, a Melodeon, a Sunday School library, or any of those external appliances and aids so necessary to give effect and interest to the public services, because the poverty of the congregation would not admit of their procuring them. At the expiration of the second year these necessary aids were obtained, and also a complete set of plans, from Mr. Frank Wills, of New York City, who generously furnished them at a trifling cost. A subscription was, at the same time, started with a view to building the present edifice of Trinity church, and on the 5th of May, 1852, just three years from the time the acting Rector assumed charge, the corner-stone was laid by the Right Rev. Bishop Kemper, D. D., then in Episcopal charge of Iowa, as yet unorganized into a Diocese. The walls rose to their proper height during that year, and remained

bare the following Winter, until the Spring of 1853, when the roof was put on, and the building plastered and floored, and the windows roughly closed up, in which condition it stood until the Spring of 1853, when it was determined to finish it off. Contracts were made accordingly, and its occupation entered upon by the congregation on Sunday, the 20th day of August, of the same year, 1854. The original cost of the two lots in 1851, and now owned by the parish, was five hundred dollars; the organ, one of Erben's build, of New York city, and the generous gift of Gen. George B. Sargent, seven hundred dollars; in addition to which the parish holds about eight or nine acres of ground, being a part of the "Pine Hill Cemetery," as a burial ground for their dead; being in all a property worth, at the lowest estimate, over twenty thousand dollars, and in a perfectly safe condition. In conducting the parish to this gratifying state of outward, temporal prosperity, much credit and praise are due to the untiring interest, generosity and zeal of Mr. Ebenezer Cook, who has been the constant friend and liberal supporter of the parish throughout its entire history, without mentioning what is due to the efforts of the Rector.

The whole number of communicants, which have been connected with the parish, at various times, is about one hundred and forty. Number of baptisms—adults, twenty-two; infants, one hundred and nineteen, making in all one hundred and forty-one; confirmations, thirty-four; marriages, thirty-eight; burials, eighty-one; present number of communicants, about sixty-five. Size of the church at present, about seventy-five feet long, by thirty-five feet broad, in the clear, exclusive of chancel recess, with a view to enlargement, at a future day, by the addition of transepts, so as to make a cruciform building; at present capable of seating about three hundred persons, and when enlarged, as plans call for, affording sittings for about one thousand persons. Parochial Library, for the reading of the congregation, mostly imported English works, of near four hundred volumes, the generous gift of Ebenezer Cook. Sunday School Library of about one hundred and forty volumes. Sunday School scholars about sixty; teachers, six; Rector, Superintendent. The "Parochial Association" meets the first and third Tuesday evenings in every month, except during Lent, at the houses of parishoners, with a view to promoting acquaintance and sociality among the members of the congregation, and exciting a deeper interest in the welfare of the parish. Church chairs purchased, from the avails of that Association, at a cost of about one hundred and seventy-five dollars, being the contribution of one dime per month from members, with one dime, also, as entrance fee.

#### ST. LUKE'S CHURCH.

In March, 1856, at the request of the Hon. John P. Cook, Gen. Sargent, and thirty-three others, the Rev. Alfred Louderbach, Rector of Trinity Church, gave canonical consent to the organization of a second Episcopal Society in the City of Davenport. At a meeting of the citizens favorable to the new enterprise, held April 4th, 1856, a second parish was organized under the name of St. Luke's Parish. Bishop Henry W. Lee presided at this meeting, and Charles Powers, Esq., was Secretary. For nearly two years, the services of this church were held in the small brick edifice on Brady, near the corner of Fourth street, in the building formerly owned and occupied by the First Baptist Church. During the first year of the St. Luke's existence, several clergymen officiated as temporary incumbents, among whom were Bishop Lee, Rev. Geo. W. Watson and the Rev. Geo. O. Street. This enterprising Society entered upon their work with much earnestness and determination. They fitted up their place of worship, which though small was neat and convenient. The congregation increased and some were added to the church, when in March, 1867, the Rev. Horatio N. Powers became their permanent Rector, took charge

of the Parish, and in May following, entered upon his duties, and still ministers to this people.

The little church on Brady becoming too small, they determined on building a new house of worship, and although but a little more than a year had expired since their organization, yet on the first of July, 1857, the corner stone of a new church was laid with appropriate ceremonies, Bishop Lee delivering the address on the occasion, and on the 14th of March following it was opened for divine service. The prompt and energetic spirit with which this little church undertook the erection of this beautiful and stately edifice, the harmonious and Christian spirit in which they seem united in every good work, is worthy of all note; and as the church edifice is a model one in our city, and in the West, we give a description of it here.

Its location is on Brady street, about half way up the bluff; being central in its position, and presents a very attractive appearance from the river. It is of gothic structure, built of brick, with a deep basement of limestone. The tower is fourteen feet square at the base, not including the buttresses which project two feet each. The extreme height to the top of the pinnacle is eighty-three feet from the base. The body of the church is eighty-five feet by forty five, and thirty one feet high in the clear. The exterior height is forty-four feet. The vestry room, south of the chancel, is eleven by twelve feet.

In the basement there is a large lecture room, with four other small compartments. These rooms are fourteen feet, all finished, and some of them were occupied by Miss Lyons for a Young Ladies School. The chancel is fourteen feet long by eighteen wide, with a height of twenty-three feet; height of chancel area twenty feet. The organ gallery is large and convenient; the windows of stained glass, containing two lancets each. The chancel window contains three lancets with appropriate devices. The chancel furniture is all made of black walnut of neat workmanship. The lecture and pulpit are without the chancel rails, and are built in handsome style; the pews of the same finish. The chairs alone cost over one hundred dollars and were a present from Col. Young. The books, which cost over fifty dollars, were presented by Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. Jaynes. The carpeting and ornaments of the church were furnished by the ladies of the congregation. The architect was J. C. Cochran. The entire cost of the building and lot was about twenty thousand dollars. Nearly seventy families are now included in the Parish. The number of communicants as last reported to the convention was sixty, but since the last report several have been added. The congregation is continually increasing, and is already quite large. There is a Sabbath School connected with the church, in a flourishing condition. When we take into consideration that this church, so recently organized, amid the financial pressure of the country, commenced such a work and prosecuted it to so successful a termination, we can but admire their worthy efforts, and wish them many spiritual as well as temporal blessings.

The present Vestry consists of Hon. Jno. P. Cook, Dr. Wm. Keith, H. S. Finley, Wm. Van Tuyl, Charles Powers, George H. French, Thomas J. Holmes, James A. Buchanan, V. R. Rowe. Senior Warden, Dr. Wm. Keith; Junior Warden, Wm. Van Tuyl; Treasurer, Wm. Van Tuyl; J. A. Buchanan, Secretary.

#### FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Although this church was not organized in Davenport until June 1st, 1842, yet its ever active and pioneer spirit had penetrated the Valley of the Upper Mississippi, and the Gospel trumpet began to echo along our bluffs as early as the Spring of 1836. The Rev. Mr. Gavitt, from Ohio, traveling through the county, preached the first sermon, in the house of D. C. Eldridge, this Spring; but the first attempt by the settlers to hold divine service was in a log cabin twelve feet

square, situated on the land now owned by Judge Weston, back of Rockingham. The meeting was conducted by Wm. L. Cook, Esq., and held as a prayer meeting. There were eight persons present.

In August of this year, there was a society formed at Rockingham by John R. James, then connected with the Rock Island Mission, under the control of the Illinois Conference. The Methodist Conference was held this fall at Alton, and the Rockingham society reported the wants of this region of country, its prospects for a wide field of labor, when the Conference formed a circuit extending from the mouth of the Iowa river to the mouth of the Wabesipinecon. Rockingham then being the largest town, and the only one of any importance in the circuit, it was called the "Rockingham Circuit," embracing all the country west as far as settlements were made. This circuit was about two hundred miles round, and consisted of a few families along the river and among the groves. Chauncey Hobert was sent to this circuit as preacher. He had been a soldier in the Black Hawk war, which had just closed, and was well calculated to traverse a country whose streams were unbridged and inhabitants widely scattered. He could swim creeks and sleep by the side of a log when night might overtake him. The first Winter, he had three appointments: one at Rockingham, one at a little town near the mouth of the Iowa river, called Black Hawk, and one at the cabin of Mr. Spencer in Pleasant Valley, the father of our fellow citizen, Roswell H. Spencer. The appointments multiplied the following year, but Rockingham was the centre, and probably contained more members than all the balance of the circuit.

In the year 1839, B. Weed was presiding Elder for the Iowa District. About this time the Elder thought that there were sufficient members and encouragement to commence a society in Davenport, and have an organization of the Methodist church in that place. Accordingly he authorized Wm. L. Cook to change his connection with the society, and form a class, if he could find the requisite number of members. His search among protestants, resulted in finding five members besides himself and wife, who had been members of churches in former days. A time was appointed for a meeting to be held at the house of Timothy Dillon, situated on Third street near Washington Square. At this first meeting were present, as members, Wm. L. Cook and wife, Timothy Dillon and wife, Israel Hall, W. S. Ruby and Mary Ruby. Here this little band of christians, longing for a closer union with Him in whom they trusted, in deep devotion poured fourth many desires for spiritual food in this strange land; and, in that little cabin alone with God, they dedicated themselves to Him and His service, renewing their covenant views, and forming the first Methodist Episcopal Church in the then little village of Davenport. Such were the beginnings of the church, that now worships on the corner of 5th and Brady, with nearly four hundred members.

From this time, meetings were continued every Sabbath, being generally conducted by Mr. Cook. The society increased until private rooms became too small, and in the fall of 1840, the church then numbering about twenty members, it was thought best to erect a building. Though its members were few and poor, they purchased a lot on Perry, between 4th and 5th, which was then considered out of town, and built the first brick chapel, which still stands on the same ground. This church was seated at first with slabs and split saplings, flat side up, and lighted with a "chandelier" composed of a block of wood suspended by a rope from the ceiling, in which were inserted some half dozen tallow candles; and warmed by a stove that looked as though it might have done good service before the flood. While thus seated, warmed and lighted, it came near passing out of the possession of the society by reason of an execution in the hands of the Sheriff, issued upon a judgment for \$150, for the purchase money of the lot. But those days of darkness passed away and the sun of prosperity, both spiritual and financial, dawned upon this

church, and continued to shine and bless the efforts of the little band, illustrating the truth of that saying, "we should not despise the day of small things."

A petition was sent into conference, in 1840, for a preacher and F. A. Chenoweth was sent to the Davenport station, and in turn supplied the Rockingham pulpit. In 1853, the little brick church on Perry street becoming too small, a large and commodious house was erected on the corner of Fifth and Brady, which is now filled to overflowing, although a new church has been formed from this, Wesley Chapel, built in 1856, but it is now closed. The new church on Brady was dedicated in July, 1854. It has an end gallery, class and lecture rooms below, a Sabbath School and a library. Also a parsonage attached and sexton's house. The whole church property is clear of debt.

## SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH.

On the 6th of October, 1851, sixteen members of the First Baptist Church in Davenport asked for and received letters of dismissal for the purpose of organizing another church. They met on the same day and unanimously resolved to call a council to take into consideration the propriety of reorganizing themselves into a regular Baptist Church. ON the 7th of October the council met at the house of J. M. Witherwax, there being present the Rev. J. Teesdale, of the A. F. B. Society; Rev. J. L. Denison, Rock Island; A. J. Johnson, of Burlington, Iowa; S. B. Johnson, Muscatine; Rev. Mr. Scots, Maquoketa; Rev. Dr. Carpenter, of Blue Grass. After due deliberation and examination of all the circumstances, they proceeded to organize the sixteen members into the "Second Baptist Church of Davenport, Iowa." A constitution and by-laws were drafted by a committee appointed consisting of Dr. Blood, Mr. Solomon, and Levi Davis.

The first officers of the church elected were Dr. J. M. Witherwax, C. G. Blood, and W. M. Crosson, Trustees; Levi Davis, Clerk, and J. Solomon, Treasurer. Thus organized this little church stood alone, amid every discouragement; poor, and without a pastor or a place of worship. The school room of the Misses Jones' was procured, (now the residence of Dr. Witherwax,) and the services of the Rev. Professor Briggs were secured until a regular pastor could be obtained.

On the 13th of June, 1842, the Rev. E. M. Miles was called and settled. The church steadily increased in numbers, both by profession and admission by letter. In February, 1853, the first movement was made towards building a house of worship. Between three and four thousand dollars were at once subscribed, and the present edifice commenced. It is of stone, forty-six by eighty six feet, with basement and spire, well proportioned, and a beautiful as well as durable house. Their church debt has recently been reduced to about five thousand dollars, and it is now in a prosperous condition. Its recent Pastor, the Rev. Isaac Butterfield, succeeded Mr. Miles in June, 1858. The number of members since its organization according to the church's records, has been 280; dismissals 97; exclusions 11, and deaths 12. These were received—132 by baptism, and 143 by letter. The present number of members is 162. The sabbath school attached to the church contains two hundred scholars, with a good library.

Rev. Isaac Butterfield resigned his charge in Nov. 1863, having the satisfaction of leaving the church out of debt and prosperous.

## FIRST ENGLISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.

This church was established November 25th, 1855. Jacob Steck was their first Pastor, and,

we believe, still continues to minister to the church.

There were twenty-five members at its organization. This society has had many difficulties to contend with. In 1856, a church edifice was commenced, but the financial difficulties delayed its completion, we believe, until the present season. It has a Sabbath School of seventy-five members, and a Library of three hundred volumes.

#### SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, N. S.

In the fall of 1856, a number of members of the Presbyterian Church, who were new school, then residing in Davenport, feeling the want of a church of their own denomination, erected for that purpose a house on Iowa Street, between Sixth and Seventh streets, built entirely at the expense of Mr. H. Y. Slaymaker, and as soon as completed, it was burnt down, taking fire from a carpenter's shop, which was burnt adjoining it. On the 4th of May, 1857, a church was formed by Rev. W. H. Spencer, then Pastor of the first Presbyterian Church, of Rock Island Ill., with twenty-eight members, the way having been prepared by Rev. Samuel Storrs Howe, of Iowa City, and ruling elder H. Y. Slaymaker, one of the first officers of the church. For some time they occupied Griggs' Hall, on Perry street; from thence they removed to Metropolitan Hall, and subsequently to the house originally occupied by the First Baptist Church on Brady.

The Rev. D. T. Packard, of Massachusetts, preached to them as a stated supply, for about a year, since which time they have had service but a few times, and are now altogether suspended. There were a number of accessions during Mr. Packard's ministry, but owing to removals from the city, the number is now reduced to fifteen members. After its organization, and during the preaching of Mr. Packard, the congregation numbered one hundred, and a Sunday School had been commenced; but the financial difficulties of the West seemed to break into their arrangements, and the church has been abandoned for the present.

#### FIRST ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

We believe this church is now without a Pastor and its house of worship closed. Of its origin and progress, we need not speak, but copy its history from "Wilkie's Davenport Past and Present :"

"This Church is situated on the southeast corner of Scott and Eleventh streets, on a lot donated by Mr. James McIntosh. It is a neat, plain frame building, thirty-five by forty-five feet, and calculated to seat between three and four hundred persons. It was founded A. D. 1856. The Congregation numbers about sixty members, and is under the Pastoral care of Rev. Samuel M. Hutchinson. They have a Sabbath School of thirty-one scholars, and six teachers, with a library of one hundred and seventy-five volumes.

"It may be observed that this Church is in its infancy, and the only one of the kind in Davenport. It belongs to a large and influential branch of the Presbyterian family, which originated in a union of Associate Presbyterians and Reformed Presbyterians, who came from Scotland and Ireland, as Missionaries, prior to the revolution, and in the year 1782, they united together, and retaining their primitive names in one, have since been known by the name of Associate Reformed Presbyterians. An effort has been made to unite this body with the Associate Presbyterians. If this proves successful, it may change the name of the Church to United or Union Presbyterian."

## THE REFORMED PROTESTANT DUTCH CHURCH.

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

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

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

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

### CHAPTER V. PLEASANT VALLEY TOWNSHIP.

1833.—No one who has passed through that portion of our county lying upon the river, above Davenport, called Pleasant Valley, terminating at the point of bluff at the mouth of Spencer's Creek, can for a moment forget its natural beauty. A short distance above East Davenport, the bluffs recede from the river, leaving the bottom lands a mile wide, very little of which ever overflow. The gently sloping bluffs continue for several miles, sometimes approaching and then receding from the river, forming at times landscape views of unsurpassed beauty. And now that these lands are dotted over with tasteful and well cultivated farms and gardens, from the river even to the top of the bluffs in places, it presents one of the most lovely rural scenes upon the Upper Mississippi. This lovely valley received its very appropriate name from one of its earliest settlers, Mrs. J. A. Birchard, who now lives there to enjoy the fruits of her early toil and privations.

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

1834—During the winter of 1833 and 1834, J. B. Chamberlin, Esq., moved into the cabin built by Mr. Spencer, his being the first white family in the valley. In February or March, they

had a son born, who was the first white child born in the township. In the Spring of 1834, Mr. Chamberlin built a cabin on the bank of the river, a little above the mouth of Crow Creek, which is still standing, and is upon the farm now owned by G. B. and D. S. Hawley, Esqs. In addition to Mr. Spencer and Chamberlin, the first settlers, were Mr. Daniel Davison, Calvin Spencer and James Thompson.

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

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

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

Roswell H. Spencer, one of the first settlers of the Valley, is a farmer, but his attention has been turned more particularly to mills and milling. From an early day, Mr. Spencer has furnished lumber for improvements in this portion of the county, and done much towards advancing the interests of the settlement. In 1856 or '57, he erected, at a heavy cost, a large steam flouring mill near his residence in Valley City, which has done a very good business.

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

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

Christopher Rowe settled in 1851, and although he has been for many years a non-resident of the Valley, yet his early efforts in behalf of the infant settlement will long be remembered. His open and generous heart has often made glad the weak and discouraged, while his aid and

his counsel inspired confidence in those who languished under the severe trials incident to a frontier life.

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

## CHAPTER VI LE CLAIRE TOWNSHIP.

1834.—At the treaty in 1832, with the Sac and Fox Indians, at Davenport (see chap. first of this Hist.,) they gave to Antoine Le Claire, Esq., a section of land at the head of the Rapids, (640 acres.) They had at the same treaty, presented Mrs. Le Claire with a similar amount of land where the city of Davenport now stands. The reason of this gift was none other, we believe, than out of friendship and respect for Mr. and Mrs. Le Claire. He had been with them from boyhood, either in the employ of the Fur Company or of the Government, as interpreter, and was very popular with them. The American Fur Company, at an early day, had a trading house on a small island some three miles below Le Claire, called "Davenport's Island," afterwards "Smith's Island," and now Fulton's Island." The Indians came across from Rock river, Meredocia swamp, and from the Wabesipinicon river to this "Post," to trade. The Indians ever loved to live along the thick timber lands of the "Pau-ke-she-tuck," (Rapids) or *swift water*, where they found abundance of fish. There was much game also. The forest was dense all through the country lying along the Mississippi river, from Spencer's Creek, at the head of Pleasant Valley, to Princeton, and was of large growth. A corresponding tract also of like character lay along the opposite side of the river.

The Township of Le Claire, in its general character, is similar to other river townships; perhaps rather more uneven along a portion of its bluffs, but its prairie lands back are among the choicest in Iowa, and well settled by enterprising and industrious farmers.

The first settlement of Le Claire was not upon that portion given to Mr. Le Claire by the Indians, but was made by Eleazer Parkhurst, Esq., we believe from the State of Massachusetts. He purchased the claim just above the North line of the "Reserve," of George W. Harlan, who built the cabin thereon. This cabin stood on or near the place of the present residence of Waldo Parkhurst in the present limits of the city of Le Claire, and was the first actual settled claim in the Township. We believe this cabin was built in February, 1834.

His brother, the late Sterling Parkhurst, Esq., was the second settler, but the same season Nathan and Martin W. Smith settled below the town where the old mill now stands. Ira F. Smith came in the Autumn of that year, and now lives on the old place of Martin W. Smith. All of these early pioneers are now dead except Ira F. Smith.

But there seems to have been others, even at an earlier day, anxious to secure so desirable a site for a town. The importance of the location had attracted the attention of some who, at an early day, were passing up and down the Mississippi river, and were not blind to the coming future. I here insert a document dated the next year after the treaty, and after Mr. Le Claire came into possession of the land, in which a contract is made for the town site of Le Claire proper:

WHEREAS, It is agreed by and between Antoine Le Claire of the one part, and Geo. Davenport, Enoch C. March and John Reynolds of the other part, witnesseth, That the said Le Claire agrees to convey by Deed in fee simple to the said Davenport, March and Reynolds, forty

acres each—to be taken out of a section of land at the head of the Rapids, which was granted to said Le Claire by the late Treaty with the Sac and Fox Indians. Said land is situated on the Mississippi river, on the west side thereof. Said Le Claire reserving forty acres himself of said section, making in all one-quarter section.

Said quarter-section is to be located so as to be the most suitable for the purpose of laying out a town thereon. And all the parties to this contract agree further to lay out a town on said quartersection of land, and to be equal partners and proprietors thereof:

Said quarter-section of land is to be located and surveyed as soon as practicable, and the same surveyed also as soon as practicable into lots.

Said Davenport, March and Reynolds in consideration of said land, agreed to pay him (Le Claire) Eighty Dollars each one.

27th March, 1833.

Test,

K. McKENZIEY.

Signed,

ANTOINE LE CLAIRE,

GEO. DAVENPORT,

ENOCH C. MARCH,

JOHN REYNOLDS,

1835.—At a subsequent date the interest of Enoch C. March, Esq., consisting of one-fourth of the town site, was purchased by our fellow townsman Capt. James May, who still retains a large portion of it. Mr. Eleazer Parkhurst opened the first farm upon the prairies back of the town. The town of Le Claire was laid out into lots in the Spring or Summer of 1837, by the Town Company, surveyed by Wm. R. Shoemaker assisted by Henry S. Howell, both U. S. Deputy Surveyors. About the same time, Mr. Parkhurst, having disposed of a part of his claim to Col. T. C. Eads, they jointly laid out the town of Parkhurst.

1836.—During the Summer of 1836 Mr. Parkhurst applied to the Post Office Department for a Post Office at that place. He immediately received a favorable answer, with the appointment of Postmaster, and the office was named "Parkhurst," after the name of the petitioner.

During the years 1835 and 1836, immigrants came in and made settlements. Among these were Mr. William Rowe, Josiah Scott, John M. and Griswold Vanduzer, Eli Smith, Dr. Zachariah Grant, William Cousal, Philip Suter, Noble McKinstry, Rockwell McKinstry, John Lewis, and others. A son of M. E. Parkhurst, the Rev. Wm. J. Parkhurst, still resides in this township, and is the oldest inhabitant now resident in the place. The two towns, LeClaire and Parkhurst were for many years rivals, in point of progress, and exhibited many of those traits so common among the embryo cities of the West. Soon after Parkhurst was laid out, its name was changed, with that of its Post Office, to Berlin, and finally to LeClaire.

1837.—Col. T. C. Eads made the first important improvement in Parkhurst, in the Summer of 1837, by the erection of a large frame dwelling, thirty by forty feet, two stories high, and it was one of the wonders of the age. Our fellow citizen Nathaniel Squires was the builder, and it stands, a worthy monument of the genius, enterprise and ambition of those early pioneers.

1838—In the Spring of 1838, Ralph Letton, Esq., of Cincinnati, purchased a portion of Col. Eads' interest in the town, and a disagreement among the owners retarded the settlement and improvement of the place for several years. No decided improvements in either of the towns took place, however, until 1841. But the progress of settlement by farmers upon the edge of the prairie, was considerable, and many farms were opened along the river up to the Wabesipinicon

bottoms.

1839 and 1840 were, however, dark days in the West, alike to all, and every new enterprise, or even a new comer, was hailed as an acquisition to the infant colony. Lemuel Parkhurst, Esq., now a resident of Le Claire, first opened a store in 1839, in the little stone building in Parkhurst now owned by Mr. W. Gardner. In 1840, the old stone building yet standing on the bank of the river, at the foot of Walnut street, was erected by Eleazer Parkhurst. The same year, he and his nephew, Waldo Parkhurst, who settled there in 1837, and is still a merchant in Le Claire, opened in the stone store a large stock of goods of all kinds, and continued in the same until 1849, when the firm was dissolved.

1841.—In 1841, Charles Ames, William Allen, A. K. Philleo and Martin W. Smith made improvements and settled in the town of Le Claire. Mr. Ames was from Port Byron, on the opposite side of the river, and brought with him a stock of goods. He built the house now owned and occupied by his widow, it being the first house built in the city of Le Claire, or on the "Reserve." Here he opened the first stock of goods ever offered for sale in that place. Mr. Ames died in 1846. Mr. Philleo built the house occupied as a bakery now, by Mr. Sheck. These were the dark days of Le Claire. Many an old settler will call to mind the few little tenements scattered along the banks of the river, through both of the villages, and well remember the stately oaks that grew along the streets, where now the beautiful mansions and the merchants' blocks rear their massive piles.

From this date to 1847, but little progress was made at either town in the way of improvements. Steamboats generally laid up there in low water and windy weather, on account of the difficulty of crossing the Rapids at such times, and often in extreme low water lighters or flat-boats were used to convey freight over, as at the present day, employing many men. It is the residence of the Rapids pilots, for boats and rafts. The settlement of the prairie back from the town continued slowly, and occasionally a new edifice would appear in Le Claire or Parkhurst.

In February, 1837, Messrs. A. H. Davenport and Samuel Lyter, of Rockingham, opened a store of dry goods and groceries. Mr. Lyter soon gave place in the firm, to Robert Christie, Esq., and Winchester Sherman; and, in the Autumn of 1848, this firm erected the first saw-mill in LeClaire and the following year a flouring mill was added. In the Summer of 1851, this mill was burned down, and in four months after, the firm of Davenport & Rogers, who then owned it, erected the "Rapids Mill," upon the same ground.

1848.—The comparative size of the two villages at this date, may be seen by an article which we quote from the *Le Claire Republic* of March 23d, 1859, from the pen of E. Russell, Esq., then Editor of that paper:

"In 1848, (says Mr:Russell) when we first visited the locality, Le Claire and Parkhurst were separated by a 'gulf,' which though easily passed, kept each town entirely separate from the other. A beautiful and dense grove of oaks extended from Reynolds street up to Holland street, and no 'cabins' or fences marred the scene. Le Claire then contained nine frame dwelling houses, two brick do, one brick store, one frame do, occupied, and one or two unoccupied, one brick building used as a pork house, one blacksmith shop, the Baptist church, occupied but not finished, and the old Methodist church, in course of erection. Parkhurst boasted of eight frame dwelling houses, one brick do, two log do, one stone do, two stone store houses, one frame barn, and one log do."

It was not until 1840 or 1850, that either of the towns began to assume the appearance of a village, but from that time both increased in population and buildings, as well as in extension of the limits of their towns. In 1851, Messrs. Davenport and Rogers purchased of Mr. Le Claire the

remaining strip of land lying between the two towns of Le Claire and Parkhurst, and laid it out into building lots. This gave a new impetus to business of all kinds. Mills and Manufactories were erected. Mechanics of all kinds settled in the place, and many large brick stores were erected, so that in 1855, on petition of the inhabitants of both towns, the Legislature, by act, incorporated the City of Le Claire, including within its limits the town of Parkhurst.

At this date, there were within the limits of this city, no less than eleven dry-goods stores, two clothing stores, one watchmaker; one saddler, two boat and provision stores, one bakery, five blacksmith shops, three wagon shops, one tin shop and stoves, one hardware store, one boot and shoe store, five churches, two cooper shops, two tailor shops, two shoemakers, two livery stables, five hotels, one banking house, one printing office, two steam flouring mills, one steam saw-mill, three lawyers, six physicians, two cabinet shops, candy shops and oyster saloons in any quantity. House and ship carpenters, stone masons and brick layers, a boat yard, where steamers are repaired, and keel boats made and repaired, and a ferry across the Mississippi river.

There are many interesting anecdotes connected with the early history of this Township, like many others in the country. All the pioneer laws of a new country were enforced here, and that same rigid regard for the rights of all was duly noticed. Some very rough specimens of humanity were of course among the early settlers, and many a kind heart covered up by a very rough exterior. It was deemed, in those days, a very dangerous thing for one man to "jump" another's "claim." The man who had the temerity to attempt such a thing was looked upon as likely to do worse deeds when opportunity presented. A rather laughable farce of this kind took place in September, 1837. At a meeting of the inhabitants of the settlement, matters had been talked over as to the peace and good order of things, and the meeting about to adjourn, when a young man, a stranger, rather casually remonstrated against any one holding more than one "claim," and not that unless he dived on it. He was from Hennepin, Ill., and most evidently had not traveled "the country all over," assuming rather more airs than seemed necessary for the occasion. His remarks were heard by one Simeon Cragin, a discharged soldier, and one of those unceremonious, backwoods, frontier, half-civilized *humans* that lurk around the border settlements, who immediately presented himself before him and thus addressed him: "My name, Sir, is Simeon Cragin. I own *fourteen* 'claims,' and if any man 'jumps' one of them I will shoot him down at once Sir. I am a gentleman, Sir, and scholar. I was educated in Bangor, have been in the United States army and served my country faithfully—am the discoverer of the 'Wopsey'—can ride a grizzly bear, or whip any *human* that ever crossed the Mississippi; and if you dare to jump one of my claims, die you must. My name is Simeon Cragin, Sir, all the way from Bangor, and you must leave these diggings, with but few remarks." The increasing rage of "Simeon" became alarming to the young *Sucker*, and he found the shortest road possible to the State of Illinois, and we presume has never since visited Iowa with a view at least of "jumping claims."

There are also many striking reminiscences of the Indians and their sojourn, both before and after the whites took possession of the country, that might be interesting and may be added hereafter. There are those now living in Le Claire who remember with what satisfaction the Indians often returned to their forest home at the head of the rapids. In 1837, over one thousand were encamped where the city now stands.