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**HISTORY OF SCOTT COUNTY, IOWA.**  
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**LE CLAIRE TOWNSHIP.**

But while the people of Le Claire were thus busily engaged in building up a city, they did not forget in its earlier days, when their sun of prosperity looked dark, and uncertainty brooded over their undertakings, to turn their attention to schools and churches. Of the first little gatherings for prayer, or of the first sermon in some small cabin, where the little pioneer band first met, we know nothing, but the first building erected for that purpose was the brick Baptist Church, in the Summer of 1847. It was enclosed that Autumn, and a small room in the basement finished off, so that it could be occupied by the District School during the six days, and on the Sabbath for divine service. This room, measuring about sixteen by twenty feet, continued to be the headquarters of the grammar school and the ballot-box for some five years. Upon election days, the school was "let out" to accommodate the "officials," in the "weightier matters of the law." In 1849, the church being still weak in numbers and poor, entered into an agreement with the Congregational Church to make the building answer for both congregations. The main edifice was to be finished, the original owners were to lath it, and the Congregationalists were to plaster it, and for so doing the latter were to have the use of it free on alternate Sabbaths, for four years. In consequence, however, of delay on the part of the Baptist brethren, in performing their contract, the church was not plastered until the Spring of 1850, and the slips or pews were not put in until Autumn. During this Summer (1850), the audiences of the respective churches had to sit on seats constructed by laying rough joists on equally rough blocks—seats of the most rude and primitive kind. But it appears that the immigration into the flourishing village of Le Claire that Summer was so great, houses could not be found to contain them, and a family occupied one end of the church as a residence—having a calico curtain separating kitchen, dining-room and parlor from the sanctuary. The Rev. W. Rutledge was pastor of the Baptist, and Rev. H. W. Cobb the stated supply of the Congregational Church, which occupied the edifice until the completion and dedication of their neat little church on the 22d of December, 1853.

The old Methodist Church was built in the Autumn of 1848, and was used in its unfinished state during the following Winter, being used also, one end of it, as a carpenter's shop, the bench and tools crowded into one corner, on the Sabbath. This building is yet standing, and is rented for a District School. The first resident Methodist minister in Le Claire, was the Rev. Joel B. Taylor. He was the first to occupy the parsonage, erected the same Autumn, of the church. A new Methodist Church edifice was commenced in 1856, and completed and dedicated in August, 1857.

The old Presbyterian Church was built, we believe, in 1850, at a cost of five hundred dollars. In 1855 it was sold to the School District and converted into a school house. In the Summer of that year, Mr. T. H. Longbottom entered into a contract to erect a new church, which he completed, the following season, at a total cost of four thousand one hundred and eighty dollars. The dedication services were held on the 15th of September,

1856. This building was destroyed by fire on the 2d of June, 1859, supposed to be the work of an incendiary.

The Congregational Church was organized in 1849. Rev. H. W. Cobb was stated supply from June, 1850, to December, 1851, and the Rev. L. R. White from that date to June 1st, 1854. The church edifice was erected in 1853, at a cost of one thousand and sixty dollars, labor and material at that time being very cheap.

There are Catholic, United Presbyterian and Disciples' Churches in the city, the statistics of which I am unable to give.

The "Bratton House" was commenced in the Summer of 1854, finished the following season, and opened by H. E. and D. B. Brown, in October, 1856.

A Boat Yard, called the Marine Railway, was commenced in March, 1856, and the first boat was "hailed out," the 18th September of the same year.

## **CHAPTER VII. PRINCETON TOWNSHIP.**

1835.—The first permanent claimants to land in this Township were Giles M. and Haswell H. Pinneo, who made their claims in the Autumn of 1835, and moved on to them as permanent settlers in the Spring of 1836. George W. Harlan had made some claims on speculation even before this, but made no real settlement. Giles M. Pinneo settled where he now lives, and Haswell H. took his claim where a part of the city of Princeton now stands. Many of the "old settlers" will remember his neat hewed log cabin and the comforts it often afforded to those who came beneath its roof. He died many years since, much respected by all who knew him.

In the Spring of 1836, Thomas Hubbard, Sen., who had been living on the opposite side of the river from the time of the Black Hawk War moved over and settled on what is now a part of the city of Princeton. Mr. Hubbard was from Kentucky, had served in the Black Hawk War, and seemed to have had much of the old Kentucky hatred for Indians. While settled upon the Illinois side of the river, he had frequent attacks from them, which were repelled in true pioneer spirit. The Indians were in the habit of stealing from him such few articles of "animal civilization" as he was able to get around him, such as fowls, hogs and cattle. He had procured some bees from the forest, which, at that time, were plenty, when one day on his return to his cabin he found they had been robbed by the Indians. He was soon upon their trail with his rifle, and came up with them as they were leaving the shore in their canoes. He fired upon them, when the fire was returned from the canoes, Hubbard taking to a tree for shelter. Several shots were passed and one Indian was killed. Many other skirmishes were often related by the old man, of his exploits with the redskins. In his old age he became superstitious and somewhat shattered in mind. He returned, I believe, to Kentucky, and died there some years since.

Some time in the year 1837, Daniel Hire settled about four miles from the Mississippi river, upon the Wabesipinicon bottom, near where he now lives. Benjamin F. Pike came up from Rockingham in the Spring of 1838, and brought with him a small stock of goods, which was the first store of any kind ever opened in the township. The same year Jesse R. James and Samuel Sturdivant settled near Lost Grove, and that Winter, John B. Doty, Esq., settled about two miles from the Mississippi, where he now lives. The first frame house built in the township was by Daniel Hire, in 1837.

In the Spring of 1838, Benjamin Doolittle established the first public ferry across the Wabesipinicon, on the road from Davenport to Camanche. Jonas Barber built a mill this year propelled by steam, which was the first of any kind built in the township. There was a distillery also built the same year by Jacob Rose. The immigrants of this year were Abijah Goodrich and family, Avery D. Pinneo, Gideon Averill, Wm. Palmer, Franklin Rowe, Sterling Parkhurst and Matthias L. Pinneo.

From the year 1840, settlement was slow in the township for ten years, but has gradually filled up so that at present there are about two hundred and sixty voters. The first deaths in the township were Mrs. Mary Sweet and Mrs. Lucy Goodrich. The first children born were Henry Hire, Thos. Doty and Albert Pinneo.

In the first settlement of Princeton township, like other places at that day, the pioneer families underwent many privations. Supplies of every kind, except wild meat, had to be obtained from Fort Armstrong, on Rock Island. These were taken up by water over the Rapids in Indian canoes. It was but little they were able to purchase, and all that was expected in those days were the bare necessities of life. A story is told of Mr. Pinneo making a journey to Davenport after it became settled and a store had been established, with a lot of beans, in order to exchange them for goods to make clothing for his family. It was bitter cold weather, and on the way he had an attack of the ague. He exchanged his beans with much difficulty at 25 cents per bushel, heaping measure, and took thin "five cent" calico at the rate of 25 to 37 1/2 cents per yard. These were the beginnings of some of those who settled in this township. But brighter days have dawned on many of the " Old Settlers" who are now enjoying the fruits of early toil.

Princeton City was laid off (a part of it) in 1852, and recorded. Other portions were laid off but never recorded. Additions have been made since.

The first Post Office was established in 1841, and Haswell H. Pinneo appointed Postmaster. The first store was opened in 1840, by B. F. Pike, as before stated. The next one was opened by a company known as "Lawyer Hammond & Co." In 1848, Col. W. F. Breckenridge, from Pennsylvania, opened a store in the city, calling the place at that time "Pinnacle Point." There is a Presbyterian and a Methodist Church organized in the city.

The city of Princeton was incorporated January, 1857, and in the month of March following, the first charter election was held. Samuel Porter was elected the first Mayor, and resigned in May. At a special election held soon after, William Shew was elected Mayor to fill the vacancy. At this time the city contained about two hundred and fifty inhabitants, one store, kept by Walker & Armstrong, two public houses and fifteen dwellings, one smith shop, one steam saw mill, by John Forsyth, one church and forty-six dwellings.

In the month of March, 1858, William E. Thompson was elected Mayor. This year the population was about five hundred. The improvements were greater in the youthful city of Princeton than at any other point on the Mississippi river, for the number of inhabitants. This year there was built one steam saw mill, by Isaac Sherman, from Cleveland, Ohio, at a cost of eight thousand dollars, capable of cutting thirty thousand feet of lumber per day, two steam grist mills (first class) one by McKinstry & Hubbard, at a cost of twelve thousand dollars; one by Hurbert & Fischback, at a cost of nine thousand dollars, but before it was completed the firm failed. D. D. McCoy built a large house and opened a fancy dry goods store. This season there were sixty-two dwellings built, amongst which was the dwelling of Dr. G. S. Bell, which cost about five thousand dollars.

In March, 1859, Thomas Galt, M. D., was elected Mayor. This year the population

had reached one thousand, but owing to the hard times, there was not so much improvement as the year previous. Walker & Patterson built a steam planing mill, with all the improved machinery for making sash, doors and blinds, which was a great benefit to the place and surrounding country, besides being remunerative to its enterprising projectors. F. G. Welch this year built a fancy store, three stories high, but Mr. Welch did not live to enjoy his enterprising undertaking. Mr. R. Bennett also built a large store and opened a good stock of dry goods and groceries, and with the assistance of Abl. Kurney started a tin shop. This year there was another church built and thirty-two dwellings. Dr. Galt built a residence for himself, which is the finest building in the place. It is of brick, 36x40, two stories and a half high, and finished in the latest style—an honor to the enterprising Doctor, of which he is eminently deserving. At this time there were fifteen carpenters, six blacksmiths, four shoemakers, two tailors, one tinker, seven stores, one drug store, two churches, two public houses, one livery stable, two steam saw mills, two steam grist mills, one steam planing mill, two carriage shops, four blacksmith shops, two public schools, two private schools, one lawyer.

Princeton now bids fair to outrival some of her more successful neighbors. By the 4th of July, 1860, there will be a direct communication with Chicago by railroad. The iron for the Sterling and Rock Island road is contracted for, and a portion of it will be delivered by rail this winter. The balance will be delivered as soon as the ice leaves the river, as it comes by the way of New Orleans. The road, when finished, will be thirty-six miles nearer Chicago than by the Chicago and Rock Island road; fifty-six miles nearer Chicago from this place than by way of Davenport. There has also been twenty-seven thousand five hundred dollars of stock taken and secured by the citizens of Princeton, by bond and mortgage, of the Sterling and Rock Island road. There is a great opening for manufactures by water power. There is a chance of securing a water power of seventeen and a half feet fall with the outlay of thirty thousand dollars. By tapping the Wabesipinicon river about four miles above this place, the water can be brought into the city at any desired point with the above amount of fall—the survey has been made by scientific engineers, and the result as stated is therefore unquestionable.

The changes that have taken place in this township since its first settlement, have been as great as any other portion of Scott county. It has much very fine agricultural lands, with abundance of timber and rock, and contains some of the best farms in the County. We prophesy that at no very distant day the city of Princeton will be one of the most flourishing towns upon the Mississippi river. It has the material in and around it, and its enterprising inhabitants will allow no opportunity to pass unimproved that will tend to advance the interests of their thriving and beautiful city.

## **CHAPTER VIII. WINFIELD OR LONG GROVE TOWNSHIP.**

This grove of timber of considerable extent, lies between Walnut, or Pease's Grove, and Allen's Grove. It is about twelve miles from Davenport and five miles from the Wabesipinicon river. There are some of the best farms around this grove of any in the county or the State. The face of the country is gently rolling, the soil of the richest quality, and the beautifully cultivated fields, sloping away from the grove on every side, present one of the most interesting agricultural scenes in the Western country.

The settlement was begun in the Autumn of 1837, by John C. and William Quinn, Joseph

and James Quinn, George Daily, Alphonso Warren and Aaron Norris, with their families, from Ohio. The Quinns first settled on the banks of the Wabesipinicon river, established a ferry, and subsequently laid out a town called Point Pleasant. The following year, 1838, Charles Elder and family, from Pennsylvania, Elihu Alvord, from New York, H. H. Pease, from Indiana, Alexander and James Brownlie, from Scotland, with families, settled in the grove, and the little band of hardy pioneers began their life in earnest upon the new and fertile soil of Iowa.

Nowhere in all the West do I remember of having witnessed such a beginning as was exhibited in this little colony. There seemed to be more of the faith of the Puritan Fathers among the emigrants than any that I had ever witnessed. All seemed to feel an entire dependence upon one another and on the ruling hand of Providence. One common interest seemed to cement them all, and a spirit of brotherly love prevailed throughout the settlement.

In the Spring of 1839, several other families arrived, and the want of christian fellowship and teachings was so apparent that Alexander and James Brownlie commenced a Sabbath School in their own log cabin, which has been kept up to the present time. All attended, parents and children. The New Testament was the only book taught except the spelling book, and the plain interpretation and meaning of the lessons read was impressed upon the minds of all. Many now live who can testify to the blessed influences and early impressions gathered at this primitive Sabbath School. A part of the Sabbath was devoted to regular preaching. Christian worship was maintained by James Brownlie, assisted by his brother Alexander, John Quinn and others. From these feeble efforts, the germ planted in faith, has sprung up a Christian Church at Long Grove that has been maintained with growing interest to the present day; and every Sabbath, as its consecrated hours roll round, finds the people of this rich, thriving, moral and christian neighborhood sitting under the teachings of those who, at an early day, spoke to them of Christ, the Savior.

There is in this township, between the high ridge of land upon which Long Grove is situated and the Wabesipinicon river, a strip of land some two miles wide of sandy soil, and although not as rich and fertile as other prairie, yet it has been settled up within a few years by an Irish colony, mostly from Canada, of the Roman Catholic faith. They have a small church erected and service performed at stated seasons by a priest from Davenport. There are but few farms along the immediate banks of the Wabesipinicon, it being subject to annual overflow, and generally skirted with timber.

In a letter from Alexander Brownlie, Esq., who has kindly furnished me with many interesting facts connected with the early history of the settlement at Long Grove, he says: "In 1838, flour was worth at the Grove eleven dollars per barrel; cornmeal one dollar per bushel, and pork fifteen cents per pound. Seed wheat one dollar, and potatoes fifty cents. That it required four bushels of wheat to get a pound of tea. A good cat was worth a pound of tea." To show the value of a cat in those days, says Mr. Brownlie, "I traveled from Long Grove to the residence of a Mr. Ridgeway, some distance above Davenport (about fourteen miles), to obtain a cat which was given me by special favor; Mrs. Ridgeway having first folded the precious animal to her bosom, shed tears at parting, and kissed the little domestic comfort before she could part with such an important treasure."

Mills were scarce in Iowa at that day, and many families lived on hominy and cornmeal ground in a coffee mill. The nearest mill was at Pleasant Valley, and another at the mouth of Pine Creek, Muscatine Co.

In 1840 George Daily built a small grist mill on the little creek north of Walnut Grove. It

was the product of his own labor, except stones, which were cut out of a prairie boulder and finished up for running by Alex. Brownlie, who was a stone mason. Mr. Daily, who was an honest, hard working man, ground for many years all the grain for the neighborhood, and made very good flour, although it took him some time to do it, upon his rude and primitive mill. He was called the *honest miller*. The old mill has gone to decay, and the builder removed to other parts.

Elihu Alvord, Esq., was from the State of New York. He is still living with his children near Davenport, and although the oldest pioneer in the county—now eighty-three years of vacity, and is happy in his old age to behold the change from the days of his first settlement to the present times.

It was about the last of August, 1838, that Alexander and James Brownlie built their cabins of logs and boards in the east end of the grove, in a cluster of large trees, that sheltered them from the bleak prairie winds. They afterwards sawed lumber by hand, with a whip-saw, rolling the logs upon a platform, and one standing beneath. In this way, they not only supplied themselves with lumber, but furnished much for their neighbors. Lumber then was worth some forty dollars in Davenport, and not as good as that produced by the Brownlies, and what now could be had for ten dollars per thousand. We can well remember the solid comfort one found in their first cabin. It was the only place, for a long time, between Davenport and Point Pleasant, on the Wabesipinicon, that the traveler could find feed for his horse or food for himself, and he never was turned away cold or hungry, nor had he ever any reason to complain of high charges or want of attention. The traveler was ever welcome, and although no designs or pretensions were made to keep a public house, yet none knew better, or were more willing to add to the comforts of all, than Mrs. Brownlie. The first stage road, and, for some time, the only road to De Witt from Davenport, passed through this grove. The Messrs. Quinn, at a later day, opened farms on the prairie west of the grove, where most of them still reside. James Quinn was elected the present year (1859) to the House of Representatives, on the Republican ticket, and is a man competent and well worthy to fill the honorable station to which he has been elected.

The Brownlies still hold their original possessions, with their lands under the best of cultivation. The old log cabins have given place to beautiful dwellings, surrounded by choice fruit trees and gardens, and the Messrs. B. are considered among the neatest, most judicious and prosperous farmers in Scott county. Hugh M. Thomson also settled in this grove at a later day, and is said to be not only a good farmer, but scientific in his operations, and pays great attention to improvements in agriculture and the breeding of good stock. There are many others in and around this grove, both of the old and new settlers, well deserving of notice, and who have done much towards the progress of agriculture in that settlement. In the early days of this colony, there seemed to have been planted as a basis, good, sound, moral and religious principles, and they have been maintained to the present time.

In those days, men were expected to be honest, and were honest. "No one thought then of locking doors," says Mr. Brownlie. The Post Office was at Point Pleasant, and John Quinn P. M. He was often from home and the office left open for all to wait on themselves. The whole neighborhood would take their letters to mail, and leaving them, would get their mail matter, leaving the postage on the letter box, or accounting afterwards for the same, none desiring to cheat the Postmaster. Everybody was poor alike and needed friends, and was always friendly. There was none of that grasping, selfish disposition exhibited in many of the early settlements of our country, and consequently but little quarreling about claim or anything

else. There was room for all, and the Long Grove settlement was a pattern of excellence, in its early struggle, and nobly did it succeed. It stands today among the most enterprising, moral and religious communities in our county or our State.

A span of horses and wagon in those days were hired at five dollars per day. The Brownlies owned the first wagon and the first fanning mill in or about the settlement, which was used in common by the whole community for many years. "In the Autumn of 1838," says Mr. Brownlie, "when the first snow fell, our oxen strayed away, and early the next morning I started on their track, following them across the uninhabited prairie towards the Mississippi river, and came up with them in Pleasant Valley about dark, without any money with me or acquaintance in that neighborhood. I applied for shelter and food of a true pioneer, who has often fed the hungry and made glad the heart of the distressed immigrant by his cheerful and lively disposition, and above all, his free and generous heart." It was the rude shanty of Capt. Isaac Hawley, then just settled, and who still lives to enjoy the heartfelt gratitude of many of the pioneers of Scott county, who have so often shared his generous and kindly greeting. The Captain not only gave him the hospitalities of the night, but supplied him, unsolicited, with money he might need on his return. How sweet are the remembrances of such acts of kindness, as we look back upon the scenes of our early life in the West!

The Long Grove settlement has now become large and populous. The little log church, erected in the days of weakness and poverty, still stands upon the beautiful rise of ground on the east side of the grove, and is used for a school house, while just beside it stands their new and elegant church building, erected the present season. Long may they enjoy the rewards of their early toil they so richly deserve.

## **CHAPTER IX. BLUE GRASS TOWNSHIP.**

Blue Grass, or "Blue Grass Point," as it was first called by the white settlers, received its name from a point of timberland that extended into the prairie near the Muscatine county line. It was a great camping place of the Indians in their travels from the trading post on Rock Island to their hunting grounds upon the Cedar, Iowa and Des Moines rivers. It is a noted fact, that wherever the Indian has been in the habit of camping, blue grass was sure to follow. Hence the name of "Blue Grass" was early given to this point from the abundance of that kind of grass found there.

This township or precinct consists of but one regular township of land (township seventy-eight, north range two east), six miles square, but the town or village of Blue Grass is situated directly on the southern boundary of the township, and the settlement of this place belongs as much to Buffalo township as to Blue Grass, when strictly bounded by township lines; but we speak of the early and present settlement, without regard to lines. The village is located in the south-west corner of the township, on the State Road leading from Davenport to Muscatine, it being ten miles from the former and eighteen miles from the latter place, and about four miles from the Mississippi river. The township is nearly all prairie; but its southern boundary, running along its entire length, near the timber of Buffalo township, has been supplied with ample material for farming and building purposes.

The settlement first began at this point, we believe, in 1836, by a Mr. Sprague, Mr. Sry and perhaps one or two more; but in 1837, James E. Burnside, James Wilkinson, Samuel and Francis Little, and one or two more, made claims upon the prairie. In 1838, Asa Foster,

George and Charles Metteer, Alexander and Horace Dunlap made claims and some improvements. In 1839, Mr. Berringer owned the claims now in possession of Robert Humphrey. The same year, Franklin Easley opened the farm now owned by William McGarvy. Mr. Henry Shutt made a farm east of Picayune Grove, formerly called "Grant's Grove," a small cluster of beautiful oaks, now on the Telegraph Road, where Judge Grant, in 1839, opened a model farm, and raised some of the finest blooded stock in the State.

Among others who settled in and around Blue Grass before 1841, were Peter and Robert Wilson, A. W. Campbell, Robert Burnsides, Rufus Catlin, John P. Cooper, John D. Richey, John and Joseph P. Robison, David Gabbert, Daniel Berryman, Morris Baker and sons, George C. Havill, of whom many are still residents there, and among the most enterprising of the inhabitants. These were the pioneers who made the first beginning in and around this beautiful section of country. With what satisfaction and pleasure must these early settlers now look upon this township of land, where the wolf and the deer were the only objects that could be seen a few years ago, all covered over with cultivated farms and dotted with farm houses, many of which are large and beautiful! The progress of the settlement, like others in the county, was slow and discouraging from 1840 until about 1851 or '52.

In the Summer of 1853, when the M. & M. Railroad line was located, the land in this township became valuable, and was sought after with a perfect mania. It was but a year or two before it was almost one solid row of farms from Blue Grass to Walcott, which is located on the railroad in the northwest corner of the township, and is the first station out from Davenport on that road. It is a village of small dimensions, has a church, a hotel, store, &c., and good farms and farming country around it. Among the many beautiful farms that one passes in going from Walcott to Blue Grass, is that of E. Steinhilber. This farm contains a section of land (six hundred and forty acres), all under good cultivation, with public and private roads running through it. Orchards and gardens planted, with tenant houses scattered through it, while near the centre is the proprietor's large edifice, built of brick, and tastefully adorned. From the observatory of this building, one of the richest scenes is presented that the eye can rest upon. In every direction, the cultivated fields lay spread out before the observer, and in Summer, while the waving grain is ripening for the harvest, nothing can exceed the beauty of the scene.

In addition to the abundance of timber with which this settlement is supplied, there is an immense coal deposit that crops out in many places near Blue Grass. Although the existence of coal was early known, it was never dug to any extent until the settlement of the vast prairie north and northwest of Blue Grass. The average thickness of the vein is thirty inches, where it is worked in the ravines and hillsides. The principal mines now opened are those of James E. Burnsides, one mile from the village, Joseph Mounts and George C. Havill. In digging that of Mr. Burnsides, no labor is required by sinking shafts, but simply removing the earth from the top of the bed to the depth of some four feet in a ravine, when the deposit is exposed, and about three hundred bushels per day taken out. This bank was opened in 1855 or '56. Mr. Mounts' coal bank is but a short distance from that of Mr. Burnsides, and the coal is obtained by *drifting* into a side hill. This bank was opened in 1853 and 1854, and is worked on a smaller scale. About ninety bushels per day are dug. That of Mr. Havill was opened the same year of the latter, and is worked in like manner, yielding one hundred and fifty bushels per day.

But coal may be found in almost any portion of Buffalo township, and at extreme low water has been found cropping out from the bed of the Mississippi, below the town of

Buffalo. It is from this latter fact that some have been led to suppose there is a second coal deposit on or near the level of the river, and which underlies the whole, and must be far more extensive and of much better quality than the article now used from the upland mines. A company is about being formed, we understand, at Blue Grass, for the purpose of testing this principle, by boring or sinking a shaft in the vicinity of Blue Grass until it shall reach the level of the bottom of the Mississippi river, which will require some 150 feet.

The substratum of the upland prairies is composed of a great variety of earthy materials, including marls, beds of coarse sand and gravel, hard-pan or *pudding stones*, overlaid with a kind of yellow clay, and which underlays the present surface soil. This formation indicates the existence of extensive fresh water lakes, with currents, anterior to the drift or boulder era. In excavations for wells in the vicinity of Blue Grass, a rich black mould of vegetable composition has been found twenty feet below the surface. The buried remains of the now extinct tribes of the gigantic mastodon and northern elephant are proofs of the existence of this earlier surface soil, which was covered with a rank vegetation, affording ample sustenance to immense herds of animals now extinct. The remains of one of these animals was found, and partially exhumed, in 1845, near Blue Grass, as will be seen from the following notice, which we clip from the *Davenport Gazette* of September of that year:

WONDERFUL DISCOVERY—A MASTODON IN IOWA!—The remains of a huge animal have been found in this county about three miles from the Mississippi and about 150 feet above the level of the river, on the farm of Mr. John Perin. The remains were discovered during last month by Joseph Morehead, Esq. They were imbedded in a formation of argilaceous clay, strongly impregnated with iron, and about twelve feet below the surface of the earth. But a small portion of the remains have been exhumed; the remainder, in the situation first discovered, are left for the examination of some skillful anatomist, as the position in which found will tend to the discovery of the size and species of the monster animal. Of the portions unearthed, we will give a short description from the data that have been furnished us, regretting that we have not the facilities for transcribing diagrams of them.

The teeth or tusks of the animal, when first discovered, appeared to be in good preservation, but in removing them they were found to have little tenacity. They are formed of laminated rings from one-eighth to one-quarter of an inch in thickness, encased in an enamel of one-half an inch in depth. The exact length of these tusks cannot be accurately determined, as previous to their removal the base of one and the extremity of the other had been broken off, but Messrs. Morehead and Sargent, the gentlemen who exhumed them, fully concur in the opinion, founded upon the observations of the impressions made in the clay, and other data, that they could not have been less than *eleven feet* in length. They are eight inches in diameter at base, and very much curved towards the point. Persons who saw them before they were mutilated, say that they were about fourteen feet in length. A transverse section of these tusks exhibits the curvilinear radiations seen in the ivory of the elephant.

One of the molars in good preservation was discovered on the same level with the tusks. It is composed of vertical strata of bone and enamel alternating, is twelve inches wide at the base, four inches thick and nine inches deep. Another molar, in an imperfect condition, was obtained; from the size of the portions found, this tooth was presumed to be eighteen inches in length.

Further investigation disclosed a mass of bone five feet in thickness, which appears to have been connected with the alveolar process, from whence proceeded one of the tusks. The surface presented to the eye—for, as we before observed, the remains have been left in the position discovered, with the exception of the tusks and molars, which are in the possession of two of our citizens—as it rests in the clay pit, is a vertical section. A great portion of this mass had been destroyed by people more curious than wise, before precautionary means had been taken to insure its safety.

When first disclosed, the base of one of the tusks was on a level with this mass of bone, but separated to the distance of three and a half feet. In this bone is a clearly defined orifice, supposed to have been the whole of the ear. Proceeding out of this mass of bone, and radiating irregularly from near the same spot, are four bones resembling the ribs of an ox, but are of a substance much more dense. The length of these bones has not been determined, as they are still imbedded in the clay. Attached to this mass by a cartilage—which, owing to the presence of sulphuret of iron, has been converted into a substance resembling bone—is a bone two feet in length, ten inches in width at widest part, and four inches thick in the middle. Connected with this are several smaller bones that have the appearance of having at one time assisted in the formation of the ear. When discovered, the base of one tusk rested upon the middle of the other.

It is the intention of those having charge of these remains to retain them in their present position until such time as competent scientific assistance for their entire exhumation can be obtained.

The original proprietors of the *town* of Blue Grass were John Perin, James W. Reynolds and James E. Burnsidess, who made the first survey of lots in June, 1853, Samuel Perin surveyor, and made a public sale of them on the 10th of July of that year, Samuel Parker auctioneer. The ground upon which the town was laid out had been occupied by six family residences, one of which had a small store in it, in the Summer of 1852. A small stock of goods has been kept there by different parties to the present time.

In 1855, James E. Burnsidess erected a building for a hotel, but sold to Mr. Skiles, who made additions and opened a store, which he still continues with success. A Post Office is kept by Mr. Skiles.

In 1855, through the exertions of the people of Blue Grass, who subscribed liberally, a steam flouring mill was erected by Messrs. Brace & Donahue, thirty by forty feet, four stories high, and capable of manufacturing one hundred and twenty barrels of flour per day.

The village of Blue Grass now contains thirty-one families, has one store, two blacksmiths, one carpenter, one shoemaker, one drug store, two church buildings, one Methodist and one Presbyterian. There is a Baptist Church organized, who worship in the Presbyterian Church at present, but contemplate erecting a house next Summer. There are the usual number of School Districts in the township, and well supplied with school houses.

There is much to induce settlers to locate at Blue Grass. A rich surrounding country, well cultivated by enterprising farmers, and schools and churches, well conducted, with the beauty and healthfulness of the location, are sufficient inducements for any to settle down for life. The village needs more mechanics. A tin shop, saddle and harness and other shops of similar utility would do well. The morals of the community are good. No grog-shops are allowed in this town, and the Sabbath is revered and observed in a suitable manner.

There are some neighborhoods in this township that should claim more special notice, but

we shall speak of only one more. The settlement of Little's Grove was first made in 1837, by Wm. Lingo, now of St. Louis, who sold his claim to Francis and Samuel Little. The former died in 1854. Samuel Little, Esq., still resides in the Grove, and we believe is the only old settler still living in or around the Grove. He has made himself not only comfortable with this world's goods, but is independent. Surrounded by a large family, he rests from his toils, and now enjoys the rewards of hard labor amid many privations—one of the best and wealthiest farmers in Scott county.

## **CHAPTER X. ALLEN'S GROVE TOWNSHIP.**

This township has the Wabesipinicon river on the north for its boundary, being skirted by timber, and also has a large grove of timber cut up into small tracts, and owned by the settlers in the vicinity. The Grove was first settled in 1836, by a Mr. Allen, who erected a cabin and laid claims to the lands now owned by George Lathrop. The Grove derived its name from this man, who removed at an early day into the "New Purchase." In 1843, while exploring the rivers of Iowa, I found Mr. Allen, with his family, on the frontiers, with a newly erected cabin close on to the line of the "Neutral Grounds" of the Winnebago Indians. He was then talking of removing West, as soon as the Indians sold their lands. The original or Indian name of this grove is Ka tesau-ne Mo-no-ok-que (Otter Creek Grove), deriving its name from Allen's Creek, which runs along the north side of the grove and called Ka-te- sau-ne Sepo (Otter Creek).

In 1837, '38 and '39, the grove became settled by quite a number of emigrants, among whom were Dennis R. Fuller, John Dunn, John E. Thompson, Mr. Hindes, Halburt and Gee. These opened farms generally upon the prairie at the edge of the grove. The timber in this grove was formerly of the best quality, and the prairie around it beautiful and rolling. The farms in the vicinity are of the first order, well cultivated and productive. Some of its early settlers still live upon the lands they first claimed, and are among the first citizens of Scott county.

Allen's Grove is surrounded by well cultivated farms, except on the north, and nowhere has greater attention been paid to agricultural pursuits, to educating their children by common schools, and social intercourse with one another, than by the inhabitants of this township. But few sections of country in Iowa or any other State, present such a display of agricultural enterprise as the farms in the vicinity of this grove. Many of its first settlers have died, leaving to their children substantial homes.

There are many reminiscences connected with the settlement of this township, that would be of much interest, but the author has been much disappointed in gathering them, and its history must, for the present, remain unwritten.

## **HICKORY GROVE.**

This Grove was first settled in 1836 Geo. L. Davenport and some others had taken claims there as early as 1835, but we believe no actual settlement was begun until the following year. Among those who first made improvements in and around the Grove, were Alfred Carter, Vincent Carter, John Porter, Mr. Wyscowber, John and Christopher Shuck. This grove of timber, at an early day, was beautiful, furnishing fuel and timber for settlers, and has been

the means of opening a large amount of prairie in its vicinity.

There is an organized church at this Grove, of the Baptist persuasion; good schools and a very pleasant, intelligent and worthy community. It is one of the best farming neighborhoods in the country.

#### SLOPERVILLE.

This place lies on the State road leading from Davenport to Iowa City, and properly belongs to Davenport township, but we speak of it here as a place, early settled by Samuel Sloper, who planted a grove of locust as early as 1839. This whole prairie is now settled; has a Congregational Church organized, a fine District School and a community of enterprising farmers.

#### LIBERTY TOWNSHIP.

This is the north-west township in the county, and although somewhat rolling, and even broken in some parts, yet it is very well settled and contains many good farms. Its first settlements were commenced in 1837, by the Messrs. Goddards, Laugherties, Hellers and Woods, most of whom still live in the township. It contains some fine groves of timber and beautiful creeks.

There are two villages or towns begun in the township. Spring Rock is laid out on lands formerly owned by George Goddard, and contains some private residences, a hotel, store, flouring and grist-mill. Rock Creek (As-sin-ne Sepo in Indian) passes through this township, upon which there are many beautiful farms. The town of Dixon is situated in Little Walnut Grove, upon Walnut Creek, containing some half dozen dwelling houses, a store, hotel, saw-mill and mechanic shops.

Round Grove is another point of importance in this township, and consists of a settlement of farmers. Mr. Kizer, who settled there at an early day, has built a large hotel for the accommodation of the traveling public. This enterprising farmer has done much to draw a settlement around him, and has set a good example for the emigrant to a new country.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF HON. G. C. R. MITCHELL. [FROM "DAVENPORT PAST AND PRESENT," BY F. B. WILKIE.]

JUDGE MITCHELL was born December 26, 1803, at Dandridge, Jefferson county, East Tennessee. He was educated at East Tennessee College, (now "E. Tennessee University,") in Knoxville, Tennessee, and was a member of its first graduating class in the Fall of 1822. His parents having removed to Lawrence county, Alabama, he proceeded thither after graduating, and commenced studying law with Judge A. F. Hopkins, (now of Mobile) and was admitted to practice in 1825. He practiced in Alabama until 1834, and spend Winter in a tour among Eastern cities, and in the Spring of 1835 came West, after visiting St. Louis, Chicago, Galena, and Dubuque.

Liking this portion of the country, and anticipating the results of its admirable location, he purchased a squatter's right—the tract of land upon which he at present resides. He erected a cabin, (which stood on Fifth street, just west of De Soto street,) and resided in it until 1837, or two years. At that time, what now constitutes Iowa was attached to Michigan, and until

Wisconsin was formed, there was neither law nor officers of any kind west of the Mississippi. For several years the principal professional business of lawyers in the territory was limited to litigation in regard to claim titles, or "Squatter's Rights." Judge Mitchell added to this species of practice, somewhat, in the courts of Rock Island county, which were at that time organized.

In 1843, he was elected to the House of Representatives of the Iowa Territorial Legislature. He was nominated as Congressional Representative from the State in 1846, but was defeated.

He was elected Mayor of Davenport in 1856, and in April, 1857, was nominated by a meeting of the Bar, and elected Judge of the Fourteenth Judicial District—composed of the counties of Scott, Clinton, and Jackson. He was elected to this office by a handsome majority, although the Republican party nominated and ran a party and opposition candidate, and had a large majority upon almost every other one of their ticket. He fill this office until the Fall of 1857, and then resigned, owing to ill health, and with a design of removing to a warmer climate.

Judge Mitchell was always a Whig, until that party dissolved, or became inducted with Free Soilism, and other of its modern characteristics; since then he has acted with the Democratic party in full faith in its nationality.

As a jurist, Judge Mitchell takes a high position—he is profoundly discriminative—a keen, careful analyst, and one whose deductions are always reliable correct. His mental processes are seemingly slow, but in reality rapid, for while others would dash to a conclusion (often the wrong one) with an imperfect view of a few contiguous facts, he traverses the whole ground, omitting nothing, however seemingly trivial or great; and although he may be twice as long in evolving a question as another, he performs ten times the labor, and his conclusion is in the same proportion more worthy of credence. If he has one trait more prominent than another, it is his thorough *comprehensiveness*—his ability to include everything in his examination of a subject, and add to this a nice instinctive and cultivated perception of the character and weight of a fact, and one may see why he rarely goes wrong, or commits errors in conclusions.

In regard to his everyday life—that portion of a man's being which all are interested in knowing—we shall say much less than the excellence of the subject would admit. Wealthy, with cultivated literary taste, and a choice and ample library, he now enjoys life as only one surrounded by such circumstances can. Fresh, instructive and engaging in his conversation, he takes a high rank as a social companion, and as one who can be instructive, amusing and brilliant, without effort.