



# Jones County

## Historical Review

Vol. 4

Published Quarterly by the Jones County Historical Society

No. 3 - 1978

# The Peet family in America -- a chronicle of early day settlers in Jones county

By  
Marjorie Peet Lacock  
Anamosa, Iowa

**FORWARD:** William Edward Peet of California, born in New York, 1907, prepared an extensive genealogy of the Peet family in America, following all the lines of descendants as much as possible. Upon his death, July 25, 1970, following a stroke at Martelle, Ia., his wife gave all the material to Marjorie Peet Lacock of Anamosa, who has attempted to add to it the more recent data of the later generations.

According to early records of Connecticut history, John Peet (the spelling has taken different forms through the years) was born in 1597 at Seven Oaks, Duffield Farm, County Derby, England, and died in 1684 in Stratford, Fairfield County, Conn. Ann Charles was his wife and records show four children, John, Benjamin, William and Elizabeth, all probably born at Stratford.

The Peets in Jones county are descendants of the oldest son, John, while the author of "The Peet Family in America", William Edward Peet, was of the line of Benjamin.

Customarily, citizens of a new community take a prominent role in the development of the area and our early forebears were no exception. They were in positions of honor, such as judicial, military, religious, education, as well as mercantile, farming, etc.

Hardships were a way of life as they utilized the natural habitat provided in abundance by the Creator. Many of the early pioneers fled from the severities of the administrations of England, Scotland and other countries. One man landed in New Jersey and "carefully noted the day of landing, walked to Stratford, Conn., having a more confident feeling of security in Connecticut than in East Jersey."

### SKILLS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In this work I have attempted to use the information found in the "Peet Family In

America" to show a little of the history of our country in the lives of the private citizens, telling of their skills and accomplishments as well as the hardships. Of course only a few examples can be included here.

As I read the pages of genealogy, I find that many strong traits seem to be inherited from generation to generation. People were creative and mechanically inclined. Many industries were represented in the occupations, such as hat making, brick making, cooper, hunter, blacksmith, glass blowing, wheelwright, as well as the more common ones.

My own father, Vestus James Peet, grew up a farmer, but was interested in telephones and was lineman, repairman and switchboard man for 50 years around Martelle from the time of the first telephones there.

He was a lover of tractors and machinery of all kinds, often helping his neighbors when they had a breakdown. For some years he worked at setting up new machinery for an Anamosa businessman. In his retirement years, he fixed ailing fuel oil burners and water heaters, as well as clocks and small appliances. After he no longer had an auto he could be seen around Anamosa carrying his satchel of tools to repair things.

### INVENTOR

When he was a young man, he and a brother invented a kind of double hayrack. The hay was loaded on the back; then that part was slid forward and the under part could be loaded, thereby eliminating the necessity for pitching the hay so far forward by hand.

They also invented a woodsaw on a cart with gasoline engine and the saw could be laid on its side to cut a standing tree or upright to saw a felled tree. Pictures of this outfit are in the museum, as well as the original saw. However, the supporting cart was discarded many years ago.

My father also invented a tractor corn plow about 1919 or 1920, which he attached

to the rear of a Fordson tractor. With ropes attached to a framework on the tractor's steering wheel, he guided it from a seat at the back of the plow, with his feet resting on the framework that held the plow shares.

He often told us he would rather spend his free time in the shop tinkering and creating something than to play cards or other light diversion.

Baseball was his first love in the sports field and pitching was his position. The accompanying pictures show also his brothers who played on the Martelle teams.

Another example of the creative ability found in the family lines is of the grandson of John and Julia, Charles L. Peet who lived at Gilman, Ia. He was a skilled harness-maker and blacksmith and his



*WILLIAM Edward Peet (1907-1970) prepared the extensive genealogy of "The Peet Family in America". He is shown with his wife, Diane, in a 1953 photo.*

# The legend of the hermit

daughter Hazel, when a little girl, learned how to sew leather and other tasks around the shop. In turn, Hazel has a daughter who can build houses.

## ACTIVITIES OF EARLY PEETS

David Peet, born 1698, acquired a large tract of land at New Milford, Conn., several miles north of Stratford, along the western border of the state.

## THE HERMIT

David's oldest son Samuel, the "hermit", also purchased his first land at New Milford and settled there in 1746-7, tradition says, "at the most secluded place he could find" for the purpose of his religious devotions, being a member of the Church of England (Episcopalian). His deed calls for Lot 12 at the foot of Peet Hill, West Valley at the Peet Burying Ground.

Legend has it that the marks of his knees are worn into the stone as he knelt at this constant prayers during most of the last 40 years of his life, and still can be seen, hence his being referred to as "the hermit".

He asked to be buried in the exact spot where he prayed, but because the ground was solid rock it was necessary to inter his body a few feet distant. (This writer visited the area in 1976 and drove on Peet Hill and past the Burying Ground but the undergrowth and creek prevented visiting the actual site, as it lay some distance from the road. It was said that the inscriptions on the stones are almost obliterated; indeed, the stones themselves had been washed away from the soil during a flood of the creek.

The Peet Burying Ground is one of the oldest in New Milford and from time to time has been the subject of descriptive poetry, magazine and newspaper articles and even picture postcards showing the large rock.

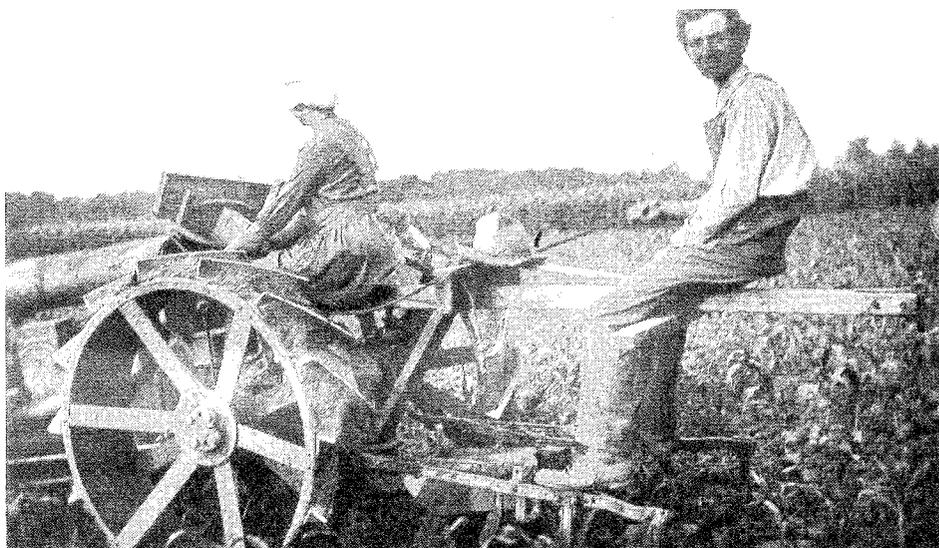
## UNDER THE HILLS OF MERRYALL

Under Merryall runs a road  
(The windy heights of Merryall).  
And there is scarcely a man's abode  
All along the winding road,  
Under the crests of Merryall.

But back from the lonely winding way,  
Under the hills of Merryall,  
There's a strange God's acre; headstones gray

Hid from the Golden gleam of day,  
Under the slope of Merryall.

Boulders high and huge as a house,  
Under the meads of Merryall,  
Rear about it; great elm boughs  
Arch above it; no herds brouse  
Near, from the many in Merryall.



**TWO PEET BROTHERS, V. J. and Grove E., invented a woodsaw on a cart (top photo). Powered by a gasoline engine, it could be laid on its side to cut a standing tree or upright to cut a felled tree. V. J. also invented a tractor corn plow about 1919 or 1920 (bottom photo).**

More than a hundred years have sped,  
Over the heights of Merryall,  
Since they laid the last of their dead,  
Here to rest in his narrow bed,  
And there was mourning in Merryall.

Now there is only wind that grieves,  
Dirging down from Merryall,  
The sad old trees in the purple eves  
Sounding a requiem through their  
leaves,  
Under the hills of Merryall.

- Clinton Scollard  
from the New York Herald

Samuel was something of an astronomer and his researches into that science brought him such fame that his effigy was placed in one of the houses of Parliament,

London.

It is not known that he rendered active military service during the Revolutionary War but as an able-bodied man of mature age, it is probable that he as well as his son of the same name bore their share of the struggle for national independence.

## STRONG MAN

Samuel's brother, John, was a large man, noted for his physical strength. He was a bloomer in a forge and it was said that he could, with ease, lift an anvil weighing 750 pounds. He is mentioned as an ensign of militia in 1773, and in 1775 was a Lieutenant in the Revolution Army, in the 10th Company of the 15th Regiment, the Connecticut Line.

Eventually some of the Peet families

# Early Peets prominent in Cleveland circles--

migrated to other states, mainly to New York state and descendants still live there, many in Chenango and Cortland counties.

## CAREERS OF PIONEER PEETS

Elijah Peet (1793-1845) of Cleveland, Ohio, belonged to a little band of Methodists struggling for membership and in order to hold the society together for funds with which to employ a minister at least twice a month, Mr. Peet supplied the necessary fuel for warming the room where they met and every Sunday morning he and his wife would start very early from their Newburgh home and drive eight miles to Cleveland, over roads that were nearly impassible, in order to have a fire built, and the Sabbath school comfortable when it met at nine o'clock.

He was the first superintendent of the first Methodist Sunday School in the city. In 1845 he issued the second directory of the city. Descendants of this family were prominent in Cleveland's commercial, professional and in social circles of the day.

Rev. Stephen Peet (1797-1855), born in Vermont, attended Yale, Princeton and Auburn Theological seminary, studying and teaching under the Rev. Ralph Emerson. Ordained in Ohio, he was the first editor of the "Boatman's magazine" and conducted an extensive religious work among the men who followed the sea.

Later he became pastor of the only Presbyterian church in Green Bay, Wis. Two years later he secured the erection of a house of worship at a cost of \$3,000, and he heard the tones of the first church bell in the state, it being the gift of John Jacob Astor, and valued at \$500.

Traveling far in the interests of the American Home Mission Society and preaching at other churches across the prairies and through the forests was no easy task. More fitly than anyone else he may be called the father of Beloit College, being financial agent and successfully securing a large portion of its early endowments. He is buried on or near the campus.

Stephen Denison Peet, son of the founder of Beloit College, (1830-1914) studied for the ministry, preaching at many churches. During his college and seminary days he became keenly interested in Egyptian, Babylonian and Grecian antiquities and in the course of his travels in the northern Middle West he developed a similar interest in the archaeology of that section.

After traveling many places and developing interest in other cultures, he began to issue the "American Antiquarian and Oriental Journal", antedating by 10 years the foundation of the "American Anthropologist". At that time there were few museums and little interest in American Indian studies. Unquestionably his journal stimulated research and en-

couraged others to follow.

Emerson W. Peet (1834-1902), son of Rev. Stephen Peet was an insurance executive in St. Paul, Minn. A leading figure in the life of the city, he obtained many millions of eastern capital for investment in St. Paul, through his high standing with leading financiers in the east.

He had many civic and benevolent interests and at the time of his death was a member of the St. Paul library board, Junior Warden of the Episcopalian Church of St. John the Evangelist and treasurer of St. Mary's school at Faribault, Minn., having principal charge of the finances of all these institutions.

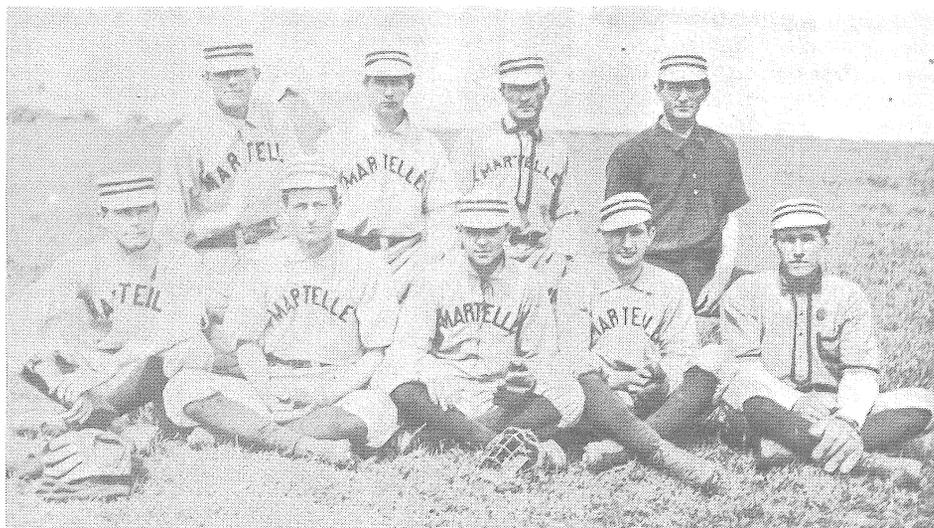
Lyman Plimpton Peet, born 1860 in China, served on the mission field for the Congregational church and was author of "Elementary Arithmetic" in the Chinese language.

Rev. Josiah Wheelock Peet (1808-1892), born in Vermont, became a teacher and preacher. After some years, he was in charge of Yellow Spring College (later named Parsons College) in Des Moines county, Iowa for three years.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

Josiah's youngest son, William Wheelock Peet was with the Burlington and Missouri Railroad Co. 1874-1881, as agent, ass't land commissioner, and chief clerk in the general manager's office in Burlington and in Lincoln and Omaha, Nebr. After 1881 he was treasurer of the American Board of Foreign Missions for Turkey and lived in Constantinople.

Prominent educator, Harvey Prindle Peet (1794-1873), born on a farm in the rough and beautiful hills of northwestern Connecticut, became a teacher in the district schools at age 16. By hard work



**MEMBERS OF this early-day Martelle baseball team were, front row from left, John Wahl, V. James Peet, Clayton Dumont, Andy Hoffman, James Armstrong. Back row, Ed Wahl, Clarence Miller, Raleigh Shoop, Clarence Peet. Photo taken before 1910.**



**THE OLD ALTAR rock where Samuel, "the hermit", knelt in prayer. It is located near the Peet burying ground at New Milford, Conn.**

# Colonial families of New England

and frugal living, he graduated with honors from the foremost colleges of his day and his life work was spent in the education of the deaf and mute. A prolific writer, he published much literature for the instruction of the disadvantaged pupils. He built up from a poorly equipped school the New York Institution to the largest and best equipped establishment for deaf children in the U. S. His son Isaac Lewis Peet succeeded him in this work.

Other Peets were successful businessmen in New York City. Another established a packing plant in Michigan from the humble beginning of selling homemade sausage in his father's grocery.

Rufus Peet (1798-1876) said he obtained a mastery of language by a severe study of Webster's dictionary. He divided the book into 365 parts, and each day learned to spell and define one of these parts. At the end of the year he had mastered his task and never after that did he hesitate for a word when writing or speaking.

The pioneer families brought a strength, physical, moral and spiritual, that caused them to exert themselves to the utmost to

and from 1640 to 1660 rang the bell of the Congregational church in that place, it being one of the very few bells in America at that time.

Sergeant John Peet (3rd generation) was killed by the Indians in a massacre, 1709-10, and his oldest son Joseph, a lad of about 13 years of age, was carried off a captive by the Indians and lived with them until manhood. He then ran off and returned to Stratford and his own people.

In the 5th generation, Gideon Peet was born 1742, descendant of John, John, John and Joseph. In 1764 he married Bethia Burton. (The Burtons were a distinguished family and a "History Of The Burton Family has been written by William Burton of Iowa City.) They were the parents of nine children, one being Gideon who came to Iowa.

## GIDEON PEET

History of Connecticut states "Gideon Peet, born at Stratford, Conn., Dec. 24, 1742, was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, the 5th Conn. Line under Capt. Josiah Lacey and Colonel Philip Bradley. When Burgoyne started his invasion from Canada, it is recorded in the History of Kent (Conn.) that Gideon Peet in June 1775 went over into New York state and up the Hudson by boat to Albany, where he crossed over to Lake Champlain and Fort Ticonderoga. This fort was taken by Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain boys, May 10, 1775.

"During the summer General Knox was laboriously dragging more than 50 cannon and a large supply of munitions captured at Fort Ticonderoga across 200 miles of wilderness with oxen teams to aid General Washington. Gideon Peet was present at that undertaking. They marched to Saratoga where they joined ranks with General Gates to whom Burgoyne surrendered on Oct. 17, 1777. They returned to Connecticut and he was mustered out Jan. 1, 1778, credited with seven months service in the Army. It is believed he had an ear shot off during the war.

An alarm list in 1778 of the 9th Co. of the 4th Conn. Regiment shows Sgt. Gideon Peet and others, all of Trumbull, Conn. (adjacent to the town of Stratford). A large powder horn and a smaller priming horn, evidently made from cows' horns, are still treasured by his Iowa descendants, together with other heirlooms.

His record of service is accepted and approved by the Daughters of American Revolution, qualifying his descendants for membership in that organization.

The Burton family lived there and Gideon and Betty (Bethia) Burton were married there.

When upwards of 75 years old, Gideon, a widower, rode horseback from Stratford, Conn. to Cortland, N.Y., (in the same

county), where he died after living in the place about six years and is buried at Solon, N. Y.

Richard Peet, born 1745 in Bethlehem, Litchfield Co., Conn., was a Minute Man under Capt. Andrew Martin and was one of the signers of the following document: "We householders of Bethlehem do volunteer and engage to equip ourselves for the defense of our rights," etc., July 18, 1776.

## NEWLYWEDS

Gideon, son of Gideon and Bethia Burton, was an expert mechanic but followed farming as a life work. Following his marriage to Abigail Wildman in the early 1800s, they set out from their ancestral home at Stratford, she riding on the horse carrying all their earthly possessions and he walking beside. They made their way across the Hudson river into central New York state. The last three days they carefully blazed the trees so others could find their way into the woods or they could find their way out.

They slept and cooked as they journeyed and when they arrived at their destination the groom cut trees and built a log cabin, which became their home. (I've often wondered how they decided just where to stop and build a home in that vast area of wilderness.)

Parents of 12 children, nine boys and one girl grew to adulthood.

Among mementos handed down was found an "Invitation To The Dance" extended to Gideon N. Peet (he was born 1814) in Solon, N. Y. sometime in the 1830s. The dance was held on July 3 and was called an "Independence Ball."

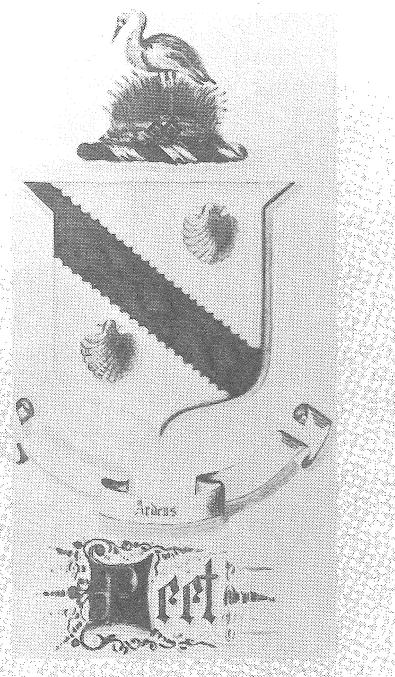
## WESTWARD HO

It was told that in the fall of 1838 one of the sons, possibly Gideon Nelson Peet, scouted for land farther west and decided on a tract in eastern Iowa, specifically in Jones county and Fairview township.

Accordingly, believing the east was becoming too crowded, Gideon and Abigail, with six of their unmarried sons, removed from New York and journeyed west in the spring of 1839 when he was 63 years of age, traveling by boat to what is now Chicago, then driving west from Chicago on the "plank road". It has been said that he was offered 160 acres of land for his team of oxen in what is now downtown Chicago.

Having decided upon Jones county as a suitable place to locate, he went to the land offices in Dubuque and entered 560 acres of land in Fairview township, on which he took up his abode. He lived to enjoy his new home for only a brief period, his death occurring in 1842.

The sons then assumed the management of the home farm for their widowed mother, whose death occurred five years



Peet Coat of Arms

carve a place in history, not only for a home in which to live, but also a community for the benefit of their fellowman.

## COLONIAL PEETS

The Peets are among the old Colonial families of New England. John Peet, the first ancestor of whom we have a record came on the Hopewell, Captain Bundock sailing, from London 1637. He was one of the pioneer settlers of Stratford, Conn.,

## Fought in Revolution

later, 1847. The sons acquired more land for themselves, some as much as 2000 acres. It was told that in early years all the land on both sides of the Military road from Fairview to Martelle was owned by members of the Peet family.

This area for a home proved to be a wise choice as reported later by a world hunter and traveler who claimed the area around the Wapsipinicon river and Buffalo creek, northwest of Anamosa in 1842-43 abounded in wild game, including deer, elk, bear, rabbit, several kinds of wild fowl, wild berries and fruits of all kinds, and in both streams an abundance of fish. The traveler claimed he never failed to catch a muskellunge more than 30 inches long in no more than a half hour of fishing.

Letter written March 19, 1842, by Abigail Peet, wife of Gideon, tells of selling 30 to 55 cheeses she had made at a shilling a pound in Dubuque, the nearest trading center. With the money received from the sale of the cheese, they purchased four pairs of men's high shoes at 12 shillings a pair, and three kettles to be used in making maple sugar, then selling at "six pence a pound".

In closing her letter to the daughter, Huldah, in New York, Mrs. Peet urged them to come west, referring to the lush vegetation, and the plentiful food sources, and suggested that, if they came they bring with them some boxes of Persian pills and a box or two of the David plasters.

Dr. Clark Joslin, Jones county's first resident physician, had located at Lexington, now Anamosa, three miles from the Peet home. But miles were seemingly longer in the early days and much faith was attached to the cure-alls stored on a pantry shelf or in the chest brought in a covered wagon from the east.

### POSTAL SERVICE

In 1849, a weekly horseback mail was placed on the route between Dubuque and Iowa City, via Edinburg, the then county seat, and coming into the military road at Dartmouth, now Anamosa. In 1841 Gideon Nelson Peet procured the establishment of a post office at his residence a mile west of Russell's (near Fairview) and was appointed postmaster. This was the first post office and postmaster in the township, the nearest being then at Edinburg.

Mr. Peet conducted his post office well, but the business was light, for the people were few, and the rates of letter postage were burdensome. Money was a scarce article, the country not having recovered from the effects of the crash of 1837, and the government accepting nothing at the land offices or post offices except gold and silver. The money mostly current was "red-dog", "wildcat", and "stumptail", that is, the money of the state banks, and no man receiving it one day could tell what it would be worth the next.

In such a condition of things, and every man hoarding to pay the government for



*THE HOUSE on the original Peet homestead in Cortland county, N. Y. has the same design as that used for two early Peet houses in Jones county, both still standing today west of Fairview.*

## Fairview, on Old Military road, once larger than Anamosa

(From Cedar Rapids paper 1937, probably summer)

Editor's Note: As east central Iowa towns begin celebrating their centennials, the village of Fairview, near Anamosa, which once was larger than the Jones county seat, seems to have been forgotten, but Maud Joslin Lamb of Des Moines, whose father, J. I. Joslin, was born near Fairview, has written the following historical account, aptly from the recollections of her father, who died in 1935 at the age of 90.

Previous to June, 1837, no white man had settled in the vicinity now known as Fairview or in the township of that name. In that month Clement Russell and his wife, Ann, originally from New York state, came by wagon from Michigan and settled in what is now known as Fairview. He, as most settlers, was looking for a location where he could find both prairie and timber land with water conveniently near. The prairie there extended from east to west while on the north there was a dense growth of timber along the Wapsipinicon river. It was indeed an ideal location and a fair view.

Russell was a frontiersman, and in the course of the first year erected his log cabin, 18 by 25 feet, and opened a farm.

his land, the amount of mail sent and received was small. After some months he wished to rid himself of the care of the office, serving until March 1, 1844. Later his brother Burton was appointed and served from July 3, 1849 until July 28, 1850.

(To be continued)

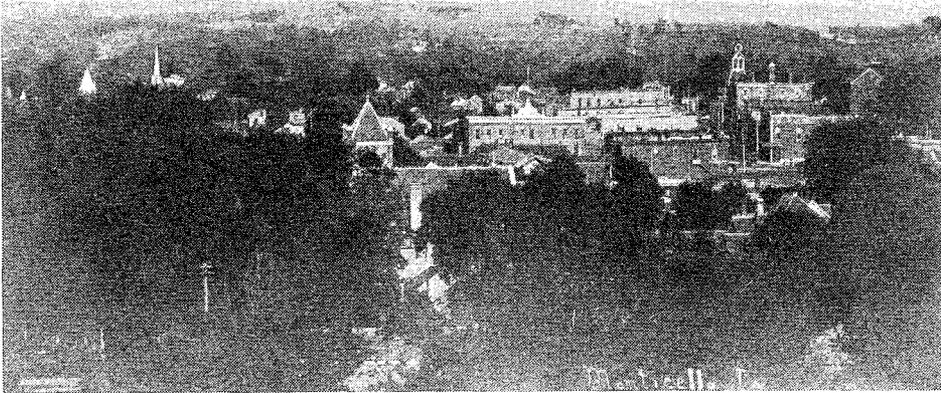
Russell's tavern was situated at a point where all the roads met; the Military road was surveyed past his place. It was a strategic point and a place where public meetings were held. The village was laid out in lots in 1841 and named Fairview by Russell. During that year Reuben Bunce and a man named Gilchrist came through with a load of goods which they were peddling. They stopped at Russell's tavern and decided to open a store in the village. A part of Russell's place was used as a storeroom.

### OTHER SETTLERS ARRIVE

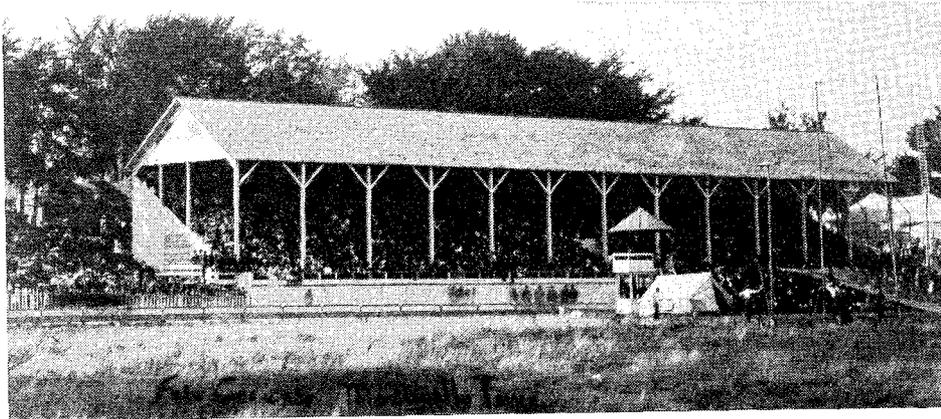
Between 1837 and 1841 numerous pioneers had located in the vicinity of Fairview. John G. Joslin and family came from Michigan in August, 1837; Ambrose Parsons in May, 1838. Bemoni Brown and family in October, 1839; Lathrop Olmstead and family in April, 1838; Calvin C. Reed and John Leonard in 1838; Gideon Peet and Henry Van Buskirk in the spring of 1839; Edmond Booth in 1839; Henry Booth in May, 1840, and Col. David Wood in 1840.

The first school for the children of these pioneers was held in Marlin Peet's house. Lathrop Olmstead was the first teacher. The first schoolhouse was built on the Marion road west of the village of Fairview. It was a log cabin and served for many years. This schoolhouse first housed the Baptist church, which was organized by the Rev. Mr. Homan. Some of the members of that church were Jehu Porter, Stephen Arnold, Mrs. Wilcox, Mr. and Mrs. John G. Joslin, Augustus Myrick, John . . . (rest of article was cut off the clipping.)

# Letter, postcards received from N. Y. ●



*THIS VIEW* of Monticello is from a postcard of the early 1900s. A number of postcards were sent to C. L. Norlin, president of the Jones county Historical Society, by Rex Schaeffer. All the postcards were postmarked between 1905 and 1910 and were mailed to G. G. Schaeffer or Herman Schaeffer at Polo or Liberty, Mo.



*LARGE CROWDS* attended the Great Jones County Fair back in 1906, too. This view is of the old amphitheatre.



*CAN ANYONE* identify the members of this cornet band which was a part of the Monticello scene during the early 1900s?

The following letter was received some time ago, sent to the Society by the library director of the Gannett Rochester Newspapers, Rochester, N. Y.

"I am sending you several old postcards with pictures of Monticello in the early 1900s. My family lived in Monticello many years and left there in 1905 to move to Polo., Mo.

"My grandfather, George G. Schaeffer, was a dry goods merchant. He and his wife, who was an Anson from Marshalltown, were active in the Congregational church. They had four sons, all born in Monticello, and now all dead.

"My wife and I have visited in Monticello several times over the years to visit old friends of my father's, among them Rex Ricklefs. I was named after him. If I run across anything else of possible historical interest, I'll send it to you. As a historian-librarian, am conscious of the need for keeping old pictures."

Sincerely,  
Rex Schaeffer

(Ed. note: These pictures will be kept at the museum. We show here a few of special interest. Cornet Band of Monticello. Original old mill dam. New School house (today Masonic Temple) -- Fairgrounds (Great Jones County Fair, 1905) -- Depot and Lovell House Hotel.

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Send remittance and CORRECT address to:

Jones County Hist. Review

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## President's message

# Terms sale of 1879 history a success

The drive for taking orders of the 1879 History reprint is over, as the final date was Sept. 1, 1978. Over 430 reprints were sold, and these we will receive from the printers around Nov. 15.

If you included 75 cents to have the book mailed, you will receive it automatically just as soon as they are received.

If you indicated they would be picked up, THEN you will be able to pick them up at the PUBLIC library in that town which is YOUR MAILING ADDRESS. If there is no public library in your town, then the town nearest you with a public library, is where your copy will be delivered for you to pick up.

The venture was very much a success, with about 8 percent of the families in Jones county making a purchase. This is considered excellent by people who do the reprinting. Many hours of volunteer work to put this drive together, by Society members under the chairmanship of Mildred Buol, accounts for the grand results.

Issue four of volume four will be following this issue within the month or six weeks. We ask that you keep in mind the membership and subscription year will be coming to an end for most of you, and we urge you to renew both your subscription and membership NOW while it is fresh in your minds.

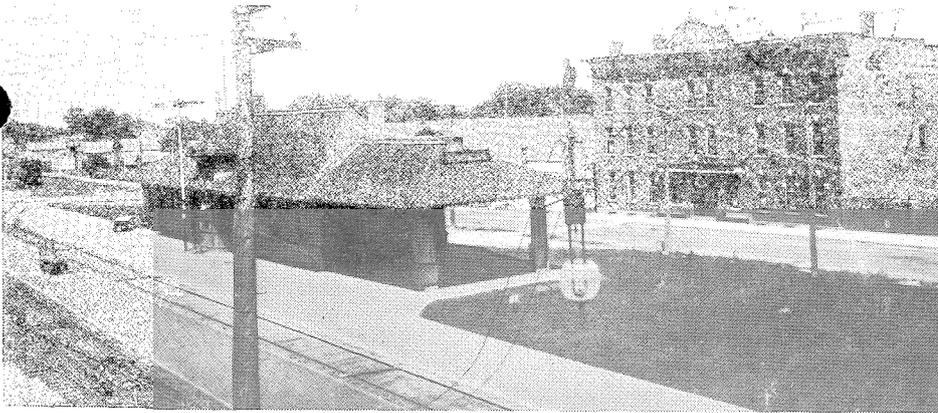
Because costs have increased, it is necessary that subscription cost rise slightly. Membership dues remain the same. Elsewhere in this issue, you will find further details on renewing.

Your Society is non-profit, and depends solely upon memberships and donations for its existence. This quarterly publication actually doesn't quite break even, and in order to keep it going we must have at least a minimum of 400 subscribers.

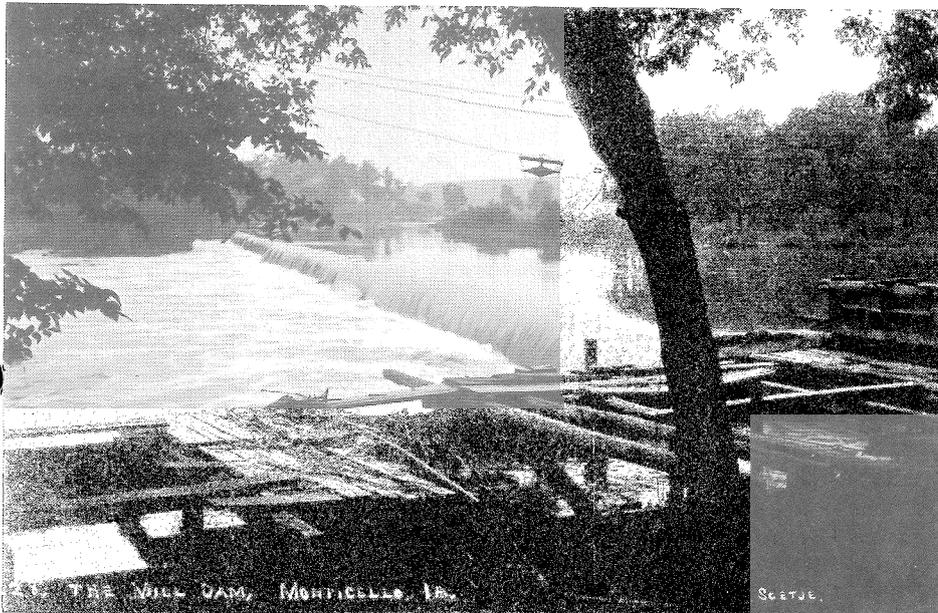
Remember the people on your Christmas list with a gift subscription. We will send a gift announcement in your name.

We have been given a small house by Mr. and Mrs. Mike Folkers, and this will be moved to the Pioneer Village yet this fall, where in the spring of 1979 it will be placed on a foundation with basement and become the home of the Museum and Pioneer Village caretaker. While the caretaker's position will not be paid, the Society hopes to be able to offer to possibly a retired couple, housing and certain utilities in exchange for caretaking duties. More on this after the next Society meeting.

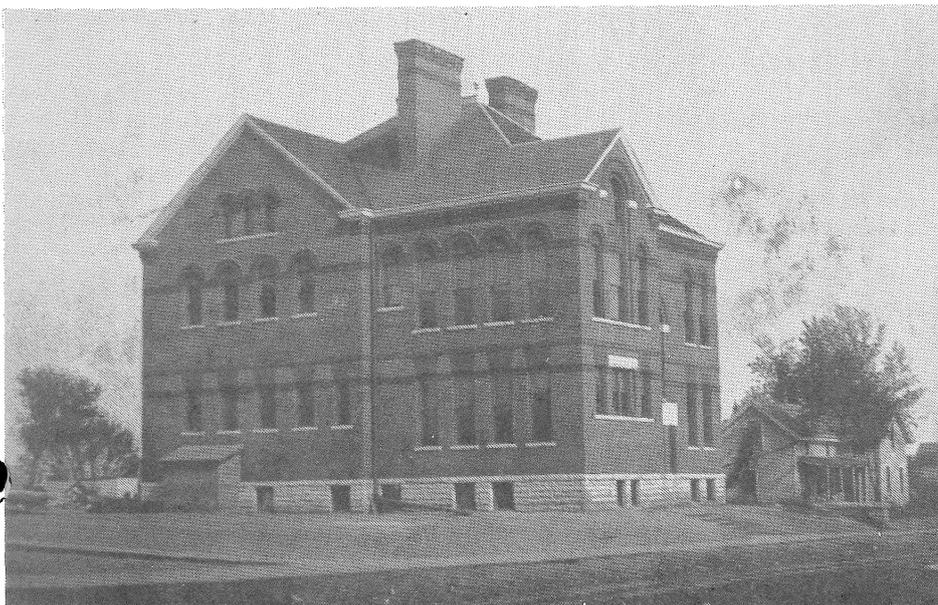
C. L. "Gus" Norlin,  
President



*THE LOVELL HOUSE (right) was once located across the street from the Monticello depot. It was a popular spot in the early part of the century. The depot still stands, minus the porch on the south end.*



*THE MILL DAM near Monticello appeared on a postcard dated Nov. 17, 1910. It was a forerunner to the dam that exists today on the Maquoketa River.*



*THIS VIEW of Monticello high school, now the Masonic temple, was included in the postcards sent to the Historical Society by Rex Schaeffer of Rochester, N. Y.*

# A glimpse of communities along Military road through county

(From the Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette, Thursday, January 26, 1928)

(Furnished to the Associated Press by the State Historical Society of Iowa at Iowa City.)

Trailing diagonally across eastern Iowa from Dubuque to Iowa City is an old ridge road, laid out more than four score years ago to connect the little mining town on the Mississippi with the new territorial capital.

Known as the "Old Military Road" and interlaced by a system of modern highways, the trail along which frontier history rode now gives to the motorist glimpses of a pioneer civilization that flourished along its route.

"For the traveler who knows the story of the Old Military Road it is not difficult even today to conjure phantoms of the past as he motors along the highway between Dubuque and Iowa City," says the State Historical Society of Iowa.

"Lyman Dillon with his five yoke of oxen attached to a plow slowly marking the route, emerges along with Tilghman, the surveyor. At top speed one of Gov. Ansel Briggs' postriders dashes by. The Western State company puts on four-horse coaches to carry members of the legislature and passengers to and from the capitol. Homemakers on foot and on horseback with white topped emigrant wagons drawn by oxen come to take up a homestead along the road. A troop of United States dragoons forms a colorful cavalcade, and in contrast the circuit rider traveling alone plods slowly along the highway. These dim figures of the past form a pageant revealing a glimpse of part of the story of early Iowa."

## NOTE \$20,000 FOR ROAD

In fostering construction of military roads, Congress during March, 1839, appropriated \$20,000 for the road to begin at Dubuque and run to "such a point on the northern boundary of the state of Missouri as may be best suited for its future extension by that state to the cities of Jefferson and St. Louis." Ultimately the road was extended beyond Iowa City.

Along the Old Military Road villages and towns were founded -- some destined to survive to this day, others to suffer oblivion.

One of the latter was the once flourishing village of Ivanhoe, located where the road crosses the Cedar river south of Mount Vernon. Anson Cowles in laying out the town and lofty ambitions for Ivanhoe. He planned to establish a great university to be governed by rules of his own devising.

One-half of the plat he proposed to donate as a permanent foundation for its support. Not far from the campus was to be a large park where he would assemble all kinds of birds and beats native to Iowa. In a magnificent residence, he would entertain strangers and point out places of interest, relates the historical society. In the garb of an Indian chieftain he was to ride in a chariot drawn by six elk in trappings of beaded buckskin, each to be ridden by an Indian in full native costume.

## JUDGE GREENE TAUGHT SCHOOL

Other Ivanhoe settlers won more orthodox recognition. Dr. Sam Grafton, one of Linn county's earliest physicians, "hung out his shingle" there. George Greene, later a judge of the supreme court of Iowa, was an Ivanhoe lawyer and schoolmaster. The village never prospered, the principal settlers died or moved to Mount Vernon, Cedar Rapids or Marion and now the last trace has vanished. The bridge crossing the Cedar there alone preserves the name Ivanhoe.

Only four or five settlers were at the Buffalo fork of the Wapsipinicon river when the Old Military Road was surveyed. The following year a town to be named Dartmouth was laid out. Later the place was called Lexington, but when the county seat was transferred from the village of Newport, the name Anamosa was adopted.

Four miles to the south, the village of Pamaho was renamed Fairview. In the fifties the settlement began to grow, but when the railroad missed the village, it languished and today only a few houses remind travelers that Fairview was once a rival of Anamosa.

Three years before the road was established, Daniel Varvel, a Kentuckian, built a log cabin at the mouth of Kitty creek on the south fork of the Maquoketa river. Travelers stopped there and men who laid out the road made the cabin their

headquarters. One by one cabins were built in the neighborhood, and a two-story hotel about twenty feet square was erected. The settlement grew and came to be called Monticello.

## CASCADE FOUNDED BY MILLERS

A little cascade on the north branch of the Maquoketa river allured millers. Soon after the road was laid out Cascade was a prosperous village. Although still a progressive community, the glorious future of the settlement visioned by its early promoters, was never attained. A narrow-gauge railroad reached the town late in its development. Throughout the baseball world, Cascade's fame has been spread by the exploits of a local boy, Red Faber, veteran Chicago American pitcher.

About half-way between Cascade and Dubuque, the traveler catches a glimpse of the slate roof and towers of New Melleray Abbey where today Cistercian monks are living by the old sixth century rule of St. Benedict. Afar from the turmoil and strife of modern life these monks, known as Trappists, lead a life of piety and labor. In summer and winter, regardless of weather, they arise from their straw ticks at two o'clock in the morning. From that hour until eight in the evening the time is spent alternately in religious devotions and work.

By a rule of silence, the monks are forbidden to speak except by special permission. Choir brothers wear a white habit with black scapular, while lay brothers dress in robes of brown. Bread and vegetables form the principal diet; they never eat meat.

Along the Old Military Road the landscape, methods of travel and habits of living have changed and little of the past remains. But at the Abbey of the New Melleray, men today follow unchanged the daily routine performed by other monks when the road was new.

Jones County Historical Review  
Monticello, Iowa 52310

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U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 187  
Monticello, Iowa