

NEWS 'N' NOTES

JONES COUNTY GEN. SOC.

Volume VIII ISSUE 5 P.O. BOX 174 ANAMOSA, IA 52205 SEPT.-OCT. 1997

Forest Chapel church was founded in 1845 in a log school house directly across the road from its present location. Originally it was in a five-church circuit which included Olin, Antioch, White Oak and Center. The first minister, Jacob Miller, walked to the church from his home a few miles west of Olin.

In 1859, Samuel Stover bought the present church site from Moses Bolenbaugh. Pioneers hauled brick from a brickyard near Anamosa, and walls for the new church were erected. Funds then ran out, but in 1861 enough money had been raised to complete the building. In 1884, it was declared unsafe and was replaced by the frame church which stands today.

After the church was finished in 1861 the walls were plastered. In those days, it is said, the men sat on the west side of the church and the women on the east.

First trustees were Seaman Swayze, president; J. L. Joslin, secretary; and D. G. Sterling, treasurer. These men with Allen Sones, who lived in Anamosa, formed a committee to see about replacing the church, which became unsafe, in 1884. Rev. L. B. Hix was pastor at that time.

After a thorough canvass they lacked a large amount of the necessary \$1,500 to finance the work, but they signed a note covering the sum.

The Junior Christian Endeavor bought the bell in 1922, under the leadership of Mrs. Pard Miller, and the Senior Christian Endeavor bought the piano under the direction of Nabel Sones.

The Thimble society was organized in 1909 with Mrs. Emily Joslin president. The present annex was completed under sponsorship of this group, which raised over \$700. Fred Riggs was pastor then and Dr. Cronk was superintendent.

Some of the ministers who have served at the church throughout the years are Reverends Statton, Stephens, Riggs, Bainbridge, Brunn, Knight, Hulse, Alexander, Huffman, Foster, Biss, Talbot, Dickenson, Windsor, Mitchell, Bennett, Zackefrose, and Hansen. Rev. Lloyd Dutro has served the church faithfully for the last several years.

Current officers are; Trustees--Lewis Vernon, president; Glenn Siver, Ronald Moyer, Wayne Vernon, Robert Bainbridge, Edith Johnson, Treasurer; Ushers--Randy Moyer, Michael Vernon; Thimble Society--Hazel Meeks, President; Dora Shankland, Treasurer; Florence Vernon, Secretary.

Evangelical United Brethern Church was changed to Forest Chapel United Methodist in 1969.

Antioch Church History

From the well kept minutes by the church clerk dating back to 1868, much can be learned about the early years of the Antioch Christian Church, Jackson township. Beautifully written in old time script, L.B. Smith, church clerk, recorded Oct. 10, 1868 the principles by which the church agreed to be governed. They are as follows:

"We whose names are hereunto annexed members as we trust of the body of Christ having exercised repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ being desirous of associating ourselves together as a church agree to be governed by the following principles. First--Christ is the only head of the Church. Second--The name Christian is the only appellation by which we will be known to the exclusion of all party or sectarian names. Third--The Holy Bible or the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament is our only creed or confession of faith. Fourth--Christian character as vital piety is the true scriptural test of fellowship and of church membership. Fifth--The right of private judgement and the liberty of conscience is a right and privilege that should be accorded to and exercised by all."

Through the years as through the pages are recorded the people who served the church dear to them. Elder Nathan Potter was elected pastor for the year 1869. Elder James N. Baker was elected pastor for 1870. Then Elder Potter served as pastor again in 1871 and through the rest of the 1870's and perhaps into the early 1880's as there was no recording of any one else as pastor until 1882 when Elder Wm. Webb was elected pastor for one year. From the first of April 1883 until December 1886 the church was supplied with pastors part of the time regularly and part of the time occasionally. In 1887 and 1888 Elder W.C. Smith of Albion, Iowa served as pastor. He came twice a month and held services Saturday evening, Sunday morning and Sunday night. Perhaps Elder W.C. Smith served as pastor this way as long as 1894 as the minutes of June 1, 1894 record him being present.

Besides the pastors who served Antioch there were clerks, trustees, treasurers, deacons and sextons. The men who faithfully kept the minutes of the church from which the information comes about the early church were the church clerks. L.B. Smith was clerk from 1868-1873 followed by Cornelius Smith from 1873-1876. Anthony Waggoner served as clerk from 1876 to 1882. Nathan Potter served from 1882 until the last entry in the book dated Oct. 18, 1897. The names of Daniel Beam, Michael Byerly, M.C. Porter and Thomas Belknap are recorded as being elected as deacons.

The following records the celebration of the 30th anniversary by Nathan Potter, clerk.

July 28th A.D. 1888 Antioch Christian Chapel, Church met according to previous notice at two o'clock p.m. Meeting was opened by song, reading scriptures and prayer by Elder W.C. Smith of Albion. Prayer and social meeting followed. The presence of the Lord was truly among us. This meeting and on the morrow we celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the organization of this church. Organized and known first at the residence of Brother Anthony Waggoner as the Bear Creek Valley Christian Church. All present spoke of their faith in the Savior. Present Elder W.C. Smith, Elder Nathan Potter, Deacons Anthony Waggoner, Michael Byerly, Eliza Waggoner, Clementine

Potter, M.C. Porter, Almira Porter, Charles and Rhoda Brown and Maggie and Cora Beam.

Sunday and Sunday evening preaching by Brother Smith. Anniversary service at 11 o'clock at which time Charles and Rhoda Brown, J.L. Streeter and S.S. Streeter united with the church and Charles and Rhoda Brown were baptized by Elder Smith.

Minutes of meeting Antioch Chapel, June 23, 1894

//According to previous notice church met at 2 o'clock p.m. After prayer by Elder Wm. C. Smith of Albion, Iowa, being present, opened the meeting by reading scripture, prayer and remarks on Christian life and exhortation to be faithful. Social meeting followed after which the following business of the church was done. Elder Smith was called to the chair, a vacancy having occurred in the board of trustees, Brother Anthony Waggoner having moved away and joined another local church. Brother J.L. Streeter was duly elected by ballot to serve as trustee.

On view of the changing uncertainties of local churches maintaining their visibility and to save the Chapel to the Christian denomination, the trustees were instructed by a vote of the church to deed the property to the Iowa State Christian Conference reserving the control of the same with the local board of trustees so long as any of them exist as such and desire to control the chapel and its services. Nathan Potter, Church Clerk.

(After a careful search in the recorders office in Jones County, no record was found of any transfer of the Antioch Chapel to the Iowa State Christian conference or any other denomination.)

Last entry recorded as follows: "Antioch Chapel Oct. 18th A.D. 1897. At a special meeting held this day for the purpose of electing two trustees to fill vacancies caused by the decease of Michael Byerly and the withdrawal of M.C. Porter. Meeting called to order by Nathan Potter. Members present: Elder Nathan Potter, Mrs. Mary C. Waggoner, Mrs. Orlando Hay, James Carter, Rhoda Brown, J.L. Streeter, S.S. Streeter, Mary C. Potter. Sister Elizabeth Byerly being unable to be present sent her ballot for trustees which was accepted and counted in the election of trustees by balloting. Mrs. Mary C. Waggoner and Nathan Potter were declared duly elected trustees of Antioch Christian Church. Nathan Potter, church clerk."

With this last recording ends the early history of the Antioch Christian Church, Jackson Township, Jones County, Iowa as written in the church clerk's book dated from Oct. 10, 1868 to Oct. 18, 1897.

In the late 1930's or early 1940's the Presbyterians discontinued services at the Antioch Church. It was not used again for church services until the late 1970's when it was once again used for several years. During the years it has been used by the community for 4-H, Farm Bureau, Crime Stopper, neighborhood baby and bridal showers, card parties and is the voting place for Jackson township.

Premere issue of Mannings Round the World coming February 1998. 4 issues Feb-May-Aug-Nov. \$15.00 in US -- \$23.00 elsewhere in US funds. Payable to Pauline Smith P O Box 23 Martelle, IA. 52205 Accepting subscriptions now and also Manning family information.

Antioch Ladies Aid Society

On February 15, 1912 the Antioch Ladies Aid Society was organized. According to the minutes of that first meeting, Nelle Byerly acted as president pro tem. Officers were elected for the coming year with Nelle Byerly as president, Della Ristine as vice president, Blanche Russell as secretary and Mabel Hay as treasurer. Nora Landis, Carrie Byerly and Grace Byerly were appointed to the social committee. Nelle Byerly and Blanche Russell were appointed to draw up a constitution.

The constitution as adopted for this newly formed organization is as follows: "Article I The name of this organization shall be the Antioch Ladies Aid Society, whose object shall be to help keep up the cemetery and church. Article II This Society shall be composed of the ladies of the community who are interested in the object of this organization and who shall sign the constitution. Article III Sec. I The officers of this Society shall be a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer whose term of office shall hold for one year and who shall be elected by ballot. Sec. II The treasurer shall make a report of all money received and expended at the end of every third month. Article IV Sec. I This Society shall hold its regular meetings every second Thursday at such place as shall be designated at the previous meeting. Sec. II The regular dues of 10 cents shall be paid at each meeting except during the summer months when those who go to the cemetery to work shall be exempt from the regular dues. Sec. III At no meeting of the Society shall the lady entertaining serve more than three things besides the drink, except when they meet all day and serve dinner. Then they are permitted one vegetable besides potatoes, one kind of meat, one desert and the drink. A fine of one dollar shall be imposed on any member who shall violate this section. Sec. IV The Society will work for the lady entertaining at the rate of \$1.00 per day or 50 cents for the afternoon, providing that two-thirds of the members are present. If less than two-thirds of the members are present, 75 cents for the whole day or 35 cents for the afternoon. Article V The constitution may be amended at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present."

There were 24 members that first year. They were: Nora Landis, Eliza Byerly, Zella Johnson, Carrie Byerly, Mabel Hay, Susie Byerly, Mrs. J.M. Shields, Nelle Byerly, Mary Benadom, Eva Carter, Grace Ristine, Della Ristine, Etta Hay, Lin Johnson, Blanche Russell, Grace Byerly, Mary White, Lottie Porter, Belle Huggins, Rose Johnson, Ettie Johnson, Mrs. F.A. Bills, Lena Johnson, Grace Atwood.

Since the object of the Antioch Ladies Aid Society was to help keep up the cemetery and the church, it would be necessary for them to raise money. Before the second meeting was held, a social remembered as an oyster supper, was held at the John Landis home which raised \$27.48 for the treasury.

General cleanup and upkeep of the cemetery was done before 1912 but the cemetery was not leveled for mowing until about 1912. In June that same year the ladies purchased a lawn mower to be used at the cemetery costing \$10.25. That year Will Hay was paid \$5.20 for mowing the cemetery.

One of the activities of the ladies during the meetings was to make quilt tops and comforters. During the first year at least two comforters were completed and sold as it is recorded that Eva Carter and Eliza Byerly each purchased one for \$2.50. It is also recorded that a bill of \$1.35 for lining and 48 cents for cotton was paid by

the treasurer so expenses for two comforters was \$1.83.

The first year for the Society was a busy one with meetings twice a month, some being all-day meetings, helping with the cemetery and the making of quilts. At the close of the year the treasurer reported a total of \$149.61 on hand.

The second year all officers were the same as the first year with the exception of the treasurer, Etta Hay who replaced Mable Hay. This year was also a busy one for the Society. A deposit of \$100 in the bank to draw interest was made. The Society paid \$10 for paper and \$16 to McConoughy and Courtney for papering the church. Repairs of ridge roll and shingles were made to the roof. It is recorded that they raked the cemetery in April, and two comforters selling for \$2.50 each and two quilt tops selling for 75 cents each were made. Two ice cream socials were held during the summer of 1913, one at the R.B. Johnson home and one at the Lottie Porter home.

Music was probably as important in the worship service in those days as it is today. A new organ was purchased for Antioch from the Taylor Piano Co. at a cost of \$60.

Most of the minutes for the 1914 meetings contained little information except a record of number of members present, members absent and visitors along with the collection. It was recorded that \$4 interest was received from the \$100 deposited in savings. Trays for the society were purchased this year. An ice cream social was held at the school house netting \$35.86 for the treasury. At the end of this year there was \$46.84 in the treasury and \$150 on interest in the bank.

Probably the most interesting meeting this year was held at the Landis home on December 31st. It is recorded that 9 members were present, 9 members absent and 56 visitors were present. The meeting is remembered by a member of the community as a New Years Eve Party.

A dozen chairs were purchased in 1919 at \$1.15 each. The ladies helped in 1920 with lights for the church by giving \$25 toward them. In 1921 the Society paid for the cost of a fence for the cemetery. The men did the work with cost for wire at \$28 and post at \$44.30. The Antioch Ladies Aid Society continued for many more years but minutes are no longer available after 1923.

ELDO MITCHELL

Funeral services for Eldo Mitchell, 34, who was killed early Thursday in an automobile accident at Dubuque, were to be held today at 2:30 p. m. at the Beatty funeral home. The Rev. R. J. Campbell will officiate. Burial service at Oak Hill cemetery will be in charge of Hanford post of the American Legion.

Mitchell was the son of Mrs. Elizabeth Mitchell, 1609 Park avenue SE. He was born at Olin and lived here for 20 years. He was formerly an employe of the Three Minute Cereals company and had been living in Chicago where he was comptroller for the Lincoln park board. He was killed while on his way here to visit his mother. His wife, who was with him in the accident, is recovering here from her injuries.

X Death of William Nance.

The remains of William Nance, who died at Olin, were brought here Tuesday afternoon. They were taken to the Loder undertaking parlors, and yesterday morning were conveyed by auto hearse to Epworth for burial in High View cemetery beside the remains of his son. The funeral services were held at Olin on Tuesday. Mr. Nance was 81 years of age. Death followed a stroke of paralysis. He had lived in the vicinity of Olin for 30 years. He is survived by four grand-daughters, five great-grand-children and two nieces. The grand-daughters are: Mrs. Lawrence Streeter of Medford, Minnesota; Mrs. Carl Maxwell of Epworth; Mrs. Lloyd Rhoten of Racine, Minnesota; Mrs. F. D. Sinclair of Scotch Grove. These are all daughters of Mrs. C. H. Foster of Anamosa.

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One Time Olin Resident Celebrates 91 Birthday at Clayton, Ill., Sunday

Mrs. J. L. Tarbox, who at one time lived in this community, and now of Clayton, Illinois, last Sunday celebrated her 91 birthday. Mr. and Mrs. Tarbox own and farmed the place northwest of here where Mr. and Mrs. James Remington now reside.

Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Taylor, Mrs. Thompson Brickley, and J. W. Brickley of Anamosa attended the celebration, driving there in the Taylor car. They were entertained at a birthday dinner.

Antioch Social Circle

Earliest minutes for the Antioch Social Circle are for the year 1923. It is not known when they were formally organized or if they had a constitution. The Circle met on the first and third Wednesdays of each month with some meetings being all day meetings.

As the Antioch Ladies Aid Society had done for many years, the Circle also helped with the upkeep and general improvements of the Antioch Church. Recorded in the minutes are expenses paid for paper and paint for the church proper, paint for the basement, new carpet, repairs for lights and the purchase of coal.

In 1929 the ladies of the Circle purchased five dozen forks, knives and teaspoons and two dozen tablespoons of silverplate from O.A. Dayton, Olin, Iowa for a total of \$66.42. Then in 1930 they purchased five dozen place settings and some serving dishes for a total of 252 pieces for \$40.

Besides the upkeep of the building, the Antioch Social Circle raised money to help with the ministers salary and house rent and to support the Sunday School and the church's mission fund and conference dues.

The ladies were busy doing many things to raise money. During the meetings the ladies did quilting and tied comforters and did sewing for which they were paid. They also sewed carpet rags for rugs and made articles to sell at their suppers and bazaars. In November 1923 they had a bazaar and supper. It is recorded that they decided to charge 35 cents for adults and 25 cents for children. The ladies had ice cream socials, bake sales and lunch stands at neighborhood farm sales.

In the minutes of the Jan. 1924 meeting a notation is made of the men having an oyster supper for the ladies of the Circle and for neighbors. A charge for supper of 27 cents raised \$14.72 for the treasury. Plans were made at the Feb. 1928 meeting for the ladies to furnish supper for the men at their social to be held in connection with a play presented by the men. Other minutes record plans for plays and amateur contests held at the church.

Some changes in the meetings took place through the years. Programs were enjoyed with singing, reading poetry and humorous readings. Notations in 1933 minutes include educational programs given. Topics included were quality meal planning, planned leisure and pictures for the home.

With the coming of electricity to rural areas the members voted unanimously on Jan. 12, 1938 to hook up to the Maquoketa Valley Rural Electric.

When the new church was built, the Circle raised money for folding tables and chairs and other equipment to be used in the building.

The years have passed, but the purpose of the Circle has remained the same--to maintain and preserve the Antioch Church.

The latest renovation was the tuck-pointing and sealing of the outside walls done in 1986. This was accomplished by garage sales, bake sales and donations made by the many friends of the church from California, Washington, Florida and many cities in Iowa. There were twenty-six families that donated a total of \$1,656.25.

Meetings are now held once a month either at the church or in a member's home. The meetings consist of devotions, prayer and educational programs as well as programs just for fun. (We) entertain the residents of the Anamosa Care Center for our June meetings. We

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also have a gentleman residing at the Jones County Care Facility that we remember each year on his birthday and at Christmas.

The officers for 1987 are: Verna Fiedler, president; Betty Thomsen, vice president; Ruth Hardersen, treasurer; Dolores Eilers, secretary. The membership consists of twenty-seven members. They are: Helen Bonjour, Margaret Bonjour, Lula Byerly, Dolores Eilers, Verna Fiedler, Donna Glenn, Helen Hansen, Debbie Hardersen, Patsy Hardersen, Ruth Hardersen, Margaret Kistler, Cecilia Marek, Angeline May, Sherry McGreevy, Iva Morning, Elie Paulson, Melinda Powell, Millie Schuman, Margaret Ann Siebels, Lucille Sievers, Audrey Smith, Lynette Smith, Edna Storm, Betty Thomsen, Irene Von Muenster, Julie Von Muenster and Tena Waggoner.

As in the beginning, people of all faiths continue to join our organization to have fellowship, prayer and laughter nearby. It is our prayer that there will always be people who love this place enough to care for it in the future.

Antioch Cemetery History

Hardly had the Antioch Church been completed when the first interment in the cemetery took place. A special stone purchase in 1940 by the Cemetery Association and the last of the funds of the old organization of the Ladies Aid Society marks the grave of Elizabeth Ambrose, 1806-1866. The grave site is located just east of the building.

Any early secretary and treasury minutes that there might have been for the cemetery are missing. An interesting and important entry of the minutes of the June 2nd A.D. 1888 Antioch Christian Chapel reads as follows: "The church having previous incorporated the subject of the right to manage and control the property was discussed. L.O. Hay was retained by the trustees as secretary of the cemetery grounds and instructed to have platted with county recorder a correct plat of the cemetery lots." It was signed Nathan Potter, church clerk.

So it would seem that the trustees of the Antioch Christian Church took care of the plotting and the sale of the lots in the early years. The Beam grave north of the church was mowed by their daughter, Mrs. Ristine, who lived in the neighborhood. The rest of the yard was seeded with the native grass and was not mowed. The grass was long and the children played in it while the parents visited.

It is sad to know that the cemetery did not always look as it does today. The story of how it became to be cared for is interesting. About the time that a few cars began to use the road which is now highway 64, a funeral was being held at the church. The horses and buggies lined the road to the corner and beyond, for in those days a funeral in the neighborhood was attended by many people. Those attending were gathered at the grave site, when an automobile came up the road with a Jackson County license. A remark from one of the passengers in the open automobile, "Isn't this a hell of a place to be buried," was overheard by the mourners and caused the community to get to work. Before the people went back to their homes that afternoon a day was set to get together to clean up the cemetery. Before the week was over, people of all faiths came together at the cemetery to clean it up. It has been taken care of from that time on. A bad remark turned into a blessing for the Antioch community.

Early records of the Ladies Aid Society show that they helped with keeping of the cemetery grounds both by purchasing a mower and paying for the mowing. Work days were set aside when the members helped with the raking and general clean up of the yard.

The first meeting of the New Antioch Cemetery Association was held on October 10, 1911. J.L. Streeter acted as temporary president. R.A. Russell acted as temporary secretary. A committee of three, W.M. Byerly, J.I. Hay and John Landis, was appointed to draw up a constitution and a new set of by-laws. Special instructions to be included in the by-laws that the grounds are to be leveled for mowing.

A second meeting was held on December 11, 1911. At this meeting the constitution and by-laws were read and accepted. A.B. White was elected secretary. W.E. Hay was elected treasurer and John Landis, Frank Porter and W.M. Byerly were appointed as trustees.

As the constitution states the Association would be able to acquire by purchase, or otherwise, and to sub-divide, sell and convey and control land for cemetery purposes. Two additions have been made

to the original one acre of land given in 1865 for the building by Jacob and Elizabeth Kramer. Minutes of December 14, 1920 state that the board of trustees proceed to purchase enough land joining the cemetery grounds on the north to add three more rows of lots and enough additional land to put a driveway through the grounds. At the December 12, 1921 meeting R.A. Russell, W.E. Hay and J.M. Byerly were appointed to stake and plot the new addition. A second addition of 50 feet joining the cemetery on the north and the land east to the rock road was purchased in 1959. The new addition was fenced and staked and bricks were placed to mark the lots. A new plat of the cemetery was made by Oris Randolph in 1966. The Iowa State Industries printed four copies and they were placed in binders.

The cemetery grounds took on a new look in 1930 as a result of the first paving of Highway 64. Until this time the cars could drive from the road onto the grounds up to the front doors. With the construction of the highway, the hill was cut down in front of the church. A concrete block retaining wall with an iron fence on it and an iron gate at each end was constructed. A sidewalk in front of the retaining wall, steps and a sidewalk to the front door completed the landscaping and gave it a very neat look.

People in the Antioch Community have served long and faithfully on the Cemetery board. R.A. Russell served as secretary from 1916-1932, Lula Weighels Byerly served as secretary from 1932-1987, W.E. Hay served as treasurer from 1911-1945, W.M. Byerly served as a trustee from 1911-1924, Albert Benadom served as treasurer from 1946-1976, Nathan Carter was a trustee from 1927-1943, Carrie Byerly was a trustee from 1924-1953 and Alvin Byerly was president of the board from 1953-1987.

Present members of the board are: Darvin Hardersen, president; Ruth Hardersen, secretary; Wayne Schwartz, treasurer; Leo Bonjour and Philbert Hardersen, trustees.

THE TOWN OF JOHNSON

The Johnson Town cemetery, one of several disbanded cemeteries which tells much history of Center Junction. It is located in section 26 of Scotch Grove township about 4 miles northeast of Center Junction. Records show the first burial to have been in 1853, and the last was in 1888, according to graves with markers. There were about 50 tombstones total in this small cemetery. One Civil War Veteran is known to have been buried there, that is James Overly, who was brought back home for burial. A few of the names on the markers include Joseph Ames, J.D. Barnhill, Henry Carter, George Krouse, Fadley, A.T. Titus and Wescott.

The first school house was believed to have been built here in 1852 with Cynthis Carter as teacher. It burned in 1894. The first church was erected in 1856. Records show where the Methodists had purchased land in 1868, and it is believed a third church of Presbyterian Faith was here. However there is no record.

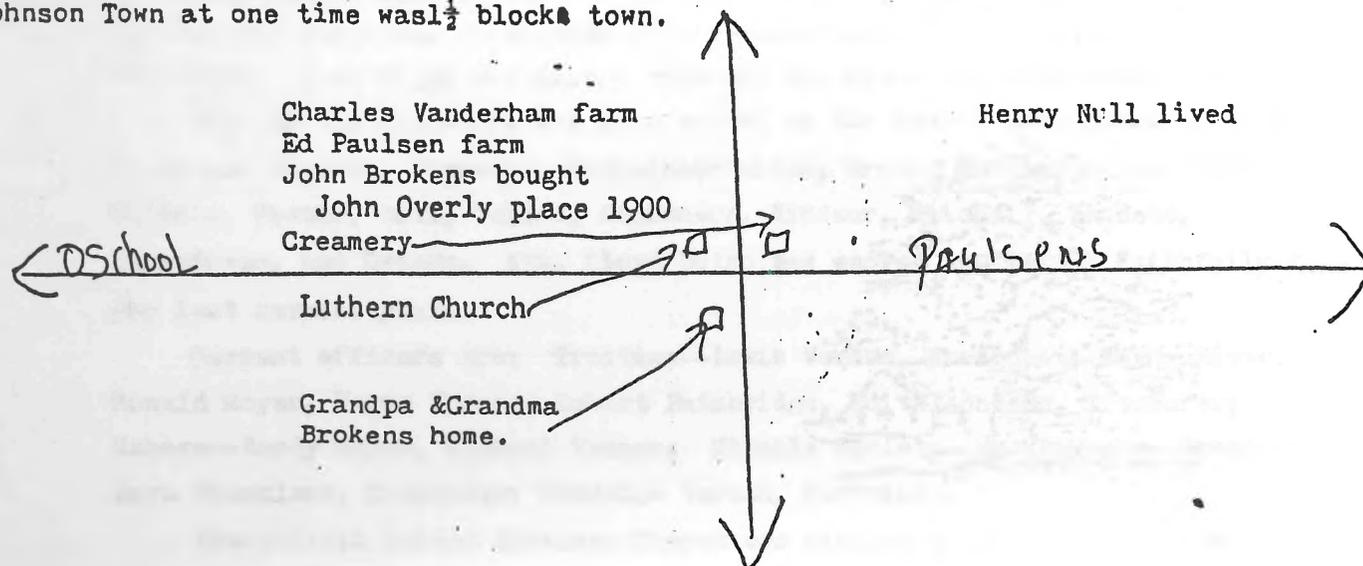
The Town of Johnson was named after Edward N. Johnson, who came in the spring of 1852, and was referred to as Johnson Town, Johnson as platted consisted of 29 building lots covering 1½ blocks. Main street was 2 blocks long and was known as the Anamosa Bellevue State Road. LaFayette Smith had a Mercantile Store, known as the "Prairie Store". Jess Tomlinson of Indiana had the first Millwright Shop in 1853. The first boot and shoe shop was established by George Stuhler who moved from Canton to Johnson in 1860. Other residents were Dr. Phillips and Dr. Carlisle also put up a drug store. W.W. Sutliff was a watch repairer. Other Drs. were Dr. Mekinsie and Dr. McKean.

The Johnson Creamery was started by the Carpenter Brothers about 1880. It was sold a few years later to S.L. and Charles Gilbert and later to J.J. Fagen and then to Henry Null. The creamery burned in 1895.

A post office was established Nov. 16, 1853 with Edward Johnson as postmaster. The office was discontinued April 26, 1880.

Great Grand parents, Johann and Talke Maria Brokens lived at the site of the Johnson, but probably not much was left then as they came here about 1885 from Germany. They lived in Prairieburg for a while then returned to Johnson Town.

This information was given to me about 1 year before Wm. Brokens died, about his Grandparents, Johann Brörken and his wife. They were married in 1863. Grandpa and Grandma Brörkens lived in Prairieburg Jones Co. when they came to the United States They moved to a "Folkers" place in Wayne do not know what one. Their next home was at "Johnson Town" Scotch Grove Township the reason for the name of Johnson Town was that at one time in earlier years there was the small village of Johnson. They lived there the rest of their lives. There was a small Luthern church across the road from their home. Their son, John Brokens bought the John D. Overly place in Scotch Grove twp. in 1900. His wife was Antje Kuper. Johnson Town at one time was 1½ block town.



Monticello Express Dec. 31 1927

Death of a pioneer resident.

Mrs. Alfred Miller, one of the pioneer settlers of Monticello, died at her home last Thursday, Dec. 24. She had been in failing health for some time and her death was caused by the infirmities of old age.

Mrs. Miller was born near Warsaw IND. June 9 1839. She was a daughter of David and Phoebe Ralston. She ~~made~~ the journey from Ind. to Bowen's *Prairie* in 1853.

In 1856 she was united in marriage to Alfred Miller. They continued to reside on Bowen's Prairie until 40 years ago when they removed to Monticello. During the Civil war, Mr. Miller served in the 17th regiment of Ia. Vol. Inf. He suffered disabilities in service which required the amputation of his leg in later years.

Mr. & Mrs. Miller were the parents of seven children, three of whom, in addition to Mr. Miller, have died. One child died in infancy. One daughter, Eliza, died thirty years ago, and one son, Charles died a year ago. Mr. Miller died Dec. 28 1899. The surviving children are: Edward of Burlington Kansas; Mrs. Minnie Rice of Sylvia, Ill.; Mrs. Clara Tunison, Chicago, Ill.; and Alva of Hettinger, N.D. Mrs. Miller is also survived by four grandchildren and one great-grand child, also by two sisters, Mrs. Julia Balcom, and Mrs. Mary Brown of Monticello, and two brothers, John Ralston, of Seymour and WM. Ralston of Burlington Kansas.

Funeral services were held last Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Short services were held at the family home and final services were held at the Methodist Episcopal church. Both services were in charge of REv. A.E. Coe, pastor of the Methodist Church. Burial was had at Oakwood cemetery.

JONES COUNTY
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NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

