



# Jones County

## Historical Review

Vol. 3

Published Quarterly by the Jones County Historical Society

No. 4 - 1977



# Roads converged on small Jones county community to give Cass Center its name

By Cora Condit Fairbanks  
Age 90, born 10-17-1887

Cass Center, a small community located in the central part of Cass township, in Jones county is about five miles north of Anamosa. It was so named because it was the point of convergence of five roads, an east and west road, a north and south road and in addition, a road that came in from the northeast.

At these crossroads were located a school, a creamery, operated by my grandfather Joseph Smith Condit, and a blacksmith shop, where a man named Mr. Plume plied his trade. Three residences completed the village. This busy little hamlet was the news media of 1887, and gave farmers from the surrounding area an opportunity for keeping posted on the neighborhood news.

The children who attended school between the years 1887 and 1898 were from the following families. From the south, Rhatigan, Byerly and Ogden. From west, Dean, and Wallace, from the east Bray and Conrod, and from the north, Ketcham, Lake, Cunningham, Sandhouse, and four Condit families, namely Will, J. S., Edgar and Emory. From the Center itself, two children from the Plume family.

### FIRST SCHOOL

The school building was very crude in comparison to those of later days. In the entry way, a row of coat hooks along the wall accommodated many, many layers of wraps in the winter times as children often had to walk long distances in bitter cold weather. Along the walls on the floor beneath the coats were all the dinner pails in a row.

Heat was furnished by a potbellied stove and had to be rekindled each morning either by the teacher or a big boy who lived close by who ran over early and built the fire for a few cents a week. Nearly all of the seats were "double" and on the first day of school there was much competition in choosing a seat mate. Drinking water was carried from the creamery and

common dipper was used by all.

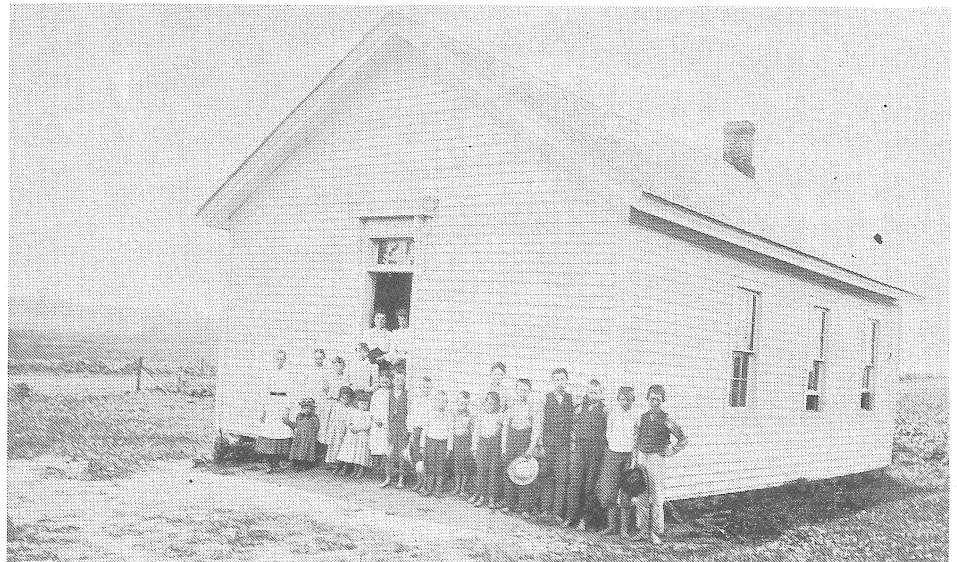
Our school recreation at recess and noons was playing anti-over, knocking down the goal and baseball, participated in by both sexes. The most fun of all was drowning out ground squirrels in a nearby pasture. How we worked to carry buckets of water from the creamery. By plugging up some of the holes and guarding others, we harvested quite a crop of squirrels.

The teachers whom I remember were Joseph Colton, Charlotte Page, Nettie Page, Ina Pope, Miss Reed, and Ethel Brush. Rural teachers did not stay very long in one school in those days -- sometimes only one term of three months duration. The stipend was meager and travel was slow and tedious and life for the School Marm was rather dull.

In 1896 when I was just nine years old,

the campaign for the Presidency between William McKinley, Republican and William Jennings Bryan was a hot issue. Bryan traveled 13,000 miles and made 600 speeches in 29 states. McKinley staged a "front porch" campaign from his home in Canton, Ohio.

Some of this excitement spilled over into Cass Center and I remember that a number of men from our neighborhood gathered at our house to practice patriotic songs on the fife and drums. Shortly before election, decked out in red, white and blue capes, and head gear, they rode into Anamosa on a hayrack and participated in the parade up and down main street. My father played the drums and Mr. Tom Day was one of the fife players. I'm not able to recall any of the other names but I'm sure of one thing, they were all republicans.



*PUPILS ATTENDING the Cass Center school in an earlier period posed for this photo. Bessie Condit is standing in the doorway with the teacher. Others in the photo are Deans - Ethel Gale, Frank and Blanch; Lakes - Charley, Georgia, Ida and Willie; Cleo Plume; Rhatigans - Berney, Eva, Julia, Mary and Tom; Byerlys - May and Eddie; Condits - Jay, Orrin, Eva and Harry. Cora Condit Fairbanks is looking through the first window of the school. (Photo furnished by Cora Fairbanks).*

# Excitement of presidential campaign spills over to Cass Center

## CHURCH IMPORTANT

The Cass Congregational church, located about a quarter of a mile north of Cass Center, was an important part of community life. For many years in the early days of the church, the pastor lived in a manse provided for the family. In later years the minister from the Anamosa Congregational church also served the Cass church by conducting afternoon church services. Rev. S. F. Millikan was the pastor for many years. He was the father of Robert Millikan, the widely known physicist who died in 1953.

Children's Day was observed as a big event and always brought a big crowd to church. Two of my most remembered Sunday School teachers were Mrs. Emma Lake and Miss Hattie Ketcham.

The families that I recall as being regular attendants were George Watt, Hanna, Brainard, Lake, and Ketcham. From east Cass there was Will Hale, Croat, Wright, Ladd Bray, and Walters. From the South road came the organist Mrs. Jetta Loggie and her daughter Eunice, Emma Crawford, and Ogdens. My parents, brothers and I also attended until we moved from Cass Center to Anamosa in 1898.

The church was a center for many social activities, bringing families and neighbors together to enjoy ice cream socials, parties and in winter much courting went on when there were bobsled rides on frosty moonlight nights with spirited horses up ahead.

## MANY CHANGES

Almost 80 years have passed since my girlhood at Cass Center. As the years rolled by many changes have taken place. The roads have been improved with paving or rock. The creamery burned down and the blacksmith shop outlived its usefulness. A new school building has replaced the old, but it has not been used as a school for a good many years. On the old home farm where I was born, stands a newer house and barn, and new faces are in every home. Older residents passed on or moved away.

While these changes were taking place, the church attendance began to dwindle until there was not enough support to maintain the church. There was still enough interest in 1956 to celebrate the 100th anniversary. Records show that the last funeral was in 1951.

Gradually the edifice began to deteriorate. The bell which had called the faithful to worship through the years was sold to a Monticello church. A storm wrecked the belfry and the floor boards in the entry rotted away. A few loyal hearts were stirred to begin a movement to save the old church, one of the oldest in Jones county.

Letters were written and donations came in until there was enough to begin restoration. The Bicentennial commission of the county approved restoration of the church, and by transferring title of the church to the Jones County Historical Society, a nonprofit organization of the

people, money was allotted by the State Bicentennial commission to help pay for necessary materials. Through the Jones County Historical Society, through a contract with the Job Service of Iowa, labor was furnished and paid for to complete the restoration, and build a new belfry. The church has again become a symbol of the early settlers of that community. (Ed. note) the church is now designated as an official historical site in Jones county.)

On Sept. 12, 1976 the building stood renewed, restored and rededicated. The Stone City limestone marker just south of the church was given as a memorial by the Watt family.

Now, the restored church is all that remains of Cass Center as I knew it as a young girl -- but stored away in my heart I have many enduring memories of the fine people and good life that I knew there.

## President's message:

Dear Reader:

This issue is No. 4 of Volume 3. It should have been in your hands by December 31, 1977. Some of you ask why we don't come out on a certain date each quarter, and the answer is simple.

The Jones County Historical Review contains stories submitted to the Society by members, readers, and others who have a historical or event story to share with others. While we notice an acceleration in the number of articles submitted, we still are not getting even a small percentage of what is available, and consequently we do not have enough material to publish an issue on those dates we would like to.

True, I myself have enough heavy material to fill the next 10 issues, but this is not what we want. This material I have (and others of the Society have some) is used off and on, but not in every issue.

The whole purpose of the Review is to get you to participate, and share with other readers what you know either first hand, or which has been handed down from your ancestors. What I have for printing is generally historical in nature, and is material that has been researched from the historical archives and records.

I have very few human interest stories, having no ancestors in this area, nor having lived in this area all my life. These stories we leave up to you. Many of you respond, but usually with the comment, "But I can't write a story, my spelling is bad, and I don't know how to tell it".

If you think your spelling is bad, and your punctuation, etc. is atrocious, you should see mine. If it wasn't for Betty Wagner, editor of the Monticello Express who proofreads and corrects what I

(cont. on page 8)



ONCE UPON a time a creamery flourished at Cass Center. It was owned by Joseph Smith Condit, grandfather of the author of the accompanying history of Cass. Her father, Edgar Silas Condit, is on the white horse. An uncle, Emory Condit, has his foot on the cart and another uncle, Jay Condit, and cousin, Eva Condit, are on the wagon seat. Tobias Swanson, an employee, is standing with an arm resting on the wagon. The others are not identified. This view of the creamery shows the south side of the building. (Photo furnished by Cora Fairbanks)

# Six members of the Locher family taught in rural schools in the county

Six members of my father's family taught "country school" -- my father, John Locher, his brothers Lawrence and Harry, and his sisters Mary, Bertha and Clara.

Mary, the oldest of 16 children, had the longest teaching career -- 24 years, half of which was in rural schools. Mary is 103 years old, lives in Monticello with Bertha, and they both have vivid recollections of their country school teaching.

Through the years Mary has kept a scrapbook listing the names in each of her classes beginning in 1895 -- which is 83 years ago. There are pictures as well as many pages of obituaries of former students. She still cherishes a visit with them. Just last fall Ernie Egger came to see her. He came from California to visit local relatives. Ernie is 86 and Mary was his teacher in Richland 73 years ago.

Mary graduated from Monticello high school class of 1895 and that same year took a rural teaching job near Farley -- the next years near Earlville and near Worthington; then she had five very happy years at the Richland school in Jones County. Her scrapbook lists the names of the 48 Richland pupils she had in 1898 -- these included nine Heins, five Balsigers, five Kiburz and a familiar name, "Maggie Wismeir"!

Forty eight students were "too many", Mary says, as the little children didn't get as much of the teacher's time as they deserved. To cope with the size, she put 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade students together for spelling -- and for reading. Spelling bees were especially popular.

There were few library books in the Richland school and "box socials" were held to raise money for books. Boxes were auctioned off by Biz Floreen and brought \$3, \$4, \$5, even \$6. Though no one was supposed to know whose box was up for sale, the teacher's usually was identified and brought the highest bid -- for she was the teacher. The purchaser then ate with the one who prepared the box -- sandwiches, pickles, pie, cake -- water to drink!

Mary never found discipline to be a serious problem. In fact, the 48 Richland students played on the school grounds unattended while she ate her noon meal at the Balcar home across the road.

One year around 1900 Mary and her brother, John, taught the two largest rural schools in Jones county. Their weekends were at home in Monticello. Mary recalls their working together on the "higher mathematics" problems; one problem dealing with the amount of baseboard needed for a living room was especially sticky until they realized they had put

baseboard over the doorway.

My father, John Locher, taught three winter terms before going to law school, one at Castle Grove and two at Steam Mill Corners (also known as the Spencerville school). Today we would hardly consider his educational background adequate. He left school in 6th grade to work as a farm hand. Some years later he had a six-month business course.

At Steam Mills Corners he was paid \$100 for the three months term. The county superintendent told him this was the top wage because he had a tough assignment -- 52 pupils (he called them "scholars")

John related that his first official act at the opening of the term was to ceremoniously hang a razor strap above the blackboard in full view. He wanted his 52 scholars to know he meant business. The following day he took the strap down and tossed it in the hot potbellied stove, where it burned. He recalled that he never had a disciplinary problem.

May 13, 1966 was the final school day at Steam Mill Corners -- in fact, it was the final school day at Steam Mill Corners -- in fact, it was the last rural school in Jones county to close. Later the same month a reunion picnic was held on the school grounds.

My father, John Locher, was 88 years old and just delighted to return there and meet his old friends. On that occasion he recalled how he and the school boys cut trees in the school yard for fire wood to be used in the pot bellied stove. (Records of Steam Mill Corners' showed teacher salaries as low as \$12 per month).

Lawrence, another brother, is 89 years old, lives in Farley where he practiced dentistry over 60 years. In his home hangs a frame enclosing three county teacher certificates issued to him 1909-1911 and signed by County Superintendent Kate Maurice. The subjects of the examination are listed (and the scores) on the certificates:

Didactics (teaching methods), reading, orthography (spelling), writing, arithmetic, geography, grammar, U.S. history, music, physiology.

His country school teaching experience really paid off when he applied to Northwestern university dental school in 1912, the last year the school would consider applicants who did not have a high school degree. He was advised he must take high school equivalent tests.

Lawrence had dropped out of school before completing 8th grade. He was apprehensive about being tested over subjects he had not studied. Inadvertently, he mentioned having taught school in

Iowa.

The admissions counselor then remarked, "Well, why didn't you say so in the first place? You won't need to take any tests if you've taught school!" He did enter the dental school then and graduated three years later a full fledged dentist.

Bertha taught 4½ terms. After graduating valedictorian of the 1909 class in Monticello high school, she took the teacher examinations at age 17 and taught her first term in Castle Grove. She was not exactly honest about her age since you were supposed to be 18 years of age to be certified.

She also taught near Olin and the Boehren school near our present airport. There her salary was \$30 a month for the fall term. When another teacher offered to teach the winter term for \$27.50 a month, the director hired at the lesser salary. The "director" had the power to hire and fire. Bertha then moved to the next school at Pictured Rocks previously taught by her sister Mary and her brother Lawrence.

Another brother, Harry, taught a rural school near Worthington before studying law.

Another sister, Clara, taught the school on the Cascade road across from the Loomis cafe. The diary she kept relates that she "imparted knowledge" to her students.

Rural teaching was a rich and rewarding experience for the six Lochers. We can be sure they all tried to "impart knowledge".

Lillian Locher Strittmatter

September 1, 1977

A former pupil of Schoolmaster John Locher has a long memory and tells this interesting incident that took place long ago in the school at Spencerville. Mr. Locher was preparing for a school program and as was customary each "scholar" was to speak a piece.

One boy absolutely refused to practice his piece in school, insisting that he practiced his piece at home every night and knew it "real good". The night of the program arrived and when the name of this certain boy was announced, he came confidently to the stage and this is what he said.

"Oh Lord of love -- look from above

Have mercy on us scholars.

We hired a fool to teach this school,  
and we pay him twenty dollars".

This was one time Schoolmaster Locher admitted he lost the game.

# History of Scotch Grove related from its beginning to time of country's bicentennial

1837 to 1976

Compiled & Composed  
by Milly Kuper

The first settlers came in 1837 after Alexander McLean had scouted this area and brought back favorable reports. These Scotch Pioneers came 1,000 miles, walking and with two wheel ox-drawn carts, from a Selkirk settlement in Canada.

John Sutherland and wife, ten sons and two daughters, Alexander Sutherland, Joseph Bremmer, Alex McLean and David McCoy were the very first ones. In 1838 Donald and Ebenezer Sutherland and Donald Sinclair came. John Sutherland's infant Christina died soon after their arrival.

Upper Grove (later Hopkinton) was settled about this time by some of the same Scotch Pioneers who settled this Lower Grove.

There were many Indians around. Canton, Bowen's Prairie and Maquoketa had a few settlers and Dubuque wasn't very big, also Mr. Varvel and Clark had come to Monticello. In 1839 the Military road or Furrow was being plowed. The first Federal Census was started in the Territory of Iowa on June 1, 1840 and Jones county had 475 people.

## APPLEGATES CROSSING

Around 1850 many settlers had come to the township. Scotch Grove began to be known as "Applegates Crossing", but wasn't much except for a post office with John E. Lovejoy as postmaster in 1851.

The Scotch Grove Presbyterian church was organized about three miles east of

"Applegates Crossing", also about one mile farther, the town of Johnson later called Johnsonstown was growing. Olin, the oldest town in Jones county to the south was platted in 1842. In 1841 the first court had been held at Edinburg (where the museum is now.)

To the north, in 1847-48, a sawmill was operating a little above Dales Ford. In 1865 the dam and mill were washed away.

In 1846 prices seemed low to us now. An 80-acre tract of land sold for \$100. You could put up a double log cabin for \$50 to \$70. Milk cows were \$10 to \$15 and a farm wagon \$75 to \$80.

Tobacco raising was beginning to be an important crop (1855). Some Indian corn produced 50 bushels to the acre near Olin.

In 1849 historians say two schools were operating in "Applegate Crossing". They were like private schools and the teacher got \$16 a month. In 1854 the first fair was held near Olin in Rome township and in 1855 and 1856 at Bowen's Prairie.

## ERECT MONUMENT

Many of the Scotch Grove young men served in the Civil War and some never returned. A monument was placed in the Presbyterian cemetery in 1872 in their honor. If you read William Corbin's book, "A Star for Patriotism," you can find the names of them.

After 1850 Applegates Crossing started growing. A Methodist church was in the center of Sec. 15, but later a building was put up west and a little north of where Esther Sinclair lives. After many years it was then moved into Scotch Grove (about

1899), became Shipley's Hardware and is still being used as part of Balster's Hardware store. It was moved by Pete Munding.

In 1858 Charles and James Applegate, who had come a few years before, were operating a grist mill which later added a saw mill. It was once known as the Scotch Grove Mill and is known as Eby's Mill now. In 1875 Samuel Eby bought the mill and for 45 years it was in Eby's name.

## BUILD CHURCHES

A Christian church had been built 40 rods east of the crossing (around 1872). About this time many German Lutherans came to this area and in 1864 "Sand Hill" or St. John's Lutheran church was organized. In 1872 Wayne Lutheran was organized. In 1860 the Four Horn Church (Presbyterian) was built west of Scotch Grove, so named because of its four spires.

In 1872 when the Milwaukee railroad came through from Davenport, the Scotch Grove depot was built. The Applegates (James and Charles) platted the town. Some say 106 acres were laid off. They gave it the name "Scotch Grove" after the early Scotch pioneers.

A Dr. Ostrander and Mr. Blazer put up a store building on the corner of 3rd (now Main) and Market Sts. In 1874 H. D. Hanna had a small store in the house where Mrs. Gerd Rickels moved into about 1906, now Henry Ricklef's home. Then he bought across the alley and combined a store and dwelling, where Emma Lange lives now.

He sold his first home to the resident physician, Dr. Alex McKean. H.D. Hanna sold dry goods, groceries and drugs. Ira Webb later bought the store building on the corner of 3rd and Market, then George Davis, Sandy Shoemaker, the Sinclair Bros. and in 1902, E. L. Himebaugh. He owned it yet in 1909.

## FIRST BLACKSMITH

Felix Bassinger and William Tomlinson started the first blacksmith shop located north of Hanna store on Market Street. Later it was owned by a Lombard, Dave McPike, Ambrose Peter Moats and in 1908 John Lange, jr. More tools were added by Lombard.

In 1877 Dr. Alex McKean put up a small elevator and the railroad put up a regular one, but in a few years they both burned and were never replaced.

John E. Lovejoy, the first postmaster in 1851, was followed by David Holmes, Robert Espy, James Applegate in 1872, Milton T. Blazer, Henry D. Hanna, George A. Davis, Ira Webb, Sandy Shoemaker in 1887, Donald O. Sinclair in 1893 and Earnest L. Himebaugh in 1903.

The Rose Creamery, located where



*THIS PHOTO of Cass Center church was taken in 1965. The grounds and structure were maintained even though no regular services were held after 1950. The last funeral was that of George Watt held in October 1951. The church was organized in 1856 and was finished and dedicated in 1860. It was restored as a bicentennial project in 1976 and now belongs to the Jones County Historical Society. (Photo furnished by Arlene Brainard)*

# John Lovejoy was first postmaster; creamery started in 1879 was one of the early firms

Balster lumber building is, was erected in 1879 by H. D. Hanna. He also had another creamery and a skimmery. When he was killed in Chicago in a street car accident, his son C. M. Hanna took over.

About 1900 a brick building was put up northeast of where Balster's office is. In 1909 a cooperative was formed. President was Ronny Ahrnken, secretary, Rudolph Jacobs and directors were Fred Otten, George Oltmanns, Bert Leeseecamp, Herman Ricklefs and Dietrick Kammerman. Alex Schultz was first buttermaker, then John Woellert.

## NURSERY IN 1872

Scotch Grove Nursery was started in 1872 or a few years before by Edward Hoyt. Many news articles were written about Hoyt's Nursery. It became very well known. It had a slow beginning, but by 1890, when Ben L. Hoyt joined his brother, the nursery business got better. The Hoyt Brothers aged mother, Sallie, owned the small farm on which the nursery was started.

In 1909 they planted 250,000 seedling evergreens and tended 90 acres of ground in nursery and Christmas trees. Many trees were sold. Passengers on the railroad were impressed by the magnitude and beauty of the nursery grounds which came right into the village and close to the depot. They employed many to help.

The 1893 plat book shows that Charles and James Applegate owned most of the land surrounding the Scotch Grove village. It also shows that the township had nine rural schools. In 1909 the teacher's salaries were \$35 to \$40 a month.

The Hawkeye Grub and Stump Puller Manufacturing Co., owned by the Milne Brothers, was operating about two and one-half miles northwest of Scotch Grove station.

## \$100 AN ACRE

At this time good land was selling around \$100 an acre. In 1894 hogs were selling for about \$14 each and for threshing they charged one and a half cents a bushel for oats and four cents a bushel for rye.

In 1899 a new telephone line, known as the Scotch Grove Nursery line, was completed and the outside world talked with people at the Scotch Grove station and Hoyt's nursery. It also was connected to the home of A. J. Schoonover in Wayne township and then with the central office in Monticello, which began in 1888.

(Samuel Joseph Rice wrote much about Scotch Grove and the township for the 1910 Jones County History).

Dr. Alexander McKean, moved to Center Junction, and in 1884 was a doctor there. He helped raise money for the organ

and bell for the Presbyterian church at Scotch Grove.

The Hanna store discontinued before 1909.

1909 township officers were: Road Supervisor - (can be found in the 1910 History of Jones Co.); Clerk - Gideon J. Hughes; Assessor - J. W. Callahan;

Businesses in Scotch Grove in 1909: Hoyt Brothers - nursery; Earnest Himebaugh - general merchandise - agriculture implements; postmaster at the corner of 3rd (Main) and Market; Herman Shipley - contractor, hardware and lumber; John Lang, Jr. - blacksmith; Andrew Lewis - boarding and lodging; Cooperative Creamery Co.; Frank Polkey, depot agent.

## WALKED TO STORE

(Henry Ricklefs says) Shipley use to walk the rails from Center Junction to Scotch Grove to run his hardware store. It was later bought by J. C. Balster. The Hoyts, Applegates and Schoonovers were related. Also Blanche Hoyt married a Dr. Hunter, a physician in Monticello, and there were others who moved away.

Wish we had another Samuel Joseph Rice to write the history from 1909 to 1976 of Scotch Grove and the township. (Les Balster has tapes of Henry Ricklefs who really knows Scotch Grove).

In 1915 Scotch Grove was surrounded by these landowners, on the east, F. W. Royden, on the west and southwest Herman Ricklefs, and to the North L. R. Leeseecamp.

Samuel Eby's son Joe was running Eby's mill where everyone had their grinding and sawing done. In 1933 the mill was torn down. Joe's son, Ray, had a saw mill later for many years near Scotch Grove. Cars came on the scene now. We went through World War I and the flu epidemic in 1918.

In 1937 businesses that had survived were the nursery, grocery and hardware. Gone was the blacksmith shop, boarding house, creamery and Shipley's contractor businesses, but not all the buildings. We had gained a new depot agent, postmaster and Mr. Balster's and Mr. Naylor's businesses.

Hoyts nursery still grew after being bought by Fred W. Royden and his son, Frank Applegate Royden. He is a descendant of Hoyts and Applegates. They added ornamental shrubbery, etc. Fred, a former jeweler, still liked to repair watches.

Frank Royden's old home burned so they moved into a new home just built. After Frank passed away, Mrs. Eva Royden and her daughter, Jean, and her husband, Adolph Bohken, operated the nursery along with three daughters.

## BALSTER BUSINESSES

Arend Balster, sr. and J. C. Balster, his son, operated a blacksmith shop on the Balster homestead West of Scotch Grove before the 1900s. J. C. Balster came to Scotch Grove in 1909 and was killed in an automobile accident in 1914 when Arend Balster, jr. succeeded his father in business.

Arend operated both a wholesale and retail business until 1928 and since then the business has been operated on a wholesale level only. During this time the Himebaugh Grocery store was purchased. Remember Willard "Happy" Himebaugh who clerked in the store. Many new buildings were added and many others improved. Almost all the buildings were built by Henry G. Rickels and Sons or sons-in-law.

When Ray and Pearl Naylor and two children came to Scotch Grove he started a livestock and shipping business including grain and produce. He also became depot agent. In the early '20s he began the Farmer's Grain Co. Pearl is a descendant of the Applegates.

The second Scotch Grove band was organized and directed by Frank A. Royden in 1936. It played concerts around the towns, fairs and at Scotch Grove's centennial.

## CENTENNIAL

In 1937 Scotch Grove celebrated its centennial with a special service in the Presbyterian church. Dedicating a stone marker with a bronze plaque on the old Sutherland (1st settler) farm. The band played, there was a historical play, a speaker, a baseball game, a parade with old cars, and a dance in the evening and the Scotch Grove Pioneer booklet was sold.

There were still nine rural schools in the township. In 1929 salaries were \$65 to \$70 a month.

Roads were becoming graveled and rocked and 151 was getting narrow paving in 1928.

John Lange, jr. continued the blacksmith shop until about 1921. "Jack" liked to play baseball along with Frank Pelkey and John Batcheler and others. He was secretary and treasurer of schools for a long time. His wife Emma (Ahrnken) worked many years at Hicks and Ricklefs dry goods in Monticello.

He put up a brick building where Balster's office is now, then had a garage in creamery building with Herman Lange, John Lange, jr. purchased the blacksmith shop from A. P. Moats. His main profession was being a welder and electrician.

The creamery coop operated until about 1918. Many served on the board. The

# Scotch Grove township once boasted nine rural schools--

building now is being used by Balster's Warehouse.

## EARLY ORGANIZATIONS

Some say we had boy scouts and we did have Camp Fire girls, Thelma Gregory was their first leader. The girls 4-H were started in 1922 by Mrs. Fannie Henricks and Mrs. Ella Clark and has continued. There is more than one group now with good leaders.

The Scotch Grove Community club began in 1921. Ella Clark and Fannie Henricks are charter members and active today. Mrs. Emil Paulsen (Ann) is the president now. In 1916 these ladies made Red Cross bandages for the war (world war I), but weren't organized until 1921.

"Remember Pearl Harbor" when World War II began for us in 1941. Historians will record who served. R.E.C's began putting up their lines. When the new road came through Scotch Grove in '36 and '37, the creek bed was changed. Both were moved a little west of Balsters and the road a little east of the depot. Rural schools started to close and when Monticello Community districts consolidated all were closed in the township in 1959.

Now by '76, all businesses we had in 1937 are here except the depot agent. The railroad was abandoned in 1956. Many more businesses have been added.

## NURSERY CONTINUES

Scotch Grove Nursery continues from the Hoyts and Applegates to the Roydens and now Adolph Bohlken. Jean is a descendant of the Hoyts and Applegates. They have extra employees yet. "Boots" and Jean have just built the latest new home.

The post office has been moved a number of times that we know of from Hanna and Himebaugh Groceries, also Arend's Balsters Grocery, then Arend's office building to Ervin Plueger's Garage, and now in back of Les Balster's grocery.

Postmasters since 1909 have been: Ernest Himebaugh, Arend and Les Balster, Ervin Plueger, 1955, Earl Null, Irvin Husmann and now Mrs. Dale Ladehoff (Virginia). Mae Himebaugh worked many years in the post office.

Balsters Implement and Parts Co. is widely known. This has been Arend's life's work and not forgetting his family and friends, Wayne Lutheran church, John McDonald hospital and Monticello State bank. In 1954 L. M. Balster purchased what is now called Balster Super Market. In 1966 he purchased Balster Implement and Parts Co. Arend Balster Jr. retired in 1968.

The Balsters have had many faithful employees through the years. Henry Ricklefs is the latest employee who plans to retire during the year of 1976. Arend's wife is Minnie (Hedden) and Les' wife is Jean (McNeilly) Balster.

## NAYLOR FIRM

Ray Naylor and son Jerry kept enlarging the Farm and Service Seed Co. Today Jerry and his wife Betty (McDonald) Naylor own and operate the seed business since Ray passed away. Jerry is also a descendant of the Applegates. In 1963 Carol (Clark) Hagen had a beauty shop in Scotch Grove. Some people say there was a sawmill near the depot at one time.

Paul J. Oescher's garage has been in operation since 1938, repairing cars and tractors. He worked in Ervin Plueger's garage at first. I think Paul and wife Bea (Keating) Oescher are trying to take it a little easier now.

We've had a tavern in the town for a long time. In fact, two at one time. Ervin Plueger had one in the creamery brick building about 1939 for a few years. Fred W. Minney and wife Olive (Rickels) Minney use to buy poultry and eggs and sell gasoline before they had a tavern about 1938. Fred Minney is also a descendant of the Applegates.

Other owner or operators were Dave Hansen and wife Edna, Jim and Grace Balsiger, he called it "Jim's Inn and Tavern", Earl and Eloise Null. Then it moved farther east on Main street and Milt Rieken ran it and today Dave Schuster and wife Jannine (Feldman) Schuster own the tavern, R & J Station.

## OTHER BUSINESSES

Ervin Plueger had a garage in the brick creamery building. After the war he put up a new building farther east in 1946, which was his home and garage and later the post office, when he was postmaster. Geo. Bohlken and he were together in garage for awhile. He later became rural mail carrier. His wife is June (Wright) Plueger.

Bohlken Motors started Feb. 1, 1950. George H. and his wife Jo (Royden) Bohlken are the owners. He sells and services Ford cars. His garage also serves as a polling place for elections. Jo is a descendant of Applegates and Hoyts.

The Oak Drive Community club, usually called Oak Drive club, began in 1939, mostly a social club. It has four charter members, Muriel Heiken, Thelma Kiburz, Lenora Wilch, Mildred Wright, who are active in the club. Its president now is Mrs. Galen Kuper (Ann).

The boys 4-H club has been a very active club for many years with many good leaders. It organized in 1933 - Henry Ricklefs 1st leader; 13 boys, called Scotch Grove Future Farmers then. Jim Kiburz, one of the present leaders is also a descendant of the Applegates. Other leaders today are Keith Hagen and Leonard Monck.

## COON HUNTERS

The Coon Hunters club, organized in 1953, is getting to be well known for its field

trials and barbecued chicken dinners. Present president is Paul E. Paulsen. They have recently put up a new building.

Husman furs, formerly in Scotch Grove, and Dorie's Catering Service are still operating at their new farm home, by Art and sons and his wife Doris (Emmert) Husmann.

The newest business with a Scotch Grove address, Kuper's Kustom, is a motorcycle repair shop and owned by Quintin and his wife, Janet (Kuper) Davis. He also sells and services Polaris snowmobiles.

A few years ago a saw mill was started on the Art Rickels farm. There also is a craft shop close by towards Onslow in Mrs. Mike Paulsen's home and John Kortemeyer jr. does pottery work. He lives on the Dale's Ford road. The Dale's Ford bridge went out in the 1951 high water.

We also have nearby a museum, Camp Courage, a Methodist Youth camp and Central and Pictured Rocks Parks.

Let's not forget the Korean and Vietnam wars that our young men served in, and that this Bicentennial year is also election year.

## OTHER FACTS

Five century farms have Scotch Grove addresses. Land sells high now, guess cause agriculture is changing to bigger farms, bigger machinery and more people want to live in the country. People of Scotch Grove and vicinity have put up many new homes and buildings. The oldest organized church (Presbyterian) is 135 years old this year.

Most business owners have sons or daughters to carry on in Scotch Grove now.

The 1976 roster is: Adolph Bohlken - Scotch Grove Nursery; Balster's Implement and Parts Co.; Balster's Super Market; Jerry Naylor - Farm Seed & Service Co.; Mrs. Dale Ladehoff - Postmistress; Dave Schuster - Scotch Grove Tavern; George H. Bohlken - Bohlken Motors; Paul Oeschger - Oeschger's Garage.

Near Scotch Grove: Art Husman & sons - Husmann Furs; Dorie Husmann - Catering Service; Quintin Davis - Kuper's Kustom; Craft Shop - also Pottery Shop and a sawmill;

Township officers 1976: No. 5 district supervisor - Louie Hanken; Clerk, Vernon Null; trustee, John Zirkelbach, Paul Oescher, Donald Schrader.

The population of the village of Scotch Grove is 40 at the present time. To write a complete history of Scotch Grove and Scotch Grove township would take lots of time and many people. I wish to thank everyone who helped me on this brief history. If mistakes were made or anything omitted, maybe future historians will correct. Remember we are making history every day. Record it.

Mrs. August Kuper

# And everyone was happy: or keeping the peace in the early days of Canton

John C. Clark, Monmouth, has been a contributor to the Jones County Historical Review on prior occasions. The following story was told to him about 20 years ago by Jim Post, who was a resident of the village of Canton in the 1880s. At that time Canton was still in its "boom" period with flour mill, lumber mill, furniture and barrel stave shop, two stores, two saloons, two blacksmith shops, harness shops, barbers, two doctors, a post office, and a "kind of hotel" that housed so many people that it was called the "Bee Hive".

Mr. Post estimated that there were about 50 or 60 men living in town whose occupation was working in the timber, getting out logs and cutting cord wood. The whole area around Canton was covered by the finest hardwood timber, and this wood was really "the gold in them thar hills", for it found ready sale in the surrounding towns of Maquoketa, Monmouth, Wyoming, Oxford Jct. and Onslow.

It was the means of living for the owners of the wooded tracts, the cutters, and the men who hauled it out and delivered it to markets within reach by horse and wagon. The owners paid \$1 per cord to have it cut and piled up, eight foot by four foot by four foot, or 128 cubic feet, which made a cord.

## PRICE VARIED

The haulers then bought the wood from the owners at \$2 per cord, and delivered it to the various towns where it sold for \$4 to \$7 per cord, depending upon whether it was hickory, white oak or red oak. The distance hauled also affected the price.

A cord of hard wood might sell in Monmouth (about 8 miles) at \$4, but would bring \$6 in Wyoming or Oxford Jct., Onslow, Wyoming and Oxford Jct. were called "out on the prairie" towns, where there was less timber, and the homes had to have fuel for winter. This made a good market for Canton cord wood. Coal was available at the railroad towns, but people preferred wood, if they could get it.

A good man with an axe could cut and pile two cords of wood per day. The brawny men who worked at it made life in Canton pretty boisterous at times and the saloons did a lively business at night and on weekends.

With all the muscle and bustle and competition, it was only natural that there should be some lively differences of opinion that often led to fisticuffs. This made problems for the sober, law-abiding citizens who tried to keep things under control.

## PLAN FOR PEACE

And this brings me to the main point of Jim Post's story. A citizen's group got together and laid out a plan to help keep

peace in the community, and perhaps prevent more serious trouble.

The proposed plan was that in any altercation that came up during the week, the parties would restrain themselves for the time being, but would agree to meet the next Sunday a.m. in the little cow pasture on the river bank and there fight it out under good supervision. Each party was required to deposit \$10 with some responsible person to guarantee his appearance on Sunday a.m.

An agreed number of rounds would be scheduled, managed and controlled by the local vigilance committee, who saw that no illegal tactics were engaged in, especially any kicking with the feet. The decision of the judges would be final and the two parties were asked to shake hands and go home and drop the whole thing.

Of course every man and boy of Canton and vicinity would be present to watch the fun. It came to be a very engaging form of entertainment and the practice prevailed

for quite a number of years.

## SAFETY MEASURE

Later of course, the changing composition of the town's inhabitants and the gradually changing labor pattern made the practice unnecessary. While it lasted, it served as a safety measure for local control, especially in the "back woods" town, which Canton was in its early days.

Maquoketa, where the county seat sheriff department consisted of one man and one deputy, was too far away by horse and buggy to render much assistance in time of need.

Another matter of some importance was that the men who presented themselves on Sunday morning and fought it out in the satisfactory manner, received their guarantee money back in full and did not lose their standing in the community.

## BROTHER INVOLVED

Jim Post recounted one particular case

## FOR SALE

Reproduction of the

## 1879 History of Jones County

with beautiful embossed cover, indexing of all names included in the original.

**ORDER NOW**

Only **\$22<sup>75</sup>**

after September 1, 1978, price will be **\$27<sup>95</sup>**

Include additional 75 cents if you wish book mailed to you.

Mail orders and checks to:

Jones County Historical Society  
History Reprint, Box 124,  
Monticello, Iowa 52310

or to any of the officers: C. L. Norlin, Bill Corbin, Monticello; Anna Brickley, Anamosa; or

Area I: Edwin Freese, Scotch Grove  
Pauline Orris, Center Junction  
Herman Benischek, Oxford Junction

Area II: Wilma Merfeld, Monticello  
Leota King, Monticello  
Bob Goodyear, Monticello

Area III: Jo Russell, Anamosa  
Margie Lacock, Anamosa  
Katherine Doolittle, Anamosa

Orders will be filled during November 1978.

# Message--

(cont. from page 2)

submit, every issue would probably read like a Doctor Seuss book.

So don't hesitate to write down that story. There is no limit on length, and if you request your name not be used on any article submitted, we'll simply say "submitted by a reader".

## PLAN REPRINT

The Society has some great plans for this year, 1978. Foremost is the undertaking of having the 1879 History of Jones County, reprinted. The reprint will duplicate, as close as possible the original, and will be published by the print shop of Dixon, Ill., a firm that specializes in reprinting old documents and books.

An index, listing every name mentioned in the original history book, will be added. This the original did not have. It listed only the names of those who had paid to have a biography printed. This index will add some 500 names now hidden in the original. These reprints will be available for a limited time and at a substantial savings (See notice elsewhere in this issue).

## LOOKING FOR SCHOOL

The Society has received a great deal of material to furnish an "old country schoolhouse". All we need is for someone to help us find (hopefully, it can be had for the moving) an old wood frame one room schoolhouse.

These usually had an entrance foyer, where coats were hung on pegs, boots placed below the coats on the floor, and dinner buckets placed on a shelf. The teachers desk was at one end of the room, with the blackboards behind the desk.

Most of these one room schoolhouses had two or three windows on each side, but seldom any window on the end. Please help the society find a schoolhouse of this description. It will be moved onto the museum complex and will take its place with the log cabin home (authentic) and the replica of the first county courthouse, along with the old Kolarik blacksmith shop.

Officers of the Society met Jan. 28 with the Jones county Conservation Commission and asked that the Jones county Historical Society be included in the budget request submitted to the county board of supervisors. We haven't requested too much, but if the supervisors can find it within their power to help, it would certainly be appreciated by all members. State law allows this type expenditure (not to exceed \$2000 per year per county), if the funds are available.

This would go a long way to easing the expenses incurred in keeping the museum open from May to October. All museum help is voluntary, not even expenses are paid to the curator for traveling back and forth, but we do have light, heat, phone,

and burglar alarm expense, along with other necessities such as chemical for toilets, road rock, insurance, etc.

## MUCH INTEREST

The museum complex has begun to attract many people, and 1977, the second year it was open on Sundays (and other days by appointment for groups), found hundreds of names recorded in the guest book. Many were from other states, and some from other countries.

## Canton peace plan--

in which he was involved as responsible man with the guarantee money. His brother, Pat Post, lived with him and at age 19 got into a chewing match with Old John, the miller, a man of middle age, but of good size and strength. The two of them exchanged the usual insults and agreed to meet the following Sunday as per custom. Each deposited \$10 with Jim and plans were set for Sunday.

Jim said he hated to see his brother Pat go into a deal like that at his age, even though the boy was a six-footer and weighed 180 pounds. Jim cornered Pat and said, "You know Pat, Old John, the miller, is a full grown man and strong as an ox. Why, you have seen him take a two bushel sack of wheat in each hand and sling them into a wagon. When he gets those hands on you he will break you in two. You'd better just call the whole thing off and I'll give you half your money back."

"No Sir," replied Pat, "I'm not backing down for anybody. He called me a young whipper-snapper and added more insults. I'd just like to trim him up and make him respect me."

## PEACE MAKER

So Jim let the matter drop for the present and went to see Old John. To him he said, "You know, John, that boy Pat is out in the woods every day, cutting his two cords of wood. His muscles are tougher than whang-leather. He'll cut you to ribbons before you ever get your hands on him, and you won't be able to work for a week. You'd better just call the whole thing off and I'll give you half your money back".

We were particularly delighted to see the groups coming from various schools within the county, and these tours were usually part of their local history club requirements. Same goes for the many clubs who toured the museum.

Any group wishing to tour during daylight hours on days other than Sunday afternoon, may contact the museum curator, Mrs. Harold Wilcox, Monticello, for an appointment.

C. L. Norlin, President

"No," Old John said, "That boy needs a good lesson in manners and I would like to teach him a few things".

Jim let them both alone for a couple of days and then talked to Pat again. "Pat, I'm sure old John will call the fight off, if you will. He thinks it was foolish to begin with, and you had better think it over while you are all in one piece". He got no reply out of Pat, but he could see the boy was thinking.

Back to Old John again, Jim says, "I'm sure Pat is ready to cancel the fight, if you will. Pat said he didn't want to hurt or get hurt by anybody, as they both had jobs to do".

## EASY MONEY

The upshot was that Jim's diplomacy won the day and each man got half his deposit back. And here Jim Post ended his story with a chuckle. "Easiest ten dollars ever made. I kept the other half of each man's deposit."

I have asked some older residents who were acquainted with the Canton area, and they have had the story handed down from still older folks, that the plan of keeping peace in Canton really worked in those far back, hectic days when Canton was young, growing and boisterous.

Jim Post later left Canton, bought and operated a farm east of Onslow until about 1920, when he semi retired on a smaller farm in Jackson county, near Monmouth, and became my near neighbor. He passed away in 1961 at the age of 97.

He usually defended Canton with the statement, "Canton, in its roughest period, was not half as bad as some misinformed people tried to make it."

Submitted by John C. Clark  
Monmouth, Iowa

Jones County Historical Review  
Monticello, Iowa 52310

Anamosa Public Library  
100 E. 1st St.  
Anamosa, Ia.

52205

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