

**A Centennial History**

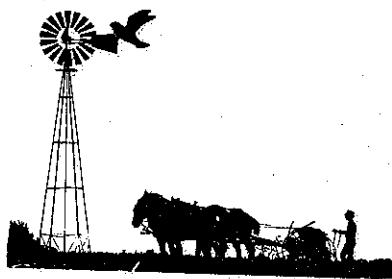
**of**

**Mount Vernon  
Iowa**

**1847-1947**

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1948**

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Nineteen Hundred Ninety One

## Preface

The year 1947 is the one-hundredth anniversary of the founding of Mount Vernon. To the Chamber of Commerce and others, it seemed fitting that the commemoration take permanent form and that the facts of our town history be recorded.

Members of the Committee have collaborated on each chapter, and have carefully edited each one. Many letters have been written, many calls made, and much research work has been done. The work of writing the book has of necessity required several months, for the task has grown as the work progressed. Constantly new material has been contributed, and the committee has been loathe to conclude the chapters and write "Finis" to the book lest something important be omitted. It accordingly thanks all subscribers for their patience.

Memories of the older folk will not always agree, nor are histories and newspapers always correct. Hence some errors may occur and there inevitably will be omission of some deserving names. The committee however, has tried to record faithfully all facts reported to it, and it sincerely hopes that all readers will find the history interesting and that their verdict will be that the efforts of the writers have not been in vain.

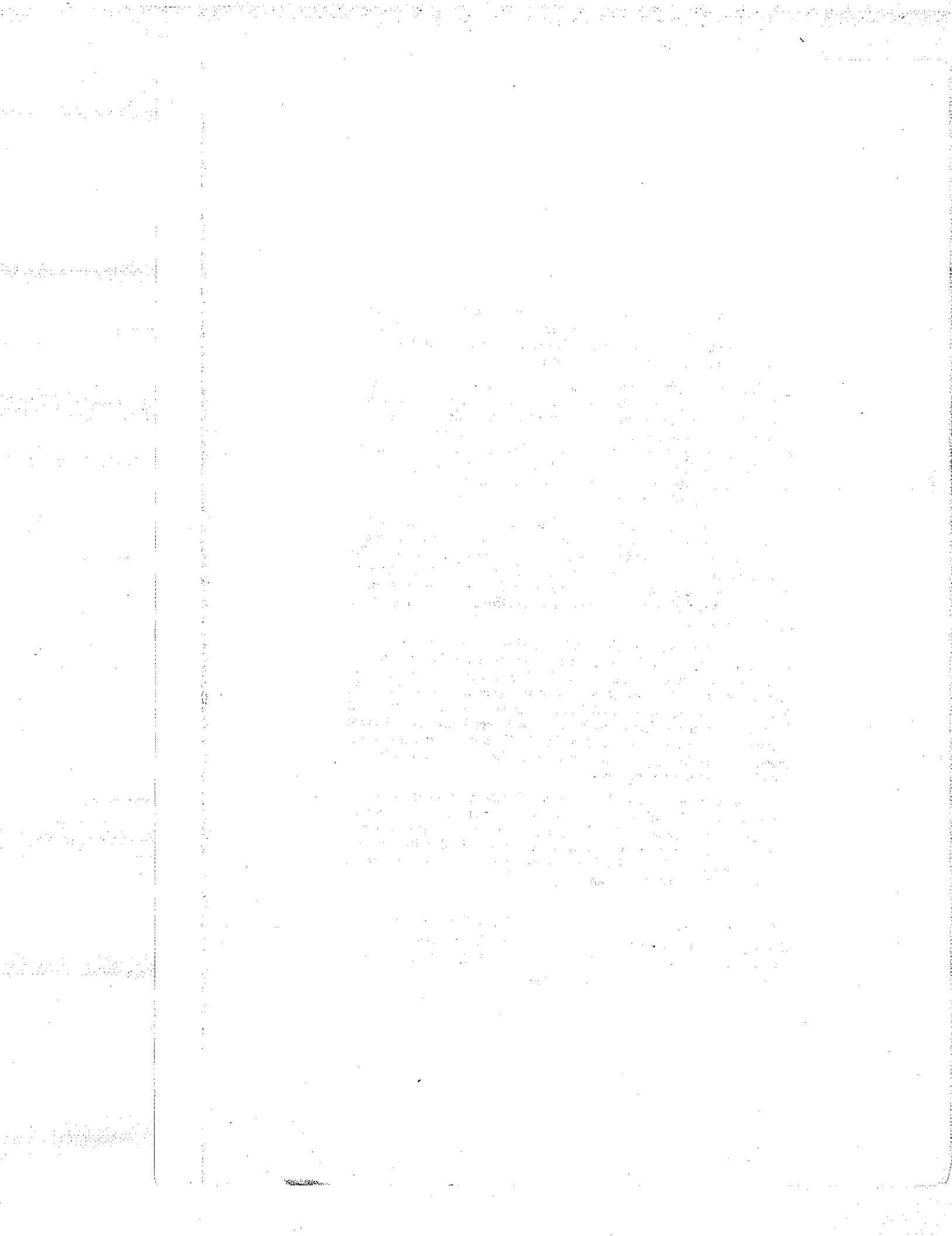
Great credit must be given to S. V. Williams in whose mind the idea was conceived and whose enthusiasm gave the impetus to the committee and launched it on its work. To him credit must be given also for much of the research work and the general plan of the book. The actual writing of the book has been done by the Committee and by Mary L. Parsons, Elizabeth B. Ink, and Elmer J. Miller. A large amount of work has also been done by the Business Committee, composed of R. B. Wolfe, Chrm., Jay Fordyce, Secy.-Treas., James McCutcheon, and Corlyn Bauman.

Sincere thanks to the older folk for sharing with us their reminiscences, to the library staff for their cooperation, to the numerous individuals who assisted with the typing, to all who loaned their pictures; to Joseph Bennett and many others who helped with the research work; to Charles Paul for lending his grandmother's letters, and to all who assisted us in any way.

Mae P. Hutchinson  
Florence Keyes Mitchell  
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Committee

Geraldine Hughes  
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## Chapter 1

### Pioneer Days

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In Mount Vernon's Centennial Year of 1947 the community looks back on one hundred years of inspiring and interesting history. Mount Vernon—"The Hilltop." The mention of that name brings fond memories to hundreds if not thousands scattered over the globe. Sixteen miles east of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, there stands a mile long hill, white in winter, green in spring, and flaming gold in the fall. It is visible many miles around. From it an unending stream of influence has gone forth to enrich the earth. The mystic touch of the Hilltop, through its sons and daughters, has been world wide. The first main road in Iowa, laid out in 1840 by a furrow ploughed between Iowa City and Dubuque, later known as the Military Road, came over the hill, and is now called First Avenue. The Lincoln Highway crossing the nation from east to west, the Main Street of the nation, runs along the hilltop. Over it there passes in endless procession cars from almost every state, trucks and buses, both local and transcontinental.

The story of that century is a heritage of experience and achievement that gives perspective. The spirit of the pioneer embodied adventure, initiative and courage. In Mount Vernon it produced great religious figures, teachers, inventors, educators, scientists, and leaders of men, all helping to foster progressive civilization.

The long geologic ages prepared the site of the hilltop. The Silurian Age left crinoids and mollusks in the bluffs of the Palisades. Our own geologic expert, Dr. William H. Norton, found a mastodon tooth in Linn Grove; another was found near Abbey Creek. The Ice Age for thousands of years shoved down sheets of clay and broken rock to give this area the most fertile soil of any state in the union. Iowa is the bread-basket of the nation and of the earth, its soil drawing the pioneer settlers as a magnet.

Mount Vernon boys who explored the caves and cliffs at the "Pal" did not suspect that for a thousand years the Indians had made the Cedar River a main highway for their canoes, and had slept and eaten in those caves. Mount Vernon's archeological expert, Dr. Charles R. Keyes, of nationwide reputation, identified many of the early specimens of Indian civilization in this vicinity. He has made a thorough classification of them and is now writing extensively on this subject. The Indians gave the river its name—Red Cedar. They also gave us many native foods—the maize that made Iowa the Corn State, potatoes, tomatoes, beans, pumpkins, squash, and others.

Brief comment should be made on the background of our state history. Since the time when Father Marquette, the French missionary and man of good will, and Joliet, the trader, floated down the Mississippi River to the mouth of the Iowa River, Iowa has been under three flags—those of France, Spain, and the United States. The name "Iowa" comes from a small band of Indians who roamed from Lake Michigan to the Missouri River; they gave their name also to the river flowing to our southwest. According to Anton LeClaire, the early trader and interpreter for whom a small town nearby is named, they said "Ioway" when they first saw this region, meaning "this is the spot." We Iowans agree with their estimate.

When Jefferson in 1803 bought all the land west of the Mississippi, the Louisiana Purchase, he remarked to Livingston, the treaty-maker, "It is the noblest work of our lives. Vast solitudes will be changed into flourishing districts with ages of happiness for future generations."

Iowa remained part of Louisiana Territory from 1805 until 1812; then was in Missouri Territory from 1812 to 1821. It remained unorganized from 1821 to 1834; was incorporated into Michigan Territory from 1834 to 1836; and into Wisconsin Territory from 1836 to 1838. It became the Territory of Iowa in 1838, remaining such until 1846, when it was made a state. Chief Blackhawk in 1831 had been ordered to carry out a treaty requiring him to move from what is now Rock Island to the west side of the Mississippi. His refusal to do this precipitated the Blackhawk War. Following this war, by purchase of land from the Indians, the settlement of Iowa became possible. Henry Dodge, later a governor of Iowa, captured Chief Blackhawk; and Lieutenant Jefferson Davis, later president of the Confederacy, removed Blackhawk to Jefferson Barracks near St. Louis. In the end, Iowa came into being, and a vast migration began.

Following this, Robert Lucas was appointed territorial governor of Iowa. On December 28, 1946, the early home of governor Lucas at Iowa City was dedicated as a historic spot, the Iowa State Board of Conservation having restored it. Governor Robert Blue presided at the ceremonies, and the occasion was one of the high lights in the recent centennial celebration of the State.

The "Winning of the West" was among the important migrations of all times in its influence upon civilization. "Westward Ho" would have been a fitting slogan of the pioneer on his way to Iowa, the land flowing with milk and honey. Inscriptions on covered wagons read: "To the Blackhawk Purchase." Multitudes came by canal-boat on the Erie canal through New York State; thence by packet-boat over the Great Lakes. From Chicago they followed wagon-trails across Illinois. One alternative route came down the Ohio River; and from flat decks the voyagers gazed at fascinating scenery and

torial delegate from Missouri, who helped sponsor Iowa statehood. The first white settler of the county was William Abbe, whose cabin was located near the creek which has since borne his name. This location was about two miles west of Mount Vernon, near the present Lincoln Highway, U.S. No. 30. A handsome marker, gift of the Daughters of the American Revolution chapters of the county, was erected near the site and dedicated in 1937 with appropriate ceremonies.

Abbe was a man who stood head and shoulders above the settlers of those days; tall, thin, spare, and energetic in every action. He came from Elyria, Ohio, crossing the Mississippi in 1836, using the winter ice to save a toll charge, and staked out his cabin claim along the bank of the creek. Then he returned to Ohio to bring his family. He arrived in April 1837 and built a double-sized log cabin. His wife was reputed an excellent cook, having on hand always barrels of honey gathered from bee-trees. Travellers and surveyors went miles out of their way in order to eat at her table. She died in 1839 and is buried on the original Abbe homestead. Once when she and her sister drove to Dubuque in the winter to get grain, the horse died enroute, and a terrible blizzard came on. They would have been lost but for a timely light in the cabin of a sick settler on the prairie. Abbe was elected to the Iowa legislature, and he was also one of the promoters of a plank road in 1849 which linked Muscatine to Tipton, from that continuing west.

Daniel Hahn was probably the first settler of the nearby Mount Vernon community. He came in March of 1837 and built a cabin a short distance below the site of the present stone quarry. Often there would be visitors to keep over night, sometimes as many as fifteen at one time in that 12 by 14 foot cabin. Mrs. Hahn, a versatile woman, acted the part of a doctor in bringing the babies of the neighborhood into the world. She was widely known for her helpfulness to those in need. Their grandson, the popular long-time mayor of Cedar Rapids, Frank K. Hahn, inherited the family hunting rifle of those days, which hangs in his Cedar Rapids residence.

C. C. Haskins, a bachelor, settled at almost the same time a half mile east of the cemetery. He married some years later and moved into town, building what is known as the Iorns House, now the Mr. and Mrs. James W. McCutcheon residence. Many old-timers recall the little iron fence in the cemetery that used to set apart the plot of this early family.

By 1838 settlers began to arrive in force, in that year there being in the community about fifty. The Donahues settled near the site of Lisbon; Asher Edgerton went two miles west of town, near the McAffertys, Silas Hammond and Hiram Beales. Thomas Craig, known as the first rural Methodist, later bought out Edgerton. William

Hayzlett settled south of the cemetery, and later moved to town to help found Mount Vernon. He bought the site of the present H. C. Lane property. Three brothers, Peter, Henry and Conrad Kepler were worthy, well-known early comers who bought land east of Mr. Abbe. On their location Murton Kepler now resides, displaying a 100-year-farm plaque by the front door. Conrad Kepler in his old age liked to follow young Murton around as he plowed; and once when Murton turned up an ancient ox-yoke link, the old grandfather wept at the memory of the associations. Oliver Clark set out a claim west and north of Mr. Abbe and returned with his family from Illinois in 1838; hence the present resident, Marley Clark also resides on a 100-year-farm.

So far as known the only real Daughter of the American Revolution in this vicinity was Laura Whitely Davis, born in Vermont, September 16, 1792. With her husband, Zimri Davis, she came from Cedar County to Linn County in the spring of 1838 and settled two and one-half miles northwest of Mount Vernon. Their farm was the one now owned by Charles Litts, homesteaded from the government at \$1.25 per acre. Assisted by his daughter, Mr. Davis built a double log cabin. This daughter Betsy was the mother of Mrs. John I. Wade of Mount Vernon. It is worthy of note that Betsy was the first white woman married in Linn County, and her sister, Thurza, was the first married in Cedar County.

John Stewart settled two miles southwest of town, and his home became a preaching place for the New School Presbyterians, who later erected a large church building in town, which, however, was never used for the purpose, because they merged with the Old School. The building was used for various purposes, part of the time being a shop, but now known as the Williams Apartments.

Jeremiah Burge bought land near Ivanhoe where his grandson Harold now lives. The nearby community was called St. Mary's. A blacksmith shop and a log schoolhouse had been established, the schoolhouse being on the location of the present Cedar Valley schoolhouse. Joseph Morford and Harvey Gillette were also "pillars" in that community; the latter established a store which served the Indians. In spring and fall of the year these Indians passed through on their way to Flint Hills, which was Burlington, to replenish their stocks of arrow-heads. The Indians liked to stop at St. Mary's because Gillette had been a close friend and an early interpreter for Chief Blackhawk, negotiating a treaty between him and the whites. Frequently he remained among the Indians for months without seeing a white face. He was instrumental in helping them to buy lands and to settle on the Half Breed Track near Keokuk. In 1839 he entered land and opened a post office and secured a school teacher from Ohio to help in the education of the youth.

That old Military Road running from Iowa City to Dubuque through Ivanhoe had its origin when W. W. Chapman, Territorial Delegate to Washington, D.C., secured in 1840 the passage of a bill providing \$20,000 for its construction. Along the road, running through the present site of Mount Vernon, villages and towns were founded, of which few now remain. In the early days Anamosa and Fairview were prominent hostels; and travellers along the road gazed with delight at the unending prairies, agreeing with Asa Whitney, a northern Iowa pioneer, who declared in 1846: "This is the finest country on the globe, capable of sustaining three times the population of any other place. Nowhere is the atmosphere so pure, the surface so gently undulating, or the soils so rich, with not one acre of bad land."

Soon four-horse stage-coaches of the Western Stage Company traveled the road, and in the forties they carried members of the legislature to the Capitol building in Iowa City. No doubt Governor Ansel Brigg's couriers could have been seen dashing by at top speed on horseback. Home-steaders on foot and horseback and in white-topped immigrant wagons traveled on their way to stake out homesteads. Occasionally a troop of U.S. Dragoons formed a colorful cavalcade in contrast to some lonely circuit-rider with saddlebags making his way prayerfully to his scattered appointments.

It seemed as though the leading city in these parts would be located on that Military Road. Naturally it ought to be laid out in the fertile land of the river bottom where, at the same time, river traffic would greatly increase trade and commerce. Steamboats came up the river in early days and flatboats were launched with loads of grain and furs destined for St. Louis in Missouri.

John Wolfe saw the possibilities at Ivanhoe and settled in 1839 on the north side of the river, building a hotel and starting a ferry. He was the first justice of the peace in the county. After his death in 1854 his sons Dan D. and S. W. continued to operate the ferry until a bridge was built in 1870. Part of this bridge was washed away in the floods of 1876, and the ferry had to be re-opened for a year. It is interesting to view the original log cabin of the Wolfe family a short distance south of the present Ivanhoe bridge. This cabin was built in 1840, an addition with siding was made about ten years later, and the adjacent farmhouse was built in 1860. In partnership with his sons, Richard B. and Dan T., Dr. Thomas Wolfe owns a large tract of land including the homestead which bears a 100-year-farm plaque.

It was on that old ferry at Ivanhoe in the fifties that Jacob Slosser, grandfather of Raymond Mallie, was transporting a load of oxen when they were frightened by the swirling waters and broke loose, plunging into the river. Jacob, however, kept them company and ultimately landed them at Stony Point.

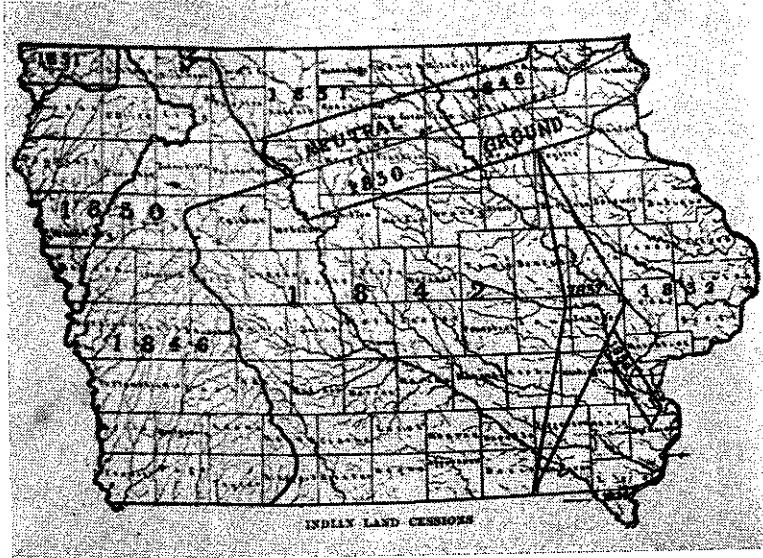
As early as 1839 Col. H. H. Merritt was operating a fur trading depot and general store. One afternoon a party of Indians dropped in to demand whiskey. Loafers fled in consternation but Merritt merely reached for his axe, and the surprised Indians made a quick getaway. Merritt was later a candidate for governor running against Kirkwood, but he suffered defeat.

Those pioneers dreamed dreams and saw visions, of which some were fulfilled and some were not. Anson Cowles came to Ivanhoe in 1840, laying out the site of a great city. He planned a university, a large park, and a handsome residence where travellers could be entertained with royal hospitality. In his plans the sale of town lots would care for the expenses of the university. The plans, however, never materialized.

George Greene landed at Ivanhoe in 1839 and began to teach school. He was admitted to the bar in Iowa City the next year; and in 1848 he was made chief justice of the Iowa Supreme Court. The early Iowa Supreme Court reports are labeled The George Greene Reports. George Greene was one of the early founders and builders of Cedar Rapids. Greene Square bears his name; and Linn County owes him a debt which can never be paid. He was an active promoter of the North-Western Railway as it came into Linn County in 1859. He was interested, also, in other railroads, banks and other early institutions.

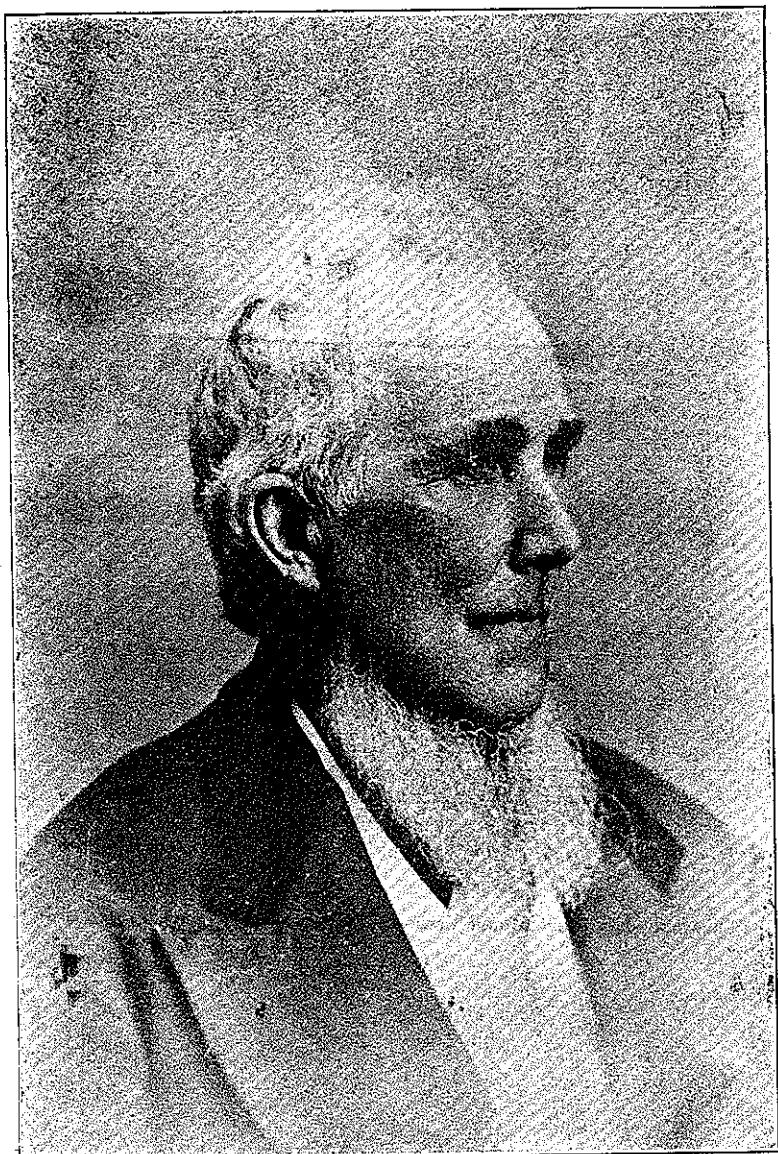
With the entrance of the railroad the Military Road lost its importance and travel began to move east and west across the state. The real community evidently could not be at Ivanhoe. Would it be Sugar Grove two miles west of the Hilltop? Would it be Julien near the John Stewart settlement? Perhaps it might be Yankee Grove, later named Lisbon. Or perhaps at Linn Grove to the north where George Yeisley had been attracted by timber and an expansive prairie view? Men of vision centered it on the Hilltop in the midst of these many thriving little settlements.

## Iowa Map



This map shows that Mount Vernon was in the Black Hawk Purchase of 1837.

**Daniel Hahn**



**Daniel Hahn—grandfather of Cedar Rapids' Mayor. Many claim he was Mount Vernon's first settler.**

Ohio with a prairie schooner of goods and family and located at the Hale Spring, north of the present high school.

A post office was opened on the Robert Smyth farm. Mail came once a week by horseback.

### 1842

Henry Chapman built a cabin at the east end of Main Street. John C. and W. H. Goudy and William Perkins settled near Linn Grove, being the first of a long line of influential Presbyterians. Jesse Holman, son of a Revolutionary War doctor, an earnest Christian and abolitionist, bought from Robert Stinson the cabin north of the present Hawkeye building, which was replaced in 1855 by the brick house known as the Ada Sherwood home. There were eleven children in the family, among them a daughter, Mrs. Sherwood, who became a teacher of Mount Vernon pupils for two generations. Mrs. Holman, after the death of her husband Jesse, delighted to go past the school building, arrayed in her best black dress and white collar, so promptly at closing hour of school that she came to be called "Grandma Four O'clock."

Horse thieves were so common that settlers had to keep their barns locked at night. Notably, the Brodies were the tough gang who stole from cabins and broke up social dances. They came from the deep woods over by Linn Grove. They broke into the Goudy cabin over north, at night, brandishing a gun and demanding the \$9000 Mr. Goudy had brought from the East. They found only \$120 in a pocket book and went on to rob the neighbors. Later the vigilantes got two of the gang and flogged them on their bare backs until they fainted. There was not much government but plenty of rude justice in these prairies and woods.

### 1843

It is startling to read that like most communities of that day, the first business enterprise was a saloon operated by Harvey Jewett. The citizens, however, by moral suasion, induced him to change to a general store. Lewis Turner also opened a store on the south side of Main Street. It was about next door to where the Kepler building now stands.

The Cedar River became a highway for flatboats bound for St. Louis. Robert Stinson and William Perkins rafted 800 bushels of corn from Ivanhoe, disposed of it and the raft, and walked back. James McClelland rafted 3000 bushels of wheat to New Orleans in order to get better prices than offered at St. Louis. It is said that he bought sugar for three cents a pound and sold it back home for twelve cents. Coffee costing seven cents a pound he sold for seventeen. With this return load it is safe to infer that he did not walk.

Philip Stinger bought land near Linn Grove, while J. W. Walton and James Barkley staked out claims in Yankee Grove. (Lisbon was called Yankee Grove because an early settler C. C. Haskins, a Yankee, owned a large area of land there.) A tall and heavy-set mechanic in the person of Richard Harbert came to town. He was most useful in many of the appointive offices of the town and community.

In 1843 Presbyterians and Methodists alike began holding meeting in members' cabins. The Presbyterians (New School) used John Stewart's cabin on the Palisades road, the Covenanter Presbyterians met in the Smyth home, and the Methodists worshipped in the home of Thomas Craig, the first rural Methodist, who was located at Sugar Grove two miles west of town.

The winter of 1843 was a severe pioneer winter. Snow drifted to twenty-one feet deep, lying all winter on the fields. The thermometer at times registered thirty degrees below zero, and the shivering settlers in their not too winter-proof cabins had difficulty in keeping warm. It was impossible to go to the mill for flour, for the tracks made in walking filled with snow almost immediately. Occasionally settlers were found frozen on the way from the barn to the house in a raging blizzard.

#### 1844

Since 1838 country schoolhouses had supplied the need for education. At this time there were schools at Yankee Grove, St. Mary's, and Linn Grove. In the school lists we read the names of well-known families: Scott, Varner, Whitlatch, Tyron, Jordan, Caraway, and Stinger. During the year 1844 five families united to build the Abbe schoolhouse two miles west of town. Fourteen years later, in 1858, it was rebuilt in brick, and after sixty years of valiant service it is now retired and is being used as a private home. These schoolhouses were centers of community activity of every kind, on Sundays being used for services of worship, and on weekday evenings for singing schools and spelling bees. Within their walls three generations of pupils have received help in the three R's.

#### 1846

The year 1846 will ever be memorable in the minds of the people of Iowa; for after two years of discussion and revision the geographical lines were settled and Iowa entered upon statehood. It was the "first free state in the Louisiana purchase." This was the beginning of a centennial of surpassing progress and greatness. Today we look back upon the record of integrity, fortitude, invention, and expansion with pride and gratitude. The inscription of the block of marble contributed by Iowa for the Washington monument fitly reads:

"Iowa. Her affections like the rivers of her borders, flow to an inseparable Union."

### 1847

Samuel Pfautz, granduncle of Mrs. David West, took a job this year north of Yankee Grove. He was the first of a long line of Pfautzes who have meant so much to Lisbon. In July, 1847, Samuel wrote to his mother back in Pennsylvania, "I let you know I am well. I came to Burlington, then on a steamboat to Bloomington (Muscatine) and came on to Linn County. It is a fine delightful country. The land is rolling and dry. The timber is good. The Cedar River is navigable for flatboats and keelboats. Steamboats can come up in the spring. Fish are very plentiful in the Cedar. Pike weigh from five to fifteen pounds, catfish from ten to thirty pounds. There are salmon also. Land is \$1.25 to \$10 an acre and very rich. The soil is five feet deep, good for any crop. Wheat, corn, oats, are good. The timber is full of wild fruits; thousands of plum trees are found, and the trees are just as full as they can hang. There are strawberries in June. Deer are numerous; also wild turkey and other game. I like the country well. Coopering is good. There is fine stave wood along the Cedar. Direct your letter to Ivanhoe."

The above letter is interesting in reflecting the conditions of the times. Envelopes were not used, but letters were sealed and cost twenty-five cents postage.

About this time Mount Vernon began to be called "Pinhook," from the wooden pins used in the stores to hang up the goods. Luke Fish, the jeweler, bought Henry Chapman's cabin this year; George Edgerton put an addition on his cabin; and Stephen Cook, a quaint character and violent speaker, had a blacksmith shop where the Central House afterward stood. There was a general store built northeast of the intersection of Main Street and Military Road.

At last the hour of destiny had arrived for which these lands and this hilltop had waited. Mrs. Ada Sherwood tells us in the college chapbook which she wrote that in the midst of an ideal summer Allison Willits rode out to Jesse Holman's, the present Murton Kepler farm, and took Jesse and family for a ride over the hilltop, which was then without fences. He described glowingly the beauty of the location and the possibilities of a college on the hilltop. A few days later he took Richard Harbert, the carpenter, together with George Edgerton, Ackley Parker, and Robert Stinson, and laid out two blocks of lots west of the Military Road. Jewett and Gourley proceeded to sell the lots at \$75 each. The survey, as recorded in the Linn County courthouse, was made permanent by County Surveyor Andrew Botdorff, February 24, 1849. The first house after the survey was put up with logs by R. J. Harbert and occupied by him in September,

1847. It was located near the present office of Dr. T. L. Wolfe. Later in 1847 a third block was laid out east of the Military Road.

Now what should the town be named? Pinhook? Never that! It should be a patriotic reminder, and the name "Mount Vernon" proposed by Mr. Willits was adopted and has been the official designation ever since.

This was a great year for Yankee Grove (Lisbon). Rev. Christian Hershey came from Pennsylvania to settle, paying the way for sixty-six of his family and relatives. They were a hardy colonial stock of folk who had been in Pennsylvania since the middle of the eighteenth century. Among them were Michael Hoover and John Kurtz, pioneers of a long line who have resided there ever since. The Hoovers were business men and farmers; the Kurtzes were merchants. John Eby, the carpenter, built two brick houses on the south side of West Main Street abutting the sidewalk. Rev. Christian Troop was also of this party. It was not long before a camp meeting was started one mile east of town. Christian Hershey, good Christian that he was, from his own funds built and paid for a United Brethren church.

#### 1848 and 1849

The first child born in Mount Vernon was Huldah Harbert; and the first death, that of her little sister, Galena, was in the same cabin.

In 1848 a stranger by the name of Servison, came to town, partook with his ailing father, of the kindly hospitality of H. D. Metcalf over night. He left the father in the care of the Metcalfs while he traveled on, promising to return in a few days. He never returned. The father died, it was supposed of cholera, and he was buried in the night in Main Street near the present Wolfe office.

A sawmill was placed on Spring Creek south of Lisbon. The Torrance mill two miles southeast of Mount Vernon, and this Spring Creek mill turned out dimension lumber which changed the style of building from log cabins to frame houses. For some time twelve or more new houses were erected every year, mainly along Jefferson Street and in the southeastern part of town.

Joshua Hess started a harness shop and J. J. Smith a livery barn. Smith had only two broken-down horses, called in derision "crow-bait," and an old buggy, but his business expanded. A tailor shop was opened by Mr. Oglebay. Dr. James Carson came to town and advertised "Physician, Surgeon, Dentist, Drugs, and Wallpaper Supplies."

A tall lead miner passed through town en route from Dubuque to the famed gold fields of California. He liked the town and made a mental note to return. In California he was successful at gold dig-

ging. He came back to Waterloo and became its first merchant, so states the History of Black Hawk County. Within a few years he came to Mount Vernon and settled in the large brick building which had been erected by the Presbyterians for a church but never used for the purpose. He wished to educate his family of seven girls and one son at Cornell College. His name was Nelson Fancher, father of Mary Fancher Williams. His burial was in the local cemetery.

### 1850

Into this beehive of activity, George B. Bowman arrived, having been presiding elder of Dubuque district, which included all the local territory as well. He saw the possibility of uniting the scattered preaching places on the hilltop. It was during this year that the first local church was built, and the parsonage was moved from Lisbon to be rebuilt on a location near the present Wilcox coal yard site.

This year, 1850, the post office called "Franklin" was removed from the Smyth farmhouse and located in town. E. D. Waln was the first postmaster.

### 1851

Lisbon was laid out by John Kurtz, John H. Eby, and Michael Hoover, all sons-in-law of Christian Hershey. The original plat was recorded June 4, 1851.

Elder Bowman one Sunday announced from the pulpit that he desired all men of the congregation to join him in clearing two acres of land east of town which had been donated by Oliver Day and Asher Edgerton for a cemetery. A better location could not have been selected. This year Mrs. Joseph Morford was the first one to be buried in the new cemetery.

E. D. Waln began the erection of a large frame hotel on the southwest corner of the intersection of Main Street and the Military Road operated by a Mr. Gillett. He also built a two-story structure on the opposite corner to the north, and Gourley built a store west of Willits'.

Bohemians began to possess the land of plenty just south of the river, and eventually Linn County became the most favored spot in the nation for the Czechs. The young girls worked as maids for the matrons of the town, saved their money, married young men of equal ambition, and soon were extensive landowners in the community.

The Leigh brothers, C. H. and John B., arrived in early 1852. Before long they owned hundreds of acres of good Iowa land; and yet they were so poor in cash that it is related they had to sign a note one day at the bank in order to pay for an express package. They were shrewd investors in the future.

**1853**

This year will be remembered as of utmost importance since it records the founding of the Iowa Conference Seminary, as detailed in another chapter. Immigration into Iowa reached a high peak. Among the community activities there were new business enterprises, such as the venture of George Camp in opening a factory for the manufacture of wagons. A local election was held in Mr. Waln's store at which N. W. McKean was elected the first justice of the peace.

Oliver Day and John Wilds, who afterward became a colonel in the Civil War, opened stores in the Ellison block. The Tedford brothers opened a store on the south side of Main Street. Elder Bowman laid out an addition to the town between the present Methodist Church and the college property, and there he constructed a tavern for the accommodation of travelers, which later became known as Guild Hotel.

Some new arrivals destined to become prominent came into the community. Among them were B. F. Beach, N. U. Ballard, Joab Lacock, and Andrew Hayzlett. Augustus Bauman, father of editor Simon H. Bauman, came this year and built the brick house at the south edge of town, now the Al Morrissey home on Route No. 261.

**1855**

The movement westward had been accelerated in recent years, with many immigrants crowding in to take up the new government lands. Mount Vernon enjoyed a business expansion which was gratifying. F. L. and A. R. Knott bought out the Turner store on the north side of Main Street, again moving to a new store on the site of the Iowa Electric Light and Power Company. Dr. Pease came in with a drug store on the south side of the street. He built a brick house still standing on the right side of the road entering the town from the south. Morgan L. Ink brought goods from the East and opened a general store; he also built a new sawmill. His remodeled brick building at the northeast corner of First Street and Second Avenue, the Hawkeye corner, is pictured in this book. S. K. Young, father of George Young, Sr., came this year, as did A. G. Neff, William McFarland, Andrew Beatty and A. E. Goodyear. Possibly among the most notable additions was the furniture and craft factory of J. T. Oldham near the present bank building.

**1856**

No community is complete without a newspaper. A student at the college, William Hallock, founded the Mount Vernon *Ledger*. It had a precarious existence; the real newspaper was yet to come.

An important event of this year was the arrival of William Brackett, contractor and builder. An Englishman, Joseph Tomlin-

son, a construction engineer for the Canadian government, came west in 1840 and purchased land warrants. For one hundred years, or until the Palisades became a state park, the uncut wooded area across the river, was in the possession of his heirs. Mr. Tomlinson influenced William Brackett and Marsden Keyes to go west in 1856. They both had been engaged in bridge building in Canada. Mr. Keyes was a railroad contractor for many years; Mr. Brackett, after farming near Ely for two years, made his home in Mount Vernon, living across from the college ground to the east. He was a contractor for the brick schoolhouse, the second brick church, and he finished the college chapel. Readers of Elizabeth Ford's book, *No Hour of History* will be interested to know the Tomlinsons were the Gresleys in the book. Mr. Brackett's son, Edgar, became a state senator of New York and a famed lawyer who promoted also the development of Saratoga, New York. Edgar's son, Charles, is a producer of moving pictures and an author of plays and novels.

Henry Collin, later a financier and treasurer of Cornell, came this year and Dr. Carhart came with him. Mr. Collin built a little office just east of Bloom's bookstore. On the next street south of Main he built a small cottage, and it was said that each time a child was born in the family, he added a new room to the house.

#### 1857

This year saw the expansion of the Iowa Conference Seminary into the principal asset of the town, Cornell College. The corner stone of Main Hall was laid that summer and the building was finished and dedicated that fall. Dr. S. M. Fellows lived in the little brick house, since torn down, adjoining the Boyd home; he lived there while principal of the seminary and also during his term as second president of the college.

From the beginning the fine arts were featured, music being among them. This created an atmosphere which was favorable to the establishment of a town band. In July of this year E. S. Bargelt, a tinsmith, was made leader of the band. Among the band's members are listed such names as William Hayzlett, J. C. Miller, William Camp, A. T. Waln, A. R. Knott, C. V. Putnam, and N. W. Reynolds.

#### 1858 and 1859

The shadows of the Civil War were creeping on apace, and the little Quaker settlement of Springdale to the south became a center of agitation for the abolitionist cause. During these two years John Brown cooperated with the residents in speeding the flight of slaves to the north. He drilled some of the Springdale boys that they might assist them in this movement and lived one winter in a house there but recently torn down. Negro slaves were brought by him to Morse

near Iowa City and then shipped in box cars via Chicago to the Canadian border.

A mechanics Union was formed in 1859, and it embraced all the trade workers of the vicinity. Among the many names forming its list of membership were some that are still familiar; such as E. H. Forrest, who was secretary, W. Camp, A. C. Tracey and W. P. Warren. Many of the organizing members afterwards enlisted in the Union armies and were killed in battle.

Difficulties between the two branches of Presbyterians in the town were enhanced by the slavery question. The New School of Presbyterians were less extreme abolitionists and the Covenanters refused to let them hold meetings in their church. The church of the Covenanters was a frame building at the east end of Main Street, later Mitchell's livery barn. So the New School Presbyterians decided to build a church of their own. They erected a large brick church near the college. It is the present Williams apartment house. They planned it large enough for future years and for college students as well. A fine little grove of pine and maple-trees was started to shade the horses when they were tied on the corner lot. The New Presbyterians lacked the money to finish the building, and soon afterward they amalgamated with both the Old School and the Covenanter branches. The building was taken over by William Brackett for a carpenter shop and later became the home of Mrs. Jane White and then of Professor Williams.

#### 1860.

While men's thoughts were occupied with the slavery question and the imminence of civil conflict, nature also worked disturbances. One day in April there came from the south a terrific wind. Water and fish from the Cedar River were carried as far west as St. Mary's, and strange freaks were recorded. A little girl staying at Harvey Gillette's started to her home. In the blackness of the hour she hid behind a fence and escaped the great deluge unharmed. Timber on the south side of the town was sheared to a line still visible. Jeremiah Burge was killed, and Frank Bargelt had the curious experience of losing his cap and afterwards recovering it at Clinton, some sixty miles to the east. The cyclone swerved from its course when a short distance from Mount Vernon hilltop and passed between the town of Mount Vernon and Lisbon, wrecking railroad cars at Lisbon station on the way. At Camanche about one hundred people were killed.

In the fall of this year another roaring cyclone headed toward Mount Vernon from Marion way; but again, when within two miles of the hilltop, it changed its course to the northeast and spared the town.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Mount Vernon had 760 inhabitants and Lisbon had 583.

## Chapter 3

### The Founding Of Cornell College

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Mount Vernon's man of destiny, George B. Bowman, arrived in 1850, when the village consisted of a few cabins and two or three general stores. Pastor Bowman was descended from a German family with a coat of arms. He put aside alluring offers of leading churches in North Carolina in the forties, and came to the land of promise—the West—as a home missionary in St. Louis. His ability was soon recognized and he was transferred to Iowa City to build a new church in the town destined to become a state capital. Money was scarce; Bowman solicited instead all kinds of merchandise, and opening a general store, sold it for cash, thus dedicating the new church within two years.

After serving as presiding elder of the Dubuque District for two years, and also of the Burlington District for three years, Bowman chose to come to Mount Vernon where there was not even a church building. He was tall and spare, bronzed with the summer suns and hardened by the snows of winter from his horseback rides on the prairies. He was reserved, but full of faith and resourcefulness. "If God wills, it CAN and MUST be done," was the motto of his life. When he spoke his words warmed the hearts of hearers. When he sang the good old songs, his congregation seemed to catch a glimpse of Heaven. For many years plans had been revolving in his mind to consolidate the scattered charges around the hilltop. This culminated in the building of the first brick church in 1850.

But now as he rode up on the hilltop, a greater vision allured him. He felt the need of Christian education for his children, for the children of other pastors, and for all the community around. From the hilltop view the tall grass of the boundless prairies waved its shimmering benediction. To the south flowed, among the groves of timber, the beautiful river which he so often crossed on the ferry. Bishop Haven afterward declared the view to be the "loveliest lay of land" on which he had ever looked.

Surely God had created the hilltop for such an hour as this. The voice of God was calling him, he felt, to build a college here. In visions of the future, he seemed to see the generations marching through stately halls and forth to bless the world.

Tradition has it that on this sacred spot he dismounted, and tying his horse to a nearby tree, knelt in a hazel thicket to pray. "Call upon me and I will answer thee and show thee great and mighty

things," the voice seemed to say. It could, it would be done. He would dedicate this hilltop to God.

Almost a century later, Mrs. Edith Waln Cummings, daughter of Elder Elijah Waln, Bowman's co-worker, wrote, "Elder Bowman rode horseback, as that was the best and easiest means of transportation in that day. I have heard father speak of Elder Bowman praying for better school facilities, and it has been my impression through the years that he did so very close to where the campus is now located." Waln was the Superintendent of the first Sunday School in 1847, and a trustee of the Seminary and College for many years.

Mrs. Ada Sherwood, daughter of that early pioneer Jesse Holman, wrote in 1893: "Allison Willits, being greatly elated over the success of his venture in founding a village, and feeling the need of better educational advantages, began to dream of an institution of learning. Upon consulting Elder Bowman, he found that he too had been thinking of it. The names of Bowman and Willits should be placed side by side as fathers of Cornell. Their ambition was to make the village a safe place for the young; and largely through their influence, no liquor or gambling was allowed."

One day while Jesse Holman kept store for Mr. Waln, the latter went out and raised \$100 in pledges to found a new seminary. "What? Found a school on \$100?" We are not to despise the day of small beginnings. Elihu Yale founded that great institution, Yale University, on the gift of a few books. Could they have foreseen what would follow that \$100! The optimistic Waln handed the paper to Bowman who received it with great enthusiasm. A meeting of the church and interested friends was called, and the matter was decided. Bowman was to be President of the Board of Trustees; Waln the Secretary; Holman, Hayzlett and Willits, the lay members; Pastors H. W. Reed, Twining, and Joel Taylor were chosen as the clerical members of the Board. The institution would be known as "The Iowa Conference Male and Female Seminary." Bowman was insistent upon co-education; though the idea was new to these parts.

Isaac Julien, living five miles west, had purchased the land on top of the hill for a permanent home site. Bowman persuaded him with earnest and insistent reasoning of the value of such a school and the honor of association with it; and Julien sold them the ten acres of the hilltop at half price.

July 4th, 1852 witnessed the beginning of a new era. A vast crowd gathered on the hilltop to hear James Harlan, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and a relative of our own James E. Harlan, in his discourse on education. They came by stagecoach and horseback from points as far distant as Burlington and Dubuque. After the speech of Mr. Harlan and an address by Elder Bowman,

ground was broken for the new building, which was 40 by 72 feet, our present "Old Sem." Richard Harbert and Henry Albright were the carpenters and masons. Everyone who could spare the time for labor, willingly donated it. Boys in their teens, in straw hats and barefooted, hauled sand from the Cedar River and carried hods for the masons. Bowman was both college agent and pastor for that year and then he resigned the pastorate, devoting his time for five years to financing the new institution and leaving it with an endowment of \$100,000. He personally superintended the work of building, hiring, and paying the laborers.

On horseback Elder Bowman traveled as far as Mount Morris, Illinois, to persuade Rev. S. M. Fellows to accept the principalship of the Seminary. Fellows brought with him Prof. David Wheeler, a competent teacher and silver-tongued orator, who taught both science and language. Wheeler had deep temperance convictions, and when a crowd broke into a saloon-to-be and brought out whiskey barrels, Wheeler gave a stirring address to justify the deed while the whiskey ran down the gutter. He became later a consul in Genoa, Italy, and then president of Allegheny College. Miss Catherine Fortner was the able preceptress and in the absence of both Wheeler and Fellows, opened the school in the brick church on east Main Street. With the help of F. L. Knott, Principal Samuel Fellows taught ethics and religion, Miss Olive Fellows was the teacher of instrumental music and Miss Sarah Matson was a general assistant. The first catalogue was issued in 1854 and contained sixteen pages.

In the fall of 1853, six men went down deep into their reserves to put the struggling institution on its feet. They were: Henry Albright, E. D. Waln, Jesse Holman, William Hayzlett, Henry Kepler and Allison Willits. Elijah Sells of Bloomington (Muscatine) gave \$200 worth of crockery which Bowman promptly turned into cash. Others gave heifers, pigs, cows, potatoes, and produce. Bowman tried to persuade A. J. Kynett to give his gold watch, but Mr. Kynett firmly insisted that he needed it to start church services in the absence of clocks.

November 14, 1853 witnessed a strange parade as Principal Fellows with his corps of teachers followed by 57 girls and 104 boys marched enthusiastically up Main Street, while townspeople flocked to the doors and windows for the epoch-making event. On they went up the hill to the unfinished building, where only the partitions had been plastered, but where nevertheless they began regular classes. The chapel and recitation hall were on the main floor, the ladies' dormitory on the second floor, and the men's dormitory on the third floor. Kitchen and dining hall were in the rear of the building.

The trials and victories of those early days are well described in the novel by Miss Marjorie Medary, "*In Old Crinoline Days*." There

was a large primary department for those who had not enjoyed the privilege of town schools. The program of study in the seminary was extensive, emphasizing particularly the study of Greek, Latin, and Ethics. There were students from a score of states. The new Seminary was very popular and the attendance greatly increased in but a few years, viz: 1854, 250; 1855, 255; 1856, 288; 1857, 294; 1858, 321; 1859, 373; 1860, 407. The faith of Elder Bowman had been justified, and the foundations were secure.

Then came the first program of exercises at the end of the school year on June 24, 1854, with three days devoted to the occasion, and with all the examinations open to the public. Part of the last day's program will be of interest.

#### THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 1854

##### FORENOON

###### LADIES, ESSAYS.

Hope .....	Martha Bell
Rural Felicity .....	Adeline Holman
Who Are Happy? .....	Martha Kaufman
The New .....	Ruana Neidig
"Thy Will Be Done" .....	Mary Hubbard

##### AFTERNOON

###### GENTLEMEN, DECLAMATIONS.

The Pioneer Preacher .....	George P. Holman
Labor .....	George W. Osburn
Railroads .....	John Wilson
Man .....	Leroy Weeks
Valedictory .....	Leonard Foster

Band music was interspersed, and a stirring address was given by Principal Fellows. During that first year, out of 161 students, there were only three who did not make a profession of religion.

The tuition for eleven weeks was \$4, and the board was \$1.50 a week.

The "Twelve Restrictive Rules" adopted at a somewhat later period for the government of student conduct constitute an ancient tradition of Cornell and are here summarized:

1. Rise at 5 A.M. Retire at 10 P.M.
2. Attend prayers in the chapel daily.
3. Punctuality.
4. No visiting during study hours.
5. Not to leave town without permission.
6. Hallooing, running, jumping forbidden.
7. Profane and obscene language forbidden.
8. No balls, dancing parties, nor circus.

9. No ladies to receive calls from gentlemen without permission.
10. No gentlemen to receive calls from ladies.
11. Must attend Sabbath worship.
12. Walking together and conversing together, men and women, on the campus was forbidden without special permission.

The last was the famous "Rule Twelve" which the boys meticulously observed by placing a six foot stick between the couple walking together.

The Seminary grew so fast that a new building soon became imperative. On July 4th, 1856 the cornerstone of Main Hall was laid to the accompaniment of a local band consisting of John C. Foster bugler, and E. S. Bargelt beating a drum made from stovepipe iron and calfskin. Principal Fellows gave such an earnest, heartfelt address that Matthew Cavanaugh, of the first graduating class wrote fifty years later, "I was spellbound at his address. It was like Lincoln's address which founded the Republican party. Reporters forgot their notebooks." The building was completed and dedicated in December 1857, Bishop Clark giving the address. After almost a hundred years that excellent carpenter work of Harbert and mason work of Albright still stand firm.

In the meantime the Board of Trustees decided to enlarge the scope of the work of the Seminary and change it to a college patterned after eastern institutions. It was voted to change the name to "Cornell College" in honor of W. W. Cornell of New York State who had given a small amount, and who, it was hoped, would endow it generously. But Mr. Cornell decided to create a land-grant college and university at Ithaca, N.Y., which institution thus became a younger sister of Cornell in the West. The first meeting of the Upper Iowa Conference at Maquoketa in 1855 for organization, witnessed the adoption by the Conference of Cornell College as its institution of learning and the pledging thereto of its faithful support.

In 1857, Miss Fortner resigned as Preceptress, to enter the state of matrimony with a promising young pastor, Rufus Ricker. Miss Harriette Cooke, was secured to fill her place, and remained with the college until 1890, becoming the first full time woman professor west of the Mississippi. Cornellians through those years recall with deep appreciation her able, scholarly teaching in many branches, and her inspiring Christian leadership. It was said that she courted sleep by conjugating Greek verbs. Two tall cottonwood trees in front of the chapel were her planting. The college honored her in 1944 as one of the "Founders" of Cornell.

Old Sem cost \$15,000 and Main \$56,000. Next year, in 1858, Elder Bowman retired from the college agency on account of his

health and went to California to enter business. In San Jose, this modern Asbury founded Cherry Vale Chapel, and Centralia Methodist Church, and also "Bowman Church." On his dying bed, he comforted the family with the thought of his going Home; he directed them to found another church in the east end of the town with his Conference insurance money. His gift to the Chapel at Cornell is enshrined in that west window where are to be found the names of his family whom death had already claimed. The lovely inscriptions "The Righteous shall flourish as the palm tree" and "The workman fails but the work goes on" are fitting words for so worthy a character. Many of the buildings of the town have borne the stamp of his planning and execution: the first church, the first parsonage, Guild Hall, "Old Sem", and Main Hall. He lived to see his vision fulfilled. We have seen it grow beyond his fondest expectations.

Principal Fellows was importuned to become president of the new college, but he desired some well known man from the East for reasons of greater prestige. After due consideration, the Methodist pastor at Davenport, Rev. R. W. Keeler, was chosen, and the formal opening took place in September, 1857, with the following members of the faculty:

R. W. Keeler, President and Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy.

S. M. Fellows, Latin and Literature.

Stephen N. Fellows, Mathematics and Natural Science.

D. N. Wheeler, Greek Language and Literature.

Miss Susan Hale, Preceptress and Teacher of French.

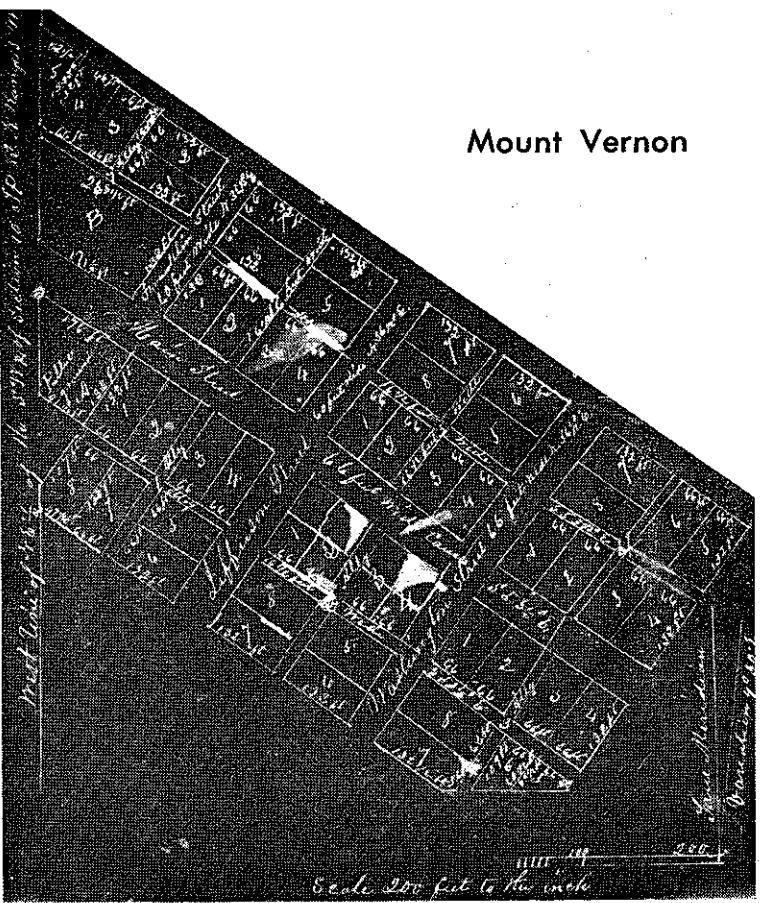
Miss Harriette J. Cooke, English Department, Drawing and Painting.

Miss Alice Foulke, Teacher of Instrumental Music.

Miss Elizabeth Dumon, Preceptress in Primary Department.

President Keeler was an excellent orator, but did not find the work of the college presidency congenial and asked to be relieved in 1859. Prof. S. M. Fellows, who from the beginning had been a guiding spirit, resumed the leadership as President and continued until his death in 1863. In 1864, the office of Vice-President was created and William F. King, of Delaware, Ohio, was chosen for the work. The next year, he was raised to the presidency, and held this office for 43 years, perhaps the longest tenure of any college president in the West. The noble lives and powerful deeds of these three men, Bowman, Fellows, King, raised Cornell College to a pre-eminence it has ever since maintained.

## Mount Vernon



Plat and description of the Town of Mount Vernon situate on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section No. 10, Township No. 82 No Range No. 5 W. of 5th Principal Meridian, Iowa commencing at a stone planted for a corner on the Southwest side of the Bloomington and Marion Road 8.05 chains from the N.W. corner stake of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of said S.W. quarter section and on the west line thereof thence S  $53^{\circ}30'E$  which is the course of Main Street. Main and Washington Streets are each 66 feet wide. Jefferson and Franklin Streets are each 60 feet wide. All the Alleys are of an equal width viz:  $16\frac{1}{2}$  feet each. Streets and Alleys intersect and cross each other at right angles. The course of Washington Jefferson and Franklin Streets is N  $36\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}E$ . Blocks are  $280\frac{1}{2}$  feet square. Lots are 66 feet in front and 132 feet in depth except the fractional lots the length and breadth of which in feet are shown on the plat; their numbers are 5, 6, 7 in Block 3, 8 in Block 1 and 5 in Block 7. The lots marked A and B are Public ground. The Star represents the place of beginning in further surveys.

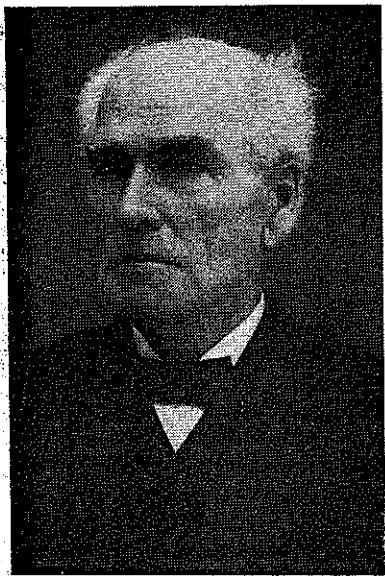
I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true platt of the survey made by me  
September 20th, 1847. Andrew D. Bottorff C. Surveyor.

State of Iowa, Linn County, ss.

Before the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for said County personally appeared Allison I. Willits, Harvey Jewett and Joseph Gourley who are personally known by me to be the identical persons whom they represent themselves to be and acknowledged themselves to be the sole proprietors of the Town of Mount Vernon of which the within is a Plat and map of the survey and that said Town was laid out surveyed and plated under their direction by Andrew D. Bottorff Co. Surveyor.

Given under my hand this 24th day of February A.D. 1848.  
Filed Feb. 26th, 1848 at 10 o'clock A.M. & Recorded May 4th, 1848  
And w J. McKean, Justice of the Peace

W. M. Harris Recorder L. Co. Ia.



Elder George B. Bowman, one of the earliest pioneers and founders of Mount Vernon and Cornell College. 1812-1888.

### Early Picture of Cornell College



## Chapter 4

### The Early Churches

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Early settlers were scarcely established on their claims before they received a visit from some Methodist circuit-rider. In regions where settlers were miles apart and severed from former associations, the pioneer preacher guided them back into religious fellowship and put the impress of godliness on those who came under his influence. In 1840 all the Territory of Iowa was one district of the Rock River Conference of the Methodist Church. Shortly afterward it was divided into two districts, the Dubuque District under the Reverend Bartholomew Weed, and the Burlington District. In the former, work in Mount Vernon was begun August 26, 1840, when the Marion Mission was organized with the Reverend John Hodges as missionary. His long itinerary included Marion, Martin's Creek, Mount Zion, Linn Grove, Pleasant Hill, Yankee Grove (Lisbon), Pioneer Grove, Mechanicsville, and Olin.

From 1847 to 1850 the Reverend George Bowman was presiding elder of the Dubuque District. He formulated plans to combine all the preaching points around Mount Vernon into one charge on the hilltop. In 1850 of his own choice he resigned the eldership to become pastor of the Linn Grove Circuit. Services in the village were held in the school house on West Main Street.

One day Elder Bowman was seen hauling to the site of the present school house a load of brick from Albright's brickyard at the foot of the hill. "What are you doing, Elder?" he was asked.

"I am going to build a church," he replied. He had quietly collected money in the East for this purpose, and soon a building 40 by 50 feet, without balcony or spire, was erected and dedicated, free of debt. The church had two front doors; there were two aisles and four sections of seats. At that time the men and women occupied separate sections.

Conrad Kepler hauled the pine lumber for the church from Dubuque. He paid the \$150.00 he was assessed by cradling and threshing wheat under the feet of cattle and hauling it to Muscatine where he sold it for thirty cents a bushel. His sacrifice was typical of that of every pioneer Methodist.

Elder Bowman immediately began a great revival to reach the unconverted of the town and to promote religious interest. Scores of people were brought into the church, among them the leading men of the community: Allison Willits, Elijah Waln, William Hayzlett, Peter Henry and Conrad Kepler, George Edgerton and many others.

At once there was an evident increase in refinement and Christian graces throughout the community. A Sunday school was organized and was called the Evergreen Sunday School because it continued through the twelve months of the year.

A few years after this, the eloquent A. B. Kendig became pastor and held another effective revival, with seventy persons added to membership. Although he was so learned that he later became one of the great pastors of Boston, he willingly gave himself to the work of this small village for a pastoral salary of \$540.00. During his pastorate here the Sunday school enrollment increased to 189 scholars. The Reverend Kendig returned to Mount Vernon in 1903 to attend the fifty-year celebration of the college.

As a circuit rider, the Reverend Kendig had preached regularly near Ely at the home of Henry C. Whittington, father of Mrs. Martha M. Keyes. This was in the days when the whole congregation, numbering usually from twenty-five to thirty persons, drove up in lumber wagons and stayed for dinner.

Preachers in those days were appointed for a single year. Before 1850 the following had been appointed preachers to Mount Vernon: John Hodges, Solomon Ingham, Jesse Bennett, John Hayden, J. Marion, and P. Harrington. With the formation of the Linn Grove Circuit the work became more stable and from 1845 to 1849 four men served the circuit as follows: Allen Johnson, John Walker, S. H. Greenup, and L. C. Woodford.

In 1850 Mount Vernon was made a station, and George Bowman was placed in charge, as has been stated. He remained three years, during which time he built the first Methodist Church of the town. Between the time of his departure and the year 1862, the following men were appointed preachers: Joel Taylor, J. C. Ayers, A. B. Kendig, S. N. Holmes, J. T. Coleman, Elias Skinner, A. N. Smith and George Clifford, who in the year 1862 returned for three years during which time he was occupied in building the second church.

The population of the town was rapidly increasing, and the old church was no longer sufficiently large to accommodate the townspeople and the many college students. Threats of Civil War became a reality and plans were delayed. It was not until 1864 that the new church became a reality. It was built in part on the site of the present Methodist Church at a cost of \$7,800. The contractor who erected the building was William Brackett. He purchased the old church for \$600 and afterwards sold it to the town for a school house. The parsonage on the north side of town was sold for \$500. The pastor's family moved temporarily into the Kynett house on South Third Street. Miss Harriette J. Cooke (preceptress at Cornell from 1866-1890), was instrumental in raising money for a new parsonage which was built in 1874 on the corner lot next to the church. Both of these

lots had been purchased from Henry D. Albright, who in company with William Hayzlett, assumed over one thousand dollars of unpaid obligations on the church property.

Reference to the old church, built like a New England meeting house, will awaken fond memories in the minds of the older folk. The front doors opened into a spacious hall. On either side was a beautiful winding stairway with a carved walnut rail which led to the auditorium on the second floor. A gallery in the north end was built for the choir and was used for this purpose for many years, or until money could be raised for a platform in the south-east corner to the right of the high pulpit. To the minister's left was the "Amen Corner" where the Hartsoughs and Chaplain Lozier taught a class of devout adults who remained through the church service to support the preacher with their fervent *amens*. In this class was one good old brother, who wore a black wig on Sundays and an older brown one during the week.

There were three aisles in the old church which were carpeted in red, a color blending nicely with the red in the frescoed walls. Appropriately enough, the pulpit had a firmament for a background—gold stars on a wall of blue. Light was admitted through high Gothic type windows of frosted glass in which little stars were etched. The pulpit furniture consisted of a walnut settee and two armchairs upholstered in horse hair, a table, and a lectern. The last two pieces mentioned are in use in the present church, as is the old organ, a Mason and Hamlin, which now serves only as a receptacle for hats and hymn books in the rear of the auditorium.

Individual communion service was unknown. Instead, a large silver goblet, the common cup, was passed from one communicant to another.

The seats were low and narrow, the rests reaching only to the middle of the sitter's back. Hinged along the wall were drop seats, provided for overflow attendance rather than for comfort.

In the first story were two small classrooms and the lecture room used for prayer meetings, Sunday school, and Epworth League. Two large furnaces, opposite each other, were in this room. These were tended by the faithful caretaker, T. T. Border (Dory, as he was commonly called). In his farewell address, Dr. Stuntz mentioned him as having hauled brick for the church. There was no kitchen, but banquets were often served with no equipment other than that which could be set up in the class room.

In the entry was a library of a few hundred volumes. One recalls the type of book then considered correct for youthful instruction and guidance: The Elsie Dinsmore series, the Pansy books, the Five Little Peppers, and the works of Louisa M. Alcott.

Surrounding the church and the parsonage was an iron fence which curved gracefully to the front door. Against this fence the lads of the day liked to lean while waiting for their girl friends to come out of Epworth League. Overlooking it was the grand sixty-foot tower in which the birds found a home close to the sanctuary. The story goes that this tower was the target for the rifle of Bert Chubbuck whose home was the present parish house and from it George Young, jr., once shot a hawk.

Many are the cherished memories of the Old Brick church and congregation: the eloquent early pastor who often emphasized the high points of his sermon by jumping over the altar rail, Howard Kepler ushering in the center aisle, Mrs. H. G. Miller's and Mrs. H. O. Pratt's beautiful paisley shawls, the shouting at the revival meetings, the organ concerts of "Blind" Boone, and Lew Lozier, from his vantage post in the choir, drawing clever caricatures of members of the congregation.

Music is ever an essential part of worship, and one cannot adequately measure the effects of the good old hymns of the church. Memories of the choir as it rendered the weekly anthem are retained with much appreciation. One recalls the names of Professors Van-Valkenburg, Mather and Barbour, as directors of the choir and the faithful organists pumping the old organ tirelessly: Horace Alden Miller, the Misses Clara Brackett, Agnes Randall, Carrie Keyes, and others. Singers of local note were there: the Kepler girls—Birdie and Hattie; Myrtle Young, Stella Hogle, Mrs. Edith Cummings, John C. Wade, Joseph Bennett, J. M. Tallman, Minard, Horace and Lew Lozier, and John Trowbridge, who resigned to teach music at the Moody Bible Institute. Gone, though many are to the Choir Immortal, their songs still linger in our hearts.

An impressive list of devout pastors, faithful superintendents, and workers mark the 1870's. They were: Roderick Norton, father of Dr. Wm. H. Norton; E. W. Jeffries, Julius Stevens, T. C. Golden, R. W. Peebles, and the beloved R. D. Parsons, pastor from 1876 to 1879, who elected upon retirement to spend his last days in Mount Vernon.

Following these were: W. H. Smith, J. H. Rhea, T. B. Cherrington, S. W. Heald, R. F. Hurlburt and H. O. Pratt. Cherrington was deeply evangelistic; Heald was a conference secretary for many years; Pratt had been a member of Congress and was converted while still in Washington, D.C., and finally came Homer C. Stuntz, just home from the mission field, and destined to inspire the building of the present stone church. We delight in remembering all of these men.

Many of the prominent citizens of the town felt that the office of Sunday School superintendent was worthy of their efforts. Among

them were: Col. H. H. Rood, H. H. Freer, William F. King, James E. Harlan, Ira Fairbanks, and E. R. Ristine, who was given, upon the occasion of the hundredth anniversary of the church, a certificate of esteem as a layman of fifty years standing.

The Ladies' Aid Society was organized as early as 1854, and after a few years of uncertain existence, entered upon an active history of financial, social, and spiritual administration.

The list of consecrated Sunday school teachers is a long one. Among those who spent long years of service were: Mrs. Jessie Fogg, Mrs. Alice Rigby, Mrs. H. G. Simpson, Miss Amanda Whittington, and Mrs. M. A. B. Meyers. On her last visit to Mount Vernon, Mrs. Meyers gave to the Women's Society of the church the money with which the beautiful tea service was purchased. In 1893 Mrs. Adelaide Ebersole began her long service of forty-three years as guardian and instructor of the little folk.

A number of missionaries received their call to foreign work from that old church. Among them were: Carl Anderson and his wife, Emma Wardle Anderson, who enlisted for work in India; and J. Victor Martin for Japan. Addie Wardle and Agnes Randall became deaconesses in Chicago.

We cannot conclude the history of the Old Brick Church without mention of the farewell meeting which took place on May 31, 1899. This was naturally an occasion of both joy and sorrow.

After prayer by Dr. Hugh Boyd, President King spoke, saying that he had arrived in Mount Vernon the last Saturday of August, 1862. The following day, in the company of President Fellows, he went to the first little Methodist Church. In doing so he walked over the ground on which the present church stands.

Dr. Stuntz read a letter of greeting from the Reverend George Clifford, who had been pastor when the church was built. Speaking for her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Brackett, Mrs. M. K. Neff said that her father, as contractor, had tried to plan a more comfortable seat for the church, one with a better back, but the Reverend Clifford had said, "Brethren, we do not go to the house of God for sleep and rest. It is not a place for sleep, but for worship." Whenever she was inclined to be sleepy or restless, she was aroused by the memory of this admonition.

Morgan Ink told of the difficulties he and many others had in trying to finance a church in war time when money was scarce. The building was paid for, not by voluntary subscriptions, but by assessments which were cheerfully paid.

Dr. Kate Mason Hogle, in behalf of her mother, Mary Ide Mason, who was unable to attend the service, then gave her reminiscences. She said her first recollection of a church service was the

funeral of her father held in the old Covenanter Church, which was later a part of the Mitchell livery barn. The Presbyterians kindly offered their church because the First Methodist Church was then being dismantled and its services were being held in the college chapel, now the social rooms in Main Hall.

Mrs. Ada G. Sherwood paid a high tribute to her father Jesse Holman, a devout Methodist, and, as she said, the guiding star of her life. The school house was doubly dear to her because the children were there and it was the site of Mount Vernon's first brick church and contained the brick of that old structure.

In his address Dr. George L. Carhart recalled his early days in the town. He said that he solicited funds for the central chandelier in the church which he personally installed. He avowed the installment of the chandelier was the hardest day's work he had ever done.

Dr. Stuntz then spoke for several whom he was to represent: Mrs. Henry Albright; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Craig, grandparents of Miss Ella Ellison; Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Harbert and others who were the pillars of early Methodism. He also mentioned Amos Reynolds who excavated for the foundation of the church for twelve and a half cents a cubic yard.

C. W. Kepler gave a brief history of the first two Methodist churches, saying that they and the new church which was to come, had their origin at the home of Thomas Craig. His speech was a challenge to his hearers to make a sacrifice comparable to that of the pioneers in their effort to build a new church.

Dr. Thomas L. Nicholson concluded the meeting by speaking of the future of the church and expressed the hope that the dedication of the new building would be followed by the greatest religious awakening in the history of Mount Vernon.

## *II The Presbyterian Church*

"Early Presbyterianism in our town appeared in three branches," says Dr. H. C. Stanclift in his booklet, "A Century of Presbyterianism in Mount Vernon from 1843 to 1943." First of all, there was the Old School, very Calvinistic and not strong on coöperation with other denominations—mostly Scotch-Irish folk. Following them was the New School, more moderate and coöperative, composed largely of English people. Lastly there came the Covenanters, or Reformed branch, followers of Richard Cameron, a minister of the late 17th century.

The New School began in the home of John Stewart, two miles southwest of town, with ten members ministered to by the Reverend William Rankin, pastor in 1843. Among these were the Boyds, the Morfords, the Stewarts, and the Downings. In 1856 the members

changed the name of their church to the First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, and three years later erected a brick building 40 by 50 feet. There was too much hope in their enterprise, and the building was never used as a church, but was sold for a shop and later became an apartment house. This branch merged with the Old School in 1870 under John Stewart as one of the elders.

The Covenanters organized in 1847 at Sugar Grove two miles west of town. The following fourteen persons were at first received as members: Jeremiah and Nancy Smyth, Robert and Nancy Smyth Alexander, James and Elizabeth Smyth, George and Jennett Safely, Martha Craig, Margaret Corey, Robert Smyth, Elizabeth Boyd and Catherine and Susan Smyth. Jeremiah and Robert Smyth were the elders. For twenty years this group existed as a corporation but finally disbanded in 1874, uniting with the Old School. The Smyth family came from Ireland in 1842. Robert Smyth was an executive member and a trustee of Cornell College and also a member of the Iowa legislature.

The Old School began in a log school house near the John Kirkpatrick farm three miles north of town. A church was organized in Lisbon in 1854, but was united with the Old School in Mount Vernon in 1861 with a total of thirty-two members in the congregation. The Reverend Edward Dodder was the pastor here and at Linn Grove for seven years beginning in March 1861. The church prospered under his ministry so that Mount Vernon was made a separate station. The congregation used the Reformed Church building which stood just east of the present high school.

In 1863, the hall over the present Dale Johnson hardware store was rented and used for services for three years. The church was prospering and a new building was planned and erected. It was a wooden structure of the board and batten type and was painted brown. The entrance was on the north and the pulpit was at the southern end. When the new church was built, the old church was remodelled into a double residence which stands on the original site diagonally across the street from the high school. Services were first held here June 5, 1866. The cost of the lot was \$200 and the building was \$2,800. All is said to have been paid for at the time of dedication.

The Reverend E. B. Farrar came in 1868 and remained one year. He was followed for two years by the Reverend George Lodge, under whom in an extensive revival sixty additional members were received. After the separation of thirty years the Old and the New School Assemblies united, and James Hanna was called to be pastor in 1873. The following year the Covenanters disbanded and joined the united groups. A new parsonage was erected and the church grew in membership, self-support, and missionary giving. While President

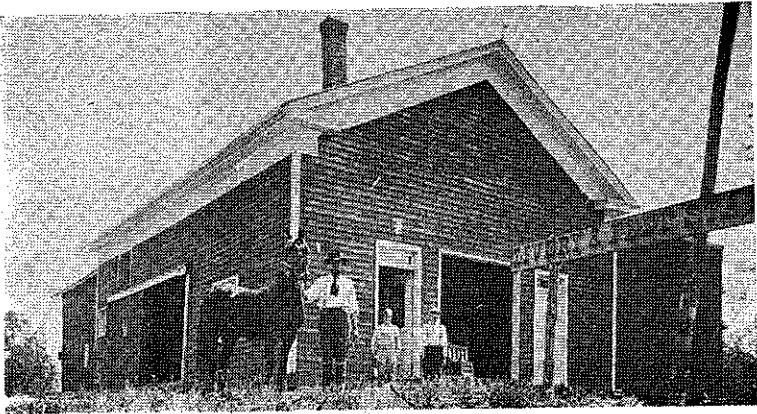
King of the college was absent in Europe, Mr. Hanna substituted for him in teaching Mental and Moral Science in the college. Mr. Hanna remained until 1877.

For six years the Reverend James Cooper, an able man of dignified bearing was the pastor. He was followed by Alexander K. Baird, a Scotchman educated in Canada, who continued with the church until 1890 and built its membership to 134. The Rev. Edmund Brownlee, distinguished for piety, cordiality, and Christian meekness, was pastor from 1891 to 1894.

The arrival of an able and progressive pastor, the Rev. Andrew K. Knox, in 1894, lifted the work of the church to a new plane; under his guidance a stone building was erected on the present location.

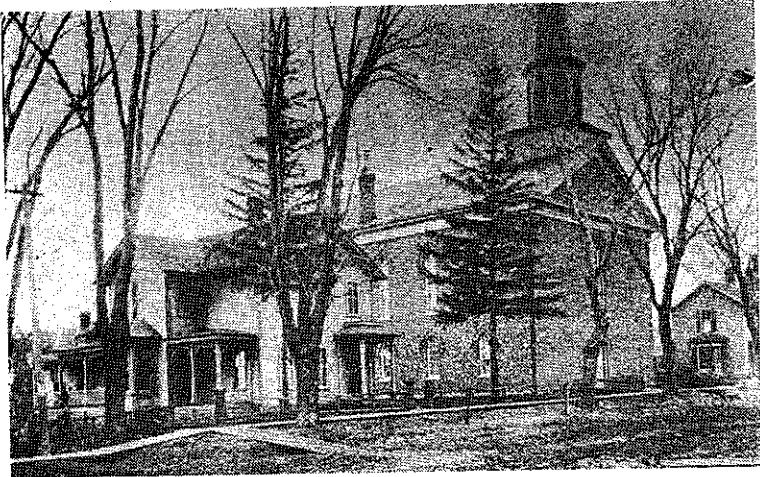
There has been a spirit of fellowship from the beginning between the Presbyterian and the Methodist churches and each has played an important role in the life of the other.

## The Covenanter Church



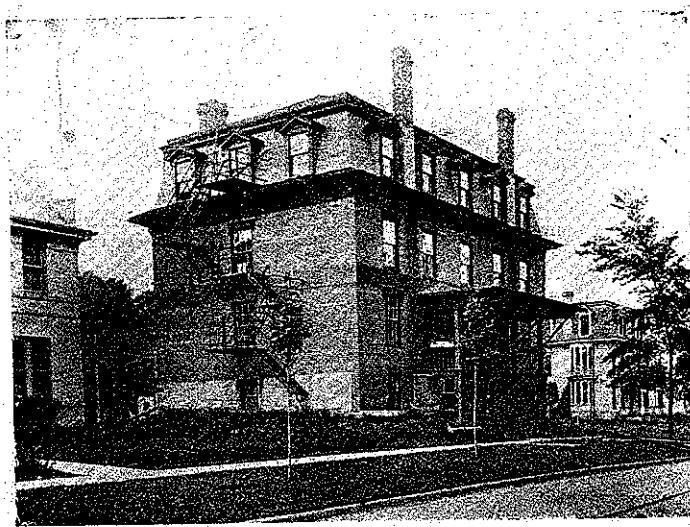
The Covenanter church of 1856 became part of E. E. Mitchell livery barn. The outlines of the church can be plainly seen. The decorative plaster ceiling endured until building was razed in 1914.

## The Second Methodist Church



The second Methodist church was completed in 1865 and razed in 1899. The parsonage on the corner was built in 1874. It was remodeled, and moved to the north side of town. It is now the home of Tom Meredith.

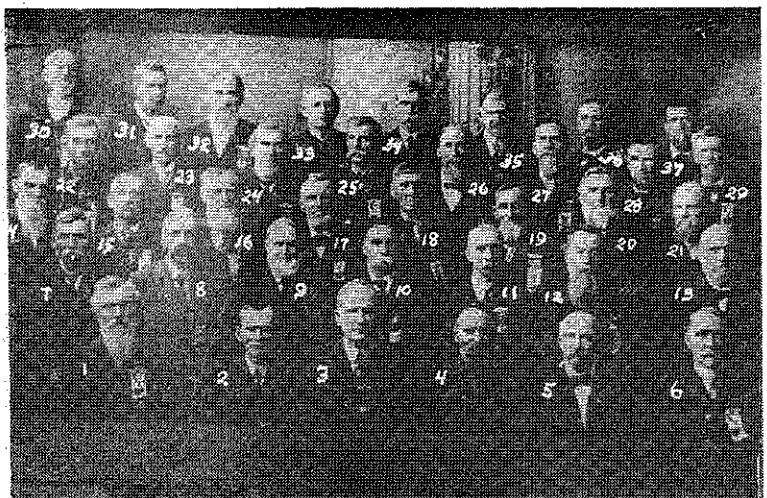
## Guild Hall



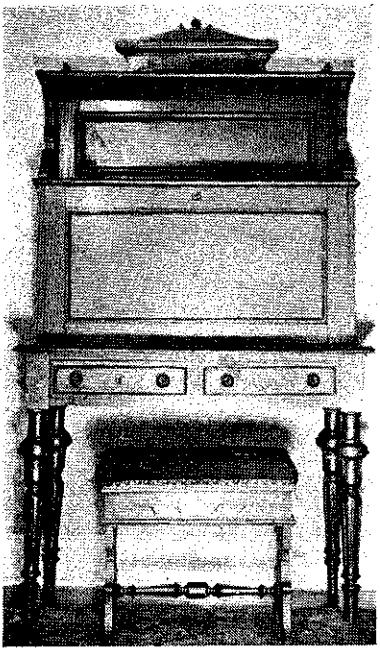
This picture of Guild Hall, now a college dormitory. For years Mount Vernon's mystery was "Who built Guild Hall?" Mrs. Ford's letters revealed it was built by Elder Bowman almost a century ago and was the town's first hotel. This was operated by Mr. and Mrs. Elijah L. Guild from 1868 to his death in 1904. In the old register when Cornell took over were many famous names. Among them was that of Lillian Russell, who at one time was a guest here while visiting her sister, Hattie Leonard, a piano teacher at Cornell 1881-'85.

What old timer can forget Mrs. Guild's good food, or the hack drawn by one bay and one white horse, driven by Mr. Guild or his son Relly? Truly this old three-storied building with its wide veranda in front and broad stairway leading up to it, was a vital part of Mount Vernon's life for many years.

**W. C. Dimmitt Post, No. 400**  
**Mount Vernon, Iowa, 1900**



- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 John W. Eyestone    | 20 William N. Chaffee  |
| 2 Noah B. Sersh       | 21 Joseph G. Wheat     |
| 3 James E. Harlan     | 22 Amos Reynolds       |
| 4 George Rogers       | 23 Wallace M. Moore    |
| 5 Gilbert A. Rundell  | 24 John I. Wade        |
| 6 Amos B. Strothers   | 25 George Johns        |
| 7 William W. Burns    | 26 Adam J. Whitlatch   |
| 8 John Lock           | 27 George W. Young     |
| 9 Thomas C. Brown     | 28 William G. Power    |
| 10 Solomon Geiger     | 29 Francis M. Elrod    |
| 11 Charles Rundell    | 30 George Thompson     |
| 12 Horatio S. Hale    | 31 Perry Thompson      |
| 13 Martin L. Rigby    | 32 Benjamin F. Sheets  |
| 14 Roswell K. Randall | 33 Charles W. Kepler   |
| 15 Joseph V. Myers    | 34 James Guy           |
| 16 Josiah Kemphorne   | 35 William H. Davis    |
| 17 William Gillespie  | 36 J. Burleigh Albrook |
| 18 James Davis        | 37 John L. Simonds     |
| 19 Joseph Bair        |                        |



This old desk built by J. T. Oldham, Mount Vernon's early cabinet maker  
is the property of Mrs. Lois J. Mitchell.

## Chapter 5

### Family Letters, 1854-1863

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These letters, written by Mrs. Benjamin Ford to her parents and sisters in New York during the years 1854-1863, were collected by Margaret Paul decades later while visiting relatives in New York State. They were made available for publication in this volume through the kindness of Mrs. Harriet Clarke of Marshalltown, daughter of the author. The Ann Alida of the letters was the mother of Charles Paul of Mount Vernon and an aunt of Mrs. E. M. Gill. She attended the Seminary at Mount Vernon for a time and also worked in the general store kept by her grandfather, Elias Ford, who moved from Schenectady, New York in 1867—three years after the last of these letters was written. Two years later he traded his stock of goods for a farm in Franklin Township north of town, later known as the Albert Ink farm, where he lived until his death in 1879. He remodeled the original farm home and put a stone basement under the barn.

Mrs. Clarke has deleted the more personal parts of these letters, leaving a vivid first-hand, sometimes home-sick picture of life on the prairies in the Fifties and early Sixties.

October 10, 1854

Dear Parents and All,

After a long and weary journey we arrived at Mt. Vernon Sunday, October 7. Benjamin didn't expect us so soon and was out in the thicket gathering wild plums. They rang the dinner bell, and, knowing what had happened, he was not long reaching the house.

Our journey to Chicago was tiresome and uneventful. The girls got very tired and wanted "To go back East." When we reached Chicago a cholera epidemic was raging. Father Ford took us to a tavern and wouldn't allow us to leave our room while he bought a wagon and two fine black horses. As you know we loaded our household goods and came by the Erie Canal by way of the Great Lakes to Chicago. Father went to the kitchen and personally supervised the scalding of our dishes and preparation of our food which was principally crackers and boiled milk. It was three rather wearisome days before he had completed his purchases and had our goods loaded. You can well imagine how happy we were to end such an unhappy experience, Ann Alida and Mary chattering all the way "Now we'll see Papa." Some of the roads were terribly rough and some days we drove until after dark to reach a tavern, and often drove for hours

without seeing a house. Mt. Vernon is a pretty village, built on rising ground with lots of hazel brush and plum thickets at the edge of town.

The prairies are still beautiful. It seems so strange to see them stretch for miles and miles. You cannot imagine such a sight. They still look beautiful in the October sunlight and, in the spring, they tell me they are covered with masses of wild flowers. (I have one pressed that Father sent his mother 92 years ago). It being Sunday when we arrived, our wagon was left in the barn yard and the horses got in and ate the cane bottoms out of our chairs. I felt badly about it, but it couldn't be helped. Monday we moved to Mr. Bowman's tavern; it is built of brick and is very warm and convenient.

We received your letter Friday, also one from Mother Ford. Our health is exceedingly good at present and the girls are as merry as crickets. I never saw children break off from fruit so easily. We were visiting Mrs. Ash Thursday and she was peeling some apples for pie and the Ash children and mine stood around eating the peelings. Mr. Ash has a new orchard just beginning to bear. Apples are very scarce and, if you can find them, they are worth \$1.50 per bushel.

Game is very plentiful here of all kinds, quail, prairie chickens, and squirrel. The day Father Ford started home, Mr. Bowman shot fifteen pigeons, three quail, and a prairie chicken. There are some wild turkeys and over by the river there are plenty of deer, but not many here. Sarah wrote that she wished to know what we had for our first meal when we commenced to keep house. We had biscuits, butter, smoked beef, plum sauce and tea, and made out very well. You asked how our goods carried. They came through fine. There wasn't a scratch on the highboy, but the stove was broken and we had to use Mrs. Willet's stove until ours was mended.

#### 1856

I like this place very well—if only some of you were here. We have four boarders; they are making brick and burning lime and they earn \$1.25 per day. The soil here is very rich. It is no more to be compared to New York land than the sand plains to the Mohawk flats. The cheapest land in Mt. Vernon can be bought for \$18.00 per acre and lots are selling for \$75.00 each. There is a farm for sale here within a quarter of a mile from Lisbon that can be bought for \$20.00 per acre. Benjamin and I went to look at it. It has a good dwelling, frame barn,—a good one for this country. It is well fenced with rails—some of them nine feet high. It has 100 acres under cultivation and 46 acres of timber, principally oaks, and is situated along the Davenport road. There is government land in Linn, Benton, and Tama counties.

Henry A. Collin arrived here Monday. Dr. Carhart arrived here over two weeks ago, but his goods haven't come. Your box hasn't come yet and I am feeling uneasy about it. Benjamin has written to Rock Island, but has not had an answer. He wants to thresh his grain before he goes to the river. When Dennison came, Mother Ford sent a vest pattern of black brocade satin for Benjamin, a beautiful collar and a gingham apron for me. James Ford sent Ann Alida and Mary each a McGuffey primer. They are very much pleased with them; Ann Alida already reads and Mary knows her A B C's. Also Mother and Father Ford sent the girls each a little rocking chair and they have already received Fanny and Rebecca's dressed dolls. I wish you could see how happy they are with them as they rock them in their little chairs. Henry A. Collin arrived here Monday. He is Father Ford's cousin. He has been all through Illinois and northeastern Iowa. He and two other men were out on the prairie four days, slept in their wagon, and shot game. He said that he bought tea and crackers and other food in Dubuque and when he left he hired a wagon and "left for the wilderness," and at times were forty miles from any habitation. He likes it here as well as any place he has seen, and thinks of buying here so as to have benefit of the schools. Father, if you will sell and come here, you can buy a scholarship for \$60.00 and send one of the children at a time as long as this institution lasts—and each one of the family can receive a good education.

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I don't believe I have written you how different the holidays are here than at home. Christmas is more like the Fourth of July; they fire off guns and anvils and at night send up fire balls. People don't spend Christmas here as they do in New York; instead of "Merry Christmas" and "Happy New Year" their greeting is "Christmas gift," and "New Year's gift"; and you don't see any hot toddy or liquor of any kind, which I think is a fine change. We attended an oyster supper at Mr. Camp's; there was also one at Mc-Kane's. We had a temperance lecture at the church by Mr. St. John of Delhi. Before the lecture started the house was crowded and they could not all be seated. He had them either laughing or in tears. The next night he lectured at Church Town (Lisbon). Mr. Collin went hunting yesterday and brought in a nice mess of quail; just dressed the breasts of the fowl and threw the rest away. He brought a shot gun with him, leaving his rifle and a large trunk in Chicago,—only bringing a satchel with him.

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We have all been down with chills and fever. I was so terribly sick that I thought I never would live through it. My things were destroyed more by hired help than all the time that I've kept house. Our girl went home Monday, saying that she would be back the next

day and Benjamin had to coax her to return with him. The next morning she burned her hand while pouring coffee and went straight home without giving the children and me our breakfast. The children were crying and I was just beginning to eat, and we had six boarders. As soon as possible Benjamin took care of us and started out for another girl, and Maria Birdsall kindly came and it took her the entire morning to carry out mouldy food from the cellar and wash the dishes that had been accumulating. Then Benjamin got another girl seven miles beyond Tipton, but in a few days she got homesick and left for home. Just as soon as I feel better and up awhile, I come down with the chills again. It is a cold, blustery day. I have been shut in so long that I long to get out again. I do not feel as homesick as I did, but I long to see you all again. I am still very weak, and instead of going to church with Benjamin, I thought I would write you again. It is a fine growing morning and our garden is looking fine. We have had several meals of radishes and salad. The prairies are green and beautiful and the wheat is beginning to head. . . . It is all enclosed, the windows are in, and the doors hung. We think that we shall be able to move by the last of the month as the carpenter work is done except the clothes presses and the stoop.

Sarah Birdsall got here Tuesday. She left Schenectady on Tuesday and was only eight days on the road. She said that she was treated very kindly at every stopping place. She visited us a week, then left for Burlington. I think that you would like it here. The people seem to dress better than when we first came. Alfred Rigby said it was owing to the influence of the New York people, and Mrs. Vanderbilt said it was a good thing so they could see how they ought to live.

Today we had chicken and dumplings for dinner,—the nicest fat hens. Benjamin paid a quarter apiece for them. If Benjamin had more time, he would have taken some of them to the fair. I've had some pretty hard days since I last wrote you. When the emigrants got here, I had nearly twenty to care for. Benjamin bought 770 pounds of pork for \$2.75 per hundred. I made 13 gallons of lard and we have bacon and hams and a lot of such nice sausage. I had no casings and was not able to stuff any,—fried it down in jars and pans, also head cheese, heckies, and souse. Mother Ford sent us a box; it contained a dozen window shades, a lot of yarn, and a beautiful collar, two pairs of knitted socks for Benjamin, a nice pair of pillows, a sack of coffee, a box of all kinds of spices and one of saleratus, some little cake pans and a large one and a little iron kettle—the old-fashioned kind—and some calico, a piece of wall paper with which I papered my wood box. How we enjoyed opening all the packages!

Prices in land are advancing. Mt. Vernon's lots are selling for \$75.00. Benjamin is talking of buying an unimproved prairie farm.

He has already bought 15 acres of timber adjoining Vanderbilt's. There has been more buying and selling in Mt. Vernon than any time since we came. Property is changing hands very fast. Mr. Bowman has sold the tavern and one of his lots; Rigby is selling out and Isaac Green has sold. Mr. Ash has rented his farm for \$500.00 a year and intends building a new home. I will send you this letter by Mr. Bowman, as he intends to start for home tomorrow,—it will reach you sooner than by mail. He likes it here and is returning to try and interest Bishop Hamlin to raise funds to build a college and try and get him to come here.

The girls have had the mumps but are well again. Ann Alida grows tall and slender and her hair is getting black, while Mary is short and fat.

Nearly all the New Yorkers have sterling spoons and, like ourselves, use them only for company,—and for everyday use we use our copper ones that we always have to scour with brick dust or they taste brassy. What is left of my nice pans I scour with ashes, but they are not as bright as they were. Have just finished ironing and am quite tired. Had eight shirts besides the girls' and my clothing.

I have made a dress and a pair of pants for Benjamin. When you write, please don't leave so much blank and tell us all the neighborhood news.

You have asked me about Chris's and Henrietta's goods. She had a feather bed, one straw tick of factory muslin, two pairs of pillow cases and a pair of factory sheets and a pair of homespun flannel blankets, three quilts and three light comforts, one brown spun table cloth and two towels, but no sign of a bed valance, a stove, china tea set, and a set of knives, forks, and spoons,—two cotton gowns and two caps.

In my last letter I wrote for a new winter bonnet,—you needn't send it as I took my old one to Birdsall's and had it made over. But I wish you would send me a Sunday dress, something that is fashionable but not too expensive. You will never know how much we enjoyed the dried apples that you sent us. There is no fruit of any kind to be had except wild plums, crab apples, and blackberries. How we miss the many varieties that we had at home. While I know this is a fine country, I still get homesick at times, especially during an attack of the ague,—and can hardly endure it, thinking how far away from you and that I may never see you again. I never want to be buried here. A young man at the seminary died at Camps' early in the morning and was buried in the afternoon.

Whenever I get a letter, before I open it, I sit and think, "That has been in some of their hands." The girls are always as pleased as we are when one comes and always want to hear it read. I wish that you would send us your daguerreotypes; you don't know what a sat-

isfaction it would be to have them. We have Father and Mother Ford's and it seems as though they could speak to us.

I have my new rag carpet down. Benjamin put plenty of straw under it and our parlor is very comfortable. Benjamin has his corn all gathered and the barn built. The New Yorkers are all well and Dr. Carhart has all that he can do. I have gathered twenty quarts of hazel nuts and Benjamin has two large sacks of walnuts. Thanksgiving we had all the New Yorkers here and I roasted a turkey and two chickens. We spent a very pleasant day and I wish you had been with us. You asked if we had dried fruit. There was no plums this year, but plenty of blackberries and I dried all that I could for pies and preserved some. I was at a neighbor's and she had just bought a few apples from a man passing through. She gave us a couple. Ann Alida cut one in two and gave Mary half. Mary only ate part of hers and cut the remainder in little pieces and put them in the buttery—she said for her birthday party which is two days away. She asked her father what he was going to give her on her birthday and he told her a roast chicken, but they always want a birthday cake.

We have sold our house and corner lot for \$1200.00 and have moved out on the prairie in a one room house. We are pretty crowded. Chris is building our new house. The cellar wall is laid and the frame is up. We don't build as high on the prairie as in town. There will be one large room, bedroom, buttery, clothes press and hall on the first floor and two rooms upstairs. It's only a story and a half. The reason we moved before the house was finished, it was too far for Benjamin to go night and morning. Chris's live in a nearby shack. When her baby was born, I took care of her, saving them both bills for Doctor and hired girl. Ann Alida cares for the baby like an old grandmother. As our timber is near, Benjamin is busy getting out rails and posts for fencing. We planted a lot of walnut and locust seeds. We have two fat hogs to butcher and so far we have plenty to eat. I spend all my spare time knitting socks, mittens, and stockings for the children. Since moving here I imagine that we shall see very little of Peter Cartright, as he always stopped for a visit.

At times, I felt rather badly about moving again, but I believe it is for the best. Benjamin thinks that he can make more by improving his prairie farm than by staying in town. Mother Ford sent Ann Alida and I each a delaine dress. They are striped and very rich colors. When I make them, I'll send you a sample. Also Miss Pratt sent me an autographed copy of one of her books. The girls are very pleased over the candy that Fanny sent them. It is so far to town, I fear that we'll not be able to get in to church until spring.

We have killed our hogs and have such a nice lot of meat. Benjamin is making a smoke house so we can cure and smoke hams and

shoulders for our summer meat. Have seen no dried beef since we used the last that we brought from the east. Benjamin says that we'll have some next year. Before we came out here Benjamin offered Mr. Ash \$45.00 per acre for his lots. There are also ten acres of white oak timber; it lays just two miles from here and can be bought for two hundred dollars—and timber is very scarce here. Before we moved here the Collins' were all settled in their new home. She is a tiny woman and a fine housekeeper and cook. Chris and Henrietta visited them Sunday.

We had a terrible blizzard last week. The snow came spattering on the stove and the wind blew, and the roof creaked like it would go every minute. I was nearly frightened to death. We were nearly a mile from the nearest neighbor and would have been lost if we had tried to reach them. We decided if the roof blew off that we would get under the bed and wait for morning, but providence spared us,—but we had no sleep. The barn where Benjamin keeps his horses was half a mile away and he fought his way through five foot drifts to feed them. But as much as we suffered, we fared better than many who were caught away from home and soon found the roads and trails blotted out—and several lost their lives. It was hard on birds and wild game and hundreds were frozen. Just as soon as the roads were open, Benjamin moved us to Mt. Vernon, but it will be some time before he can bring in the cattle and feed. The snow is very deep. Fred Staab, whose place is near ours, is working for us. He has a brother Chris.

It's spring again and the cruel winter is at an end. We moved out on the prairie into our new house two weeks ago. It is still un-plastered, but will have it done as soon as the crops are all in. I planted cabbage and tomato seed in boxes in April and the plants are large enough to set out. I have been working very hard, getting settled, and a big wash and ironing, and making garden.

The wheat begins to look green and beautiful. Our garden is up and it looks like we would have an abundance of early things. Benjamin has planted both kinds of melons. Tell the girls they must let me know how they make dresses for little girls. I have had my summer bonnet made over and it looks very nice. It is fine white straw trimmed in white and it cost \$5.00.

You asked me if I am making cheese. I don't think that I'll undertake it until next summer. We milk eight cows and butter is 25 cents per pound. Ham and lard are 20 cents and very scarce. Chris has only what we give him, but we have hired help and use much more than usual.

We had an unusual experience last Sunday. We went to church in the morning and were invited home with friends living about four miles from here, but we were unable to accept on account of Benjamin's leaving a young colt in the barn. It was terribly hot and after dinner Benjamin lay down on the floor by the front door and went to sleep. Ann Alida and the hired girl started for the prairie to hunt for wild strawberries. The girls became frightened at the appearance of the sky and ran for home just as the pans and pails began to fly around the yard. Benjamin and I ran out in time to see a black funnel shaped cloud in the distance. We escaped the fury of the storm, but the home where we were invited was badly damaged and some of their stock was killed and some of their friends were killed. A baby was found a mile from home in a field sound asleep in its cradle. A stove was blown a long way from home with partly baked corn bread in the oven.

Spring has come again. We have a fine garden—have had salad and radishes and the early peas are in bloom; wish you could see our little grove around the house. The little seedlings have grown very fine and Benjamin has transplanted them on the north, west, and east side of the house. I have been working the garden and am going to have fritters for dinner. We have nearly 100 chickens and they are laying now.

We are all well and it's fine to be out in the spring sunshine. We do not see the New York people so often but visit the Collins as often as we can. Chris made Dr. Carhart a jumper; he paid \$12.00 for it. Father and Mother are still talking of coming here. Father will come perhaps this year; he wants to start up in the mercantile business. Ashs are living in their new home. Last fall Benjamin sold his wheat in Davenport; he got \$1.35 per bushel for it. His oats and corn he sold in Mt. Vernon for 25 cents per bushel.

Bishop Hamlin raised \$75,000.00 back east and he and the Elder are hauling lumber from Dubuque with oxen and when the corner stone is laid, he says that all our names will be placed in it.

I made a couple gallons of mince meat last week. I used dried apples and it's very good; how I wished for a gallon of your boiled cider.

I wish you wouldn't worry about the Indians. We occasionally see them when they come to the house begging, and, while they are always dirty, they seem harmless, and since that terrible time at Spirit Lake the government has them pretty well subdued. One sees quite a number of log cabins, but everyone is now building frame and brick houses.

I have just made a nice kettle of soft soap. We still have plenty to use until this ages. I have about the same laundry equipment as we had at home; a barrel and pounder, tubs and a boiler. The washings are always large and I wash for the hired man. In the winter I turned my homespun linen sheets as they were beginning to wear thin and I don't like factory ones. One of my neighbors taught me how to knit those shaggy mittens. I made Benjamin a pair for Sunday out of the white yarn, with pink roses and green leaves on the back.

We have looked forward to the coming of the railroad. It has been such a long time getting to Mt. Vernon and when the day finally came crowds of people were here for the event. Ann Alida was attending a tea given by her Sunday School teacher, and from an upper floor window at the Seminary they watched the first train pull in. Now I know that you and Father will be sure to come and visit us. Benjamin thinks that you can come so easily now and you have plenty of help to leave at home.

Since I last wrote you, we have sold our prairie farm and bought and moved to Linn County. We have a very nice well built frame house, with a cellar under the entire house. It is situated eight miles north of Mt. Vernon. There is a large kitchen with a bedroom and buttery off it, two front rooms with a hall between and two rooms upstairs. It is painted white inside and out; two rooms are papered, though I shall do more papering soon. There is a fine new barn with a side hill basement under the whole building. A little brook runs near it; there are thickets of wild fruit near the house. There is plenty of timber and we are well sheltered. Benjamin says it is a fine stock farm. We wanted to make maple sugar but were too busy. Benjamin has sown his wheat and oats and is plowing for corn.

We, too, hear a lot of war talk, but hope it never comes. It doesn't seem possible that there cannot be a peaceful settlement other than brother fighting against brother.

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Now that it has started, the excitement is growing less. The men are gone and the women and children are left to cope with the situation alone. Maybe it doesn't sound patriotic, but I was glad that Benjamin wasn't accepted. Food is scarce as the soldiers must be clothed and fed. The women work in the fields doing the men's work, Ann Alida and I with them. We hardly see real coffee, but make it of parched barley. No sweetening but honey and molasses; there is very little flour and we live principally on corn bread and mush. God grant that it will soon be over.

It is a beautiful day and so many birds are singing I can hardly stay in the house. Have been busy making garden and trying to clean

one room a day. We have more cows now and I shall soon start making cheese. It is a good price and we can get 20 cents per pound for it.

There is a school only a mile away.

We miss our church but have Sunday School every two weeks; we have preaching services.

This is a friendly neighborhood and the children like the school and they have a Lyceum every Wednesday night. Benjamin and the children always attend. They carry a lantern and candles with which to light the room. Two weeks ago they had a play, "Ten Nights in a Barroom" and Ann Alida took part in it. There was such a crowd that they couldn't all get in. We had company three days last week. I had them put their wraps in the downstairs bedroom and they admired my "Bird of Paradise" coverlet very much.

The children and I are very busy sewing carpet rags. I have attended several quilting parties and think I shall have one soon. Ann Alida has started a charm string and wishes for you to send her some buttons.

I emptied and refilled all the straw ticks and Benjamin tightened all the bed ropes; the valances are all ironed ready to put on. It's quite a good start in house cleaning.

I think we have a very nice house. There are oak trees in the yard and Benjamin is setting out evergreens and Mother Ford has sent shrubs and flower seeds.

While attending the out-of-door commencement last week, we witnessed quite a dramatic episode. We were seated listening to the orations—a friend of Ann Alida's was speaking. Suddenly we were startled by an uproar on the grounds. Quite a few of the boys were there, several of them still in uniform—and some Copperheads were wearing their buttons. This act was resented by the soldiers and a bitter fight in which both men and women took part. The clothing was torn from their backs, and, as the fight became general, the president dismissed both class and audience. I hope never to see anything like it again.

## Chapter 6

### Civil War Days

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With the election of President Abraham Lincoln in 1860 the South was aroused to sudden and determined action. Beginning on December 20, 1860, the states seceded one by one, organized the confederacy, and opened fire on Fort Sumter April 12, 1861.

On April 15th the President issued a call for 75,000 troops for ninety-day service. War Governor Kirkwood on April 17th then called for a full company of seventy-eight men from Linn County. The feeling in Mount Vernon, with a population numbering 760, was intense and by noon of April 19th, 35 men had signed a muster roll. On the twenty-first 40 volunteers went to Cedar Rapids. Of these, 27 were accepted for the first company from Linn County, the remainder were placed in a second regiment.

The First Iowa was mustered into the United States service in one month after the appeal was made and Linn County was represented by a full company.

Charles A. Page, a Cornellian of 1856 and editor of the "Mount Vernon News" for two years, who became a famous Civil War correspondent, speaking in general terms of the feeling toward the conflict at the time considered it "an error to say that men were eager for the fray, they went rather with something like solemnity, cheerfully determined and earnest."

Hard times had struck the state of Iowa and the college in 1857, but the spring of 1861 seemed to promise better times. The issues of the coming struggle were fully discussed and understood. In May and November of 1855 and April 1856, four debate questions argued in the Iowa Conference Seminary Club Society indicated the students were alive to the dangers of disunion.

I. Resolved: "That the signs of the times indicate a dissolution of the Union."

II. "That the present political spirit agitating the people of the United States is ominous of evil to our government;"

III. "That the dissolution of the Union would be favorable to the North" (negative winning); and IV. "That a state has a right to secede from the Union" (another decision for the negative).

The first regiment sent out had a company from Linn County and one-third of the names on its muster rolls were Cornell boys. The first full company to go from this township into the three years service also had one-third of its membership from Cornell College;

the second full company from the township in 1862 also had a like number. In the great crisis of 1864 almost a *full company* were college men. In 1862-3 only eleven men remained in the four college classes—and two of these were cripples.

As some two hundred citizens and students stood waiting one day on Main Street for marching orders from Captain Potts to attend a war meeting in Lisbon (among them young Harry Rood, Milo P. Smith, Charley Kepler, Emerson Young, Dick Haylett, Lieutenant J. D. Ferguson, and others)—a demonstrative lad in the ranks near Ferguson asked "Why don't you shout?" Solemnly Ferguson answered, "It's deeper down than that." Deeper? Yes. A few months later on April 6, 1862, a bullet at Shiloh went crashing through the young Cornellian's heart.

In the year 1859 John A. B. Putman, a Mount Vernon boy, graduated from Cornell. The family moved to Texas the spring before the war began. A strong debater in college in the Amphictyon Society, Putman prepared for the bar, but could not gain admittance in Texas because of his refusal to take an oath to support the Confederacy. Afterwards, however, he was conscripted and, thinking to make the most of the situation, he consented to accept a captaincy in the Confederate Army. After one of the first skirmishes in Missouri he learned that one of his prisoners was a former "Cornell Boy" and a fellow Amphictyon. (One account claims it was John G. Safely, Cornell 1859—a very close friend, but proof is lacking of the assertion.) Putman took him several miles from camp, gave him a horse, and started him for the Union lines. Cornell loyalty and friendship proved stronger than official duty.

It seems difficult to believe there could be southern sympathizers in Mount Vernon in those years. "Copperheads" they were called because of the pin they wore. Yet disloyal hands tore down a large flag which the women of the town, under the leadership of Mrs. Olive Fellows and a student, John O. Foster, had made and hung before the Methodist parsonage on Main Street. Undaunted, the women made another, and "Old Glory" floated again to the breeze without further casualty.

President S. M. Fellows being too ill to conduct the college commencement on June 25, 1863, William F. King acted for him, awarding degrees in ex tempore Latin. The peaceful audience listening to student orations became an angry mob when disturbances broke out between patriots and copperheads. John Wade, a loyal veteran on furlough, rebuked a young woman who was flaunting a copperhead pin. Naturally he refused her dare to take it off, but instead suggested some young woman might act in his place. Lida McKay, a loyal visitor, who had already lost a brother in the war, accepted the challenge. A great disturbance followed, the pin was removed,

and a purse then made up for the ruined clothes. During the struggle a farmer north of town gave a loud yell for Jeff Davis and was promptly knocked down by another Federal soldier, then run off the college grounds. In his "Reminiscences" Dr. King added, "The year closed the most remarkable and saddest commencement of which I have any knowledge." Added sorrow came to the school and community by the death of President Fellows the following day.

Reverend Rufus Parsons, a student of the time, is authority for still another story illustrating the tenseness of the period. On the evening before the 1863 commencement day, great excitement ran through the town over the report that Copperheads were heard at the Stone Quarry. Upon investigation the enemy proved to be college boys practicing orations for the next day.

As the war continued and more men were called, those at home waited anxiously for news from the front. The nearest telegraph line was at Davenport, from which the news was relayed to Iowa City. It was not until 1868 that telegraphic communication was extended to Mount Vernon. History records that the editors of the newspapers were not sensationalists. With very few exceptions Iowa's newspapers were loyal. Mount Vernon subscribed to no city papers, with one exception. East of the High School building, near the creek a dark, mysterious man built his cabin, keeping aloof from his neighbors who suspected he might be a member of the horse-thief gang that once terrorized Cedar County. But with the coming of the war people flocked to his little shop at ten each morning to hear the news from his daily paper. As they grew to know him better, a new respect took the place of the suspicion with which he had been regarded earlier.

On August 10, 1861 Mount Vernon suffered most severe losses at the battle of Wilson's Creek—(called "Oak Grove" by the Confederates). The death of Brigadier General Lyon on this day was not in vain, for through him the swift movement of secession in Missouri was checkmated. These men who fell (among them Richard Hayzlett) were the first offerings of Iowa in the Civil War. The victory coming so shortly after the disaster at Bull Run gave renewed courage. "Remember Wilson's Creek and the immortal First Iowa," Governor Kirkwood repeated to those who followed them in the service.

The Thirteenth Iowa Regiment Company A was enrolled at Mount Vernon September 12 to 20, 1861, with John Quincy Wilds chosen as its first captain.

A first hand account of the departure October 10, 1861 of this first company to go from Mount Vernon and vicinity is graphically told in a reprint clipping from the "Mount Vernon News," a pioneer publication of the town. "From early dawn the town was

astir. Farmers, citizens, soldiers, students—all mingled together in the general stir and expectation of event. At length the hoarse roll of the drum and the shrill notes of fife was heard, and Company A of the Thirteenth Iowa Regiment formed for the last time in their long double files along our streets. In its ranks were representatives of nearly all the pioneer families of this vicinity.

At half past ten A.M. the soldiers were drawn up in front of the Central House where they were to receive a new and beautiful banner to be presented to them in behalf of the ladies of Mount Vernon by Miss Birdsall. Miss Birdsall appeared on the platform bearing the "Flag of Stars" on a staff surmounted by a gilt Eagle, and presenting it to Captain Wilds, delivered an eloquent and patriotic address.

"On behalf of the company, Captain Wilds responded in a brief, eloquent and patriotic speech, pledging themselves to be true to the sacredness of that flag. The Star Spangled Banner was then sung by the choir, which was followed by successive cheering on the part of the soldiers. After dinner nearly all our citizens accompanied our boys to the depot, where, amid smiles and tears, farewell greetings and loud huzzas, the train bore them off to join the grand army of the Union. Originally there were rank and file 99 men. Additional recruits numbering 17 joined before May 1, 1864. The company gave to the regiment in which it served one lieutenant colonel, two adjutants, one quartermaster, and two sergeant majors. It was mustered into the service of the United States for three years, November 1, 1861. Training at Benton Barracks, St. Louis that winter they fought their first battle at Shiloh April 6, 1862, where many were killed."

They marched by land or traveled by cars and boats more than 8000 miles through ten southern states and their banners were unfurled in five southern capitals.

The total casualties of Company A in killed, wounded, discharges, prisoners, and deserters (two—"over whom we cast a soldier's silent mantle of charity") were 89—leaving of the original number (one hundred and sixteen) twenty-seven at the date of mustering out July 21, 1865. Twelve of these bore the scars of battle. Each of the four who died in prisons at Andersonville and Florence, South Carolina were recruits—the veterans came out terribly broken, but they *lived*.

The second captain, Justin C. Kennedy, later Lieutenant Colonel of the Regiment, at the beginning of the war was agent of the railroad company at Mount Vernon station and was among the first to put down his name for enlistment. On the morning of February

17, 1865 in a rickety old flat boat, repaired for the occasion, he led a gallant band of his regiment, about eighteen in all, with two staff officers of General W. W. Belknap, across the rocky channel of the Congaree River in front of Columbia, South Carolina, dashed through the streets of the city, and, regardless of danger, aided by his brave comrades, flung out the flag of his regiment from the dome of the Capitol building of the state where secession was born. That flag, properly inscribed, is now among other victory flags in our own State Capitol building. When he became Lieutenant Colonel Kennedy on January 1, 1865, Charles W. Kepler was promoted as Captain January 9, 1865.

The Twenty-fourth Iowa Infantry was called the "Temperance" regiment. Its colonel, Eber C. Byam (Mount Vernon) was a Methodist preacher, as were others of its officers. It was organized in August 1862 at Muscatine and mustered into service there September 18, 1862. In camp at this place many of its men died from measles. They spent the winter at Helena, Arkansas where the dampness left but six hundred well men, then joined Grant's army in the Vicksburg campaign. Their first battle was at Port Gibson May 1, 1863. Mount Vernon suffered severe losses at Champion Hills (May 16, 1863). It was after this battle that Colonel Byam resigned and Captain Wilds who had resigned from the Thirteenth Infantry, Company A, in April 1862, was appointed lieutenant colonel and later became the colonel of the regiment.

The winter was spent in garrison duty in Mississippi and Louisiana. Many men were lost in the battle at Sabine Cross Roads June 13, 1864. Joining Sheridan's Army of the Shenandoah, they took part in the battle of Winchester September 19th. It is said that Winchester changed hands seventy-two times and Virginia Military Institute sacrificed many of its sixteen-year old boys at this time.

The day seemed hopelessly lost, when a squad of a dozen men under Captain W. T. Rigby of the Twenty-Fourth Iowa came up to a battery, about faced, and gave three rousing cheers. Soon whole battalions were rallied and ready to move back over the valley from which they had been driven. Seventy-four officers and men killed and wounded was the penalty paid by the Twenty-Fourth for unusual bravery at Winchester. It was here that Adjutants Dan Camp and Charles L. Byam were severely wounded.

On October 19, 1864, while striving to reform and hold the shattered ranks at Cedar Creek in view of the mountains of his native place, Fulton County, Pennsylvania, Lieutenant Colonel Wilds was taken from the field mortally wounded. He died a month later at Winchester and was brought home for a soldier's burial to the place

of his enlistment. His was the first funeral service held in the Methodist Church of 1864. His death and those of his wife, Rowena Camp Wilds, and the two little daughters, Edie and Matie, all occurred within two months, none knowing that the others had died. "No Hour of History" relates that the wife died in the arms of the three big brothers home on furlough, Daniel, James (Jim) and William Camp.

In 1865 the Twenty-Fourth became a part of Sherman's Army and was finally mustered out July 17, 1865.

The forming of the "Graybeard Regiment," the Thirty-Seventh Iowa Infantry, was a wonderful expression of the loyalty and devotion on the part of men who had already sent sons and grandsons to the war. Members of this regiment enlisted December 15, 1862 from Linn, Benton, and Black Hawk counties. All its members were over forty-five years of age and some were even sixty. Mount Vernon gave three patriots to this regiment, Corporal Richard Harbert (56), early Mount Vernon carpenter, Robert Daugherty, and Samuel Westlake. They were assigned to guard and garrison duty and were mustered out with special thanks from the government.

The women of Mount Vernon, as in neighboring towns, were ever ready to cheer and encourage at this period of heartache and broken homes. The "Family Letters" written by Mrs. Benjamin Ford, briefly told of the scarcity of food, as the soldiers needed to be clothed and fed. In very many instances the women took the places of the men who had gone to the battlefields and worked in the fields.

Gettysburg July 1-2-3, brought the turn of the tide. With Vicksburg falling on July 4, 1863 also, the last hope of the Confederacy was gone. From then on they could only hope that the North might grow tired of the struggle. Truth or fiction, it is told that Eliza J. Spangler, a Mount Vernon girl of the Cornell class of 1865, went joyously through the streets ringing a dinner bell when the victory at Gettysburg was announced.

On April 15, 1865, the front page of the Chicago Tribune carried these captions: "The End—The Old Flag Vindicated—Lee and his whole army surrendered yesterday. The officers and men to be paroled and go home until exchanged. All arms, artillery, and munitions of war delivered to Grant. Officers to retain side arms, horses and baggage."

This news brought gladness to a nation wearied with the long struggle. The war was over. The Union was saved.

It is not possible to speak at too much length of the services given by our town's boys in blue. All distinguished themselves for bravery,

many suffered patiently, and a number were taken prisoners. The long list of veterans' names in the Appendix tells very little of the sufferings of those men who laid their all on the altar of patriotism.

Levi Mason, (Quartermaster), father of Doctor Kate Mason Hogle, served until July 1863, came home ill and died.

William Warren, father of Mrs. John J. Smyth and Charles Warren, died of malaria on the hospital boat "Nashville," leaving, as did so many others, a brave wife and lonely children to fight the battle of life without him.

Dr. Amos Witter, our surgeon, died from exhaustion on his return home for a furlough, after days and nights of caring for the wounded at Forts Henry and Donelson. William Hayzlett gave all three of his sons to the cause. Edward (Sergeant), wounded July 21, 1864 near Atlanta, died August 14th near Marietta; Richard, wounded at Wilson's Creek, died of wounds and disease contracted in the army, while Joseph, wounded at Corinth, also died from wounds.

Of chaplains Mount Vernon gave her share: Charles W. Coleman, I. K. Fuller, James A. Wilson, and John Hogarth Lozier of the Thirty-Seventh Indiana. Chaplain Lozier's lecture on "Your Mother's Apron Strings" delighted large audiences over the country. With pathos and humor he painted the scenes of camp life and war, influencing lives for Christian living.

Then too there were Colonel Robert Smyth, paymaster in the army and a member of the Territorial Legislature, and the State Senate; also Colonel H. H. Rood, elected president of Crocker's Brigade and for forty-eight years secretary of the Board of Trustees of Cornell College. He shared with Captain Charles W. Kepler the duties of orator of the day in patriotic rallies. At one of the meetings of the Twenty-Fourth Iowa held at Mount Vernon, Albert M. Floyd and Jasper Bloom questioned the source of the pay for the band—eighty-five dollars. "Right here," answered the former Captain as he made out his personal check. He had been severely wounded at Corinth and was with difficulty saved from capture and death by the heroism of Edwin R. Mason and John B. McClaskey of his company, who risked their own lives in taking him from the field.

Brigadier General Granville Moody of the Seventy-Fourth Ohio Infantry was satisfied to spend the last years of his life in the home of his son-in-law and daughter, Dr. and Mrs. Hugh Boyd, and of his own choice lies in our cemetery.

Some special mention should be made of the man who bore the most scars from battle in Company A, J. N. Easterly. Wounded six

times in battles and skirmishes, he still remained with his company until his last battle before Atlanta in July 1864.

James T. Oldham, husband of Sally West, (called Tommy-old-ham by his comrades), took part in every battle in which the regiment was engaged and was one of Lieutenant Colonel Kennedy's men at Columbia, South Carolina.

Long after the close of the war our hearts were touched by the sight of our wounded veterans. Many will recall Wallace Moore, our kindly postmaster with the empty sleeve; also Captain Minott, the genial fisherman and manager of the Palisades, who, when asked how he lost his leg, invariably answered—"Threshing machine—Grant's."

William Smith, one of the founders of the Mount Vernon Bank, who enlisted in Ohio as a boy of sixteen—carried a bullet in his thigh throughout the remainder of his life. These are a few of many who suffered severely from the scars of war.

Nor must we forget R. K. Randall, the carpenter; Horatio Hale, the painter; Goudy, the stockbuyer; Simonds, the pump man; Solomon Geiger, the mail carrier; W. G. Powers, the stationer; Locke, the school janitor; Martin Rigby, the banker; Rufus D. Parsons, greatly loved pastor; James E. Harlan, college president; J. B. Albrook, presiding elder; J. G. Wheat, the drummer, and Thomas Dumont, retired farmer.

On February 12, 1937, Simeon S. Haun, the last surviving veteran in Mount Vernon, died at the age of ninety-six at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Ida Haun Kettleson. Commander of the local Post at the time of its disbanding, he became a commander at Cedar Rapids. He had served throughout the war, been in eleven battles and had been a prisoner at Andersonville.

The W. C. Dimmitt Post 400, organized August 19, 1885, was named for Captain Wilbur C. Dimmitt who died of wounds while a prisoner of war in 1865 and was buried in a national cemetery at Alexandria, Louisiana. Its charter roll numbered twenty-nine members and later increased to one hundred and ten, but finally disbanded in 1936.

For years the war was refought with oratory by many soldiers, but gradually with time the feelings of bitterness softened. Our own Chaplain Lozier emphasized this growing new feeling of brotherhood at the Louisville National Encampment by reciting his own poem "Shake", from which we quote a few fitting lines:

"Now elbow touches elbow, and  
rank keeps pace with rank,  
And South likes "Yankee Doodle,"  
and "Dixie" charms the Yank,  
And thus as peers, adown the years  
we'll march without a break,  
And greet "Old Glory" with our cheers,  
and *Shake, and Shake, and Shake!*"

Early in its history, the Grand Army of the Republic instituted Memorial Day as an occasion to honor those who served in the Union army and navy. A veteran, whose name is unknown, wrote to Adjutant General North P. Chipman and called attention to the custom of his native Germany's people assembling in springtime to scatter flowers upon the graves of their dead. He further urged that the G.A.R. so honor its Union dead. Upon receiving this suggestion, General John A. Logan, then Commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, on May 5, 1868 issued the first order setting aside May 30th as Memorial Day. The first observation of this day in Mount Vernon is recorded in the Mount Vernon Hawkeye of June 3, 1870, which tells of a large crowd gathering at Clark and Hayzlett's Hall at 3 P.M. to pay its willing tributes of gratitude to our dead soldiers. The marshall of the day was R. J. Harbert and the oration at the cemetery was delivered by J. W. Akers. At that time there were twelve soldiers' graves to be decorated in the local cemetery. They were those of Richard Hayzlett, Amos Witter, T. W. S. Hale, Charles Coleman, John Q. Wilds, Clark McCoy, John Archer, Albert Foster, T. L. Smith, John Ide, Levi Mason, and William Camp.

The fourth annual reunion of the veterans of Linn County was held in Mount Vernon on August 29th and 30th, 1888, perhaps the largest and most successful ever held in the county. A most quiet, orderly, and well-behaved assembly of soldiers turned the college campus into a camp. All the business houses and nearly all the homes of the town were decorated, many elaborately. From a beautiful arch on Main Street hung a banner inscribed:—"Welcome—Our Country's Defenders!" "The two drum corps, one from Marion, the other from Cedar Rapids, together with our excellent military band, made things lively in a musical way." Mayor C. W. Kepler in an excellent address of welcome asserted that the township furnished more volunteer soldiers, in proportion to her citizens eligible to military duty, than any other community in the state. Marshall James Smith who was in command was recalled as having had quite an experience in helping run General Morgan out of Ohio. At this reunion also Richard J. Harbert (eighty-two years of age) was introduced. He was

the oldest Grand Army veteran in Iowa and probably in the United States.

A soldier's monument in the Mount Vernon cemetery, stands as a tangible evidence of the town's deep appreciation for the veterans of 1861-1865, whose glorious services are enshrined in the hearts of a grateful people who recall that

"These are the men of Shiloh  
Who pass with footsteps slow.  
A lingering note of the bugle  
Throb of the muffled drum,  
As down the springtime highways  
The old grey soldiers come.  
Only a few more twilights  
On the wavering ranks and thin,  
Then night and folded banners,  
And muskets gathered in."

## Chapter 7

### Early Development in the Incorporated Town

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The 1860's saw the end of the pioneer era and ushered in a boom period common to the settlements that were becoming of age along America's western frontier.

Mount Vernon hailed the arrival of the Chicago and North Western Railway in 1859, as did Cedar Rapids a year later. The trains rolling in from Chicago brought new settlers, new ideas, and products. In the next few years they were to take back corn, wheat, horses, and men for a nation engaged in Civil War.

Veterans returning from the war in 1865 gave impetus to the mushrooming growth of the young village. They brought back with them new skills, vitality, and a firm belief in their own future and that of their country. For forty years they were to constitute the backbone of the community.

Mount Vernon and its vicinity teemed with industry at this time. There was a lime kiln at the foot of East Hill, the ruins of which are still visible. Lumber for the builders was being turned out by the Torrance sawmill, two miles southwest of town, and by William Platner at Ivanhoe. Under Platner's efficient management a large stone quarry began shipping as much as twelve cars of stone a day. From a pit south of town "Billie" Conklin was cutting stone to be used in constructing many of our most prominent buildings.

What history of Mount Vernon could mention the name of "Billie" Conklin without recording his ride? 'Tis as well known locally as that of Paul Revere. It occurred during "Billie's" later years when he was returning home from the fair at Mechanicsville. We are perfectly safe in saying that he was singing because "Billie" always sang after a drink. Seated in his high spring wagon he let his horse "Nigger" wander down the railroad track instead of the road. A west bound freight came along. When the locomotive stopped for water at Lisbon, trainmen discovered "Billie" on his wagon seat on the cowcatcher unhurt. "Nigger" was found grazing along the railroad track back at Mechanicsville. "Billie" is the only person in town who was ever featured in "Iowa Oddities."

At this time the Camp brothers opened a carriage and wagon factory south of Main Street, later moving to a site adjoining the present R. A. Travis garage. Eventually these craftsmen turned out about two hundred prize-winning wagons and surreys per year, which sold for \$175 each. Mike Gutzler had a wagon shop on the

east side of North Washington Street near the present Dilley residence.

There was a tile factory north of the railroad track on property now owned by Rudolph Vodicka. On North Washington Street were wool, flour, and sorghum mills. J. T. Oldham opened a furniture factory near the present site of the former Citizens' State Bank building. Some of his excellent handiwork in the native woods of elm, oak, pine, maple, and especially walnut, may still be seen about town; for example, a beautiful, tall desk in Mrs. Lois Mitchell's home and some chairs in the Hawkeye office. Mattie Oldham used a room of her husband's factory for manufacturing hoop-skirts. Mrs. William Warren, mother of Mrs. J. J. Smyth, did dressmaking in a corner of this same room. N. Spangler had a pottery works on our present Fifth Avenue, North near the Irwin Lacock home. Here were turned out dishes of utility and beauty. The present Williams apartment building was utilized for making hand corn planters. North on Third Avenue where Leroy Stewart now lives was a flour mill run by Jerry and Sam Smyth. There were also a creamery and a laundry.

Such was the prosperous condition of the village in 1869. This was a momentous date in its history, for during that year the city fathers met and after much discussion decided that the growth of their community demanded a civic organization with municipal officers. The following is a copy of the petition:

To the Honorable Daniel Lothian, county Judge of Linn County, Iowa.

The undersigned legal voters of the town of Mount Vernon respectfully petition your honor to take the necessary steps as soon as the law will allow to secure the incorporation of the territory embraced by the original town plat of Mount Vernon and all the additions that have been made thereto, together with all the lots and reservations included by the outermost boundaries of the town, under the corporate name of "Mount Vernon." And H. A. Collins Esq. and H. D. Albright are hereby authorized to attend to our interests in this matter.

S. M. Fellows	William Potts
Adam Knott	E. L. Dodder
R. C. Knott	Francis Saunders
V. D. Gabel	S. J. W. Carley
Jesse H. Holman	D. C. Sawyer
Richard Antles	E. J. Ingham
G. S. Barks	J. A. Conant
G. H. Walker	Stewart Ellison
Henry Tedford, Jr.	Samuel Willhite

Henry Tedford, Sr.	James W. Cook
John D. Oldham	Henry Rogers
W. B. Van Sant	R. B. Hanna
W. B. Armstrong	James McElroy
J. C. Ringer	J. Doron
N. W. McKean	C. S. Gordon
Stephen Cook	Thomas McKean
J. G. Dimmitt	J. P. Knox
R. W. Shaver	William F. King
Henry D. Albright	George Clifford
E. S. Bargelt	William Bagley
A. L. Knott	W. P. Losey
A. C. Tracy	H. C. Neal
R. S. Brooks	James M. Camp
C. W. Taft	William Livingston
J. J. Smith	C. P. Twiss
Alonzo Collins	E. C. Forrest
Thomas Hudson	J. F. Hipp
David Myers	J. P. Gordon
S. H. Bauman	William Brackett
Thomas Clark	J. C. Willhite
John Phillips	G. B. Bowman
G. H. Tedford	C. C. Haskins
W. H. Goudy	

The above petition was filed the eighteenth day of May, 1863.

In June 1869, a vote was taken at the school house resulting in 125 votes for incorporation and 18 against. The county clerk issued an order for incorporation and the election of officers. On August 20th the following men were elected on a "full ticket of prohibition temperance": Mayor, L. L. Pease; trustees, W. H. Goudy, W. B. Armstrong, Dr. J. Doron, D. C. Sawyer, Isaac Wilcox; recorder, S. H. Bauman.

Our new council kept busy. People were clamoring for sidewalks, water courses, and crossings. Preceding the incorporation there was only an occasional board walk in the town. The council requested at once that board sidewalks be built on Main Street. Simultaneously it was confronted with a petition for sidewalks on Jefferson and Washington streets leading to the depot. One petition followed another. By November of 1869 we find our editor making this comment,

"The salary of our mayor is \$0.00 with pickings and abuse—while the salary of our councilmen is \$000.00 with circus tickets and abuse—and the recorder's salary is \$00,000.00 and abuses."

**Mount Vernon Hawkeye Founded in 1869**

One of the greatest assets of a live community is its newspaper. Succeeding the attempt of the college student, William Halleck, in 1856 to establish the *Mount Vernon Index*, there followed in rapid succession the *Weekly News*, the *Mount Vernon News*, the *Advocate*, and the *Franklin Record*. However, the sheriff must have been a more familiar figure in the newspaper offices than the harried editors. One after another they departed for parts unknown leaving behind them piles of pied type and unpaid bills. For a time Mount Vernon was without the blessings of a free press. In 1869 Thomas J. Rice started the Linn County *Hawkeye*. He managed to keep it going for a few months. Then Simon H. Bauman, believing in its possibilities, undertook to publish it as the *Mount Vernon Hawkeye*. Mr. Bauman was such a striking success with his genial manner, diplomacy, and keen vision that the paper immediately prospered. Since its founding it has been in the possession of only two families, the Baumans and the McCutcheons and has become one of the finest small newspapers in the state. The present editor is James W. McCutcheon.

**Mary Platner Akers**

Dotted here and there over town today are a number of stately old brick houses of the Northern colonial-style of architecture, which were erected preceding and during the 1860's. One of them located at the south edge of town on Highway 261 has a particular significance in our centennial year because it was the girlhood home of Mary Platner Akers whom Mount Vernon claims and honors as her centenarian. Mrs. Akers died recently in Des Moines. Mary Platner was born in a log cabin south of Lisbon on Clear Creek before Iowa became a state. The Platner family moved to Mount Vernon in 1865 and bought the brick house built by Augustus Bauman, father of S. H. Bauman. She was graduated from Cornell in 1869, a brilliant student of Latin, Greek, and mathematics. She married J. W. Akers, who as a poor student at the college, when his classmates were making contributions to their alma mater, laid his gold watch on the table and said, "Boys, I have no money, but here is my watch on tick." Mr. Akers was at one time principal of the local high school. For years he was our state superintendent of schools. Then he went to Chicago and was principal of the Walter Scott High School. When Mrs. Akers was ninety years old, she enjoyed reading her Latin and Greek. She expressed herself as always homesick for the brick house behind the pines.

**Civic Improvements in the 1870's**

The council passed four important laws in this decade. The first concerned the sidewalks. By 1872 sidewalks were mandatory. They had to be "laid of one-inch oak or pine timber, laid crosswise on three

white-pine stringers of 2 by 4 inches and said planks to be firmly nailed at each end and in the center to said stringer."

The second measure, ordinance no. 19, accepted the transfer of the cemetery from the Methodist Church. Six years later, July 10, 1878, ordinance no. 22 gave our burial grounds the name of the Mount Vernon Cemetery and put it under the control and management of the town council.

The third ordinance was concerned with fire hazard. The council established a fire district to include property in the original town of Mount Vernon. This was on March 7, 1877. In August, 1879, the town purchased a new fire engine.

The fourth law prohibited "swine from running at large." The following notices give an idea of our town in those days: "Something that should be attended to—the cattle that run your streets and bother those who come to town to trade. The cows eat up every wisp of straw that is left in the sleigh." The dignified and esteemed D. L. Boyd, often referred to as "Bunker Boyd" advertised, "Wanted—information as to the whereabouts of my white muley cow. She has been gone since last Wednesday." Another item was, "Too many runaways—let farmers and all others see to it that their teams are securely hitched or tied before leaving them—the lives of women and children are endangered."

The citizens protected their property individually from such public nuisances by picket fences. The white picket fence and Mount Vernon in the early days are inseparable.

At night the town was very dark. Young ladies were warned to keep off the streets unless in company with an escort. To Horace Alden Miller's parents goes the credit for establishing our first street lamp. It was on the corner of the old "Gigantic" lot, and the Millers kept it lighted at their own expense. It excited a great deal of interest among the townsfolk.

#### Industry in the 1870's

A farmer driving into Mount Vernon in the 1870's would have seen a busy, prosperous Main Street. Passing the school house on the east end of Main Street he would have crossed our present A Avenue. On the left before him stood the Presbyterian Church, next the Post grocery in the building which many recall as Dr. George Carson's office. Farther in the block was the newly opened Van Sant Bank. At the far end of the block was the Knotts and Goudy general store. On his right he passed a low frame house, which is recollect by many today as the home of the George Reynolds family. Some people say that this house was the first store on Main Street, that its proprietor sold liquor until angry citizens forced him to quit. Next to this the farmer passed the Bockstaller residence, perhaps pausing to

sniff the aroma from the Lyle Bakery, which was in the Central House and is known to us as an implement shop. His wife might have peered out at Mrs. Robinson's millinery shop or the Eberhardt picture gallery, but the farmer himself would have glanced past them at the harness shop of Stewart Ellison, a business started in 1859 by that efficient and public-spirited citizen.

Crossing First Avenue the farmer would have seen a solid block of thriving businesses. Looking to the right were the E. T. Gough general store on the original E. D. Waln location, Armstrong and Rood, clothiers, the Oldham furniture company, Dr. Carson's drug store, the James Ford grocery and S. J. W. Carley's grocery. On the left he might have seen a big brick building which had replaced the old hotel, which had burned in 1869. Next came Myers and Carhart's drug store, where Bowie's grocery now stands, the Bockstaller shoe store and two clothing stores, Mauman's and Tedford's. Directly back of Bauman's (the site of the City Meat Market today) was the calaboose, built in 1875. Past the alley were the Collin office and banking business on the right, Ruff's bakery with his barber shop in the basement, W. B. Armstrong's general store, and on the corner, Bauman's residence. To the left along the street were Clark and Hayzlett's hardware, Saunders and Rundell's meat market (beef-steak, three pounds for a quarter with a piece of liver thrown in), the post office, Conrad's boot and shoe store, and Sargeant and Power's book store. Across Second Avenue were Brackett's meat market on the right and Dr. Carhart's office and residence on the left, later the Wolfe building location.

Other business concerns of this time were: Henry's livery stable, Smith, Kennedy and Smith's lumber-yard by the depot, and Frank Hart's nursery on the Joe Verba site. J. T. Rice was an attorney in the town, A. T. Waln, an auctioneer, N. W. McKean a notary, and J. W. Robinson a painter.

Lisbon had a very successful manufacturing concern at this time. The riding plow had been patented by Henry Kynett, and a company financed by the Kynett brothers of Lisbon and Will Power and Henry Collin of Mount Vernon was doing extensive business.

Early copies of the *Hawkeye* throw interesting side lights on the advertising of that time. C. W. Kepler gave "particular attention to the collection of debts." Dr. T. S. Kepler was a physician who received calls in his office for "two hours after sunset." Squire Collins lent money and called himself an "answerer of questions." J. S. Minot, a one-legged war veteran, advertised a temperance restaurant at the Lower Palisades. Eberhardt's picture gallery advised its customers "to preserve the shadow ere the substance fade." Dr. King, president of the college, never failed to have a full quarter-page advertise-

ment of Cornell in the *Hawkeye* showing a wonderful airplane view of the grounds before there were any airplanes.

C. W. Carley recalls a childhood experience of this time. Next to Christmas it was the most exciting day of the year in Mount Vernon—Cornell Commencement. Every street in town, every road far out into the country was lined with horses and buggies. Main Street was just like a carnival. S. J. W. Carley let little Charlie and his friend Burt Heath sell red lemonade in front of the Carley grocery store, the present location of the B & N cafe. At the end of the day the boys had literally a bushel basket of money—three-cent, five-cent, ten-cent pieces in paper currency.

Among the civic leaders of that day who have left lasting impressions on the community was W. B. Armstrong, the father of Frank Armstrong, who was later general manager of the Reid, Murdock firm of Chicago. His weather-beaten store on Main Street furnished the genesis of a business career which led to the giving of the present Armstrong Hall, beautiful pipe organs in the Presbyterian Church, and in the college chapel, the latter replaced by a larger one presented by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Pfeiffer.

#### A Mystery of the 1870's

Mr. Herbert Hogle has a letter containing a mystery in our town in the 1870's. It belonged to Mabel Gough Hogle and probably came into the possession of the Gough family when they were merchants here. The committee leaves the choice to each reader to value it as fact or to dismiss it as a hoax. Dated at Palermo, California, May first, 1871 or 1876 (the date is not clear) a Spanish priest, one Gonzales Montmorencie, advised a Spanish bishop, Montalvena, a descendant of one of the oldest and wealthiest families in Spain, that there was a large sum of money and diamonds buried in a village of the state of Iowa. The money had been collected for the Church of Rome. Brother Montalvena was entrusted "to find, dig up, and dispose of this vast treasure." The following directions are quoted:

"You will stop at a Hotel called Mt. Vernon House. Kept by a "Mr. Guild"—nearly opposite this House is a vacant lot—where the Treasure is Buried in an iron Box to find it you will go to the Right Hand Corner of this Lot from the street feel at the foot of the fence post and you will find a piece of wire. Leave it where it is now proceed down the side of the fence, facing towards the depo until you get to the second post from the corner of the fence, feel down at its foot you will find another wire with its End Stuck in the Earth With your knife dig a little and you will find the key to the Box and two coppers (both of which are consecrated by the "Pope Himself") One with the date on it: of

the year 1769—the other 1732. You will follow the instructions as given—above in the daytime, on the night of the same day you will proceed to the first wire where you will after taking off of your person all Jewelry and Money put them in your coat and leave them near the spot and proceed to the second wire and precisely one yard westward you will by digging find the Box it will not take you 20 minutes to dig it after finding the spot."

#### The 1880's. Civic Improvements

In the 1880's the sidewalks that had been built in the previous decade began to go to pieces. They were dangerous, too. Seventeen miles of board walks needed repair in 1888. Stray cattle and swine were no longer such a problem. One citizen, Dr. John Carson, removed his picket fence in 1886. The *Hawkeye* thought this a move in the right direction; from that time on they began to disappear.

Mention was made earlier of our first kerosene lamp on the corner of the "Gigantic" lot. Others were gradually erected; for example, Mrs. J. F. Barrett recalls one on their corner when she first came to Mount Vernon in 1880. In a meeting of the town council, September 21, 1885, H. A. Collin in dead earnest set forth the advantages of street lamps. The council acted at once and ordered twelve lamps and posts from Tipton. In 1886 the number was increased to twenty-five lamps, and Amos Reynolds was hired to light them at a cost of \$6.25 per month. In 1889 there were forty lamps. No longer were our streets a danger for pedestrians at night.

#### The Mount Vernon Bank

Since its founding the Mount Vernon Bank has been a strong institution. It was organized with equal shares in 1884 by William Smith and Dr. James Carson. In 1893 Mr. Rood bought a one-third interest. In 1898 Willard Stuckslager of Lisbon purchased the interest of Dr. James Carson, who retired. Mr. Stuckslager was made president, Mr. Rood, vice-president, and William Smith, manager and cashier. After the death of Mr. Smith in 1899 D. L. Boyd succeeded as cashier, and following Mr. Boyd, Charles Hartung was cashier until 1922. Mr. Stuckslager remained president of the institution until his death in 1931. Business and sentiment commingle as one recollects the bank of former days, for the teller's counter always brings to mind the pictures of three little girls—Elisabeth Smith, Grace Rood, and Mary Stuckslager—the daughters of the officers. Miss Grace Wolfe was in the bank for ten years and Miss May Randall was assistant cashier for many years. In 1932 after the death of Mr. Stuckslager the bank was reorganized as a state bank, and the name was changed to the Mount Vernon Bank and Trust Company. Ben Neal was made president, and D. U. Van Metre, vice-president.

and cashier. These men hold these same positions today. Jay Fordyce is the assistant cashier. When in 1933 the nation's banks were ordered closed for a period, upon lifting the ban the Mount Vernon Bank opened immediately as sound as ever.

#### The 1890's

The extent to which our cemetery needed attention is shown by the following notation: In October, 1891, a beautiful tribute was paid to Colonel John Quincy Wilds at a G.A.R. meeting. The next week a citizen wrote to the paper suggesting that a practical way to show our appreciation of Colonel Wilds would be for the "Boys in Blue" to march out to the cemetery and improve his neglected grave.

In 1893 the ladies of the town decided to raise money for the cemetery. A news notice read as follows: "The ladies of Mount Vernon will serve dinner and supper in the Odd Fellows' Hall in the Wilcox building. The proceeds are to be devoted to the cemetery fund. We are making every effort to obtain enough money to purchase suitable iron fencing for our cemetery, and we solicit the patronage of every one interested." Later a news note advised that the dinner was a perfect success and that the iron fence was assured. Today one may journey to the cemetery and admire the honest ruggedness of the character displayed in the workmanship.

A serious fire destroyed two buildings on Main Street in December, 1893 and dispossessed a number of firms and tenants. Rood and Young's store was among them. A beneficial result of this fire was a movement to secure town water facilities. Almost everyone had his private well and pump, and few were the houses with running water. A board of water commissioners was formed. Pipes were laid, wells were sunk in low ground behind the high school knoll, and a water tower was erected on the east end of the college hill.

Mount Vernon reached its zenith in building expansion in the 1890's. In 1890 our population was 1259; in 1900 it was 1629. Twenty new houses went up in one season at a cost of \$50,000. Marsden Keyes and Charles Davis made the sound of saw and hammer familiar at this period. Among others they built the Collin House, the Rood House, and the homes of Stewart Ellison and William Platner. Charlie Heller was beginning a long career at this time. By 1893 twelve miles of cement walks had been laid and intersections had been established.

#### Some People of this Decade

In the 1890's other people became familiar figures in our town. Mary Butler Webb endeared herself as nurse in the homes of the well-to-do and the poor alike. Dr. J. B. Robinson was a practicing physician. Dr. Kate Mason Hogle had an office in the post office

building. Dr. T. I. Gormly set up as a dentist and was to serve this community for thirty-six years. Dr. T. I. Mitchell came to town and proposed to do "all kinds of veterinary work in accordance with the latest most scientific methods." J. S. Buser displayed in his gallery a window full of family groups and individual photographs. Merritt and Alexander dealt in groceries, crockery, and general household goods. Frank Benesh sold shoes. E. T. Gough advertised "the best goods in the way of carriages, buggies, machines, and groceries." George Border sold real estate, "good improved and wild land in Kasnas, Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, and the Dakotas."

There were helpers in the practical life of the community other than those on Main Street. No people in the town worked harder than our blacksmiths, Mart Shantz and W. H. Safely. The one found relaxation from the anvil in cultivating roses; the other in teaching Mount Vernon youngsters to toot horns and in directing the town band.

Standing at the edge of the last lot on South Third Street, East, was the shop where "Daddy" Newborn, the gunsmith, worked. With a skill which Charlie Heller pronounced genius he serviced not only muskets, but also shears, lawn mowers, bicycles, umbrellas, teakettles, and sewing machines. David Newborn's shop attracted people many miles away.

Theodore ("Dory") Border was our first city milkman. Before his time it was the custom for each family to have its own cow, and it was part of the average boy's evening chores to drive home the cow from the pasture and do the milking. "Dory" radiated cheer with the milk he delivered about town for many years.

Every winter Mr. J. B. Robinson provided the community with a sports center by making a skating pond out of his pasture lot. The boys paid ten cents and the girls got in free.

At the end of the nineteenth century Mount Vernon had enjoyed the benefits of incorporation for thirty-one years. It was a thriving little town as large as it is today. It had passed through its infancy and youth.

## Chapter 8

### Cornell Under William Fletcher King

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The histories of Mount Vernon and of Cornell College are finely intertwined from the beginning. Occasionally there have been rifts in the relations of the two but never has there been the traditional opposition of Town and Gown. To the town of Mount Vernon the college has always been a distinct asset, duly recognized and cherished. The same figures have been prominent in both. It is appropriate, therefore, to include in this History of Mount Vernon a second chapter of college history covering the forty-three year administration of President King from Civil War days until 1908 and a third covering the later development of the college from that date until the present.

An event of supreme importance to the college was the building of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway through Mt. Vernon in 1859. It had been intended to cross the Mississippi River at Fulton, Illinois, and run west through Maquoketa and Anamosa. The high price of land asked for the right of way caused the owners to choose a route farther south through comparatively unsettled territory. They erected a depot at what became Clinton, built a bridge some miles below Fulton and came west through farm lands clustered about very small towns. The railroads had to make detours to enter the larger towns like Cedar Rapids, Marshalltown and Des Moines. The value of the railroad to Mount Vernon and Cornell College was great as it put them on the trans-continental route from Chicago to Omaha and thence by the famous Union Pacific to the West.

Other factors in the early growth of the young seminary into a flourishing college were its co-educational beginnings—a departure from accepted practices in the East where segregation was the rule—, its adoption by the Upper Iowa Conference of the Methodist Church in 1855 when the Iowa Conference was divided, and a policy adopted by the trustees at the very beginning which was of lasting benefit. This was to select members of the Board from far scattered regions rather than to have a local board with a narrow patronage. The result was educational prestige in distant regions, especially in the East, and every catalog shows a student patronage from a score or more states. Missionary connections were early established and there were attendants from foreign countries, especially from the Orient, throughout the years covered in this chapter.

From the beginning of the college provision was made for students not of college grade. In the days of the "Iowa College Seminary" there was what was designated as a "Common English" course scheduling: reading (McGuffey's Fifth), grammar, geography and

mental and written arithmetic. In 1857 with the change of title to Cornell College, came the establishment of a "College Preparatory" in which arithmetic and grammar were completed and algebra, Latin and Greek taken up.

For many years at Cornell, as at other colleges of the time, the Preparatory Department was "the tail that wagged the dog." In 1857-58 the enrollment stood: College 21; Preparatory 218; Primary 55. The Primary Department, attended by scores of Mt. Vernon children, provided instruction in orthography, reading, mental and written arithmetic, geography, physiology, how plants grow, and penmanship. These classes were conducted in the chapel; later in "Old Sem" until 1868 when the Primary School was discontinued. That year the Preparatory Department accounted for 406 out of a total enrollment of 495.

The Normal Training Department, added in 1858, was also for non-collegiate students. One term of review of common branches and a course in pedagogy were offered each year.

During the Civil War years the number of "gentlemen" in the Preparatory Department dropped but more "ladies" entered, and in 1863 there was instituted a "Preparatory Classic" and a "Preparatory Scientific." Returning soldiers swelled the enrollment, most of them going into the scientific course.

By 1870 a commercial department had been established and the Miltonian Society had been organized "for the benefit of students in the preparatory department." This society and the Alethean, for women, were later promoted to college status and four societies were organized for pre-collegians, the Clonian and the King for women, the Gladstone and the Irving for men.

In 1874 the preparatory course was cut to two years, designated as Junior and Senior preparatory, enrolling 405 of the total 459 students. The third year was restored and an Arts and a Science course with more electives were offered. Throughout its history the preparatory department was under the direction of faculty members who were interested not only in general problems of secondary education but in aiding the individual student in solving his personal difficulties. The first Principal was H. H. Freer who joined the college staff in 1870 as teacher in the preparatory department and college librarian, becoming Principal of the Preparatory and Normal Departments two years later. In 1894 Education courses were moved to college level and the preparatory department took the title of "Academy" with Dr. Thomas Nicholson as principal. The records show that many of the outstanding graduates of Cornell received part or all of their pre-college training here. Seven years on the campus made them loyal and valuable alumni.

The first catalog of Cornell College, 1853-54, contains the following comment on literary societies: "Several literary societies are in

successful operation. They are eminently adapted to promote correctness of thought, extent of information and improvement in speaking and writing." By 1860 there were three such societies in "successful operation"—a number which had grown to eleven in 1926-'27 when they were last mentioned in a college catalog. Many of the readers of this history remember the four well-furnished rooms on the third floor of Main Hall which were the official homes of the societies for many years. The men's societies met regularly on Friday night and the girls' on Saturday night.

Shortly before his death Dr. William Norton presented Dr. Frank Brooks with the original "Record Book of the Club—A Literary Society of the Iowa Conference Seminary, Organized February the Fourth 1854." On the fly-leaf is the notation "Given to M. A. B. Witter by Kate Putnam Carter, July 1st, 1902." In it were recorded the minutes of the Club from its founding until the last entry for June 16th, 1859. In addition to the regular duties of office, the president was required to "read an Essay on some subject worthy the attention of the Club," the secretary was to "warm and light the room suo sumtio during his term" and the critic to "criticise freely all speeches and Essays of Gentlemen of the Club. In speeches he shall take notice of all errors in gesture, look, language and attitudes and in Essays all grammatical and rhetorical defects." "Members guilty of using profane language or intoxicating drinks shall be expelled from our Society."

The minutes of the meetings for the next four years are a vivid record of the intellectual life of the young seminary. The first subject for debate was "Resolved that the discovery of gold in California has been beneficial to the United States." Twice in the first year there was debating on whether the United States had reached the zenith of her glory, twice decided in the affirmative. The question of the greatest ill in life was decided once in favor of ignorance, another time in favor of disobedience. After deciding in open debate that moral questions should be discussed in literary societies, much time was given to debating such propositions as "Whatever is, is right"; "Man is by nature good"; "Religion operates on the human mind in subordination and not in contradiction to its natural constitution"; "Conscience is an innate principle"; and "Man's misery is the result of his own actions." The following debate topics suggest the range of interest in extra-curricular matters: Resolved that planets are inhabited by intelligent beings, that the admission of Texas into the Union has been a curse to the United States, that phrenology is a true science, that Lawyers and Physicians are both nuisances to society, that poetical taste diminishes as Education increases, that the use of animal foods is injurious to the human system and that wealth is unfavorable to the development of talent. It is interesting to note

the favorable verdicts with regard to higher education and voting rights for women and of the right of a state to secede.

In the programs of this Literary Society, limited at first to twelve members, the following names are prominent: Professor D. H. Wheeler (referred to as the "progenitor" of the Club), C. W. Simons, G. Jones, J. F. Steel, W. W. Williams, A. R. Knott, S. P. Rutan, J. Blackford, J. T. Rice, J. A. B. Putnam, J. Aleman, G. P. Holman and F. A. Weeks. Quotations from the record itself give an insight into the place such literary societies filled in the lives of their members:

Room No. 11 Cornell College, Saturday, June 5th, 1859.

The Klubbs met at about 8 o'clock, a few having ambulated around town, shouting "Ponador, O Fuste" etc., etc. President Page called the Clubbs to order in their new and roomy yet very dirty hall. Report of preceding meeting read and received. The President delivered his address which consisted of a metaphysical dissertation on the subject "Will Mather become an Angel", which he proved from fixed principles would never be the case . . . The committees for procuring a Addressor and for securing a Hall reported to the satisfaction of all and were discharged. Motion was made and carried to accept the Hall given us by the faculty . . . the Secretary was instructed to record the discharge of the committee appointed to 'worm' around the Faculty, for obtaining funds whereby to obtain a Lecturer. On motion a committee of the whole was appointed to meet at 4 o'clock P.M. next Friday evening to expurgate our new Hall of rubbish . . .

The members after proposing questions for the next debate about half an hour or more, exhibiting more "talk than cider" and more fun than both finally hit upon the following question and adopted it.

Resolved that New England is the *brain* of the United States. The following is the order of discussion

Affirmative	Negative
Oliver James Cowles	Wilbur Christie Dimmitt
Thomas Dixon Hogg	Edwin Collin
Milo Plato Smith	Charles Alexander Page

John Alexander Bonaparte Putnam will be our next President. Adjourned to meet next Saturday evening by shaking hands cordially with all except Put.

C. A. Page, Preses.

S. D. Mather, Scriptor

Hours of fun on a June afternoon are recorded in the minutes for June 11th.

"After long consultation and much indignation the Clubb left the room and went out to jump. Putnam beat jumping off of a brick, Page and Dimmit at a hop-step and a-jump, Cowles and I at three jumps. Page and Cowles went up and got per-

mission to go out straw-berrying with the girls. The Gentlemen then adjourned to the grove. Mather climbed a tree and all climbed upon stumps; no motions were made but one by Mr. Dimmitt which consisted in his attempting to jump and fell down. After tea the Gentlemen of the Clubb proceeded to select companions for berrying. The *Duum viri* obtained two and ran away from the others who went in whatsoever direction their desires led them. All desires seemed ultimately to tend toward the Ice Cream Saloon, which is kept by an Anti-Slavery gentleman. Post plenam ventrem habebant, they gallanted their ladies home full of hope and glory.

C. A. Page, Preses.  
S. D. Mather, Secy."

So it can be seen that from the beginning Literary Societies played a vital part in the intellectual and social life of the college. Their "publics" were gala events attended by townspeople as well as students over a long period of years. By action of the Board of Trustees in 1871 it was decided that Cornell was not to be a fraternity school. A chapter of Phi Kappa Psi founded in 1868 was dissolved as a result of this decision.

In 1862 the death of the Greek professor necessitated the finding of a successor. In the East a young man just past his thirtieth birthday was teaching the Classics in Ohio Wesleyan University. President Fellows had heard of him and upon inquiry he was assured that this was the man to fill the chair of Classics recently vacated by death. So President Fellows addressed a letter to William Fletcher King in Delaware, Ohio, offering him the position. King was debating between going to Europe to study two years and enlisting for service in the army. Forces brought to play upon him decided him in favor of accepting the offer from Mount Vernon.

Dr. King in writing of this decision afterwards in his book "Reminiscences," says "While the paramount duty to sustain the government was fully recognized, it was felt that the call to the college could not be ignored; so the decision was made to go to Cornell, at least for one year." In urging acceptance of this offer, President Fellows had written: "I think you would find it a pleasant and useful field of labor. There is a fine opportunity here to build up a reputation and to aid in building up a college." On August 28, 1862 William F. King began his work in Cornell College as professor of the Classics. When a man believes in his job he quickly finds friends and excuses for hard work. People already on the scene, such as Alonzo Collin, son of the Squire, Susan Hale, Harriette Cooke, the inimitable woman professor, helped King to become established and fired him with their own enthusiasm.

Just before commencement in 1863 President Fellows became ill and King was asked to take charge of the exercises, which he did. Dur-

ing the progress of these there occurred the anti-Copperhead scuffle already referred to in the Civil War chapter.

While Cornell College at the time of the opening of the Civil War was in need of capable people to man its offices and lead its students in academic life, there was the equally, if not greater, need of someone to find and apply funds, for expenses. The financial depression which began in 1857 made the payment even of salaries somewhat in doubt. As acting president, Professor King was required to add to his classroom duties that of gathering these funds. Where to go for them? President Fellows had always been able to find necessary friends in the East, that potent reservoir of help. What could Professor King do? The firing upon Fort Sumter had greatly excited the West, and during the early days of the war three full companies had been raised in Mt. Vernon. The required essays and declamations in the college English program had dealt with war interests, and many of the enlistees in the companies raised had been Cornell students. Furthermore, in 1864 the trustees decided to raise a fund to help disabled soldiers and their orphans to obtain a good education and the matter was brought to the attention of the adjutant-general of the state, N. B. Baker.

So Dr. King, armed with a letter from the adjutant-general, started on the task of collecting "subscriptions" to the funds of the college from the pay of the soldiers in the field. The aggregate amount of subscriptions in this first venture was about \$30,000; and of this finally some \$14,000 was actually collected and placed in the fund. Out of this and later efforts grew the burden of free and perpetual scholarships which later caused the college some embarrassment, until they were finally—only in comparatively recent days—donated to the college or annulled.

In April 1865 Richmond surrendered and the war was almost over. Dr. King returned to Mount Vernon and began to think of making it his permanent home. He was made President at the commencement of that year. After some financial negotiations and the help of friends, Dr. King was able to secure possession of the desirable crest of the hilltop with its fine mansion. Before winter settled in regular Iowa fashion the president and his bride, Margaret McKell of Chillicothe, Ohio, were occupying the White House on the hill.

For eight years the college gradually moved forward under the skillful guidance of President King. Money was never plentiful; salaries were very low; and sometimes these were available only in promissory notes. Indeed, Professor Freer sometime afterwards pointed out a house on Main Street (later known as the Grill), which he had occupied and which he said he bought and paid for from money received on delayed salary.

In mid-summer of 1874 Dr. King returned from an extended trip abroad and found that the trustees of the college had resolved to erect

a chapel building. Up to this time daily chapel exercises were held in Old Sem or the Main building. The impression prevailed in the public mind that money was available for this venture; but this was untrue, not a dollar being in sight. President King found on his hands the task of arranging for solicitation of this fund. In the spring of 1875 arrangements for a canvass were completed and the work begun. Fifteen thousand dollars had to be in hand before any actual building was to be undertaken. As an increased incentive, the salary of the president was raised to \$2,000, three members of the Board assuming the increase for a period of five years. Then, as once before came a financial depression, that of the late 70's.

During the perilous and hectic days of 1875-'77 the first story of the chapel building was erected and sufficient money was found to pay for it. The auditorium stood unfinished and windows were boarded up for five years more. In 1882 Dr. King went into the field determined to complete this building, and he obtained \$17,000, making the total cost of the building about \$72,000.

A glorious occasion was the commencement of 1882. The guest of honor was the founder, Dr. George B. Bowman, who came from California. Others present were Alpha J. Kynett of the Board of Church Extension, coming from Philadelphia; Professor David H. Wheeler, now editor of *The Methodist* in New York City; Professor Stephen N. Fellows, from the State University; Harriette J. Cooke, superintendent of a Medical Mission in Boston; and Bishop Matthew Simpson who was the orator of the occasion. Dr. King says of this that it "was memorable as the last gathering of early friends and the triumphant consummation of the long and agonizing struggle of chapel erection."

In the spring of 1873 Dr. King had been so seriously ill that he wished to retire from his office. The trustees accorded him a year's leave of absence with pay and suggested the trip abroad. During his absence Dr. Hugh Boyd, professor of Latin, was acting president and a dormitory, called the Cornell College Boarding Association, was erected. It is now known as South Hall.

With improvements in business conditions throughout the country, Cornell College enjoyed comparative prosperity. Acreage was added to the campus by purchase of the Goodell Farm in 1891, of twenty acres from the Ash Estate in 1892, and the erection of more buildings. Bowman Hall dormitory for women came in 1885, the Carnegie Library in 1904 and the Alumni Gymnasium in 1909. In a contribution to the Historical Society of Linn County in 1904 Dr. Norton wrote: "In these forty years Cornell has grown so that now it has a campus of fifty-five acres, six buildings, nearly 800 students, more than 1000 graduates, an annual income of \$50,000 and assets all told of over \$900,000." In 1892 Cornell stood out as the largest church college in the United States west of Chicago. Dr. Norton

called this "a growth unparalleled in some respects in the history of education." He wrote of the underlying causes as follows: "Our buildings have never been destroyed by fire or tornado; no famous lawsuit against the college has even been defended by some Webster among our alumni. None of our faculty has ever achieved notoriety by his sensational speeches or erratic morals, and none has been hanged for murder."

Intellectual and cultural growth kept pace with the physical expansion of the college. From its inception Cornell has shown an interest in the fine arts. The catalog of 1855 offers "instruction in embroidery" to be given by the wife of one of the gentlemen of the faculty. Soon courses in drawing and painting were added so that by 1879 eleven different instructors in art had been employed. With the coming of Charles A. Cumming in that year, the School of Art was inaugurated. Under his leadership the School was recognized throughout the Middle West. Under H. A. Mills who followed him in '98, it continued to be highly regarded.

Instruction in music at Cornell College is as old as the college itself, for a teacher of instrumental music was included in the list of faculty of Iowa Conference Seminary in 1853. The growth of this branch of the school has paralleled that of the college as a whole, although it was not given the title of conservatory until 1878. In 1890 William B. Van Valkenburg came to Cornell as the first director of the conservatory and has been followed in order by: Charles H. Adams, 1898-1901; C. H. L. Mills, 1901-1903; Ovid P. Barbour, 1903-1906; and George L. Pierce, 1906-1907, the last director who came during the King administration.

The Conservatory has been variously housed from its first small beginning. College publicity in the nineties locates it in South Hall. Later the house east of the gymnasium was acquired for studios.

In 1883 the catalog states that "ensemble playing is open to students sufficiently advanced in the playing of instruments," making the Cornell Symphony Orchestra the oldest recognized musical group on the campus. The Saint Cecilia Society was the second musical society to be listed in the college catalog, and by various names it kept its identity as a woman's singing group until 1932 when men's and women's glee clubs were merged to form the College Choir.

The Oratorio Society, open to students and townspeople, was first organized and directed by Professor C. H. Adams in the fall of '98 and made its initial public appearance at the first May Music Festival the following spring. In 1906 Director George L. Pierce started the custom of singing Handel's *Messiah*, assisted by the orchestra, at the Christmas season. This has continued an unbroken tradition.

The May Music Festival found a place in the college calendar in the spring of 1899 and has continued without a break in its history

for nearly fifty years, bringing to the campus and the community hosts of visitors who have been attracted by the distinguished character of the musical program and the beauty of the surroundings. A list of artists who have appeared at Festival time includes many of the truly great in music, but the real claim to distinction has been the continued presence of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra which made its first appearance in 1903, directed by Frederick A. Stock, then assistant director.

The Speech department is the youngest of the three fine arts which have flourished on Cornell's campus. Not until 1875 does the catalog list a "Professor of Rhetoric and Elocution." Later there was only an "Instructor in Elocution and Physical Training," a combination which seems a little incongruous. In 1892 the "School of Oratory and Physical Culture" came into existence with Katherine E. Oliver as director.

Not until the nineties was there any physical training other than military drill which held the spotlight from 1874 until 1898 when it was discontinued following the Spanish American War. In 1890 ropes for climbing, Indian clubs and some simple apparatus were installed in a make-shift gymnasium which had sawdust on the floor but no mats or mattresses for some time thereafter. By 1901 there were full-time directors of physical training for both men and women. Miss Mary MacLeod was the woman's director from 1900 to 1920. In 1902 she wrote: "Stay through a lesson and see the girls bend, turn and poise and jump and travel on the bar and turn somersaults and climb ropes and then go home invigorated and refreshed for their mental work."

On February 11, 1888 the Cornell Athletic Association was formed, becoming affiliated with the Iowa State Inter-collegiate Association in '91, the year in which Cornell participated for the first time in intercollegiate competition in track and field, tennis and boxing and in its first football games with Coe and S.U.I. In '95 the C.A.A. was reorganized under faculty supervision to keep down the use of non-students and professionals on college teams. Since that time there have been varying degrees of faculty control to enforce eligibility rules.

In 1902-'03 students and townspeople pledged enough money to hire a football coach for the season. It was not until 1907 that the college added a full-time director of athletics to the staff. This first director was Sherman W. Finger who soon developed one of the most efficient and complete departments in the Middle West.

In connection with this historical review of nearly fifty years of Cornell, there is a host of names of worthy supporters, patrons, faculty and alumni deserving of mention. To do justice to all of them would make this chapter a panegyric so only a few can be singled out for special mention. William Harmon Norton, of the faculty for sixty-seven

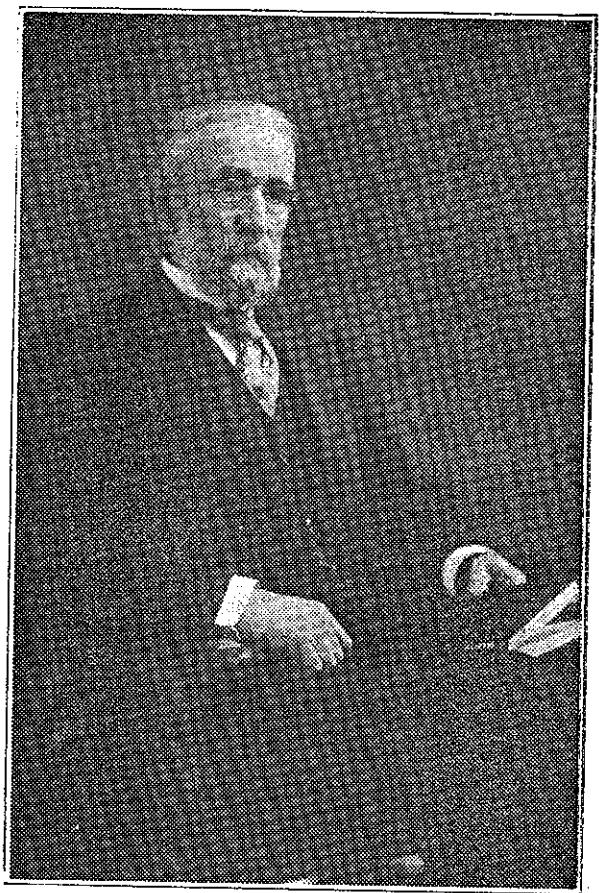
years, comes into mind at once. An *In Memoriam* tribute to Dr. Norton, by Dr. Charles R. Keyes and Dr. Neil Miner, in the *Iowa Academy of Science Journal* for 1945 gives a fine appraisal of Dr. Norton as a teacher, scientist and human being:

With the passing of Professor Norton at his home in Mount Vernon, Iowa, on May 3, 1944, much the longest teaching career in the history of Cornell College came to an end; indeed one wonders whether his years of continuous service may not be a national record.

Graduated from Cornell College in 1875 before he was twenty years old, he was appointed instructor in Latin and Greek for the following academic year. Two years of successful work in this post, along with earning the Master's degree, advanced him to an adjunct professorship of Latin and Greek, a position which he held until 1881. Meanwhile he was delving into geology entirely on his own initiative. President William F. King evidently recognized the fact that he had a genius on his faculty, for from 1881 to 1890 he served as professor of Greek and geology. In 1890 he became professor of geology, a title that did not become emeritus until 1942 when he was eighty-six years old. He did, to be sure, accept an assistant in 1922 in the now large and prosperous department of geology, partly because of a passing illness, partly because of a desire to concentrate more fully on his favorite course in organic evolution and partly because of the increasing demands of research and publication . . . Beginning in 1892 he served as special assistant on the Iowa Geological Survey for a period of forty years, in charge of ground-water studies in Iowa. From 1903-1913 he served in this same capacity as assistant on the U.S. Geological Survey . . . His "Elements of Geology", the first edition of which was published in 1905, for the simple reasons of its integrity and originality has remained for forty years a favorite text for beginners in earth science.

It was as a teacher, probably that Dr. Norton liked best to be known . . . The result, of course, was the respect, admiration and love of a host of students, many of these later to win distinction in their own right . . . . he cultivated through the years, the fields of art and music and, to have a home out-of-doors interest, he started a large garden of tulips, iris and peonies. Especially after his marriage to Mary Burr in 1883, a woman of like mind and training, a graduate of Cornell in 1877 and an instructor and later professor of mathematics for a period of forty-two years, these non-professional studies were pursued with steady interest and some very tangible results . . . In addition to more than a century of teaching between them, the Nortons are among Cornell's chief benefactors in a material sense.

## William Fletcher King



William Fletcher King, President of Cornell College 1865-1908. President Emeritus 1908-1921.

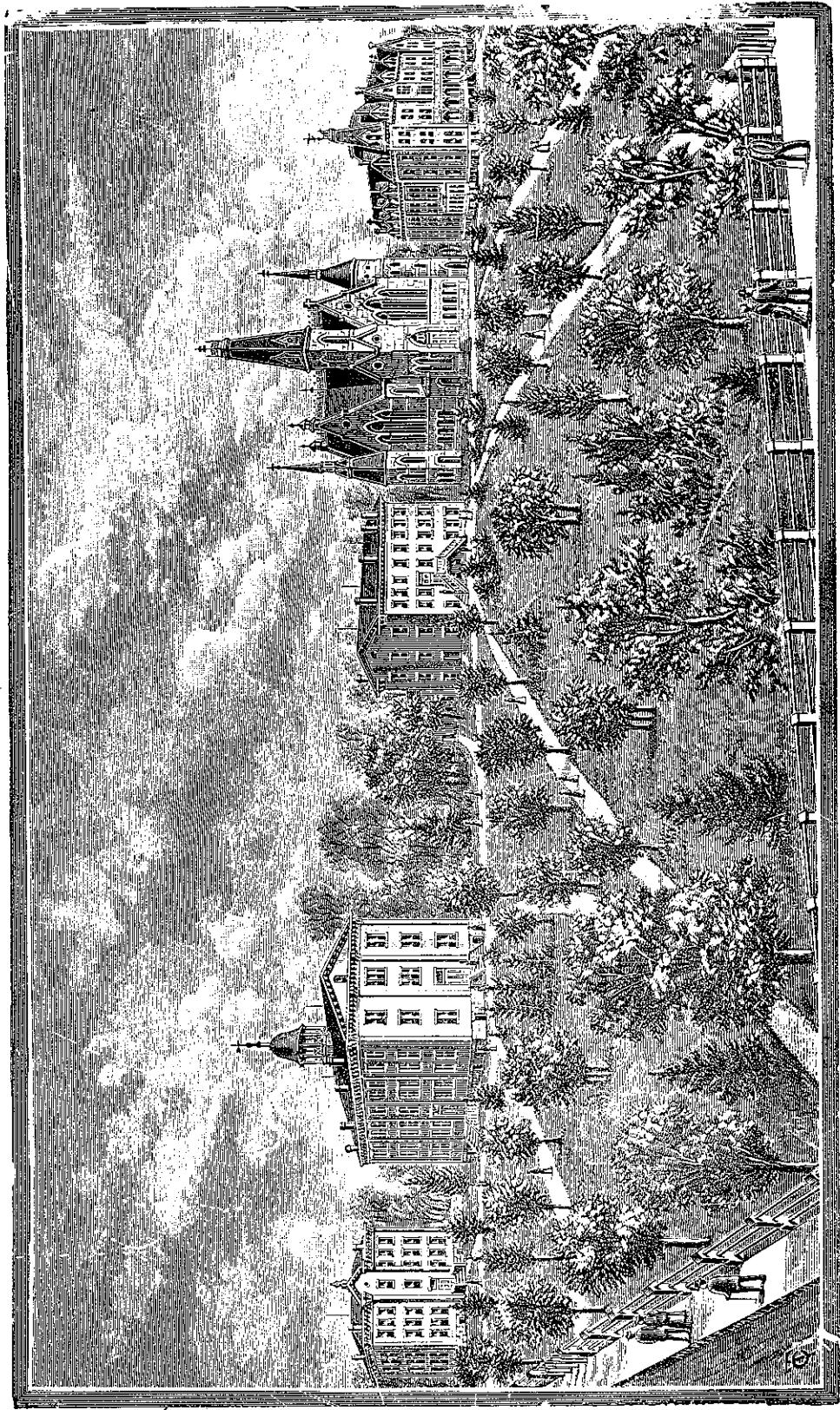
Cornell Boarding Association C.B.A.

"Old Main"

"Old Sem"

Chapel

Bowman Hall



H. H. Freer of the class of 1869 is first listed as a student in Preparatory Classical course in the catalog of 1863-'64. One year his name is missing, and then in 1870-'71 he enters again as a tutor in the preparatory department and in charge of the college library. For nearly half a century his name continues in the faculty list with a growing influence and responsibility. Finally Dean Freer emerges as the idol of a host of alumni, in demand as a speaker in alumni groups wherever Cornellians gathered together.

Among the influential faculty members who served under President King were Alonzo Collin, builder of "Collin House" on the campus hilltop, who was professor of Mathematics and Science (Physics and Chemistry) for forty-six years; Hugh Boyd, Professor of Greek and Latin from 1871 to 1906, who has become almost a legendary figure because of the tall tales which record his wit and his originality as a teacher and acting-president; S. N. Williams for forty-one years Professor of Engineering and for almost twenty years librarian as well. As a member of the town council he was a moving spirit in getting street lamps, water-works and a sewage system installed in Mt. Vernon. Dr. Thomas Nicholson, later Bishop Nicholson, left a strong imprint on the spiritual life of his students and through them on far-distant places where they went as missionaries and church leaders. Dr. James Harlan who served as vice-president under Dr. King for twenty-seven years before he was inaugurated President in 1908, will be accorded his place in Cornell history in a later chapter.

It seemed fitting in 1904 to recognize the conclusion of fifty years of successful operation of the college. A substantially enlarged commencement occasion was planned for June 1904, the events lasting through one week. Persons of national fame and importance were present, such as Bishops Andrews and Berry of the Methodist Church who preached sermons; and Bishop William F. McDowell of the Church who made an address. The editor of the *Christian Advocate*, James M. Buckley, Secretary Shaw of the President's Cabinet, Lemuel Murlin, President of Boston University, Senator Edgar T. Brackett, Edward T. Devine of New York City, Charles J. Little, President of Garrett Biblical Institute, and many others were among the guests who had parts in the program.

It may be of interest to our readers to have the following excerpt from the proceedings of that commencement. An oil portrait of President King was presented to the college by the brother of the artist, Mr. Jurgenson. James E. Harlan, then vice-president of the college, accepted the portrait, saying:

In October 1863 a youth ascending the slopes of the Cedar reached the top of this beautiful Mount Vernon hill making application to be received as a student. He well remembers the impression made upon him by that strong, kindly, intellectual man whose portrait is before you. The most intimate relations

which followed have only served to strengthen the impressions made upon the youth and the young man as he continued his college course. The youth declares to you that he whose portrait I now receive is a true man, a wise counselor, an excellent advisor, a just judge.

Dr. William Ebersole sums up for us briefly the significant place President King had in shaping the destiny of the college in the following tribute:

"The college did well to unveil a portrait of President William King for exhibit in her halls, and also to designate the chapel building as a memorial to him. It is not surprising that many feel that the name of the college should be changed to his name—so great was his contribution to the establishment and development of the institution in the almost unequalled length of his administration."

Dr. King was a man of scholarly habits, a cultured gentleman of the older school, a man of strong convictions and high ideals, a genius for conceiving and carrying out plans, a wise counsellor, a wide traveller, socially and intellectually at home with men prominent in educational and financial circles, especially in the East where our high rating continues to this day.

His sterling qualities were recognized by the State, Nation and Church, so that he was chosen for many important appointments. Among these he served on the council of the National Educational Association of America, was Commissioner for Iowa on the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893, delegate to the International Congress, Paris, 1900, and to the Ecumenical Methodist Conference, London, 1901.

Successful in his private financial ventures, he contributed liberally to the College. One of his gifts was the purchase, when in Italy, of a group of eight full-size copies of famous Greek and Roman sculptures, done in the original marble or bronze, to be placed in the College Halls as a cultural inspiration for the students. They now adorn the Hall of Fine Arts and the library building.

Another gift was an endowment to sustain 100 perpetual scholarships—one for each Iowa county—as a memorial to Mrs. King. Also he gave his beautiful home on the crest of the campus hill for the use of future presidents.

Dr. King's extensive travels, including numerous trips to Europe, brought him many valuable contacts which he turned to the advantage of the college. As a fitting climax to his travel experiences he journeyed round the world in 1910.

His book of over 700 pages, entitled "Reminiscences" is a remarkable autobiography which marks him as a man of unusual talents and accomplishments. Cornell owes much of her distinction to this man who left his mark upon her during his long administration and for all time to come."

## Chapter 9

### The Gay Nineties

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Were the Gay Nineties gay? Certainly they were not by modern standards when a gay time implies dining, dancing, driving and drinking rather than an evening at home with nothing more exciting than a game of authors or parchesi. Although we are inclined to smile at the decorum of the times, at the ornate literary style, at the ginger-bread decoration of their houses, we feel a kinship with the spirit of advancement in thought which marked this transition period from the nineteenth to the twentieth centuries. Live currents were moving which brought about sweeping changes in economics, government and literature. In Mount Vernon, as in the country as a whole, this decade is of interest because of the similarity of their problems to those of half a century later. The cultural life of the town, although formal by 1947 standards, was of a high order. Out of it stemmed the important musical, civic, literary and social elements which combined to make Mount Vernon what it is today.

Were the young people of the nineties gay? The solemn faces which stare back at us from pictures of high school graduating classes do not look so. Handle-bar mustaches had a way of making young faces look comical, as did cadey hats worn by gentlemen. Perhaps it was the pointed shoes or high celluloid collars which caused the look of pained surprise. Striped socks and button shoes completed a costume for men which arouses amusement today as we look at faded photographs of the period.

With girls the contrast between old and new styles is even more striking. Probably at no time in history has a costume been designed which camouflaged the feminine form more completely. Bustles, capes, leg-o-mutton sleeves, "guimpes, gussets and gores"—all seem created for the purpose of concealing the natural contours. Yet the total effect was so charming that the Gibson Girl became the symbol of the times, a model to which styles return in regular cycles. After half a century of changing styles we call it the "New Look."

Before the coming of the dressmaker for her spring and fall rounds of sewing in the home, the house-wife bought bolts of material, yards of brush braid, whale-bone waist-band, paper muslin and crinoline to make skirts stand out properly. This invasion of the home by the dress-maker was almost as upsetting to the family routine as the annual spring-cleaning.

Hats which topped off a high pompadour or were skewered to the Psyche Knot by jeweled hat-pins were of such commanding size

that local Methodists made a formal request in 1897 that they be removed during church services.

This was a period of great formality in our town. After one of the many formal receptions given by the Ingleside Club, the secretary made separate lists of guests who had sent written or oral replies to the R.S.V.P. invitations, and a black-list of those persons who had not replied in any manner whatever. The following paragraph from the Cedar Rapids Republican of 1892 describes a wedding reception which many Mount Vernonites still remember with pleasure:

"An elegant social event of the past week in Mount Vernon was the reception given by Editor and Mrs. Bauman Friday evening to their son and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. A. Bauman. Mr. and Mrs. Bauman's rare social talents and intellectual culture always make their entertainments notably delightful, but this occasion was an especially charming one, as they introduced the happy couple into Mount Vernon's social circle. Nearly four hundred invitations were issued and from 5 to 11 p.m. their pretty parlors were thronged with delighted guests. A profusion of flowers made the house seem a fairy bower, while the white ribbon decorations at the dainty feast marked it as more than a mid-summer night's dream."

The tribute to the bride and the wish that "their hearts should be as happily wedded and time should deal as gently with them as it had with their charming parents" is in marked contrast to the description of a wedding of a well-loved Mount Vernon widow which closed with the candid comment, "We think she is making a terrible mistake. She will live to regret it."

At another such reception in the same year at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Carson, Professor Hugh Boyd stepped on the train of one of the guests, bowed low in apology, then straightened up with the remark, "I take back my apology. Women have no business to wear the fool things!"

Formality extended to manners and morals here as elsewhere. "No lady would dream of crossing her knees in public." Perhaps this dictum was more of a credit to their good sense than to their modesty, as nothing could have been less glamorous than a glimpse of the shapeless black cotton stockings which were concealed by the many petticoats and voluminous skirts.

In those car-less, movie-less, dance-less days most of the good times were had in the home. Certain homes, such as the Lozier, Fancher, and Iorns houses, were famous for their wholesale entertaining of young people who were always welcome for impromptu fun and music. Charades and guessing games were popular, as were authors, parchesi, tiddley-winks, "Up Junkins," fruit-basket and taffy-pulls. When callers came, the ice was broken by the passing of

the family album. For the worldly few who chose to pay "real" cards, progressive cinch was the game in vogue. Mrs. Barrett, who has lived for sixty-five years in the same house to which she came as a bride, remembers many evening parties for men and women at which the only form of entertainment was "visitation"; and practically the only refreshments ever served were coffee, cake, and sliced peaches topped with cocoanut.

We read in the Hawkeye of 1893 under the heading "Parlor Matches" that "most matches are made in the parlor in winter. In the summer they are made on the college campus, lover's lane, the pine grove and elsewhere." "Elsewhere" might very well refer to some of the benefit suppers which were patronized by the whole town, such as the baked bean sociables put on by the G.A.R., where an ample meal and evening's entertainment were provided for a quarter. Ice-cream sociables in the summer, basket-suppers and oyster-suppers in the winter furnished fun for old and young. There were many gay dinner parties at Wilcox Hall and at Mrs. Flickinger's boarding house; and fine food to be had at Guild Hotel. The register of the Guild Hotel reveals names of well-known people, among them Lillian Russell, who visited her sister, Hattie Leonard of Clinton, teacher of piano at the Cornell Conservatory.

The Ladies' Aid of the Methodist Church, under the leadership of Mrs. A. Collin, did the catering for many large parties in the church. Most ambitious of these money-making ventures was the carnival held in the college chapel on October 6th and 7th of 1896 under the direction of Mrs. Sherwood, with the financial backing of the business men of the town.

"Hold High Carnival!

73 charming young ladies in Emblem of the City's Industries!"

The Hawkeye reports that "everybody was delighted with the pretty picture and charming appearance made by the young ladies," and that "the interest of the audience never lagged a minute during the nearly three hours required." "Opened with presentation of the Queen, the majesty of this august personage being charmingly sustained by Miss Mary Collin, who from the throne summoned the fairies. The representation proper was divided into four divisions, each one first giving in body a fancy drill and march, followed by individual presentation. . . . The wedding scene presented by Master Fred Benesh as rector, Della Carson and William Knox as bride and groom, supported by Hazel Moses as maid and Glen Herrick as best man, brought down the house. The candle drill given by twelve sweet little sleepy-heads dressed in white "Mother Hubbards" and night caps, carrying their dolls and candles, was alone worth more than the price of admission. The little girls who took part were: May Turner, Gail West, Roxy Butterfield, Sylvia Turner, Hattie Rayner,

Grace Kinner, Jennie Anderson, Marie Doron, Ada Reynolds, Clara Benesh, Vera West and Adella West." "It was, in every sense of the word, a delightful surprise, pleasing spectacle and gratifying success."

While drama in Mount Vernon was limited to such amateur performances as the above, the Greene Opera House in Cedar Rapids offered the best theatre and opera available anywhere between Chicago and Omaha. The Opera House was a place of grandeur, with brilliant parquet, dress circle, private boxes and glittering chandeliers. Joseph Jefferson, Edwin Booth, Edward Barrett, De Wolfe Hopper, and Modjeska appeared there in such plays as *Rip Van Winkle*, *the Merchant of Venice*, and *Julius Caesar*. Usually Mount Vernon theatre-goers returned by the midnight train, but a party of forty stayed over night in the Grand Hotel after attending the light opera "Wang." Another large party heard Mme. Sofie Scolari and other stars of the first magnitude, present Verdi's *Il Trovatore*. When Miss Lillian Smedley, now Mrs. Ristine, asked acting-president Harlan for permission to go to Cedar Rapids to see *Julius Caesar*, he solemnly raised the question of what her father, a Methodist minister, would think of such worldly amusement. Miss Smedley was able to convince him that her father approved of Shakespeare. Although their names are not recorded in the Hawkeye, there were many citizens who went to Cedar Rapids to see the Cherry Sisters, then at the height of their dubious glory.

These were the days of the carry-all, the surrey, the phaeton, the pony cart and the carriage. It was also the day of the bicycle. Although there were many bicycles in town and on the campus, there was only one tandem here during the nineties. It was ridden by Mr. and Mrs. Ristine once on a long trip to Illinois in 1898. Mr. Ristine admits that there were a number of times when the tandem was stored in the baggage car while they rode by train over stretches of road where it was impossible for a bicycle to go. At best they could make as high as twelve to fifteen miles an hour. On the return trip they met a herd of cattle in the road, lost control of the bicycle and went into the ditch from which they had to be rescued by a mule team. They stayed over for a time in Galesburg while the tandem underwent repairs; then they pedaled on home.

A story from those horse-and-buggy days concerns a couple of Cornell students who went to Iowa City in a hack to see a baseball game. A storm came up as they were returning in the late afternoon. It became so dark and the road so muddy that they gave the horses their head. The horses turned up a river road and finally brought them to a lonely farm-house where a light was shining. The lady of the house after hearing of their plight, agreed to keep them over night. After some delay she took the girl upstairs to her room by candle-

light, returning to escort the young man to a small room where he slept soundly. Not until the next morning did the embarrassed couple realize that they had spent the night in the same room which the ingenious hostess had hastily divided with a curtain. Mr. Harry Bassett, the man in the case, vouches for the truth of the story.

Major sports of the nineties were baseball, croquet and lawn tennis in the summer; coasting and skating in the winter; and hiking and picnicking at the Pal whenever the weather was suitable. Collecting of bird's eggs and Indian relics was often a part of these outings. The second meeting of the Iowa Ornithological Association met here in 1896; fifty years later in 1946 it met here again, which indicates that scientific interest in birds has lasted throughout the years. This boyhood interest in birds and Indian relics has caused Charles R. Keyes to be elected president of the Iowa Ornithological Association and Director of the Archeological Survey of the State Historical Society of Iowa.

Mount Vernon boys delighted in baseball and tennis during all the decade. Although Cornell had entered upon its mighty football rivalry with Coe, Grinnell and other college teams, town boys did not take up the sport until later. Tennis courts on the campus and a private one back of the Lozier house were popular meeting places for young people. Most of the coasting took place on the south side of town, down the hill from the Methodist church, on the long street beginning east of the campus and ending near the stone quarry, and skating on the Yerisley pond between Mount Vernon and Lisbon. Occasional ventures were made to Ink's Pond. Bob-sled parties followed by oyster stew were a part of winter's fun. Typical of such good times was the New Year's eve party in 1897.

"A happy New Year's Eve was engaged in by a party of young people who were taken by bobsled to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Geiger just west of town. The home being gracefully turned over to them with all the privileges of the place, they held high carnival as the old year went out. Crokinole, parchesi and carom boards furnished amusement. A good supply of oysters, served hot with Geiger's excellent Jersey milk, did the rest."

Nothing in the period of the nineties is farther from modern taste than their art. Young ladies burdened their houses with decorated lambrequins, flowers painted on velvet squares, scenic fire-shovels, burnt leather pillowtops, hand-painted pin cushions, and other art objects too numerous to mention. Miss Blanche Lee came down regularly from Mechanicsville to teach a class in tapestry painting. It was the era of the wooden Indian in front of the cigar store, of the picket fence, of star and crescent shaped flower beds, of the base burner, and the center table, and the folding bed which had the innocent appearance of a bureau with full length mirror by day, but was

capable of deep treachery by night. There were the flowered carpets that had to take a terrific beating at spring-cleaning time, of matting tacked down over layers of newspapers or straw, of bamboo portieres, or others made of Job's Tears from the garden strung on colored cords. It was the time of the peacock feather fan, of the old-fashioned square churn, of the zinc-lined bath tub, and other items which have vanished from the modern scene.

Music and oratory flourished throughout the nineties. Letter-writing, too, was a fine art far removed from the hasty scrawls, and the "dictated but not read" notes of our time. Not only was there a number of ladies of the town who took part regularly in the recitals of a music club, but there was a famous band known as the Military Band, or the Silver Cornets, which kept Mount Vernon on the musical map. They were at their peak during the years '88 to '93, when under the direction of Horace Lozier, they made many out-of-town appearances. Among these engagements were programs at the horse races at Independence, at the Odd Fellows Founders' day at Tipton in '93, at a political rally at Cedar Rapids, and at a Fourth of July celebration at Clinton. They played often at Literary Society "publics", (contests in oratory) in the chapel. These would be attended by the whole town. Of the twenty members in the Band the following can be identified: Horace, Minard, and Louis Lozier, Will and Fred Alden, Fred and Will Neff, Grant and Horace Miller, Frank, Fred and Will Kemp, Jesse Hale, Charles Keyes, Will Hoover, Ira Everhart, Bill Safley, Charles Smith, George Waln, Hugh Whittemore, Jesse Tallman and Walter Hirons.

The coming of Charles H. Adams as director of the Cornell Conservatory quickened the musical life of the town. Two outstanding events occurred in the year 1899 soon after his appointment. First of these was the May Music Festival on May 17, 18 and 19. This was described in the Hawkeye as "the most elaborate affair ever held in Mount Vernon or the State." . . . "one thing on which the town and college can join hands." Through the generous backing of the music lovers of the community the ambitious plan was put over with the assurance that 800 tickets could be sold. Season tickets for the five concerts were priced at one dollar, with fifty cents extra for a reserved seat. A chorus of one hundred trained voices presented the "Swan and the Skylark" before the first Festival audience. Visiting artists were Genevieve Clark Wilson, soprano of Chicago; Arthur Dunham, organist of Chicago; Bicknell Young, baritone from Chicago; J. H. McKinley, tenor, New York, and Leopold Godowsky, pianist, Chicago.

In February of the same year came the dedication of the pipe organ, a ten thousand dollar gift by F. H. Armstrong of Chicago. It was the largest pipe organ between Chicago and Denver, having 2150

pipes, thirty feet from floor to ceiling. In an impressive ceremony it was presented to the college by Colonel H. H. Rood, and accepted by President King. Mount Vernon heard its first organ recital on February 18, 1899.

Best known of the songs of the nineties was "After the Ball," which sprang into instantaneous popularity at the World's Fair in 1893. Its pathetic refrain of "Many the hearts that are broken" exactly suited the taste for sad sentimentality, as did also "Just Break the News to Mother." Other favorites were "Two Little Girls in Blue," "Daisy, Daisy, Give Me Your Promise True," "Little Annie Rooney," "The Sidewalks of New York," and "Where Did You Get That Hat?" The craze for bicycles was responsible for "On the Seat of a Bicycle Built for Two." The theme song of the Spanish American war was "Tarara-Boom-de-ay" with its lively rhythm for marching feet.

Although the first talking machine in town was owned by Barker Smith and his wife, in '94, the one best remembered was in Haeseler's drug store, where crowds used to congregate to marvel at the wonderful canned music.

Literature of the nineties was embellished with a profusion of fanciful figures of speech, literary allusions, poetical passages, and an elegance of diction which puts to shame the unadorned prose of today. Magazines on the parlor center table were apt to be The Ladies Home Journal, Youth's Companion, St. Nicholas, Harper's Weekly, and the Atlantic Monthly. The most widely read books of the period were The Little Minister, Ben Hur, When Knighthood Was in Flower, The Choir Invisible, and Beside the Bonny Briar Bush. The revolutionary ideas of Edward Bellamy and Henry George gained wide acceptance with serious readers. Young Professor Joseph Freehof, who had been assistant to Jane Addams at Hull House, came to the campus in the late nineties and awakened such an interest in social reform that he had young ladies of the college debating on such subjects as, what to do with vagrants and the underprivileged. He put into their hands such books as "Tramping With Tramps" and "How the Other Half Lives." In these and similar books were the seeds of change, seeds which took root in the nineties and bore fruit in later years. The presence of a colored student in Cornell in 1897 led to an editorial on race relations remarkable for its advanced thinking. Much that was written about the depression of 1893, the coal strikes, sound currency, women's rights, and other topics of the day have a surprisingly modern sound fifty years later.

Advertisements in the local paper furnish fascinating reading, especially the ones praising the magic properties of Lydia E. Pinkham's syrup, Chamberlain's Lotion, Syrup of Figs, and other wonder-working drugs. Old timers will remember the medicine men who

pitched their tents on the edge of town, chanting the praise of Kickapoo Indian Sagwa, a remedy guaranteed to "Cure your ills from corns to spots before the eyes."

Ads indicative of the times were the oft-repeated one "A few good over-coats in exchange for wood at Charles Bracketts," and one from Neff's furniture store which ran every week in 1895: "The telephone to the depot is now in fine working order and saves many steps and precious moments of time, all for five cents." As it was the only telephone in town, its use was strictly limited to calling the depot and long distance until 1900.

Much good-natured joking took place between the newspapers of neighboring towns. This bit of humor from the Springville New Era is typical: "A woman in Mount Vernon said that she had three children, two of them are still living and the third is in Lisbon."

In Mount Vernon, as in the country as a whole, this was a decade of expansion and modernization. With the coming of Charles Heller in 1891 a building boom began which changed the face of Main Street and added a great many buildings on the north side of town, where a swamp had been drained to make room for several blocks of houses. According to a story in the Hawkeye in 1892, a total of twenty-five new residences was completed in that year at a cost of \$50,000. This amount seems unbelievably low until we realize that the daily wage for carpenters and masons was \$1.50 for a ten-hour day, except for the most skilled, who received an additional dollar.

In the Hawkeye of 1893 under "Season's Story" is an account of 25 new buildings being erected at an expenditure of \$28,000. Then follows an itemized list of homes built, of which the following are typical: Dr. Mason Hogle, 6 rooms, \$1200; Mr. Lemon, 7 rooms, \$1500; Mrs. Keedick, 7 rooms, \$1500, and a barn \$200; Ely West, 8 rooms, with buttery, wash-room, closets, and wood shed, \$2200.

Although these private and public buildings, including the two churches, were well built, they lacked the architectural beauty of the brick houses built thirty or forty years earlier.

The burning issue of the times was Temperance. Not only was there bitter warfare between the wet and dry forces of the State, but within the ranks of the W.C.T.U. there were factions which threatened to disrupt the organization. The new order wanted to join forces with the new Prohibition party; the old guard opposed such union. In Mount Vernon the feeling ran so high that the Methodists refused the use of their church to speakers of both factions. In many places in Iowa, especially around Clinton and Sioux City, mobs representing the liquor interests fought and killed the defenders of temperance. Such was the fate of James Iorns, a valiant crusader in the Temper-

ance Cause. After his violent death, his widow came to Mount Vernon to put her children through college, buying the house later remodeled by Payson Peterson and now owned by Mr. and Mrs. James McCutcheon. She ran this as a boarding and rooming house for Cornell students. Mrs. Iorns devoted herself to the Cause, standing staunchly with the Old Guard of the W.C.T.U. Mrs. Mary F. Williams, believing in uniting the two factions, was made editor of the State organ, "The Champion," and she filled that office with skill and courage for five years. Under the leadership of these two gifted women the W.C.T.U. of Mount Vernon became a powerful organization, giving programs and Temperance Teas which were widely attended. Prominent speakers such as Frances Willard and Mrs. J. Ellen Foster were brought in.

Twenty citizens of the town went to the inaugural ceremonies of the World's Fair in Chicago in May 1892. President King of the college was chairman of an important committee at the Fair. It is estimated that 27,000,000 people from all over the nation came to marvel at the wonders of the Columbian Fountain, the White City, the glittering Midway, and the mammoth steam-powered Ferris Wheel with capacity of over twenty-one hundred people. Chicago's Masonic Temple twenty-two stories high is popularly supposed to have started the era of the sky-scraper.

The panic of 1893 did not come with sensational suddenness as did the market crash of 1929, but crept like a slow paralysis over the land, closing banks, factories and business houses with the inevitability of doom. Soon there were 574 closed banks and 15,000 commercial failures. Prices went down, down; Iowa hogs were quoted below \$2.50 a hundred-weight; and good horses went as low as \$20 each. Drought cut the corn crop in half, and coal strikes added to the misery. Armies of unemployed were loose in the land, homeless and desperate. Most famous of these in Iowa was Kelly's Army of a thousand men armed only with tin plates and cups, which came on foot from San Francisco to Des Moines, where they occupied an abandoned factory on the outskirts of the city. Since the railroad refused them passage, the people of Des Moines had to build them rafts on which Kelly's Army floated off down the river.

Mount Vernon had her share of these wandering hoodlums. In 1894 a mass meeting was called for the purpose of ridding the town of "boot-leggers" and "criminals." Charley Carley and Pete Ink remember that some citizens of Mount Vernon and vicinity were suspected of aiding a gang of horse-thieves, although they were never brought to trial. The hiding place of the stolen horses was thought to have been down on Coon Creek near the mill.

This panic was popularly blamed on President Cleveland's low tariff policy which allowed foreign goods to come into competition

with American wares. According to the Hawkeye "the country is now paying the penalty for restoring the Democratic Party to power. It is a severe penalty. Up to now the cost amounts to \$1,000,000,000, and that does not include the wear and tear on people's minds engaged in industrial pursuits. The country is drifting as a ship at sea with no compass. Experiences comes high." Another editorial in the Hawkeye blames the hard times somewhat on the extravagance of the people who wasted money on ten-cent shaves, fifteen cent haircuts, and other luxuries.

There were three disastrous fires in 1893 which destroyed parts of two business blocks on Main Street. This led to a popular demand for a fire department. In the Hawkeye of January 3, 1896, an irate citizen wrote an open letter to the mayor and council demanding action on electricity, a water system and other improvements needed to make Mount Vernon attractive to would-be settlers. In his words: "What a mortifying sight met the gaze of our people at our last fire when the new beautiful residence of Mr. and Mrs. Leib was on fire—the drayman hooking up his team to draw water from the faithful old spring to charge 'the Babcock engine'; the girls and boys carrying water from distant wells in iron kettles, coffee-pots, boilers, tubs, dippers and jugs!" All in vain, however, was this amateur fire-fighting, for the new Leib house was burned to the ground before any one had lived in it.

In January 1896 Captain Charles W. Kepler demanded to know, "what has become of the electric light resolution passed unanimously by our citizens some months ago? The newspapers teem with ads from our business men; but alas, alas, we are still using the same old greasy lamps and the tallow candle, and are hauling our water from the old, old spring down in Waln's field."

In a last burst of agony Capt. Kepler makes this eloquent plea to the Council: "In the name of Cornell College; in the name of the enterprising business men who had the nerve and the faith in Mount Vernon to build beautiful homes and build business blocks . . . In the name of the noble women and beautiful girls of Mount Vernon, who are tired of filling and cleaning lamps; . . . I beg, implore, beseech, entreat, and urge our mayor and town council to wake up from their Rip Van Winkle sleep and take the initiatory steps to lift our city out of its 'ancient darkness' into the marvelous light enjoyed by our neighboring city on the east."

Capt. Kepler must have had a hard time restraining himself until February 12th, 1897 when the electric lights were first turned on, and the following November when water first flowed from the new water-works system. This delay, exasperating as it was, probably saved Mount Vernon from a gas-light era, and prolonged the service of Bill Safley, the old lamp-lighter, who went about his business of

"making the night a little brighter" from the fall of 1889 for several years.

Gradually things got better, although the "crack-pot" young orator from Nebraska caused anxiety in the breasts of many Republicans with his famous speech urging the country not to press a crown of thorns on labor's brow, or crucify mankind upon a cross of gold. There was great local enthusiasm for McKinley as was proven by the McKinley Club and Women's auxiliary which sprang up in July of 1897. The town went en masse to hear him make a scheduled speech at the station. By accident the train pulled out just as he was beginning: "My fellow citizens," thereby disappointing hundreds of his admirers. McKinley said later that it was probably the best speech of his entire campaign.

A high-tariff, gold-standard platform plus the largest Republican campaign fund of all time put him in the White House, with the shadowy figure of Mark Hanna everlasting at his elbow.

Of never-failing interest to towns-people as well as to students was the Cornell Military Battalion and the Ladies Auxiliary of 112 members under the command of popular Lieutenant Howe. President King was successful in securing two steel cannon of the latest pattern, breech-loading, for his military department. A road was opened up east of the campus and hedges cut down to make a runway for cadets to move to and from the drill grounds near the Goodell house on the back campus. The four companies competed in giving programs in the chapel, consisting of military drill, bayonet practice, and the manual of arms presented with precision. These programs were very popular, as were those given by the Ladies Auxiliary in their snappy blue and white uniforms.

This interest in things military reached a peak at the time of the Spanish-American war. Although later historians condemn the expansionist policies of America in Cuba, Nicaragua and Panama, statesmen of the time seem to have been complacently indifferent to the ethics of these acts. In the January 21, 1897 paper we read that "It begins to look decidedly like business as regards Cuba." A week later it was noted that a U.S. battleship, the Maine, has gone to Cuba. "This simply means law and order and not war for the present at least." On February 15th the Maine was blown up in Havana Harbor; on April 19th war was declared; and by April 26th Claus Hartman from Mount Vernon had enlisted in the army, followed by ten more volunteers before the end of June. Everywhere the battle cry was "Remember the Maine"; just as a later generation was to cry: "Remember Pearl Harbor." Dr. William Norton made the rousing speech which led to the enlistment of Mount Vernon's eleven volunteers. Within a year the war was over, with Dewey, the hero, home from Manila to ride in a New York parade with Teddy Roosevelt,

Admirals Sampson and Schley, Generals Miles and Shafter, and thousands of soldiers, sailors and marines.

A study of the cultural life of this decade would be incomplete without reference to the influential women who are remembered with pride. Then as now it was the women who took the initiative in forming literary clubs and fostering fine arts and social life with which the word culture is commonly associated. The New Woman was abroad in the land conscious of her rights and responsibilities. Mrs. Mary Williams writes:

"Within the memory of man needle-work, a little music, less arithmetic, with a smattering of French, were quite sufficient culture for a woman; while conic sections, the sciences, law and medicine were away beyond her reach and capacity; but the noiseless foot of time speeds adown the centuries, and lo! the good old days of stiff brocade, alike on both sides, elegant but monotonous, have vanished, and with them the old fashioned sewing circle of our grandmother's time; and in these diaphanous days springs up in its place the woman's club . . . and although the club was in that earlier time the first weapon of uncivilized man, today it is the last weapon of civilized woman."

The first woman's club of Mount Vernon was Ingleside organized in December 1882 at Guild Hotel by Miss Harriette J. Cooke and Mrs. Mary F. Williams. Requirements for membership in the Mount Vernon Literary and Social Circle, as it was called the first year, were "evidences of literary taste and congenial qualities." No subject was too ambitious or difficult for them to treat in club papers. In the historian's book is the modest entry, "We think that we may justly lay claim to be among the good influences of the Hill City." The social side was not neglected. There was an annual reception in December, always formal, to which husbands and a chosen few guests were invited. This custom lasted throughout the years until 1934, when some rebellious husbands went to a wrestling match, after which they put in a tardy and informal appearance at what turned out to be the last formal reception given by the Ingleside.

In 1896 the Ladies Literary Club of Cedar Rapids entertained the Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs at the first biennial meeting. Mrs. Adelaide Ebersole and Mrs. M. L. Freer went as delegates, with other members attending. This led to the federation of Ingleside that same year. According to records of the Iowa State Federation, Ingleside is the sixteenth club in the State to be organized, and first among towns of comparable size.

Second of the women's clubs in Mount Vernon was Sorosis. It grew out of a State convention of the W.C.T.U. in Des Moines in October of 1894. "The Laws of Iowa Pertaining to Woman and the Home" was presented by Miss Jones, a successful lawyer, who

urged that these laws be studied by W.C.T.U. groups over the State. Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Iorns, delegates to the convention, called a meeting of the W.C.T.U. and other interested women to organize a society to study this subject. Known for the first year as "The Improvement Club," in 1896 it changed its name to Sorosis and became a literary club, studying Ida Tarbell's Life of Lincoln, which was appearing serially in McClure's Magazine.

There is some confusion in the record as to which of the two Improvement Clubs deserves the credit for certain civic reforms. The Village Improvement Association had been organized at the school house on September 18, 1893, dividing the town into four sections with the following leaders: Northwest, Dr. J. Albrook; Southwest, Professor G. Curme; Northeast, Mrs. C. P. Whittemore and Southeast, Ita G. Fairbanks.

Of the sixty citizens who organized to improve and beautify the town, a large proportion were women. Mrs. Myron Neff was made chairman, Minard Lozier, secretary. There was no treasurer because there were to be no dues. Success of the undertaking depended on voluntary co-operation in clean-up drives and various projects carried out over a period of years. At times they joined forces with the Cemetery Association, also headed by Mrs. Neff. Early in the spring these women were busy clearing up the cemetery lots long before they began raking their own lawns.

These good works led a writer in the Hawkeye to the following acknowledgment in the issue of December 8, 1893; soon after the last of the three destructive fires of the year: "A number of the ladies are talking of organizing a Fire Department. It was the ladies who started a movement for a fence around the cemetery, and, if we mistake not, it was the ladies who started the Village Improvement Association. If the ladies should take hold of the movement for a fire department, we believe we would have one equal to that of any town of this size in the State. Surely the elective franchise should be given to the women." This was twenty-five years before the United States passed the amendment giving the right of suffrage to women.

Although Mrs. Hugh Boyd's home responsibilities did not leave her with enough time for extensive club work or social life, she will be long remembered by a host of former music pupils for her patrician beauty, grace and high quality of musicianship. Before her marriage to Professor Boyd she had taught piano in the Conservatory. Afterward, for many years, she taught the boys and girls of the town their scales and pieces, often continuing to give lessons without charge to talented pupils who could not afford to pay. At her student recitals not only were "the sisters and the cousins and the aunts" of her pupils

invited, but their friends and friends' friends were included in her gracious hospitality.

One of the leading feminists of the time was Dr. Kate Mason Hogle, who combined a medical career with home-making, serving on the school board and performing many other duties in club, church and town. This account of her marriage to Dr. George Hogle in Wesleyan Church, London in 1894, illustrates her fidelity to the causes of equal rights for women and to Temperance:

"During the ceremony a striking pause took place at the word 'obey' by Dr. Kate Mason objecting to the word on principle. After a pleasant explanatory smile from the bride, and the same from the clergyman, that obsolete word of a barbarous age was left out, and the happy couple of doctors was made One. They left the place amid showers of rice followed by the wedding party who assembled at the residence of N. M. Baird, Esqr., where the newly united parties . . . partook of a sumptuous and recherche dinner . . . After ample justice had been done to the viands, the Bride and Bridegroom were drunk in water by the favored guests."

There were many other women of the town who played their parts well in the Gay Nineties Revue, some famous for wit or hospitality, good deeds or learning. To give them all their due would require another chapter for which space is lacking. Their records are written in works they left behind.

There were Ladies then and Gentlemen;  
We may not see their like again.  
They moved with grace at leisure'd pace  
On Duty's pathway clear.  
Mount Vernon is a better place  
Because they once lived here.

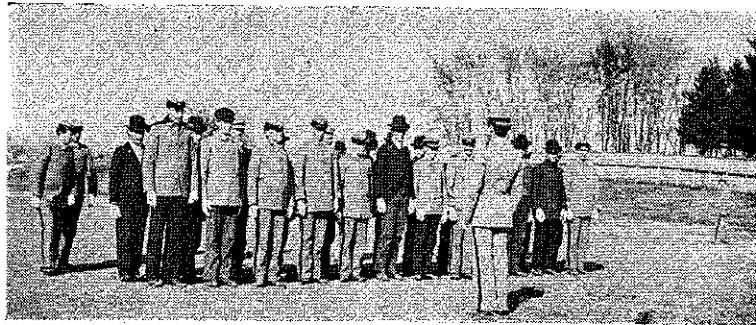


The "White House" of Cornell College. Planned and built by William Hamilton, an early college trustee. Bought from Mr. McDowell by Dr. William L. King in 1865. Dr. King lived here until his death in 1921. Mr. Hamilton and Professor Alonzo Collin played chess frequently in the third story tower room fitted up as a chess room.

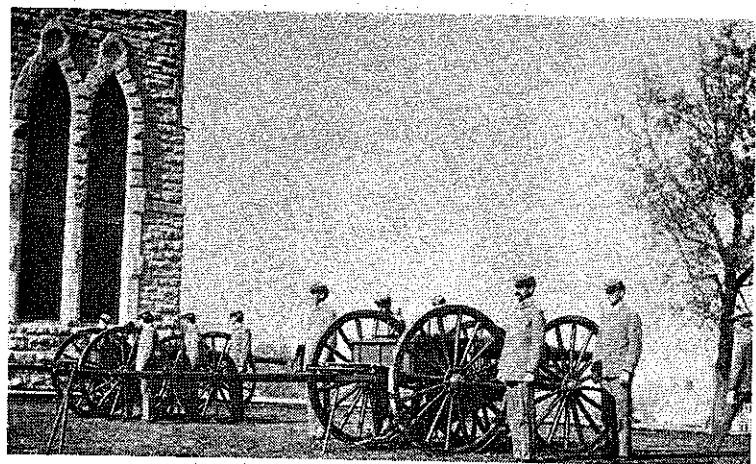


Lady Waterlow, wife of Sir Sydney Waterlow, Lord Mayor of London for over twenty years. As Margaret Hamilton, daughter of William Hamilton, who built Cornell's "White House," she attended Cornell College during the years 1858-1861. Copied from the miniature portrait in the College Library.

**Cornell's "Awkard Squad" of The Nineties**



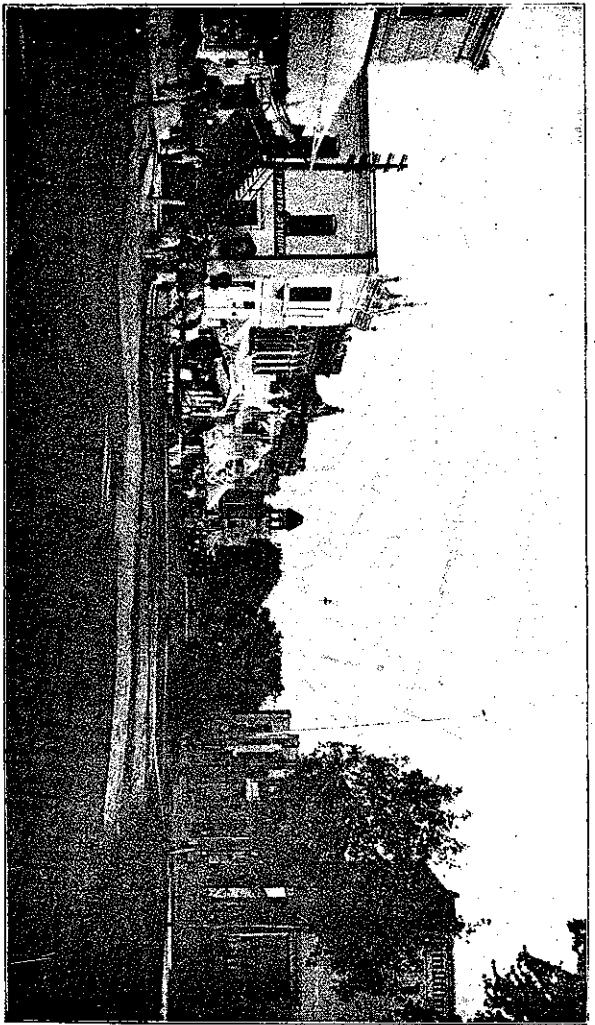
**Cornell's Cannons Were Called in at the Time of  
Spanish American War. This ended Military  
Drill at Cornell**



Mt. Vernon's First Auto In 1906  
Owned By Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Buser



Main Street Before The Paving



## Chapter 10

### The Turn of the Century

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The mammoth wheel of time, which is supposed to make a complete revolution every century, seemed to slow down at the close of the 90's as if loath to leave behind many of the good old customs and traditions of the past. The pause was brief, however, for its speed was soon accelerated and the twentieth century ushered in a period of expansion and rapid growth for Mount Vernon.

The town could boast by this time all the so-called modern improvements—that is, electric lights, water works, and, by the second week in January 1900, the telephone. The latter service was offered on Sundays only from 7 to 10 A.M. and from 2 to 6 P.M. Other days the service was from 6 A.M. to 10 P.M. Considering that the night operator was paid only five dollars a month, it was reasonable that only emergency calls were supposed to be made after hours. Just how the Sunday evening dates were made, the present generation wouldn't know.

The first day operators were paid twenty-five dollars a month and the lineman forty dollars, a sum which was the prevailing wage of the grade school teachers at that time. At a meeting of the directors held January 6, 1902, Professor Harry M. Kelly was elected manager of the Company at a salary of fifteen dollars a month. Does one wonder that residence phones then cost only one dollar and business phones three dollars a month?

Since 1900 we have gone far in telephone equipment, service, and excellence. By January 1940, new central office equipment was placed in operation in Cedar Rapids and the very latest in dial telephones in Mount Vernon. This meant that the old magnetic phones were to be just a memory.

The first local company was organized in the fall of 1899 with the following officers: President, James E. Harlan; Vice-President, E. B. Willix; Secretary, Dr. T. A. Gormly; Treasurer, J. B. Albrook. The first stock holders were C. W. Kepler, J. B. Albrook, E. B. Willix, W. A. Smyth, Dr. T. A. Gormly, James E. Harlan, Dr. J. B. Robinson, W. E. Platner and Dr. A. C. Tenney.

Our local company was sold first to the Cedar Rapids and Marion Telephone Company, which prior to World War I sold out to the Iowa Telephone Company, a part of the Bell System. It became a part of the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company in 1909.

The curfew, which in the late 90's compelled those under fourteen years of age to be off the streets by 10 P.M., had been done away with, but the fact that the electric lights went off at midnight was

a deterrent to late hours. It was not until about 1911 that all-night service was started.

A typhoid epidemic spurred up the installation of a town water plant, but at the turn of the century many were still forced, even in the winter's cold, to bundle up and bring in water from a well. Lucky they were if the pump didn't have to be primed, or if it were not frozen. On account of the lack of a sewerage system, which made cess-pools necessary, many hesitated to put bathrooms and kitchen sinks in their homes. Sewerage was agitated for several years. As late as 1909 Captain C. W. Kepler was fighting the improvement, arguing that it would bankrupt the town. Consequently this was delayed for four or five years.

Another difficulty the town encountered was in locating the water mains in case of trouble. Their location was not well planned, and for some years the only reliable, easily accessible map was in the head of the water commissioner, T. I. Mitchell.

Mount Vernon has always vied to keep apace if not ahead of its friendly neighbor Lisbon, but the latter beat us to the ownership of the first automobile. About 1901, W. S. Furnas bought a red Reo, which he proudly displayed to Mount Vernon folk. Its noise like that of a threshing machine made every one rush to the window to behold the new invention. What wonder that Mayor Elwood Macy offered a reward for apprehension of the rowdy who threw stones in front of it!

The roads were still just plain dirt, mud or mire, depending on the weather and the season for, macadam was not yet in use for hard surfacing. So for work or play Old Dobbin was much in demand. Emmett Crowell with his rubber-tired buggy and driving horse were gone, but Clair Miller with his high vehicle had come to the Cornell Campus. A ride to the Palisades or elsewhere in a livery rig was still the height of enjoyment. If a picnic of any size was planned, then of course it had to be the carryall drawn by two horses.

The first auto in Mount Vernon, bought by J. S. Buser in 1906 would have been coveted by James Melton. It was a one-cylinder Holesman, purchased in Detroit, Michigan. With the exception of a fender in place of a step it resembled a top buggy. The large wheels had solid rubber tires. The windshield was lacking on the car, and its lights resembled kerosene lanterns, not only in appearance, but in necessity of having to be lighted with a match. The numerous parts were crated and shipped to Mount Vernon by freight. David Safley, later a Ford dealer in Houston, Texas, who has just returned to Mount Vernon, was at that time a popular mechanic in town and was engaged to assemble the automobile, a job he did successfully, according to Mrs. Buser. This car was a rare sight and lucky were the town folk who were given a ride.

Rapidly the open cars with wide fenders, wind shields, and smaller wheels made their appearance. At this time the women wore big

hats, which necessitated the new style of auto veils draped over them and tied securely to keep them on. Eye glasses, too, couldn't take the wind, hence the growing use of spectacles which gripped the ears tightly.

Let us take a look at the campus. The fence was gone, for another pasture had been found for the college cows, but the wooden sidewalks still remained—the same under which effigies of the various classes were once interred. The girls were as young as they are now, but in long skirts, bustles, large hats, high collars and golf capes, they would present an aged appearance to the present day bobby soxer, clad in blue jeans and plaid shirt. And in comparison with the long bob of the present day certainly many years were added by the Psyche knots atop the heads of the co-eds at the turn of the century.

The social life of Cornell centered around the literary societies which had for many years offered practically all the training in English and public speaking which the College afforded.

The "publics" given in the auditorium by the various societies were events which neither college nor town folk cared to miss, although these programs consisted of nothing more than several orations interspersed with music by local talent. The east side of the balcony was reserved for the society giving the "public," the members being accompanied by their best beaux or girls. The latter wore evening dresses and carried large bouquets of roses, carnations, or other hot-house flowers.

Cornell commencement exercises were still outdoors, either on the hillside sloping north between Main Hall and Old Sem, or in the grove south of the present Law building. The seats were wooden planks facing a large platform on which the senior class and faculty sat. Commencement Day as late as the turn of the century was a highlight of the year and was made a gala occasion. During the 80's and 90's buggies and wagons filled with country folk would start coming to town in the very early morning hours just to get a convenient place to hitch their teams. Believe it, or not!

Graduates were required to give orations either on Commencement Day or in some previous chapel service. The former was preferred, because it was well known that actual hearers and critics would be few, owing to the noise of the crowd standing around the comparatively few people lucky enough to get seats.

The high school students, too, prior to receiving their diplomas were required to give orations in public. They were rewarded for this ordeal, however, by a sumptuous alumni banquet served by one of the churches immediately following the exercises.

It will be a surprise to most readers to know that golf was first played in Mount Vernon in the late 90's, the first course being laid out in David West's pasture, just beyond Fifth Avenue South. A

stile was built over the fence for the accommodation of the early players: Dr. H. C. Stanclift, Gus and Mary Bauman, and others. About 1904 or '05 students and town folk played at Abbey Creek. Golf was later played at Cornellton, an interurban project boasting a club house. After four or five years the links were laid out west of R. P. Ink's home, and the club members themselves built a very respectable little clubhouse out of Fred Wodrich's woodshed. Until World War II, golfing there was a popular pastime of both men and women.

At evening parties progressive carroms and flinch were played, bridge not yet having come to town. At these affairs, often given by the young ladies' organizations, there were still enough bachelors to go around—a situation which no longer exists.

The Martin Iorn's oratorical contests were still given at the college, and his mother, a very loyal temperance worker, still gave her annual W.C.T.U. tea.

As is the case of the Music Festival now, the town people were most willing to back up the college in its efforts to provide the best in music for the community. We read in the "Hawkeye" of March 7, 1902, that the following public-spirited women acted as patronesses for the initial concert of the glee and mandolin clubs: Mesdames Hugh Boyd, C. W. Kepler, C. E. Henderson, H. H. Rood, W. E. Platner, J. E. Harlan, C. P. Whittemore, S. N. Williams, D. L. Boyd, C. A. B. Smith, J. B. Robinson, H. H. Freer, Thomas Nicholson, J. H. Lozier, William Wilcox, J. B. Albrook, J. S. McIntyre, M. A. B. Meyers, A. W. Berryman, J. I. Wade, and W. F. Taylor.

In 1903 the merchants had a midwinter carnival for one week in the Odd Fellows' Hall. It featured a curio room and exhibits of art, fancy work and baking. The main attraction was a baby show. Three old bachelors, W. V. Chambers, Harry Ellison and DeWitt McClellan, who perhaps had never held a baby, made the awards. The prize, a sterling spoon, went to Hazel Hahn for being the best natured. Maggie Martz, daughter of Willis, received a book for being the youngest walker and talker. Sarah Margaret Turner received a gold ring for having the strongest lungs. One wonders how this test was made. Did the judges pinch the babies to make them cry, or was one look at the judges enough to bring about this reaction? Other babies exhibited were Mary E. Reynolds, Ruby M. Leigh, Virgil Wilson, Maurice Hartung, Craig Boyd, and Harriett Hoover. All babies received a cup and saucer as a consolation prize. The judges wisely refrained, or lacked the nerve, to name the prettiest baby.

Further prizes were awarded as follows:—for butter, Mrs. George Smyth; for seed-corn, Robert Smith; for fancywork, Misses Anna Kopf and Rose Monahan and Mrs. E. B. Hawkins and Mrs. B. F. Walters. For baked goods, prizes were awarded to Mrs. C. W.

Neff, Mrs. C. P. Whittemore, Mrs. Emma McIntyre, Mrs. Frutchey, and Miss Clark.

Entertainments by local talent were offered and the week was concluded by a concert at the auditorium given by Max Heinrich, a popular singer, and Madame Wunderle, harpist.

A list of those who arranged booths for the Merchant's Carnival gives us almost a complete roster of the men and women on Main Street at that time. They were: J. S. Buser, Alexander & Kyle, Cornell Drug Store, N. B. Twogood, Rood and Young, W. H. Hoover, The Hawkeye, G. W. Kidder, M. K. Neff, Mrs. E. B. Miller, E. E. Wilcox, J. G. Fox, Alice Goudy & Co., Boyd & Berryman, The Public School, J. S. Smith, B. F. Robinson, B. F. Beach & Son, Bennett & Hill, W. G. Power, E. E. Kyle, The Record, Stewart Ellison & Son, and D. E. Long.

Mount Vernon has always been noted for offering the very best talent for its lectures and concerts. Booker T. Washington came in 1900, and in 1903 Captain Richmond P. Hobson gave a lecture on "The Nation and Its Navy." He presented a very tall and dignified appearance on the platform, and in so far as is known, he kissed no babies in Mount Vernon.

Old time revival meetings were also held bringing to town Shawhan, Billy Sunday and the singers Elderkin and Tibbett (not Lawrence).

We have left to the last Mount Vernon's popular entertainment, the movies. At the beginning of the century every city and town of any size boasted of its nickelodeon, 5c admission on week days, 10c on Sundays. To keep the public coming, serials running from twenty to forty weeks were shown. The first movie house in town, the Delphus, was in the building, now a tavern, on the north side of Main Street, corner of Main and First Avenue. It was operated by Arthur W. Broadmeadow, husband of Marie Doron. The next theatre run by Frank Beach and later by Mr. Hendryx was diagonally across the street in the former Platner building.

By 1912 feature length films were shown. In 1921 Lawrence West had taken over and was operating a theatre on the present location and one at Lisbon, the latter for a short time only. The name Liberty was later changed to Strand. By 1930 or '31 Mount Vernon had sound films. These at first were not regular talking pictures, but the old Vitaphone with music played from a disc synchronized with the action on the screen. Just what happened when the timing was not accurate, and the characters moved their lips with no sound coming forth, you all can guess. Soon the regular talking picture was perfected, and Mount Vernon can now boast as good a little theater as can be found in any town of this size, with upholstered, comfortable seats, air conditioning, etc.

At the turn of the century the "Hawkeye" cited Mount Vernon's needs as follows: 1. A new depot. 2. A first class creamery. 3. A chicken buyer and shipper. 4. An oil tank line plant. 5. A new hotel. Pressure was brought to bear on the Chicago and Northwestern Railway officials, and our depot became a reality and was formally opened January 1, 1902. It was fortunate that ticket sales between here and Cedar Rapids were very considerable at that time and Mount Vernon's importance to the road could be argued.

The creamery came and was operated by H. F. Beyer of Edgewood, but was later moved to Cedar Rapids. In the spring of 1928, Mount Vernon acquired a poultry and produce plant, efficiently operated at the present time by F. J. Peterson, Jr.

A mass meeting of citizens in 1902 decided that a new hotel was a most compelling need. Traffic along the Lincoln Highway was increasing, and it was felt that Mount Vernon should bid for patronage of the traveling public. A stock company was at once organized; shares selling at \$100 each. The officers were: President, H. H. Rood; Vice-President, W. E. Platner; Secretary, J. D. Harrington; Treasurer, D. L. Boyd. The directors were C. W. Kepler, Clem Falcon and H. H. Freer. \$5500 was paid for three lots belonging to H. G. Miller and G. W. Young.

The building plans called for a structure of three stories with basement, made of pressed brick with stone trimming.

In November 18, 1903, it was opened to the public, the first man to register being H. N. Smith of New York City. Amos Scott, whom many will remember, was the first day porter, and Rosie Hartman, now Mrs. A. G. Walton, was a waitress. The first manager was W. D. Millar.

The name "Altoona," chosen in a contest was suggested by the town Altoona, Pennsylvania, at the base of the Alleghany Mountains, so called because of its altitude and sightly location.

In 1904 owing to the debt which was found difficult to discharge, the entire establishment was sold to William F. King, president of Cornell, who undertook to run the place for the good of town and college. E. R. Ristine was manager for two and a half years, and business was considered good.

The advent of the interurban and the increase in autos made transportation to Cedar Rapids too easily available, however, so with the coming of World War I, the hotel was made into army barracks, occupied by a unit of the S.A.T.C., and after that into a college dormitory. When the Altoona became college property, Mrs. Laura Albeck Hoffman opened her home to transients. This is the parental Albeck home across from the high school building. Mrs. Hoffman called this the Mount Vernon Hotel and operated it efficiently for thirty years. In the spring of 1947 it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Roy Winchip, farmers north of town, who will continue as hotel operators.

The beginning of the twentieth century saw the passing of several Mount Vernon enterprises, among them the stone quarry and J. B. Robinson's brick yard and ice business. In 1900 W. H. Goudy sold the last of his stock to the Fair Store in Cedar Rapids, and in 1903 Gilbert Rundell, familiarly known as "Gib", sold his meat market to his brother G. A. Rundell.

The early years of the century saw also the passing of men long prominent in business: James (Merchant) Smith, Elijah L. Guild, Stewart Ellison and others. It is fitting to mention here the name of Mrs. Emma Witter Hutson, who for thirty-seven years was a milliner in Mount Vernon. She holds the woman's record for the longest period of time on Main Street. Nelia Kyle, also will be long remembered as the town's first woman real estate agent. She was a lively competitor of George Border.

One cannot leave this period without mention of Henry F. Byers, who left Mount Vernon about 1912. "Hen's" geniality and good food made his restaurant the student center of that time. Even the famous cartoonist, John T. McCutcheon, on a visit to Cornell, saw fit to portray in the course of his lecture, the students rushing in to "Hen's."

New faces were appearing in Mount Vernon, however, and new industries which were destined to take the place of the old. The town council decided to sell the unused alleys to adjacent owners and thus enrich the town treasury. A beginning was made of macadamizing the main streets, and a new steel bridge was built over the short line at the east end of Main Street. The cemetery was almost doubled in size by buying the hill to the south and east. In 1901 the Citizens' State Bank was organized with the following officers: President, M. F. Rigby; Vice-President, Clem Falcon; Cashier, O. J. Sweet. The directors were C. P. Whittemore, W. B. Munson and J. F. Killheffer.

A laundry was also started which did the work for town and college for several years. Ralph Kirkpatrick's feed mill on First Avenue ground grain.

April 27, 1900, the first weather signal service was inaugurated by "Dad" Davis. The weather flags were run up by him on a high pole in front of Horton & Kyle's Shoe Store. Prior to the advent of radio, this was a valued service. Speaking of weather on Sunday afternoon June 7, 1908, forty-eight years after our first devastating tornado, a second one passed south of Mount Vernon, almost destroying the barn on the Ira Barnes' place and doing a great deal of damage in Lisbon, especially to the power plant.

At this time it is interesting to note that Otis Kepler advertised for rent a five room house for \$8.50 a month and a six room house for \$10.00 a month. Mr. H. G. Simpson was offering one year old peach trees for 10c apiece and two year old ones for 15c. Other prices were in accordance. Ice cream cones which were offered in Mount

Vernon for the first time in July 1906, sold for 5c as now. They were probably just in time for the Fourth of July celebration.

The beginning of the twentieth century witnessed a building boom for the town. What had been an orchard north of the Rood cottages—the present homes of Mrs. Mae Kepler, Mrs. Marcia Conrad, Dr. Harold Ennis, and Mr. Lloyd LeGrand and a slough west of the old stone mill, owned by the father of Fletcher Barrett, Jefferson E. Barrett, were rapidly built up. Daniel Hartung had moved up from Lisbon and was the contractor and builder of at least fourteen good homes before becoming superintendent of college buildings and grounds. Drs. J. D. and T. L. Wolfe built four new business rooms on the north side of Main Street, west of Second Avenue, occupied by the B. F. Robinson Hardware Store, Cornell Drug Store, F. H. Zache's Tailor Shop, and the Record office. These rooms now are occupied by the Strand Theatre, Dr. L. E. Bigger and the American Legion.

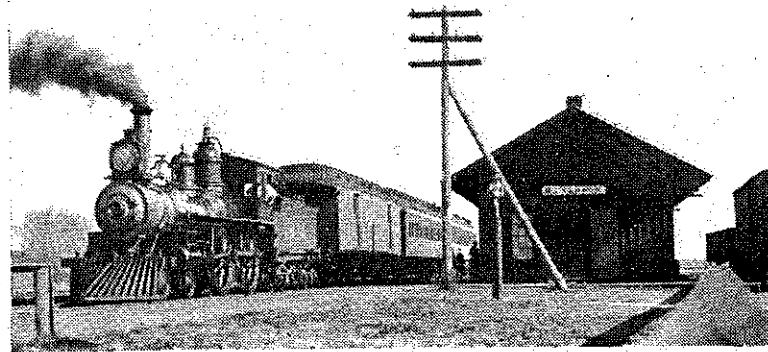
Just west of the Legion Hall, the town erected a City Hall in 1916. This is constructed of matt-faced brick with stone trimming. At the north end of the central hall is a town auditorium and at the front the council room and fire station. The latter was recently enlarged to house the new Franklin township fire truck as well as local equipment. A small room serving as office for the clerk, water superintendent, and mayor opens off the council room. The second floor is for Red Cross work and contains a women's rest room, and the basement houses the town jail and affords sleeping quarters for vagrants. Atop the building is the fire siren. This is blown every day just at noon not only to indicate the time, but to prove that the siren is in working order. A story is told that once upon a time a bird's nest was found to interfere with this latter function.

The Mount Vernon "Hawkeye" in 1904 built a two-story addition, "Cap" Rowley's bakery being in the basement. In May of that year the Odd Fellows began their new building, the first floor of which is occupied by the Bauman & Co. Clothing Store. This store has always competed successfully with Cedar Rapids. Cornell alumni return to trade there, and even Cedar Rapids residents appear in Bauman suits and hats. Wolfe Brothers built a new office on the site of Dr. Carson's old one.

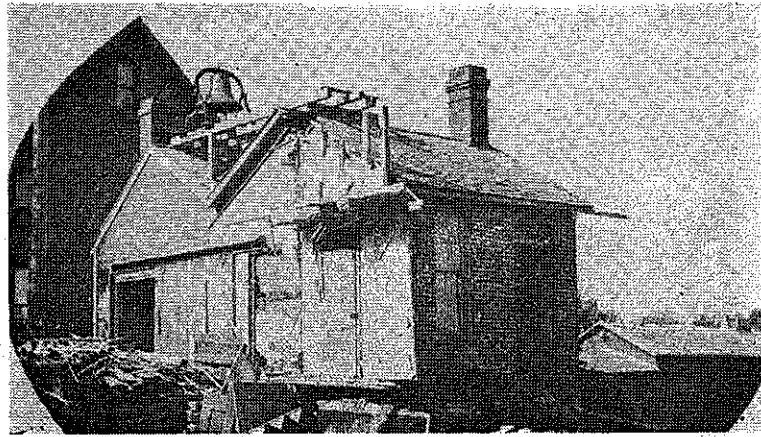
The building of the new gymnasium and library are part of college history, but since Andrew Carnegie stipulated that his money must be for a library for both college and town, the townfolk subscribed funds liberally. The literary societies had pledged \$1200 each for the various departments and a lively campaign was carried on among the people of the town to help them out.

August 1, 1902 four routes of rural mail delivery service were started. The rural carriers included Sol Geiger, Billy Crain, Earl Mitchell, Wesley Seward, Fred Blaine, and John Neff. Fred Blaine, who recently retired, carried rural mail for forty-five years, the long-

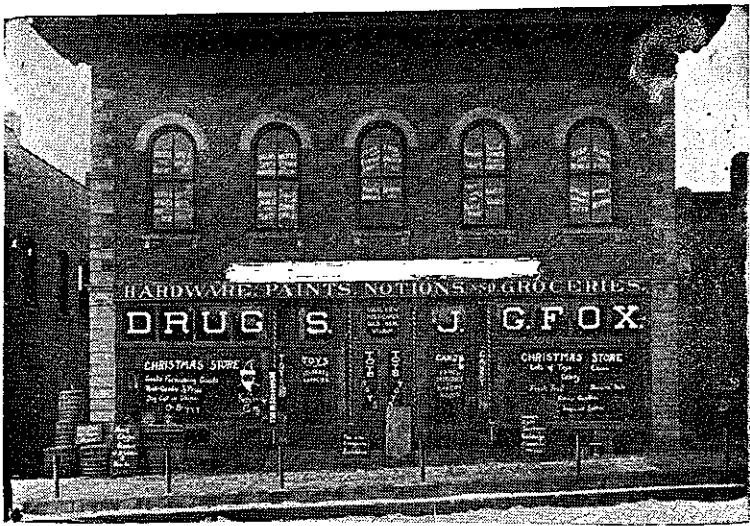
**Mount Vernon's Old "Depot" and  
Streamliner of The Nineties**



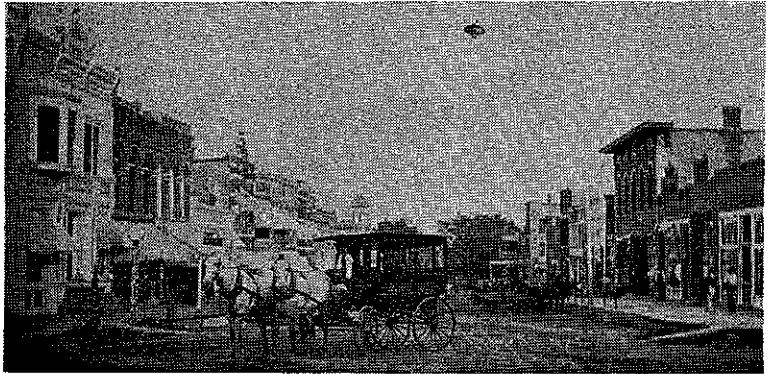
**The Fire Station, Town Hall and Jail of Yesteryear**



## Wilcox Hall

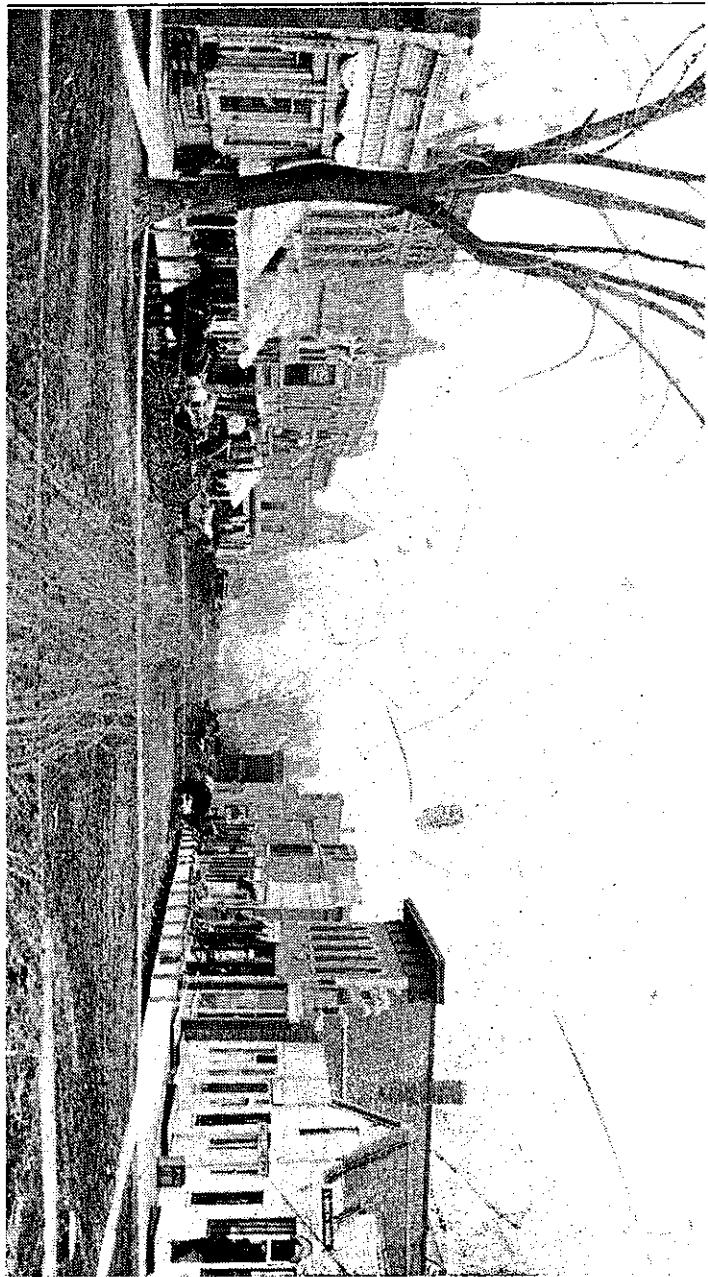


The present Masonic quarters in this old business building, were once Wilcox Hall, Mount Vernon's Auditorium. In this were held all public school programs and the never-to-be forgotten entertainments of the W.C.T.U., the District School and Mrs. Jarley's Wax Works. Both were directed by Mrs. Mary F. Williams. Meredith's drug store and Dale's Marketeria now occupy what was once J. G. Fox's general store, characterized by its slogan, "Nuf Sed."

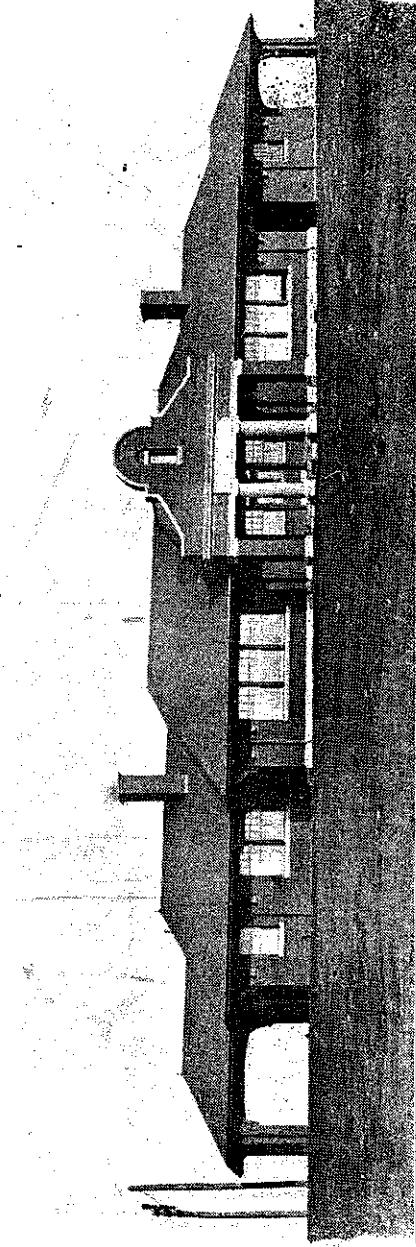


John Hoodmaker's station wagon of the 90's named the "Central House."  
Note fringe on top!

Main Street In The Early Nineties



**The Present Depot**



est period of service of any rural mail carrier in Iowa. In 1907 the Mount Vernon post office underwent improvements incident to a change from third to second class.

July 1, 1916 local delivery was started. The town, owing to the large volume of college mail, was entitled to this service, although one of the smallest towns which has it. Carl Travis and Lee D. Evans were the first two carriers. Since that time the regular carriers have been Glenn Rogers and the present ones Frank Benesh and Dana Wilcox. Marguerite Kleinfelter (Mrs. Frank Young) carried a route during World War I. The inside help who have served a number of years have been Leon and Otis Moore, Mae Turner Mitchell, Forrest E. Walters, Herbert Rumble, Glenn Haynes, George Turner, Otis Kepler and the present force, Carl Travis, Glenn Rogers, Lloyd Kent, and Hobart Bair.

Inventors were busy in Mount Vernon. In 1902 Mary Whittemore received a patent for a ribbon needle to take the place of a bodkin. The next year Frank Hann invented a power water blast to be used in chemical laboratories. The year 1905 saw the completion of the voting machine designed by E. B. Willix, E. L. Keith and W. A. Smyth. By the next year the Glenn voting machine was tried out by authorization of the county supervisors.

Two well known controversies began. The famous Penn Street case in which George W. Young, Sr. was defendant and the town the plaintiff, insisting that Penn Street running through the Young property should be opened, was finally settled in 1904 after three years litigation. Mr. Young was the victor. In 1903, Cedar Rapids began her long fight for the county seat which resulted in her victory.

No chapter in this history is complete without mention of Mount Vernon's summer home, the Palisades. In 1903 James Minott had two auction sales of lots, the prices ranging from \$20 to \$71. Many people took advantage of these and built cottages so that two years later the Pal population numbered one hundred. Who hasn't been entertained there by the Baumans, the Carsons, the Goughs, or the Gormlys, or taken a meal at the log-cabin restaurant, general store, and hotel combined? Or who hasn't rented a boat and rowed over to beautiful Spring Hollow, or up the river to Screeching Sands or the Blowout? When the Palisades, by the will of Louis Kepler, became a state park it was enlarged and beautified, but most of the cottages had to go. It is now a game preserve and recreation area known as the Palisades-Kepler State Park. To the original bequest of two hundred acres, the state has added eight hundred. Property on the west side of the river was bought from the Wolfe and Tomlinson estates. Glenn Averill of Cedar Rapids paid for half of the one hundred and thirty-eight acres bought from the Tomlinsons including the ravines, Spring Hollow and Screeching Sands.

This whole area is of prehistoric and historic interest. A molar tooth of a mammoth found here speaks of a far distant past, and Minott's Rock Shelter and thirteen well-preserved Indian mounds are

reminders that this park was a favored haunt of the Indians before white settlers arrived.

In this wooded area are found one hundred species of birds including the rare blue grosbeak; countless native shrubs, flowering plants, trees and ferns are also here. Among the latter are the walking and the rare ostrich ferns.

The Palisades-Keppler Park profited greatly by the work of about two hundred and ten young men in the CCC Camp. Between 1933 and '36 three and one-half miles of macadamized roads were improved and five miles of trails were constructed for the hikers. The large pillars at the entrance gate and all buildings are made from stone quarried at Stone City. Atop the hill above the site of the old log cabin hotel, a beautiful two-storied lodge was erected, containing a lounge, kitchen, and a spacious dining hall. Seventy-five feet above the river on Lover's Leap stands a small look-out shelter on the floor of which are marked the points of the compass. Beyond Shady Lane on top of the cliffs are two large stone cottages. In addition to these the CCC also built an eighteen car garage.

The present able caretaker, Charles Meyer, has a new stone cottage nearer the park entrance.

In conjunction with the Solon CCC Camp, a low-head dam was built opposite the Clubhouse to maintain a suitable water level for boating and fishing. This is eight hundred feet across and five hundred feet down the river from Spring Hollow. The dam is of earth reinforced with steel piling and has a concrete cap and four spillways.

Those who haven't visited the park for years would of course miss many of the old landmarks, but they would be impressed by the many improvements.

The coming of the interurban in July 1914 gave us close connection with Cedar Rapids, so that exclusive dry goods and shoe stores, and millinery shops no longer were profitable here. It did, however, give the impetus to paving our Main Street, since the grade had to be established when the track was laid. The Iowa Railway and Light Company offered to pay its share of the paving, so the town accepted this offer and laid a good brick pavement through the town. This is now a part of Highway 30, the Lincoln Highway. The original intention of the Iowa Railway and Light Company was to extend the line to Davenport, but Lisbon proved to be the eastern terminus.

Interurban service was not sufficiently appreciated by Mount Vernon and Lisbon folks, most of whom owned cars by this time, so after fourteen unprofitable years, it was discontinued. The last run was made Saturday, July 28, 1928. It had brought about a building boom between Cedar Rapids and Mount Vernon, however, and city folk had begun to establish homes between the towns, or in Mount Vernon. The building program of Cornell, incident to its centennial, will no doubt bring many more to this beautiful, little hilltop town.

## Chapter 11

### Our Public Schools

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#### Schools of Pioneer Days, 1840-1867

Some of us Mount Vernonites may like to think of the first schoolhouse in our little settlement on the hill as a log cabin equipped with home-made benches and puncheons. It might have been. An account of our school, published in the Mount Vernon *Hawkeye-Record*, September 15, 1927, states that there was such a school and locates it at 416 South Second Street, West, or what is now the former home of Mrs. Clara Brackett Spear.

The *History of Linn County* (1878), however, states that the first education in our town was in private homes with teachers paid by subscription. Such a school was held in the home of J. T. Rice, a newspaper man. This house still stands on 417 First Avenue, South. In charge of this little group of pupils was Miss Fidelia Sweetland, the first on the list of the public school teachers of Mount Vernon.

The same history states that the first schoolhouse in town was a frame building, built in 1852, which has been definitely located on the property belonging to Mrs. Alice Chamberlain Petrick. Mrs. John J. Smyth, whose sister, Arvilla, attended this school, describes it as a little one-story frame building. It was a district school, made so by an act "to establish a system of common schools, approved by the Council and House of Representatives of Iowa, January 16, 1840." The first teacher was Mr. L. W. Mason.

We find, though, that the three R's were not entirely confined to this building. Mrs. Smyth says that Laura Spear taught pupils in a room above the store now owned by Dale Johnson, and Miss Mary Witter taught in a house two doors south of Dick Busenbark's grocery on First Avenue.

#### The First Brick Schoolhouse of 1867

Just how long school was held in the frame schoolhouse of 1852 we do not know, but eventually the district of Mount Vernon purchased the old Methodist Church. This was located where the high school stands today. The audience room of the church was divided into rooms for school purposes, and school was held in this building until 1867. At that time the school board made a contract with William Brackett to erect a schoolhouse on this church lot. The original cost of the building was \$7000, but by the time it had been

equipped with seats and furniture, and by the time a substantial fence had been built around the lot and a wooden sidewalk with a stile had been laid in front of it, the cost was nearly \$9000. It is with this first brick building that the history of the Mount Vernon public schools is concerned for a period of sixty years.

Entering the building from the south one followed the hallway on the east side of the stairway to the primary grades or on the west side to the grammar grades. Ascending the stairs he came to the upper floor on which was the higher department consisting of two rooms. The school had four teachers. The system was not graded. After the pupils had attended nine years, they were through without graduation. The school year was divided into a fall, winter, and spring term.

Four teachers did not long suffice to answer the educational needs of the growing town, however. In the two-year period between 1870 and 1872 the school population jumped from 196 to 227. Six teachers were required instead of four. Nor was the schoolhouse adequate. Five years after the brick building had been constructed, the principal reported to the board that an additional room should be added. This was not done. Instead, in the late 1870's, the basement of the present C. W. Carley residence at 301 South Second Street, East, was used for the primary grades.

A glance at the curriculum of these days reveals that it leaned heavily on the three R's. However, times were changing. In 1872 Principal W. J. Barclay stated: "The old-fogy idea that if a child could read, write, and cipher, he was then fitted for active business life is fast being uprooted by broader views and more thorough teaching. Speakers are demanded by the times. We have devoted a short time each week to declaiming, essay-reading etc." This trend had its culmination in those years when schools required that every pupil who was graduated should write and recite an oration.

Since the office of superintendent had not yet been created, the head of the school was called a principal. Before 1879 the following were principals: J. W. Akers, Ira Fairbanks, Andrew Beatty, Frank Stephens, Miss Mary A. B. Witter, Willard Nowlin, W. J. Barclay, J. S. McMillen, D. W. Ford, G. Farrington, and J. C. Johnson. Of these, J. W. Akers became state superintendent of schools, Ira Fairbanks became county superintendent, and Andrew Beatty was the grandfather of a Rhodes scholar.

A teacher before 1875 who is remembered by many today was Miss Jennie Alexander. Pupils whose names appeared in 1869, designated as perfect in attendance, scholarship and deportment were: Nora B. Fellows, Florella Goudy, George Carson, Edith Waln, and Clara Brackett.

Here are some recollections of very early school days in Mount Vernon. Mrs. Edith Waln Cumming of Alhambra, California, recalls that in her time there was no graduation. The girls wore very long dresses to school. One of her favorites had eleven ruffles on it. As she phrased it, "The skirts of those days were capable of holding more ruffles than they are now."

Mrs. Augusta Minott, who was in the higher department in 1879, says that those who had completed their course gave an essay before the class and were given a certificate. Mrs. Minott's dress for the last day was made of white knickerbocker cloth. It was very long and made with a polonaise, a waist and draped overskirt worn over a separate skirt.

Mrs. Minott remembers the fun the pupils used to have coasting down the hill toward the cemetery. The hill on which the schoolhouse stands has been graded so much the acclivity, even though it seems steep to us today, is slight compared with what it was in the early days at Mount Vernon. In the spring the horses tugged away to pull the wagons through the mud; in the summer the coats of the animals were lathered with sweat before they got to the top. There was a blacksmith shop at the foot of that hill. It was called Hard-scrabble Hill by the early settlers.

One morning Mrs. Minott chanced to glance out of the east window of the high room. She saw a covered wagon coming down the hill from the cemetery. She became so interested that, ignoring the strict discipline of her teacher, Mr. J. C. Johnson, she rose up in her seat for a better look. She saw not only one prairie schooner but three. The horses were pulling their heavy load up Hard-scrabble Hill. Children were peeking out of every available opening in the canvas. Horses, cattle, and dogs were following the covered wagons.

"What did your teacher do to you for looking out of the window?" she was asked.

'He made me go out in the cold and stand on the stile while the caravan passed". Mrs. Minott continued, "I'll never forget how I hated to go back into that school room. I wanted to go home, but I did not dare."

#### Rapid Expansion in the 1880's

Much more was stirring educationally between 1880 and 1890 than in the previous decade. Vocational subjects were in the offing. An editorial in the *Hawkeye* in June, 1881, was called "Educate the Hand, Too." It stated, "The idea of public schools that will turn out trained hands as well as trained heads is rapidly growing more dominant among the people who pay for our public schools." A later comment in the paper referred to home economics in this fashion:

"It would be a blessed thing if our fair-handed daughters, even though they have wealth, would study art in the kitchen as well as to learn to please in the parlor. The know-nothing methods of educating our daughters have laid the foundation of many lives of misery and blighted many homes that would otherwise have been full of happiness."

Kindergartens were receiving considerable comment, and the necessity for music as a separate subject was strongly advocated.

It was a long time before the above-mentioned tendencies were to be realized in our system. Still, we were making progress. In 1886 the tenth year was added to the course of study, and in 1888 the eleventh.

An increase in the number of activities outside of school was very noticeable; for instance, a civics club, composed of the two highest classes in school, met weekly. Sometimes it took the form of a convention, sometimes a senate, sometimes a court. The trial of Aaron Burr was given.

Interesting programs were presented, such as the one on famous characters from Dickens—Nicholas Nickleby, Bill Sykes, Fagin, Mr. Micawber, and Oliver Twist. Even the little tots in Mrs. Sherwood's room put on a contest for the best orator in the grade. The prize, a subscription to a magazine, went to little Anna Ford.

Interscholastic debates were arousing much interest. Kate Hambleton, Raymond Ink, and Charles Neff debated Springville on the question that our republic was in greater danger from bribery than from coercion at the polls. Fifty dollars was taken in, and the money was used to buy books for a school library.

At this time graduation exercises were outstanding occasions. On June 9, 1882 they were held in the beautiful grove of Mr. Smith's west of town. A platform had been erected with an arch spanning the front, in the middle of which was suspended a large, beautifully decorated horseshoe. At 10:30 A.M. the public school pupils, led by the military band, marched by twos out to the grove. The forenoon program opened with a song called, "Homeless and Motherless." Then the grade children furnished recitations. Freddie Neff gave "John Jenkins' Sermon," Bismark Reynolds, "Union and Liberty," Mary Kepler, "The Little Spring Beside the Cabin Door," Ella Ellison, "Kissing," Fred Bauman, "Luck," and Maud McKean "How a Bad Boy Enjoyed Himself." The noon hour was occupied with a picnic lunch and a ball game. The afternoon was devoted to the "soulful essays of the sweet girl graduates" and to declamations by the boys. Ethie Burge gave "The Beautiful," Willa Goudy, "The Darkest Cloud Has a Silver Lining," Lenore Fancher, "The Necessity of an Ideal," and Otis Kepler, "Individual Action."

**The First Addition on the Brick Schoolhouse**

So inadequate was the schoolhouse by the 1890's that at election time in 1891 the board submitted to the voters the question of a new public school or an addition on the present building at a cost of \$5000. The question for the \$5000 improvement carried. In July the contract for a two-room addition was given to Mr. Gauby of Lisbon. Two rooms were to be added to the northwest side of the building, one on the first floor, the other on the second. By September the paper commented: "The high square tower looms well above the tree tops and adds much to the appearance of the building and the city." The work was completed in the late fall.

Like other nineteenth century youth in America, Mount Vernon boys and girls were kept under rigid discipline while in school. Mrs. Minott says that whippings were very common in the 1870's. In 1890 Principal E. T. Devine reported to the board eighteen cases of corporal punishment in one semester about evenly distributed in all departments. He estimated that an average of about four cases per month was to be expected in a school of this size.

An important organization was formed on June 6, 1890. The *Hawkeye* records: "Thirty-five of Mount Vernon's best young people assembled in the parlors of the Misses Fancher after the graduation exercises and organized an alumni association. Ethelda Burge '82 was elected president; W. C. Alden '88 secretary, and Carrie Keyes '85 treasurer."

Literary societies made their appearance in the school. Debates were a continual source of interest. The one on the need for electricity in Mount Vernon was especially heated.

Athletic contests had become a part of the schedule. There were football and baseball games, and there was a field day also.

Graduation was a gala occasion in the '90's. The boys always wore their conventional suits, but the girls had the opportunity to display their individuality in color and in style. A silk dress was the height of fashion; full skirts almost touched the floor; high patent leather shoes were the rage; every girl wore a corsage and fluttered a fan.

Graduation exercises were held in the church, and members of the class were seated on the platform. Their friends brought flowers and gifts and presented them at the platform to the graduates. Each member of the class contributed his oration as a part of the program. The church was always packed for high school commencement.

A list of some of the well-known teachers of this period brings back memories to many people: Miss Ethelda Burge, Mrs. Sherwood, Miss Amanda Whittington, Miss Rose Baker, Miss Hester Lytle,

Miss Mabel Williams, Miss Courtney, Miss Elsie Rigby, and Mrs. Kate Carter.

#### **The Twentieth Century. A Second Addition to the High School. The New Ward School**

The first decade of the twentieth century showed rapid expansion in the building program. The second addition to the schoolhouse was voted on in March, 1902. This consisted of two more rooms added on the northeast side of the original brick of 1867, one on the lower and one on the upper floor. It was at this time also that a room in the northwest corner of the basement was remodeled and decorated for the first kindergarten. Miss Katherine Rush was the first kindergarten teacher.

In 1906 our school board looked for a site for a new schoolhouse, which would take care of the kindergarten and the first six grades. It was found on Third Avenue and Fourth Street, North, a place known as the Ink property. This was a good location because it was away from Main Street. The cost of this brick house with its two lots was \$1175. At little expense the house was prepared for immediate use for the sixth grade. In 1908 it was necessary to put the third and fourth grades on the upper floor of this building. For the next three years three grades were accommodated in this old brick house.

The necessity of a ward school was so generally felt that there was scarcely any opposition in the district in the spring of 1911 when the question was voted upon. The total cost of the new building was \$19,500. Dr. Alexander Crawford, president, W. H. Dodd, Charles Maybauer, Dr. T. I. Gormly, and M. K. Neff were the members of the board who carried on the building program. In April, 1912 the public proudly inspected the new grade building.

#### **Mr. Peterson's Administration**

Not only was the town improving in its school buildings, but also it was greatly strengthening its educational system. In 1903 the board elected its first music teacher, Miss Florella Goudy. In 1904 the twelfth grade was added, and Mount Vernon became a fully accredited high school. In 1908 the board created the office of superintendent of schools. Mr. Payson Peterson was the first superintendent of Mount Vernon schools. He served here longer than any other superintendent, twelve years altogether. The following incident is typical of the way he handled his disciplinary problems.

It was a monotonous afternoon in the spring of 1908. The last bell had rung for school. All of M.V.H.S. had settled down to work; that is, all but Bob and Bill. They were bound on a truant's flight

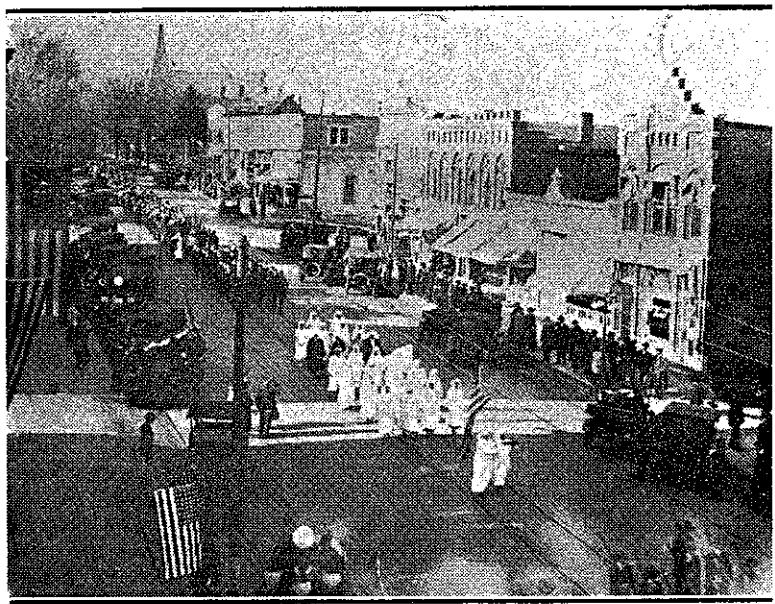
**Altoona Hotel**



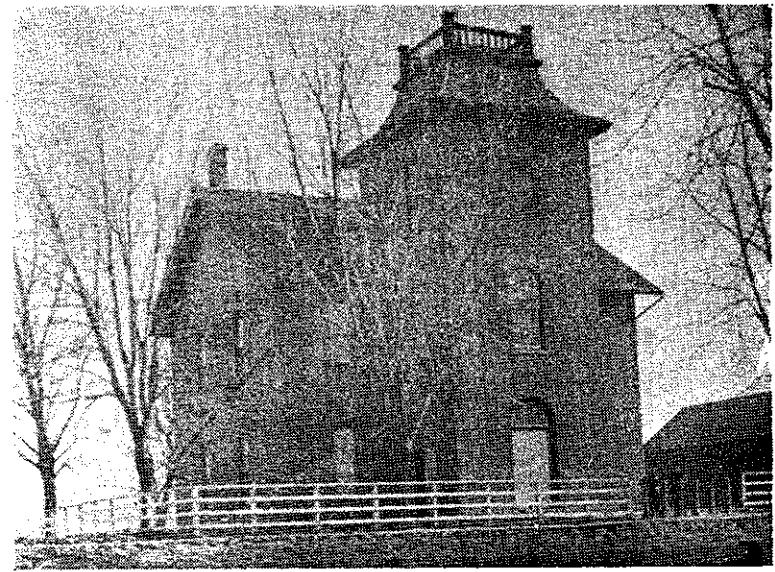
**The Interurban**



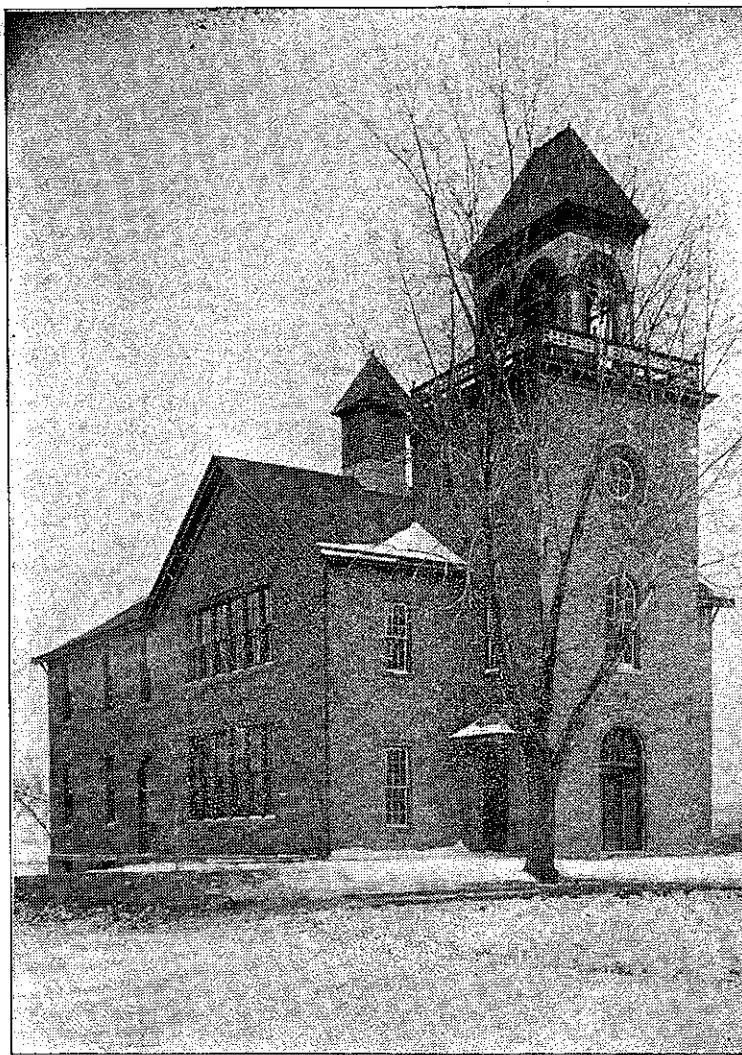
**Armistice Day Parade Nov. 11, 1918**



**Second Schoolhouse Built In 1867**

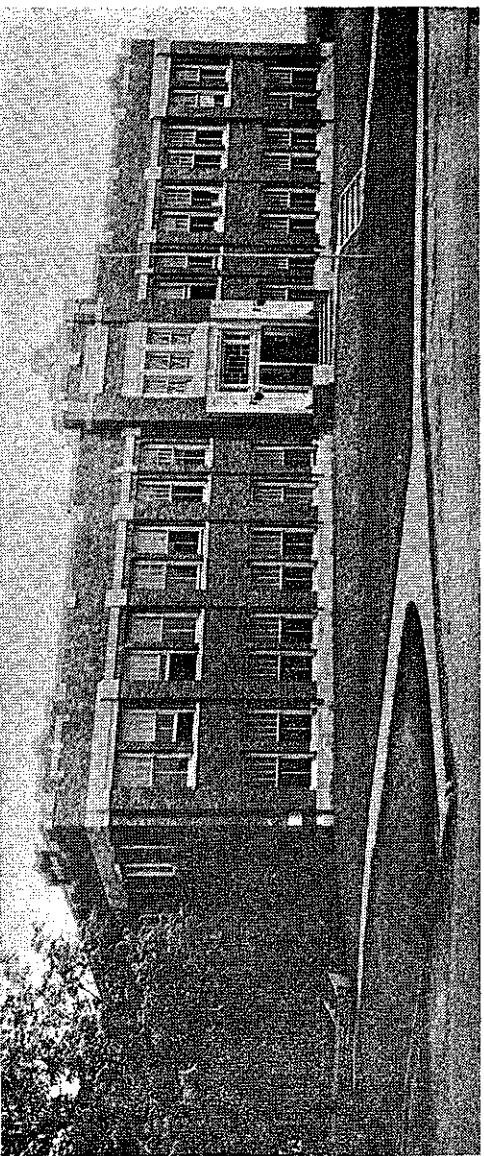


## The Old High School Building



The schoolhouse as remodelled by additions in 1891 and 1902.

The New High School completed in 1927



across the fields to Lisbon. Presently over the hilltop came Superintendent Peterson. He was heading for the schoolhouse and straight toward them. Mr. Peterson was late for school and was taking the short cut. "Aren't you going the wrong direction?" questioned Mr. Peterson when he met the boys.

"I suppose so," admitted each guiltily.

So Bob and Bill turned around and kept pace with their superintendent back to school. As they entered the crowded study hall, Mr. Peterson grinned omnisciently, the boys hung their heads in chagrin, and the rest of the students burst into laughter.

Mr. Peterson, tall, slender, mild-mannered superintendent; Miss Lillian Smedley, painstaking and inspirational teacher of English; and majestic in her office as principal; and Miss Florence Keyes, efficient and enthusiastic representative of the classics and pianist for the school. What a triumvirate! It was just as Anna Brackett had said back in 1887: "It is the teachers inside the buildings and not the buildings themselves that make the school." She reenforced her idea by quoting Emerson, "It doesn't make so much difference what a child learns as of whom he learns it."

The following outstanding teachers were in the system during those years under Mr. Peterson: Clara Blinks, Edna Kepler, Mary Kepler, Della Lutes, Mattie Hunt, Hortense Hunt, Florella Goudy, and Clara Zalesky.

In the early 1900's graduation dresses were elaborate creations. Tucks, insertion, more tucks, more insertion, and then more tucks, graced these dainty, frilly, white lawn frocks. It took three petticoats, which were as much of a display of the performance of the Howe lock-stitch sewing machine as the dress itself, to set off the beauty and flare of the skirts of the graduation gown.

By this time a gift of an engraved gold watch adorned the filmy dress. It was worn on a gold chain around the neck and carried in the belt.

Class pins made their appearance in this decade. Then class rings became popular and brought about a custom which has lasted continuously to the present time.

This was the period when a boy wore short pants. When he reached the high school age, he expected to get his first long suit, but if he happened to be short for his age or if he finished high school very young, he received his diploma in knickerbockers.

Junior-Senior banquets were started. The first ones were held in the Altoona Hotel. In formals the juniors and seniors gathered in the Altoona parlors in the forepart of the eventful evening. About

nine o'clock they were ushered to the dining room where an elaborate banquet of several courses was served and toasts were presented.

The high school felt right smart during those years, too. They succeeded in renting the college auditorium for several high school plays, which were given before crowded houses. *The Princess, The Rivals, The School for Scandal, The Taming of the Shrew* were among those presented.

#### Introduction of Vocational Subjects

The period from 1915 to 1927 may be sketched rather briefly. First of all it brought in vocational subjects. In the fall of 1915 manual training and home economics were offered in the course of study. In 1926 pupils first took typing and shorthand.

By now interscholastic basketball was becoming so popular for both boys and girls that the board of education rented the college gymnasium for high school practice and games.

Graduation dresses had changed to a style of simplicity. However, another dress was needed to make commencement complete. It was a baccalaureate dress. In 1915 the board added prestige to the events of graduation by passing the following resolution: "Realizing that the public school is one of the most vital institutions in our community and feeling that it has not had due consideration, we, the board of education, wish to express to the official boards of our churches that a Sabbath morning Union service should be accorded the public school each year, prior to the formal graduation."

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A school is a happy place, but one can't expect it to carry on for a hundred years without shadows in its sunshine. Twice we have lost our superintendents through fatal accidents. The first occurred in the spring of 1902. It was the May Festival season and violet time. Superintendent William Wilcox died of burns received from an explosion of a gasoline stove in his home. Mr. Wilcox had been in our school but a few weeks at the time of the accident.

Again in 1923 the town felt shock. Mount Vernon was anticipating a good school year that fall with Mr. Arthur Hull as its school superintendent and Miss Gretta Johnson as principal. Mr. Hull had taught English in the high school for two years. His pupils used to say of him, "We can hear a pin drop in Mr. Hull's class. We don't want to miss what he says."

He had served the community in his new capacity as superintendent less than a month. At his last teachers' meeting on September 26,

his chief concern was the danger that our school children faced in crossing Main Street on Highway 30. Less than two hours later he was fatally injured in a traffic accident on that very street.

### The New High School Building

Let us take a glance in retrospect before we leave the old high school building, which had served for sixty years in the process of educating Junior Mount Vernon but which apparently had never been looked upon with pride.

In 1891 Editor S. H. Bauman did his best to quash the first addition on the ground that the building was completely out of date and had no architectural beauty. Notwithstanding, the vote for the addition carried. In 1908 the *Hawkeye* made this comment: "With the school staff organized on a moderate and adequate basis the next move should be for a good high school building. Mount Vernon would then be able without blushing to acknowledge that it had a good school system." Through the years boys and girls scolded and grumbled about the "Ark" (as they called the schoolhouse) and while they fretted away, the old curfew patiently continued to remind them every night that it was nine o'clock.

In 1911 the fire bell pealed out its excited alarm. "The schoolhouse is on fire!" people shouted. A little later came the report that the furnace had puffed out some smoke in the basement. On a Saturday morning a few weeks later the fire bell rang again, and boys rushed to the schoolhouse. A spark from the furnace had blackened some of the basement steps.

The boys and girls were ruthless in their disdain for the schoolhouse of their fathers. They wished it would burn down, but the old high-towered building stood staunch on the hilltop.

The year 1926 is memorable in the history of our schools because Mount Vernon voted for its new high school building. It came about this way: Physical training was a state requirement now. Mount Vernon either had to build a gymnasium or a high school building with a gymnasium. On April 8, the town voted against a gymnasium. On April 28, the question of a schoolhouse at a cost of \$115,000 was placed before the people. Excitement ran high. From noon until eight o'clock car after car loaded with voters whose faces registered happy anticipation or firm opposition drove up to the city hall. Seven hundred sixty-five ballots were cast. Four hundred fourteen were for the new building; three hundred fifty-one were against it.

Members of the schoolboard upon whom fell the task of directing the building program were: Thomas Rogers, president, Dr. Kate Mason Hogle, Harry Gilliland, John Klimo, and R. W. Patten.

While the new building was going up, the junior-high and high school convened in the basement of the Methodist Church. Some classes met in the parish house. The following year, on May 11, 1927, the Grand Lodge of Iowa laid the corner stone of the new high school building.

In September 1927, under Superintendent Earl J. Stout and Principal Seville Gaston the pupils and teachers of Mount Vernon started a new era of high school education in the history of the town. In contrast with the creaky stairway and the crowded classrooms of the old building and the dim light of the basement of the Methodist Church were the broad stairways and wide corridors of the new structure, the large classrooms, and the brightness of everything new.

#### Modern Trends, 1927-1947

Mount Vernon has played the role of a modern school in the last twenty years. Mathematics, social science, English and science have been fundamental courses in the curriculum. Practice teaching on the part of students from Cornell was introduced in 1930.

Extra-curricular activities have become increasingly prominent. Since 1929 the "*Chalk Mark*" in the *Hawkeye* has held the interest of those inclined toward journalism. The "*Velvet Curtain*" has sponsored many a dramatic production. In 1917, 1926, 1942, and 1946 yearbooks were published. Football, basketball, and track with their accessories of baton twirlers, pep stunts and cheer leaders have welded a strong school spirit. In music the school has taken part in district, state, and national music festivals—girls' glee clubs, boys' glee clubs, mixed chorus, band, orchestra, sextets, and soloists having appeared regularly. The large glass case in the hallway of the high school is full of all kinds of trophies.

A noticeable break from a long-accepted tradition in our community occurred in the 1930's. Social dancing was introduced. Through the years we had not been quite so narrow as they were back in the 1870's when the *Hawkeye* published the following suggestions to boys: "If you dance well and want exercise, exhibit your graces in your father's back yard or out on the lawn by yourself." However, the most particular people did not go to dances. Now dancing was not only approved of but taught in our schools.

It may be well at this point of the sketch to conclude the story of the commencement dresses of the girl graduate. By the 1930's simplicity was the key word. The girls wore plain tailored white dresses when they were given their diplomas. In '38 the key word was uniformity. Caps and gowns became the vogue. Now the school owns its own beautiful maroon caps and gowns for the events of graduation week.

**A Current Picture—1947**

As Mr. J. C. Johnson represented the harsh trend of educational policies in our school in the 1880's, and as Mr. Peterson stood for a milder form of school management in the first quarter of the present century, so the affable and enterprising Mr. Melvin Sikkink represents the modern superintendent, who believes that a school is a place for pupils to work on their studies to the best of their ability, to participate in all the outside activities in which they are interested, and to have many opportunities for associating happily with their schoolmates.

A French woman who was touring America recently saw a beautiful building standing out on the landscape. "Whose castle is that?" she asked the chauffeur.

"That is not a castle," he replied. "That is a high school."

Down at the ward building today the little second graders who are studying about Indians are molding pottery, drawing pictures of wigwams, and practicing Indian dances. Children in an intermediate group, studying about France, are looking up stories of artists and writers of France. Other boys and girls are reading purely for delight—pioneer stories, fiction, scientific stories of the planets, stories of insect life or animal stories.

At the high school, our castle on the summit of Hard-scrabble Hill, the pupils in the science classes are attending a movie on volcanoes in action. In the English room a practice teacher has brought from the college three major students in dramatics who are presenting scenes from "She Stoops to Conquer" to the twelfth grade English class. The girls in the domestic science room are at work on bright colored dresses. The "gym" is an uproar of boys practicing basketball. Upstairs in the commercial room a few are preparing the week's issue of *Chalk Mark*. "There's a song in the air," too. The ubiquitous music pupils are in every available niche for practice—a vocal group here, a string quartet there. That agonizing gasp escaping from the math room is just a junior-high lad practicing "Three Blind Mice" and his French horn.

Such are our Mount Vernon schools during this centennial year—high school boys dressed in bright plaid shirts, their hair sleek with scented oil, and high school girls wearing sweaters, bobby-sox, and moccasins, their hair hanging to their shoulders and brushed to a beautiful lustre. They are strong, straight-forward, and trustworthy. They are happy-hearted, eager, and confident. They are all set to start the second century of our schools.

## Chapter 12

### Organizations of the Town

Organizations have enriched the life of our community from the beginning. The social bonds and enlivening fellowships of the great national organizations made their presence felt early in town life.

Later, the awakening eagerness of intellectual and musical development made itself manifest in the organization of literary and musical societies, especially before and after the turn of the century. Their social fellowship gradually replaced the formal entertaining of large groups of friends in individual homes.

As the needs of a complex social and national organization were more deeply felt, there arose the service organizations which fostered the development of acquaintance and high ethical standards in business and in national and international life.

The organizations of our city, in the order of class and date of founding are:

#### *National Organizations*

Masonic Order .....	1858	Ingleside Club .....	1882
Odd Fellows .....	1892	Sorosis .....	1896
Rebekahs .....	1896	Apollo Club .....	1898
Eastern Star .....	1902	Apelles Art Club .....	1902
P. E. O. .....	1908	Entre Nous Club .....	1902
D. A. R. .....	1914	Thirteen Club .....	1902
A. A. U. W. .....	1919	Altruria .....	1907
American Legion .....	1920	New Century .....	1916
Legion Auxiliary .....	1921	Music Club .....	1945

#### *Service Clubs*

Chamber of Commerce .....	1900	Lions Club .....	1924
P. T. A. ....	1924	Rotary Club .....	1924

#### **The Masonic Lodge**

The Masonic Lodge has the distinction of being the oldest active organization in town. Since it was the 112th lodge organized in the state, it is known as Mount Vernon Lodge A.F. and A.M. Number 112. The charter was granted June 2, 1858 upon application of nine men in Mount Vernon who were Masons. They were as follows: Dr. Amos Witter, W.M.; Dr. Andrew T. Safley, S.W.; Elijah D.

Waln, J. W.; Martin Floyd, Treasurer; Lucian B. Gere, Secretary; I. A. Hammer, S.D.; F. L. Knott, J.D.; A. B. Kendig, Chaplain; C. S. Gordon, Tiler.

At the first meeting of the lodge held under dispensation October 29, 1857, the petitions of seven men were received, all of whom became master masons. They were Thomas McFarland, James B. Gordon, Lucius A. Weeks, John G. Hazlett, Edward S. Bargelt, Noah McKean, and Abraham R. Knott. Within seven months after October 29, nineteen men were initiated, and in order to confer all these degrees, sessions were often held morning, afternoon, and evening.

They occupied the upstairs of the Waln building, over what is now the pool hall, corner of First Street and First Avenue. In 1860 they moved to the third floor of the building then owned by F. L. and A. R. Knott, now the Electric Light Building.

On the morning of June 24, 1859, they elected new officers, and at 2:00 P.M. that day, accompanied by the brass band, marched to the old college chapel where they held a public installation.

April 17, 1860, Captain A. R. Sausman presented the lodge with a sword captured from the forces of Santa Anna at Mexico City in 1847, this sword to be the property of the lodge forever.

W. C. Dimmitt, after whom the G.A.R. Post was named, received his first degree from Mount Vernon Lodge in April, 1861, and left at once for army service. He died in a rebel prison May 4, 1864.

The old Waln building was burned in 1879 and was replaced in 1881 by a brick structure now known as the Keedick Building. At this time the lodge again leased the second floor and remained there until 1915. At that time they rented the second floor of the building then owned by J. G. Fox, once known as Wilcox Hall. In 1933 this building was purchased by the Masons and remodeled.

The lodge now has approximately 132 members and is one of Mount Vernon's leading organizations.

#### Independent Order of Odd Fellows

Mount Vernon Lodge Number 551, Independent Order of Odd Fellows was organized April 29, 1892. The Charter was granted October 20, 1892.

Charter members were: W. M. Moore, J. P. Rebstock, J. B. Leigh, P. M. Stinger, J. S. Smith, N. B. Ennis, W. H. Raynor, W. S. Crain.

M. F. Rigby was admitted by card, and Dr. J. B. Robinson by transfer in May of 1902.

Of the class of twenty-eight applicants admitted by invitation on May 29, 1892 only two are living, J. F. E. Yeisley and Leonard Kopf.

The first officers of the lodge were: Phil M. Stinger, Noble Grand; N. B. Ennis, Vice Grand; Wallace M. Moore, Secretary; John B. Leigh, Treasurer; Trustees, J. F. E. Yeisley, J. C. Smyth, and M. F. Rigby.

The first meetings were held in the Waln building, then later in the J. G. Fox building. On October 26, 1904, the lodge held its first meeting in its new home above the Bauman Clothing Store. Materials used for the building were local. The limestone and sand came from the quarry, and the brick from the Mount Vernon brick yard.

The lodge now has five fifty-year members: J. F. E. Yeisley, Leonard Kopf, Thomas R. Stoneking, Thomas Joriman and J. Frank Snyder.

Lisbon lodge Number 71 consolidated with Mount Vernon Number 551 in November, 1928.

#### Hill City Rebekah Lodge No. 359

Hill City Rebekah Lodge No. 359 was instituted on August 14th, 1896. The first Noble Grand was Flora Minnick Barnhill, now living at Everett, Washington; Vice-Grand, Ellen Burge Miller, deceased; Secretary, Alvina Burge, deceased. These officers were all related.

The Rebekahs are a branch of the Odd Fellows and their work and aim are helping to support and maintain the Odd Fellows Old Folks' Home and the Children's Home, located at Mason City, Iowa.

Hill City Rebekah Lodge No. 359 celebrated its fiftieth anniversary August 14th, 1946.

#### Order of the Eastern Star

Vernon Chapter Number 329, Order of the Eastern Star of Iowa at Mount Vernon was granted a charter by the Iowa Grand Chapter on October 22, 1902, with the following designated as charter members: Fanny Alexander, Mrs. Mary A. Bauman, Mrs. Kate Burge, Mrs. Isabella Carson, Mrs. Nellie Carson, Ella Ellison, Mrs. Louise Gilliland, Mrs. Frances A. Gough, Mabel Gough, Mrs. Mary Graul, Mrs. Una Powers, Mrs. Alma Rigby, Mrs. Clara B. Smith, Mrs. Ida Smyth, Mrs. Lennie Soper, Mrs. Mary Twogood, Mrs. Bertha Walters, Mrs. Harriett Webb, Mrs. Annie B. Wilcox, Mrs. E. B. Willix, Laura Willix, Mrs. M. Willix, Mrs. Anna Zache, Harry B. Ellison, William Wilcox.

The first principal officers appointed by the Grand Chapter were: Worthy Matron, Mrs. Louise Gilliland; Worthy Patron, (1) William Wilcox (Died May 1902), (2) Harry B. Ellison; Associate Matron, Mrs. E. B. Willix.

Many of the Chapter's members have been prominent in business, the professions, education, and the arts. Two of the earlier members were honored as officers of the Grand Chapter of Iowa; Mrs. Margaret Hiner as Grand Electa (1907), and Mrs. Clara B. Spear as Grand Organist in 1916.

The Past Matron's Circle was organized May 28, 1940. Its first officers were: President, Mrs. William H. Hoover; Vice-President, Nellie M. Hartung; Secretary, Mattie B. Hunt; Treasurer, Mrs. Harry Siggins.

On April 12, 1945, Vernon Chapter became a corporation under the provisions of the "Benevolent Order Law" of Iowa, with the title of "Chapter No. 230, Acts of the 50th G.A. of Iowa."

#### P. E. O.

Chapter D.T. P.E.O. was organized May 9, 1908. The charter members were Misses Ella M. Parker, Mary Green, Florella Goudy, and Mesdames Mattie Yerger, Viola Young, Lillian Smedley Ristine, Sarah McCord Hazard, Jean Young Douglas, Eunice Eye-stone Brin, and Margaret Eyestone Bowman.

The charter officers were: President, Viola Young; Vice-President, Eunice Brin; Corresponding Secretary, Mattie Yerger; Recording Secretary, Lillian Ristine; Treasurer, Florella Goudy; Guard, Jean Douglas; Chaplain, Margaret Bowman; Organist, Mary Green.

The organization makes yearly contributions to a loan fund for college women and helps sustain the "Sarah Porter Beckwith Home" at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa and Cottey Junior College at Nevada, Missouri.

Social meetings are held twice a month.

#### Balliet Chapter D. A. R.

Balliet Chapter D.A.R. was formally organized December 3, 1914, at the home of Mrs. Hugh Boyd, with the State Regent, Mrs. Mary H. S. Johnston, in attendance. The organizing regent was Mrs. Katherine Chambers.

The chapter name "Balliet" is in honor of Mrs. Chamber's revolutionary ancestor, Colonel Stephen Balliet, who was intimately associated with Washington and Franklin in the formation of the colonial government.

The charter members were Mrs. Mary Ellen Moody Boyd, Regent; Miss Anna Jordan, Vice-Regent; Mrs. Florence Keyes Mitchell, Secretary; Mrs. Effie Berryman, Registrar; Miss Nettie Fairbanks, Treasurer; Mrs. Anna Audas Knight, Historian. Other

organizing members were Mrs. Clifford Boyd Burr, Miss Lucy Boyd, Mrs. Anna Belle Rood Ittner, Mrs. Katherine Chambers, Miss May Fairbanks, Miss Laura Hinkley, and Mrs. Olive Adams Ellsworth.

Balliet Chapter has been active in the work of patriotic education and the preservation of historic records. It has marked the graves of a real daughter, Laura Whitely Davis, in the Abbey Creek cemetery, and two real granddaughters, Mary Ide Mason and Jerusha Nelson Witter, in the local cemetery. All inscriptions prior to the year 1880 in neighboring and local burial grounds have been copied and made a matter of state record.

In 1937, Balliet Chapter, assisted by Ashley, Mayflower, and Marion Linn, erected a marker dedicated to William Abbe, one of the country's first settlers. It stands on the Lincoln Highway two miles west of Mount Vernon, near the site of the Abbe home.

The chapter sends yearly contributions to its approved schools, and gives a citizenship award and a certificate for outstanding work in home making in the local school.

Mrs. Elizabeth B. Ink, State Regent, is a member of Balliet Chapter. An honorary state regent, Mrs. Imogen Emery, lives in Mount Vernon.

#### A. A. U. W.

A significant recognition of the standards and achievements of Cornell College was made in April 1917 when its B.A. alumnae were approved for membership in the Association of Collegiate Alumnae. This organization was founded in 1882 by women representatives of a half dozen college of high academic standing, for the purpose of uniting alumnae of different institutions for educational and civic work, and for the maintenance of higher standards of education for women. Of the fifty-five schools approved, only four were in Iowa, Cornell College being the only Methodist institution west of Chicago.

In 1919 Dr. Juanita Floyd, head of the French department of Cornell, formed a local chapter of the American Association of University Women in Mount Vernon. Miss May Fairbanks was the first president. Of the seven charter members of the Mount Vernon branch, only Ruby Wade had continuous membership. She represented the local A.A.U.W. twice at meetings of the International Federation of University Women, in 1922 as delegate to the convention in Paris, and in 1926 at the convention in Amsterdam.

The program of the national A.A.U.W. including as it does the broad fields of education, international relations, social studies, the arts, legislation, economic and legal status of women, offers unequalled opportunities for continuing study and activity to an increas-

ing number of college-trained women. The organization maintains liberal Fellowship funds, both national and international, making possible advanced study and research for women of exceptional ability.

The local branch has grown from seven to forty-two members at the present time. In addition to active participation in the national program, its activities include state and community interests. It has built up a loan fund of \$500.00 which has served, without loss, a significant number of Cornell senior women.

#### American Legion

At a meeting of service men in the City Hall March 30, 1920, the Legion was organized and a charter applied for. "Hahn-Howard Post 408" was named in memory of two who made the great sacrifice, Ralph Hahn and C. Roe Howard.

The officers chosen were: Post Commander, Herbert C. Rumble; Vice Commander, Newell Fishel; Adjutant, Clifford Lahman; Finance Officer, Paul Brace; Historian and Chaplain, Walter Current; Athletics, Ellsworth Burge; Sergeant at Arms, Clyde Burnett; Executive Committee, Glenn Benesh, Ivan Midkiff, Glenn Rogers, Lawrence Current.

On April 21, 1921, the Granville-Moody Circle Ladies of the G.A.R. presented a large and beautiful national flag to the Post.

Joseph E. Dvorak, 118th Infantry, was the first to be returned to the community for burial with military honors. Later Raymond C. Nedrow, 164th Infantry, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Jake Childs and Ralph Hahn, son of Phil and Ella Hahn, were also brought home for burial.

The Post has engaged in a variety of activities, both national and community, particularly taking charge of the Decoration Day observances from year to year and marking the graves of all soldiers.

#### American Legion Auxiliary

On May 5, 1921, mothers, wives, sisters, and daughters of service men organized an American Legion Auxiliary Unit to Hahn-Howard Post 408, with the following officers:

President, Mrs. Marion Hogle, whose son was a casualty; Vice-President, Mrs. Mary C. Caraway; Secretary, Mrs. C. W. (Lois) Johnston; Treasurer, Mrs. Stephen Brace; Historian, Mrs. Isaac West; Chaplain, Mrs. Martha C. McKune; Executive Committee, Mrs. J. C. Boyd, Mrs. Maude Dunham, Miss Sylvia Turner.

Mrs. Isaac (Eva) West and Miss Sylvia Turner were elected delegates to the first State Convention held in Sioux City.

In 1930 Mrs. Clara Kegley and Mrs. Gertrude Midkiff were privileged to make the Gold Star pilgrimage to France, visiting the graves of James Raymond Kegley and Carl Midkiff in the Meuse-Argonne Military Cemetery, as well as Paris, Rheims, and other places of World War I interest.

Mrs. Mae Mitchell was a delegate to the National Auxiliary Convention in Philadelphia during the Sesqui-Centennial.

#### Ingleside

Oldest among the women's clubs of Mount Vernon is Ingleside, organized in December 1882 at Guild Hall by Miss Harriette J. Cooke and Mrs. Mary F. Williams, with the latter as its first president. The early members were Mesdames Mary F. Williams, Miriam Doran, Frances Rood, Carrie Wright, Clifford Fyffe, L. Watts, Chloe Collin, Mary Freer, E. Sargent, Clara Henderson, Eva Wishard, Belle Watts Liddle, E. Ringle, Delia Albrook, Sarah Lozier, M. H. Eberhardt, Ella Barbour, M. A. B. Meyers, Fanny Alexander, Nelson Fancher, S. Pease, Hattie Merrit, and the Misses Harriett J. Cooke, Anna L. Walton, Mary Barrett, Hattie Leonard, Elizabeth Smith, Nettie Fairbanks, Welthea Burr and Electa Burr.

Since 1896 when it joined the Federation, it has supported the program and the many projects of the General Federation. On a number of occasions, Ingleside has joined with the three other federated clubs of the town in entertaining the County and District Federation meetings.

On December 8, 1942, Ingleside celebrated its sixtieth birthday with a reception at the home of Mrs. Russell Cooper. Diplomas with the gold seal of the society and corsages were presented to Miss May Fairbanks who had been a member since 1891 (longer than any other club woman in Linn County); also to Mrs. Adelaide Ebersole, a valuable member since 1893; to Mrs. Anna Audas Knight, active in club work since 1899, and to Mrs. Sarah Nauman Keyes, a leader in Ingleside and one of the founders and officers of the Linn County Federation. Of these four honored members, Mrs. Keyes is still active as historian and custodian. The other three died within a few months of each other in 1947.

#### Sorosis

More than fifty years ago on September 29, 1896, a group of women called "The Improvement Club," adopted a new constitution and became the Sorosis, named for the first woman's club of America. Charter members were Mesdames Mary Williams, Rebecca Iorns, Alma Rigby, Louise Gilliland, Martha Keyes, Carrie Doran, Addie Kepler, Harriett Webb, Jennie Nicholson, Alice Barrett, Carrie

Wright, Mary Leach, Harriet Johnson, Abbie Johnson, Sally Kyle, Clara Henderson, Hortense Martin, Emma Williams, Flora Stowe, Mary Sessions, Julia Gelston, Laura Carver, Stella Smith, Ruth Horton, Ruth Smith, Josie Smith, Lucinda Kyle, and the Misses Elizabeth Smyth and Desire Kyle.

The only surviving member of that group is Mrs. Alice Barrett. Mrs. Ellen Smyth of Correctionville is an honorary member.

Sorosis is a literary club, but has many interests, especially those pertaining to making a better town. It promoted the movement for naming streets and numbering houses. Special gifts have been made to the high school Domestic Science room, Cornell endowment, Red Cross, and Cancer Control. Many social affairs are held every year. Various lines of study have been taken up, with guest speakers from time to time.

#### **Apollo Club**

On January 14, 1898, at the home of Miss Birdie Kepler, a group of Mount Vernon musicians organized the Apollo Club. Horace Miller was chairman and Myrtle Young, Secretary pro tem. Later a constitution was adopted for this first music club of the town, providing for musical culture, as well as uplifting of musical standards. Active, associate, and honorary members were provided for, and the following officers were elected:

President, Mrs. Clara B. Smith; Vice-President, Miss Florella Goudy; Secretary, Miss Luella Rood; Treasurer, Miss May Buman (Mrs. John Kyle).

Mrs. Powers, Miss Goudy and Mr. Miller were the first program committee. The outstanding event of the year was an Easter Evening Sacred Concert open to all and given in one of the churches. For ten years, excellent programs were given and enjoyed by the members.

Charter members were Mesdames Clara Smith, A. J. Powers, Jesse Hale, Fred Neff, John Bair, Laura Ristine, and the Misses Florella Goudy, Luella Rood, Birdie Kepler, Sadie Hale, Effie Kee-dick, Clifford Boyd (Burr), and Amy Ash. Other names, including those of young men, were added to the roll later.

#### **Apelles Art Club**

The Apelles Art Club was organized by Miss Mattie Isherwood in 1902 or 1903, and meetings were usually held at her home. Grecian robes in the primary colors were worn at the meetings, where instruction was given in artistic poses.

An art exhibit at the home of Dr. T. A. Gormly was given. Works of local artists, Prof. H. A. Mills, Dr. Gormly, and the following club members, Mrs. Katherine Rush Chambers, Miss Etta Rowley, and Miss Mattie Isherwood, were shown.

The only local members living are Mrs. Lillian Ristine and Mrs. Lois Mitchell.

The club was short-lived.

#### Entre Nous

Shortly after the turn of the century on September 13, 1902, a group of young town women met to organize a new literary and social club. The name Entre Nous was chosen, and Eva Watson (Eno) was elected the first president.

The membership, limited to twenty-five, is now represented by both town and college women.

Charter members were:

Anna Alexander (Hann)	Lois Mitchell
Blanche Blackwell	Nellie Munson (Moore)
Florence Blackwell (Harris)	Anna Belle Rood (Ittner)
Ethelda Burge	Lillian Smedley (Ristine)
Beulah Crawford (Dill)	Cordia Stevenson (Foster)
Ella Ellison	Grace Thompson (Johnston)
Mabel Gough (Hogle)	Birdie Wade
Mary Hann (Kirkpatrick)	Eva Watson (Eno)
Laura Hinkley	Laura Willix (Merritt)
Birdie Kepler (Wilson)	Grace Wolfe

For a time the custom was followed of presenting a silver dessert spoon to a prospective bride, and many of these were given during the first ten years.

In the earlier years drama and opera were studied, as well as varied subjects. These years recall the names of Lucy Boyd, Birdie Wade, Luella Albrook Miller, and Laura Willix Merritt among its officers and hostesses.

Among the many talented literary members are Winifred Van Etten and (until recently) Laura Hinkley, both authors of national note.

Some of the members who have made the Entre Nous a permanent interest in their lives for over a quarter of a century include Florence Mitchell, Belle Bennett, Ruby Wade, Nellie Hartung, Cordia Bauman, and Helen Hedges.

At all times all worthwhile civic and national projects, as well as war work, have received the loyal support of the club.

**Thirteen Club**

Thirteen Club was organized October 1902. Its object was friendship and the study of art.

Charter members were:

Blanche Blackwell	Anna Belle Rood
Florence Blackwell	Luella Rood
Ruth Collin	May Bailey Wilcox
Harriett Colton	Alice Williams
Miriam Freer	Ada Wolfe
Nellie Munson	Anna Wolfe
Jessie Rigby	

It brought to Mount Vernon exhibits of prints, photographs, etchings, engravings, and continued for forty years.

**Altruria Club**

This club was organized in the year 1907 by Mrs. Mary F. Williams.

The following year it joined the state federation. The object of the club was social, intellectual, and altruistic work. For its motto they selected a quotation from Browning, "To be content to work, to do the thing we can, and not to fret because it's little."

The first President was Mrs. Isabella M. Newton; Vice-President, Mrs. Lide Billingsley; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Susan S. Dickenson; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Flora M. Smedley; Treasurer, Mrs. Elizabeth Persons; Custodian, Mrs. Bertha H. Nash.

Each year Altruria responds to calls for assistance in various worthy causes.

It was this club that donated the light in the Cornell Chapel tower, and also contributed \$300 to Cornell during the year of their hard, intensive drive for funds.

**The New Century Club**

The New Century Club was organized in 1916. Its object is to give its members opportunity for study and social enjoyment.

Mrs. May Lane was its first President. Charter members were: Mrs. Carrie Lahman; Mrs. Isabella Gaston; Mrs. Shelia Lutz; Mrs. Eva Whitney; Mrs. Ida Terrill; Mrs. May Lane; Mrs. Kate Dawson; Mrs. Cornelia Wildman; Mrs. Lulu Miller; and Mrs. Luella Van Tassell.

Through the years the Club has been fortunate in having a membership actively interested in all that concerns the community's welfare, as well as state and federal projects.

In 1922 the Club received its charter as a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Consistently helpful in a financial way, the Club gave \$150 toward Cornell's Financial Campaign in 1926. The Club has given money support to the Nursery School, Red Cross, Flood Relief, Summer Playground School, Landscaping of the High School Grounds, Health Clinic, and U.S.O.

New Century Club was instrumental in securing a new milk inspection code, Mount Vernon being the first city in Iowa to adopt the plan for graded milk.

During World War II, the Club assisted with entertainment of the Cadets on the Cornell Campus, bought two War Bonds, and contributed to the Russian Relief Fund.

Pan American students, the Cancer Control Fund, and Greek Relief are at present being subscribed to.

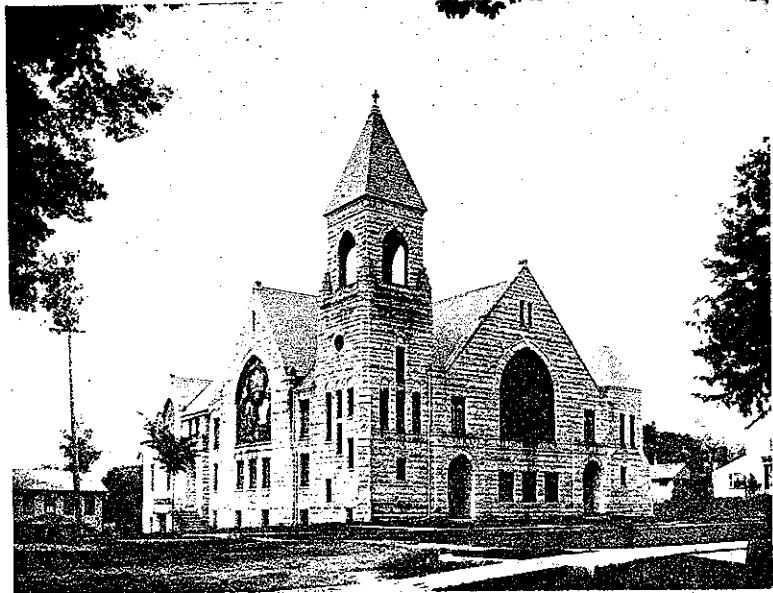
#### **Mount Vernon Music Club**

Maude Browning Lusted was the founder and first president of the Mount Vernon Music Club, organized in the home of Prof. and Mrs. Jacques Jolas, August 10, 1945, with the following twenty charter members: Mesdames Mildred Anderson, Belle Bennett, Grace Bowman, Belle Bryant, Arrola Cole, Marjorie Campbell, Isabelle Eystone, Dorothea Glattly, Martha Jablonski, Helen Jolas, Fern King, Grace Kramer, Maude Lusted, Winifred Lyford, Helen MacGregor, Elizabeth Myers, Essie Neal, Laura Sanderson, Helen Schroeder, Audrey Wallace. Prof. Jolas was made an Honorary Member. Mrs. Schroeder was appointed Chairman of the Program Committee; Mrs. Bennett, Librarian and Historian; and Mrs. Kramer, Chairman of the Constitution Committee.

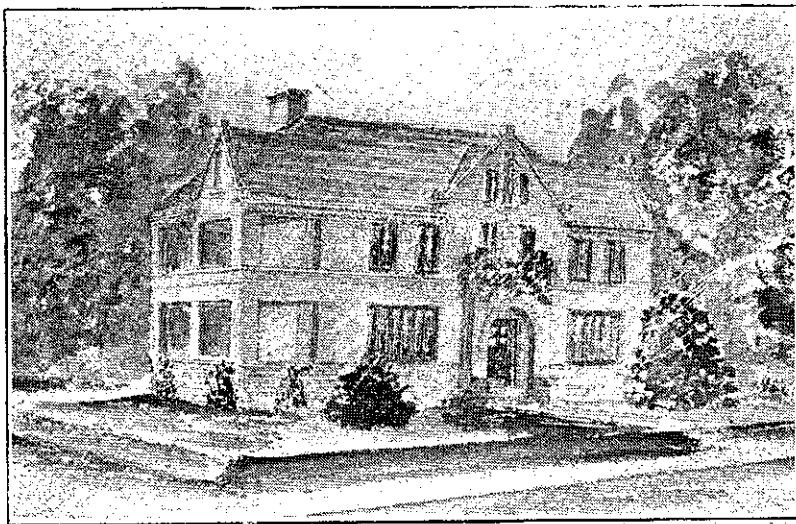
The purpose of this organization is to foster and promote the art of music and music interests, and to create a deeper desire for things musical among its members in the homes and in the community.

Within one year the membership was increased to forty. On December 1, 1945 the Club was affiliated with both the State and National Federations of Music Clubs. In August, 1946, the President of the local club was named on the State Board as Chairman of the Committee on Music in the Home. The formal Guest Night March 5, 1946 was marked by the first complete performance in the mid-west of the Bach "Wedding Cantata" with Manette Marble Baltz as harpsichordist, and a Chamber Music ensemble composed of Mary Silliman, soprano; Chester Williams, oboe; Lloyd Oakland, viola; Marjorie Tullis and Betty Olmsted, violins; and Dean Lusted, cello. The Club sent delegates to the State Convention of Music Clubs in April, 1946. A report of the year's work was given by the President, and Mrs. Jolas appeared as piano soloist. Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Lusted, Keith and Dean Lusted presented a program for television broadcasting at the State Fair Centennial. During the two years of organization the Mount Vernon Music Club has contributed to various

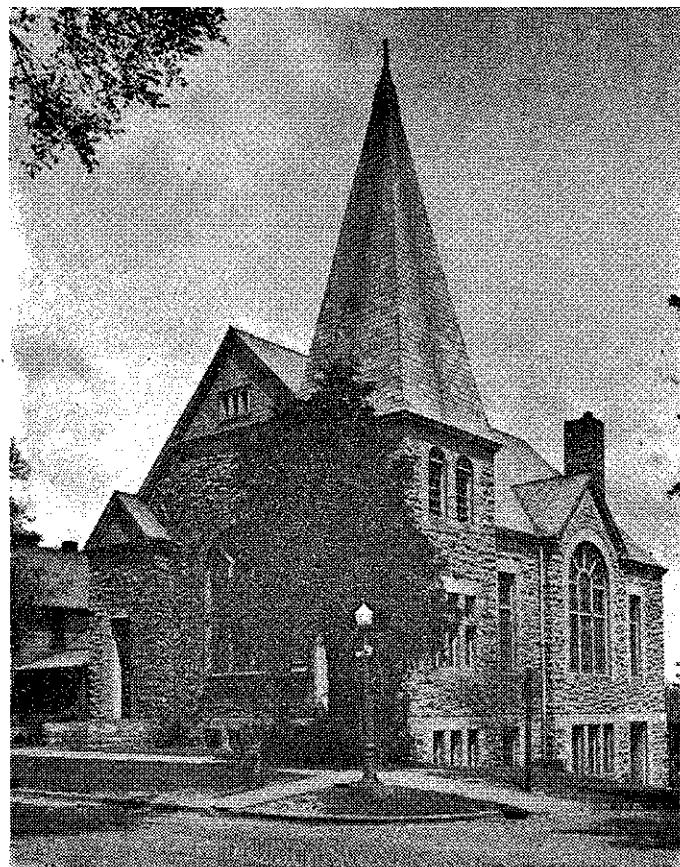
**Present Methodist Church**



**Methodist Parsonage**



## The Present Presbyterian Church



The present Presbyterian church built during the pastorate of the Rev. A. K. Knox. It was dedicated in 1896.

projects including Music in the Hospitals and the American Composers' Fund.

#### **History of the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce**

The first record of a Mount Vernon Commercial Club dates back to Mar. 30, 1900, when a representative group of citizens met in "Ellison" Hall to organize. Fifty-five persons signed the Constitution and paid the fee, some joining later, the organization being known as the Commercial Club of Mount Vernon. Object of the organization was stated to encourage the location of factories and other desirable enterprises, to advertise the interests of Mount Vernon, to advertise the town as a trading point and as a desirable residence city, and to improve the appearance of the city and any other matters of benefit to the community. The first officers were Col. H. H. Rood, Pres., Roy Kurtz, Vice-Pres., Alfred L. Flude, Secy., and A. A. Bau-  
man, Treas.

A petition was started by members of the Club, to which a total of 500 signatures was later obtained requesting a new station for the town. This petition was sent to the officers of the C.&N.W. R. y. The new station was later erected and dedicated, and opened to the public on Jan. 1, 1902. Louis Kepler was the first person to buy a ticket.

The original organization having apparently become inactive, in June of 1916, Mayor T. L. Wolfe started a paper, the signers of which pledged themselves in favor of a commercial club. As Mayor, it was apparent to him how necessary it was to have an organized movement to make any project successful. World War I thereafter intervened, and there was no organized activity after the War for several years.

On May 23, 1931, Mayor John Bryant called a meeting of the business and professional men of the town at the Mt. Vernon City Hall, at which time the need of an organization was stressed. Temporary officers were named consisting of J. R. Eyre, Chairman and G. L. Hill, Secy. Forty-five men were present and voted unanimously to organize. Committees were appointed to report back. At the meeting of Nov. 30, 1931, Chrm. Fred A. Young of the Committee on the Constitution reported, Articles were adopted, the annual fee was fixed at \$2, the organization to consist of a Pres., Vice-Pres., Secy. and Treas., and a Board of five directors, one for one year, two for two years, and two for three years. The first officers nominated and elected were J. R. Eyre, Pres., J. W. McCutcheon, Vice-Pres., G. L. Hill, Secy.-Treas., and Directors: D. U. Van Metre, F. A. Young, Robt. Barnes, J. E. Colton, and H. E. Hudelson.

The organization has continued active in the interests of the town since said time, and has been active in promoting enterprises advancing the interests of the town. Such projects as summer band concerts, Christmas and Santa Claus programs, merchandise bargain

days, community road improvement programs, traffic regulations, co-operative enterprises with the town, yard and garden contests, co-operative endeavors with Cornell College, annual get-togethers and dinners, corn-husking contests, farmer meetings, transportation projects, promotion of general business activity, and many other related projects have been carried out.

The Charter Members of the Chamber of Commerce as now constituted and set up in 1931 consisted of the following, those members who are still active in the town being marked by an asterisk.

F. A. Young\*, J. W. McCutcheon\*, E. M. Mitchell, J. R. Eyre, Chas. E. Hedges\*, Carl F. Becker\*, G. L. Hill, W. H. Hoover\*, Don Ink, D. U. Van Metre\*, E.V.R. Dvorak, A. E. Eyestone, C. W. Bohlander, C. C. Henderson, J. E. Colton, Arthur Kudart\* H. E. Hudelson, B. M. Regan, M. Ryerson, Dale F. Johnson\*, James E. Lodge\*, Robert Barnes\*, Earl L. Simpson, George Anselm, T. I. Mitchell, F. F. Ebersole\*, Otto Beall, Fred D. Merritt, Clifford Iosty, Chas. Gayman, A. J. Rogers\*, Artie Edaburn\*, R. A. Travis\*, John Klimo\*, Clarence Felsman\*, Jack Sturdy, John B. Bryant\*, Dawson E. Schlemmer, L. C. Evans\*, Dick Warner, I. E. Hoodmaker, Dr. E. C. Prall\*, H. R. Johnston, L. E. Bigger\*, H. Crumbaugh, W. S. Penn, Joe Bennett, M. G. Bittle, E. Mathison, F. A. Blaine\*, George L. Franks, S. N. Merritt\*, John F. Bloom, John E. Colon\*, I. J. Ellison, R. E. Rupert, Fred A. Bauman, Art Dilley, C. W. Beach, Jasper W. Bloom\*, D. W. Kohl, Glen Harbit, H. F. Gordon, G. A. Beranek\*, Rudolf Vodicka\*, R. E. Kleinfelter, Carl W. Travis\*, Ross F. Emerson, G. M. Wilson, M. S. Hughes, R. B. Wolfe\*, H. C. Yates, Glen McArtor, L. R. Low, C. W. Neff\*, and Marvin Turner.

The Record of Officers is as follows:

Pres.	Vice-Pres.	Secy. & Treas.
1932—J. R. Eyre	J. W. McCutcheon	G. L. Hill
1933—E. C. Prall	H. Huddleson	A. B. Eyestone
1934—Carl F. Becker	F. F. Ebersole	Dale Johnson
1935—Clifford Iosty	E. C. Prall	Art Kudart
1936—G. M. Wilson	James McCutcheon	Doris Pringle
1937—James McCutcheon	Harold Ehle	Jay Fordyce
1938—Harold Ehle	Vernon Jaynes	Jay Fordyce
1939—Vernon H. Jaynes	Robert Beranek	Jay Fordyce
1940—Robert A. Beranek	John H. Yeisley	Jay Fordyce
1941—J. F. Cooper	Charles Nutt	Charles Grier
1942—A. J. Rogers	Ralph Heasty	Inez Litts
1943—Ralph Heasty	R. B. Wolfe	Merrill Burge
1944—Ralph Heasty	R. B. Wolfe	Chas. Nutt
1945—R. B. Wolfe	John Yeisley	Chas. Nutt
1946—R. B. Wolfe	E. G. Frederick	Jay Fordyce
1947—Ivan Blackmer	Malcolm Bowie	R. C. Stoltz

**P. T. A.**

Mt. Vernon has had units of P.T.A. at three different times. Its object as a national and local organization is to bring about "better understanding between parents and teachers, and their cooperation in all work for the interest of the children, and to study the welfare of the child in the home, school and community."

No record of the first organization remains. Mrs. George Betts was the founder and first president, with Mrs. Lloyd McCutcheon as her active co-worker.

After a lapse of years, the organization was revived in November 1923, with Mrs. O. H. Smith as President, Mrs. John Klimo, Vice-President, and Dr. Harry Lewis as Secretary-Treasurer. From 1923 to 1932, it was a banner organization, due in large part to the untiring efforts of Mrs. Louis Herrick who spent endless time in building up the departments.

The second revival was on September 21, 1944, when the executive board of the Mother's Club met at the home of the President, Mrs. Al Morrissey, to consider broadening the basis of that club to meet the needs of the school as well. The Club had been founded three years previously with Mrs. Howard Johnston as its first president. The meeting for organization was held at the High School October 5, with three guest speakers from Cedar Rapids, who so effectively presented the work that a local unit was immediately formed. The officers were President, Mrs. Al Morrissey; Vice-President, Mrs. Dana Wilcox; Secretary, Mrs. Eldon DeCamp; Treasurer, Mrs. Howard Kamerling.

Although the P.T.A. inherited \$136 from the Mother's Club, it has worked to add to its funds, and to spend its money wisely. Memorable benefits have been a basketball game in 1945 between the "Rabbit-town Thompers" of the south side, and the "Eager Beavers" of the north side; a game between Lions and Rotarians in 1946, and a variety show, November 8, 1946,—a hilarious occasion of all grades, officers, and organizations, which netted more than \$200. Proceeds have been used to equip First-Aid rooms at both school buildings; furnish a teacher's lounge; assist in the hot lunch program of the High School; carry on a health program of immunization, dental care, tests for T.B. for all pupils and employees of the school; purchase of a new Victor sound projector, and other projects of benefit to the community.

The P.T.A. sponsors a study club for pre-school, junior, and adolescent children and has helped establish a new organization of parents of children who play in the band to advance interest in the musical program of the school.

**Mount Vernon Lions Club**

The preliminary organization of the Mount Vernon Den of Lions International began in February 1924, and was formally completed with the presentation of their charter at a meeting held at the Knox Grill on the night of May the second of the same year. The local Den was sponsored by the Cedar Rapids Lions Club and many of their members attended the induction ceremony. The charter was presented by Burt McHose, District Governor.

The Charter members were: Oscar L. Allanson, F. A. Bauman, A. A. Bauman, Joseph Bennett, \*F.F. Ebersole, S. W. Finger, C. F. Stratton, D. E. Hedges, W. H. Hoover, H. E. Huddelson, W. K. Knox, Louis Kepler, George D. Reed, \*Chas. E. Hedges, \*D. U. Van Metre, Fred W. Wodrich, Jr., \*Fred A. Young, John L. Conrad, S. E. Ellis, H. C. Gilliland, Harlan Updegraff and J.V.H. Torner.

Among the Past-Presidents have been: Fred W. Wodrich, Jr., H. E. Huddelson, Roy A. Nelson, R. W. Barker, Art Rogers, J. M. Macaulay, G. W. Rowley, Fred A. Young, Chas. E. Hedges, E. C. Prall, Mark E. Hutchinson, Walt Gray, R. H. Johnston, E. G. Frederick, S. E. Ellis, Chas. Keyes, Lloyd C. Dean, James B. Culbertson, Lloyd Oakland, N. A. Miner and Albion King.

During twenty-three years of local history, the Mount Vernon Lions Club has had only five secretaries—W. K. Knox, Fred W. Wodrich, Jr., G. L. Hill, Rex Dean and Boyd Horton. G. L. Hill served for fourteen years.

In order to fulfill its purpose as a service organization, the local Lions Club has instituted and sponsored many local community activities. Among the most important of these have been Community Christmas parties, Boy Scouts, milk for grade school children, Cub Scouts, summer playground programs, and Saturday afternoon movies to furnish not only amusement, but also educational value for the young people. The most exacting activity of the club has been its annual minstrel show which has become a community tradition. It began in 1937 and the income from the minstrel show has been in large part the source of the contributions which the club has been able to make to the above local activities.

**Rotary Club**

Formal organization of the Mount Vernon-Lisbon Rotary Club occurred on Tuesday evening, May 27, 1924, when about 74 Rotarians from nearby clubs, headed by District Governor elect, C. H. E.

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(\*Still active members)

Boardman of Marshalltown, assembled in the dining room of the Methodist church for the organization ceremony.

O. C. Burrows, president of the Belle Plaine Rotary Club, which sponsored the local club, presided. Fourteen members of the Belle Plaine club were in attendance, as were delegations from Rotary clubs of Washington, Marshalltown, Monticello, Anamosa and Cedar Rapids.

Short speeches were made by Rev. William Bowers and W. M. Keeley of Washington, James Remley of Anamosa, James Parks of Belle Plaine, and Fred Mahannah of Monticello. The main address was an inspirational talk by Governor Boardman.

Charter members of the club were Lloyd McCutcheon, president; W. M. Kurtz, vice-president; E. R. Ristine, secretary; O. B. Batchelder, treasurer; members of the board of directors, T. L. Wolfe, H. S. Risser, G. M. Wilson, S. G. Fouse, C. R. Runkle, and members S. L. Chandler, T. A. Gormly, John Klimo, W. E. Slaght, V. E. Stansbury, R. A. Travis, H. C. Yates, E. M. Franks, C. B. Johnston, A. J. Ramsey, and H. F. Sandrock.

At the time of its organization Mount Vernon was the smallest town in the state to have a Rotary club and possibly the smallest in the nation. The inter-town club was approved by Rotary International with the thought that the whole community would be served better if the two towns could unite to develop the community as a whole.

During its twenty-two years of existence, the local Rotary club has encouraged the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise; and, in particular, fostered the development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service, high ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to serve society; the application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to his personal, business and community life, and the advancement of international understanding, good will, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional men united in the ideal of service.

Secretaries of the club have been E. R. Ristine, 1924, John Gardner 1925, Sidney Chandler 1926, S. G. Fouse 1927, John Klimo 1928, Homer F. Sandrock 1929, J. R. Eyre 1930, George M. Wilson 1931, James W. McCutcheon 1932, L. E. Bigger 1933, Earl Simpson 1934, Edward Gough 1935, Chester L. Rich 1936, E. J. Osgood 1937, Samuel J. McLaughlin 1938, Fred M. McGaw 1939, Lloyd Gustafson, J. H. Ennis 1940, Elmer C. Bergmann 1941, F. G. Brooks 1942, Harry W. Sizer 1943, J. Burnett Ringer 1944, Paul L. Barr 1945, Watson M. Davis 1946, and Jay Fordyce 1947.

Secretaries of the club have been E. R. Ristine, 1924-24, John Klimo 1925, W. E. Slaght 1925-27, James W. McCutcheon 1927-29, J. Bruce Eyestone 1929-.

Charter members who are still members of the club include active members John Klimo and Clint B. Johnston; and honorary members E. R. Ristine and John R. Gardner.

## Chapter 13

### Mount Vernon and World War I

The morning papers on Thursday, April 5, 1917, carried headlines which announced that war had been declared on Germany. Congress had appropriated \$440,000,000 to carry on the struggle. Over night the conflict which had raged for more than two and a half years suddenly seemed much closer and more imminent. Three Cornell men had joined the Canadian forces early in the war and only a few weeks before, Pres. Chas. W. Flint of Cornell College, upon returning from a trip to Winnipeg, Canada, had assured students and townspeople that the Canadians felt that we were already virtually at war with Germany. The sinking of the *Lusitania* left little hope that war might be averted. On Mar. 23, Verne Marshall, editor of the Cedar Rapids *Gazette*, had brought the grim reality of war by an account of his first-hand experiences at the front.

One has but to scan the pages of the Mount Vernon *Hawkeye* for the weeks immediately following the declaration of war to realize how fully aware were the citizens of our little town to the issues of the day.

One week after war had been declared, the male students of the college held a mass meeting for the purpose of organizing military drill. The men were divided into three groups, according to height, by Sherman Finger physical director, and Sgt. Harold L. Jordan (Cornell '12), who had been on the Mexican border. Two days later Capt. Mumma, Commandant at the University of Iowa, and two of his advanced cadet officers arrived to complete the organization. A few days later Lt. Dreibelbis of the Iowa Cavalry was detailed by Adjutant General Guy Logan of the Iowa National Guards to take charge of military drill at Cornell. Sgt. Jordan was retained as an assistant. Sgt. Kanolie and Cpl. Scarborough completed the staff.

Two days later, Monday, April 16, a new schedule was put into effect on the campus. Breakfast call came at 6:45 and classes began at 7:30. Chapel services were held earlier than usual that drill might take place from 9:25 to 10:25. Afternoon classes were shortened that drill might begin at 3:00 o'clock. As a rule, it extended until late afternoon. Corporals drilled for an additional hour following the regular drill period. Saturdays provided opportunity for longer and more intensive drill. Broom sticks were used for arms as wooden guns were not available for some time. Later in the autumn trenches were dug on the campus and training in trench warfare was given to

numerous students. The women of the college made hundreds of sand bags.

Provision was made for the women of the college to take classes in first aid and Red Cross work. Forty women were instructed in the Red Cross work by Miss Belle McKnight, a graduate Red Cross nurse of Dubuque. Mrs. Cordia Bauman conducted a class in the preparation of surgical dressings. Two hundred and fifty girls signed up for the class in first aid. This class was under the direction of local physicians who offered their services. The first lecture was given by Dr. A. Crawford the same day that military drill was begun.

Pres. Flint immediately offered the college campus for a Reserve Officers' Training Corps to H. O. S. Heistand, Adjutant General in Washington. A letter was promptly received thanking him for his offer which had been filed for consideration.

The intensity of patriotic feeling ran high in the early days of the war and soon there was a widespread movement on foot to organize a volunteer student army. Before the end of the month, Dr. Wm. H. Norton, representative of the local student body, had received a reply to his letter from Congressman Good, who opposed the plan. Careful study prompted him to vote against the idea as he had found that the public in general favored selective service.

A number of college students had left college for officers' training at Fort Snelling. Among them were a number of seniors. These men were awarded their degrees at Minneapolis at a special convocation service shortly after commencement. Two local men, Clyde Thompson and Chester Roe Howard, were among them. The following summer Dr. Flint went to Camp Colt at Gettysburg to award degrees to a number of students, none of whom were from Mount Vernon.

In the fall of 1917 the outlook for military drill on the campus was uncertain as there were no officers available. Pres. Flint, however, was able to secure the services of Lt. W. N. MacQueen, a Canadian soldier on leave while convalescing from wounds received at the front. Robert A. Falconer, President of the University of Toronto, was instrumental in making the arrangements. On September 28, the officer, who had in the meantime become a captain, arrived to take over his duties. Capt. Norman MacQueen proved to be efficient in his work and was much sought after as a public speaker because of his knowledge of military affairs and his experiences at the front. Because of the shortages of officers, arrangements were later made whereby Capt. MacQueen spent portions of three days weekly at Coe College. He was popular with both students and townspeople and remained for the entire school year. He returned to Mount Vernon in the latter part of December 1918, at which time he married Miss Florence Baldwin, a graduate of M.V.H.S. and Cornell, 1919.

In the early part of October, 1918, Capt. Walter L. Tooze, a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School, arrived to take charge of the S.A.T.C. (Student Army Training Corps). Altoona Hall, Guild Hall, and the Elmwood, known to the residents of the town as "The Gigantic" were taken over as barracks for the 250 men. The lower part of the chapel, known earlier as "Day Chapel," was speedily converted into a mess hall and the college museum on the same floor was made into a kitchen. Dr. Hunter of the U.S. Army Med. Corps proved a valuable member of the S.A.T.C. staff and won high praise for his excellent services during the epidemic of Spanish influenza. During the month of October about half of the students were ill with the disease. Dr. Hunter's skill and untiring efforts were largely responsible for the fact that there were no deaths among the group.

The S.A.T.C. was demobilized on Monday, December 15, following the Armistice. Discharging of the men was delayed one day because of the late arrival of discharge papers. The men were privileged to purchase their blankets, local citizens bought mattresses and cots, and the rifles and other equipment were sent to the quartermaster station in Chicago.

Wartime activities were by no means limited to the college campus. As early as April 10, a service flag for the Mount Vernon High School was dedicated. Clyde Thompson was in the Officers' Training School at Ft. Snelling; Wilbur Powers, who had been in the navy for some time was on the *Pennsylvania*; Howard Clark was on the *Oklahoma* in the Atlantic; Karl West was in the 23rd U.S. Regulars; Carl Bair and Harry Milholin were in the Iowa Cavalry; Lt. Ralph Geiger and his brother, Rudolph, were in Co. M. of the Iowa Infantry.

On Friday, April 20, the citizens of the town turned out in goodly number, despite a cold and drizzling rain, for a mass meeting at the College Chapel. The Cornell cadets made their first appearance. Dr. Thos. L. Wolfe, Mayor of Mount Vernon, presided at the meeting at which a number of prominent citizens spoke. Dr. George Hogle was the first speaker. George H. Burge told of plans for intensified agricultural production; H. S. Risser reported on a survey of lots available within the town limits which might be used for war-gardens. Miss Gertrude Macy outlined what the women of Mount Vernon and Iowa could do for the war effort.

On April 25 about thirty-five business men and other townsmen held a mass meeting for the purpose of organizing a group for military drill. Major Glenn C. Haynes, assistant post master, offered his services to drill the men. The drill hour was set for 7 P.M. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Major Haynes drilled the men for only a short time as he was ordered to report the middle of May to Center-

ville, Iowa, to take charge of his company which had been called into service.

Enlistments for various branches of the service continued to take place, but most men found themselves waiting for the outcome of selective service. On June 5 the men of the town subject to the call registered at the City Hall. The *Hawkeye* made the following comment: "While there was no particular hue and cry or hubbub in connection with the registration on Tuesday there was a sober realization of responsibility and general accord that cannot be mistaken." Registration in the Mount Vernon precinct was 146. In addition there were 55 non-residents, most of whom were students. The total number for Linn County was 6,283. In July when names were drawn from the big fish bowl in Washington, the names of twenty-seven Mount Vernon men were drawn. The first of these drawn was that of Alvin Miller, unmarried, who was employed on the farm of Bert Ink.

Soon the pages of the *Hawkeye* began to carry copies of letters from the boys in service, items of departures and safe landings, and accounts of weddings. On several occasions a goodly portion of the front page was devoted to the latter.

Before the end of the summer it had become evident that the war might last for a long time and the country as a whole had become reconciled to the fact that many more men would be needed and that inconveniences and even hardships might be forthcoming.

In late November a community service was held in the College Chapel for "our representatives in the army" as any public recognition had not been possible for the reason that the men had "left singly and without ceremony." The largest group to leave at any one time consisted of twelve men who left Marion on July 25, 1918, for Camp Gordon, Georgia.

The local post office personnel was badly depleted as seven men entered the service; Major Glenn C. Haynes, assistant postmaster; Glenn Rogers, George Turner, Earl Mitchell, Herbert Rumble, Carl Travis, and Harry Genung, a student who was a substitute carrier. During the four months' absence of Glenn Rogers, Miss Marguerite Klinefelter (later Mrs. John Frank Young) carried mail on the south side of town. She proved to be thoroughly efficient despite the severity of the winter.

Throughout the war the citizens of Mount Vernon took a profound interest in the various war activities, especially the Red Cross. At a mass meeting on Sunday June 21, for the purpose of organizing a local chapter, Dr. James E. Harlan was elected chairman; Miss Vera West, vice-chairman; Miss Grace Wolfe, secretary; and Charles M. Hartung cashier of the Mount Vernon Bank, treasurer. Mrs. Joshua Keedick offered the use of her building at the corner of First Street

and First Avenue as a work-shop. Women of the town immediately cleaned the building and other preparations followed. Four sewing machines were furnished by generous citizens. Miss Nettie Fairbanks served as chairman of the project; Mrs. Armstrong Spear, Vice-chairman ;and Mrs. Cordia Bauman took charge of surgical dressings. Three more machines were obtained from Mrs. Earl Mitchell and the Mount Vernon High School. The Wapsie Power and Light Company provided a small portable electric machine and Harry Gilliland furnished a motor. The work-shop could accommodate fourteen women. They brought various kinds of food which they shared with each other. These "pot-luck" lunches made it possible for the women to work longer hours. Within five months of the formation of the chapter a report showed that "more than \$3,500 has been raised in cash." Membership in the Red Cross soon passed the six hundred mark. With great rapidity the women turned out the much-needed articles. Women of all ages knitted for the Red Cross and added their handiwork to the other finished articles. Women carried their knitting to lectures, clubs, concerts and other gatherings. College girls found time to add a row or two of stitches between class periods. Everyone knitted. On one occasion needles clicked during the morning services of the Methodist Church. Such enthusiasm was not looked upon with much favor and the procedure was not repeated.

Contributions for the local chapter came from various sources. On June 22, '17, the Gamboliers, a local theatrical group, gave a benefit performance of "Pygmalion and Galatea." In August of the same year the Hila Morgan Stock Co., while on its annual weekly visit, announced that 25% of the proceeds from "The Girl Back Home" would be contributed. Threatening weather prompted light attendance and the contribution was limited to \$25.00. During the same month, the Rebekah Lodge sold ice cream on the lawn of the Dr. Thos. L. Wolfe residence on Main Street and contributed the profit to the organization. In November a drive for two thousand dollars exceeded its goal by two dollars by a seven dollar contribution made by a stranger, later identified as Nick Doffing, a traveling salesman of Exira, Iowa. On February 14, '18, a group of young people of Lisbon presented "The Man from New York" at the College Chapel. The performance not only provided an evening of good entertainment, but swelled the treasury by \$160.00. A few weeks later Miss Rose Evelyn Baker of the Cornell faculty and always popular with Mount Vernon audiences, gave an evening of dramatic readings at the College Chapel. A box social under the general auspices of the I.O.O.F. Lodge was held in its hall over the Bauman Clothing Co. The event proved enjoyable and profitable for the Red Cross. The boxes brought \$70. Entertainment was provided by a Cedar Rapids orchestra. The main feature of the evening was the auctioning off of a cake which had been baked by F. C. Coates, a local baker. The

cake displayed "in frosted embellishment a beautiful flag in realistic colors." The amount realized from the sale of the cake was \$100. During the harvest season of 1918 a number of Mount Vernon men unknowingly made a contribution in the following manner. One evening D. E. Hedges, Chas. E. Hedges, F. W. Howson, H. S. Risser, E. E. Kyle, L. E. Chapman, Dr. E. L. Glasier, E. R. Lahman, Dr. G. H. Wandel, J. E. Coleman, Chas. M. Hartung, and J. E. Beach aided Otis Ellison to shock thirty acres of oats as he had been unable to get farm help. After the work had been done and refreshments enjoyed, Mr. Ellison presented the group with a check for twenty dollars made out to the local Red Cross chapter. Even after the Armistice contributions continued. Among them was one for \$2.00 from the children of a rural school taught by Mrs. Brooks. One day Anton Novak presented a load of squash which was sold for \$6.05.

Not all of the appeals were for money. One day the following request appeared in the paper: "The local Red Cross would like to know the name of a person who will contribute a quarter of a cord of wood to heat the workroom." The spring brought the following: "If convenient, set a hen for the benefit of the local chapter. Call it the "Red Cross Hen" and sell the chicks for the benefit of the local chapter. If a dozen people would contribute in this way, it would be quite an addition to our funds."

The citizens of Mount Vernon and the surrounding community responded splendidly to each of the four Liberty Loan drives. When the bonds first arrived, Clem Falcon of the Citizens' State Bank announced through the press that "a detailed description is of little avail. They must be seen to be appreciated; or better yet, owned." Much interest was displayed in Mount Vernon and Lisbon, and school children had a holiday, upon the appearance of the Great Lakes Navy Band, under the direction of John Philip Sousa, on tour in interest of the Liberty Loan campaign. The Four Minutes Speakers of Mount Vernon and Lisbon, who had been at work for some time, did much toward the success of the drives. Among them were Dr. Nicholas Knight, chairman, who had been in Europe at the outbreak of the war, Willard C. Stuckslager, the Reverend W. C. Keeler, Prof. Albert S. Keister, Dr. Thos. L. Wolfe, the Reverend Chas. M. Robb, the Reverend C. C. Dilavou, Prof. John Stout, and Prof. Clyde Tull. These men gave their speeches at church services, at college chapel, and before motion picture audiences at the Star Theatre and the Lisbon Opera House. The quota for Mount Vernon during the Fourth Liberty Loan drive was \$124,250, an amount which was over-subscribed \$50,000. In so doing, Mount Vernon played her part in the splendid record set by the state of Iowa, which, in the four drives, over-subscribed by more than forty million dollars.

During the war years war-gardens were planted, cultivated and the housewives of the town did much to aid in the preservation and

saving of foods. Various new methods were tried and food hints were discussed with the idea of doing "their bit." During September 1917 Mrs. Horace Alden Miller, Mrs. Chas. M. Hartung, Mrs. John Frances, Mrs. James Sullivan, and Miss May Fairbanks served as a committee to distribute food pledges to the housewives of the town. Every one remembers vividly the wheat substitutes which had to be purchased in equal amount with all purchases of wheat flour. The list was a long and imposing one and contained the names of articles totally unfamiliar to the mid-West housewife. A monthly allotment of from two to three pounds of sugar per person curtailed the usual amount of canning. "Wheatless and meatless" days proved rather trying to housewives. Suggestions for meals were read, sometimes with dubious eye, as they were received from the government or as they appeared in papers and magazines. In the spring of 1918 a governmental ban was placed on the killing of hens and pullets, both for market and private use. In October a ban was placed on the serving of refreshments at evening social affairs including Red Cross benefits. Local residents met these regulations readily and willingly as they did other regulations which were intended to help the war effort.

During the fall of 1918 Mount Vernon, along with the entire country, was subjected to an epidemic of the "flu." During the middle of October there were as many as one hundred and fifteen cases in the town. A number of citizens died during those trying days. Among them were Mrs. T. A. Gormly, wife of Dr. Gormly, dentist and long-time resident. A daughter, Anna Irene, in nurse's training at the University of Iowa Hospital was also taken. Alfred A. Berry died of the disease enroute to California: the same week his mother, Mrs. A. A. Berry also died; Earl Rumble, a Reserve in the Engineering Corps of the University, died at Denver while enroute to Wyoming for his health and was given a military funeral in Mount Vernon. Others who passed away in Mount Vernon were Miss Ellen McQuown, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John McQuown; Helen Ruth Stark, the young daughter of former residents of Mount Vernon, who brought her remains to Mount Vernon for burial; Harry L. Eick, son-in-law of J. J. Smyth; Emerson Mason West, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac West. Emerson will be remembered as a prominent college athlete who was known to his friends and acquaintances as "Pony." The town was further saddened by the death of Delbert Hiner, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Hiner. The following week Delbert Hiner's widow died of the same disease in Cedar Rapids. Residents of the town were grieved from time to time by reports from near and far of the passing of friends and relatives.

Hard upon the heels of the "flu" came the fuel shortage made worse by the extremely cold weather. By mid-December, in an attempt to save fuel, store hours were shortened for a short time from

8:30 to 5:30 with the exception of "drug store and confectioners" and "barber shops which were permitted to keep open on Saturday nights." Outside lighting was likewise cut down. Cornell College extended the Christmas vacation to January 8 in order "to save one car load of coal." Lodges were requested not to hold meetings and churches were urged to hold joint meetings. Upon one occasion, when church services could not be held, the men students of the Mrs. Hattie Miller house and the girls of the Watson house held church services in the Miller House living-room with a student pastor in charge. Fuel supplies of the local dealers were soon exhausted and prospects for additional supplies did not look bright, despite promises made by the government which had taken over the railroads in an heroic attempt to better the situation. On Saturday, January 12, '18, the situation had become so critical that a mass meeting was held at the City Hall to discuss how the situation might be met. Despite the extreme weather a good many people attended the meeting. The result of the discussion was the decision that the use of wood was the only practical solution. A committee was appointed at this meeting to make arrangement for the obtaining of wood. The committee was composed of H. S. Risser, Chas. E. Hedges, both dealers in coal, John Petty and Harry Stinger. The following Tuesday these men personally led a delegation of volunteers to the Plattenberger timber north of town to chop and saw. The *Hawkeye* declared "Wood choppers are the highest type of local patriots at the present time." The same week a car-load of coal arrived for the use of the schools and local dealers received one car. Though it was most gladly received, the supply was not enough to alleviate the necessity of people closing up part of their homes and others moving in with friends or relatives.

Throughout the war the citizens of the town made every effort to attempt to have life proceed as normally as possible. With this idea in mind, Cornell College did all possible to provide music, lectures, and other events for the good of morale and general well-being. The May Music Festival was continued, though in 1918 there were three concerts rather than five. There was no Artist's Course in 1917 and in 1918 no performance of the Messiah was given because of the lack of men's voices.

Though the war was always paramount in the minds of the citizens, much local interest was taken in a drive by Cornell College for \$600,000, an undertaking which was regarded by many as inopportune. It exceeded the goal by \$150,000. Interest was likewise taken in the letting of a contract for "the seedling mile", one of the first indications that before many years Iowa would "be out of the mud." Gratification was expressed by the retirement of the last of a twenty-year water bond issue for \$9,500.

Residents of the town, along with the rest of the nation, took in their stride the various regulations as they came along. Citizens

accustomed themselves to a tax on theatre admission and other amusements, rates for first class mail, increased passenger rates, and the income tax which came into being on the first of March, 1918.

As time went on, the stars of the Mount Vernon service flag became more numerous. The following were the victims of war: George Hogle died of disease at Camp McClelland on Sept. 25, 1917; Clarke Bowen was killed in an airplane accident at West Point, Mississippi, on June 12, 1918; Chas. Noska was killed in action on October 8, 1918; two days later Joseph Dvorak died of wounds received in action; Chester Roe Howard, who had been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for his heroism at Trugny, France, on July 22, 1918, was killed in action on the 16th of the following October; Irene Gormly and Earl Rumble, as mentioned in foregoing pages, were victims of the influenza; Ralph Hahn was killed in action in the Belleau Woods on Oct. 28, 1918; Forrest Young died at the Great Lakes Training Station on Jan. 7, 1919 following a long illness resulting from the influenza; Earl Mitchell died July 28, 1922 following a long illness from disabilities sustained from military service.

The demobilization of the S.A.T.C., which has already been mentioned, marked the last event of importance in Mount Vernon which had any bearing on the First World War. The event which still remains vividly in the minds of many residents was Armistice Day. Early in the morning bells clanged and people rushed about to learn of the events which had taken place. About 9 o'clock that morning members of the Business Men's Commercial Club met at the City Hall to make hurried preparations for the day. Members of the committee were: Mayor D. E. Hedges, Dr. Harry M. Kelly, Capt. Walter L. Tooze, H. S. Risser, Chas. E. Hedges, the Reverend Chas. M. Robb, and W. L. Goodhue. Places of business were closed from 2:00 to 5:00. At 2 o'clock a parade, largely of S.A.T.C. boys, was formed at the chapel. A thirty-five piece college band headed the procession which marched toward the business section of the town. A delegation of the G.A.R. joined in, as did various civic organizations, the Cornell Women's Drill Corps, Women of the Red Cross, school children, and townspeople. At Lisbon similar groups swelled the ranks. Somewhere along the way college students found a goat. The animal was marked with a placard—THE KAISER'S GOAT—and was placed on a float provided by a Lisbon citizen. Near the goat was a coffin in which there was a figure labeled THE CROWN PRINCE. Automobiles followed those on foot, thus making it possible for those not able to walk, to be participants in the occasion. The procession was more than a half-mile long and a conservative estimate placed the number of persons in the parade at about eighteen hundred. Following this demonstration, a program was held in the college chapel where speeches were given and music

was provided. In the evening an impromptu dramatic skit in Ash Park furnished much amusement. A number of the college faculty took part, but none provided the merriment that Dr. Nicholas Knight did in the role of a ballet dancer. A huge bonfire lighted up the grounds and legend has it that the Kaiser was burned in effigy. Dancing took place on the pavement in the business section of the town under the direction of Prof. Clyde Tull, known on the campus as "Toppy." Taps sounded for the S.A.T.C. boys at nine as the dancing continued. Mount Vernon had experienced the greatest celebration of her history.

## **Chapter 14**

### **Farms and Farming**

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The Centennial record of rural life around Mount Vernon presents a rich heritage of inspiration and experience. With the first settlers rural life, much more than town life, was important. Who can measure the final influence of those broad prairies? Their environment produced men of freedom and initiative, women of hospitality and sturdy character. The town had its foundation of benefits and riches from the farms encircling it. The history of the country is an epic of wholesome living, momentous advancement, and heroic endeavors. At the same time it furnishes a cross-section of one hundred years of nation-wide rural life.

In those yesterdays the beautiful country-side attracted the settlers with its numerous clear springs and streams; the plum and nut trees; the bounties of the maple-tree; the delicious wild berries; the timber which furnished wood for cabins, fires and fences. The days of the covered wagon, the log cabin, and the old walking plow and grain cradle are gone forever. Now we see bountiful farms around Mount Vernon with well-kept fields, pastures filled with high-bred live-stock, barns and granaries overflowing with hay and grain. Snuggled into the green groves are fine farm houses and buildings with electric lights and power machinery. In the fields are improved varieties of corn and oats and pure-bred livestock—all brought to pass by these industrious tillers of the soil.

The fame of those pioneers is well known. William Abbe, one of the first white men to settle in Linn County, staked out his claim in 1837. Daniel Hahn came southeast of town in 1838. His son John quarried the rock used in building Cornell Chapel. His grandson Frank, now mayor of Cedar Rapids, inherited in his grandfather's will the old hunting rifle and bullet mould which grace the fireplace in the present Cedar Rapids home.

Oliver Clark came in 1840, and was in turn constable, school director, and soldier in the Mexican War. The farm-stead of his grandson, Marley D. Clark is part of the original land entered from the government. John Stewart came in 1838, and was justice of the peace. It is reported that one rainy night he leaned out of his bedroom window and shouted to a couple below: "Under this window in rainy weather, I join you man and wife together."

Andrew J. McKean arrived in 1838 and was told that there were no vacant lands. When he made it plain that he was a settler and

not a speculator, they said: "Not one foot of land for speculation; but thousands for settlement and cultivation."

The record of those centennial and near-centennial farms is astonishing. On the land entered from the government by Jeremiah Burge in 1839 a fifth generation now lives. Vernon Burge of the fourth generation is farming extensively with power machinery along with his father, Harold Burge. George Burge, a grandson of Jeremiah, took prizes at international live-stock shows. His enthusiasm for all kinds of pure-bred stock earned for him an instructorship in the Oregon Agricultural College. He had shorthorn cattle, Shropshire sheep, Poland-China hogs, Wyandotte chickens, Percheron horses, and he created community interest in better farming. Today on this same land at old "St. Mary's Crossroads," the Milo Wolrabs are winning honors in all these parts with their Berkshire hogs.

Henry Kepler, 1839, became county superintendent and school director. The three brothers, Henry, Conrad, and Peter, all entered land from the government. Murton Kepler is still farming at the old place, with a hundred year plaque on the front doorway. Descendants of these brothers have become doctors, lawyers, merchants, farmers, and postmaster.

Samuel Ellison in 1840 staked out land north of town. His grandsons, Harvey and Irvin, and great-grandson Harlan, still farm in that part, the latter growing turkeys extensively.

Chauncey Neal came here in 1839 with twenty-five cents in his pocket. His grandson, Burt Neal, experimented with line breeding of Shorthorns. He pioneered with his brother Ben (named a Master Farmer in 1939) in improved seed-corn production as far back as 1904. The great-grandchildren of Chauncey located on farms in this area are Gordon, Howard, Benny, Myron, Mrs. Adolf Biderman and Mrs. Austin Armstrong.

Henry C. Platner, 1840, was a farmer and stock raiser but served also as township trustee and school director. A great-grandson, Arthur, farms the land entered by George Yeisley in 1839. John Wolfe in 1840 operated a ferry over the Cedar River at Ivanhoe; and the original farm is still in possession of his grandson Dr. Thomas Wolfe, grand-daughter Grace, and great-grandsons Richard and Dan.

John Hoffman came in a prairie schooner in 1846 and entered 160 acres from the government. This has now expanded to 367 acres. Brothers Ben and C. H. Hoover descendants, came in 1847, and their descendants are still to be found here. Foster and John B. Leigh came in 1851 and entered a large tract of land, but they had to sign a note to get 25 cents for an express package at the depot!

Conrad Kepler and C. H. Neidig in 1849 conducted religious meetings in the Neidig home; the former a Methodist and the latter a United Brethren. Sunday evening there were "experience meetings" and on Thursday evenings prayer meetings were held. Neidig was township trustee, president of the school board, and a trustee of Western College. Cunningham Torrance, 1847, and his son Alexander, operated a saw-mill northwest of town. Thomas Isherwood, 1851, was treasurer of the school district of Mount Vernon, and originated the "Isherwood Apple." The land entered by Zebulon Neff in 1853 is still in the family possession.

Among those attracted here in the fifties was Wesley West. He lived on what was later the David West farm adjoining that of his brother Isaac. Isaac was for a time Postmaster of Mount Vernon. Stephen West, a grandson of another brother in the family, Ely West, is now outstanding in his practices of soil-conservation. Morgan L. Ink sold his store in Mount Vernon in early days and established a 400-acre farm with house and barn of brick and stone from Stone City. In its resides his son Raymond Peter, who served during World War I as county chairman of threshermen, and in World War II on the Selective Service Board.

Ralph and James Kirkpatrick came in 1857. Grandsons of the latter, George and Kenneth, still farm near here. Somewhat later came Alfred Busenbark, 1861, and B. F. Beach, 1869; the latter retiring from the farm to open an implement business in Mount Vernon. Among the Fifty-year farmers honored by the Hawkeye in this vicinity are Charles Travis, Charles A. Alexander, Elson R. Needles, Barney Peddycord, G. W. Sproston, John Wickham, Frank Becicka, J. F. E. Yeisley, I. H. Whitman, Frank Henik, James Kirkpatrick, Charles Ford, R. P. Ink, W. G. Kleineck, the Wolrabs, Pospisils, and Zinkulas. Others are being added rapidly to this list.

Many changes in the style of farming have come during the hundred years. Wheat was the staple crop of the pioneer, being ground into food for human consumption at nearby water-mills. Corn was equally popular. But blight and insects made wheat difficult to raise by 1890 and corn became king. It is a far cry from planting corn on the prairies with a stick, then dropping the kernels by hand, to the big four-row corn-planter of today, and to the power instruments needed to cultivate and pick the corn. Speckled, white, red, and squaw corn were grown for years without much thought of improvements. Then in 1902 came Perry Holden with his corn exhibit traveling by train, which awakened interest in corn and grain betterment. Next year the Neal brothers, Burt and Ben, took a short course at Ames and began selecting superior seed. Charles and Frank Wickham also began to use score cards; and the Linn

and Franklin Corn Club was organized in 1904. It is still going strong. W. T. Fawcett was one of the leaders in this movement.

In the late twenties hybrid corn replaced the open-pollinated variety and greatly increased the annual yield. Around 1920 E. S. Johnston, auctioneer, and Harry Siggins began raising pop-corn, the former planting as much as 200 acres in one season. This was shipped out by the car-load. Alfalfa was tried in 1913 by Henry Clark, southeast of town, and it gave as much as three cuttings in a season. E. C. Forest in 1915 engaged in this enterprise also.

The Sargent Farms of more than 1000 acres, north of the railroad, owned by the late president of the Chicago & North Western Railway, conducted extensive experiments with soy beans. R. P. Ink first experimented with soy beans from Ames in 1906. They were at first planted with corn as silage, then used as a hay crop, and now they have become a major grain crop grown to meet the demand for commercial by-products. The soy bean and the combine entered the Iowa farm scene together.

Since most of the crops grown here are fed locally rather than sold commercially, live-stock enters the scene as a leading farm activity. Cattle were at first used as beasts of burden to turn over the prairie sod. Then followed the general-purpose cattle, the Longhorns, the Shorthorns, the Angus, the all-purpose stock, and, with the advent of creameries, dairy stock.

In hogs, styles have changed from the early razorbacks that fed on acorns, to the lard, bacon, and combination types, passing through the periods of the big spotted six-hundred pounders, the small pony style and the rainbow type. Hybrid hogs are now being produced. E. C. Forest came from eastern Iowa in 1915 and held widely advertised sales of Poland China hogs through the years. His son Edward is now carrying on.

Live stock promotion has met with serious difficulties, such as the foot and mouth disease which caused country-wide quarantine, and the T.B. trouble now handled with periodic vaccination.

In the midst of the cycle from oxen to tractors, horses were used extensively. They were shipped out by car loads to eastern markets. Until 1930, both coach and draft horses were in demand. All this has changed with the advent of power machinery, until now some farms have no horses, and others only a single horse or a team.

At one time nearly every farm supported a flock of sheep. In the early days the wool was shorn, washed, carded, spun and woven during the bleak winter, into homespun for clothing for the farm family. That was the day of the itinerant wool shearers who roamed the country-side in the spring. Farmers became active in the Wool Grow-

ers Association and pooled their bags of wool for the Boston market. Now about one in twenty farms keeps sheep, and seldom are western lambs shipped in by the car load, although the 4H boys are renewing this activity.

In the important business of poultry raising no longer do barnyard biddies bring up broods of mixed breeds. The farm which raises a flock just large enough to supply its own needs is the exception. Twenty-five years ago the old setting hen, or the small home incubator did duty. Today chickens are purchased by hundreds from commercial hatcheries and brooded with electrical equipment. Time and over-time occur in the modern electric lighted chicken house. E. S. Johnston, and later his son Julian, conducted a local hatchery specializing in leghorns for egg production. All-purpose birds are finding favor now. Our community has done its part in making Iowa the foremost State in the nation in the value of chickens and eggs produced annually. The local produce house of F. J. Peterson last year shipped 150 cars of eggs and four million pounds of poultry. Otis Ellison, Harlan Ellison and Roy Bowman have raised turkeys by the thousands every year.

The evolution of farm machinery and equipment has made these great records possible. With the pioneers grain was cradled and flailed from straw bound bundles. Next came the reaper with the rake, the Marsh harvester, the self-binder, and finally the threshing machine, which went through the gamut of tread power, horse power, steam, and tractor power. For many years the Ink brothers operated the only steam powered machine around here, and they threshed as late as Christmas. The combine is successful for soy beans in harvesting, but straw is still highly valued.

Corn was first planted by hand and picked by hand. Later the field was laid out with marker, then the check row; and now the four-row power drop-planter with fertilizer attachment is used. After the hoe, the first cultivator was a plow working along one side of the row and then the other side. Charles Travis recalls using this type. Following this was the walking plow which cultivated both sides of the row, then the riding plow, and finally the two-row tractor-drawn plow and the four-row tractor-drawn power lift. With hand picking one averaged 40 to 50 bushels a day. The two row picker finishes eight to ten acres a day, husking some 1250 bushels daily.

Corn husking contests were once the sport of farm lads and the center of a state-wide interest; but they are now on the wane. Tractor plowing contests have replaced them. We note similarly the change from the old fashioned scythe to the horse drawn mower. The tractor-drawn mowers and rakes, the stackers, field cutters and field balers play their parts in today's haying operations.

The climax of all these labor-saving devices was the bountiful centennial harvest of 1946, a favorable season doing its part. Corn averaged 53 bushels to the acre, with record yields of 108, 114, and 120 bushels per acre. In 1846, the price was fifteen cents a bushel, and in 1946 it was \$1.01. Soy beans averaged 25 bushels per acre and brought a price of \$3.28 a bushel. Some fields averaged 40 bushels. Oats were 75 cents, \$1.00 for a time, a bushel, and averaged from 20 to 80 bushels per acre. Clinton was the preferred type.

Alfalfa produced three tons an acre; raspberries and strawberries were picked as late as November, and the corn harvest was completed before the first snow in mid-December. Truly the place of the farmer in our national life has become outstanding in every way. The wide varieties of fruits grown, read like a nurseryman's catalog—apples, plums, pears, peaches, apricots, cherries, strawberries, currants, raspberries, black berries, and grapes.

Invention has greatly added to the conveniences of the farm. Party rural telephone lines were constructed in 1905, and Phil Stinger gave a neighborhood concert over the line with his phonograph. There was a rural switchboard in the Foster Leigh home. It is noticeable that when dial phones were installed in 1939, our Mount Vernon community was the first rural community in the entire United States selected for the trial. Leisure time, comfort, and luxuries of every kind in equipment came to farm life with the advent of electricity on the farm after the first world war. Now with the R.E.A. days are lengthened for farm chores, and household tasks become easy with such facilities.

The Rural Free Delivery caught the imagination of the entire nation, when it was introduced in 1902. Then it was that the city began to want to move to the farm. We pay our tribute to those pioneering, hard working rural carriers, Gordon Hess, Sol Geiger and Fred Blaine. That movement speeded up greatly the coming of all-weather, hard surfaced roads.

Greater even than the progress in material things has been the widened horizon of farm life in things of the mind and spirit. Mention has been made of the early school houses: the little red school house known as the Jackson school was moved to the farm of Charles Platner; the Ivanhoe school taught by George Green (Judge); the Cedar Valley school at St. Mary's Crossroads, two miles south; the Buckskin school taught by Elizabeth Bennett at Linn Grove, were well known.

The red-brick Abbey school house where Elder Bowman preached every month is now changed into a home. We mention also the Standing Rock school house by Stony Point with pupils from Cedar, Johnson, and Linn counties. "Book-learning" was hastened by pioneer women like Mrs. Mason, mother of Dr. Kate Hogle, in the

very home now owned by Rudolph Notbohm. Singing schools and spelling bees were great social events in these school houses.

Barn raisings, taffy pulls, bobsled rides, and hay rides, together with charivaris, skating parties, quilting bees and oyster suppers have now given way to evenings of profitable entertainment with educational programs in night schools, county fairs, anniversary celebrations, farm auctions, and picnics. In summer the Kepler Palisades State Park is now the popular resort.

There was a time when rural neighbors rarely saw the inside of one another's homes. Now the innumerable farm clubs make for community interest and action along social lines. Grange Hall is a landmark recalling the brief life of the local grange in the eighties. Elmer Neal was secretary. The building was donated to Linn Township as an election hall and was used as a school house until 1946. In the early nineties the Farmer's Alliance was organized west of town, of which Joe Smyth was president and D. W. Ford was secretary. Its purpose was co-operative buying. A Farm Improvement Association was begun in 1914, with Ben Neal as president for Franklin Township; and Charles Travis for Linn Township. Later, in 1919, this became the Farm Bureau, which is a nationwide organization with the goal of improvement of agriculture. The 4H clubs are a major activity, and they develop skilled leadership in the highest degree.

Other co-operative projects through the years have been hog vaccination, alfalfa growing, fruit-tree pruning, seed corn testing, and the use of lime and commercial fertilizers. In 1918 Miss Hazel Spencer, Home Demonstration Agent, inaugurated adult education courses especially for women, and these today constitute the only nation-wide projects of their kind. The Shipping Association of Farmers was organized in 1918 and did as high as a quarter of a million dollars worth of business per year. Henry Clark and John Dew were managers. It ceased, however, with the advent of the road truck.

The progress of farming has not been easy through the years, for in former days grasshoppers swarmed over the country with devastating power. Then there was the cinch-bug menace in 1934 and 1935. There were the seasons when army worms traveled in droves, and times of cholera outbreaks; and there were the drought years like '34 and '36 when even "Democrat hay" (foxtail) was in demand. The toiling farmers went unrewarded and many had to lose their farms.

In 1946 Iowa was first in the value of hogs, corn, grain, eggs and horses produced. The marketing of grain-fed cattle and of poultry, red clover seed, timothy seed, honey and bees-wax ranked the state first in the nation. On the human and social side Iowa stands first in amount of grade-A land and per cent of improved land, and also in literacy. The vision of the pioneers has come true; Iowa is the land flowing with milk and honey.

But with that happy consciousness there has come the sobering thought of our responsibility to future generations. W. C. Lowdermilk of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has issued a challenge to the farmers of the nation to observe the eleventh commandment of agriculture—the message of stewardship: “Thou shalt inherit the earth as a faithful steward, conserving its resources and productivity from generation to generation.” We must safeguard the fields from soil erosion, the springs and waters from drying up, the forests from desolation and the hills from over-grazing. Otherwise our fruitful fields may become sterile and our descendants be in want and perish. The awakening conscience of the modern Iowa farmer is, indeed, responding to the great challenge.

## Chapter 15

### Later Churches

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#### Presbyterian

Following the able pastorates of the Reverend Alexander K. Baird, 1883 to 1890, and the Reverend Edmund S. Brownee, 1891 to 1894, there came a man who was to fulfill the most useful and noteworthy pastorate in the history of the local Church. The Reverend Andrew K. Knox was pastor from 1894 to 1906, the longest pastorate of the town. He was a popular preacher, and a hardworking enthusiastic pastor. The attendance soon outgrew the little wooden building near the end of Main Street. In 1895, despite the panic of '93, \$5,000 was raised and work on a new church was begun. The completed structure cost more than \$10,000 and was dedicated on Sunday, March 1, 1896, free of debt. The building committee was Dr. James Carson, John B. Leigh, D. L. Boyd, M. L. Ink, W. H. Goudy, Joseph Bair, and Wm. McFarland. Trustees were Dr. T. A. Gormly, John E. Kyle, D. W. Ford, L. H. Odell and James Kirkpatrick. Ruling elders were Robert Smyth, D. L. Boyd, W. H. Goudy, Wm. McFarland, W. E. Platner and J. S. Cowan.

The church is well situated on the top of the hill on the northwest corner of Main Street and Third Avenue. The lower stone came from the local quarry, Wm. Platner, the manager and elder in the Church, giving generous terms. The architecture, with rounded arches and horizontal lines, may be characterized as having a Romanesque feature. The auditorium is 70 feet long by 45 feet wide, with entrance on the south and pulpit in the northern end, with a large gallery in the rear. There are commodious church parlors below and above a pipe-organ, a gift in 1911 of Frank Armstrong, a former Mount Vernon boy and member of this church. John B. Leigh left \$8,000 for an organ maintenance fund, and this, with other gifts, was invested in a large farm which brings in a goodly annual income for that worthy purpose. Mrs. M. B. Waln left \$1,000 for a flower fund in honor of her husband Milton B. Waln, and others have given similar generous legacies through the years.

The corner stone of the church was laid, September 5, 1895. The dedicatory services, March 1, 1896, were conducted most effectively by Dr. W. G. Craig, Professor of Theology, in the McCormick Seminary of Chicago. At the evening service, three prominent Methodists expressed their good will. They were Pres. Wm. F. King, Dr. Thomas Nicholson, and the Reverend H. O. Pratt.

On account of poor health, the Reverend Knox terminated his pastorate and preached his final sermon on Oct. 28, 1906, "Having done all to stand" was his text. He preached with great difficulty. He died at two o'clock the next morning, faithful unto death. Reading some of his sermons at this date, we are impressed with the earnestness and wide variety of interest in history, literature, and everyday life.

The Reverend Joseph W. Hubbard was pastor at Linn Grove from 1896 to 1899 when he moved to town and bought the old church building and remodeled it into an apartment building. As chairman of the Historical Committee of the Synod, he wrote a valuable "History of the Presbyterian Church in Iowa, 1837-1900." He had been in early days a tutor of Grover Cleveland and retained his friendship through the years.

The Reverend A. R. Bickenbach, a forceful and witty speaker, was pastor from 1907 to 1910. The bell was placed in the tower at this time. He was much in demand as an after-dinner speaker. The Reverend Oliver Thompson preached for one year, and then there came in June 1912, the Reverend Charles M. Robb, who remained for nine years, and filled the church to capacity. He also organized a brotherhood of 130 members, which held father-and-son banquets for many years. At the Centennial, he sent greetings from Wichita, Kansas. The Reverend C. F. Stratton remained for six years as pastor from 1922 to 1928. He built up many lasting friendships. The Reverend W. B. Ray filled in for one year. The economic depression at this time made former salaries difficult to raise, so a succession of young men was called. The Reverend Roland D. Snuffer served from 1930 to 1932; the Reverend Everett C. Moorehead, did excellent work with young people and went on to the large Westwood Church in Cincinnati. From there he sent Centennial greetings: "Remember Jesus is Pilot. A ship never sinks until water gets on the inside. Don't get water-logged. Keep buoyant and you will reach the eternal harbor." The Reverend Joseph W. Gray was pastor from 1937 to 1942, when he accepted a call to Huron, South Dakota. In a letter read at the Centennial, he recalled the sun reflected from the ice at the top of the tall steeple, a symbol of the Church reflecting the light of God as it points the way to Heaven. The Reverend Lewis McKibben, an experienced teacher in college and pastorate, came from 1942 to 1945. He organized an inspiring Centennial program which was given on Sunday, October 24, 1943. Dr. H. C. Stanclift reviewed his noteworthy work on the hundred years of Presbyterianism in our city which was later published as a valuable book. He was for years a clerk of sessions and a prominent leader in the church. Many speakers of note took part in the all-day celebration, an enjoyable and note-worthy event. The outward his-

tory tells little of the loyalty which has been characteristic of this church. The Gormlys, the Fords, the Neals, the Carsons, the Smyths, the Cowans, the Walns, the Kyles, the Torrances, the Burges, the Alexanders, the Needles, and the Goudys, along with others, equally deserving, have sustained the church from one generation to another.

The Goudy and the Shirer families not only furnished leading choir workers, but singers of local note as an inspiration for the worship service. A long line of excellent choir directors and organists have maintained the high quality of church music. Miss Florella Goudy and Mrs. Jay C. Boyd deserve special mention, as both were soloists and choir directors for many years.

Mrs. Gertrude Midkiff gave a new set of hymnals to the church in memory of her son, Carl, who was killed in service in France, during World War I.

The Women's Industrial Society was organized during the pastorate of the Reverend Dr. A. K. Baird. The following persons have been presidents: Mesdames Jane Ash Baird, Ida Goudy Smyth, A. K. Knox, George Carson, Martha McKune, Jesse Beechley, William Agne, M. B. Waln, Emma Morford, John Wickham, Fred Blaine, Charles Warren, Robert Barnes, Nannie Hainen, DeWitt Kohl, Lloyd Neal, Anna L. Germly, Belle Thompson, and Charles Ford.

Superintendents of the Sunday School in the new church have been Mrs. Ida Goudy Smyth, Mrs. Anna Wilson Gormly, Dr. Alice Ackley, George Burge, Dr. T. A. Gormly, Frank Moore, Mrs. Mae Bovey, Mrs. Emma Plattenberger, Mrs. Flora Buck, Mrs. Odette Ringer, Eldon Johnson, Lester Dacken, Mrs. Richard Fuller, Mrs. Margaret Kafer, Mrs. Esther Dvorak Wilson, Mrs. Hazel Midkiff Hugh, Elmer Bergmann, and Paul Scott.

Presidents of the Missionary Society have been Mesdames James W. Hanna, Mary McFarland, Ida Goudy Smyth, A. K. Knox, Switzer, Jennie E. Pinkerton, John J. Smyth, Grace Worrell, Martha McKune, Anna L. Gormly, George Carson, and Agnes Dvorak.

The present pastor is the Reverend Harold S. Gilleney.

The spirit of friendship and good will between the two churches of the town is attested by the fact that during the summer months union meetings are held.

#### **The New Methodist Church 1899-1900**

That inspiring missionary, Homer C. Stuntz, who returned from years of work in India and was appointed pastor at Mount Vernon in 1897, found a wide and needy field for his versatile talents. It soon became evident that a larger building was necessary in order

to accommodate all who wished to attend church services. The seating capacity of the church was 550; the membership numbered 570. At that time, the college required all students to attend church services on Sunday, so the official board appointed a committee to study the whole situation and to report its findings six months later. The Board voted to build a new church large enough for fifty years to come. When the final vote was taken, and the figure of \$25,000 was announced as an estimate, the revered pastor broke forth with a loud hallelujah and began to sing in his lusty musical voice, "I love Thy Church, O God," in which the Church Board joined. The building committee was the pastor, E. B. Willix, Chairman: E. R. Ristine, Secretary; W. F. King, William Smith, H. H. Rood, W. H. Norton, C. W. Kepler, Dr. J. B. Robinson, John Leigh, and George Young. \$17,500 was soon raised to start the work.

Soon after the farewell meeting in the old church the work of razing the old church structure was begun. George A. Cramer, a noted church architect of New York City, was employed to design the new church, and the job of construction was let to John R. Gier of Conrad, Iowa. He purchased the salvaged brick and lumber from the old building and donated them to the church. The four pillars near the four corners of the auditorium are made of salvaged brick. Hence the old church supports the trusses that bear up the roof of the present building. All the brick not so used went into the inner layer of the walls. The walls from the foundation to the water table consist of stone from the Mount Vernon quarry; the rest of the stone came from Stone City, Iowa. From the drafts of the architect every stone was shaped, dressed, and marked in the quarry, so no broken rock was left on the ground.

The corner stone was laid October 20, 1899. The services were conducted by Doctors Thomas Nicholson, Hugh Boyd, and J. B. Albrook, President, Wm. F. King, and the pastor, Homer C. Stuntz. The Reverend A. K. Knox represented the Presbyterian Church. Of this goodly number of devout churchmen, not one is living.

On December 15, the capstone was set on the north gable. The church was completed at a total cost of \$36,588.10 and was dedicated June 6, 1900.

A severe fire from an over-heated furnace on January 6, 1924, damaged the interior of the church. The northern half of the basement was then excavated, the kitchen and the lecture room enlarged, the church redecorated and new lighting and heating plants installed at a total cost of \$21,611.76.

In 1915 the old parsonage, which had been moved to Third Street and Sixth Avenue North was sold for \$2,200 and the money applied to building a new minister's home just west of the present church on a lot purchased from William Oglebay. The new struc-

ture, costing over \$8,000 was first occupied by Dr. W. C. Keeler and family. It is built of light-colored brick and ranks with the best parsonages in the Upper Iowa Conference. In 1928, during the pastorate of Dr. H. C. Culver, Clear Lake Cottage was built for the benefit of the young people of the church.

The pastors since Dr. (Bishop) Stuntz have been:

1900-1901 supplied by Dr. Nicholson and the Reverend Solon Bronson when Dr. Stuntz went to the Philippines.

1901-03 O. B. Waite

1903-06 H. W. Troy

1906-09 H. M. Billingsley

1909-13 W. L. Alexander

1913-23 W. C. Keeler

1923-27 S. E. Ellis

1927-32 H. C. Culver

1932-36 E. T. Gough

1936-40 Lloyd Gustafson

1940-45 W. G. Rowley

1945- H. H. Palmer

Under the pastorate of Lloyd Gustafson, the interior of the church was modernized and the auditorium was tastefully redecorated. The choir loft was enlarged, furnished with opera chairs and the choir with new robes. The altar is of handcarved golden oak in velvet finish set against a dorsal curtain of dark blue velvet. This is harmoniously related to the rose window above the choir loft. On the altar is a beautiful brass cross, the gift of President and Mrs. John Magee, and two matching collection plates donated by President and Mrs. Russell D. Cole. On the pulpit is a large Bible given by Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Hedges. These gifts were in honor of their parents, Dr. and Mrs. J. C. Magee, Dr. and Mrs. Frank Cole, and Mr. and Mrs. Darius E. Hedges.

In 1923 the organ chimes were donated by Mrs. Addie Kepler in memory of her husband, C. W. Kepler. New hymn books were given by Henry Van Pelt in memory of his wife, Gladys Rigby Van Pelt. To the original gift, many new hymnals have since been added by church members.

There is a great opportunity for religious education in the church in cooperation with the college. Striking instances of this cooperation have been the many years of service rendered the Sunday School by Professors E. R. Ristine, Nicholas Knight, and Harry M. Kelly, Albert S. Keister for several years, conducted a boys' class and Prof. Clyde Tull had a class which studied the Book of Job as a work of literature. It was popular with college men and well attended.

From 1911 to 1946, Professor F. M. McGaw wrote his own text-books and taught the Christopher Class, which at one time had

an enrollment of 150. Through the years over three thousand have felt the influence of this Christian leader, including many students from foreign lands. Missionaries from this class have gone out to India, China, Korea, and Mexico and eleven have entered the ministry. They have built a school in China and supported teachers and have sent Dr. and Mrs. McGaw to International Sunday School Conventions in Japan and Norway.

The Ladies' Aid Society was organized in 1854 and held sociables every two weeks. It was re-organized in 1867 and set to work raising money for repairing the second church. It met casually until 1896, when it began to work in earnest. Mrs. Alonzo Collin was the first president and Mrs. Clara Brackett Smith became president in 1898. It held a carnival, Mrs. Jarley's Wax works,, a district school, a weekly food sale, and a concert by the University of Chicago Glee Club which netted over \$241. When the new church was ready, \$4,000 of needed funds came from the Ladies' Aid. Mrs. Smith served for twenty-four years in all as president and Mrs. Barrett for over seven years. It has helped every department of the church and the parsonage, wiring the church in 1917 at a cost of \$1,500 giving \$5,000 after the fire of 1924, and \$5,000 to the Cornell College campaign of 1928. They have baked regiments of pies, spread banquets and suppers innumerable, and, best of all, sustained the comradeship, loyalty, and solidarity that make the morale of church life. In fifty years, they have contributed over \$50,000. The society has a number of fifty-year members who well remember the Old Brick Church. Mrs. C. W. Kepler and Mrs. Martha Keyes, members for approximately seventy years, came to Mount Vernon in 1866 when the church was but a year old. Mrs. Mary Burr Norton, who is still interested and loyal, probably holds the record for the longest continuous membership, seventy-seven years.

The Women's Missionary Society dates back to the early seventies. Mrs. Burr, Mrs. Guild, Mrs. Celia Phillips, and Miss Harriette J. Cook were among the early presidents. Later, Mesdames Blackwell, Lozier, Albrook, C. W. Kepler, Albright, and Miss Hyndman appear among the names of the presidents. Mrs. Alice Fellows Rigby was president in later years and a long-time Conference President Mrs. Thomas Nicholson was national president of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, the founder and first president of the World Federation of Methodist Women.

In 1890, a junior society was formed, called the "Busy Bees" of which Luella Albrook Miller was the first president. This organization has changed from time to time into the "Young Ladies' Missionary Society," and the "Elizabeth Pearson Auxiliary" and the "Wesleyan Service Guild."

In addition a number of junior organizations have been very successful.

The Woman's Home Missionary Society played a large part in our church life and its officers were in demand as Conference officers. Among these names were Mrs. Regina Van Ness, Mrs. H. O. Pratt, Mrs. Eleanor Locke, Miss Ida Jordan, Mrs. Roy Young, and Mrs. Charles Keyes. In 1940 these three societies, Home, Foreign, and Ladies' Aid were merged in the Women's Society of Christian Service, the largest woman's organization in the world, with its wide field of service and activities along all Christian lines. Mrs. George Uthoff is the present president of the local society. Mrs. Roy Young is now conference president and Miss Alice Betts conference vice-president. Mrs. E. G. Brooks vice-president of the national W.S.C.S. spent the summer of 1947 in Korea and Japan as a member of the international deputation sent by the Foreign Missionary Conference of North America to study the present status and future needs of mission work in these countries.

It is impossible to record all the names, but the beautiful church in our midst stands as a monument to that vast host of faithful men and women who, through the years, have given, toiled, and prayed that it might succeed.

## Chapter 16

### Fair Old Cornell

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The year 1908 marked the end of the memorable administration of President King and the beginning of that of President Harlan. It did not, however, mark the turning point in the history of Cornell as President Harlan continued to carry out the same policies that he had worked out as vice-president under King for more than two decades. He was the first of the three Cornell alumni to be elevated to the Presidency—Harlan, Updegraff and Cole, beginning in November 1943. This chapter covering the administrations of Presidents Harlan 1908-1914, Flint 1915-'22, Updegraff 1922-'27, Burgstahler '27-'39, Magee '39-'43 and Cole attempts to trace the history of the college through forty years of change in education.

Dr. James E. Harlan, a graduate of the class of '69, began his career at Cornell as alumni professor of mathematics in 1873, to which astronomy was added in 1880 and the usual "President's subjects"—Mental and Moral Philosophy, Ethics and Evidences of Christianity—were added in the eighties and nineties. Dr. William Ebersole summarizes his services to the college in the following tribute:

"He was a man of quiet dignity, highly conscientious, firm but just, of a judicial type of mind . . . For decades he was practically sole director of internal administration, doing most of the work himself, including finance, discipline ,etc. His administration was safe, economical and successful, during which there were two successful financial campaigns in which he had a prominent part. These were the Twentieth Century campaign for \$400,000 (1892-1902) and the \$500,000 campaign completed in 1909 and a number of other financial and building acquisitions in which he was a promoter."

Seldom has a man given himself to his college with more whole-souled devotion than did Cornell's President Harlan.

Associated with him in the early years of the century was a splendid staff, comparable to the grand old men of the King regime—Collin, Boyd, Williams, Freer and Norton. Of these Dr. Norton was to have many more years of usefulness and Dr. Freer to give distinguished service as dean of the college from 1902 to 1919 and invaluable aid on financial campaigns and as speaker to alumni groups far and wide. They, together with Professors Ebersole, Kelly, Knight, Stanclift and Keyes and the Ristines helped to keep the college on even keel during this and later changes in administration.

Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Ristine came to town in 1891 and began teaching in the Commercial Department, he in charge of bookkeeping and other commercial subjects and she, stenography and typewriting. Mrs. Ristine later became chief office secretary and he the college bookkeeper. Together they had charge of the business offices, including the bookstore, rendering invaluable service to Cornell and to Mount Vernon, especially to the Methodist Church.

Dr. Harry M. Kelly, Professor of Biology from 1894 until his death in 1936, was for many years chairman of the committee on buildings and grounds, overseeing the erection and reconstruction of a number of buildings and the pruning of all the trees on the campus. He was a recognized scholar in his field. He was secretary to the faculty from 1897 to 1907, executive secretary to the President 1916-1920, was manager of the local telephone system for a time and an influential citizen and churchman.

Dr. Nicholas Knight was another scholar who invested his life in Cornell and the town. Beginning with almost nothing in 1899, he organized and developed the department of chemistry into one that became well equipped and efficient. During his thirty-four years at Cornell he was well known as a teacher, research chemist, traveler, author of a course in "Quantitative Analysis" and innumerable articles on scientific and popular subjects.

The names of George H. Betts and John E. Stout deserve a place on the list of outstanding professors during the Harlan administration. Dr. Betts, a progressive and energetic leader, was professor of Psychology and Education from 1902 until 1912, during which time he conducted the largest summer schools of Cornell's history, with as many as two hundred pupils enrolled in his teacher's training course. He was author of seventeen books on educational problems and was in demand as a speaker. Dr. Stout was principal of the Academy from 1905 to 1916 and professor of Education from his graduation in 1904 until 1919. Author of "The School Curriculum," he was aggressive with regard to curriculum changes and active in teacher placement and in the State Teachers Association of which he was president for a term.

In 1916 the Academy was reorganized to serve largely as a teacher-training High School, under the direction of Miss Margaret Taylor. It occupied Guild Hall until 1921 when it was discontinued. A four-year course in the Academy provided better training than the average secondary school in Iowa at that time and the school was a valuable adjunct to the Education Department. In 1916 about 200 of the total Cornell enrollment were of High School grade. Establishment of more public high schools and improvement of those in existence reduced the demand for such training as the Cornell preparatory had given so well for nearly seventy years.

The Literary Societies were still active during President Harlan's term of office. They were the Amphictyon, Adelphian, Miltonian, Zetagathian (Star) and Parmenian for men; the Philomathean, Aesthesian, Alethean, Aonian, Promethean and Thalian for women. In spite of former action by the Board of Trustees banning national fraternities from the campus, a sub-rosa chapter of Sigma Nu was in existence. The question came to a head when several members of the senior class of 1913 were refused graduation because of membership in such forbidden fraternities. It is felt that the college was wise in taking its place with the group of small colleges without fraternity affiliations. Local groups for both men and women have played a more or less prominent place in the social life of the school on down to the present.

Dr. Charles W. Flint became Cornell's fifth president on Nov. 19, 1915. He gave sane and progressive leadership during the difficult years of the First World War. During his administration the new heating plant was completed in 1916, the swimming pool (gift of the classes '16 and '17) was finished in 1917, Altoona Hall acquired in 1918, Rood House was presented by the class of '94 at the Commencement of 1919, a considerable section of cement bleachers was erected in 1921 and extensive improvements made on Main Hall, the Chapel and Bowman Hall. Conditional offers of \$500,000 by the General Educational Board, \$75,000 by the Carnegie Corporation and \$50,000 by the Carnegie Foundation were secured in 1920-21. The gift of vast wheat fields in Canada, incorporated as the Emmert Foundation, seemed to even the wisest advisers to be a great boon but turned out disastrously for the college. After costly attempts at colonization, the land was sold at a great loss years later.

The Cornell Bulletin of May 15, 1922, states that during Dr. Flint's presidency "curriculum changes kept the course-of-study up-to-date and practical without sacrificing fundamental cultural value." Group requirements were revised, a "major" system introduced, the Home Economics department was organized in 1917, the Carnegie Annuity plan adopted in 1921 and the Public Speaking department added in 1922.

Following Dr. Flint's resignation to become Chancellor of Syracuse University, Dr. William S. Ebersole became interim acting president in 1922-'23, with Dr. J. R. VanPelt, Jr., and Miss Alice Betts on his administrative committee. Their objective was to "hold the line" during that year of depression, with the increasing anxiety felt about the outcome of the Emmert Foundation. Because of his splendid judicial qualities and administrative gifts Dr. Ebersole was called upon three times to administer college affairs, between the administrations of Harlan, Flint, Updegraff and Burgstahler. In addition to these important services he was author of numerous classical

reviews and of "The Metopes of the West End of the Parthenon," which he had studied on the building in Athens, Greece. He was Professor of Greek and Archaeology from 1893 to 1934, editor of the Collège Register of 1925 and co-editor with Walt Gray of the 1937 Register, Registrar for nineteen years, a member of the Methodist Board of Education for eight years and a valuable citizen of the college, community, and church.

In 1923 there was rejoicing among Cornellians when it was announced that Dr. Harlan Updegraff, '94, had accepted the call to the presidency. He came from an honored place on the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania where he was nationally known as a man of administrative experience and an authority in the field of education. As a specialist in educational administration, he reviewed the curriculum and internal organization of the college, stressing for the first time at Cornell the idea of "aims and objectives." The Law Memorial Building, gift of F. Marion Law, ex-'90, was erected in 1925 to house the department of Geology and Biology to which was added a wing for Physics.

This was a time of great stress in college finances due to the failing Emmert Foundation. The resignation of Dr. Updegraff in February 1927 was regretfully accepted. Once again Dr. Ebersole was called upon to carry the administrative load for the rest of the year.

Dr. Herbert John Burgstahler came from the First Methodist Church of Buffalo, N.Y., to become seventh president of Cornell from 1927 to 1939. This was the peak building period in the history of the college, due in part to President Burgstahler's ability as solicitor of funds and his valuable contacts, notably his friendship with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Pfeiffer. He promoted a campaign of \$1,600,000 with \$500,000 obtained from the General Education Board.

Associated with Dr. Burgstahler throughout his entire term of office was Dr. Frank Cole, the vice-president, who made an invaluable contribution to the college through his successful management of college finances, including real estate (thirty farms and some municipal properties), investments and collections. Through economical management and wise investment he brought the college through the trying years of the depression to a firm financial footing.

Dr. Burgstahler was also a capable supervisor of internal conditions and interests of the college. He was ably assisted by Dean T. R. McConnell (1927-1936) who furnished leadership in educational philosophy and revision of the curriculum and by Miss Alice R. Betts, Dean of Women '25-'44, who was a valuable member of the curriculum committee and other important committees.

At Commencement 1928, Cornell celebrated her seventy-fifth anniversary with an unforgettable pageant written and directed by Jewell Bothwell Tull. For this mammoth production there were

presented three stages at different levels on which pioneers in covered wagons, companies of soldiers, students, townspeople and historic personages appeared in dramatic episodes depicting the history of the college. Grace West and her committee did a magnificent job of getting period costumes for a cast of more than six hundred people. Horace Alden Miller composed original music for the occasion, and Professors F. M. McGaw and Roy Nelson were responsible for the lighting and building used on the sets.

During Dr. Burgstahler's presidency the following additions and improvements were made:

Pfeiffer Hall (girl's dormitory) was built in 1930

The Chapel was remodeled and the Merner-Pfeiffer organ installed in 1931

Old Seminary was remodeled in 1931

Additions to Bowman Hall were built in 1934 and '36

Merner Hall (men's dormitory) was built in 1936 and the Armstrong Hall of Fine Arts in 1937

Independent colleges such as Cornell differ in several important particulars from state-supported institutions. One of these differences is that funds for their support must come, not from taxes, but from gifts from individuals and corporations. Cornell has shared in reasonable degree in these various forms of benevolence. From the General Education Board some \$700,000 has been received during the years, and from the Carnegie Corporation, \$75,000.

In the matter of gifts from individuals, while the larger gifts come more immediately to mind, many smaller gifts have been noteworthy in the college's history as an expression of the interest and loyalty of the donors. Many of these have come from residents of Mount Vernon, from local clubs and the \$5,000 subscription made by the Ladies Aid Society of the Methodist Church.

The largest gift made to the college at its time was that for \$100,000 given by William F. Johnston, chairman of the Board of Trustees from 1884 to 1914. This was supplemented later by a bequest of \$75,000 from his daughter, Miss Anna B. Johnston. President King gave \$100,000 to furnish scholarships for each of the ninety-nine Iowa counties and an additional one for the larger Kossuth County.

Affecting the entire program of the Fine Arts Division was the bequest of Mrs. Blanche Swingley Armstrong, '91, which made possible the building of the Armstrong Hall of Fine Arts, with a fund of \$53,325 for its maintenance. The gift of the Law building by Marion Law has already been noted.

Of first importance in the recent history of Cornell have been the gifts and interest of Henry and Annie Merner Pfeiffer whose

lives were characterized by a true spirit of Christian stewardship. Childless and without the advantages of formal education in their youth, they sought to give to others advantages which had been denied them, and to further the cause of Christian education and interracial understanding. Second only to a junior college which was built and endowed by their gifts was the place of Cornell College in their benefactions. Their interest found expression first in scholarship funds, and later in additional gifts which brought the total of the Foundation to \$525,000.

Associated with the college continuously since their graduation from it, William and Mary Norton made an imperishable contribution through teaching and writing, through their garden and through their deepening interest in music. Small wonder is it that their financial gifts, aggregating some \$100,000, seem secondary to the gift of themselves through the years.

Outstanding among recent gifts is the bequest of Senator James E. MacMurray of California of \$250,000, made possible by the sustained interest in Cornell of his wife, Katherine Titus MacMurray, who is now a member of the Board of Trustees.

Armstrong Hall, the gift of Blanche Swingley Armstrong, provides a distinctive home for the departments of graphic and plastic arts whose equipment had been destroyed in the fire of 1924 which burned the top floor of "Old Sem." The equipment of Armstrong Hall and the special opportunities offered to students of art, music and the theatre are equalled by few liberal arts colleges. In addition to the building and endowment for its maintenance, the college received many valuable objects of art together with Mrs. Armstrong's collection of paintings by internationally known artists.

Another valuable collection includes 200 etchings, dry points, lithographs and woodcuts presented by Mrs. Bertha E. Jacques in honor of her husband, Dr. William K. Jacques, '83. Cases along the corridors of first and second floors house valuable gifts, especially of Oriental pottery, porcelain and metal work given by Dr. and Mrs. Norton, Mrs. Thomas Nicholson and other friends of the college.

The large exhibition room on first floor shows from nine to twelve exhibitions each year from students, alumni and artists well known all over the Americas and Mexico. These exhibitions and lectures on various phases of art by Professor Nama Lathe and Phil Henderson and visiting artists of note have added immeasurably to the art appreciation of the community.

The Fine Arts Library includes not only books pertaining to art, music and the theatre but many hundreds of reproductions, prints, lantern slides and records. Worthy of special mention are the Carnegie Art Teaching Collection of books, prints and slides, the James

Carleton Young art library, many books of value from the Armstrong, Jacques and Horace Alden Miller collections and about 2000 gramophone records and a radio player given in 1944 by Dr. and Mrs. Norton.

The Little Theatre boasts the most modern of equipment in its auditorium, dressing rooms, rehearsal, costume and property rooms. There are spacious studios for all members of the Conservatory faculty.

John Benjamin Magee, eighth president of Cornell, died April 6, 1943, after less than four years in office. He came to the presidency from the pastorate of the First Methodist Church in Seattle, honored as one of the ten outstanding preachers in Methodism and a writer of distinction. In his funeral sermon John Magee Jr. said of his father, "He was a man of great fairness and justice. He was a man of gentleness and peace." During his brief administration he established the student health clinic, created Founder's and Builder's Day, promoted the addition to Pfeiffer Hall and took a leading part in negotiations with the navy which led to Cornell's being chosen as a U.S. Naval Flight Preparatory School. Citizens of Mount Vernon will not soon forget him or the warm hospitality of the Magees in the White House.

After an interval of a few months in which Vice-President Russell Cole and Dean Jay B. MacGregor divided the duties of administration, the Trustees elected Dr. Cole, '22, to the presidency on November 16, 1943. During the illness of Dr. Magee, Dr. Cole (who had succeeded his father as vice-president in May, 1939), had accompanied him on a number of important trips and had gained first-hand experience in carrying on the duties of the office. He was effective in the negotiations at Washington which led to the choice of Cornell as a navy pre-flight training school and the navy academic refresher unit which followed it. In spite of cramped quarters and the lack of men students during the war, Cornell carried on practically all the usual academic and extra-curricular activities. One indication of the changing times was the presence in college of a number of married women students. Later, as the service men returned, many of them with wives and babies, the housing situation in town became acute so that barracks had to be built for married couples as well as for unmarried service men. In order to give more G.I.'s the opportunity for education in a liberal arts college, the ceiling of six hundred students was raised for the duration of the emergency.

In his report to the Trustees for the year 1942-'43, President Cole stated that at the beginning of the ninth decade of its history, Cornell had students enrolled from twenty-eight states and three foreign countries. During its first ninety years approximately 7,500 students had attended the college, of whom 4,255 had received de-

grees. He and his committee are making comprehensive plans for a Development program to climax Cornell's Centennial in 1953. Architect Smith from Chicago has drawn up plans for a new gymnasium, science hall and other buildings to be added and older ones to be modernized for greater efficiency as the college passes its hundred-year mark. Exceptional prosperity of the college has made possible substantial increases in salary to faculty and staff members. Total assets of the college are now in excess of four million dollars, an amount which the Development Program under Cole proposes to more than double.

From the beginning the Conservatory has made a contribution to the life of the community through faculty and student recitals as well as by concerts of various organizations. In addition choirs in both churches are recruited from students personnel; frequently both director and organist are members of the Conservatory faculty.

Notable among these musicians was Mount Vernon's own Horace Alden Miller who was conductor of the college orchestra from 1909 until his retirement in 1937. During that time he introduced a well trained band of Cornell musicians to many towns in Iowa and Illinois in an annual spring tour. After his retirement he and his wife, Luella Albrook Miller, lived in Altadena, California, until his sudden death July 25, 1941, while motoring in Canada. Cornell had honored him with the Doctor of Music degree in recognition of his services as director of the Conservatory from 1907 to 1916, conductor of the Cornell Symphony Orchestra, composer of Indian, negro and other music of a high order, author of "New Harmonic Devices" and inventor of a number of devices useful to musicians.

Directors of the Conservatory since H. A. Miller have been Frank H. Shaw 1915-1925; E. H. Weis 1925-27; John E. Conrad 1927-30; Harold W. Baltz 1930-46; Lloyd Oakland acting director 1938-1940 and director throughout the year '46-'47 after which he resigned.

In late years the orchestra has reached a high degree of excellence under Lloyd Oakland. In addition to a home concert and a tour when possible, the orchestra plays the accompaniment for the Christmas presentation of Handel's Messiah. Directed by Miss Ruth Pinkerton, the Women's Glee Club for many years made a beautiful offering to the spirit of Christmas with a program of carols sung in the green-decked, candle-lighted chapel. The college choir, which emerged from the earlier singing groups under Harold W. Baltz, is an esteemed feature of life on the campus. It assists regularly in chapel services; makes its appearance in robes for all formal convocations and commencement services; and sings two concerts in the chapel as well as making frequent spring tours.

The pattern of the May Music Festival has remained much the same through the years—recitals by artists of distinction, a choral work accompanied by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, two concerts by the Orchestra, teas, sociability, garden tours, lilacs and fruit trees in bloom and the lighted chapel against the moonlight. President and Mrs. Cole have added the popular “coffee after the concert” at the White House on Saturday evening for patrons and friends of the Festival.

Among the artists presented at Festival time have been Schumann Heink, Josef Hoffman, Leopold Godowsky, Campanari, Marian Anderson, Dorothy Maynor, Lotte Lehmann, Richard Crooks, and a host of the great personalities in music. From his first appearance in 1903 until his death in 1942, Dr. Stock continued to pay his annual visit to Cornell, conducting a total of 112 concerts for the Festival. He was always greeted by a standing audience and it was as if old friends had met. On the occasion of the twenty-fifth visit of the Orchestra to the community, the college conferred an honorary Doctor of Music degree on Doctor Stock and presented gifts to him and Mrs. Stock. The people of the town banqueted the Orchestra players in the American Legion Hall. Many of these men had returned year after year to the same Mount Vernon homes for lodging and welcome. A Stock memorial fund of \$112,000 is being raised under the joint chairmanship of Mrs. Russell Cole and Mrs. Errol Miller.

Because of annual visits of Vaclav Jiskra, head of the string bass section, to the John Klimo home, John the younger, went to the Jiskra home to study the big instrument. He is now a regular member of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and since 1945 has been on the roster of players for the Festival, greeting his fellow orchestra members at the “Buttermilk Party” which has long been an annual event in the hospitable Klimo home.

The quickening of the times, changes in mode of transportation and the dulling of glamor on some of our most cherished heritages have left their mark on the Festival. Dr. Norton's garden, so freely shared, no longer flaunts its beauty on the southern slope and the magic of Dr. Stock's presence is only a memory—yet the Festival remains an established and beloved institution.

Another college department long popular with the people of Mount Vernon is the Little Theatre, known at different times as the department of Oratory, Debate and Public Speaking. Since the coming of Albert F. Johnson and his wife, Bertha French Johnson, Dramatic Art has held the spotlight. Before their coming in 1932, for a number of years the most significant dramatic offering was the annual presentation of a Shakespeare play by “Toppy” and Jewell Tull. Before the erection of Armstrong Hall in 1937 these and other

plays were given in the chapel, to the consternation of some people who regarded it as profaning the temple. When a curtain was used for the first time on the chapel stage, a prominent citizen of the town walked out on the show in protest.

During their fifteen years at Cornell, the Johnson plays have attracted much favorable comment from critics of the theatre. Al Johnson, author of many plays and musical comedies, was honored by being elected president of the American Communal Theatre for 1942. Among Mount Vernon boys and girls who received their early professional training in Cornell's Little Theatre are Glenn Low, Bob and Marjorie Hartung, Bernice Gough, Douglas Hudelson and Howard ("Moose") Orms. The Lions Club owes much of the success of their annual minstrel show to the training given them by the Johnsons.

To the man on the street no college activity can compete in interest with athletic contests. Citizens of Mt. Vernon were so much interested in football and baseball that they paid the salaries of coaches for college teams for several years before 1908, when students were for the first time required to pay an athletic fee. That year also marked the beginning of cross-country competition for Cornell. The building of the new Alumni Gymnasium in December 1909 (of which Grant Miller was architect) gave impetus to physical training. Classes in wrestling and basketball were started for men and volleyball for girls. In 1910 the first inter-collegiate basketball game was scheduled and by spring of that year the new cinder track with its 220 yard straightaway was ready for use. By 1921 the athletic program was changing from gymnastics and apparatus work to informal play, games and sports. Much of the expensive gymnasium equipment fell into disuse as group games, relays, stunts and contests came into increasing prominence.

In 1923 wrestling gained the status of a major sport under Dick Barker, replacing baseball which was discontinued after forty-eight years of campus life. Under Barker's expert coaching, a number of Cornell wrestlers made the Olympic team, winning National Collegiate and National American Association titles. It is interesting to note that one of the wrestlers on the crack team which defeated Oklahoma A. and M. with a  $15\frac{1}{2}$  to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  victory twenty years ago is now the super-coach who trained the best wrestling team in America in 1947, the Cornell team which won the championship at the N.C.C.A. meet in Champaign, Illinois, in March 1947. Townspeople joined with students in raising a fund of \$2,000 to send Champion Paul Scott and his wonder team to San Francisco where they also won the A.A.U. Championship by a wide margin.

During the twenty-five years Cornell has been a member of the Mid-West Conference, it has had a high standing in football, basket-

ball and track. Much of the credit for this splendid record is due to Coaches Dick Barker and Judd Dean, '26, basketball coach and Director of Physical Education; and since their departure in 1940 to Walton Koch, Paul Scott, '29, and Charles Zoda, '36. Dorothy Rogers was for many years the efficient head of the girls' Physical Education department. In 1940 a new health service program was instituted with Glenn Cunningham as director. A resident nurse was added to the college staff in addition to Miss Alice Isaacson who had been in charge of the college infirmary since 1921. Dr. F. F. Ebersole was made college physician in charge of student health. After the resignation of Glenn Cunningham in the summer of 1946 following a leave of absence for service in the navy, Paul Scott was made director of Athletics and Physical Training for Men. Ethel Ryan, '14, came in 1945 from the Coe faculty to be the enthusiastic director of Physical Education for Cornell girls.

As new personalities come upon the campus scene, some of the old familiar faces disappear by death or by honored retirement. Among staff members who died in action were Rose Baker of the Speech department on Christmas Day 1926; Dr. Harry M. Kelly, Biology, in 1936; Dr. Sidney Chandler in 1937, popular professor of Sociology and famed for his course on Marriage; and Dr. William Slaght, Psychology professor from 1920 to 1932. Death in September 1947, brought an end to ten years of successful teaching in Geology by Niel Alden Miner.

Among the long-time staff members to die recently was Miss May Fairbanks, college librarian for forty years before her retirement in 1931. She it was who had the responsibility of moving the books from the chapel at "Old Sem" and, again in 1904, to the new Carnegie Library building. She built up the library with the help of Miss Jessie Rigby who died in 1938, and of Miss Mary Parsons who has been assistant librarian since 1922. Many departments of the library have been endowed by the Literary Societies and interested individuals. There are now approximately 60,000 volumes, with additions each year. Dorothy Medary Higbie, '10, succeeded Miss Fairbanks as head librarian in 1931 and Miss Marian Blair became reference librarian in 1944.

Charles Reuben Keyes was born in Mount Vernon in 1871, the son of Marsden and Martha Keyes, his father one of the early carpenters and builders of the town. He was graduated from the Mount Vernon high school and from Cornell College in 1894. Except for time spent in advanced study and six years of teaching elsewhere, he has spent his entire life in his native town, bringing honor to himself and the community. He received his Master's degree from Harvard in 1898 and his Ph.D. in 1923, studied in the Universities of Munich and Berlin in 1912-'13. From 1903 to 1941 he was Professor of

German language and literature in Cornell, serving the college on many important committees, including more than twenty years on the athletic board. With his other duties he found time to become an authority on ornithology and on American archaeology and prehistoric mounds of Iowa. Since 1941 he has been a lecturer in anthropology at Cornell. He is director of the Iowa Archaeological Survey and is also Research Associate of the State Historical Society of Iowa and the Graduate College of the University of Iowa. His broad interests have made added years an enriching and mellowing process, which must be what is meant by the accolade "Gentleman and Scholar."

Among the contributions made by Henry C. Stanclift, professor of History from 1899 until his retirement in 1934, were his chairmanship of the library committee, his more than thirty years as chairman of the Lecture and Recital Course, his influence in obtaining a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa (of which he was the first president) and his long service to the Presbyterian Church, of which he has been Elder and historian.

Prof. Frederick M. McGaw, in addition to teaching Mathematics and Religion for thirty-one years (1910-'41), has been valuable as secretary to the faculty and of the Official Board of the Methodist Church, an expert photographer and cabinet-maker, traveler in Europe and the Orient, and as teacher of the famous Christopher class of college students, the largest Sunday School class which the local church has boasted.

Latest to retire from the professorial ranks are Clyde ("Toppy") Tull and Miss Ruby Wade, who closed thirty years of continuous teaching by retiring in the spring of 1947. "Toppy" will be long remembered as the organizer of the English Club, editor of the "Husk," which has won high rating as a literary magazine from O'Brien and other critics, promoter of the Wednesday night dinners for faculty men, publicity man for the college, chairman of the Artists and Lecture Course committee for many years, and other services too numerous to mention. A host of students all over the country will remember him best as a stimulating teacher of English and of life, and as a friend to youth.

Ruby Wade, was the popular head of the French department for many years, a linguist of ability and student of French culture and literature, both of which she loved. She was a charter member of the American Association of University Women, representing the chapter at international meetings in Paris and Amsterdam. Her rare social gifts made her valuable as a member of the social committee of the faculty, sponsor of the "Arrows" and a gracious hostess to many organizations and friends in her hospitable home just off the campus. Her death in August, 1947, was mourned by the entire Cornell community.

High in the seniority lists are Elsie Barrett of the financial office; Dr. Elmer Moots, Mathematics and Engineering; Misses Helen Venn and Ruth Pinkerton of the Conservatory; "Judge" C. F. Litell of the History department; Nama Lathe in Art; Mary Parsons in the library; Howard C. Lane in English; Leila Huebsch, dietician; Roy Nelson, for nineteen years professor of Physics, since 1943 financial agent of the college; Mark Hutchinson in the Classics department; Mrs. Luella Ninde, head of the Home Economics department; and Dr. James Culbertson, head of Chemistry. Nor should we fail to mention Walt Gray, '26, Alumni Secretary from 1926 to 1937 and Registrar from that time on; James Macaulay, '29, the capable head of Admissions and Alumni Secretary, 1937-1947; Albion King, Dean of Men since 1932 and professor of Philosophy and Religion. He has received nation-wide recognition for his books and lectures on the Psychology of Drunkenness. One of the most popular of Cornell staff members on and off campus is the genial Jay B. MacGregor, Dean of the College since 1937 and director of Summer School. Dr. Mavis Holmes succeeded Miss Alice Betts as Dean of Women in 1943.

An evidence of the cordial relations between town and college is the fact that three of the Cornell faculty men—Drs. Sidney Chandler, Roy Nelson and Chester Rich—have held the office of mayor of the town for a total of nearly thirty years. Dr. Elmer Moots and his wife planned and planted the beautiful city park.

Among those who served the college long and well were Ed Turner, Daniel Hartung, E. Ray Lahman and Fred Travis in charge of grounds and buildings; Charlie Curnutt who was in charge of cutting grass, trimming trees, removing snow from the side-walks, etc., for many years, all of which jobs he preferred to do by horse-power; Will and Tom Joriman, the Swiss brothers who for twenty-two years lived in the basement of Bowman Hall as custodians and took care of the college gardens and dairy; Sadie Yount with a record of thirty-eight years of cooking for Cornellians; D. D. Torrance and Fred McKune with years of faithful service as janitor and plumber, and "Syl" Turner, for twenty-two years head cook at Bowman Hall and a friend of students from her childhood days when the Turner family lived in "Old Sem" where she was born.

An element of strength has been Cornell's Board of Trustees which has guided her business and educational policies throughout the years. Twelve members are elected yearly, one-third from the Upper Iowa Conference and one-sixth from the Alumni. Presidents of the Board have been William F. Johnson of Toledo, '84-'14; Captain E. B. Soper of Emmetsburg, '14-'17; J. E. Johnson of Waterloo, '18-'26; Dr. Frank Cole of Mt. Vernon, '26-'39 and A. L. Killian of Cedar Rapids from that time until the present. From the

beginning Mt. Vernon has been well represented on the Board. In late years ex-president Harlan, Mr. E. B. Willix, Dr. William Norton, Dr. Frank Cole and Mr. Willard Stuckslager of Lisbon made notable contributions. Charles Hedges, '12, has given valuable service since 1929 and D. U. VanMetre, as treasurer of the college, is influential as a policy-maker.

Of the five national honor fraternities at Cornell, Phi Beta Kappa is oldest. The Delta chapter of Iowa was installed at Cornell in the spring of '23. After twenty years of existence on the campus, Torch was installed in 1943 as the seventy-eighth chapter of Mortar Board honor society for senior women, based on scholarship, leadership and service, with Miss Alice R. Betts as its first honorary member. Tau Kappa Alpha granted a chapter to the Cornell Speech department in 1925 and the National Collegiate Players in 1930 when W. Earl Beem was head of the department. When Dr. Frank G. Brooks became head of the Biology department in 1937 he installed a chapter of Beta Beta Beta fraternity, of which he was founder, on the Cornell campus. "Bios," the national magazine, is edited by Dr. Brooks and printed in Mt. Vernon.

Cornell has been accredited by the General Education Board, N.Y., the Carnegie Foundation for the advancement of learning, the North Central Association of Colleges, the American Association of Universities and the American Association of University Women. The Conservatory has had grants from the Juilliard Foundation which sent Jacques Jolas and Francis German as its representatives to the teaching staff. The American Association of University Professors has an active chapter on the campus, with "Judge" Littell on its national council. Cornell was one of twenty-eight colleges chosen by the North Central Association to carry on an experimental program concerned with the improved preparation of high school teachers by liberal arts colleges. This whole program was carried out under the chairmanship of Russell M. Cooper, '28, who was professor of History and Political Science at Cornell 1934-1944 before going to the University of Minnesota to become assistant dean of the college of Liberal Arts.

Within the last few years Cornell has been host to the annual schoolmen's conference, inaugurated by Dean T. R. McConnell and later directed by Dr. Sam McLaughlin and Miss Helen Flynn of the Education department, the annual Classical Conference, inaugurated by Mark E. Hutchinson of the Classics department. Besides these there have been a regional conference of Beta Beta Beta directed by Frank G. Brooks of the Biology department, institutes on marriage, labor and interracial relations sponsored by Harold Ennis, '25, of the Sociology department and a number of religious groups, including two annual meetings of the Upper Iowa Conference in 1943 and 1944,

annual institutes for the Women's Society of Christian Service and a number of youth groups.

Cornell points with pride to her host of successful alumni in places of usefulness over the land. Among all colleges and universities Cornell ranks twenty-fifth in the per cent of her alumni included in Who's Who. A study in School and Society, March 12, 1932, shows that twenty per cent of her undergraduate body goes into the "learned professions"—medicine, law, theology and graduate school. This is practically four times the norm for independent colleges, ranking Cornell sixteenth among the leading colleges and universities of America.

The college has brought to the community many men and women of national and international fame. The list includes great preachers such as Billy Sunday, Frank W. Gunsaulas, Newell Dwight Hillis, Paul Hutchinson, Ralph Sockman, Joseph Fort Newton and Bishops MacDowell, Vincent and Warren, also Edward T. Devine, a Cornell alumnus famed as a great social worker. Sculptors and artists, novelists and poets such as Lorado Taft (who appeared five times on the chapel stage), cartoonist John T. McCutcheon, architect Frank Lloyd Wright, Vachel Lindsay, Opie Reed, Thornton Wilder, Edna St. Vincent Millay and many others equally famous have delighted Mount Vernon audiences. Cornell had a special place in the affections of Carl Sandburg, who for seventeen successive years came as the guest of the English Club and the Tulls, bringing his guitar and ballads and a sheaf of poems, some of them unpublished, which he shared at his "annual report to the stock-holders."

Outstanding among the celebrities were three English women—Miss Alice Ravenhill, Mrs. Philip Snowdon and Miss Maude Royden. On the list of famous American women to entertain Cornell audiences are Judge Mary Bartelme, Ida M. Tarbell, Harriett Monroe and Helen Keller.

William Jennings Bryan in 1906 braved this stronghold of Republicanism with an address on "The Old World and Its Ways." In November 1916 William Howard Taft spent three days in Mt. Vernon, giving lectures on "The Presidency" and the "Ethics of Citizenship" and a dinner address on "The League to Enforce Peace."

Admiral William D. Leahy, Chief of Staff for Presidents Roosevelt and Truman, gave the address for the ninety-first Commencement June 5, 1944, at which time he was given the degree Doctor of Laws. Had original plans been carried out, this would have been the date for the Normandy invasion. The following morning when the news of the successful landing of troops in France came on the radio, Admiral Leahy relaxed and told President and Mrs. Cole a great many details of the plans for winning the war in Europe.

The educational pattern at Cornell has been, and is, an evolving process. Its Curriculum committee has always been the most active of the faculty committees. Continuously it has sought to study and re-evaluate its aims in the light of current demands and needs, and to reappraise methods whereby these aims may be approximated.

Through the years much experimentation has been done. As is true of most colleges of its age, requirements gave way in part to a period of quite "free election," only to be followed by increasing requirements, made necessary by the vast extent of our intellectual and social heritage, and the selectivity needed to insure a common basis of knowledge. The present field requirements in six "great areas of culture"—the Fine Arts, the Social Sciences, the Natural Sciences, Language and Literature, Philosophy and Religion, and Health and Physical Education—have proved an effective means of extending knowledge, skill, and appreciation.

The vocational interest has always been regarded as legitimate, but never in the narrow sense of technical training only. Pre-professional training at Cornell College has been acclaimed by many universities to which its students have gone, and the Liberal Arts emphasis, and breadth of background, have contributed not only to vocational competence in teaching and other fields, but have enabled the individual to make a richer contribution to home and community.

It is to the credit of the College that throughout its history its most highly trained and experienced personnel have served Freshman students as freely as those of upper class standing.

Much of interest to Cornellians has of necessity been omitted from this chapter. The story of Cornell is too long and too glorious to be condensed into a few short pages. The college has developed through the years, bearing the imprint of the Christian idealism of Elder Bowman, President Fellows, President King and other leaders of an earlier day, yet adapting itself to the changing pattern of twentieth century education and civilization. Her history is more than that of brick and buildings, of endowment and equipment, of men and methods of teaching. Underneath it all is the spirit of Cornell to which Dr. Norton gave beautiful expression in his life and in his writings:

"The college is spirit and not body, an influence intangible, illusive and yet real. We cannot describe it but some of its characteristics are known to all who ever felt it. It has made for courtesy and kindness and the simple life . . . it reveres all that is good and true; it is devout and helpful, and sends forth lives of service."

So may it ever be!

## **Chapter 17**

### **World War II**

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World War II came upon Mount Vernon as it did upon the country. Through the late Thirties feeling had swung between a high of hope that the conflict could be avoided and a low of certainty that its coming was inevitable. Editorials and radio eloquence urging defense were accepted and forgotten, but each issue of the local paper carried an advertisement urging young men to enlist in the navy. In August 1941 the much criticized Rugg textbooks that were thought to undermine Americanism were replaced in the Mount Vernon schools and in November the local school board "was considering a course in defense in the high school." A new flag pole was dedicated on the Cornell campus that same fall and a sober-faced group of young men watched the flag flutter to the top of it.

The bombing of Pearl Harbor stirred the country to action and Mount Vernon stirred, too. The Hawkeye-Record of the following week contained a quarter column list of persons and homes whose thoughts flew to some one in the danger area and the issue for January 15 contained an eye witness account of the bombing. Cornell students were advised by Dean J. B. MacGregor to sit tight and await the orderly procedures of induction into service.

Carl Travis was named head of the committee for civilian defense; courses in first aid were planned, and a class of 36 completed the course under the instruction of Carroll Luckey, a senior biology student in Cornell. Red Cross plans for sewing and knitting emerged at once and remained active forms of service for the duration of the war.

Food became a matter of concern with sugar the first commodity to be affected. On January 15, 1942 sales were limited to five pounds per person "if the dealer had it to sell" which precipitated a hoarding rush. In April it was rationed with extra stamps issued in May for canning purposes. Gasoline was rationed in November 1942 and fuel oil in the following December. These restrictions became subjects of conversation wherever two or more were gathered together. On January 7, 1943 the schools were closed and on that day the teaching staff under Superintendent Ostergaard assisted by women of the town registered for general rationing books the 1,389 applicants who appeared at the high school building. Thereafter the housewife budgeted her points and the merchants counted stamps.

In order to meet shortages in essential materials it became necessary to organize nation-wide salvage drives in every community, adding another load to the burdened business man. Even before the United States entered the war, the Boy Scouts had collected 347 pounds of aluminum. A box was placed in Heasty's drug store to receive old toothpaste tubes—a source of pure tin. Old silk and rayon hose, needed in the manufacture of war materials, were collected in the Variety Store. Later old felt hats to be used in therapy occupations at Schick Hospital could be left at Vodicka's City Market.

The all-out Scrap Drive in October 1942 was a community activity of major importance. Under the general chairmanship of Forrest Millikin a large number of men of the town and country gave liberally of time, labor, and the use of hauling facilities to make the drive a spectacular success. Cellars, garages, farm yard and vacant lots were scouted and turned out with the result that three carloads of scrap metal were collected, sorted and shipped from a lot near the Northwestern tracks and Mr. Millikin was able to turn over a check for \$1459.64 to Mayor Roy Nelson to be used for the U.S.O.

Later moth balls were rolled out of old furs to make aviator's jackets; old rubber filled another need; children in the country schools collected 10,480 pounds of milkweed pods for life preservers and the call for waste fats was never out of the advertisements. A sign of the times was the appearance of "want ads" looking for rides to Cedar Rapids by some of the estimated one hundred who went daily from Mount Vernon to work at Collins Radio or Wilson Packing plant or other plants engaged in war work. A real housing shortage developed as the overflow from Cedar Rapids found homes in Mount Vernon.

In February 1942 Dr. W. C. Kruckenberg was ordered to report for service.

The work of the Red Cross, well organized before the war, became effective at once. Under Mrs. Cordia Bauman, chairman of the local chapter, war activities were quickly organized. As soon as materials were secured, Mrs. Fred L. Travis was placed in charge of knitting. Surgical dressing classes met twice a week in the high school building supervised by Mrs. Helen Schroeder, Mrs. Jay B. MacGregor, Mrs. Charles Hedges and Mrs. Forrest Siggins, with Mrs. Margaret B. Gormly responsible for tying and packing.

In 1943 the local chapter was reorganized and Mrs. H. C. Lane was made chairman and Mrs. Merrill Burge treasurer to serve in a time of need and great activity. In every national drive for Red Cross funds Mount Vernon more than met its quota. Gift packages were prepared by local women's organizations which Mrs. Lane personally delivered on Christmas day to the men in Schick Hospital. Miss Dessie Sommerville received the first Linn County Service pin for

knitting one hundred pieces, though before the war ended she had finished more than two hundred, many of them the largest and heaviest sweaters called for.

In October 1942 thousands of people of the town and country side had their first view of one of the powerful new instruments of war, which our boys were being trained to operate, when a Boeing B-17 on routine mission out of Topeka, Kansas made an emergency landing on a Fred Sargent farm north of town. Weather and engine trouble kept the big plane grounded for twelve days and for the time of its stay all roads seemed to lead to the Sargent bean field. The local Civilian Air Patrol gave interested assistance to the crew and some members of the C.A.P. were privileged to ride in the Flying Fortress after it was made ready to return to the base. The best of Iowa hospitality was offered to the stranded crew and homes where they were entertained were saddened later to hear that two of them had been killed in action. As a result of this visit from the skies Miss Bernice Gill of Mount Vernon was married the following year to Sgt. J. C. Farrell of Washington, D.C., top gunner on "The Floozy."

Since Cornell College is inseparably a part of Mount Vernon, war measures at the college were reflected in the life of the town. Just as the young and active men were being drawn out of the town, so the college quickly lost its vigorous men students. Negotiations were begun to make the college a part of the base training program for the armed services. Plans begun by President J. B. Magee were completed after his death by President R. D. Cole with the able assistance in Washington of Col. William C. Rigby, an alumnus of the college and a former resident of Mount Vernon, and Leo Paulger of the Federal Reserve Bank, a trustee and alumnus of the college. The college was to receive a unit of 600 men to be called the Naval Flight Preparatory School at Cornell College.

As its part of the contract the college loaned eight men from its instructional staff and the use of Merner, Rood, Altoona, Guild, Bowman, the conservatory practice house, classrooms in Main and Law buildings and partial use of the gymnasium. One of the comically common sights of those exciting days was the moving operations of the girls as they tried to compress their belongings into half or less the space they had used before.

With the arrival of the first group of 200 men, the Navy took over. Names of the buildings were changed to names of ships and nautical terms—decks, bulkheads, shore leave—became accepted speech; squads of vigorous young men were routed out at early dawn to be marched to the rhythmical "Hup, two three, four" to chow, Bowman Hall or "The Wasp" and to an incredible number of classes. All this activity crowded to capacity the facilities of the campus with an enrollment in college of about five hundred students.

Miss Leila Huebsch, college dietitian, with the aid of her regular staff, student assistants and all the available help from town, managed the feeding programs for this ravenous horde. When vacations interrupted services, high school students filled the breach with volunteer help from the two churches.

Between the hours of four and five in the afternoon the downtown district was full of blue uniforms. Every young man had money in his pocket, and it cried out to be spent. The barber shops were open for civilians from 9 to 5 five days a week, but from 6:30 until 10 shaves and G.I. haircuts kept them busy. Eddie Kent, the only shoe repair man in town, worked far into the night with the help of his wife keeping navy heels straight for inspection. Dry cleaning was limited to one garment a week for people of the town.

Recreation for such a number of young men in a small town was a very real problem. The Methodist church opened its basement on Sunday afternoons with a planned system of hostesses. Tentative arrangements were under way for a similar service in the Presbyterian Church. The local Masonic Lodge received \$300 from the Masonic Service Association to provide for making the Lodge rooms available for cadets and their families on Sunday and two evenings a week.

In July 1943 the Mount Vernon U.S.O. Council was organized at a meeting of representatives of various groups of the community with the regional director of United Service Organization and the following committees were chosen with Charles E. Hedges named general chairman: J. R. Eyre, club management; J. W. McCutcheon, public information; Chester L. Rich, finance; Program, Mrs. Mark E. Hutchinson. Regional executives approved the American Legion hall for use of the U.S.O., and a budget of \$304 a month for care of the building and to provide a recreational program. \$3300 was allowed for furnishing and putting the building in attractive condition. In March 1944 the club was formally opened, but by that time the number of cadets at the college had been materially reduced, shore leave privileges had been eased on week ends and the peak of the need for the club had passed. Mrs. Mae Mitchell was the popular hostess during the entire life of the club, assisted by Mrs. Lester Cook and other women of the town and countryside. Refreshments were the gift of the community. With the decommissioning of the Navy Academic Refresher Unit, the activities of the club ceased November 30, 1945.

The college received notification that the input of students would cease with March, 1944 and all utilization of college facilities by the Navy would cease on June 30. Negotiations were resumed, and in May it was announced that a Navy Academic Refresher Unit of 250 men would replace the larger Flight Preparatory school. The

Refresher unit was made up of Marines and non-commissioned officers who had seen active service in the Pacific. Most of them had studied in college previous to their induction. These men were allowed to participate in sports and were the backbone of the Cornell football team. The unit's Saturday morning inspections and parades and their formal presentations of service medals were a colorful and interesting part of the life of the town and college.

One of the highlights of Cornell's connection with the Navy was the presence on the campus of Admiral William D. Leahy, Chief of Staff to the President, as Commencement speaker for the graduating class at Cornell College on Monday June 5, 1944. He was given an honorary degree by the college and reviewed the naval unit without revealing his complete knowledge of the details of D-Day to follow on June 6.

A highly technical war was dependent upon scientific research and in this field Mount Vernon and Cornell College made a distinguished contribution to the victory. Dr. Leo Beranek, a graduate of both the Mount Vernon high school and Cornell received the biennial award of the Acoustical Society of America for his work as director of research on Sound Control at Harvard. Dr. E. E. Moots was engaged at the Harvard Kruft laboratories on the project of an echo free test room. Dr. Moots later organized and headed the computing strength department, Engineering A-2, for the Douglas Aircraft Company of Los Angeles.

Dr. F. G. Brooks wrote the basic biology text for the United States Armed Forces Institute. Dr. Harold Ennis, as a member of a tripartite hearing panel for War Labor Board, District 7, gave time to the hearing of many cases. Dr. J. B. Culbertson spent a year's leave of absence from the college as research chemist in the Jackson Laboratories of the DuPont Chemical Company. Miss Florence Keve was a Red Cross recreational worker in Japan and Korea. G. L. Hill rose to the position of Red Cross Field Director with the 97th Infantry Division in Germany. E. J. Osgood served for the three years with the U.S.O., a part of the time at Sedalia, Missouri near a large aircraft base. Lawrence Hunter spent more than a year bridge building on the Alaskan Highway. H. D. Winsor served in the payroll department of a large construction company on this same project. Alice Vodicka, Mrs. Faye Rogers Irwin and Shirley Sanderson did some small part in clerical positions toward the manufacture of the atomic bomb at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Dr. Watson Davis taught mathematics to 700 G.I.'s in the Army University Center in Shrivenham, England. Chief Mate Robert Klimo, now captain in the Merchant Marine, was at one time in charge of navigation for a convoy of 65 ships crossing the Atlantic at the height of submarine warfare.

Commander S. Francis Williams was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for service as Roentgenologist aboard the U.S.S. Bountiful. This ship rendered hospital aid to other ships and invasions areas at Saipan, Guam, Palau, Leyte, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. He was enroute home from Manila when war broke out and reached Pearl Harbor a week after the catastrophe. He was one of seven doctors to accompany the first shipload of wounded to San Francisco.

Colonel Morley Slaght, Army Air Forces, was General Chenault's personal representative to the Chiang Kai Shek government and liaison officer for the 14th Air Force with the Chinese Air Force. Colonel Slaght has the Basting Medal, a high award of the Chinese government, also the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal.

Colonel Maurice Keyes Kurtz, a native son of Mount Vernon, commanding artillery officer of the 14th armored division, fought with this division as part of the 7th and 3rd Armies in Europe. As a member of the Field Artillery Board at Fort Bragg, North Carolina he developed much of the armies' motor transport. He has the following decorations: Croix-de-Guerre with gold star; Bronze star; Legion of Merit, Silver star and Goums medal, a decoration presented to him by the French Army.

Colonel Rufus A. Parsons, Q.M.C. was on the original staff of the infantry armored force school at Fort Knox. Transferring to the Quartermaster Corps he was commanding officer of the 7th regiment at Camp Lee, Virginia, of the Alaskan Military Highway supply base at Edmonton, Canada and received the Bronze Star for "untiring effort as Commanding Officer of the 559 Quartermaster Group with the 9th Army."

Lt. Col. Lloyd C. (Judd) Dean holds a Bronze Star for service as Commanding Officer of an Air Corps Reinforcement Depot at Boulogene Bois near Paris.

John Kelsey Burr, a native son of Mount Vernon served as Captain of the 55th Field Artillery at Camp Bowie, Brownwood, Texas.

On December 15, 1944 services were held to dedicate the Mount Vernon Honor Roll which had been erected in the City Park by the Chamber of Commerce. At that time the roll included the names of 190 men and women. In July 1945 the board was redesigned and repainted to include the names of 259 then in service.

It is obviously impossible to recount the stories or even include the names of all these men and women. The files of the Mount Vernon Hawkeye for these eventful years are preserved on enduring paper in the offices of the Hawkeye and in the Cornell College library. Feeling that the stories might never again be so completely told, Editor James McCutcheon made faithful effort to record the

tales of daring or sheer endurance. To read the weekly issues of the paper is to follow the young men through training, embarkation and the course of invasions in places that were once only names to the young men who saw them in the grime and wastage of war, and to the families who waited for them at home.

In May 1945 the Hawkeye carried a page headed "In Memoriam"—pictures and sketches of five of Mount Vernon's Gold Star men. To this roll the name of Leo C. Petrick V 1/c should be added. A tail gunner on a B-24 bomber, he was on routine patrol of the Gilbert-Marshall area from which the plane failed to return. He was carried on the Navy records as missing from January 13, 1944 to January 1946. The five original Gold Star Men were:

Samuel S. Koch V 2/c, killed at his post high over the bridge on the S.S. Atlanta, November 13, 1942, Battle of Guadalcanal.

First Lieutenant Harlan L. Nelson, navigator on a C-47 Troop Carrier on a secret detached mission over Yugoslavia (probably dropping British paratroopers.) Killed in action over Yugoslavia June 21, 1944.

First Lieutenant Robert Sanderson, pilot Army Air Forces. Killed in action over Italy, January 20, 1945.

Private David A. Blinks. Killed in action in Germany by mortar shell. With the First Army.

Staff Sgt. Harold A. Beach. Taken prisoner in Germany while operations officer in charge of an anti-tank gun during battle of the Bulge. Captured by the Germans near Luxembourg. Confined in Camp Stalag XII-A. Died of pneumonia March 16, 1945.

The following citations are an index of the variety and character of the services performed by our young men in line of duty.

Robert Milholin, storekeeper 2/c—Citation for outstanding performance of duty as Search Radar Operator on the U.S.S. Yorktown in the Battle of Midway.

Samuel S. Koch y 2/c—a Purple Heart sent to his family.

Staff Sgt. William Kaplan—an operations sergeant engaged in reconnaissance in France, Belgium, Netherlands and Germany. In action against the enemy June 19, 1944 to May 1945. He has a Bronze Star and a Presidential Unit citation.

Staff Sgt. Eldon Johnson—Two Purple Hearts. He served for fifty months with the 34th "Red Bull", division in Africa and Italy.

Lt. Robert Sanderson, pilot. Air Medal sent to his family.

Leo C. Petrick y 1/c—Presidential Unit Citation.

Pfc. Donald Krumm. Two hundred days in combat and participation in the following: Normandy, Northern France, Push to the

Rhine, Battle of the Bulge and Central Germany campaigns. Twice wounded and a German prisoner. He holds two Purple Hearts with two Clusters.

T. Sgt. Vernon Sadler. Forty bombing missions as flight engineer and top turret gunner on a B-24. He has the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters and two Bronze Stars for Anzio invasion and the Anzio beachhead.

Lt. Fred L. Travis, Jr. Citation for service as Navigation and Radar Officer on the U.S.S. Smalley serving in the North Pacific theater with the 9th Fleet in raids on Kurile Islands with the 3d Fleet during the Okinawa invasion and with Admiral Halsey during the 72 day sweep against Japan. He served four years in the Navy and was on the U.S.S. Perkins when it was sunk off New Guinea.

1st Lt. Howard Fisher, Army Air Corps, pilot. His heroic story can hardly be compressed in this brief space. He was wounded and hospitalized in England for several months. He holds the Distinguished Flying Cross with silver star and Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters. A citation reads, "With utter disregard for his wounds, he assisted in flying the battered aircraft . . . . He attempted to land at a fighter base, but without flaps, rudder, or full power of any engine, he was forced to crash land. The aircraft burst into flames almost immediately. Thinking only of the safety of the crew, Lt. Fisher rescued the bombardier . . . and then assisted in rescuing another wounded crewman."

Pfc. Oren Travis. Distinguished Unit Badge and Citation for Bronze Star. He has the South Pacific-Asiatic-Philippine campaign ribbons with six battle stars for forty-two months service as hospital orderly.

Lt. Colonel Wayne Hunter, Chaplain—Legion of Merit, the highest military honor granted for non-combatant duty. He served in the Pacific theater.

Capt. George B. Schroeder Air Medal for action over Germany with the 15th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron flying a P-51 Mustang plane with 23 missions. The medal was granted at Nurnberg, Germany.

Lt. Charles E. Higbie, United States Marine Corps. He holds the Distinguished Flying Cross with two gold stars in lieu of second and third medals for patrol flying over enemy held territory in the South Pacific.

Lt. William Rogers, bombardier on a B-17 Flying Fortress in fifty-one missions over Italy. He holds the Air Medal with thirteen clusters.

Cpl. Warren Jorgenson, wounded at Corregidor, a prisoner of the Japanese at hard labor for three and one-half years. He holds the Presidential Unit Citation with two clusters and the Pre-Pearl Harbor Asiatic Pacific and Philippine defense ribbons with three battle stars and Purple Hearts.

The following men completed officers' training, were commissioned and served with distinction:

First Lt. Joseph Gaillard Beranek, pilot on a B-29. He enlisted in the Army Air Forces at the age of 17 and served 2½ years.

Lt. (jg) Robert Bryant served on an LST in the North Pacific.

Lt. Ralph S. Bowman, in charge of the office of Brig. Gen. Arthur C. Trudeau, commanding officer of the Manila base.

Lt. Com. Walter B. Gray. Served for three years in the office of Naval Officer Procurement in St. Louis.

Lt. (jg) Mark E. Hutchinson, Jr. Served aboard the destroyer, U.S.S. Miller in the Pacific from Okinawa to Tokyo Bay in twenty months of action, taking part in twenty-seven engagements. The Miller played a gallant part in rescuing survivors of the carrier U.S.S. Franklin.

Major Howard A. Bennett, Army Medical Corps based in England, followed the Normandy invasion with first hospital unit on the way to Paris. Served in Belgium, France, Germany and Austria, a part of the time with Patton's 3d Army. Was engaged in the battle of the Bulge.

Lt. Robert T. Bennett, Infantry. Served in Leyte, the Philippines and with the Army of Occupation in Japan.

Lt. (jg) Erroll L. Miller, Naval Construction Battalion, gave distinguished service on the island of Trinidad in landscaping installations, and as officer in charge of the water supply on Tinian Island. He was also engaged on highly important work at Pearl Harbor.

Lt. Com. Robert Petrick, Merchant Marine in charge of the engine room on the army transport U.S.S. Sea Peke which took part in the invasions of Saipan, Leyte and Okinawa.

Lt. William Schroeder, supply officer for twenty months on the carrier U.S.S. Lexington. His Pacific theater ribbons carry eight battle stars.

Lt. Warren B. Scobey, navigator on a naval air transport carrying critical material and personnel in the Pacific area. His plane was a part of the first squadron to evacuate wounded from Okinawa.

Captain Waunetta Sipple, Army Nurses Corps. Joined the May Clinic Unit in 1943. Served in a hospital in New Guinea receiving patients from Saipan and other island invasions.

The specific mention of the above names in no way detracts from the esteem in which their fellow townsmen hold each man and woman who endured hardships, whose life was interrupted, and who returned to a civilian status perhaps less advantageous because of his months of service.

In addition to those already named, mention should surely be made of Rudy Vodicka, who returned to good citizenship in Mount Vernon after thirty bombing missions over Europe; S 1/c Louise Dvorak, who worked in the Pentagon Building on "most secret" material; Spec (G) 2/c Mattie Irene Johnson, naval instructor in aerial gunnery; Master Sgt. Victor Blaine, maintenance chief for a B-25 squadron for thirty months in India; Pfc. Glen Nesley, a prisoner in Italy, who escaped during a bombing raid and spent eight months returning to his fighting unit. Cpl. Virgil C. Boyer served with the 660th Engineer Topographical Battalion which mapped every military operation from air war against Germany to D-Day. Chief Pharmacists Mate Lloyd Ellison covered 53,000 miles in the Pacific and took part in the invasions of Saipan, Pallau Islands, Leyte and Luzon. Other stories equally noteworthy we may have missed, but they are all a part and fibre of the thing that is Mount Vernon.

## Chapter 18

### Recent Years

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Three earlier chapters of this book, "Pioneer Days," "A Chronicle of Two Decades," and "Early Developments in the Incorporated Town" were aimed especially to trace the growth of Mount Vernon from its earliest days through the nineteenth century. The present chapter will attempt to round out the story of our progress in the twentieth century. In particular it will be a complement to the threads brought out in chapter seven; namely, builders of the town in the sense of actual constructors, some improvements of this century, recollections of people of the early 1900's, and a citation of individuals who are active in focal points of service in the community today.

It seems pertinent that in the year 1900 ordinance No. 63 gave a modern touch to the town by changing the names of the streets. Washington Street became First Avenue; Jefferson, Second; Franklin, Third; Penn and Vine, Fourth; Liberty Street, Fifth; and so on. In keeping with this ordinance was one the next year which required people to number their houses. Perhaps at this time our council was anticipating the year 1916 when our post office was to become second class and we were to have free delivery of our mail.

Mount Vernon has been called a "City of Homes." The carpenters of the twentieth century have carried on from where the early builders, William Brackett and Marsden Keyes, left off. D. C. Hartung came to Mount Vernon in the early part of this century. He built a number of houses here among which are the homes of Charles Hedges, Dana Stearns, Fred Young, and Mrs. Fred Bau-man. Succeeding D. C. Hartung was Evans Colton. Among others the homes of Ralph Bachman, Mrs. Helen Schroeder, Frank Cole and E. R. Ristine were built by Mr. Colton. To Erroll Miller goes the credit for the houses now occupied by Mrs. J. M. Holmes, Mrs. Hattie Miller, Clarence Felsman, a number of artistic cottages at the Palisades, and the home of Howard Hall on the cliff across the Cedar.

In the last few years extensive remodeling has been done in town. Any number of the substantial structures of the earlier decades have been made into some of the most attractive homes of the community. Freeman Current, Lawrence Current, and Fred Travis have been outstanding in this type of workmanship. James Burge has done carpenter work of a general nature in town for many years. Space forbids our recounting all of the construction work done by Charlie

Heller, so let us generalize and say he laid about half the cement sidewalks, he constructed several garages, and he built store buildings by the half-block. He was the mason for the Methodist parsonage.

Notable improvements have been made in recent years. Boulevard lights have been erected on Main Street. About ten years ago a city park was added. Professor Elmer Moots did the engineering for it, and Mrs. Moots the landscaping. Mrs. Laura Hoffman donated cement benches, the New Century Club and Sorosis, the griffins, Ingleside, the tulip beds, and the college gave the fountain. Another attractive spot is the little plot of green with the big Lombardy poplar that relieves the glare of the pavement as one turns at the corner of the cemetery on Highway 30.

In 1909 the Presbyterians bought a deep-toned bell for their church. It may ring for only Presbyterians, but the Methodists depend upon it, though it is doubtful whether there is a Methodist penny in it. The college shares its swimming pool with the children of school age in the town. A year ago the addition of flood lights to the high school football field promoted use of that field not only for athletics but also for community gatherings—band concerts and ice cream socials.

Paving has been of inestimable worth to both town and country. There is pavement on much of Third Avenue, North, and Fifth Avenue, North. Third Street, South, has been "blacktopped" to First Avenue. In addition there are other stretches of improved roads. In 1925 the Lincoln Highway was paved between Mount Vernon and Cedar Rapids. In 1946 Linn County south of Mount Vernon was paved on Highway 261, and that accomplishment modernized the old Military Road between Mount Vernon and Iowa City. There is a concrete viaduct at the west edge of town which was constructed to replace the old overhead bridge, and we now have a new Ivanhoe bridge, a twentieth century replacement of Wolfe's ferry across the river. Our advantages today are so many! We might even wish that the first settlers could come back and see them unless they might become unhappy and decide that they had been born one hundred years too soon.

On September 10, 1923, the Cedar Rapids *Gazette* gave a full-page sketch of Mount Vernon. This statement was made: "The life of the town undeniably revolves in a large measure around the college. It is what Mount Vernon is known for more than any other one thing. And yet it is not as a barnacle clinging to the college for support, for Mount Vernon is a live business town." The article lists the business concerns of 1923 which will be reproduced here: "three coal yards, two lumber yards, one grain elevator, three groceries, three bakeries, one dry goods store, four restaurants, two hardware stores,

one men's clothing store, one tailor shop, one furniture store, one meat market, one floral shop, two blacksmith shops, two shoe stores, two barber shops, one shoe repair shop, one shop manufacturing cement vaults, one motion picture, two newspapers, and two banks."

No one in town can recall our earliest settlement. A small number can recollect the seventies. Among them are Mrs. John Hoodemaker, Mrs. Ely West, Mrs. David West, C. W. Carley, and C. W. Heller. Many of us, however, can recall business and professional people of the first quarter of the twentieth century. Mabel Shirer Boyd was almost indispensable in the town. A busy mother training four growing boys, she always dropped her work at home to sing in public gatherings for her friends. Dr. Alexander Crawford and his family moved to Mount Vernon in 1900, and Dr. Crawford was very quickly in demand in community affairs. Dr. Merrill Williams was a dentist practicing in his home town.

Among our merchants were Lewis Chapman and Watson Kepler who had a shoe store. E. E. Kyle sold shoes also. John Merritt, E. E. Goodhue, and J. G. Fox all dealt in groceries. Mr. Fox furnished many a laugh to the townspeople with his weekly advertisements for John and Mary ending with "Nuf sed." At this time Mr. Hiner and Clement Falcon had succeeded Martin Rigby and A. A. Berryman in the Citizens State Bank. Henry and Leonard Kopf ran the meat market. Before the days when Cedar Rapids bakeries sold their bread to Mount Vernon, grocers always withheld their last delivery for fresh rolls and bread from J. F. Barrett's bakery. George Soper and H. S. Risser had coal offices, John Petty rented fine horses from his livery stable for buggy rides. Ed Turner with his big brown bulldog tied on a leash was our town marshal and following Ed. was Bob Morford with a big black and white bulldog tied on a leash. Over on First Avenue, South, Charles W. Warren had located in George John's shop and was carrying on his trade as a blacksmith. Mrs. A. K. Knox and her son "Bill" furnished many a happy occasion for both college and town groups with the banquets they served.

In a significant number of instances stability has been given our town by the fact that vocations have been carried on from father to son. The Carson family, Dr. James, and his sons, Dr. John and Dr. George, were here for an approximate span of seventy years. A fine harness and leather store, advertised always as Stewart Ellison's, was started in 1859. In 1893 Harry Ellison joined his father and after the death of Stewart Ellison carried on the business under the name Stewart Ellison's Son until 1935. Simon H. Bauman started the *Hawkeye* in 1869. In the latter part of the century his two sons, Fred and Augustus, were associated with their father. Eventually "Gus" Bauman became the editor and continued in that capacity until 1925.

F. H. Zache's tailor shop, opened in 1898, remained in the Zache family until 1945. Marvin Turner's grocery was started in 1918. After the death of Marvin it was managed by his daughter, Josephine Turner Ehle, until her death four years ago. The Hedges Lumber and Coal Company was organized by D. E. Hedges and Mr. Howson in 1909. Later it was under the management of Hedges and Dobson. In 1913 Charles Hedges joined his father, and the firm was called D. E. Hedges and Son. Charles Hedges continued after the retirement of his father until the present year. In 1907 John Colon, sr. engaged in interior decorating. John Colon, jr. says he started in the business at the age of ten and has been working with his father through the years with the exception of the war period. Other instances will be cited in forthcoming paragraphs.

A description of First Street in the 1870's was given in an earlier chapter. At this point we shall leave a similar picture for future sons and daughters of Mount Vernon who perchance may some day be interested in our town as it is in the year, 1947. Coming west up the hill from the cemetery before reaching Main Street one notices three places of business. At 327 First Street, East, is Studt's blacksmith shop. Jacob Studt has been in business here for sixteen years. At the summit of the hill in the little brick house which is recalled as the Mitchell home in earlier days Murl McMullen has had the East End barber shop since 1943. At 210 East First Street is the Mount Vernon Hotel. This was managed by Laura Albeck Hoffman from 1917 to 1947. It was purchased this year by Roy Winchip.

Coming to the business section proper there appears on the right side of the street the Standard Oil service station, the proprietor of which is Homer Emerson (1947). Next to this is the Peterson Produce Company, which has done an extensive shipping business of dressed poultry since 1942. The old Central House with five posts in its front porch, a hold-over from the earliest buildings of the town, and an old store building next to it are used today as store houses for the Peterson Company. The show window where Mr. Buser used to display photographs of the very best of people in days gone by is empty today. In the Stewart Ellison building (who will ever forget the life-size, dappled gray horse that used to stand in that window?) one finds the Beranek hardware business in Mount Vernon. Jacob Beranek and his son, Gilbert, entered business in 1914. Gilbert continued after the death of his father. Now Robert and Gaillard have joined their father, Gilbert Beranek. East of this store is the shoe repair shop of W. J. Kent (1946). At the corner is the North Side Tavern, operated by Lester Abbott (1947).

On the south side of the street at the corner of A Avenue and First Street is a residence which in earlier days was the Presbyterian Church. Next is the DX service station, operated by Walt Randall

for five years. West of this are The Bachman Feed Service, owned by Charles Bachman and his son, Ralph, since 1941, Mizaur's Produce Company, started by Fred Mizaur in 1942, Engle's Tavern (1947), and the Iowa Electric Light and Power Company building.

Starting in the next block on the right side of the street is the Palace Pool Hall, run by Willard Miller (1947). Beyond this is the Mount Vernon Bakery, noted for its cream puffs and doughnuts. John Yeisley has been the baker of the town since 1935. The Post Office building stands next; then the Mount Vernon Bank and Trust Company. Ralph Heasty's drug store continues the line of business houses and at the alley is the B&N Cafe, the proprietor of which is Ivan Blackmer (1946). Across the alley on the same side of the street Marsh E. Lefler (1946) is in charge of the Western Auto Associate Store in the former Citizen's State Bank building. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Allhouse specialize in carmel corn and potato chips in the next store. Beyond is Bloom's book store. Mr. Bloom has been in business here since 1895. Adjoining Bloom's is a hardware store owned by Dale Johnson who came to Mount Vernon in 1931. Mrs. Elmer Hyde manages Hattie's Cafe next door. She has been in business since 1940. The last store in the block is known as the Bauman building. On the east side of this building James Lodge, who has been here since 1927, has the North Side barber shop. On the west side Dr. Elmer Prall has his dental office. Dr. Prall came to Mount Vernon in 1931.

On the south side of the street in the same block we have Leo Kaliban's appliance store (1946) on the corner. Next Mr. Hoover's jewelry store and Mary Staab Butler's Vernon Beauty Shop are in the same building. Mr. Hoover entered business in 1895, and Mrs. Mary Butler has been beautifying Mount Vernon women in a manner that would astonish their pioneer forbears since 1937. There follow Jayne's Photo Shop, owned by Hugh Roberts since 1941 in the former Kepler building, Malcolm Bowie's grocery (1947), and M. H. Thomson's radio store (1944). The last store before coming to the alley is the City Meat Market. Rudolph Vodicka purchased this store in 1923. Recently his son, "Rudy", Jr. has gone into business with his father.

Across the alley on the same side of the street are Thomas Meredith's drug store (1939) and Dale Travis's Marketeria (1947). Above these two stores is the Masonic Hall. Beyond Dale's are the Variety Store, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nutt, Stoltz Cleaners, opened by Richard Stoltz on V-J Day, South Side Barber Shop owned by Arthur J. Kudart, and the An-Nu Dress Shop, another store owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nutt. The last store in this block is the Bauman Clothing Company. This business dates back to 1862. It was first known as the J. M. and W. B. Armstrong

firm, then Armstrong and Rood, next Rood and Young. In 1909 Fred A. Bauman took over, and the firm was known as the Fred A. Bauman Clothing Company. The two sons of Fred have been connected with the store. After the death of Fred, Robert was in the business until his death in 1942. Now Corlyn is in the firm. Fred A. Young has been with the company since 1910, in recent years a member of the firm and always a very efficient buyer. Above the Bauman Clothing Company is the Odd Fellows' Hall. In the basement of the same store is Alvin Butler's electrical shop, set up in 1945.

The first store on the north side of the street between Second and Third Avenue is Roy Wickham's grocery (1946). In this store Harry Dilley was a grocer from 1925 to 1945. The Maid-Rite Sandwich Shop, the proprietor of which is A. J. Root (1946) is next. Then comes the Strand Theater, operated by Lawrence West of a pioneer family. Dr. L. E. Bigger, who came to Mount Vernon in 1928, has his dental office in the adjoining building. Next is the American Legion Hall. Following is the City Hall, built in 1916. Here is located the fire department, and from this source sounds our fire siren. The jail is in the basement. The building serves not only as a civic headquarters, but also for the local Red Cross and as a youth center. Here may be found Ed Gill, our marshal for the past sixteen years. In a part of his residence next door Arthur Rogers, who has been in the printing business in town since 1922, has the express office and his Hillside printing shop.

On the south side of the street between Second and Third Avenue is the Wolfe office building, erected in 1912. Here Dr. Thomas Wolfe, a physician since 1892, for years a partner of his brother, Dr. John Wolfe, has his office; likewise does his son, Richard B. Wolfe, an attorney in Mount Vernon since 1930. Beyond Dr. Wolfe's residence next door is the office of Dr. Bertha Swim, a chiropractor in the town since 1934. The last house in the block, built by Henry D. Albright in 1853, is the remodeled residence and office of Dr. Francis Ebersole. Dr. Ebersole came to Mount Vernon in 1908, and excluding the time he was in World War I, has been in continuous practice here.

Farther west on First Street are several other places of business. The Neff Funeral Home is located on the corner of First Street and Fourth Avenue, South. The Neffs have been very able morticians in this town since 1878. In that year Myron K. Neff, the father of Charles W. Neff, set up a furniture store. He made coffins which sold for \$15 apiece. C. W. Neff recalls his father telling that when a death occurred in town, old Mr. Harbert, a sturdy builder of Mount Vernon in its earliest days, used to come to the Neff store, get a coffin, take it to the home, and prepare the

body for burial. Later Myron K. Neff went to the homes as undertaker. Charles W. Neff joined his father in 1900 and with his wife has been in constant service in the community.

At 417 First Street, West, Dana Stearns has a garage, a business he has been engaged in since 1913. Dr. W. Craig Tenney, an osteopathic physician here for the last five years, is located at 503 West First Street. At number 725 on the same street Clinton Johnston of Lisbon and Jack Morgan of Mount Vernon have a funeral home, a partnership arranged in 1946. W. L. Ellis (1947) runs a Phillip's service station at the west end of First Street. Beyond this at Tenth Avenue and First Street is Dr. John B. Bryant's veterinary office. Dr. Bryant has practiced in the town and vicinity since 1920. In 1945 he was joined by Dr. Orlo Haight.

Important places of business branch off First Street onto the different avenues of the town. Starting on First Avenue, North, are Robert Barnes' blacksmith shop (1917), H. C. Kessler's Mount Vernon Body Shop (1945), and Rae Travis's Chevrolet garage (1919). At 323 First Avenue, North, is the Gilliland Coal Company, purchased this year by Dana Wilcox, a business which was started in 1900 by Mr. George Soper and carried on after his retirement by his son-in-law, Harry Gilliland. The Ross Soap and Chemical Company farther down the avenue has been managed by A. H. Ross since 1939. At 1010 First Avenue North, is the Kruse Lumber Company, which Harold Kruse bought this year from Charles Hedges.

On First Avenue, South, is located Dick's grocery; Richard Busenbark became a merchant here a few months ago. On the corner lot south of Dick's is Horton's Frozen Food and Locker Service (1940), the latest in twentieth century refrigeration methods. Mr. W. C. Horton and his two sons, Boyd and Don, are in charge of this plant. On First Avenue and Third Street is the Vernon Motor Works. Walter Meeker, dealer in Ford cars, built this in 1946.

Going back to First Street and Second Avenue, North, one notices three offices on the lower floor of the building owned by Mrs. Fred Bauman. Mr. Carl Becker, who came to Mount Vernon in 1925 and who is the successor of the Kepler law firm, has one of these. Seward Merritt (1931) and Al Morrissey (1946) have their respective insurance offices in the other two. The headquarters of the Mount Vernon *Hawkeye-Record* and the Lisbon *Herald* are at 104 Second Avenue, North. Lloyd McCutcheon came to Mount Vernon in 1901, bought the *Remarker* and changed its name to the *Mount Vernon Record*. A few weeks before his death in 1925 he purchased the Mount Vernon *Hawkeye-Herald* from A. A. Bauman and united the two publications of the town under the name of the

Mount Vernon *Hawkeye-Record* and the *Lisbon Herald*. After the death of his father in October 1925 and a few months after his graduation from Cornell, James W. McCutcheon became the editor of the paper, a position he holds today. At the end of "depot street" John Klimo is on duty as the "one and only" station agent of the Chicago and North Western Railway in the town since 1911.

Clarence Felsman, at 116 Second Avenue, South, has represented Albert's Cleaners of Cedar Rapids, since 1931.

Several other people in town not heretofore mentioned are carrying on at important posts. Mrs. Don Pringle, who was in the grocery business from 1933 to 1942, has done a lively real estate business the past two years. Walter Kohl has been a fuel oil dealer connected with the Best Oil Company of Lisbon since 1933. Julian Johnston is the truck salesman for the Linn Cooperative company (1938). Emil Reyhons has been in charge of the bulk plant of the Standard Oil Company since 1937. Lloyd LeGrand with his big cigar has provided taxi service for the townspeople since 1932. A. J. Bobst's vocation as interior decorator dates from 1916.

To one acquainted with the town the above list scarcely seems complete without the mention of three late business men who were here for so many years: Anson Burge, a member of one of the earliest families, helped many a townsman out of difficulties by his profitable sales as an auctioneer from 1916 to 1945. John Kyle, also of a pioneer family in the Linn Grove area, was in the real estate and insurance business from the 1920's to 1945. George Wilson was an attorney from 1901 to 1945.

The Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce expresses the spirit of the townspeople in the recognition it gives to its fifty-year business men. A few years ago the organization honored John Hoodmaker, drayman, expressman, and driver of the hack in the horse and buggy days. Anybody who is "seasoned timber" in Mount Vernon recalls the bumpy rides in the old hack with its steel-rimmed wheels up the steep, stony hill from the depot. The occasion celebrating Mr. Hoodmaker's retirement was a fine banquet during which he was presented a generous purse and an elaborate diploma from the University of Hard Knocks.

More recently the Chamber of Commerce honored a group of fifty-year business men. Among them were Will Hoover, the jeweler, whose family has long been an integral part of the community, Joe Bennett, the druggist, formerly an all-around athlete in the college, Tom Wolfe, genial pioneer and doctor, the late "Doc" Mitchell, mayor, town clerk, and water superintendent for many years, Jasper Bloom, successor of W. G. Power in the book-store and member of the town band, and the late Harry Gilliland, dry-goods merchant and coal dealer.

It is a long way from the old stoneboat trail to our paved streets and highways, a long way from the underbrush and prairie grass to our trimmed lawns and maple-shaded campus, a long way from Dan Hahn's log cabin to our beautiful residences of present day Mount Vernon. Five generations have rubbed elbows with the changes of the century, and many, many people have ministered to its needs and contributed to its progress.

## Chapter 19

### Honorable Mention

*There is too much in "Hilltop"  
To write about in rhyme—  
Happy little memories  
And tears from time to time.  
One need not search in cities far  
For the great and brave in heart  
Instead he'll find in our home town  
Are those who've done their part.*

Mount Vernon in its hundred years of living has given a good account of its stewardship. The home of a Christian college, Cornell, its many graduates have exerted their influence at all times over the world. "Honorable Mention" has attempted to choose the town's best known men and women (not necessarily the best) in all lines of useful achievements. No doubt the fitness of all names chosen may not be apparent to all readers, but their positions and attainments make their personalities of general interest to residents both new and old.

Small towns look much alike on the surface—filling stations at each end of Main Street, a variety store, chain store, locals, and so on. But each town has an atmosphere distinctively its own. To Mount Vernon girls and boys returning from an absence it is truly "home."

Every neighborhood has its own boys' playground and gathering place. Just across from the old "Gigantic" and one block from the college grounds a crowd of boys once gathered for their boyish fun. Abbey Creek attracted them for swimming in summer, the stone quarry for skating in winter, while the Palisades became their camping ground. They loved their surroundings and felt this influence in their later lives. After high school and college they separated for their different lines of work or to advanced study in the universities.

Of this group, two of the four Blackwell brothers, Fred and Guy, became civil engineers, while the other two, J. D. (James) and Robert, were dentists in Chicago. Herbert Day practiced dentistry in Seattle, Washington. Lewis Day was a noted World War I surgeon and became head of Oklahoma State Hospital. Ross Gelston was a merchant in Redlands, California, while Thomas Gelston became a Division Civil Engineer in San Diego, California. Two other boys from this group became dentists, Fred and James

Hannahs.—Fred at Tucumcari, New Mexico, and James at Denver, Colorado.

William Shirer, for a time superintendent of schools; later became vice president of the Henry Holt Publishing Company. Pasadena, California is the home of the civil engineer Leon Moore, while his brother Otis entered the ministry as a rural pastor, and is now living at Garnersville, New York. Karl Keyes is an optometrist at Monticello, Iowa.

Of the three Rayners, Ernest became superintendent of Methodist Education in the Philippines and a university professor in California. Clyde for many years was maintenance engineer of the Chicago and North Western Railway at Boone; and Horace was professor of civil engineering at Illinois State University. S. Vernon Williams, another of this crowd, entered the ministry and also writes.

One might repeat such incidents throughout Mount Vernon where many a town boy and girl aspires to a college education, and farmers' wives become successful homemakers and develop their farm life.

The local druggist for many years, Joe Bennett, was a noted college athlete; the former lumberman, Charles Hedges, a Cornell man and college trustee; the clothiers Fred Young and Robert Bauman were pronounced the best dressed men in Iowa officially; the mail carriers, Frank and Dana, were once college boys too; and the youthful-looking bookseller, Jasper Bloom, has played in town and college bands for fifty years.

William Hoover, the jeweler, has served this community well for over fifty years. Also the name of John Hoodmaker is familiar to most of our residents, for he, too, served a useful period of over fifty years and is now retired.

Corlyn Bauman, of the fourth generation of Baumans in Mount Vernon, recently returned and is now affiliated with Bauman and Company, Clothiers. Morley Slaght, aviator, is at present a regular army officer at the Staff School in Norfolk, Virginia.

Henry Van Pelt is statistician at the State House in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Jesse Hughes for a number of years was a successful Chautauqua Superintendent. Later he became a Southwest Manager of Ketcham, Incorporated, a bureau of Institutional Finance in Pittsburgh, with his territory in Dallas, Texas.

One local doctor, F. F. Ebersole, and a lawyer, Richard Wolfe, graduated at Cornell, as did the printer of this Mount Vernon History, James McCutcheon, who was awarded a certificate for having the best local newspaper in the United States.

Local Methodist ministers and district superintendents finished their college courses on the Hilltop. On Fifth Avenue North and Third Street West lived three neighbors, two of whom, Stuntz and Nicholson, became bishops; and the other, J. B. Albrook, a district superintendent.

Mrs. Frank Brooks was recently chosen as National Vice-President of the Woman's Society of Christian Service, in charge of missions.

The local women's club members are almost all college and university women. The Rotary and Lions Clubs also enroll college men among them. On the local church boards there have been many professional and college members.

Three of Cornell's presidents came from our own ranks, James E. Harlan, Harlan Updegraff, and Russell Cole.

Raymond Kent of Kentucky University attended school and lived here. Lee (Buster) DuBridge was recently installed as president of the California Institute of Technology. Hugh Stuntz, chosen as president of Scarritt College, was a parsonage boy of Mount Vernon. He is a son of Bishop Stuntz, who took a band of Mount Vernon and near-by boys with him in 1900 to inaugurate missionary work in the Philippines. They were greeted by the village bands playing "Hot time in the old town tonight" (the only American tune they knew). Thomas Kepler is a brilliant professor of New Testament Language and Literature in the graduate school of Theology at Oberlin.

Margaret Hamilton, as a young girl, lived in the present "White House" or President's House, built by her father William Hamilton, an early college trustee. It was he who planted the first "gingko" tree (one of several now in Mount Vernon). In later years she smilingly acknowledged to Dr. William T. King, president then of Cornell College and owner of the home, that the old tradition of sitting under the tree and combing one's hair had brought her happiness. The Mount Vernon Hawkeye of April 4th, 1882, in reprinting an item from the then Cedar Rapids Republican reporting her marriage to Sir Sydney Waterlow, once Lord Mayor of London, entitled the article "Almost Fabulous." It concluded with "We trust there will not be a general emigration of Mount Vernon girls to California (Margaret's home after leaving Iowa and Mount Vernon) upon receipt of this news." Her miniature portrait painted by the celebrated Italian artist Alma Tadema (Sir Laurens) hangs in the college library beneath the Margaret McKell King memorial scholarship plaque.

Many college professors have lived here, satisfied to invest their lives in Cornell. Professor Hugh Boyd, at one time acting president, was scholarly and profound. Old-timers still recall how he stoked

his own stove without interference, read his Latin term grades in chapel (a custom of that time), and gave his daughter Clifford 110 for a grade "just to be fair to her ability in comparison with others' generous grades." To him we owe a debt of gratitude for the beautiful maples on the north Cornell campus.

Professor S. N. Williams, who came to Mount Vernon in 1873, thoroughly believed in his three class-room mottoes, "Accuracy, efficiency, and dispatch," "Patient continuance in well-doing," and "Observe, Think, Remember."

The Stanley boys have been well-known engineers. Orrin of the class of 1896 lives in Portland, Oregon, while Frank and Charles, retired, reside in Seattle, Washington.

On South First Avenue lived the Alden boys, Frederick, '95, a civil engineer in Kentucky, and William '93, now a Glacial Geologist with the United States Geological Survey at Washington, D.C.

J. D. Wardle, a city engineer in Cedar Rapids, supervised the construction of the Interurban Railway to Mount Vernon and Lisbon.

Generations of town and college folk will always remember and love James E. Harlan, Alonzo Collip, Dean H. H. Freer, Harry M. Kelly, and the two surviving members of the "Old Guard," William S. Ebersole on Fifth Avenue North, and Edward R. Ristine on Summit Avenue.

Nicholas Knight also chose Mount Vernon as a home in which to live and die, vitally interesting students in chemistry as a profession. Dr. William H. and Mary Burr Norton gave long, loving, and lasting service to Mount Vernon and Cornell College. Their beautiful gardens attracted many garden lovers from all over the state. Perhaps Dr. Norton was most widely known as a teacher, authority, and writer in the field of geology. Among the Mount Vernon geology graduates who have made good are William Alden, Robert T. Bennett, Morris Hull, the Scobey brothers (Ellis and Warren), and Fred Travis, Junior.

Mary Elizabeth Smith (across the railroad bridge) is still remembered as an inspiration by many local graduates of Cornell.

Charles R. Keyes, now retired, was for forty years a professor of German in the college, and a noted archaeologist as well. Today he is still active in the latter field, and is widely known as an authority on Indian archaeology, heading the Archaeologic Survey in Iowa.

George Herbert Betts, who introduced us to Psychology at Cornell, built the first stucco house in Mount Vernon near Ash Park. He was later called to head that department at Northwestern University. His co-laborer John E. Stout, a resident here for many years, attained fame in "Education" and was called to Northwestern also.

George Curme (son of Professor Curme), born here in 1888, is a noted research chemist. Another of Mount Vernon's boys to make good in the field of chemistry is Charles Fordyce, now with the Eastman Kodak Company at Rochester, New York, as a research chemist. Harry S. Warren is a chemical engineer with the William J. Strange Company of Chicago and Secretary of Nordegard Corporation. Rochester is also the home of Verne A. Bird, who has been very successful in the field of educational work.

Samuel W. Heald of Houston, Texas entered railroading at the age of eighteen. By degrees he advanced to the Superintendency with the Panama Railway from 1916 until his retirement in 1935. Since that time until his recent death he served as consul of the Republic of Panama.

Frank Brackett, '05, before his death was with the General Motors Truck Company of Pontiac, Michigan.

William W. Rundell is in the Land Department of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company of Chicago. He is the son of Hulda Harbert Rundell, who was the first child born in Mount Vernon. It was his grandfather, Richard J. Harbert, our earliest carpenter, who helped to lay off the town of Mount Vernon in 1847.

Edgar Brackett, a Senator in the New York legislature and a famous attorney, who in his boyhood days lived across from the library in the old Brackett house (later the Spear home), was the son of the contractor who finished the college chapel. Frank Hahn of the pioneer family who settled in 1838 south of the stone quarry, is today the able mayor of Cedar Rapids.

Dr. Edward T. Devine, one of Mount Vernon's ablest school superintendents, went to New York City, organized its charities, and served as head of the organization for almost forty years.

Many others have gone from our town into social service work. Among them may be mentioned Sara Brown in Chicago, Mildred Hunt, director of Child Welfare Work for the State of Iowa, Helen Turner, and George Wilcox.

Colleges and universities far and near have at some time or other called the following as instructors: Richard Baker, Columbia University; Leona Barnes in Montana State University; Gardner Bennett in the University of Hawaii; B. Vincent Crawford in the State University of Iowa; Clara Chassell Cooper in Wilson College, Pennsylvania; Anna Smyth Eyck in College of Idaho, Caldwell, Idaho; Signa Falk in Coe College; Edith Fancher in Illinois Woman's College, Jacksonville; Louise Freer in the University of Illinois; Leo Haak in the University of Michigan; Maurice Hartung in the University of Chicago; Kellogg Hunt in State College, San

Francisco, California; James Hodgson in Coe College; Eloise Lemon in State Normal, Idaho; Franklin Littell in Michigan University; Ruth Maybauer Kraft in Illinois Wesleyan University; Ermina Mills in DePauw University; Catharine Keyes Miller in the Graduate School of Columbia University; Florence Nicholson Whitney of Ohio Wesleyan University; Payson Peterson in Cornell College; Francis Pratt in Eastern New Mexico College, Portaleo, New Mexico; Horace Rayner in Illinois State University; George Renner in Columbia University; Dorothy Rogers in Cornell College; Edwin Rogers in University of Oklahoma; Charles Simpson in Michigan State College, and Howard Simpson of North Dakota State.

Mount Vernon women who have taught at Cornell College include Lillian Smedley Ristine, Luella Albrook Miller, Ruby C. Wade, and Nellie M. Hartung.

To this long list we add Edna Randall Brewer in Syracuse University; Laura Chassell Toops in Ohio State University; Myron Wilcox in State Normal of North Dakota; Eva Williams in Denver University; Elizabeth Williams Lounsbury at Wahpeton College, North Dakota; and Robert Van Pelt in Columbus, Ohio.

Mount Vernon boys have aspired to the professions as well. Early doctors were T. L. Carhart, Amos B. Witter, Doctors Thompson, Doron, Evans, Gordon, Putnam, James Carson and sons (John and George), John and Thomas Wolfe (the latter still practicing), J. B. Robinson, and T. S. Kepler.

Doctors Kate Mason and George Hogle bought the Clark property on Main Street (now the Neff Funeral Home) and established a popular hospital which they managed for many years.

Archie McIntyre runs a well known clinic at Owatonna, Minnesota. The Wade boys attained great success,—Arthur is now medical director of the school board at Seattle, Washington. Homer Smith, son of a former jeweler, practices medicine at Correctionville, Iowa. He married Helen Smyth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Smyth.

Dr. Burton Hogle, son of the Doctors Hogle, is very successful in Troy, Ohio. Dr. Howard Bennett is on the staff of the University of Iowa Hospital. Elmer Pratt, Lieutenant Colonel, is head of the medical department of R.O.T.C. in the University of Iowa.

F. F. Ebersole, Cornell graduate and resident of Mount Vernon for many years, beautifully remodeled the Henry Albright residence for his home and office. T. Merrill Williams, star baseball player, practiced dentistry in offices above the Mount Vernon Bank, following Charles Stouffer, and later lived and died in the former John Carson home on Main Street.

The law profession has also added its quota of favorite sons. Edgar Brackett (mentioned earlier in the chapter) attained fame and fortune at Saratoga, New York. With him later was associated Ben Wheat, one of the "Wheat House" sons.

Charles Kepler was the best fighter of early days and was followed by his son Louis in the law profession. Francis Heald, brilliant college orator, cast the deciding vote to establish state prohibition while an Iowa State Senator. Seward Shirer, son of William Shirer, Sr., lived in the family home on the corner south of the Methodist church, and later became a well known lawyer in Chicago. It was his son, William, the famous war correspondent, who gave us "Berlin Diary."

At the turn of the century Joe Fogg, who lived in the brick house back of the chapel (the early Goodell home) was a champion football player, and later became United States District Attorney in Cleveland. Walter Whittemore also chose law as his profession.

Dana Brink, of the south side, became a Federal judge in Idaho; LeClair Martin an influential citizen and lawyer in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Judge Harlow W. Keyes of Indianola, Nebraska was a contemporary of Edgar Brackett.

Dan Wolfe is counsel for the savings department of the Continental Bank in Chicago. His brother, Richard, is one of our own local lawyers. Buell Maxwell of Tipton, Iowa, is now serving his third term as county attorney of Cedar County.

With such an excellent library from which to gain inspiration, many, too numerous to mention, became interested in librarian work as a career. Sylvester N. Williams was one of the early librarians. He was followed by May L. Fairbanks who rendered a superior service to town and college for forty years. Dying while in service was Jessie Rigby, a most able reference librarian. Mrs. Dorothy Higbie, who was a resident formerly for a brief time, is now college librarian. She is ably assisted by two town girls, Mary Parsons and Grace West.

Helen Freer, now retired, after some years of teaching became librarian in the Minneapolis City Library. Catharine Keyes Miller is now head music librarian at Columbia University and music editor of the national magazine "Library Journal."

In the postal service of the government Herbert Rumble has attained worthy distinction. He is now a postal inspector with Cincinnati as his headquarters.

George Young, Jr., ever loyal to his old home town, is with the Interstate Company as adjustor,—his home in Des Moines. Francis Gilliland, also in insurance, is with the American Insurance Company of Des Moines. Horace Lozier pioneered in this field. Robert Smyth is now district manager of the Equitable Insurance Company in Fort Dodge.

Lew Wentz made a fortune in the oil fields of Oklahoma.

Lawrence Travis is Director of Purchases for the Colson Lithographing Company at Paris, Illinois.

Lewis Mitchell, chief designing engineer of the Jeffrey Manufacturing Company of Columbus, Ohio, was the designer of the 29-U coal cutting machine and the holder of many other patents.

Lieutenant Colonel Howard Pratt is now in the telephone business at Spray, Oregon. Herbert Pratt is electrical engineer at the Alameda, California airbase. The fifth of the Pratt brothers, Joseph, is traveling supervisor or the Johnson chain of cafeterias, and now lives in Kentucky.

Willard Maybauer is an accountant with the Chicago Bridge and Iron Works. Another member of the business group was W. H. Alexander, who became General Manager of Sears Roebuck retail department.

Erroll Miller is well listed among the builders of Mount Vernon. Grant Miller, now retired, brother of Horace, was at one time an excellent architect in Chicago. To these may be added the names of the Keith boys in Des Moines.

Lew Lozier, son of John Hogarth Lozier, has been very successful in the field of commercial art.

Colonel Rufus Parsons, now retired, lives in Redlands, California, following a brilliant career in the army.

Dwight Windenburg has made a career in Atomic Bomb Research Development. Louis Maxwell, research chemist, is a civilian research man of the Mine Sweeping Division of the United States navy at Washington, D.C.

Leo Beranek is communication and acoustical engineer completing a Guggenheim Fellowship at Harvard University. He has recently been named as associate professor in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Glenn Browning has been president of the Browning Laboratories, Inc., of Winchester, Massachusetts since 1938. During World War II he developed a sensitive electronic alarm system which was widely used in the United State Services. He is also consulting engineer for several companies.

In banking circles we recall the name of the first banker, H. A. Collin. William Smith and Dr. James Carson founded the Mount Vernon Bank. Associated with the bank in the past were D. L. Boyd, Charles M. Hartung (its cashier for twenty-five years), and Grace Wolfe, bookkeeper. Willard C. Stuckslager of Lisbon was its president until his death.

Martin J. Iorns at one time conducted the government botanical experiment station in Porto Rico.

A bright star on the old Chautauqua platform, A. L. Flude, was local editor and poet as well on the "Remarker," local newspaper, for several years.

Lee Keedick, an expert baseball player in his father's pasture near the depot, inaugurated the Keedick Lecture Bureau which introduced many famous lecturers to the United States.

Mattie Isherwood, whose father owned a large farm north of town, became an artist of note. It is said that the lovely painted window in the Collin house is her handiwork. Incidentally, the father, Mr. Isherwood, might well be remembered for his introduction of the Isherwood apple.

The establishment of the May Music Festival has brought much of musical culture and interest to the town and surrounding country. With it are associated the names of Charles Adams, Horace Alden Miller, Frank Shaw, and Harold Baltz. Mrs. Clara Brackett Spear taught in the Cornell Conservatory for some time, as did also Elizabeth Platner. Mrs. Spear's talents were used freely in her service to church and town.

From the time when Mrs. Hugh Boyd, then Mary Ellen Moody, first came to Mount Vernon as teacher of piano at the college, the Boyd home was always a musical center. She was a wonderfully inspiring teacher to many Mount Vernon girls and boys. This talent was inherited by her daughter, Mrs. John Burr (Clifford Moody Boyd), and also by Lucy, who taught violin at one time in the college and town as well.

Another inspiring teacher of some years ago was Leola Iorns, who taught piano at both Mount Vernon and Lisbon.

Horace Lozier will always be remembered for his song "Fair Old Cornell." John Klimo is a booster Shrine bandsman from coast to coast. His son, John Jr., plays double bass with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

On the site of Altoona Dormitory lived two noted song writers—the Reverend Lewis Hartsough and Egbert Van Alstyne. Reverend Hartsough wrote the beautiful old hymn "I Hear Thy Welcome Voice." From Van Alstyne we have "In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree," "Memories," and many other songs.

John Hogarth Lozier (sweet singer and grand chaplain of the Grand Army of the Republic) gave us "The Man of Galilee."

Horace Alden Miller in his youth introduced the saxophone into band work in these parts—and advanced to the headship of the col-

lege conservatory of music. His interpretation of Indian music came naturally to a boy from the pioneer part of Iowa, and met with great favor throughout the country.

In the gay nineties and early twenties church and social circles were charmed by our own town quartet,—Messrs Joseph Bennett, George W. Young, Jr., William Shirer, Jr., and Cuyler Spreng. Nor has the Shirer Family Quartet been forgotten by many residents of the time.

Advancing to modern interests of movie and stage, Henry Carlton has contributed many popular radio scripts. James Swift, former Mount Vernon school boy, is now director of radio publicity for David Selznick Studios—California.

Robert Hartung since finishing college has divided his time between the professional theater and serving on the faculty of a theatrical school.

As to printers and editors, many young journalists have been fortunate in receiving training here in the Cornellian office, Junior Annual, and the Hawkeye-Herald. S. H. Bauman and son Augustus (Fred helping for a time) piloted the local Hawkeye through fifty years of most successful journalism.

Charles A. Page, a Cornell graduate of 1859, edited the "Mount Vernon News" for two years after graduation,—then became a famous Civil War correspondent. A common remark of Horace Greeley's was, "If Page says that it is so."

Minard Lozier, whose biography appeared recently in the local paper, the son of John Hogarth Lozier, and brother of Horace and Lew, founded the "Remark." Later, under the editorship of Lloyd McCutcheon, Sr., this became the "Mount Vernon Record." It is now merged with the Hawkeye and Lisbon Herald under the name of "Hawkeye-Record", and is edited by his son James.

For a number of years Mrs. S. N. Williams ably edited the W.C.T.U. Champion.

Harold Knight, son of Dr. Nicholas Knight, has edited several technical and chemical journals.

Of our nine local boys listed in the latest edition of "American Men of Science" the majority have made many fine contributions in writing along their individual lines of interest. Among these are Leo Beranek, Glenn Browning, George Curme, Jr., Lee DuBridge, Charles Fordyce, Maurice Hartung, Lewis Maxwell, Ellis Scobey, and Dwight Windenburg.

In literature Mount Vernon has been written about in three novels, their characters becoming a matter of general interest. "Col-

lege in Crinoline" was given us by Marjorie Medary, Cornell 1912. It is a fascinating account of the town, campus, and surroundings in the days preceding and during the Civil War.

"No Hour of History" by Elisabeth Smith Ford is a most interesting account of the pioneer days of her people and of Mount Vernon then and later. "Victoria Ash," her own mother, was Clara Brackett Spear, a prominent leader of Mount Vernon social life. In Elisabeth's own words it is a story of "Hillyview (Mount Vernon), where people dared to be themselves instead of trying to be cheap imitations of somebody else they'd never read or heard about." Before her death Elisabeth also wrote "Amy Ferraby's Daughter."

Mrs. Bernard Van Etten won the Ten Thousand Dollar Atlantic Monthly prize with her novel "I Am the Fox."

Among others who have made their contributions to writing are: Dr. William H. Norton, Geological Surveys, and a Textbook on Geology; George H. Betts, a many-sided author of texts; S. Vernon Williams—"A Key to the Psalms"; and Doctor Charles R. Keyes, with monographs on Archaeology.

Clarice Nissley Detzer for a time was a feature writer with the Chicago Daily Journal, and a story writer as well. She also collaborates with her husband, Karl Detzer, in his writings.

Mrs. S. V. Williams wrote a book of poems published by the Methodist Book Concern entitled "A Little Patch of Blue."

Mrs. Anna Belle Rood Ittner of Santa Barbara, California has contributed a number of short stories, sketches, and articles of literary interest to several publications.

Jewell Bothwell Tull is the author of five books for boys, one novel, and a series of long and short stories. Her chief claim to fame lies in her poetry and plays. Of more than twenty poems appearing in Poetry Magazine, the best known is "Seven Ages," which won a silver medal award in England. The play "Dead Men Can't Hurt You" was winner in a State contest of the Iowa Federated Clubs. "They That Mourn," written in collaboration with Grant Wood, won a national prize.

Mrs. Mark Hutchinson graciously gives of her time and talents in writing for Mount Vernon enterprises, and is also known for her poems.

How better to close our field of writing than with mention of Miss Laura Hinkley, a former Mount Vernon resident. Many readers have enjoyed her numerous short stories. One of her contributions still being widely read is "The Bronte Sisters." Her latest book "Ladies of Literature" was published in 1946.

And, as we close the pages of "Honorable Mention," we pay tribute to our beloved town and *all* its boys and girls who are doing their work quietly and efficiently.

We feel that

"Every child should know a hill  
And the clean joy of running  
down its long slope  
With the wind in his hair."

From this hilltop community we have sent forth our sons and daughters "through time and place to roam." To them we have given our city's heritage and inspiration. From them the world knows our work, our ambitions, and our dreams. Wherever they go they speak well for us and they return to continue proudly and successfully the work of our own Mount Vernon.

"Our gifts once given must here abide."

**HONORABLE MENTION**

**207**

**Memorandum**

**Chapter 20**

**Historic Homes of Mount Vernon**

## Original William Brackett Home



The Brackett home as remodeled by Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong Spear. Here many of Cornell's guests have been entertained, May Festival artists, lecturers and even an ex-President, William Howard Taft. It is now the home of Miss Clara E. Blinks, and by the will of Elisabeth Smith Ford will eventually go to Cornell College.

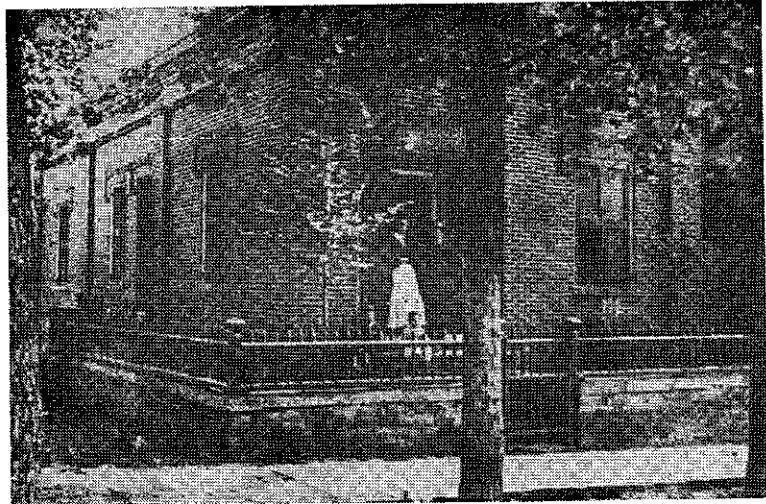
### **Site of the Original Log Cabin**



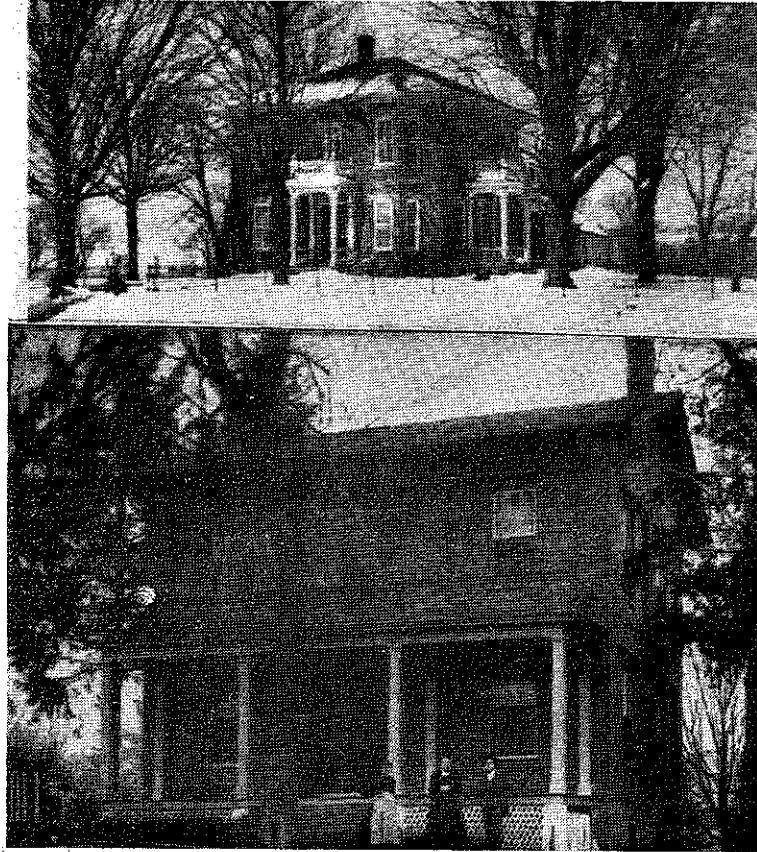
This corner is Mount Vernon's most historic spot. Here Richard Harbert built the first log cabin in which occurred the first birth, his daughter Hulda, and the first death in the town, that of his daughter Galena. The old brick home was built by Dr. Carhart and later occupied by Dr. James Carson. It is the present home of Dr. Thomas L. Wolfe.

The office on the corner, built in 1912 is the business location of Dr. Wolfe, the law office of his son Richard B. Wolfe, and the real estate office of Grace B. Wolfe.

### **Home of S. H. Bauman on Main St.**



This picture of the Bauman home, Mr. and Mrs. Bauman, Gus and May, was taken early in the seventies. The house was built by M. F. Ink and occupied by the Ink family until they moved to the farm soon after the end of the Civil War. It is now the home of the Hawkeye-Record, offices of Dr. E. C. Prall and Al Morrissey, with the lovely pent-house apartment of Mrs. Cordia Bauman on the second floor.



*Upper Picture—*

This beautiful country home just south of town was built by Wesley West in 1877 on land he had bought when he came in '58. Contractors were Marsden Keyes and Charles Davis. Cornices and scrolls on the porch were made by hand and the big lawn is enclosed by a hand-wrought iron fence made by Mr. T. S. Kenderdine of Lisbon. It was remodeled by David West in 1899 and is now the home of his widow and daughters, Mrs. A. M. Hull and Miss Grace West.

*Lower Picture—*

This old home was built in a very early day by Elder Bowman and was once owned by Alpha J. Kynett, founder and secretary of the Board of Extension of the Methodist church. It was purchased by his sister, Mrs. Asenath J. Burnett, shortly after the Civil War. In the picture are Mrs. Burnett, center, Mrs. Althea Venard, and Frank Heald. It has been extensively remodeled by subsequent owners, Mrs. Eva Eno and Mrs. Dora LeGrand, and the present owner Professor Mark Hutchinson.



The Reuben Ash homestead, overlooking Ash Park, was built between the years 1854-'63 on the site of an early log cabin of 1838. Mr. Ash often rested in the shade of the large maple tree on the corner. In turn this was the home of Professor H. A. Mills and G. E. Stinger and is now owned by Roy A. Nelson.

The Iorns house was built by C. C. Haskins, one of the earliest settlers in Mount Vernon and father-in-law of Lieut. Webster, Cornell's first military officer. Purchased by Mrs. Rebecca Iorns sometime in the 80's it was sold by her daughter to P. W. Peterson, who remodeled it and eventually sold it to Mr. and Mrs. James W. McCutcheon.

## The Dr. Ebersole and Williams Houses



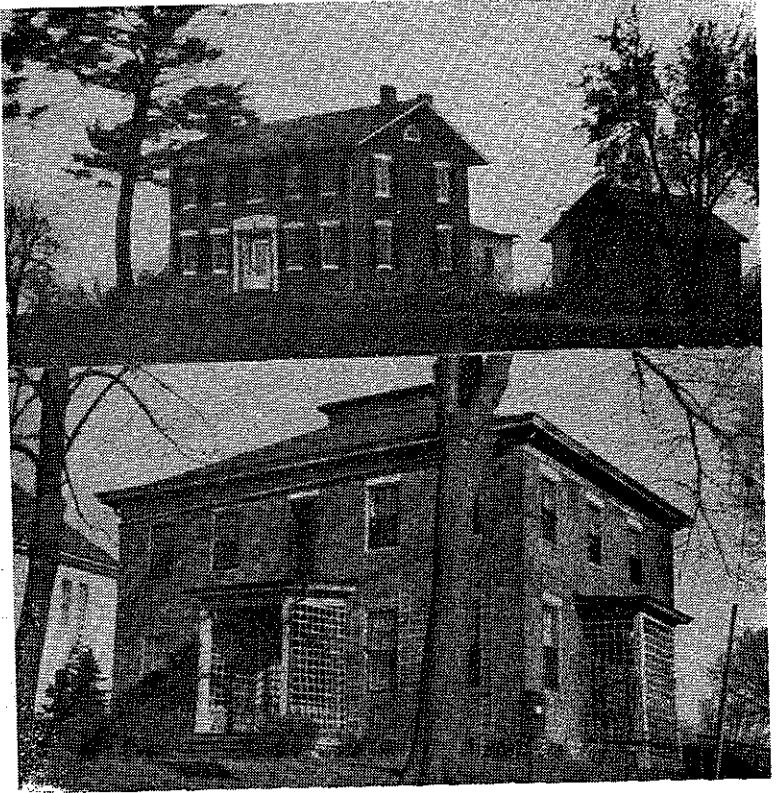
### *Upper Picture—*

Mount Vernon's first brick house, built by Henry D. Albright in 1853. Remodeled by Dr. F. F. Ebersole, it is now his home and office.

### *Lower Picture—*

Although the cornerstone bears the inscription "First Presbyterian Church 1859 A.D." this house was never used as a church. Once the workshop of William Brackett, it was sold to Prof. S. N. Williams and used by the Williams family as a residence for forty years. It is now an apartment house—recently sold to Lorenzo Siver.

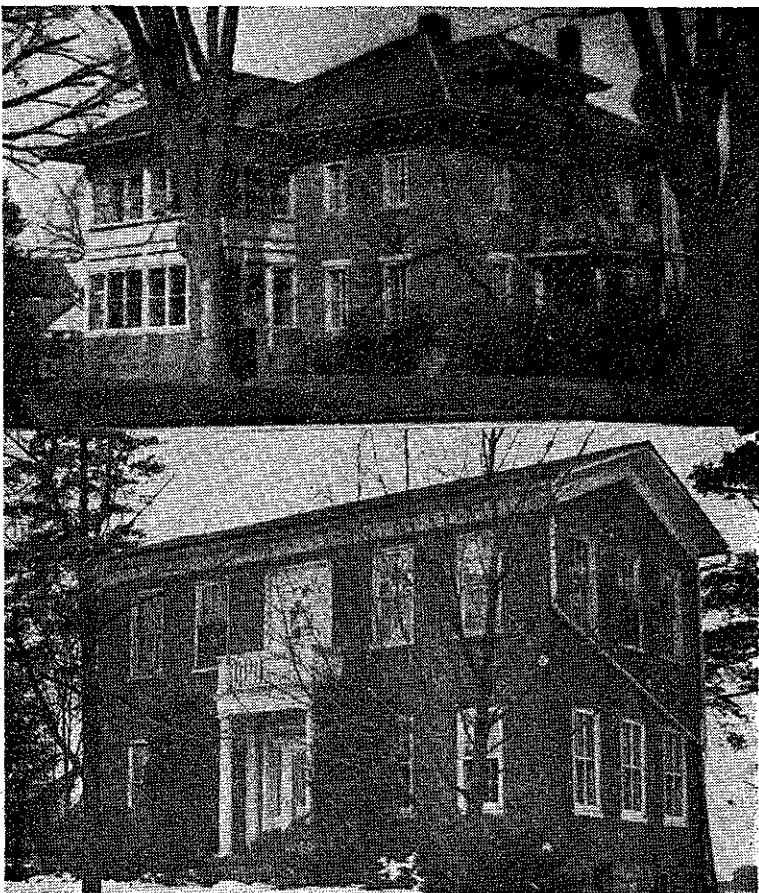
## Al Morrissey and Mrs. C. A. Haak Homes



Home of Al Morrissey. It was built by Augustus Bauman (father of Simon Bauman) between 1854-1857. Later it was the home of David Platner, whose son-in-law George Camp purchased it from the heirs.

The home of a pioneer physician Dr. J. Doron. It once had a widow's walk on top. For many years this was a student's rooming and boarding house. It is now owned and occupied by Mrs. C. A. Haak and her grandson.

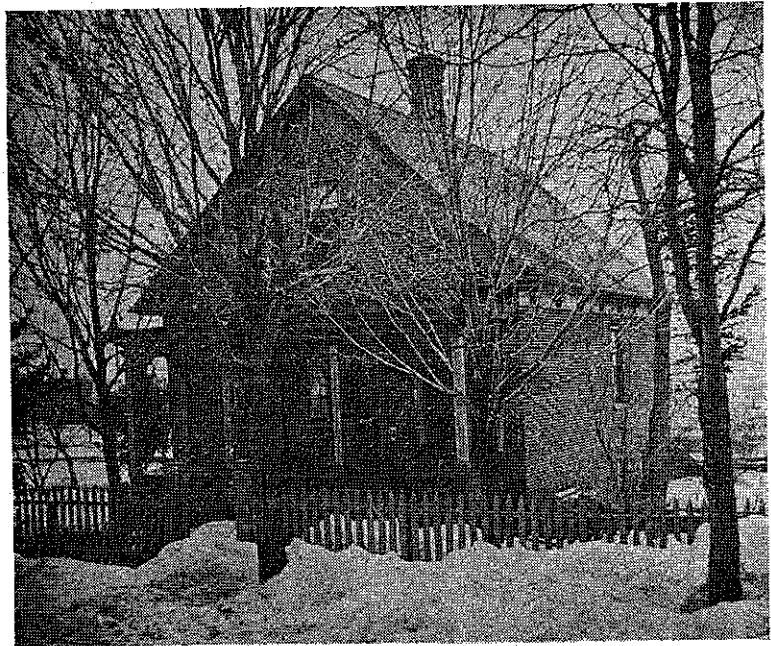
## The Klimo and Hughes Residences



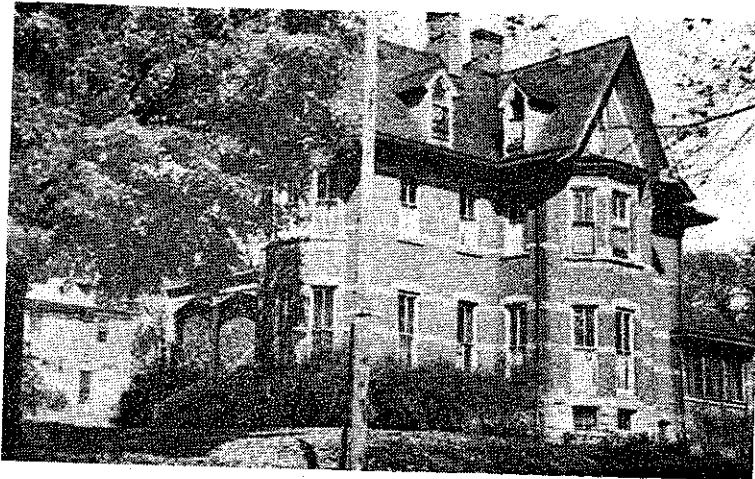
This old brick home was built about 1870 by Martha, widow of Thomas Craig. It was owned and occupied for a number of years by Mr. and Mrs. Jay Craig Boyd and family and sold by them to John Klimo. Here "Jake" entertains every year the members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra after the final concert of the May Music Festival.

In this house in 1861 little Edgar Brackett concealed his two-year old sister, Clara, under the chintz valance of a daybed, while five Indians, who had bolted in the front door, were interesting themselves in pulling feathers out of the tail of the family's pet parrot. The incident is related in Elisabeth Ford's book, *No Hour of History*. The house was built in the 1850's by Mr. Knott, a pioneer merchant. It was the home of Mrs. Jessie Hughes for sixty years.

### The Keedick Home of 1876



The Keedick home as it was in 1876. The original owner was George B. Bowman, and it was the home of Cornell's first preceptress, Susan E. Hale. The picture shows Leonard Keedick and his mother.

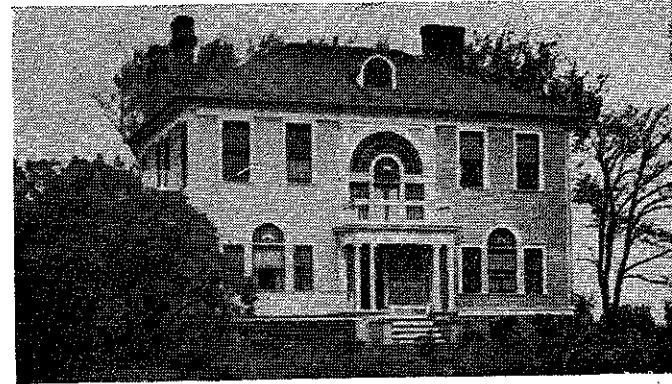


Boyd House, the home of Dr. and Mrs. Hugh Boyd, was built in 1876 by William Brackett and Marsden Keyes. It was designed by the same architect who planned King Memorial Chapel and is notable for its fine stone work, walnut casings, and walnut and maple floors. The Gothic type arch in the main hall and the beautiful winding stairway, the work of Mr. Keyes, are distinctive features. Many guests have enjoyed the hospitality of the Boyd family. It is now the home of Dr. and Mrs. Chester L. Rich.



This, the home of Colonel H. H. Rood, is typical of the architecture of the early 80's. It was built on the site of E. L. Guild's potato patch, according to Leonard Keedick, and he knew because as a small boy he rode the horse while Mr. Guild had his hands on the plow. A social center for many years, it was bought by the Cornell class of 1894 and presented to the college in 1919 to be used as a women's dormitory. In 1936 the home of Dr. Alexander Crawford was annexed to Rood House.

### **Collin House**



This spacious, beautifully proportioned house was designed by an Eastern architect for Prof. H. A. Collin in the nineties. The large circular window was painted by Miss Isherwood. Standing just west of the White House on land bought from President King, it commands a magnificent view in all directions. It was bought from George and Ruth Collin Burge by the college to be used as an apartment house for faculty members. Now as in the time of Professor and Mrs. Collin the house is the scene of gracious living and hospitality.

### **The A. J. Rogers Home**



This home just west of the City Hall and built by E. S. Bargelt, was for many years the home of Mayor Myron K. Neff. After his death it was used as a funeral home by his son C. W. Neff. It is now the home of A. J. Rogers. In the basement are his printing shop and the express office.



This house typical of the 90's, was built by W. E. Platner who operated the stone quarry and a hardware store. It is now the Johnston-Morgan Funeral Home.



This is the site and part of original home owned and occupied by the Spangler family who operated the pottery. It is just west of the Neff Funeral Home, and is now the Dana Stearns Apartment House.

## The C. W. Neff Funeral Home



The location was originally owned by Elder Bowman who sold it to Thomas Clark. The home was erected by the Clarks who sold it a number of years later to Doctors George W. and Kate Mason Hogle for a home and hospital.



Part of the front part of this house is believed to have been built by John Wolfe, grandfather of Dr. T. L. Wolfe and G. G. Wolfe, when he operated the ferry at Ivanhoe before the bridge was built. In the picture are Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Laing, and daughters Lillian and Jean, and son Darrell and R. B. Wolfe, great grandson of John Wolfe.

## Chapter 21

## Appendix

### Civil War Record

Alexander, Jeremiah, Captain	Conaway, Alonzo *	Hallock, Samuel H.
Antles, David	Cookus, Joseph	Hamilton, David A.
Arford, John J. *	Cooper, Aaron	Hamilton, Samuel
Arrasmith, Willis *	Cooper, Isaac	Hamon, Andrew
Ballard, Cassius	Cornell, Smith	Hampton, Jesse
Ballard, Nathan U.	Coveston, Henry C.	Handley, Arba L.
Barks, Walter *	Cowan, John	Hanna, George
Barager, Zacheus	Dagley, William	Hansall, John *
Barkus, Joel	Daugherty, Robert	Hansall, Lewis
Barnes, George *	Devore, Elijah	Harmon, Spear
Barr, John	Dimmitt, Wilbur C., Captain	Harbert, Richard
Bedell, David	Doty, Andrew *	Harper, Josapn
Billington, Israel	Doty, George *	Harrison, Josiah *
Birdsall, Charles *	Downing, Preston	Hart, Franklin
Bogart, Lafayette *	Dundore, John	Hart, Horace
Boxwell, Moses	Dunn, Isaiah	Hastings, John
Boyd, Abraham	Easterly, Jacob	Haynes, Henry *
Boyd, Isaac	Ebersole, Ezra	Hayes, James C.
Bradshaw, Centenary, Captain	Esgate, Charles W.	Hayzlett, Edward *
Brenneman, Abraham	Everhart, Jacon *	Hayzlett, John G.
Brenneman, Amos	Everhart, Peter	Hayzlett, Joseph *
Brenneman, Benjamin	Fairchild, John,	Hayzlett, Richard *
Brenneman, Christopher	Ferguson, Jackson D. *	Hergeshamel, Samuel
Brooks, James	Fink, John W.	Herman, Anton *
Brown, Allen S. *	Finnegan, William	Hinckley, William
Bunce, Hiram	Firkins, John W.	Hines, George
Bunce, Milo	Fitz, John A.	Hipp, John T.
Burge, William	Fitz, James	Huyck, William *
Buswell, William	Forrest, Asa	Hyatt, Joseph *
Butler, Benjamin E.	Fuller, Alonzo	Id, John
Byam, Charles L.	Gager, George	Ingram, Albert L.
Byam, Commodore	Garnett, Robert *	Isham, Oliver D.
Byam, Eber C., Colonel	Geiger, John *	John, George *
Byam, William	Geiger, Solomon	Johnston, Abel
Camp, Daniel	Gilliland, Nathan *	Johnston, John *
Camp, William	Glenn, Oliver	Johnston, Samuel
Carhart, Garretson	Goodman, George *	Kafer, Chris
Carmichael, Albert *	Goudy, Cyrus	Kafer, Mathias
Carnahan, Joseph *	Goudy, John	Kamberling, Henry
Carniey, Peter *	Goudy, Joseph	Keith, Frederick
Clow, Samuel *	Graver, Frank	Kellogg, Walter
Cochran, Wallace *	Hale, Horatio S.	Kendig, Amos B.
Cole, Anderson *	Hale, Thomas W. S. *	Kennedy, Justin C., Lt. Colonel
Coleman, Adam	Hall, George	Kennedy, Richard
Comstock, William L.	Hall, George W.	Kepler, Charles W., Captain
Conner, Charles W.	Hall, William	Kepler, Edgar
	Hallock, Henry	

## HISTORY OF MOUNT VERNON

Kepler, John	Neal, James E.	Smith, Stephen
Kepler, Monroe	Nicholson, James B.	Smith, Thaddeus L.
Kern, Peter *	Norris, Thomas	Snow, Dennis T.
Klinach, Chris *	Norris, William	Stevens, Vincent
Knott, A. R., Captain	Oldham, James T.	Stewart, Edward
Kountz, Thompson	Oldham, James F.	Stewart, Robert B.
Lacock, Albert	Pendergast, Edward *	Stewart, William C. *
Lanning, John	Pisel, John *	Stine, John
Largent, John M.	Plasket, Samuel	Stinger, Andrew *
Lattimer, William	Platner, William H.	Stinger, Theodore *
Looby, Patrick	Porter, James	Stream, Fenton
Mabee, Levi	Rathburn, Robert S.	Taft, Linas *
Marshall, Joseph	Rayborn, John *	Taylor, Martin T.
Mason, Edwin	Reed, Alexander C.	Taylor, Martin W.
Mason, John	Renfrew, John *	Thompson, Robert *
Mason, Levi *	Rice, James	Thompson, William
Matthews, James H.	Robinson, John W.	Torrence, Boyd *
Matson, James	Roder, George *	Turner, Charles
Maxon, Jonathan *	Rogers, Robert M.	Turner, George
McAfferty, Benjamin *	Rogers, Robert W.	Turner, Washington *
McClaskey, John R.	Rood, Henry H., Colonel	Twomley, Peter
McClelland, Benjamin *	Rose, James P. *	Umstead, Samuel *
McCoy, A. Clark *	Rundall, Shedrick *	Van Sant, James
McCoy, George W.	Rupert, Jacob	Van Sant, Richard
McCoy, Joseph	Safely, John J.	Varnar, Francis *
McDowell, George	Safely, John Jr.	Walling, Oscar *
McElroy, Isaiah	Safely, Andrew	Walling, Washington
McElroy, Josiah	Safely, Socrates *	Waln, Alonzo T.
McFarland, James	Safley, John	Walton, Alfred
McRoberts, George	Scott, John W.	Warren, William *
McRoberts, William	Shafer, William H.	Weaver, David *
McWilliams, Francis *	Shaver, Jacob K.	Westlake, Samuel *
McWilliams, John C.	Shaver, John	White, James G. *
Mitchell, William	Simons, Calvin R.	Whitlatch, Adam
Morford, James	Smith, Alonzo B.	Wilds, John Q., Colonel
Morgan, John W.	Smith, Amadel	Williams, George W.
Muntz, Peter	Smith, George S. *	Winterstein, Louis
Myers, Charles A.	Smith, Jackson	Witter, Amos B. *
Myers, Joseph V.	Smith, James W.	Wolcott, William
Myers, Wesley	Smith, James B.	Woodcox, Isaac *
Myers, William	Smith, Joseph W.	Woodward, Moses
Neal, Horace	Smith, Robert S.	Young, George W.



\* Died in Action

### Spanish American War

The Spanish-American War, being of lesser magnitude and shorter duration, did not change the way of life of the community as did World Wars I and II. The young men who entered the service were missed, but one was not conscious at every turn that a war was on. Uncle Sam was unprepared for this conflict, so living conditions of the soldiers and sailors were very poor, comparable to those existing during the Civil War.

Joe Bennett says that the four National Guard regiments were called to Des Moines, and their barracks were the cattle sheds of the State Fair grounds. They were busy drilling until June 13, 1898 when they were entrained for Jacksonville, Florida. There they camped in the middle of a swamp and were soon flooded out, but not until dysentery, malaria, and typhoid fever had taken their toll. Fortunately no deaths of Mount Vernon men occurred while in service. Early in December they were brought back to Savannah, Georgia, and from there they sailed to Havana to become part of the Army of Occupation. On May 1 they were returned to Savannah and discharged May 13, 1899.

The following twelve may be listed as Mount Vernon men, though some were not living here at time of enlistment.

Bair, Robert	Grove, Perry	Kuebler, Frank
Bennett, Joe	Hahn, Claude	Lozier, Horace G.
Day, John Lewis	Hahn, Victor	McIntyre, Will
Fogg, Joe	Hartman, Claus	Scobey, Guy

The names of the men, dates of enlistment and discharge, names of their companies and addresses follow:

- Bair, Robert — May 7, '98-May 13, '99, Co. F 49th Iowa, Cedar Rapids Iowa  
Bennett, Joe — May 1, '98-May 13, '99, Co. F 49th Iowa, Mt. Vernon, Iowa  
Day, John Lewis — May 7, '98, Transferred to 2nd Division 7th Army Hospital Corps, Major World War I, Supt. of Hospital, Supply, Oklahoma.  
\* Fogg, Joe — June 5, '98-May 13, '99, Co. A 49th Iowa, Cleveland, Ohio  
\* Grove, Perry — June 15, '98, Co. H 51st Iowa, Trasferred to 19th Co. U.S. Signal Corps and sent to Philippines March 18, 1899, Ames, Iowa  
\* Hahn, Claude — May 7, '98-May 13, '99, Co. F 49th Iowa, He lost his life in explosion at Cedar Rapids Starch Works.  
\* Hahn, Victor — May 7, '98-May 13, '99, Co. F 49th Iowa, Killed by train at Mount Vernon depot.  
Hartman, Claus — April 26, '98-April 12, '99, Co. F 49th Iowa, Litchville, North Dakota.  
Kuebler, Frank — May 7, '98-May 13, '99 Co. F 49th Iowa, Los Angeles, Calif.  
Lozier, Horace G. — Co. A First Illinois Volunteer Infantry in the Civil Engineering Department. In service at Porto Rico, Glen Ellyn, Illinois.  
McIntyre, William — June 22, '98-May 13, '99, Co. F 49th Iowa, San Diego, California.  
Scobey, Guy — June 28, '98-May 13, '99, Co. B 49th Iowa, Mt. Vernon, Iowa.

\* Deceased

## World War I

Adams, Donald	Emerson, John	Lee, William
Adams, Parker	Eystone, Arthur	Le Grand, Lloyd
Albright, Charles	Eystone, Walter	Ligier, Charles
Alexander, Fred	Fawcett, Raymond	Little, William
Alexander, Robert	Funchaw, Guy	Lott, Albert
Bair, Carl	Finger, Newton	Lott, Robert
Bair, Russell	Fishel, Newell	Lott, Walter
Bartosh, Henry	Flowers, George	Manning, Pitt
Beach, Charles	Forrest, Dwight	Martin, Frank
Beach, Edgar	Foster, Floyd	Matthews, Glenn
Benesh, Glenn	Foster, Fred	Maxwell, Harold
Benesh, Harry	Fulwider, Forrest	McIntyre, Archibald
Bennett, Gardner	Gaston, Samuel	McIntyre, William
Bowen, Clark *	Gaston, Seville	McKay, Lawrence
Boxwell, Ralph	Gearhart, G. L.	McKune, George
Boyd, Donald	Glassier, E. L.	McKune, Warren
Brace, Paul	Gormly, Irene *	Meade, Joseph
Brackett, Frank	Goudy, Merle	Merwin, Dale
Brooke, Donald	Graham, Bliss	Michalek, Harry
Brooke, Howard	Hahn, Ralph **	Milholin, Harry
Broulik, Emil	Haynes, Glenn	Milholin, Jay
Brown, Harlan	Herring, Ray	Miller, Alvin
Browning, Glenn	Herring, William	Miller, Cephas
Burge, Carl	Hinkley, Verne	Miller, Elmer
Burge, Ellsworth	Hogle, Allen	Mills, Herbert
Burnett, Clyde	Hogle, Berton	Mills, Robert
Busenbark, Paul	Hogle, DeWitt	Minnick, Harold
Butler, DeLancy	Hogle, George	Mitchell, Earl
Caraway, Ray	Hogle, Merle	Morrow, Wilson
Carney, Philip	Howard, Chester Roe **	Mosey, Owen
Casper, Franklin	Hughes, Willard	Mudd, John
Casstevens, James	Hurlburt, John	Nicholas, Howard
Chassell, Joseph	Hurlburt, Russell	Noska, Charles
Clampitt, William	Hurlburt, William	Novak, Joseph
Clark, Howard	Ink, Dwight	Parsons, Rufus
Clemvitt, W. F.	Jessup, Stephen	Paul, Lee
Clymer, Charles	Johnson, Carl	Platner, Harry
Clymer, Harry	Johnson, Clyde	Plattenberger, Luther
Cole, Wilfred	Johnson, Leonard	Power, Wilbur
Cork, Lawrence	Johnston, Harold	Renner, George
Cottingham, Claude	Johnston, Marvin	Reyhons, Joseph
Craft, Merritt	Johnston, Raymond	Rogers, Glenn
Current, Lawrence	Jones, Dale	Rordorf, Oscar
Current, Walter	Kelly, Thomas	Rumble, Earl *
Davidson, Glenn	Kepfer, Louis	Rumble, Hubert
Dee, Glenn	Kepler, Merle	Saurs, Walter
Dee, Harold	Keve, Vincent	Seward, Wesley
Dolezal, Emil	Klinefelter, Harry	Shaffer, Wallace
Du Bois, Jack	Knox, William	Siggins, Harry
Duke, Lewis	Kohl, Leroy	Smith, Dilman
Dunham, Ralph	Kreimberling, George	Smith, Edwin
Dvorak, Frank	Krob, Frank	Smith, Horace
Dvorak, Joseph **	Lahman, Clair	Smyth, Robert
Ebersole, Charles	Lahman, Clifford	Snyder, Lloyd
Ebersole, Francis	Leaper, Clyde	Steeley, Clinton
Eiken, Sigmund	Leasure, George	Stewart, Ray

Stinger, Arlo	Travis, Oren W.	Wilcox, Alfred
Stoneking, Roy	Travis, Quincy	Wilcox, Charles
Stump, Omar	Turner, George	Wilcox, Myron
Sutliff, Edgar	Vanderham, Leo	Wildman, Harry
Tallman, Elmer	Vanderham, Lloyd	Williams, Howard
Tanberg, Rex	Van Pelt, John H.	Wilson, Byron
Terrell, Harry	Van Pelt, Robert	Windenberg, Dwight
Terrell, Thomas	Warren, Harry	Windenberg, Earl
Thompson, Cecil	Watson, William	Yerger, Charles
Thompson, L. Dow	West, Estol	Young, Forrest *
Thompson, Tracy	West, Irwin	Young, Fred
Torrance, Merrill	West, Karl	Young, James
Travis, Carl	West, Lawrence	Young, Frank
Travis, Earl	West, Louis	Young, Reid

\* Died in Service

### World War II

Armstrong, Mervyn	Cook, Darwin D.	Fisher, Howard
Allsup, Harry S.	Coppock, Myron	Fisher, Robert L.
Arrington, Jerry	Coppock, Melvin	Ford, David
Bailey, Otis	Carmar, Delbert	Foster, Leora
Barrett, Harlan E.	Cooper, Joe	Foster, William
*Beach, Harold	Crumbaugh, Robert	Franta, Robert
Becicka, George	Current, Don	Gage, Robert
Becker, James	Current, Robert	Gaines, Robert
Bennett, Howard	Cunningham, Glen	Gill, Robert
Bennett, Robert	Davis, John	Gillette, Charles
Beranek, Robert	Davis, Luther	Gilliland, Francis
Beranek, Joseph	Dean, Lloyd	Goudy, William F.
Bixby, James	Dew, Forrest V.	Gough, Vincent
Blaine, Victor	Dick, Donald	Gray, Walter
*Blinks, David	Diehl, John	Grisham, Acie R.
Blood, Hillis	Doughby, Robert	Hawker, James F.
Bowman, Ralph	Dolezal, Donald	Hartenberger, Robert
Boyer, Philip	Drahos, Louis	Hayes, John
Boyer, Virgil	Duncan, Dale	Hemenway, Ward
Bridges, Gordon	Druger, Cornelius	Herring, Donald
Brace, Paul, Jr.	Dvorak, Louise	Herring, Harold
Burge, Merrill	Dvorak, Hubert	Herring, Webb
Burgess, Walter	Dvorak, Richard	Higbie, Charles
Burnett, Richard	Dye, James	Hoffman, Harold
Burnett, Billy	Edwards, David	Hoffman, William
Busenbark, Richard	Edwards, Earl E.	Hoyt, Lillian
Butler, Kenneth	Ellison, Arlo	Hoyt, Richard
Butler, Leo	Ellison, Carl	Hokenson, Charles
Bryant, Robert	Ellison, Lloyd	Hubler, Willard
Carney, Walter	Emerson, Charles	Hull, David
Carleton, Henry	Emerson, Homer	Hunt, Kellogg
Campbell, Carleton	Evans, Leoral	Hunter, Donald
Clark, Darrell E.	Evitts, Charles	Hunter, Wayne
Clark, Irvin P.	Eyre, James	Hutchinson, Mark, Jr.
Clark, Wayne B.	Farr, Maurice	Jaynes, Vernon
Campbell, Donald	Fischer, Albert J.	Jilovec, Milo
Caldwell, Paul	Fischer, David	Johnson, Eldon
Collins, La Vern	Fischer, Howard	Johnson, Mattie

## HISTORY OF MOUNT VERNON

Johnston, Howard R.  
 Johnston, Lawrence  
 Jorgenson, Warren  
 Kohler, Arnold  
 Kaplan, William J.  
 Kepler, Merton  
 Keve, Vincent  
 King, James  
 Kirkpatrick, Leo  
 Kirkpatrick, Roe  
 Klein, Charles  
 Kleineck, Richard  
 Klimo, Claude  
 Klimo, John, Jr.  
 Klimo, Vernon  
 Koch, Milton, Jr.  
 \*Koch, Samuel S.  
 Koch, Jack  
 Koch, James  
 Kolek, Burton  
 Krauer, James  
 Kruckenberg, W. G.  
 Krumm, Clarence  
 Krumm, Don  
 Krumm, Don M.  
 Kyle, Robert  
 Lake, Raymond  
 Lane, John  
 Larson, LaVerne  
 Lathrop, George Dee  
 Leighr, Donald  
 Luettjohan, Donald  
 Lathrop, Franklin  
 Luettjohan, Charles V.  
 Luettjohan, Charles  
 Litts, William  
 Longerbeam, Bobby  
 Longerbeam, Jackson  
 Longerbeam, Judd, Jr.  
 Longerbeam, Seward  
 Lusted, Keith  
 MacGregor, John  
 MacGaw, Bradford  
 Manning, Phelps  
 Martin, Ray  
 Martin, Roy  
 Marx, Donald  
 Marx, Edwin  
 McLaughlin, Charles  
 McLaughlin, James  
 McSpadden, Don  
 Merritt, Donald  
 Merritt, Robert  
 Meroshek, Frank  
 Meyer, Arthur  
  
 Midkiff, Hazel  
 Miller, Erroll  
 Miller, Dwight  
 Milholin, Robert  
 Minear, George  
 Miner, Glenn  
 Miner, Maurice  
 Minnick, Donald  
 Mitchell, Leo  
 Moots, Elmer  
 Morrow, Lynn  
 Needles, Elson, Jr.  
 \*Nelson, Harlan  
 Netolicky, Antone  
 Orms, Howard  
 Paul, Vernon  
 Peet, J. N.  
 Peterson, James  
 Petrick, Edward  
 \*Petrick, Leo  
 Petrick, Robert  
 Peterson, Clifford, W.  
 Pitlik, Merrill  
 Pospisil, Joe, Jr.  
 Pospisil, Philip  
 Powers, Dell  
 Pratt, Elmer  
 Pringle, Don W.  
 Quant, Edward B.  
 Quinn, Blair  
 Rich, Bruce  
 Richardson, Delbert  
 Richler, George  
 Ries, Peter  
 Rodman, Loren  
 Rodman, Roy  
 Rogers, Edwin  
 Rogers, William  
 Rompot, George  
 Rompot, Robert  
 Russell, Robert  
 Sadler, Vernon  
 Sailor, Harlan  
 Sanderson, Don  
 \*Sanderson, Robert  
 Schroeder, George  
 Schroeder, William  
 Scobey, Warren  
 Scroggie, Robert  
 Sedlacek, Joe  
 Shoemaker, Edgar  
 Simonds, Arlo  
 Simonds, Ivan  
 Simonds, Maurice  
 Sindelar, Carl M.  
  
 Sindelar, Joseph  
 Sipple, Waunetta  
 Slaght, Morley  
 Smith, George  
 Smith, Richard W.  
 Smith, Robert  
 Snyder, Paul J.  
 Sproston, William  
 Still, Harold  
 Stinger, Dale  
 Stoneking, DeWayne  
 Stoneking, Ivan  
 Stoneking, Marvin  
 Stoneking, Willard  
 Strong, D. Harris  
 Studt, Harold  
 Tonne, John  
 Tonne, Lauren  
 Tonne, Warren  
 Tonne, Siegfred  
 Tracy, Ida  
 Travis, Fred L.  
 Travis, Lawrence  
 Travis, Dale  
 Travis, Oren, Jr.  
 Vrooman, Howard  
 Vodicka, Rudy  
 Walton, Raymond  
 Walton, John W.  
 Webb, Cato  
 Wilder, Gladys  
 Williams, Sylvester F.  
 Winsor, Monroe  
 Wolfe, John D.  
 Wolfe, Thomas L.  
 Woods, Edward J.  
 Wooff, Betty  
 Wooff, Thomas G.  
 Wooff, William, Jr.  
 Worrell, John K.  
 Worrell, Marjorie  
 Yeasley, Laurence  
 Young, Elywood  
 Zinkula, Joseph

\* Deceased

*Red Cross*  
 Downs, Dorothy  
 Hill, Gerald

*U.S.O.*

Osgood, E. J.

**Mayors Of The Town**

Year	Mayors	Recorder-Clerk
1869	L. L. Pease	S. H. Bauman
1870	L. L. Pease	S. H. Bauman
1871	H. A. Collin	S. H. Bauman
1872	H. A. Collin	S. H. Bauman
1873	H. A. Collin	W. G. Power
1874	N. W. McKean	W. G. Power
1875	David Platner	Myron K. Neff
1876	C. M. Sessions	Myron K. Neff
1877	D. L. Boyd	W. E. Platner
1878	James Smyth	J. V. Myers
1880	E. T. Gough	A. J. Power
1882	R. J. Harbert	J. V. Myers
1884	M. K. Neff	J. V. Myers
1886	J. V. Myers	Ira Eberhart
1888	C. W. Kepler	J. V. Myers
1890	C. M. Sessions	J. V. Myers
1892	Jas. Smith	Fred Neff
1894	M. K. Neff	C. S. Carley
1896	M. K. Neff	C. S. Carley
1897	T. A. Gormly	Charles Colton
1898	T. A. Gormly	W. E. Gamble
1902	Elwood Macy	W. E. Gamble
1903	Elwood Macy	W. V. Chambers
1906	J. A. Hiner	W. V. Chambers
1908	H. S. Webber	W. V. Chambers
1910	E. T. Gruwell	W. E. Gamble
1912	W. W. Carlton	W. E. Gamble
1914	T. I. Mitchell	W. E. Gamble
1916	Dr. T. L. Wolfe	Chas. D. Maybauer
1918	D. E. Hedges	N. B. Twogood
1922	Thos. Rogers	N. B. Twogood
1924	T. I. Mitchell	W. E. Gamble
1926	Freeman Current	T. I. Mitchell
1930	Dr. John Bryant	T. I. Mitchell
1934	S. L. Chandler	T. I. Mitchell
1938	Roy Nelson	T. I. Mitchell
1944	Chester Rich	R. R. Coddling
1946	John F. Gaston	H. C. Dilley

**Incorporators of the Town**

Original Plat .....	C	45	Feb. 26, 1848
	12	363	Mar. 15, 1891
Bowman's Addition .....	J	107	Apr. 15, 1855
Saxby's Addition .....	K	91	June 15, 1855
Hall's Addition .....	1	488	May 12, 1856
Cornell College Addition .....	2	409	Feb. 3, 1857
Saxby's 2nd Addition .....	2	448	Feb. 14, 1857
Bauman's Addition .....	3	210	Mar. 12, 1857
McKean's Addition .....	3	125	June 25, 1857
Hall's 2nd Addition .....	3	362	Nov. 14, 1857
E. D. Waln's Addition .....	4	39	June 9, 1858
Bowman's 2nd Addition .....	4	76	June 28, 1858
N Mt. Vernon Addition .....	5	50	June 3, 1860
Young's Addition .....	5	221	Nov. 27, 1860
Boulevard Addition .....	187	576	July 16, 1892
Ash Park Addition .....	193	578	Aug. 17, 1893
Keyes Addition .....	218	80	Apr. 14, 1896
Davis 1st Addition .....	259	29	Mar. 19, 1902
Turkle-Stouffer Addition .....	274	26	July 22, 1903
Davis 2nd Addition .....	274	266	Feb. 29, 1903
Davis 2nd Addition .....	274	266	Feb. 29, 1904
Cornell Addition .....	274	356	June 20, 1904
Waites Addition .....	274	441	July 28, 1904

## Graduates of the High School

	1879	Anson Burge Ella Davis Edna Kepler Maud McKean Cora Manly	Clara Carson Cordia Stevenson Lois E. Foster Amelia Hannabs J. D. Blackwell Ora Kamberling Florence Blackwell Fred M. Kemp
George Garson			
	1880 and 1881		
Hattie Sargent Florella Goudy Katherine Rush Harry Ellison Tola Clark John Wolfe Alexander Cooper Ella Owen Lon Waln Laura Phillips Laura Wentz Charlie Puffer Lizzie Conklin Clara Bockstaller		Effie Border Julia McLane Charles R. Keyes George H. Burge Grace Foster William C. Alden Fred S. Alden Blanche Blackwell Nannie Woodcox Bert Chubbs Ida H. Harbert Edward Safely Amelia Tregoning	Berton Hogle Gail Doron William Boyd Geneva Keyes Ross Gelston Robert Davis Mamie Moore Merrill Williams Nellie Shantz Amos Hauser Myrtle Young Collins Lynn Anna Ford Leon Moore Jessie Carson Vida Lynn
	1882		
Ethelda Burge Lenore Fancher Otis Kepler Alvina Minnick Willa Goudy Letta Rose		Delos Davis Addie Firkins Matti Kemp Mary Kepler Birtie Keyes Kate Hambleton Addie Wardle Anna Sherk Edna Randall Mabel Gelston	Robert Bair Fred Bauman Mary Collin Cora Colton Nellie Herrick Nellie Bennett Charles Owen Lulu Alexander Harry Simonds Fanny Hicks Ella Sherk Carrie Sherk Clarence Davis Blanche Hoover Stella Högé Freeman Lewis Myrtle Young Charles West Mary E. Witter
	1883		
Ella Thomas Birdie Kepler Stella Thomas Jess Hale Lois C. Miller Anna A. Little		Jessie Sherwood C. William Neff Jay C. Boyd Lucy Wheeler J. Bert Fish Myrtle Moore Frank Beels Lulu Skillman May Wardle Sara Tregoning	Grace Wolfe Mabel Gough Flora Minnick John T. Bair May Butcher Mabel Shirer Susie Cowan Frank Davis
	1884		
No class			
	1885		
Carrie Ellen Keyes William D. Kemp Matti Goudy Grant C. Miller Frank Kemp Belle Siggins Cora Edith Fancher Hattie Keyes Mary Rose Bertha Middlekauff Jennie Rinehart		Irene Aler Joseph Bennett Guy Blackwell Helen Collin Frank Collins Roy Colton James Coombes Lucile Davis	
	1886		
No class			
	1887		
Erma Breneman Geneva Shantz			

## HISTORY OF MOUNT VERNON

Kate Williams	Rose Reynolds	Mary Hill	
Lewis Day	Sadie Scriven	Karl Keyes	
Thomas Gelston	Lena Hahn	Will Kyle	
Minnie Greenman	Rhea Davis	Maud Petty	
Julia Hoover	Florin Ink	Louise Spry	
Elizabeth Platner	Vernie Kuebler	Clyde Stuntz	
Ernest Rayner	Clyde Rayner	Howard Twogood	
Margaret Scammon	Grace Kepler	Cleo West	
Fred Tathwell	May Savidge	Grace West	
Emma Wardle	Mary Hann	Ethel Willard	
<b>1896</b>			
Louis H. Kepler	Helen Smyth	1903	
William G. Shirer	William Hahn	Wm. Alexander	
Hulda Anderson	Archie Dawson	Ruth Berryman	
Daisy Hutson	Carl Hauser	Emma Falcon	
Jessie Stauffer	Edgar Beechley	Addie Grove	
Winnie Greenman	Grace Perkins	Jessie Hahn	
William McIntyre	Fred Blackwell	Clarence Rundell	
Samuel E. Bair	<b>1899</b>		
Nellie Robinson	Frank Brackett	Daisy Spry	
Helen Freer	Lucius Decker	Laura Spry	
Grace E. Thompson	Maurice Goding	Howard Stearns	
Lee Keedick	Glenn Martin	Laurence Swank	
Hattie Smith	Lewis Mitchell	Mae Turner	
Irvin Hauser	Horace Rayner	Gail West	
James M. Hannahs	Wm. Rundell	Leonard West	
Cuyler D. Spreng	Elsie Barrett	Marie West	
Cora Sherk	Bessie Barrett	Merle West	
Vernon Williams	Alice Carson	<b>1904</b>	
<b>1897</b>			
George Sherwood	Olive Decker	No class	
Jeanette Sniffen	Pearl Hill	<b>1905</b>	
Minnie Perkins	Florence Keyes	Charles Burge	
Clara Maxwell	Anna Smyth	Elva Emerson	
Maude Worrall	Ruby Wade	Essie Johnston	
Ruth Witter	Myrtle Arble	Clark Mangun	
Alice Smith	<b>1900</b>		
Charles Rundell	Robert Blackwell	John McClelland	
Ward Foster	Clara Bair	Ethel Petty	
Harry Shantz	Lulu Dresher	Edwin Swank	
Arthur Wade	Pauline Willix	<b>1906</b>	
Otis Moore	Ada Berryman	William Falcon	
Pearl Kempthorne	Alfred Berry	Jesse Heller	
Frank L. Hann	Freda Schultz	Bessie Persons	
William Martin	Margaret Hill	Arthur Stockton	
Charles Miller	<b>1901</b>		
Mortimer Colton	Fannie Alexander	Harold West	
Frank Kuebler	Harry Bennett	Irwin West	
Watson Kepler	Orpha Cheney	<b>1907</b>	
Fred Hannahs	Myrtle Herrick	Eva Bear	
<b>1898</b>			
Sara Gough	Maud Hughes	Maude Browning	
Minnie Kopf	Earl Kuebler	Lloyd Goodhue	
Harry Border	Kittie Moore	Walter Eyestone	
Homer Smith	Winifred Warren	Ralph Hill	
Stella Row	<b>1902</b>		
	Laura Cheney	Marie Kilheffer	
	Dewitt Davis	Harold Knight	
		Mabel Petty	
		Glady Rigby	
		Vera West	
		Virgie Wirt	

1908	1912	1916
Gardner Bennett Merritt Craft Gertrude Dodd Gretta Johnson Bessie Keith Oakley McNamee Grace Miller Ruth Power Eva Williams	Alta Chapman Arthur Codling Fred Clark Mattie Conrad Willard Dodd Florence Hogle Harry Milholin Earl Rumble Robert Smyth Clara Waln Harry Warren	Olivene Hahn Lucie Hickman Geraldine Hughes Thomas Kepler Isabel McKune Elmer Miller Wilson Morrow Helen Robb Hazel Smith Kenneth Yeisley
1909	1913	1917
Harold Chapman Emerson West Leonard Fackler Verne Hinkley Ross Cook Alden Cook Albert Lott Ruth Horton Ruth Howard Lois Howard	Arthur Twogood Melvin Haeseler Elmer Bair Esther Dunham Clarice Nissley Irene Gormly Clare Gormly Lois Gardner Lucia Fordyce Melitha Sanderson Florence Neff Irma Porter Elsie Sanderson Thressa Belknap	Elizabeth Anderson Mae Bair Winifred Carlton Marjorie Davis Elizabeth Dawson Erma Falcon Ethel Fulwider Ruth Giddings Warren McKune Greta Miller Hope Neidig Verna Neidig Adella Siggins Arlo Stinger Mary Tallman Helen Turner Ivan Hedges Agnes Johnson Clair Lahman Leola Van Tassell Helen Warren Harry Wildman
1910	1914	
Elizabeth Bennett May Henry Ethel Kyle Ethie Burge Elizabeth Hogle Alice Fawcett Anita Kepler William Little William Knox Clifford Johnston Estol West Harry Siggins Ruth West Florence Porter Clayton Pascoe Bertha West	Edna Belknap Mary Robb Geneva Renner Marguerite Klinefelter Grace Codling Marie Fawcett Laura Goudy Ruth Travis Dorothy Rogers Harriett Adams Margaret Hogle Merrill Torrance Lyall Bryant Arlo Sanderson Ross Clark Lloyd Edleman	Berton Hogle Russell Bair Glenn Browning Mildred Carson Eleanor Current Harold Dee Harold Davis Marguerite DuBois Frank Fairley Floyd Foster Samuel Gaston Ruth Winifred Heald Faith Johnson Genevieve Kuebler John Oliver Fairley George Leazer Lawrence McKay Morgan Nederheiser Eva Needles Alta Neff Isla Owen George Renner, Jr. William Stokol
1911	1915	
Ruth Barrett Celia Rogers Florence Goudy Beryl Griffith Erma Lee Irene Warren George Turner Wesley Rogers Zola Wirt Harold Johnson Jesse Hughes Willard Hughes Elizabeth Smith Glenn Rogers Glenn Hunt Herbert Rumble	Florence Baldwin Donald Boyd Florence Brackett Joseph Chassell Alma Christensen Walter Current Ralph Dunham Elva Fordyce Gladys Gearhart Mary Goudy	

## HISTORY OF MOUNT VERNON

Rose Tallman Enji Tsukasaki Lloyd Vanderham Golda Van Tassell Harriett Wilson Forrest Young Jennie Young	Donald Knight Louis Davis Francis McKay Coralie Howard Mae Le Guire Odette Buck William Chapman Catherine Flynn Helen Waln Ralph Harman Marshall Hickman Maurice Hartung Harper Arbingast	Katharine Turner Tillie Willimach
		1923
	Glenn A. Jones Dorothy Arbingast Grace Novak Wanita Keve Anna Lutz Corlyn Bauman Reid Young Harold Smyth Ethel E. Schaffer Winifred Goudy Fred Foster Ruth Maybauer Pearl Kleineck Thomas Terrell Inez G. Paulsen	Clara Beach Charles Alexander Alan Gormly Arthur Fickle Julian Johnston Catharine Keyes Margaret Titler John Kirkpatrick Florence Turner Caroline Kelley Marguerite LeGuire Mary Cork Charlotte Cullumber Helen McKune Forrest Dew Ida Tracy Robert Hunter Myron Ellison Morley Slaght Clifford Fawcett Homer Stockton
	1918	
	Esther Fishel Martha Lahman Lyle Vanderham Ruth Sutliff Helena Klinefelter Harriett Hogle Harriett Hoover Ruth Robb Gladys Robb Louis Maxwell Edith Fawcett Florence DuBois George Dunham Myrtle Thompson Gladys Current Paul Dee Faye Baldwin Albert Blinks Graig Boyd Mary Rogers	Ruth Thompson Eleanor Brosh James McCutcheon Ruth Fishel Alice Marie Ferris Dorothy Keve Vera Riddle Charles Fordyce Harold Penn Dan Wolfe Joyce Gormly Victor Hogle Glen Strother Eleanor Falcon Bertha Kyle Hazel Midkiff Clarence Pitlik Maud White William Boyd Willard Maybauer Ruby Leigh
	1919	
	Florence Kleineck Alice Heald Dorothy Hogle Margaret Turner Helen Little Romaine Kepler Laurene Kepler Ruth Coleman Hazel Wickham Walden Benesh Buell Maxwell	Faye Beach Paul Bowman Mildred Burge Romaine Colon Arthur Current Paul Fries Leo Haak Floyd Howard Waid Lentz Lloyd McCutcheon Dwight M. Miller Mabel Mitchell Hattie Peet Gale Pirkey Junietta Pratt Ruth Reid Mildred Reid Ruby Sutliff Walter Steinbrenner Francis Tallman Sanford Tallman
	1920	
		1921
		1924
		Francis Forrest Mary Jean McCutcheon Mildred McIntosh Joseph Marshek Otilie Pavelka Marie Reif Mildred Snyder Eloise Verba Richard Wolfe Florence Keve Joyce Lowe Eloise Mitchell Kathryn Marino Anna Hogle Clair Stoneking Dorothy Weiss Edna Fulwider Elmo Cottrell Grace Milholin
		1922
		1925
		Elma Boyer Gladys Brown Marian Davis Nellie Ellis Florence Ellison Signi Falk Margaret Hartung Edward Wilson Grace Kegley Norman Lewis Bohumil Marshek

## APPENDIX

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Julian Verba  
 Bertha McLaughlin  
 Helene Neff  
 Phyllis Peterson  
 Hazel Pirkey  
 Rosamonde Jones  
 Louise Renner  
 Carl Robinson  
 Susie Schley  
 Gladys Schley  
 Opal Stearns  
 Kathie Stoneking  
 Florence Chambers  
 Mary Dorothy Davis

1926

Clara Brosh  
 Beatrice Burge  
 Bernadine Burge  
 Margaret Kepler  
 John Gaston  
 Harriett McLaughlin  
 Lucille West  
 Gertrude Herrick  
 Laurine Frick  
 Don Goodyear  
 Stella Weseman  
 Edwin Mitchell  
 Celia Belle Spawn  
 Merrill Burge  
 Lois Fawcett  
 Edlyn Blaine  
 Leona Barnes  
 Harry Sizer  
 Zila Reid  
 Francis Pratt  
 Wayne Hunter  
 Myrtle McIntosh  
 Lucille Yeisley  
 Willard Travis  
 Hildred Colon  
 Olive Plattenberger  
 Robert Milholin  
 Helen Zache  
 Emil Platner  
 Winifred Glass  
 Gerald Hendryx

1927

Ruby Beach  
 Alma Biderman  
 Mary Bloom  
 Amel Bresson  
 Iris Caraway  
 Marguerite Caraway  
 Mabel Clark  
 Elva Colton  
 James Dee  
 Florence Falk

Jay Fordyce  
 Fred Garner  
 Elta Kohl  
 Frances McLaughlin  
 Georgia Mallie  
 Clarence Matthews  
 Hazel Patten  
 Varillis Peddycoart  
 Florence Reid  
 Marion Rogers  
 Dale Stoneking  
 Norman Sutliff  
 George Tracy  
 Caroline Weseman

1928

Esther Brosh  
 Bernice Butler  
 Helen Calhoun  
 Dan Caraway  
 Paul Casper  
 Evelyn Cullumber  
 Opal Daubenmier  
 Luther Davis  
 Mary Jane Davis  
 Charles Frick  
 Bert Hartenberger  
 Evelyn Kelly  
 Gladys Lentz  
 Bradford McGaw  
 Lena McLaughlin  
 Pearl Matthews  
 Grace Merritt  
 Evert Neal  
 Howard Neal  
 Clara Novak  
 Rudolph Novak  
 Dean Kissner  
 Ellis Scobey  
 Helen Snyder  
 Esther Spawn  
 Martha Stratton  
 Maxine Turner  
 Raymond Walton  
 Wesley West

1929

Drew Baker  
 Ruth Baker  
 Marguerite Bresson  
 Ruby Caraway  
 Gordon Ellison  
 Carl Falk  
 Ruth Garner  
 Lydabelle Goodyear  
 Georgette Hart  
 Francis Hartung  
 Thomas Herrick  
 Laurence Hunter

Lucille Keve  
 Myrtle Keve  
 Robert Kyle  
 Winifred Lowe  
 Marvin Mallie  
 Hazel Matthews  
 Dorothy McLaughlin  
 Anna Moore  
 Dorothy Neal  
 Florence Pitlik  
 Esther Stratton  
 Helen Stinger  
 Alice Stoner  
 Gladys Stoner  
 Myrtle Westcott  
 Louis Wickham  
 Violette Willimack

1930

Hobart Bair  
 Richard Baker  
 Harold Beach  
 Leonzo Berry  
 Victor Blaine  
 Ruth Bowman  
 Martha Caraway  
 John E. Colon  
 DeLores Cottrell  
 Margaret Crumbaugh  
 Josephine Eyestone  
 Alfred Fickle  
 Olga Henik  
 Margaret Ink  
 Harold Chapman  
 James Klimo  
 Carl Midkiff  
 Malcolm Slaght  
 George Smith  
 Gertrude Sutliff  
 Laurence Woodruff  
 Eula Yeisley

1931

Leo Beranek  
 Roy Bowman  
 Cleone Brookins  
 Myrtle Burge  
 William Burgess  
 Lester Coleman  
 Marjorie Coleman  
 Ruth Conney  
 Frances Crew  
 Randall Hart  
 Clara Henik  
 Esther Jordan  
 Sue Kepler  
 Eleanor Lowe  
 Rose Marshek  
 Gaylord Neal

## HISTORY OF MOUNT VERNON

Mildred Neal	Frances Keeler	Maurice Gormly
Judson Perkins	Bonnybel Kirkpatrick	Alfred Gustafson
Gordon Neal	Vernon Klimo	Robert Hartung
Beulah Dant	William Lowe	Mary Gail Hull
Harlan Ellison	Mildred Mallie	Margaret Keyes
Grace Garner	Willard Neal	Evelyn Kirkpatrick
Walter Gormly	Hulda Peet	Helen Minnick
May Perkins	Harmaline Pieper	Gertrude Moreland
Clara Helen Snyder	Mary Reid	Marie Zinkula
Avilda Uthoff	Margaret Kissner	Reed Needles
Anna Zache	Warren Scobey	Russell Newton
	Lawrence Travis	George Petrick
	Richard West	Robert Petrick
1932	Stephen West	Ivan Platner
Robert E. Leigh	Milo Wolrab	Mary Pospisil
Leo Mallie	Loretta Worrell	Edwin Rogers
Roland Neal		George Schroeder
Glenn Low		Donald Stoneking
Lowell Boyer		Ward Swift
Dorris Ellison		
Robert Beranek	1934	1936
Dorothy Kleineck	Lois Achenbach	Robert Beach
John Uthoff	Robert Bennett	Howard Bennett
Ivy Bowman	Barbara Blackwell	Mary Brokel
Laurena Slach	Bennie Biderman	Helen Broulik
Fern Clark	Ethel Bowen	Henrietta Broulik
Laura Neal	Marjorie Brooks	Paul Brooks
Maye Caraway	Jacob Clark	Jack Fey
Edith Hunter	Norman Current	Dorothy Fisher
Lucille Russell	Kenneth Edaburn	Peggy Fisher
Ruthanne Jordan	Clayton Ellison	Maxine Gage
Vera Wickham	Ruby Ellison	Bernice Gill
Harlan Current	Albert Fisher	Eleanor Gough
Denny Neal	Francis Gilliland	Charles Higbie
Annis Blaine	Laura Hansen	Boyd Horton
Helen Sutliff	Margaret Hedges	Eldon Johnson
Virginia Williams	Kenneth Kaplan	Doris Jane Leigh
Samuel Koch	Dorothy Koch	Alma Moots
Alva Needles	Bessie Kohl	Edward Petrick
Charles McLaughlin	Laurabel Kohl	Leo Petrick
Virginia Blaine	Lois Minor	Stella Pospisil
Irene Minor	Richard Moffitt	William Rogers
Robert Hartenberger	Chauncey Peiper	Dorothy Russell
	Aloysius Pirsarek	Dale Ryerson
1933	Richard Russell	Arlo Simonds
Austin Armstrong	Dale Ryerson	Lucile Stinger
Mervyn Armstrong	Priscilla Williams	Francis Wolrab
Beth Baker		
Robert Baker	1935	1937
Blanche Biderman	Faith Baker	Robert Bryant
Elizabeth Bryant	Bernice Becker	Vernon Burge
Walter Burgess	Ralph Bowman	Robert Current
Richard Busenbark	Geraldine Bryant	Margaret Dilley
Ethel Colton	Helen Burge	Carl Ellison
Robert Crumbaugh	Darrel Clark	Lloyd Ellison
Mary Ellison	Mary Alice Crew	Mary Ford
Vincent Gough	Robert Ellison	Robert Fisher
Milford Hartung	Charles Emerson	Alice Marie Harris
Morris Hull	Howard Emerson	Jessie Hughes
Onalee Johnson	Virginia Fussell	Robert Kleineck

## APPENDIX

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Vernon Kohl  
 Florence Leighr  
 Marlys Thomassen  
 Marjorie Littell  
 Jean Minish  
 Helen Pitlik  
 Joseph Pospisil  
 Helen Peet  
 Charlotte Pavelka  
 Betty Rowley  
 Ruth Sipple  
 Waunetta Sipple  
 Vernon Sadler  
 Marion Scott  
 William Wooff

1938

Dorothy Beach  
 James Becker  
 Richard Bell  
 Alice Marie Bigger  
 Leonard Broulik  
 Genevieve Burge  
 Jean Burge  
 Kent Casstevens  
 Dorothy Connell  
 Anne Culbertson  
 La Verne Tonne  
 Corita Williams  
 Virgil Crofter  
 John Haeseler  
 Lila Halverson  
 Wanita Hartung  
 Mary Hughes  
 Leo Kirkpatrick  
 Arlene Lindsey  
 Harriett Lowe  
 Rosalie Mulherin  
 Jane Travis  
 Adeline Wolrab  
 Mary Adelaide Mulherin  
 Alberta Neal  
 Winifred Neal  
 Harlan Nelson  
 Raphael Pisarik  
 Jack Pitlik  
 Helen Kissner  
 Margaret Smith  
 Elizabeth Sullivan  
 Rudolph Vodicka  
 Betty Wooff

1939

Phyllis Andre  
 Letitia Beranek  
 Cornelie Brooks  
 Violetta Cook  
 Howard Fisher  
 Loretta Hayes

Charles Hodge  
 David Hull  
 Marguerite Johnson  
 William Kaplan  
 Donald Krumm  
 Ray Martin  
 Alice McLaughlin  
 Robert Merritt  
 Elmer Moots  
 Patricia Mitchell  
 Howard Orms  
 Margaret Siggins  
 Genevieve Snyder  
 Ellen Sutliff  
 Vivian Tonne  
 Luverna Travis  
 Marge Worrell  
 Elwood Young  
 Arlene Zimmer

1940

Hillis Blood  
 Wanda Collins  
 Helen Culbertson  
 Kay Current  
 Arlo Ellison  
 James Eyre  
 Bill Foster  
 Marjorie Joy Hartung  
 Mattie Johnson  
 Donald Krumm  
 Wallace Littell  
 Bette Longerbeam  
 Roy Martin  
 Arthur Meyer  
 Merrill Pitlik  
 Robert Plattenberger  
 Faye Rogers  
 Robert Sanderson  
 Robert Smith  
 Paul Snyder  
 Ardis Stinger  
 Jeannie Sullivan  
 Eleanor Thomassen  
 Alice Vodicka  
 Kenneth Worrell  
 Joseph Zinkula  
 Marilyn Scarborough  
 Dick Kleineck

1941

Ruthann Biderman  
 Darwin Cook  
 Don Current  
 Donald Dolezal  
 Florence Downey  
 Louise E. Dvorak  
 Louise Margaret Dvorak  
 Don Ferguson

Marian Fisher  
 Robert Gill  
 Jean Louise Heasty  
 Donald Lee Herring  
 Margaret Herring  
 Donald Hunter  
 William L. Hoffman  
 Don N. Horton  
 Mark Eastwood  
 Hutchinson, Jr.  
 Jean Houzman  
 Lillian E. Kirkpatrick  
 Claude Klimo  
 Donald T. Leighr  
 Mary MacGregor  
 Charles K. MacMillan  
 Donald Merritt  
 Ruth Minish  
 Donald Minnick  
 Martha Jane Rogers  
 Marguerite Sievers  
 Irene Sipple  
 Marvin Tonne  
 Oren W. Travis  
 John W. Walton  
 Cynthia Winson

1942

Lud Hodge  
 Bill Burnett  
 Ruth Sievers  
 Clara Meroshuk  
 James Peterson  
 Betty June Hedges  
 Henry Carleton  
 Robert Pospisil  
 Jean Thomassen  
 Esther Dvorak  
 Bernice Sipple  
 Peggy Magee  
 Harlan Barrett  
 Vernon Paul  
 Donald Walton  
 Carolyn Neal  
 Betty Babcock  
 Mary Carol Plattenberger  
 Harriett Moffitt  
 Ruthanne Ruble  
 Leora Foster  
 Betty Jean Kohl  
 Leland Peet  
 Hallie Winsor

1943

Roe Kirkpatrick  
 Dolores Mallie  
 Myron Coppock  
 Lloyd Mallie  
 Audrey Nelson

## HISTORY OF MOUNT VERNON

John Mallie  
 Dorothy Zinkula  
 Joan Pringle  
 Dale Stinger  
 Gaillard Beranek  
 Bette Cole  
 Jean Smith  
 Don Sanderson  
 Claire Littell  
 Jane Koza  
 Howard Fischer  
 Marianne Vodicka  
 Elizabeth Wolfe  
 Naomi Crumbaugh  
 Mary Rodman  
 Marianna Wooff  
 Lois Bigger  
 Barbara Jones  
 Roberta Wilson  
 Mildred Fisher  
 Gloria Hodge  
 David Ford  
 Earl Edwards  
 Bill Litts  
 Margaret Vislisel  
 Leota Barrett  
 John Tonne

## 1944

Paul Brace, Jr.  
 Betty Jean Herring  
 Raymond Lake  
 Herbert Dvorak  
 Gwen Smyth  
 David Blinks  
 Richard Dvorak  
 Norma Bartosh  
 June Longerbeam  
 John Wolfe  
 Roberta Hartung  
 Helen Archibald  
 Pauline Daubenmier  
 Shirley Minnick  
 Dorothy Sipple  
 Ward Hemenway  
 Mary Brawner  
 Phelps Manning  
 Jack Koch  
 Eula Burnett  
 Donald Dill

Robert Gaines  
 Jean Hunt  
 Alice Winey  
 Clifford Peterson

## 1945

Robert Ruble  
 Dorothy Longerbeam  
 Rita Travis  
 Maxine Nation  
 Marilyn Woods  
 Dorothy Reyhons  
 Milton Koch  
 Rosemary Neff  
 Junietta Hazelton  
 Raymond Zinkula  
 Melvin Coppock  
 Monroe Winsor  
 Mary Frederick  
 Joan Rich  
 Glenn Klinsky  
 Vernelle Hoggard  
 Janice West  
 Joan Rhoads  
 Louise Rogers  
 Tom Wooff  
 Tom Wolfe  
 Virginia Young  
 Phyllis Connell  
 Dale Travis  
 Monica Blood  
 Opal Paul  
 Cornelius Druger  
 Charity Fisher  
 Elizabeth Pospisil  
 Jacque Nichols  
 Lela Biggs  
 Dorothy Mae Noska  
 Miriam Heasty  
 Lester Notbohm  
 Marilyn Coppock  
 Robert Lux  
 Dorothy Franta  
 D. William Pringle  
 Bernadine Bartosh  
 James Koch  
 Junior Peet

## 1946

William Lodge

Shirley Kudart  
 Charles Blinks  
 Martha Moses  
 Robert Thompson  
 Dorothy Ann Rogers  
 Virginia Anderson  
 Margaret Clark  
 Joyce Hunter  
 Dean Brawner  
 Jean Ann Trego  
 Darrell Stoner  
 Diana Pringle  
 James Gunn  
 Ruth Uthoff  
 Catherine Osgood  
 Douglas Van Metre  
 Betty Gaston  
 Helen Peterson  
 Edward Pitlik  
 Mary Alice Winchip  
 Helen Dvorak  
 Dean Caraway

## 1947

Audrey Coates  
 James Croft  
 Richard Edwards  
 Vernon Erenberger  
 David Fischer  
 Dorothy Gaines  
 Iolene Gaines  
 Harold Herring  
 Millie Hoggard  
 Donald Killen  
 Harold Klinsky  
 June Ann Koch  
 Richard Koch  
 Wilma Jean Levy  
 Betty Longerbeam  
 Ruth Mallie  
 Robert W. Netolicky  
 Paul Pospisil  
 Norman Shestak  
 Merritt Staley  
 Janet Wallace  
 Dorothy Winey  
 Mary Wolfe  
 Kathleen Woods  
 Ann Young  
 Robert Zinkula

*SUPPLEMENT TO*

**A Centennial  
History  
Of Mt. Vernon,  
Iowa**

## SUPPLEMENT TO 1991 REPRINT

### A CENTENNIAL HISTORY OF MT. VERNON, IOWA, 1847-1947

This supplement, bound with the text of the original book, bring some of the community information up to date but does not in any way alter the text of the original work. It includes the Supplement printed separately in the 1976 and distributed to those who bought the reprint.

The Mount Vernon Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Mount Vernon has carried on the work of the Bicentennial Committee in preserving the history of the town. 300 copies of this reprint and supplement were ordered and sold in 1991 as part of the Commission's continuing effort to make available the story of the unusual community.

For several years the Historical Committee of Mt. Vernon hoped to reprint *A CENTENNIAL HISTORY OF MT. VERNON, IOWA 1847 - 1947* or write a new book based on fresh information. The press of time led the committee to reprint the book with this supplement. Our hope is to correct some of the known errors in the book, to tell the story of how the book was written in 1947, and to add some information that will make the *CENTENNIAL HISTORY* more valuable to readers in 1976. The supplement does not try to bring Mt. Vernon history up to date as that task requires extended research.

This supplement was prepared by Mr. Elmer Miller and Mr. James McCutcheon, who worked on the original book, and Dr. Richard Thomas, Chairman of the History Committee and the Bicentennial Committee.

The original printing in 1947 produced 500 copies and the reprinted edition sold over 225 copies in pre-publication. This supplement is separately printed and made available without cost to those who purchased the reprinted edition and/or the first printing. We offer this supplement and the reprinted edition as part of the Community Bicentennial Celebration.

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## KNOWN CORRECTIONS OF THE ORIGINAL BOOK

**Page 14, Line 10:**

Strike "Illinois" and replace with "Ohio." Text should now read, "*Mr. Abbe returned with his family from Ohio in 1838.*"

**Appendix - Graduates of the High School**

Class of 1915

Should be Lucille Hickman, instead of Lucie Hickman

Class of 1920

Add Lois Miller

**Appendix - Mayor and Recorder Clerk**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>MAYOR</b>	<b>RECORDER-CLERK</b>
1946 to March '46	Chester L. Rich	H.C. Dilley
April '46 to March '51	J.F. Gaston, Sr.	H.C. Dilley
April '51 to December '61	Arthur Kudart	H.C. Dilley
January '62 to July '65	Otis Young	H.C. Dilley, to June '63
August '65 to November '67	F.J. Benesh, Jr.	D.B. Siggins, July '63
December '67 to June '71	Dale Larson	D.B. Siggins
July '72 to October '71	Dr. E.C. Prall, Protom	D.B. Siggins
November '71 to December '75	Nicholas O. Berry	D.B. Siggins
January '76	Doris L. Pringle	D.B. Siggins
1976-78	Doris L. Pringle	D.B. Siggins
1978-80	Richard E. Peters	D.B. Siggins
1980-82	Doris L. Pringle	D.B. Siggins
1982-84	Earl M. Wolvers	D.B. Siggins
1984-88	James E. Hickey	D.B. Siggins
1988-	James J. Engelbrecht	Michael Beimer

## **PICTURE IDENTIFICATION 1991**

### **OPPOSITE PAGE 33: "Early Picture of Cornell College"**

A drawing done between 1853 - 1873. College Hall (left) was completed in 1856 and Old Sem (right) in 1853. Picture does not show South Hall built in 1873.

### **FOLLOWING PAGE 40: "Second Methodist Church"**

The house referred to is currently located at 517 N. 3rd Street West and owned by Robert Thomas.

### **"Guild Hall"**

This building ceased to be used as a dormitory in 1964 and was later sold to Roy Bowman, the current owner.

### **"Old Desk"**

Owned by Mrs. Bruce Mullen, Mt. Vernon, daughter of Mrs. Lois Mitchell.

### **"W. C. Dimmit Post (GAR)"**

Error in number 16. Should be A. H. Browning, father of Mrs. Charles Lusted, one of the authors of the book.

### **OPPOSITE PAGE 81: "Cornell College"**

Drawing shows the campus as it was in 1885. In that year, Bowman Hall, named for Elder George B. Bowman, was built.

### **FOLLOWING PAGE 96: "The 'White House' of Cornell College"**

Currently the home provided by the college for the president.

### **"Main Street Before Paving"**

Picture dates between 1904 (I. O. O. F. Hall) and brick paving in 1914. The I. O. O. F. Hall is usually known as Bauman Building.

### **FOLLOWING PAGE 104: "Old Depot"**

Picture is prior to 1902 when a larger brick and stone depot was built. Picture called "The Present Depot" refers to the 1902 structure. In 1975 the depot of 1902 was razed at the direction of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad.

### **"Wilcox Hall"**

Currently occupied by Stoll's Variety Store. The overhang on the roof was removed. Renovations are now in progress that will again change the appearance of this building.

### **"Main Street in the Early Nineties"**

Picture is before 1904 when the I. O. O. F. (Bauman Building) replaced the wooden structure on the right. Note board sidewalks.

**FOLLOWING PAGE 112: "Altoona Hotel"**

See page 102 for the story of this building. The original porch (shown here) extends around to the west side of the structure. In 1976 Altoona is a men's residence owned by Cornell College. Building was given to the City of Mt. Vernon in 1983 and razed in 1985.

**"The Interurban"**

The car pictured here is at the intersection of 1st Street and 1st Avenue. The tracks of this railway are still buried beneath the pavement of 1st Street.

**"The New High School of 1927"**

The building is now the Middle School of the Mt. Vernon School District, housing 6th, 7th and 8th grades. The construction of a modern high school in 1971 enabled the District to sell Ward School (3rd Street N. & 3rd Avenue N.), which served as a junior high school, and to create the Middle School in this building.

**FOLLOWING PAGE 128: "Methodist Parsonage"**

This sketch portrays the present parsonage built in 1917 immediately west of the church at 312 1st Street W.

**FOLLOWING PAGE 208: "Brackett House"**

Owned by Cornell College, used as a guest house. For several years the Alumni Office of the college was located here and it is still known as Alumni House.

**"Site of Original Log Cabin"**

The corner building at 202 1st Street W. remains the property of Richard B. Wolfe and serves as the law office for Mr. Wolfe and his son, Douglas D. Wolfe. The brick home at the right was demolished in the construction of the Mt. Vernon Bank & Trust completed in 1964.

**"Home of S. H. Bauman"**

This building at 125 1st Street W. was remodeled at least twice. Now owned by Harry Garde. (N.E. corner of 1st Street and 2nd Avenue N.)

**"Lower Picture"**

Located at 211 S. 3rd Street W., Arthur F. Drant III, owner. The porch was removed and the exterior covered with stucco.

**"Reuben Ash Homestead"**

Now owned by Dr. and Mrs. W. Claude Harrison, 702 8th Avenue N.

**"The Iron House"**

This home was drastically remodeled and can hardly be recognized from this picture. Owned now by John K. MacGregor, 321 S. 3rd Street W.

**"Ebersole Home"**

This property was donated to Cornell College by Dr. F.F. Ebersole as a home for the college physician. Located at 224 1st Street W. Current owner is Roy Bowman.

**"Old First Presbyterian Church"**

The oldest clearly dated home in Mt. Vernon. Address: 413 S. 3rd Street W., and owned by Kenneth Little.

**"Al Morrissey Home"**

Located at 1st Avenue S. and W. 7th Street.

**"Dr. J. Doran House"**

Located at 303 S. 3rd Street W. and owned by Michael Cody.

**"Klimo House"**

Currently owned by Clifford Peterson at 311 1st Avenue N.

**"Hughes House"**

Owned by Geraldine Hughes, daughter of Mrs. Jessie Hughes at 417 A. Avenue S.

**"Keedicek Home of 1876"**

The house has been destroyed. It was located at 617 1st Street W. The home was apparently torn down to make room for the current house.

**"Boyd House"**

House is undergoing extensive restoration after years of neglect. Owned by Denver Dillard at 405 S. 3rd Street W.

**"Rood House"**

Owned by Cornell College and used as a women's residence. Located at 607 1st Street W. A third addition, Jordan House, added in 1954.

**"Collin House"**

Continues to be a residence for Cornell faculty and remains the property of the college. Located to the west of the "White House", or president's home.

**"A. J. Rogers Home"**

The home was destroyed to provide space for the Fire Station built in 1966.

**"W. E. Platner House"**

Owned by Cornell College and used as a music practice facility. Located on the corner of 1st Street W. and 8th Avenue N.

**"Stearns Apartment House"**

Front entrance was changed, removing the double porch. Located at 410 1st Street S.

**"Neff Funeral Home"**

Continues to be a funeral home now operated by Jack Morgan at 400 1st Street W.

# Mt. Vernon History Is At Bindery

## Has Been Work Of Nearly Two Years

Unique in centennial celebrations of Iowa cities is the one of Mount Vernon, publication of "A Centennial History of Mount Vernon, Iowa," in book form.

The 260 page book is now all printed and is in the hands of the binder, Henry L. Feiereisen, of Cedar Rapids.

The first copy was received this week by the committee who have labored for many hours on the book. They are highly pleased with the result. The book is bound in blue cloth with gold lettering on the front and backbone.

The History has 224 pages of text with 40 pages of historic pictures including a section on historical homes.

Conceived by the Rev. S. V. Williams, the project got underway slowly in the fall of November 1946.

Rev. Williams urged the Chamber of Commerce to get behind the project. The Chamber invited other town organizations to join and a committee was selected to take charge of the big job which included Mae P. Hutchinson, Florence Keyes Mitchell, Nellie M. Hartung, S. V. Williams, Geraldine Hughes and Frederick M. McGaw.

The idea of a centennial observation that would have some permanent value rather than a big "day" with carnival etc., appealed to everyone.

A business committee of R. B. Wolfe, chairman, Jay Fordyce, secretary-treasurer, Corlyn Bauman and James McCutcheon took charge of the financial and mechanical end of the project.

The idea was to write the history of the first century before all of the old timers died and it would be difficult to obtain the information.

Sponsors were sought who would guarantee \$10 each and receive three copies of the book. Rev. Williams sent out cards and letters to former residents. This resulted in 97 local sponsors with 44 non-resident

sponsors whose names appear in the book.

Writing of the text took nearly a year. Setting the type and printing of the book took about eight months as it had to be worked in along with the regular work at the Hawkeye office.

The final result will soon be available when the binder finishes his work. He, like the printer, cannot make any promise but will complete it as soon as possible.

The preface states that "Members of the Committee have collaborated on each chapter and have carefully edited each one. Many letters have been written, many calls made and much research work has been done.

"Great credit must be given to S. V. Williams in whose mind the idea was conceived and whose enthusiasm gave the impetus to the committee and launched it on its work. To him credit must be given also for much of the research work and the general plan of the book.

The actual writing of the book has been done by the Committee and by Mary L. Parsons who wrote World War II, Elizabeth B. Ink who authored "Farms and Farming", and Elmer J. Miller who wrote World War I.

Pictures were borrowed from numerous individuals and many historic cuts in the Hawkeye files were used. Joseph Bennett helped with the research work and Charles Paul loaned his grandmother's letters which make a very interesting chapter of the book.

These letters, written from 1854 to 1863, by Mrs. Benjamin Ford, an early settler, in Mt. Vernon, to her parents and sisters in New York give a "vivid, first-hand, sometimes home-sick picture of life on the prairies in the fifties and early sixties."

The committee is very grateful to the sponsors whose guarantee of \$10 each made it possible to go ahead with the writing and printing of the History.

The first copies will be sent to the out-of-town sponsors. It will probably be some time in August before the binder completes his work.

It now appears that only about 75 copies remain for sale to individuals. It is suggested that anyone who wants a copy should notify Miss Nellie Hartung, dial 6311 at once.

From the interest shown it appears very likely that the extra copies will soon be sold. Miss Hartung has a sample book which anyone interested may see.

# "A Centennial History of Mt. Vernon, Ia., 1847-1947"

## Book Telling Town's Story Just Printed

By Miron A. Morrill.

**T**HREE'S A MAN buried under U. S. highway No. 30, plump in the middle of Mt. Vernon, Iowa.

In 1848, the year after Mt. Vernon had been platted, a stranger named Servison came to the new village. He hurried on next day, leaving his elderly and ailing father in the care of Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Metcalf, early settlers.

Within a few hours, the old man had died of what was supposed to be cholera. They buried him in the night under Mt. Vernon's "Main street," now First street, or U. S. highway 30. The grave lies under one of America's busiest transcontinental highways near the corner of Second avenue, a major crossing in the little city.

This is but one of many anecdotes related in a book that appeared just the other day after more than a year of joint labors by an editorial committee. It is "A Centennial History of Mt. Vernon, Iowa, 1847-1947".

Mt. Vernon has its buried Spanish treasure (though, naturally, no one has ever found it).

John Brown, "God's angry man," lived one winter at Springdale, just south of Mt. Vernon. He taught the boys of that Quaker village how to tranship along the "underground railway" Negro slaves, whom Brown had brought from the south, to Morse, near Iowa City....

\* \* \*

The impartial editors of the book relate with gusto the locally famous ride of "Billie" Conklin who, in the late Fifties, made the wrong turn in a springwagon coming back to Mt. Vernon from Mechanicsville. He turned his horse down the railroad track west toward Lisbon.

A westbound freight came along on the brand new tracks of the Chicago and North Western railway. When it stopped at Lisbon for water, the trainmen found Billie in his wagon seat, unhurt on the cow-catcher. Later his horse "Nigger" was found grazing along the right-of-way near Mechanicsville.

The history, which appeared last week, is just about Mt. Vernon's only recognition of its centennial, the 100th anniversary of the completion of the first city plat in "the ideal summer" of 1847.

□ □ □

The book was gathered and written by a committee, Mae P. Hutchinson, Florence Keyes Mitchell, Nellie M. Hartung, Geraldine Hughes, S. V. Williams and Frederick M. McGaw. The preface relates that the actual writing was done by the committee and by Mary L. Parsons, Elizabeth B. Ink and Elmer J. Miller.

In the same preface, credit is given for its labors to the business committee consisting of R. B. Wolfe, chairman; Jay Fordyce, secretary-treasurer; James McCutcheon and Corlyn Bauman.

The "Spanish treasure mystery" is set out in a letter belonging to Herbert Hogle of Mt. Vernon, dated at Palermo, Calif., in the 1870's. It gives detailed instructions for digging up near the old Guild hotel—now a Cornell college residence—treasure buried there by the "Rev. Gonzales Montmorencie," coins and diamonds in an iron box.

**While the original connection of the correspondence is unknown, it sounds like the old Spanish treasure hoax. Thus far no one in Mt. Vernon has found the treasure.**

Little Mt. Vernon, a city today of perhaps 1,400 persons, has given an incredible contingent of leadership to America and the world. The book lists publishers, motion picture executives, writers of popular songs, scientists, surgeons, journalists, the founder of a national lecture bureau, novelists, war correspondents and Methodist bishops. All of these hailed from Mt. Vernon's hilltop.

With the rest of America, Mt. Vernon has lived through four wars. (Though the Mexican war did not come to an end until one year after the founding of the Iowa town, apparently Mt. Vernon was untouched by it.)

One hundred sixteen men went from Mt. Vernon to the Battle of Shiloh in Company A of the 13th Iowa regiment. (The little town also contributed heavily to three other companies in the northern armies. In 1862-63 only 11 men remained in the four college classes at Cornell, and two of them were cripples.) Twenty-seven survivors were mustered out of Company A July 21, 1865, the rest had died in the war.

One of Mt. Vernon's many Civil War heroes was Capt. (later lieutenant colonel) Justin C. Kennedy who had been the Northwestern station agent at Mt. Vernon. With two staff officers and 18 men he dashed into the city of Columbia, S. C., "where secession was born, and hung out the flag of his regiment from the capitol building.

Three men from Mt. Vernon enlisted Dec. 15, 1862, in the 37th Iowa, the famous "graybeard regiment", whose soldiers were all over 45, some as old as 60. At the fourth annual reunion of Linn county Civil war veterans in Mt. Vernon, Aug. 29 and 30, 1888, Richard J. Harbert, a Mt. Vermonite and a former soldier, was 82 years old. Simeon S. Haun, the last veteran of the great war, died Feb. 12, 1937, aged 96.

\* \* \*

"Were the Gay Nineties really gay?" The history raises this question. Since the Methodists and the

Presbyterians were dominating religious groups in the town from the beginning—they are still the only two old-line Protestant churches in town—liquor was frowned upon. There was very little dancing.

But the young folk of Mt. Vernon seem to have made out a good time, nevertheless. There were taffy-pulls, charades and guessing games, and, for the worldly few who delighted in cards a game known as "progressive cinch". There were benefit socials, suppers and bazaars.

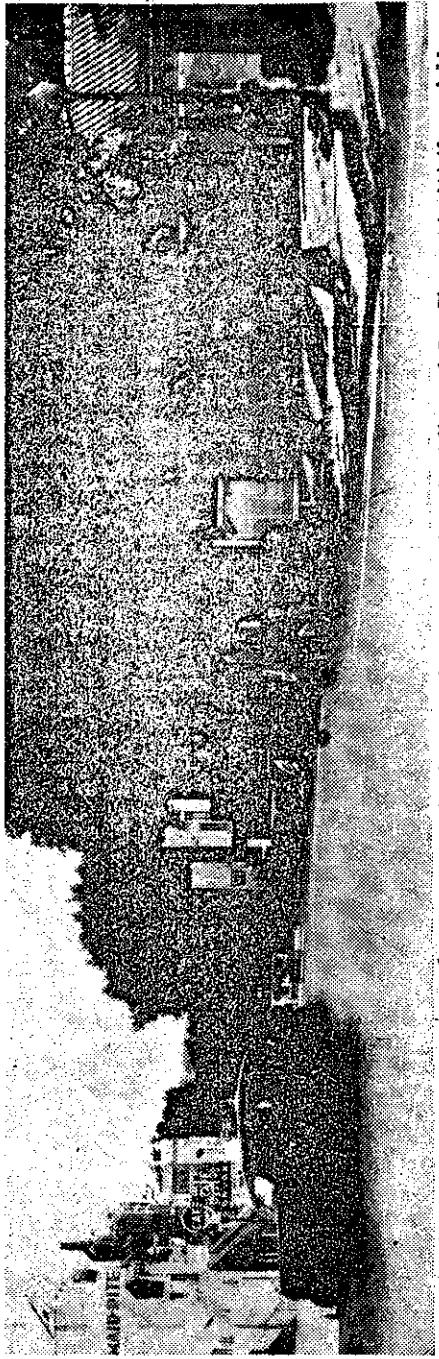
The first talking machine in town was owned by Bunker Smith and his wife in '94, but the best-remembered machine was in Haeseler's drug store, where crowds used to congregate to marvel at the wonderful canned music.

Perhaps a major value of the Mt. Vernon history is that it gives, in a small world, a review of the cultural life of Mid-



**THE REV. S. V. WILLIAMS**

He inaugurated 'Mt. Vernon history.' He was born in South hall on the Cornell campus where his father was professor of mathematics. Mr. Williams got the idea for the history as a fitting memorial of the 100th anniversary of the city's first official town plat.



MT. VERNON STREET SCENE—the house in the lower right foreground is the office of Dr. Thomas L. Wolfe and his son, Richard B. Wolfe, attorney. It marks the site of the first building in Mt. Vernon, a log cabin built after the town plat had been completed in 1847. The body of an elderly man lies buried under the highway in front of this building. The scene shows the highway running east through the business district.

west America for the last 100 years.

Of course Cornell college appears in the history. Three separate chapters take it through three periods since its founding in 1865. Doubtless Cornell attracted able men and women to Mt. Vernon as teachers and administrators.

Other men and women came to Mt. Vernon because they wished to give their children a college education. Cornell has had much to do with the incredible stream of leadership that has flowed out from the little Iowa city "set on an hill," as the New Testament puts it, which "could not be hid."

But as *The Cedar Rapids Gazette* wisely put the matter in 1923, "Mt. Vernon . . . is not a barnacle clinging to the college for support." Rather, in Mt. Vernon, Cornell, a worthy institution, has found a worthy setting.

**GRADUATES OF MT. VERNON HIGH SCHOOL 1947-1991**

**1947 Graduates**

Audrey Coates	Francis C. Hoodmaker	Norman Eugene Shestak
James Edward Croft	Donald E. Killen	D. Merritt Staley
Richard T. Edwards	Harold F. Klinsky	Janet Wallace
Vernon R. Erenberger	June Ann Koch	Dorothy Jane Winey
David H. Fisher	Richard Gene Koch	Mary Eleanor Wolfe
Dorothy Mae Gaines	Wilma Jean Levy	Mary Kathleen Woods
Idolene Faye Gaines	Ruth Arlene Mallie	Ann Elizabeth Young
Harold W. Herring	Robert W. Netolicky	Robert F. Zinkula
Millicent Jean Hoggard	Paul L. Pospisil	

**1948 Graduates**

John T. Blinks	Alvin E. Klouda	Ruth M. Reyhons
Shirley Ann Boots	Ronald R. Kudart	Richard A. Sanderson
Audrey J. Burnett	Joy B. Litts	Mary Eleanor Strickland
Howard C. Davis	Joan Louise Lyford	Elizabeth Arlene Travis
Donald Irwin DeCamp	LaVerne M. Meskimen	Philip B. Winsor
Thelma Arlene Ellison	Paul H. Nash	Robert F. Wolfe
Alice Marilyn Gray	Kenneth D. Peterson	
John O. Kirkpatrick	Francis R. Pitlik	

**1949 Graduates**

Eric Anderson	Florence Klinsky	Helen Pospisil
Jean Baldwin	Milton Knockle	Clarence Smith
Mary Baldwin	Milo Machacek	Jack Stanton
Joanne Blinks	Paul McKeen	Jim Telecky
Becky Current	Kay Meeker	Mary Thompson
Richard Franta	Henry Moses	Richard Winsor
Robert Gaston	Beverly Nation	Elwin Woof
Stan Grant	Larry Nutt	Dorothy Wright

**1950 Graduates**

Gordon L. Behrens	James E. Kent	Richard A. Netolicky
Dorothy Louise Biderman	Jean Ann Klouda	Alyce Marie Paul
Richard Emil Broulik	Charles J. Kratochvil	Paula Prall
Robert J. Campbell	Eleanor Mae Lathrop	Richard W. Rennie
Gwyneth Jane Davies	David F. Wolfe	LaVonne Ruth Sparks
Martha Jo Ennis	Joyce Lorraine Lenz	Dolores Kathleen Staskal
Arlene Louise Feuss	Charles E. Litts	Paul David Tenney
Wiladene M. Hoggard	Alexander Ronald Meehan	Richard M. J. Winey
Lauren G. Johnson	Treva Irene Moore	Dorothy Ann Staskal

### **1951 Graduates**

Leona Becker  
Joseph M. Bridges  
Nancy Cole  
Carol Croft  
Howard DeCamp  
Lloyd M. Duffe  
Eunice M. Elias  
Albert E. Gaines  
Loren D. Hammond

Roland L. Henik  
Haynes B. Hutchinson  
Leo F. Kadlec  
Ellen M. Klinsky  
Richard A. McKeen  
Kenneth E. Moore  
James H. Neal  
Jean M. Olson  
Lorna R. Patchin

Donald E. Russell  
Georgia A. Stadler  
Sarah F. Strickland  
Mary Ann Studt  
Ruth T. Trostle  
Elaine M. Waskow  
Joanne M. Wolrab  
M. Patricia Young

### **1952 Graduates**

Ruth M. Barrett  
Adeline Mary Biderman  
Warren J. Carney  
Francis John Cejka  
George Alfred Comstock  
Georgia Alice Comstock  
Lloyd Joseph Drahos

Donovan Lee Elias  
James Franklin Franta  
Nancy Lucille Gaston  
Robert Edward Johnston  
William Arthur Lenz  
Margaret Allene Merritt  
Richard Arthur Moore

Robert Dick Penn  
Nadine Marie Rayman  
Jacqueline Theresa Redman  
Ann Marie Visisel  
Paul George Visisel  
John William Yeisley  
John Franklin Young

### **1953 Graduates**

Ruth Ackerman  
Susan Albright  
Mary Beach  
Barbara Beckhelm  
Rosemary Brecht  
Jack Bridges  
George Brown  
Carlyle Bys  
Crystal Carmer  
Don Coon  
Rod Davies  
Paul Drahos

Sylvester Drahos  
Betty Dostal  
Shirley Faris  
Bill Kamberling  
Carl Klinsky  
Irene Klouda  
Bessie Koutny  
Shirley Lenz  
Shirley Lowe  
Madonna Meskimen  
Jack Moore  
James Moore

Barry Morrissey  
Noel Neuenschwander  
Jean Pavelka  
Marie Reyhons  
Roger Terpkosh  
Edward White  
Marilyn Watson  
Joyce Woods  
Arthur Woof  
Ernest Wright

### **1954 Graduates**

Richard Blue  
Larry Edwards  
David Franta  
Roger Freeman  
Shirley Hartenberger  
Jean Henik  
Keith Jilovec  
David Lee Lyford

William MacCaulay  
Marlene Mallie  
John Neff  
Joanne Nikodim  
John Pence  
Norma Reyhons  
Marie Russell  
Faye Sparks

Arlyn Staley  
Richard Steiner  
John Studt  
Annabelle Sturtz  
James Washburn  
Ethel Woof  
Rachel Yeisley

### **1955 Graduates**

Arlene Aldrich  
Joyce Anderson  
David Bachman  
Leroy Berry  
Wayne Berry  
Joan Cejka  
Sara Cunningham  
Leona Ford  
Virginia Forest  
Carol Hartenberger  
Kay Jilovec

Bill Johnson  
Jane Johnston  
Janet Johnston  
Christabel Kramer  
Shirley Meskimen  
Kay Mullen  
Donald Nederhiser  
Nargi Jo Rayman  
Jerry Ringer  
Larry Ringer  
David Ross

Betty Smith  
James Sproston  
Donna Staskal  
Leota Staskal  
Marvin Stastny  
Jud Strickland  
Vernon Studt  
Barbara Sutliff  
David Thomson  
Larry Trpkosh  
Gerald Walter  
Donald Wiese

### **1956 Graduates**

Naomi Aldrich  
Judy (Runkle) Aldrich  
Nancy Anderson  
Audrey Barrett  
Kent Bauman  
Gretchen Beckhelm  
Barbara Becicka  
Frank Benesh  
Bonnie Clark  
Barbara Clements  
Betty Coon  
Patricia Conner  
Deanne Dean  
Kathryn Drahos

David Ennis  
Dale Johnston  
Kenneth Kaliban  
Robert Kalous  
Sylvia Krejci  
Richard Kruse  
Albert Lennicka  
Carolyn Ludley  
Janet Miner  
Tim Morrissey  
Dick Neal  
Adolph Nezerka  
Barbara Pence  
Keith Price

Leona Reyhons  
Roger Reyhons  
Ronald Rhoads  
Roger Schnittjer  
Bert Sippola  
David Staskal  
Bernice Stastny  
Shirley Ties  
Jayne Tshhop  
Corrine Wilcox  
Douglas Wolrab  
Mike Wolrab

### **1957 Graduates**

Rita Becicka  
Helen Beckman  
Carol Bensmiller  
William Bowers  
Mary Bowman  
Barbara Bridges  
Patricia Caldwell  
Jean Childs  
Karen Clark  
Myrtle Clark  
Sandra Cunningham  
Roger Dennis  
Gary Gordon  
Bernita Harris

Robert Havlicek  
Janet Hess  
Bonnie Humes  
Karen Jilovec  
Paul Kent  
Ila Kirkpatrick  
Tom Kleineck  
Lee Knutson  
Judy Kohl  
Paul Larson  
Pauline Lincoln  
Janice Lowe  
Steve Ludley  
Elaine Mulherin

Barbara Neal  
Joyce Olmstead  
Dwayne Pavelka  
Norman Rayman  
Jean Sproston  
Richard Stoltz  
Douglas Tharp  
Sharon Thomas  
Alice Vislisel  
Dick Washburn  
Vince Wolrab  
Judy Woods  
Page Worley

### 1958 Graduates

Carol Achenbach  
Mary Bensmiller  
Norma Berry  
Larry Biderman  
Wayne Biderman  
Francis Bolton  
Richard Bowman  
Robert Bowman  
Gene Brown  
Rodger Brush  
Judy Busenbark  
Thiara Bys  
Joan Clark  
Howard Clark  
Richard Clark

Harold Clements  
Jean Cookes  
Charles Coon  
Marilyn Dean  
Mary Ditch  
Mavis Edwards  
Janis Glattly  
Leroy Heady  
Steve Heady  
Delores Jennings  
Larry Kramer  
David Kroeger  
Robert Kruse  
Robert Lenz  
Roger Martin

Bruce Mullen  
Don Neal  
Tom Neal  
Ronald Nezerka  
Sharon O'Conner  
Harriet Roberts  
Barbara Schick  
Don Sievers  
Pat Sievers  
Donald Sparks  
Helen Sproston  
Edward Staskal  
Linda Trpkosh  
Gail Yeisley

### 1959 Graduates

Shirley Andrews  
Linda Armstrong  
Susan Becicka  
Margaret Bair  
James Clark  
Jane Costello  
Dennis Drahos  
Ilene Emerson  
Edward Fordyce  
Connie Meyer Franta  
Irma Gammon  
Richard Glattly

Jean Hammond  
Marilyn Hartung  
Meryl Hartung  
Ronald Hess  
Janis Hodgen  
Richard Hoidahl  
Dennis Koch  
Gerda Kollman  
Jerry Kroeger  
Linda Lenz  
John Maxson  
Ann McCutcheon

Sharon Neal  
Nancy Pisarik  
Jeanne Rife  
Nancy Rife  
Linda Schick  
Richard Scott  
Linda Shearer  
Marie Sippola  
Leroy Studt  
Jon Swanberg  
Robert Thomas  
Karen Williams  
Karen Wolrab

### 1960 Graduates

Robert Achenbach  
Kerry Sue Ammons  
Bob Beckman  
Frances Bensmiller  
Thomas Bergman  
Roger Biderman  
Heather Brisbin  
Judith Caldwell  
Dennis Carney  
Keith Clark  
Willis Clark  
Nelda Conner  
Sharon Dungey  
Susan Dye  
Mary Ellison  
Sheridan Gillam

Linda Heady  
Paul Herboldsheimer  
John Hunter  
James Jamison  
Kay Kamerling  
Frances Krejci  
Beverly Lange  
Carolyn Lenz  
Patrick Lynott  
Douglas Macaulay  
Sandra Martin  
James Mathews  
Kathleen Morrissey  
David Neal  
Lumir Nezerka  
Frederick Niehaus

Ellen Onstott  
Edwin Pence  
David Penn  
Jean Ann Plank  
Ronald Reinhardt  
John Rife  
Edward Saathoff  
Franklin Starry  
Linda Stastny  
Annamae Stoneking  
Patricia Tonne  
William Tyler  
Thomas Wilkinson  
Dorothy Wolfe

### **1961 Graduates**

Curtis Achenback  
Marilyn Asplund  
Stephen Becicka  
Earl Bensmiller  
Richard Blew  
Helen Blue  
Patricia Bolton  
Peggy Brown  
Barbara Bys  
Albert Cejka  
Roy Cladwell

Gerald Coultas  
Diane Goldsmith  
Sheryl Hansel  
Craig Hippie  
John Randall Hoidahl  
Janette Hootman  
Donald Jilovec  
Darrell Jordan  
Janet Meroshek  
Richard Miner  
Frank Peterson

Mary Sue Reilly  
Marcia Reyhons  
Charles Sievers  
Ronald Steiner  
Albert Stoltz  
David Studt  
Gary Sutliff  
Leslie Svatosch  
Michael Troyer  
James Vislisel  
Victor Wallace  
Barbara Williams

### **1962 Graduates**

Ellen Baskerville  
Ruth Bell  
Thomas Bell  
Michael Biderman  
Donna Billings  
Gerald Brogan  
Linda Buresh  
David Burge  
Douglas Clark  
Joel Clark  
Robert Colon  
Larry Ditch  
William Ellison  
Ernest Farris

James Fox  
Jane Hammond  
Linda Harman  
Teresa Hartung  
Christine Hodge  
William Horton  
Billie Hulke  
Thomas Humes  
Patricia Kolek  
Peter Kollman  
Joseph Lynott  
Robert Marshek  
Susan Martin  
Lewis Meyer

Sharon O'Hara  
Larry Petrick  
Dennis Pisarik  
James Plank  
Margaret Quinn  
Jane Reinhardt  
Joyce Rife  
Ronald Schott  
Sharon Sievers  
Theresa Vislisel  
Larry Whitlock  
Shirley Woods

### **1963 Graduates**

Donald Duane Bear  
Rose Marie Bell  
Joan Mildred Biderman  
Patricia Ann Biderman  
Rosalie Grace Bowman  
Sally Ann Busenbark  
Thomas Wayne Childs  
Barbara Jo Clark  
Marcia Ann Clark  
Mary Esther Coleman  
Jacquelyn Ann Colton  
Robert Frank Dvorak  
Laura Winsor Dye

Harry Lee Edleman  
Susan Jane Ellison  
Harold E. Goodrich  
Wilhelmina Catherina Grootes  
Harold De Wayne Heeren  
Gloria Ruth Herboldsheimer  
James Edward Hickey  
Joan Ruth Hunter  
Karen Joanne Kaliban  
Steven Douglas Kalous  
Raeleen Marie Kamerling  
Jerome Leo Krejci  
Steven Ross Kroeger

Deborah Jane Lenz  
Margaret Elizabeth Minert  
Devan Ann Morgan  
Carmen Louise Neal  
Gary Allen Neal  
Linda Kay Peterson  
William Gabriel Peterson  
Francis Raphael Pisarik  
Martin Ellis Pitlik  
Nicholas Paul Reilly  
Diane Dayle Richardson  
Marilyn Ann Schott  
Marilyn Murrow Schnittjer  
Sandra Janann Schweitzer

Renee Ann Sterenberg  
Christopher Beltzner Stoltz  
Warren William Stoner  
Sharon Kay Strong

Lawrence Charles Studt  
Paula Jane Thomson  
George Frank Trpkosh, Jr.  
Kathleen Andrea Wallace

Robert Roy Wilkinson  
Roberta Lea Woods  
Sharon Kay Woods

### 1964 Graduates

Dennis L. Akers  
Douglas Regen Armstrong  
Ronald Neal Armstrong  
Allan William Asplund  
Janis Kay Bair  
Mary Susan Bauman  
Robert James Bensmiller  
John Jay Billings  
Michael L. Brawner  
Holly Brisbin  
Allen Blair Childs  
Terriann Chitty  
Virgil John Clark  
Tex A. Clay  
Charles Morris Cochran, Jr.  
Patricia Jeanne Colton  
Nancy Jane Decker  
Gilbert Thomas Drahos  
Vicki Lynn Edleman  
James P. Ellison  
David Arthur Fisher  
Reid Michael Hanley

Lyle W. Hanna  
William Thomas Henley  
Stephen C. Howard  
Bessie Mae Humes  
Robert J. Jilovec  
Janice Marie Johnson  
Sally Grace Johnston  
Diana Sue Kafer  
Gary L. Kaplan  
Roger N. Kost  
Betty F. Koutny  
JoAnn Kroul  
Jean Ann Kuntz  
David Dewayne Lambertsen  
Ronald R. Longerbeam  
Marcia Lea Mallie  
Ronald W. Martin  
Jane Lorraine Maxson  
Joyce E. Miller  
William Moffit  
Joanne L. Moses  
Stanley James Parks

Jeanne Elizabeth Peterson  
John George Petrick  
Steven Allen Rahn  
Victor Jon Rahn  
John Tobias Saathoff  
Martha Dillow Shackford  
Timothy Allan Simmons  
Russell Carl Steiner  
Darla Dee Stoltz  
Lyman Scott Stoneking  
Ray Glenn Stoner  
Joseph S. Studt  
Terry Alan Travis  
Thomas Eugene Tyler  
Marsha A. Viter  
James Melvin Wallace  
Joan Lisette Wallace  
Susan Elaine West  
Barbara Ellen Whitlock  
Denny Lee Wolrab  
Donald Lee Yaeger

### 1965 Graduates

Florene Kae Allard  
Jo Anne Baril  
Thomas LaVern Benson  
Judith Ann Berends  
David Jon Brown  
Susan Camp Bunting  
Linda Ilene Burge  
Ramona Ruth Bys  
Robert J. Caldwell  
Mark Clark  
Jinda Margaret Colehour  
Sharon Louise Edgerly  
Steven Mark Edwards  
Richard Lynn Fordyce  
Anthony Joseph Giannini  
Jo Ann Goodlove  
Shirley Jean Gordon  
Andrea Lea Goudy  
Shirley Lee Gugler  
Gregory Alan Harman

David Allen Hartl  
Scott Arthur Hickson  
Richard Bennett Hoke  
Robert Don Horton  
Ronnie Noel Jamison  
Barbara Kaye Jayne  
Karen Lynn Kent  
Linda Elaine Kirkpatrick  
Gary Lee Knutson  
Gary William Kolek  
John Lewis Krumm  
Irene Marie Kuntz  
Dennis R. Lnenicka  
Robert Hugh Lyons  
Fred Harvey McLaughlin  
Michael Paul Maaske  
Betty Dianne Maynard  
Pauline Mary Meroshek  
Nancy Jean Meyer  
Michael E. Moore

Susan Joyce Mounts  
Vicki Jo Nailor  
Donald Oren Patchin  
Marilyn Plattenberger  
Patricia Ellen Reilly  
Linda Christine Richardson  
James T. Rife  
Suzanne Maria Roberts  
Helen Marie Sievers  
Dennis Alan Steele  
Sharon Kay Studt  
Dennis Lee Sweet  
Karen Jean Swiser  
Dean Edward Tesar  
John Vincent Thomson  
Jeffery Ulrich  
Frank Alvin Wilkinson  
John Joseph Woods

## 1966 Graduates

Steven Douglas Baril	Linda K. Forest	Jon Barta Miller
Steven Robert Allard	Linda Lee Friedrichs	Jeri Meridith Neal
Jeanette Louise Andrew	Ruth Ann Gerholdt	Stephen Craig Neal
Kristin K. Armstrong	Susan Priscilla Glattly	Angela Dawn Nedjl
William Corlyn Bauman	Janice Louise Hanna	Arnold E. Onstott
Leonard R. Becicka	Susan Kay Hanley	John Joseph Pospisil
Linda S. Bensmiller	Susan Hansen	Vance Gordon Rahn
Pamela Mary Beranek	Karen Kay Heeren	Lawrence Michael Reilly
Penny Marie Beranek	Brent Dean Hege	Steven Lee Remington
Mary Joan Brown	Pat J. Herring	Sally Lou Richards
Cynthia Ann Buresh	Mary Jo Hodge	Jill Lorraine Richardson
Leslye Ruth Burgess	Pamella Jean Hormann	Lana Faye Richardson
James Ralph Chadek	Janet Helen Hunter	Linda Raye Richardson
David E. Clark	Christine Mildred Irwin	John Michael Schick
Glen Douglas Clark	Clifford Wayne Kaplan	Dana Lee Snodgress
Douglas Earl Colon	Nancie Dee Kent	Eugene Ivan Stoneking
Loren Arthur Conley	Mary Elizabeth Kroul	John Darrel Studer
Theodore W. Croy, Jr.	Donna Lou Krumm	Kathy Lynn Stude
Susan Ann Dows	Dan Ellis Lambertsen	Wilma Marie Svatosch
Margaret Ann Ellison	William Lee Lighthall	Stephen Dennis Troy
Pamela Jean Ellison	Rosetta Ann Lynott	Jack Cullen Werling
Barbara Jo Evans	Mary Lynn Mallie	Dennis John Wilkinson
Peggy Sue Faint	Karilyn Sue Mead	Vicky Jo Wolrab

## 1967 Graduates

Dennis Ronald Allard	John James Gunn, Jr.	Pamela Ann Pitlik
Jane Anne Baker	Christine Marie Halterman	Roger Louis Pitlik
Gary Richard Biderman	Marianne Hansen	Barbara Helen Plattenberger
Thomas Alan Blinks	John Robert Havill	Diane Marie Pospisil
Brenda Kathleen Brawner	Philip Fredrick Hetland	Douglas Paul Randall
Gail Terese Brown	Edwin Frank Holcomb	Roger Earl Rife
Keith Wayne Burge	Carol Margaret Klein	Michael Robert Seiler
Mark Henry Burgess	Mary Catherine Krejci	Jeffrey Allyn Siggins
Christine Caroline Chadek	Lary Ray Krumm	Terry Joseph Simmons
David Wayne Clark	Bill Gene Lange	Nancy Fay Smykil
Steven Henry Clark	Beth Louise Larsen	Michael Lee Snodgress
Barbara Louise Clarke	Steven Joseph Lnenicka	David Lee Stastny
Donald Wayne Colton	Robert A. Locke	Janine Kaye Stastny
Joseph LeRoy Conner	Nancy LaVonne Lowenberg	Richard Robert Stinson
Gary Lee Croy	Nancy Jean Lynott	Wanda Marie Stoneking
Linda Dianne Davis	Terri Lee Meeks	Ronald Roy Swanson
Stephen James Drahos	Sharon Kay Meyer	Karen Kay Tesar
Edward Harold Dye	Denny Jack Morgan	Julie Ann Thompson
Sandra Lea Erenberger	David Lee Moses	Timothy Alan Thomsen
Mary Elizabeth Evans	Kenneth Galen Neal	Nancy Lynne Tonne
Garry Norden Erie	Peggy Lou Neal	Rodney William Venditti
Donna Joan Ferguson	Shelley Lynne Peterson	Rita Mae Vislisel
Candice Kay Goodrich	Lawrence Joseph Pisarik	Gary Alva Viter
Martha Elaine Gregory		Jacklyn Ann Wolrab
		Thomas W. Wolver
		Cynthia Ann Whittemore

## 1968 Graduates

Mary Wilda Achenbach  
Carl H. Anderson, Jr.  
Richard D. Barrett  
Carol Kay Bell  
Dale Richard Bensmiller  
Robert L. Berends  
Sharon Ann Broulik  
William E. Bys, Jr.  
Linda Jean Carter  
Vicki Marie Childs  
Donna Marie Clark  
Gary Dean Clark  
Gordon Oliver Clark  
Trudy Ann Clay  
Jane Colbohr  
Sandra Collins Prull  
Robert Earl Davis  
Leonard Kenneth Ditch  
Charles Mark Driscoll  
Anne Louise DuVal  
Karen Edwards  
Thomas Lynn Ely  
Dale Lynn Emerson  
Patricia Ann Forde  
Roxanna Jean Franks  
Gary LeRoy Gaines

David N. Gaskill  
Margaret Marie Giannini  
Patty Sue Glick  
John Lynn Goodlove  
Beverly Ann Halterman  
Delores Ann Hartl  
Janet Kay Henderson  
Linda Kay Hess  
Carol SueAnn Hickson  
Carol Ann Hoke  
Steven Ward Horton  
Lynne Michelle Humphries  
Barry Allen Jamison  
Mary Ellen Jayne  
Kay Janette Kirkpatrick  
Robert Allen Kolek  
Constance Jean Lehman  
Gregory Vern Livingston  
Beth Ellen Lowenberg  
Candace Mary Miller  
Karl Joseph Moses  
Joanne Leslie Mounts  
Susan Gay Nailor  
Mary Jane Oakley  
Diana Kay Petrick  
Cynthia Elaine Pierce

Patrick Allen Pisarik  
Gregory Merrill Pitlik  
Carol Ann Pospisil  
Douglas Robert Pospisil  
Kenneth Michael Pospisil  
Rox Ellsworth Rahn  
Catherine G. Reiff  
John Joseph Reilly  
Gary George Reyhons  
Richard Glen Rogers  
Esteban Luis Saint Martin  
Craig Dean Scheetz  
Vaughn Lee Schweitzer  
Brenda Lea Simonds  
Michael Thomas Smith  
Claude Bruce Steele  
Frederick Henry Sterenberg  
Lona Jean Sterenberg  
Karen Kay Stinson  
Robert Stoll  
David Virgil Stoner  
Jane Ellen Strother  
Rita Jeanne Suchomel  
Marcia Ruth Swaney  
Barbara Ann Thomsen  
Gayle Ann Wallace  
Laura Fay Werkman  
Sandra Lynn West

## 1969 Graduates

Ruth Ann Burgher  
Suzanne Jessica Chadek  
Jackie Isaac Chapman  
Sherleen Ann Clausen  
Sara Christine Dye  
Douglas Charles Easker  
Wendy Sue Ellison  
Kay Arlene Ely  
James Donald Erenberger  
Louis Leroy Floden, Jr.  
Allen Kent Forest  
Sandra Lee Gaines  
Dan Alfred Gaskill  
Lynda Ruth Goodlove  
Deborah Kay Goudy  
Maureen K. Haack  
Brian Kent Harman  
Scott Michael Harrison  
Darlene Adele Hartl  
Mary Lou Hubble  
Catherine Anna Humphries

Sharae Louise Hylbak  
Angela Marie Jennings  
Mark Summer Johnson  
Donald Waid Kaplan  
Diane Louise Kirkpatrick  
Steven Ray Kirkpatrick  
Linda Sue Locke  
Stephen Dwight Maaske  
Marna Lou Mallie  
Douglas Edward McLeod  
Linda Louise Miller  
Howard Frank Moses  
Floyd Joseph Mounts  
Mindy Lee Nailor  
Sandra Lee Neal  
Wayne Eugene Noble  
Douglas Earl Ohlfest  
Charlene Rae Olmstead  
Stephen Ray Overman  
Mary Lee Peterson  
Douglas Edward Pitlik

Debra Reeder Pray  
Janice Kay Randall  
Kathryn F. Randolph  
Cinda Lynn Reckling  
Dennis J. Reilly  
Kathleen Ann Rilett  
Paula Rae Sautter  
Rebecca Ann Scheetz  
Stuart James Seiler  
Janeen Marie Strong  
Kenneth Lynn Sutliff  
Michael Edward Swain  
Thomas Eugene Travis  
Sheila Patricia Troy  
Thomas E. Truesdell  
Allan Paul Viktor  
Linda Patrice Wallace  
Jill Ann Werling  
Robert Mark Winsor  
Barbara Joan Wolfe

## 1970 Graduates

Scott C. Akers	Julie Sue Gunn	Joan Marie Reilly
Robert Lynn Allard	Michael Havill	Christine Elizabeth Rilett
Carmen Stolte Armstrong	Judith Ann Hess	William Lee Reyhons
Linda Ellen Blinks	Elaine Rae Hoke	Brian Murray Rosendahl
Craig Dwain Blythe	Eva Lynn Jilovec	Keith Lyle Rosendahl
Mark Allen Brannaman	Roger Johnson	Marsha Lynne Siggins
Steven Gerard Brown	Richard A. Julich	Sherry Jean Slach
Regina Montgomery Carmer	Elizabeth Childs Kelley	Edward John Smith
Kenneth Dean Clark	Paul D. Klousia	Gwendolyn Kay Stewart
Alan Richard Clarke	Eric Roy Larsen	Dan Lee Stoner
Darwin C. Clausen	Cindy Joy Litts	Anne Renee Suchomel
Jean Marie Colehour	Mary Edna Livingston	David Allen Suri
Cynthia Sue Conrad	Wayne A. Mallie	Chris Roy Swiser
Lucy Mae Davis	Louise E. McLaughlin	Jo Ann Thomson
David Wayne Deaver	Gary Allen Meeks	Julie Kay Tonne
Gayla Ruth Deskin	Sally Ann Meyer	Henry Gerald Van Dyke, Jr.
Mary Kay Dvorak	Charles Joe Murphy	Nancy Katherine Vislisel
Michael David Easker	Michael Patrick Murphy	Susan Ellen Vislisel
William Mark Encke	Thomas A. Ohlfest	Douglas Randolph Ware
Charles Gillette Evans	Esther Lynne Phillips	Steven D. Werkman
Steve Jon Forde	Carl George Pisarik	Patricia Ann Wiggs
Twyliah Barclay Forrester	Rita Helen Pospisil	John Peyton Wilch, Jr.
Jaqueline Rae Friedrichs	Kathleen Berends Ramey	Therese A. Winsor
Sara Kay Gaarde	Alan Ray Randall	David Earl Wyatt
Lynda Marie Gregory	Bruce Wayne Reckling	Ann Leone Yeisley

## 1971 Graduates

Eugene W. Achenbach	Jeffrey Lynn Hughes	Jean Mary Pospisil
Timothy Mark Andersen	Karin Beth Hylbak	Linda Marie Pospisil
James D. Baker	Christopher Thomas Ipsan	Claudette Marie Post
Connie Marie Becker	Kathleen Ann Kaliban	Leon Dale Post
Daniel B. Brawner	Wendy Kay Kaplan	Elizabeth Jane Randolph
Richard L. Busenbark	Dennis Jay Kirkpatrick	Michael L. Reid
James Michael Clancy	David Allan Koch	Robert John Sautter
Dennis L. Clark	Rebecca Jean Kroul	Nancy Alice Schmitz
Donita Kay Clark	Roy Dean Kuntz	Brian Douglas Seiler
Gregory J. Clark	Kurt Gregg Larsen	Linda Lee Snodgress
Jacqueline Louise Cochran	Julia Ann Loomis	Dennis Wayne Stewart
Jeanette Ann Cochran	James S. Marshek	Dennis John Strother
David Lloyd Ellison	Steven Wesley Meyer	Judy Lynn Strother
Charles R. Franks, Jr.	Ellen Marie Miller	Thomas Eugene Studt
Susan Carol Gaines	Corine A. Moore	Jane Marie Suchomel
Susan Strickland Gaston	Joe Allan Moses	Douglas Alan Thomson
David J. Gregory	Charlotte Ann Mounts	Peggy Ann Travis
Jay Curtis Gunn	Craig Neal Palmer	Teresa Anne Wallace
Kevin Claude Harrison	Scott C. Peterson	Edie Ann Wilch
Connie Sue Heeren	Bonnie Ann Pisarik	Thomas Lynn Wolfe
Ronnie Ray Heeren	John A. Pisarik	
Charles P. Hubble	Dennis R. Pitlik	

## Class of 1972 Graduates

Kathryn Jean Akers  
David Gene Behrens  
Julie Ann Beranek  
James H. Berends  
Nancy Jean Broulik  
Gail Jo Burgess  
Kristine K. Bys  
Gary Loren Clark  
Cynthia Louise Cribbs  
Susan Eileen Deskin  
Gary Arthur Drahos  
Mary Louise Ellison  
Connie Jo Ferguson  
Mary Christine Friedrichs  
Steven Charles Haack  
Carol Sue Hearn  
Darrell Lee Henderson  
Wendy Kay Hodgdon  
David Allen Hoke  
Paul Kae Holcomb  
Deborah Jo Holtz  
Daryl Lee Johnson  
Wendy A. Koenig  
Linda Lee Lavee  
Valerie Lynn Maaske

Ralph Norman Jordan  
Joan Deanne Karr  
Ross D. Kendall  
Patricia Anne Kent  
Allen Leo Kirkpatrick  
Kenneth William Klinsky  
Gary Duane Koppenhaver  
Brenda Sue Lange  
Jean Lorraine Lehman  
Gloria Jean Luenicka  
Timothy H. Maasko  
Michael J. Meeks  
Elizabeth Kelly Morrissey  
Kim Alan Murphy  
Mary Lynn Niederhauser  
Michael R. Ohlfest  
Nancy Marie Overman  
Viki Maureen Peterson  
David M. Pierce, Jr.  
Valerie Elizabeth Pierce  
Katherine Mary Pisarik  
Thomas Adams Pray

1973 Graduates

William Ryan Pringle  
Kevin Thomas Reilly  
Timothy J. Reynolds  
Patricia Ann Rice  
John W. Rilett  
Craig Alan Shutt  
Anna Silliman  
Allen Dean Solomon  
Jon Hall Strother  
Michael Robert Studt  
Rajinder Paul Surana  
Charles Logan Swaney  
William Leo Thomsen  
William D. Travis  
Janis Leigh Truesdell  
Francesca Lee Wallace  
Joseph Andrew Werling  
Mark Joseph Wilch  
Matthew James Wilch  
Glenn David Wolfe  
Christine Sue Woods  
Diane Marie Zinkula

Narji Kay Barrett  
Sheila Ann Billings  
Susan Delaine Blazek  
James Allan Brannaman  
David C. Brokei  
Paul Brown  
Barbara Jean Buresh  
Scott Lee Bys  
Mary Jean Clark  
Michael Jay Clark  
Duane Robert Clausen  
Lawrence L. Covington  
Kimberly G. Dake  
Lori Dana  
James Curtis Davies  
Duane Frank Drahos  
Marvin James Driscoll  
Tracy Jo Edmunds  
Timothy R. Ely  
Erik L. Encke  
Pamela Jean Feaker  
John D. Ferguson  
Anna Louise Franks  
Ellen A. Gaines

Pamela Jo Gaines  
Reid F. Goodrich  
Anna Marie Hajek  
Christine Louise Hanson  
Philip E. Heywood  
Charlene Kay Hinchliffe  
Harold R. Hufford  
Barbara Jean Hughes  
Mark Charles Hylbak  
Lisa Marie Ipsan  
Donna Jean Jamison  
Cinda Jo Jensen  
Vernon W. Johnson  
Mary Kay Kalibau  
Mark Edward Kerr  
Susan Jane Kinley  
Mark A. Kirkpatrick  
Sheryl Lynn Koss  
Paul Ashley Krutschmer  
Ralph G. Krumm  
Dirk Larsen  
Ty Larsen  
Jody Ann Lowenberg  
Lynn Ellen Maasko

Darlene Kay Maiden  
Debra Jean Main  
Carmela Mary Miller  
Victoria Jean Miller  
Charles E. Moore  
Jacqueline Mary Moore  
Michael J. Mortensen  
Daniel Dennis Moses  
Steve Allan Moses  
April Ann Oja  
James Anthony Pfiffner  
Daniel Lee Reilly  
Michael Carl Rice  
Ivan Lee Simonds  
Kevin David Smith  
Linette Marie Stewart  
Marilynn Kay Stoltz  
Sheila Kumari Surana  
Victoria Ann Telecky  
Douglas Michael Thumm  
Holly Jo Toné  
Janis Kay Voetberg  
Jeffrey Charles Werling  
Vicky L. Willie  
Kevin Michael Woods

## 1974 Graduates

Gary D. Allard  
Valerie Ann Anderson  
Gary Eugene Arnold  
Steven Edward Arnold  
Robert D. Barrett  
John F. Bartosh  
Joann Lorraine Bissell  
Kenneth F. Blazek  
Kimberly Boyd  
Preston Brawner  
Robert Lee Broulik  
Steven Leroy Brown  
Guy Eric Bys  
Jenifer Ann Chadek  
Linda Kay Clark  
Merle L. Clark  
Richard Harold Clark  
Theresa Marie Cody  
Keith Danny Conrad  
Patricia Ellen Cribbs  
Ann Marie Dvorak  
JoAnn Marie Erenberger  
Kimberlee Lynn Fall  
Cynthia Lou Feaker  
Betty Jean Floden  
Robert W. Gaston  
Richard J. Hanson, Jr.  
Rick L. Hanson

Carolyn Louise Henderson  
Craig Dee Hoffman  
Edwin Eugene Hubble  
Nina Kay Ipsan  
Kaj Alan Jensen  
Shirley Kay Klinsky  
Karol D. Koppenhaver  
Denise Marie Koss  
Denise Kay Krejci  
Julie Dawn Kruger  
Glen D. Kuntz  
Joni Jo Loomis  
Joy Patricia Marshek  
Glenda McConaughy  
Douglas Arthur Meyer  
Miles Franklin Meyer  
Karen A. Miller  
Patrick James Moses  
Patricia Jean Mounts  
William R. Niederhauser  
Mary Christine Palmer  
Debra Ann Peshek  
Timothy Raymond Pfiffner  
Russell Paul Phillips  
Andrea Sue Pitlik  
David L. Pitlik  
Jeffrey Lynn Pitlik  
Roxanna Jean Post

Susan M. Pringle  
Timothy R. Reilly  
Sandra Sue Rice  
Phil G. Rilett  
Donna Louise Rosendahl  
Randy J. Rundle  
Mark G. Sargent  
Stephanie Susan Scott  
Eddie R. Slach  
Annette Marie Stastny  
Karen Marie Stewart  
Steven Pat Strauch  
Terry Michael Studt  
Joan Louise Suchomel  
Carol Ann Tesar  
Ellen Summers Thomas  
Anna Marie Tonne  
Timothy Joseph Tuberty  
Debra Lynn Vargason  
Diane Kay Viktor  
Linda Lu Voetberg  
Mark Eugene Walden  
Terri Lynn Wattleworth  
Joel David Wolfe  
Kathryn J. Wolfe  
Janette K. Wolrab  
Calvin George Woods  
Donna Sue Zinkula

## 1975 Graduates

Philip James Akers  
Rick L. Anderson  
Scott Douglas Arnold  
Craig Alan Baack  
Russell C. Baker  
Thomas D. Barthel  
Cheryl Ann Becicka  
Marcella JoAnn Behrens  
Susan Kay Berends  
Jennifer Rosalie Bern  
Christine Kay Billings  
Kevin Lee Capaccioli  
Dana Eric Christiansen  
Kenneth J. Clancy  
Mark Allen Clark  
Carolyn Rae Clausen  
Mary Angela Conrad  
Crystal Kay Cottrell  
Luann Covington  
Brian L. Dake

Arden Kay Dana  
Dan Gale Davies  
Terry Lee Ely  
David Jennings Fall, Jr.  
Dennis Robert Friedrichs  
Douglas Lyle Gaines  
Jeff A. Gregory  
James E. Hearn  
John W. Hearn  
Philip D. Heath  
James Edward Hess  
Joseph Anthony Hufford  
Lori Lyn Hylbak  
David Edward Jensen  
Andrea Marie Jilovec  
Barry C. Johnson  
David A. Kaplan  
Nancy A. Kendall  
Matthew Charles Kinley  
Brian Wayne Kirkpatrick

Kathleen Marie Konkowski  
Mark Steven Kretschmer  
Kenyon Robert Landis  
Lori Ann Lehman  
Donald L. Locke  
Kelly Lee Main  
Raymond Jay Majors  
Carol Lynne Mallie  
Michael J. Melchert  
Daniel W. Moore  
Barbara A. Neff  
Gerald Allen Niederhauser  
David E. Ohlfest  
Susan Elizabeth Palmer  
Ronald J. Pisarik  
Edward J. Pospisil  
Kevin W. Raines  
Jerry J. Rank  
Beth Ann Reilly  
Linda Kay Royer

Steven S. Scott  
Richard W. Seaton  
Anne Elizabeth Shutt  
Matthew R. Silliman  
Joseph Perry Smith  
Judy Jean Stolte  
Robert L. Strauch

Denise K. Strother  
Jack D. Strother  
Michael Curtis Thomas  
Mary Elizabeth Thomsen  
Terrie Lynn Tuel  
Aaron Jake Van Dyke  
Tracy A. Venditti

David H. Ware  
Mark Leslie Whitley  
Patrick J. Wilch  
Patrick Allen Wolfe  
Carol Ann Woods  
Rebecca C. Yeisley  
Thomas R. Zinkula

### 1976 Graduates

Alan Stewart Anderson  
Joyce Ann Archibald  
William J. Bacher  
Dan William Blinks  
David W. Blythe  
Daniel Jeffery Boggs  
Randy Bruce Borg  
Barbara Louise Boudreau  
Steven Lynn Brokel  
John Emil Broulik  
Kenneth Ray Butterbaugh  
Deborah Ann Capaccioli  
Kelly Jo Carpenter  
Debra Sue Clark  
Sheryle Kay Clark  
Dean A. Conley  
Richard Corkin  
Robert F. Corkin  
Dianne Marie Dolezal  
Larry D. Feaker  
Teresa Hines Flockhart  
Cindy Lee Gaines  
Karin Jean Haack  
Ronnie Dean Hanson  
Cynthia Louise Marie Hartl  
Karen Diane Heath  
John Leonard Henik  
Larry Charles Hess  
Ann Marie Heywood

David Scott Hinman  
Denise Ann Hoffman  
Gloriane Renee Holtz  
Kathryn L. Ipsan  
Lee Dana Jensen  
Sue Ann Jensen  
Scott Alan Jorgensen  
Gloria Dee Kempf  
Daniel Howard Kinley  
Joy Dawn Koehn  
Scott Martin Koppenhaver  
Carol Anne Kuntz  
Ivan Lee Kuntz  
Brian Charles Litts  
Robert Louis Lynott  
Julie Louise Lyon  
Lisa Renea Maher  
Julie Marie McConaughy  
Phil G. McConaughy  
Gregory Al Morrissey  
Teresa Kay Mortensen  
Gerald John Moses  
Dennis Lee Murphy  
Mark William Nichols  
Albert Hardie Park  
Sandra Kay Peshek  
Terry Lee Pisarik  
Randy Jay Post  
Rick Ray Post

Brenda Lee Raim  
Mark E. Reilly  
Jane Marie Rice  
Sheryl Sue Seaton  
Carol Ingelotte Semler  
Debbie Lynn Simnacher  
Justin A. Simon  
Barbara Ellen Stewart  
Kent Edward Streed  
Elizabeth Ann Strickland  
Debra Lea Strother  
Dennis John Studt  
Ramona Rani Suri  
Steven Alden Swaney  
Rebecca Jean Telecky  
Jan Etta Thomas  
John Lee Thompson, Jr.  
Robert William Thornton  
Sandra Marie Truesdell  
Emil Thomas Velky, Jr.  
David Martin Vislisel  
Dianne Marie Vislisel  
Steven Joseph Vislisel  
Deborah Jean Walden  
Sarah Wattleworth  
Joel R. Weber  
Kevin D. Whitman  
Sandy Kay Zinkula

### 1977 Graduates

Terry L. Arnold	Darwin A. Hartl	Thomas John Pfiffner
Cheryl Darlene Bacher	Michael David Hartl	Owen S. Raun
Kenneth Harlan Barrett	Warren Allen Havill	Patrick S. Reilly
Brian Richard Barthel	Robert A. Heeren	Steven P. Reilly
John David Barthel	Carol Rae Henry	Mary Theresa Ann Rice
Frank L. Bartosh	Paul Wayne Holtz	Steve P. Sargent
Dona Jean Basemann	Denise E. Jilovec	Michael J. Sheets
Pamela Ann Becker	Heather Anne Johnson	Emily Silliman
Jeffry Allen Beranek	Kirk E. Jones	Elizabeth Kathleen Smith
Daniel W. Bern	Melanie Sue Keith	Rochelle Lee Sommerville
Lynn Ann Berry	Kathy Jo Klinsky	Nancy Ann Stolte
Barbara Lee Blinks	Jay Richard Koehn	Dean L. Studt
Terry D. Boren	Patty Ann Konecny	Kevin William Studt
Eric Brian Bostwick	John L. Kroul	Kurt D. Suchomel
Daniel Joseph Broulik	Thomas L. Kroul	Martha Jane Thomsen
Stanton C. Campbell	Ann Denise Lehman	Ronald Dean Thuerauf
Lisa Annette Clark	Roger Dale Main	Becky Ann Thumm
Russell Allen Clark	Karen R. Markley	Dan J. Ties
Cindy K. Dam	James A. Maxson	Ellen Vivian Tuel
Brenda Jean Drahos	Darrell Dean Merta	Venda L. Venditti
Tina Marie Ely	Christina Mary Miller	Gloria Mae Velky
Gary Lynn Emanuel	Sarah Lyn Moore	Cindy S. Viter
Kristine Dea Erenberger	Cathy Ann Moses	Gary Scott Voetberg
Roxanne Lee Fall	Susie Joyce Moses	Daniel Jerome Wilch
Roger S. Freeman	Dao Nguyen	Robert Jack Wolfe
Daniel K. Gaines	John Joseph Niederhauser	Michael Robert Woods
Dean Alan Gaines	Randy L. Osborn	Lorri L. Wright
Timothy Shamus Garry	Theresa Rae Pearson	Michael E. Zinkula
Barbara Jean Harms	Payson Warner Peterson	

### 1978 Graduates

Lynn Diane Arnold	Linda Jean Klinsky	Teresa Jean Reilly
Cathy Louise Bacher	Jeri Jo Koehn	Barbara Elizabeth Rice
Bonnie Marie Bartosh	Paul George Konkowski	Kelly L. Rodarmel
Lois Joann Bell	Ann Marie Koppenhaver	Rodney Jay Rundle
Ronald Allen Berends	Kevin Charles Kretschmer	Dave D. Smith
Karen Annette Blessing	Tina Marie Kuehl	Gregory John Solomon
Barton Scott Borg	Alan J. Kuntz	Jeffery Scott Spencer
Alvin Scott Brokel	Stuart James Lawrence	Teri Ellen Sterner
Evelyn Helen Chittenden	Robert Charles Lee	Deborah Jean Strickland
Scot Rolfe Christiansen	Blair Charles Litts	Kumar Krishan Suri
Nancy Ann Clark	Holly Jeanette Lyon	Deborah Lynn Telecky
Janelle Lynn Corkin	Randall Allen Majors	Dennis Francis Ties
Cynthia Lynne Deskin	Eric R. Markley	Joan Marie Tuberty
Jon Paul Douda	Jodie Lynn Martin	Brenda Lou Vargason
Paul George Farfaras	Mirva J. Matheus S.	Cheryl Ann Velky
Thomas Alan Floden	Mary Jane Melchert	Allen George Vislisel
John Steven Garry	Julianne Miller	Theresa Marie Volk
Kendra Joan Gevock	James Alan Moore	Priscilla Stuart Ware
Rosalie Wilma Gilbert	Kerry K. Morrissey	Agatha Lynn Watson
Mark Alan Gruber	Charlotte Marie Morrow	Lisa Kay Weber
Bob Lee Grant	Clifford Duane Neal	Loren Dennis Williams
James Brian Hinman	Joseph John Neff	Andrew R. Wolfe
Robin Micheal Ipsan	Chiara Marie Niederhauser	Daniel James Wolfe
Ronald Kent Johnson	Kathryn Elaine Petrick	Jeffrey L. Wright
William Lynn Kamerling	Gregory Mark Pospisil	Janet Eileen Wyllie
Sara Lynn Kendall	Melissa Sykes Pray	Walter Thomas Yeisley
Julie Ann Ketchum	Robert Albert Raim	Kenneth Lynn Zinkula

### 1979 Graduates

Randy Paul Ackerman	Julie Ann Freeman	Robert W. Neiderhauser, Jr.
Scott Albert Atherton	Margaret Rose Garry	Ricky A. Osborn
Margaret Ruth Ault	Teri Lynn Gevoek	Terri Anne Overman
James A. Barthel	Joseph D. Giannini	Helen Lee Park
Jon Scott Bellamy	Ronald D. Grant	Theresa Lynn Peshek
Sharon E. Boren	Kevin L. Havill	Mark Steven Pisarik
Jon J. Boyd	Michael F. Hines	Cheryl Lynn Randall
Ted Douglas Brokel	Diane Lyn Hoffman	Steven Michael Reyhons
Joan Michele Buchmeyer	Kirsten Andrea Houkom	Robert R. Richards
Karen Kay Campbell	Michael Andrew Hufford	Linda L. Sargent
William Robert Carlson	Randall S. Jacquart	Jim N. Sautter
Carla Sue Clark	Kelly Kristine Jaeger	Lori Jo Schoff
Denise Renee Clark	Sallie Jo Jensen	Paul F. Schweibert, Jr.
Debbie Kay Colburn	Steven Marc Jilovec	David H. Secor
Linda Mae Conley	Mary Diane Ketchum	Ricky A. Sherman
Russell J. Corkin	Richard A. Kleineck	Robert C. Smith
Cindy Lynn Cottrell	Lynette Marie Landis	Rebecca Lynn Sommerville
Mark Joseph Cullen	Ruth Haidee Latham	Van W. Sterner
Raymond A. Dochterman	Mary Melissa Liddell	Ann Elizabeth Stewart
Lori Anne Drahos	Darren Scott Loomis	Patricia Lynn Strickland
Robert E. Durfey	Carol Ann Merwin	JoAnne Kay Studt
Denise Lynn Dykhuizen	Tami Jo Ladman Morris	Mark Stephen Suchomel
Amy J. Edmunds	Kimberly Kay Moser	Robert John Thuerauf
Sandy K. Erie	Pamela Ellen Moses	David Jeffrey Thumm
Scott Alan Essex	Jody Ann Murphy	Barbara Ann Tuel
Kenneth John Franks	Shannon Ann Murphy	Emma Leigh Watson
Timothy Alan Franks	Quan Bach Nguyen	Daniel Lynn Williams
		James L. Woods

### 1980 Graduates

Shaunda Lynn Addis	Jonathan Sundquist Freeman	Barbara Lynn Raim
Cheryl A. Allard	Judy K. Gaines	John Robert Royer
Raymond L. Archibald	James Charles Garry	Brian Roger Schellberg
Craig Arnold	David Scott Gruber	Robert Dean Schneider
Larry Dean Arnold	Daniel James Henry	Catherine P. Secor
Warren J. Ault	J. Eric Heywood	Tamara S. Sherman
Lorraine Lynn Baack	Richard L. Hoffner, Jr.	Richard Burton Simon
William F. Barthel III	Paul Alan Hufford	Daniel Paul Solomon
Mark R. Biley	Larry P. Johnson	Richard L. Spellerberg II
Donald K. Blessing	Gary Wayne Jones	Troy D. Spencer
Todd Arthur Bostwick	Lori Rae Jones	Je Rita Renee Steichen
William David Bowers II	Bill D. Jorgensen	Deborah Yvonne Strauss
Cindy Lynn Bragg	Christine Ann Kinley	James D. Strother
Christine Ann Brokel	Dan M. Kirkpatrick	Patrick D. Swain
Teresa Marie Broulik	Randal Lee Koffron	Katherine A. Thuerauf
Cherilee Butterbaugh	Lorris L. Kopecky	Debra Mae Ties
Tina Marie Capacioli	George Chryss Krivo	Jeffrey Dean Traver
Christopher K. Carpenter	Bradley Richard Kruse	Vicki Jean Traver
Anthony Paul Caspers	Jeffrey L. Kuehl	Karen Ann Valentine
Susan Marie Clancy	Clinton Richard Landis	Gerald L. Vick II
Bryan Clark	Andrea Helen LeVan	Sandra Ann Vislisek
John F. Corcoran	Scott Charles Lockwood	Laura Kay Watson
Teri Lynn Core	Rodney Alan Main	Loyd Lee Waybill
Laura Suzanne Cullen	Lorie Ann Martin	John C.F. Weber
Richard Michael Dana	Lori Marie Melchert	Ann Elizabeth Whitley
Angela Corrine Drahos	Randal Joe Miller	Bradley A. Whitman
David L.J. Dykhuizen	Karry Lynn Moser	Thomas Irwin Wilch
Alan B. Essex	Cynthia Kay Osborn	Mary Elizabeth Wolfe
Paul H. Fall	Lyle R. Pearson	Jerry D. Zinkula

### 1981 Graduates

Alison Ann Alexander	Joel M. Houkom	Penny Lee Randall
Donna Sue Becicka	Kelly Hutchins	Laurie K. Reilly
Rick Lynn Becker	Scott D. Johnson	Marc A. Reyhons
Amy Bellamy	Susan Elaine Johnson	Kevin Allen Rogers
Stephanie Kay Berry	Thomas D. Keith	Rory James Rundle
Debra Jean Biley	Devin Lee Kelso	Bonnie Leah Sawyer
Denise J. Boggs	Patty Sue Kimble	Vicki Rene Schneider
Todd A. Bontrager	Elizabeth J. Kleineck	Judith Ann Smith
Tyler W. Bontrager	Kim K. Klinsky	Wesley C. Solomon
Barbara Ann Bremner	James Leroy Koehn	Ellen L. Soukup
Patricia A. Brown	David M. Koffron	Larwence J. Spellerberg
Lance Allen Campbell	Linda Marie Kuntz	Rhondi Staley
Patti Jo Capaccioli	Julia Ann Lee	Jeffrey T. Steichen
Margaret Ellen Carew	Karren Ann Loomis	Cheryl Lynn Stepanek
Matthew Joseph Carpenter	Sharren Kay Loomis	Thomas Peter Stewart
DeAnna Beve Caspers	Andrew Louis Luke	Teresa Marie Stolte
Diana L. Chittenden	Chris Franklin David Lyon	Joseph C. Svec
Amanda Marette Colehour	David Ross MacKay	Teresa Kay Telecky
Ronald K. Corkin	Dean Owen Main	Julie Ann Traver
Robyn Anne Dochterman	Mary S. Moore	David James Tuel
Carol Sue Dolezal	Tracy Ann Moore	Melany Ann Venditti
Barbara Ann Durfey	Kimberly Ann Mortensen	Todd Alan Walden
David Eugene Edmunds	Quynh D. Nguyen	Nick J. Walker
Steven Keith Franks	Robyn Lynne Niswonger	John Kevin Wallace
Jeffrey G. Funk	Annette R. Palmer	Brett T. Wilde
Laurence Joseph Gevock	Mark Frederick Parnell	Debra Kay Wright
Brenda Sue Harms	Robert David Penn	Kelly Wright
James S. Hartung	Douglas C. Pierce	Leanne M. Zinkula
Denise Ann Henik	Steven Charles Pisarik	Sharon Ann Zinkula

### 1982 Graduates

Lisa Ann Addis	Mary Ellen Henik	Gregory A. Randall
Julie Rae Atherton	Julie Marie Hines	Karen Kay Randall
Randy Alan Biley	Darcy Diane Holtz	Steven Craig Randall
Douglas J. Boggs	Terrence D. Houser, Jr.	Henry Joe Rempt
Kristin Beth Bowers	Walter Edward Houser	Karen Sue Rodarmel
Daniel F. Bragg	Carol Joyce Hufford	Mark D. Rodman
Andrew Keith Buchmeyer	Jennifer Lynn Jordan	Jeffrey Dean Rogers
James M. Campbell	Lynnette Sue Kleineck	Sheryl Lynn Russell
Sarah Jean Carew	Joby Christain Koehn	Burghard Karsten Schupp
Susan Carol Caspers	Bruce E. Kral	Christine K. Schwiebert
Jennifer W. Cell	Lynn A. Krambeck	Brenda Sue Shuttleworth
Tara R. Cole	Anne Louise Krivo	Eric Brian Siggins
Cheryl A. Covington	Rick Allen Krob	Heidi Jo Simnacher
Patrick W. Cullen	Kelli Kay Kuehl	Cynthia Marie Spellerberg
Stacy Ann Douda	Catherine Alice LeVan	Travis L. Steichen
Douglas Wesley Drahos	Jeffrey Aaron Lifson	William J. Strauss
Daniel F. Dumbaugh	Randy J. Livermore	John Richard Thomas
Gregory Peter Encke	Christina Elizabeth MacKay	Kenneth A. Valentine
Sonia Rae Essex	Wayne William Mantz	Daniel Edward Vislisel
Laura Kathleen Franks	Wendy Jo McClain	Robert Earl Wagner III
Michael Joseph Frantz	Mary Jo Merta	Jennifer Joline Walker
John Benjamin Gaston	Theodore Perry Meyer	Gregory Paul West
Barbara Jean Geiger	Kevin Robert Moses	Judy Diane Whitley
Michael W. George	Heidi Ann Nichaus	Anne Dorothea Wiese
Jack Michael Gruber	Douglas M. Phillips	Kelly Kay Wilkey
Mark Alan Harger	Timothy Q. Phillips	Martin Lee Williams
Christine Clare Hartelt	Belle L. Raim	

### 1983 Graduates

Robin Sue Allard	Terry Shawn Gugler	Linda Renee Russell
Pamela Sue Arnold	Julie Ann Haigh	Brian P. Sargent
Mark Allen Benesh	Mark M. Hartelt	Amy J. Schmidt
Sarah Ann Bleakly	Katheryn Ann Hartl	Jayson Patrick Schoen
Gary Lee Boren	Melissa Anne Hicks	Lance J. Schoff
Lindsey Jason Borg	Marlin F. Hoffner	Tracy Jo Sherman
Kristin Kay Bostwick	Dennis Scott Houser	Brenda Aleena Shute
William Meade Bremner	Kenneth Allen Houser	Mark Allen Smith
Kevin W. Campbell	Catherine Ann Hufford	Charles D. Soukup
Thomas F. Chittenden	Greg F. Hughes	Traci Lynne Staley
Cathleen Ann Clancy	Loretta Rene Kamerling	Jeffrey W. Strickland
Daniel Hiram Colehour	Mark F. Ketchum	John Edward Svec
Michael J. Corcoran	BetsyLee J. Kral	Christine Kay Traver
Mitchell A. Corcoran	Elizabeth Janet Leona Krivo	Jacqueline Kay Truesdell
Robert E. Cornthwaite	John Allen Krob	Charles E. Velky
Jeff L. Curry	Lisa L. Lewis	Wendy L. Voigt
Paul Alexander Debbins	Bryan K. McGinness	Beth Anne Walden
Michael D. Drahos	Kenneth John Moser	Benjamin Joseph Walker
Linda M. Durfey	Rhonda Renee Osborn	Susan Cakleen White
Roxann Edler	Allen R. Pearson	Meredith Kathleen Wilch
Christopher T. Frantz	Julie Kay Penn	Wendy L. Willits
Deana Marie George	Paige Ann Peterson	Jill Michele Wolrab
Steven D. Goodall	Larry Randall Petrick	Diane Dorothy Wright
Christine Marie Grant	Mary Jean Pisarik	JoAnn Marie Zinkula
David Frank Grell		

### 1984 Graduates

Tad Ault	Doug Hanson	Karen Meyer
Wendy Ballstaedt	Steve Harger	Tina Myers
Adam Baxa	Michelle Haynes	Phil Niehaus
Daryl Becicka	Jessica Hines	Brenda Noble
Debbie Blessing	Pauline Hines	Dave Ostrom
Chris Bellamy	Cyndi Houser	Jeff Pepper
Sarah Booth	Elizabeth Hufford	Theresa Quarles
Kirk Bostwick	Jeff Hunter	Scott Reyhons
Beth Bremner	Britt Hutchins	Doug Rogers
Julie Brokel	Matt Ipsan	Heidi Rosenberg
Joy Buchmeyer	Yale Jaeger	Trina Russell
Laura Buse	Jackie Jordan	Greg Shaw
Mark Carpenter	Jodie Koffron	Craig Smith
Bill Clark	Marie Konkowski	Mike Spellerberg
Dave Coleman	Kathy Kopecky	Wade Squiers
Colleen Corcoran	Sharon Kuntz	Jennie Stoltz
Kathy Cornthwaite	John Lane	Duane Ties
Maureen Cullen	Matt Lehner	Randy Timm
Jay Delancey	James Manley	Julie Truesdell
Dan Drahos	Karl Markley	Katy Wagner
Ross Dutton	Mike Martin	Dan Weddle
Lorrie Fordyce	Derek McCool	Toni Wilkey
Tracy Funk	Bill Mealmann	Susie Wolfe
Susan Garvin	Pat Melchert	Jill Woods

### 1985 Graduates

Mark David Arnold	Mark Dewayne Henik	Jon Robert Reyhons
Chad James Arp	Megan Donelle Hess	Joan Marie Michelle Rice
Peter Harwell Ault	Susan Jeanette Hoffman	Lynette June Rodman
Robin Lee Baker	Tim A. Hoffman	Catherine Marie Royer
Kirsten Anne Baylor	Wayne Lee Hormann	Constance Ann Royer
Kimberly Sue Benesh	Christopher Todd Houser	David Michael Ryan
Todd LeAllen Bothel	Shawna Lee Hutchins	Kimberly Ann Schlemmer
Daniel Dean Brown	Deborah K. Krambeck	Laura Lee Schmitz
Cynthia Ann Burnett	Lorri Lynn Krob	Angela Marie Patricia Skretta
Jan Marie Caspers	Lisa Michelle Lehr	William M. Spellerberg, Jr.
Jeffrey Alan Clark	Amy Rebecca Lifson	Dale Edwin Stolte
Ruth Katherine Corcoran	Julie Marie Livermore	Kirsten Leigh Sutherland
Nancy Sue Curry	Dana Kelly McVay	Ronald A. Timm
Christopher John Donner	Lesley B. Meyer	Ann Michelle Vislisel
William Wilson Douglass III	Marlys Lynn Moses	Annette Sue Vislisel
Thomas Martin Dumbaugh	Joseph C. Mrstik	Anthony Paul Vislisel
Joy Lynn Earle	Elliot Wayne Myers	Michael Douglas Vittetoe
Kelly Sue Erickson	Jonathon Keith Neal	Monica Rae Werling
Kent William Ford	Nichole Andrea Nelson	John Daniel Wiese
Kevan Eugene Forest	Andrea Lea Newman	Christine Kay Wilkin
Sally Ann Gardner	Lisa Maria Niederhauser	Julia Ann Wirs
Steven John Gevock	Marcia Lynn Peters	Kenneth Michael Woods
Paula Denise Gray	Amy Jo Petersen	Lonnie Joseph Wright
Diane Elizabeth Green	Peggy Lynn Peterson	Jeffery Lee Yock
William Patrick Harris	Wendy Carmen Pyles	John Martin Zahorik
Dennis Edward Hartl		Mark Joseph Zinkula

### 1986 Graduates

Tracey James Allen	Gary L. Heims	Stephanie Kay Parish
Charles E. Babcock, Jr.	Michael Scott Herrick	Ann Marie Pavelka
Marcy Ann Ballstaedt	Jane Marie Hill	Melanie Lynne Pepper
Stella Marie Beltz	Meridith Lizette Hoffman	Elizabeth Ann Pfiffner
Theodore Scott Biderman	Aron R. Hormann	Julie Adele Russell
Mark E. Bostwick	Julie Ann Houser	Abigail Louise Schellberg
Brenda Marie Bremner	Sheila Kay Kamerling	Debra Sue Schmidt
Steven Paul Buchmeyer	Stephen Lee Kimble	Pamela Karen Seeman
Jenifer Jean Buse	Katherine Lucille Kinley	Rodney E. Sherman
Jan Marie Capaccioli	Bruce Edward Koffron	Diane Song Soukup
Benjamin C. Cell	Kimbly Kathy Kral	Mark A. Stastny
Joseph Patrick Cornthwaite	Monti Allen Krob	Melissa Katherine Story
Michael Scott Davidson	Jennifer Gwyn Lane	Stacie Ellen Stults
Mary Kathleen Diers	Monica Ann Lehner	Alan Gene Svatosch
Elizabeth Grace Drongesen	Douglas Lee Martin	Sharon Frances Thuerauf
Rhonda Sue Essex	Deborah Sue McMahon	Darin Craig Vig
Darrell Hoyt Foster	Rose Mary Melchert	Shawn D. Voigt
Rachel Annette Franks	Ray Eugene Miller	Tyler Lee Wagner
Daniel Edward Frantz	Ruby LaDyne Myers	Michael C. Wilkey
Brenda Kay Goodall	Donna Denise Nederhiser	Thomas John Wilkinson
Sara Jane Hanson	Chad Allan Nemecek	Deborah Leah Winchip
Graham Harman	Adriene Lynn Newman	Marcus Stephen Wolrab
Karl A. Hartelt	Polly Ann Niederhauser	Donna Kay Wood
Misty Kay Hartung	Brian J. Norton	Peggy Jean Yock
		April Annette Zehms

### 1987 Graduates

Trenay JoLee Allen  
Susan Lynn Bacher  
Brian Charles Becker  
Robert Lee Blythe  
Michael Sean Bowers  
Rebecca Anne Bremner  
Kristin Renae Brown  
Lisa Jo Capaccioli  
Thomas Murray Carew  
Cherise Marie Carpenter  
Brian Keith Champeau  
Tanya Fay Clark  
Augusta Eileen Coleman  
Joseph John Dahlhauser  
Lori Ann Davidson  
Jeffrey Howard DeLancey  
James Matthew Drahos  
Stephanie Lynn Fisher  
Karen Marlene Ford  
Kelly Marie Forest  
Ernest Henry Foss III  
Denise Ann Fruehling  
Patrick James Gevock  
Monica Michelle Gondek  
Malinda Ann Goodall

Robert M. Green  
Sherri L. Grell  
Scott Anthony Gross  
Kristina Lee Gugler  
Timothy Dean Harger  
Seth Harman  
Heidi Leone Heck  
James Wesley Hoffman  
Kimberly Kay Houser  
Jeffrey Wade Howard  
Lisa Michelle Hunter  
Brett W. Jamison  
Richard Noel Jamison  
Travis Scott Janko  
Dennis Everett Jordan  
Joy Louise Jordan  
Anthony Paul Just  
Parker Campbell Kelley  
Douglas Lee Kopecky  
Patrick William Lange  
Kara Ann Levensen  
Lisa Ann Lnenicka  
Lynn Abby Lutheran  
Paul Calburst Marker  
Krista Ann Meeker

Jeffrey David Miller  
John Douglas Miller  
Sarah Diane Miller  
Alison Morrissey  
Donald M. Mullen  
Paul Leonard Nederhiser  
Todd Frederick Niehaus  
Russell Louis Norton III  
Laura Anne Peters  
Patricia Ann Peterson  
Troy Matthew Petrick  
David Charles Randall  
Deborah Ann Schneider  
Angela Kristine Sharf  
John Andrew Brian Skretta  
Susan Ann Stratton  
Brian Matthew Traver  
Carl W. Troendle  
Pamela Sue VanSlyke  
Deborah Jean Vittetoe  
Bernard E. Wedlund, Jr.  
Douglas Roy West  
Carter Allen White  
Patrick David White  
Richard Patrick Wirsfs  
Christina Louise Wright

### 1988 Graduates

Sandra L. Ahrens  
Dani Cae Akers  
Audra Roberta Allard  
Heather Lynn Armstrong  
Mindy Rae Arp  
Emily Elizabeth Ault  
Diane June Bair  
Lara Lee Ballstaedt  
Trisha Dorrena Bothel  
Sevan A. Boyd  
Jillian Brunotte  
Carson L. Campbell  
Tami Lynn Capaccioli  
Jennifer Ann Clark  
K. Maria A. Danielsson  
Tracy Ann Drake  
Karen Jean Durfey  
Brent Allen Durgin  
Pamela Marie Earle  
Eric Fabor  
Shelly Lynn Fordyce  
Stacy James Gross  
Heather Rae Gugler

Gregory Alan Hanson  
Joylyn Danielle Harken  
Amy Kristina Harms  
Angela Krista Harms  
Andrea P. Hess  
Timothy Edward Hill  
Brant Aaron Hoffmann  
Dewane Franklin Hughes  
Martha Kathleen Jacob  
Erich Michael Jacobsen  
Tiffany Michelle Just  
Tamara Lynn Knake  
Magille Kurtz  
Lynn N. Larson  
Todd Andrew Lehr  
Kristie Lynn Lighthall  
Becky Lynn Livermore  
Julie E. Lnenicka  
David J. Lynott  
Shawn M.E. Manson  
Zinatara A. Manji  
Matt Edward Mehaffy  
Debra Kay Moses

Lisa Lyn Nemecek  
Tina Marie Palmer  
Tamara Sue Petersen  
Kevin Pringle  
Jennifer L. Rockrohr  
Daniel Walter Scheibberg  
Brian Clark Seeman  
Leslie Jean Slife  
Patrick Joseph Spellerberg  
Lisa Catherine Squiers  
Sandra M. Starkweather  
Robert W. Sutherland III  
Daniel Edward Thuerauf  
Kerri Renee Ulch  
Donna Leann Vargason  
Andrew C. Vislisel  
Aaron E. Werling  
Mark J. Wilkey  
Terri Lynn Willits  
Keith Robert Woods  
Kimberly Renee Wulf  
Sandra Lee Zehms  
Michael M. Zobac

### **1990 Graduates**

Daniel R. Aalbers  
Jon L. Akers  
Travis J. Allen  
Shauna M. Arenas  
Heather A. Atkinson  
Natasha M. Ballstaedt  
Angela Marie L. Balster  
Otto P. Boettcher  
Jason L. Bohannon  
Jason W. Booth  
Matthew K. Borg  
Frank K. Breitschwerdt  
Kimberly K. Burke  
Craig S. Capron  
Beth M. Carlson  
Margaret A. Cejka  
Aaron L. Cole  
Jacqueline A. Corkin  
Troy J. Cronbaugh  
David A. Dunn II  
Kristy A. Forest  
Robert J. Foss  
Jaysen D. Franks  
Alexander W. Frey  
Benton M. Frey  
Aaron C. Goodrich  
Spencer W. Gross  
Jennifer L. Hanson  
  
Jason P. Happel  
Julie M. Harrington  
Sarah M. Heck  
John A. Hoffman  
Mike Jamison  
David A. Jordan  
Brittany A. Kaalberg  
Kela M. Kelley  
Aaron M. Kirkpatrick  
Janee S. Kochn  
Joel A. Koffron  
Riikka H. Laakso  
Brett M. Lewis  
Richard L. Lighthall  
Elizabeth A. Marker  
John Martin  
Sarah E. Martin  
Kimberly S. McGowan  
Jamey K. Miell  
Matthew K. Miller  
Naomi A. Miller  
Paul P. Morf  
Andrea L. Mott  
David C. Mullen  
Eva C. Nordenhall  
Curt A. Novak  
Randy S. Oakley, Jr.  
Matthew T. Ostrom  
  
Sarah M. Pavelka  
Matthew R. Pfiffner  
Chaddwick M. Plotz  
Damon R. Pyles  
David M. Ringold  
Russell W. Ryan  
Rumi Salazar  
Paula M. Sand  
Jennifer L. Schulte  
Scot A. Shepley  
Heather M. Sitzmore  
Matthew J. Slinker  
Jack R. Starkweather  
Joseph C. Stoltz  
Megan K. Story  
Aaron E. Telecky  
Chang K. Thomson  
Aaron D. Thomson  
Chad M. Thurn  
Linda Vindenes  
Angela M. Vittetoe  
Scott R. Warner  
Peter J. Wilch  
Jayson W. Wilkinson  
James E. Winchip  
Wendy A. Woods  
Sonya E. Wulf

### **1989 Graduates**

Paulette L. Adams  
Holly J. Armstrong  
Teresa Kay Babock  
Tracy Lynn Bair  
Kory A. Betts  
Rachel Rebekah Bly  
Darren William Brokel  
Brian D. Buse  
Anders H. Carlsson  
Jenifer Anne Carmer  
Michael D. Carney  
Renee Lee Carpenter  
Mark D. Cramer  
Kelli Sue Curtis  
Diana Cecile Diers  
Rebecca Saffin Dunn  
Jeremy R. Elliott  
Kathryn S. Erie  
Laurie Lei Ford  
Howard Erwin Fruehling  
Nick Julius Gevock  
Kathy Lynne Gray  
  
Kreg M. Grindle  
Angela Elizabeth Hampton  
Kevin M. Hankemeier  
Kevin L. Hanna  
Bruce E. Hartelt  
Douglas J. Heims  
Steven A. Herrick  
Matthew C. Jones  
Valerie Jane Kula  
Brandon John Kurtz  
Jessica Joyce Lane  
Donna Kay LeGrand  
Lisa Jo Lynott  
Royce M. Majors  
Shawn Marie McGowan  
Christopher P. McVay  
Jeffrey R. Meeker  
Mark K. Mehaffy  
Nathaniel M. Michaud  
Todd M. Neal  
Jill Ann Nederhiser  
Jason J. Nosek  
  
Steven T. Pribyl  
Martin Ranke  
Chad D. Reckling  
Erica Jo Reckling  
John C. Ringold  
Marcia L. Russell  
Michael D. Russell  
Stephen W. Salazar  
Phillip V. Sand  
Katherine J. Scheilberg  
Eric J. Schmidt  
Eric Wayne Schneider  
Jerry L. Snodgress  
Joseph Y. Soukup  
David P. Spellerberg  
Mary Jane Spellerberg  
Tiffany Marie Stoltz  
Michael J. Svatosch  
Christina L. Truesdell  
Sara Marie Warner  
Elisabeth I. Weddle  
Duane A. Yock

### 1991 Graduates

Brenda Ahrens	Erica Grindle	Brandon Pitlik
Brian Ahrens	Jamie Hampton	Robyn Reyhons
Phoebe Ball	Kimberly Dawn Hanna	Brandon Rutledge
Pamela Bensmiller	James Hansen	Doreen Schneider
Sarah Bly	Rebecca Hanson	Anthony Schultz
Brandy Boeck	Zachary Harman	Maria Snodgress
James Brendes	Adriana Hartelt	Daniel Spellerberg
David Caldo	Natalie Hoffman	Sharon Steele
Corey Carmer	Beth Hooker	Jason Stone
Karrie Clark	Judah Jaeger	Diana Stutd
Lisa Curtis	Ryan Jamison	Patrick Swender
Tony Davis	Brian Jones	Jason Terill
Sally Davisson	Rachel Kroeger	Gregory Traver
Jamie DeLancey	Carrie Lentner	Ty Ulch
Nick Dorrer	Dawn Miller	Petra Verhoef
Christina Drahos	Jennykaye Moore	Stephanie Viter
Kristin Duppong	Craig Morrison	Amanda Werling
Kent Fisher	Ted Neal	Janell Werling
Sarah Franks	Rebecca Nosek	Jenna Wiebel
John Garvin	Deanna Parish	Cory Wilde
		Christine Wolfe

### **Superintendents**

1944-1953 Melvin Sikkink  
1953-1965 Harold Plank  
1965-1967 Carl Miles  
1967-1972 John Klousia  
1973-1982 Winston C. Addis  
1982- Adrian Ringold

### **High School Principals**

1945-1947 Kenneth McDonald  
1947-1950 Kenneth Patton  
1950-1951 Harold Plank  
1951-1953 Charles Swaney  
1953-1957 Clarence Gardner  
1957-1962 Leo Gerst  
1962-1963 Roger Ganske  
1963-1966 Winston C. Addis  
1966-1982 Adrian Ringold  
1982- Thomas Madson

### **Junior High School Principals**

1956-1957 Leo Gerst  
1957-1960 Floyd Hillman  
1960-1961 Durward Jones  
1961-1966 Paul Phillips  
1966-1969 Adrian Ringold  
1969-1973 Phil Bain  
1973 Tom Lass

### **Elementary School Principals**

1944-1966 Myrtle Staley  
1966-1970 Charles Swaney  
1970- Joe Cullen

## PUBLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

### Principals of Mt. Vernon Schools

#### Preceding 1869

J. T. Rice	
L. H. Mason	
W. J. Akers	
Ira Fairbanks	
Andrew Beatty	
Frank E. Stephens	1869-1870
Willard Nowlin	1870-1872
J. S. Millen	1872-1873
D. W. Ford	1873-1874
Mary A. B. Witter	1874-1875
G. Farrington	1875-1877
J. C. Johnson	1877-1880
Mr. Dobson	1880-1883
Frank J. Sessions	1883-1886
Mattie Smythe	1886-1887
E. T. Devine	1888-1890
C. A. Torrey	1890-1892
H. R. Wright	1892-1896
W. H. Bowser	1896-1898
P. W. Peterson	1898-1903
W. H. Brown	1903-1904
L. T. Newton	1904-1908

#### Assistant Principals

Mary A. B. Witter	1869-1874
Lura Phillips	1886-1887
Ethelda Burge	1891-1892
Mrs. H. R. Wright	1894-1895
Ralph Pratt	1896-1897
Mrs. Bartholomew	1897-1898

Robert Blue	1901-1902
Ethelda Burge	1902-1903

#### Superintendents

P. W. Peterson	1908-1915
Kensinger	1915-1917
F. R. Ketchum	1917-1920
C. C. Bingaman	1920-1921
F. C. Scott	1921-1923
A. M. Hull	1923
Verne Stansbury	1923-1927
Earl J. Stout	1927-1931
George Anselm	1931-1936
Charles Lewers	1936-1937
Clyde Lindsley	1937-1942
R. I. Hammond	1942
H. Ostergaard	1943-1944
Melvin Sikkink	1944-

#### Principals

Lillian Smedley	1908-1915
Mildred Gilmer	1917-1919
Gretta Johnson	1920-1923
Garrah Packer	1924-1926
F. Seville Gaston	1927-1931
Opal Munger	1931-1934
Fridolph Lundholm	1935-1936
Clyde Lindsley	1936-1937
Ralph Carl	1937-1943
Hazel Jones Uthoff	1944-1945
Kenneth MacDonald	1945-

**Mount Vernon Area Residents, 1991**  
**Those Known to Have Served in the Armed Forces in Time of War**

**WORLD WAR I**

Roy Stoneking\*

Dana D. Wilcox

**WORLD WAR II**

Robert G. Allard  
Carl H. Anderson  
Everett D. Andrew  
Douglas M. Armstrong  
David Ashby  
Vernon W. Baker  
Harlan P. Barrett  
John P. Barthel  
Wesley Becicka  
Joseph G. Beranek\*  
Lewis E. Berends  
Harry E. Bigger  
Warren L. Bleakly  
Burton D. Boudreau  
Lester F. Buresh  
Robert L. Capaccioli  
Albert L. Chamberlin  
Kenneth Chitty\*  
Howard W. Clark  
Michael R. Cody  
Melvin L. Conley  
Darwin D. Cook  
William L. Cregar  
Robert D. Cribbs  
John H. Davis  
Robert L. Davis  
William Debbins  
William A. Deskin  
Donald L. Dolezal\*  
F.A. DuVal  
Eugene W. Edinger  
Gerald R. Edleman  
R.D. Edler

Floyd F. Edmund  
Leoral C. Evans  
Leroy J. Faint  
Donald M. Fuller  
Robert J. Gaines  
Thomas Garst\*  
Joseph J. Giannini  
Charles H. Goodrich  
William F. Goudy  
William L. Grubbs  
Charles W. Haack  
Robert D. Hansen\*  
Warren C. Harrison  
Clifford J. Henderson  
Herbert E. Hendricks  
Bert W. Henley  
LaVerne L. Herbst  
Charles E. Hess\*  
Kenneth W. Hoffman  
Robert W. Hoke  
Mary H. Hoke  
Noel E. Hughes  
Dorothy A. Humphries  
Dewey R. Humphries  
Vincent Hylbak\*  
Russell E. Johnson\*  
William J. Kaplan  
Wesley D. Kendall  
Leo E. Kirkpatrick  
Arlo Kirkpatrick  
Glenn W. Kinsky  
John G. Lane  
Kurt E. Larsen\*

Fred J. Lehman  
Lloyd W. Lent  
Lloyd D. Loomis  
Joe A. Marolf  
Gordon W. Martin  
C.E. McConaughy  
Ray H. Merwin  
Arthur W. Meyer  
Earl R. Miller  
George F. Miller  
Dorothy Voeltz Miller  
Larry R. Moore  
Jack P. Morgan\*  
Joseph L. Mounts  
Robert N. Nejdl  
Robert C. Ohlfest  
Ray E. Overman  
Willard G. Palmer  
T. Hardie Park  
Clifford W. Peterson  
Edward T. Petrick  
Paul E. Phillips  
Merrill J. Pitlik  
Joseph L. Pospisil\*  
Bennie W. Pospisil  
William D. Pringle  
Gordon E. Rahn  
Milton H. Reckling  
Donald F. Reilly  
Daniel L. Reilly  
Francis A. Rice  
George R. Richards  
Thomas Edwin Rogers

\* denotes deceased

#### **WORLD WAR II (continued)**

Gaylord A. Sacora	Donald H. Stewart	Henry G. Van Dyke
Robert A. Sauter	Marshall Strait	Sidney K. Vaughn
Raymond Schmedding	Walter F. Stromer	Joseph J. Viklor
Melvin D. Schoff	Harold A. Suchomel	Paul Viktor
Walter R. Seiler	Edward L. Tesar	Ward A. Viter
John B. Shackford*	Cecil J. Thomas	William L. Wallace*
James H. Shutt	Kenneth M. Thompson	Raymond G. Walton
Donald B. Siggins	William J. Thompson	Seth C. Weaver
Ivan Simmonds	Dale S. Travis*	Wesley Whitley
James W. Snyder	Richard Trusdall	John D. Wolfe
Richard L. Spellerberg	Robert B. Tuberty	Joe Zinkula*
Lloyd Stastny		

#### **KOREAN WAR**

Carl B. Ackerman	Roland L. Henik	Donald Raim
Clifford Baack	Eugene Hinman	Donald E. Russel
Gordon L. Behrens	Robert D. Hobbie	Dale A. Sargent
Donald L. Blazek*	Wallace E. Hoffman	Kenneth D. Schoff
Dalton F. Boren	Harold Hufford	Arnold D. Soukup
Curtis Bray	Donald R. Hughes	William M. Spellerberg
Myron K. Campbell*	David I. Keith	John A. Sterner
Donald C. Cell	Keith M. Kirkpatrick	David D. Thuerau
Paul A. Christiansen	Richard L. Koehn	Clyde F. Ties
Kenneth J. Clancy	Jay D. Lerch	Arvin R. Valentine
Harry J. Cole	Kenneth J. Liddell	William Vendetti
Robert P. Collins	Marvin Livermore	David A. Vig
Richard A. Collins	Delmar Maiden	Paul G. Visilsel
Joseph E. Cullen	Charles J. Miller	John Ware
Thomas E. Forbes	Carroll L. Mortensen	Robert F. Wolfe
Clifford Glick	Ray E. Overman	Robert Woods
Harold Grissom	John F. Pfiffner	Raymond P. Zinkula

#### **VIETNAM WAR**

Allen D. Ahrens	Richard J. Becker	Eldean A. Borg
Jon T. Akers	Dennis R. Bedford	Matthew H. Brace
James A. Alkins	Robert J. Bensmiller	Ted M. Brandt
Ronald N. Armstrong	John M. Berthot	John G. Brewer*
James A. Atkinson	Michale F. Bigley	Dan R. Brindley

**VIETNAM WAR (continued)**

David A. Burge	Ronald N. Jamison	John G. Petrick
David T. Carmer	Wallace F. Johnson	Roger L. Pitlik
Milton D. Christiansen	William J. Jones	Thomas E. Pribyl
Keith R. Clark	Pete A. Rudish, Jr.	Robert J. Pyles
Kenneth D. Clark	Rex O. Karas	Roger B. Raiber
Dennis L. Clark	Larry D. Kennedy	Douglas P. Randall
David Clark	Steven P. Kepler	Bruce W. Reckling
Jan H. Clute	John S. Kerr	Loren D. Ripke
Douglas R. Cramer	Joseph F. Kladivo	James R. Rothmeyer
Kevin K. Danley	Dennis D. Koulias	Robert W. Schneider
Michael S. Douglas	Jerry E. Kroeger	Lynn E. Schulte
Robert A. Dvorak	Ralph G. Krumm	Gary W. Siegle
Richard L. Elick	Douglas D. Laux	Michael L. Stewart
Michael L. Filkins	Douglas E. Lenhart	Carol A. Stone
David A. Fisher	David L. LeVan	Warren W. Stoner
Edward J. Fordyce	Robert A. Locke	Thomas E. Stude
Richard L. Fordyce	Joe E. Lynott	David Stude
Allen K. Forrest	James E. Matthews	Robert E. Thomas
Rudy Frey	Robert A. Mauseth	Peter J. Thompson
Bernard F. Friedl	Thomas E. McMahon	George R. Thullen
David J. Glynn	Robert A. Meeker	William F. Thurn
Dale E. Goodall	David D. Miller	Gary L. Ulch
Harold E. Goodrich	Steven M. Miller	Thomas G. Vavra
Ted Grenis	Richard A. Moore	Ivan Vonk
Jon M. Grindle	David R. Mott	Douglas E. Walton
James Hakes	Jeri M. Neal	David J. Washburn
Lyle W. Hanna	Stephen C. Neal	Glen D. Weber
James A. Haro	James L. Newman	Jack C. Werling
Sharon K. Haynes	Stephen W. Ohman	William A. White
Harold A. Heck	Robert J. Olson	Nancy H. White
Dennis F. Herrick	Elvin L. Onstott	Thomas Wilkinson
David R. Huffaker	Robert K. Pearson	Robert O. Wright
Duane F. Hughes	Richard E. Peters	Richard D. Yoder
Darrell A. Hunter	Dewey A. Petersen	

