

which is now Cornell campus. Moving into town he built a store near the present Kepler building on Main Street.

A. J. McKean settled by Spring Creek south of Lisbon and began to teach school in the first schoolhouse on the Mount Vernon-Lisbon road as it enters Lisbon. In 1846 he enlisted for the Mexican War and became a brigadier-general and paymaster of the army. Later he was surveyor-general of Wisconsin and Iowa. His brother, N. W. McKean, moved into town and built the present Zache house. He served as the town's first elected notary public.

William Hayzlett, who was to lose three sons in the war, settled a half mile east of the present cemetery, then moved into town and built a frame store building on the site of the Masonic building of the present day. Also in that year Chauncey Blodgett brought his family into the community where they were the first members of the local Methodist church.

The Burlington highway was the popular route, and thousands of immigrants every month passed through that city on their way west. A veritable stream of settlers flowed through the river cities of southeastern Iowa, and ascending the valley of the Cedar, they spread out over the broad fertile prairies. In advance and among them came Methodist circuit riders whose ambition was to stamp the character of righteousness and justice on the needy peoples of the frontier. From Marion came the Rev. John Hodges, his circuit extending all the way from Bertram and the Rapids to Olin, which was then called Rome. He was typical of many such riders whose circuits embraced a dozen cabins and schoolhouses each. They were poor in this world's goods, working on salaries of fifty dollars a year, but rich in heavenly influence and spirit, building a kingdom of the future. Peter Cartwright once preached in the Abbe schoolhouse in those formative years.

1841

The rapids of the Cedar River held great promise of water power, and a dam was constructed near the present power dam, and a grist-mill erected. It was the embryo of the varied industries of the neighboring manufacturing city of Cedar Rapids today. Settlers who formerly had to go to Muscatine or Cascade for flour found the Rapids mill a great time saver. Robert Ellis launched a raft which carried wheat to St. Louis. He walked the entire distance on his return. Indeed, settlers of those days did much walking. One man north of Mount Vernon is said to have walked to Galena, Illinois, for his mail at a time when there was no hitch-hiking.

A leading promoter, Elijah D. Waln, came this year and left a great impression on community life and history. He had driven from

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.