

it in the daytime. Neighbors always assisted in the log-rolling and cabin-raising.

The barn was a lean-to, fashioned by erecting two rows of poles close together on three sides, the space between being filled with hay. Besides the cattle, it contained the ox-yokes, grain cradles, and the grind-stone. At first a near-by spring furnished necessary water; then a well was dug in which usually hung the "old oaken bucket." Zig-zag rail fences were common, being built "hog tight, horse high and bull strong." One of these yet remains on the Marion Road.

Nature proved to be a bountiful provider for the pioneer. In the forest grew black walnut trees good for furniture, logs and lumber. Butternut, elm, sycamore and hickory were abundant, with the native hackberry and oak suitable for diversified uses. The sugar maple was raised for its sap. On what was to be the college campus, elm trees a hundred years old, hazel-brush and crab-apples were numerous. There were wild fruits in profusion to help the pioneer's larder and Nature, in season, was a cornucopia of plenty. Wild plums, strawberries, cherries, honey, wild turkeys and prairie chickens might be had for the taking. It is related in the early days of the Seminary that hunters shipped out a carload of prairie chickens at a time. In the streams were fish, and occasionally wild deer were seen.

The Battle with the Indians in many parts of Iowa gave place to the battle of the axe and plow. The prairie plow making a furrow twenty-four inches wide was drawn by oxen, sometimes by several yoke of oxen. With a noisy protest from the soil, the heavy plow ripped through the matted roots. One crop of corn would pay for the price of the land! Wheat and grains were broadcast from a bag carried on the shoulder; corn was dropped in gashes cut by the axe or hoe, or planted with a "stick" and trod into the ground. The hog was then, as now, a budget-builder and ready money-maker. In June the prairie grass was cut; later it was commonly used to burn in the stoves. Cool caves held tubs of butter, smoked hams and bacon. Springs were extensively used in place of refrigeration; and when cisterns were dug, they served the same purpose.

Grain was flailed on smooth ground. In winter trappers usually paid the taxes and cash expenses by their catches. The pioneer costume was leather breeches, deerskins, moccasins, coonskin cap, and linsey-woolsey suits. The women wore red and blue cotton dresses, with slat sunbonnets. The family requirements for footwear was supplied by visiting cobblers. Children toiled with unflagging industry, and yet all had time for social occasions, for singing bees, hunting and shooting matches, horse-racing, husking bees, and quilting bees. The Virginia Reel was popular, and the Fourth of July was widely celebrated.

Settlers began moving into what is now Linn County as early as 1837. The county was named in 1848 for William Linn, terri-

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