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THE PLACE-NAMES OF DES MOINES COUNTY, IOWA

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Des Moines County is in the southeastern part of Iowa, along the west bank of the Mississippi River, and in the second tier of counties from the south state line. It lies south of Louisa, east of Henry, and north of Lee counties, the southern boundary being formed by the Skunk River. The greatest dimension east and west is about 22 miles, and the breadth north and south is about 25 miles. The area is approximately 409 square miles. The county lies mostly within congressional townships 69 to 72 north, ranges 1 to 4 west, inclusively.

In Des Moines County there are 14 civil townships, namely: Augusta, Burlington (city), Benton, Concordia, Danville, Flint River, Franklin, Huron, Jackson, Pleasant Grove, Tama, Union, Washington, and Yellow Spring.

Des Moines County was organized by an act of the territorial legislature of Michigan during the winter of 1833-34. In the fall of 1836 sovereignty was transferred to the Territory of Wisconsin where it remained until the Territory of Iowa was organized in 1838. As originally constituted Des Moines County extended from the lower end of Rock Island to the mouth of the Des Moines River, westward fifty miles along the north line of the State of Missouri.¹ Flint Hills, as Burlington was then called, was designated the county seat. On December 6, 1836, the legislature of the Territory of Wisconsin subdivided the original Des Moines County into the counties of Lee, Van Buren, Des Moines, Henry, Louisa, Muscatine, and Cook (later known as Scott) by an act which was approved on December 7, 1836. In January, 1838, the boundaries of these counties were changed by an act approved on the 18th. Settlement began at Flint Hills (Burlington) in the fall of 1832.

George W. Jones, delegate in Congress from Wisconsin, was influential in the passing of an act, approved on June 12, 1838, to establish the territorial government of Iowa, to take effect on

¹*Map Des Moines County, 1836, by Albert M. Lea.*

July 3, 1838. The territorial capital was located at Burlington by executive order of Governor Robert Lucas on September 5, 1838.

Des Moines County was named after the Des Moines River which coursed through the southwestern portion of the county as originally constituted, hence the name is more or less locally descriptive. The origin of the name Des Moines has been explained as follows: The Illinois Indians in the vicinity of the Des Moines River named their settlements Mouin-gouinas, frequently given as Moingona on old maps. The French explorers adopted the latter name, but shortened it to *la rivière des Moins* (the river of the Moins). Later the name was associated with the Trappist Monks (*Moines de la Trappe*) who dwelt near. This caused the reading to be *rivière des Moines* which in English becomes the Des Moines River. For a fuller account of the origin of the name Des Moines see the ANNALS OF IOWA, Vol. XVII, pp. 23-24, July, 1929.

The map of Iowa by John Plumbe, 1839, indicates as belonging to Des Moines County the fractional part of township 69, ranges 3 and 4, lying south of the Skunk River. The southern boundary of Des Moines County was given its present alignment by an act of the Territory of Iowa, approved on January 23, 1839, in rectifying the boundaries of Lee County, making the Skunk River the boundary line between the two counties.

Des Moines is one of the oldest and most populous counties in the territory. . . . No county in the territory presents a happier combination of prairie and timber to suit the wants and convenience of the husbandman. In short, from its earliest settlement, it has been justly esteemed one of the most desirable portions of the territory bordering upon the Mississippi. With one of the largest towns as its depository of export and import, it requires no prophetic wisdom to teach the farmers of Des Moines the intrinsic value of their fertile fields.²

AGENCY ROAD. The name given to the highway running westwardly from the city of Burlington to the west side of Des Moines County. This road usually follows the boundary line between Flint River and Danville townships on the north and Union and Augusta townships on the south, that is the line dividing townships 69 and 70 north. The rural post office of Parrish was along this highway in Danville Township.

This road was apparently established by an act, approved January 25, 1839, of the legislature of the Territory of Iowa: "That Alfred Hebard and Azariah Gregg, of Des Moines county, and Meshack

²Newhall, *Glimpse of Iowa in 1846*, pp. 23-24.

[should be Meshach to be biblical] Sigler, of Van Buren county, be and they are hereby appointed commissioners to lay out and establish a Territorial Road from the city of Burlington, in Des Moines county, as near as practical on the township line dividing townships 69 and 70, north, through Salem, in Henry county, and Keosauqua, in Van Buren county, to the line of the State of Missouri, leaving said township line at such place as the said commissioners shall deem advisable. Said commissioners shall meet at the city of Burlington on the first day of August, 1839, or at such time during the year 1839, as the said commissioners shall agree."³

The name was early given to the road because it was the route of travel from the town of Burlington to the hamlet of Agency in Wapello County, the latter an outpost during the early settlement of the Territory of Iowa, hence locally descriptive.

ALBRIGHT'S. The name of a pioneer, rural post office of Des Moines County, Iowa, established in 1848. The name sometimes appears as Albright and as Albrights. Henn, Williams & Co.'s map, 1854, indicates the location in the southern part of Benton Township. The post office was on the old highway from Burlington to Bluff Dale (Kingston), probably near the center of section 35 of Benton Township. *Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County*, 1873, page 61, locates here the estate of J. Long, the last postmaster. Hall's map of Iowa, 1857, gives the name as Albright, and indicates the location of the post office in the central part of section 33, then under the first postmaster.

The post office of Albright's, Des Moines County, Iowa, was established February 29, 1848, with the appointment of George S. Albright, postmaster, after whom the post office was named. This postmaster served until the post office was discontinued on January 23, 1860. The post office was re-established on March 10, 1860, with the appointment of John X. Long, postmaster, who served until the post office was finally discontinued on December 11, 1865.

ALPHA. The name of a rural school at the cross highways in the southwestern corner of section 25 of Washington Township. Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet, hence used to denote the beginning or the first. The name was probably given to the school because it was the first one established in the township, and as such the name would be more or less locally descriptive.

AMITY. The ethical name of an early, rural school situated on the north side of the northwest quarter of west section 34 of Huron Township in school district number 7. See picture of the schoolhouse in Antrobus' *History of Des Moines County*, 1915, Vol. I, facing page 520. The illustration has the following legend: "Old Amity schoolhouse, Huron Township, as it appeared in 1914. It was erected about 1840 and attended by many prominent men and women of Des Moines County." The word *amity* comes from the Latin *amicus*, meaning *friendly*, and was chosen as an ideal of the neighborhood.

³Laws, 1839, pp. 431-32.

AMITYVILLE. A former, rural post office along the highway in or near the northwestern part of west section 34 of Huron Township, in the vicinity of district number 7 school. The name is sometimes given in the shortened form of Amity, as in *Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County*, 1873, pages 7 and 57. The name of the post office was for the nearby rural school, hence locally descriptive.

The post office of Amityville, Des Moines County, Iowa, was established on September 13, 1871, with the appointment of Mat L. Peck, postmaster. His successor was John Waddle, appointed August 22, 1878, and who served until the post office was discontinued on January 2, 1879. The last postmaster had his residence near the center of the west half of the northeast quarter of west section 28. The post office was a movable one with change of postmasters.

ASBURY. The name given to a rural church of the Methodist Episcopal denomination at the forks of the highway in the southeast corner of the northeast quarter of section 7 of Union Township in the vicinity of the early post office of Vandyke and the present rural school of Winnebago, the location being on the Upper Augusta road. The name is in honor of Bishop Francis Asbury (1745-1816), a native of Handsworth, Staffordshire, England, an immigrant to America in 1771 as a missionary, becoming bishop in 1784. He remained in the United States until his death on March 31, 1815, in Spottsylvania, Virginia.

ASPEN GROVE. The sylvan name of the cemetery in the northern part of the city of Burlington. The name is locally descriptive because of the numerous aspen trees within the enclosure. Here are interred three former governors of Iowa: James Clarke (1812-1850, third territorial, 1845-1846); James W. Grimes (1816-1872, third state, 1854-1858); and John H. Gear (1825-1901, tenth state, 1878-1882).

AUGUSTA. This pioneer village lies in the southwest quarter of section 24 of Augusta Township on the north side of Skunk River. The first store was opened in 1836 by Levi Moffet, James Whitaker, and William Smith.

Levi Moffet⁴ was a native of Oppenheim, Montgomery County, New York, born May 10, 1800. He lived many years in Orangeville, Columbia County, Pennsylvania. He came to the vicinity of Augusta in May, 1835, when he purchased the mill-site claim of James Whitaker, includ-

⁴Albert M. Lea spells the name Moffat. In the *Laws of the Territory of Iowa*, 1839, p. 245, it is spelled Moffit. *Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County*, 1873, pp. 20 and 93, has Moffet. The *History of Des Moines County*, 1879, pp. 472, 595-597, spells the name Moffet, but on p. 398 it is Moffit. The *Census of Des Moines County for 1836*, p. 85, as published in 1898, gives the name as Moffit, a manifest error. Antrobus' *History of Des Moines County*, 1915, Vol. 1, pp. 506, 507, 508, gives the name Moffit. He, Moffet, was a member of the Masonic lodge at Augusta from the organization of the lodge in 1845 until his death, usually holding some office, becoming master in 1849 and again in 1856. In the records as published by the Grand Lodge his name is given in the directories once Moffat, twice Moffit, but numerous other times Moffet. In the text of the *Proceedings* the name also appears variously many times. The writer considers Moffet the correct spelling. This is further confirmed by *Portrait and Biographical Album of Des Moines County*, Iowa, 1888, which gives a biography on pp. 512-514. He was buried in the cemetery at Augusta. The inscription on the headstone reads: LEVI MOFFET, which should be conclusive. A relative, Moffet Fink, resides in Burlington, Iowa, whose given name is further confirmatory.

ing a fractional quarter section of land. May 12, 1835, is given as the date when Levi Moffet and family with William Smith and others made settlement on Skunk River and immediately began work on a mill, a pioneer one for Iowa. Here Mr. Moffet continued in business with slight intermission until his death, which occurred on March 31, 1857. He was succeeded in business by his eldest son Joseph. The family was still living in Augusta as late as 1880. Levi Moffet is considered the founder and builder of the village of Augusta.

John Whitaker⁵ was a native of Washington County, Virginia, born March 21, 1795. When a child his family moved to Tennessee. He was a soldier in the War of 1812. He served under General Andrew Jackson in the battle of "Horse-Shoe" on the Tallapoosa River, having Samuel Houston, afterwards governor of Tennessee, lieutenant of his company. Subsequently he lived in Indiana and Illinois. In November, 1832, he was in the squatter hamlet of Flint Hills. The military drove all across the river into Illinois. Whitaker returned to Flint Hills in February, 1833. Proceeding soon after to Skunk River he made settlement by a promising mill site on a portion of the subsequent site of Augusta, building a log cabin. During the summer of 1833 he built a log cabin for a storehouse about a mile out on the prairie toward Flint Hills. In November, 1833, this was stocked with goods from Saint Louis. Much of the trade was with the Indians of the neighborhood. Mr. Whitaker is considered the first settler of Augusta. After a number of years he left and resided in several places, finally locating in Fort Madison, Iowa, where he was still running a limited store as late as 1879.

On January 18, 1838, Levi Moffit [Moffet] was authorized to maintain a ferry across Skunk River, near Augusta.⁶

On some of the early maps of Iowa, as Colton's, 1852, the village in Des Moines County is named North Augusta, and the portion across the Skunk River in Lee County is labelled South Augusta. The northern portion only had any permanent development and the prefix was eventually dropped.

Augusta, Des Moines County, was probably directly or indirectly named for Augusta, Richmond County, Georgia. The nearby village and township in Hancock County, Illinois, was named for Augusta, Georgia, after the old home place of the first settlers, and may have suggested the name for the Iowa village. Augusta, Georgia, was settled by emigrants from England during the reign of King George II and was named in honor of the royal princess Augusta. On the other hand the first settler of Augusta, Des Moines County, Iowa, namely John Whitaker, may have named the place after Augusta County (as well as its village), Virginia, which were near his original home if not then also including it.

⁵Sometimes spelled Whittaker as by Antrobus, *History of Des Moines County*, 1915, Vol. 1, pp. 507 and 508. The *History of Lee County*, 1879, p. 756, gives: "Whiteaker, John, retired judge." The *Statute Laws of the Territory of Iowa*, 1839, p. 245, spells the name Whitaker, as also does the *History of Des Moines County*, 1879, pp. 592, 595-96. The *Census of Des Moines County*, taken in 1836, p. 86, has the name John Whitaker.

⁶*History of Des Moines County*, 1879, p. 398.

In the United States over twenty places have the name Augusta, the most prominent being the capital of the state of Maine and a county in Virginia. These two were named for Augusta of Saxe-Gotha, wife of Frederick, the Prince of Wales.

The academy at Augusta was established and incorporated by the Territory of Iowa by an act approved on January 23, 1839.

Up to 1879 Augusta had not been incorporated as a town.

"*Augusta* is a flourishing town, situated in the southern portion of the county, on the north side of Checauque (Skunk) River. Here are several mills, both for sawing and grinding. A large stone building has been erected by L. Moffit [Moffet], Esq., designed for manufacturing purposes. Augusta contains several stores, and a good hotel kept by Mr. Hepner. This village is destined to become a place of much importance, when its natural advantages are thoroughly developed."⁷

"The mill at Augusta, Iowa. On May 12, 1835, work was commenced to build a dam and sawmill which was soon in running order. In one corner of this mill a set of stone burrs was placed to grind corn and wheat. This was the first mill erected and operated in the state of Iowa. One of the burrs of this mill which ground the meal from which our grandmothers baked 'johnny cake' on a planed oak board placed before a pile of coals of a mud-stick chimney fireplace, can be found in Crapo Park, just west of the Coliseum Building, lying flat on the ground. It deserves a better place, and it is hoped some enterprising citizen will have it lifted up and placed on a substantial rock foundation, on which letters will be cut telling its history, making itself say, 'I am the stone which ground the corn and wheat that made the bread which nourished the pioneers, their wives and children, think of them and let me alone.'⁸

The post office of Augusta, Des Moines County, Iowa, was established as Gibson's Ferry, Des Moines County, Territory of Wisconsin, on April 19, 1836, with the appointment of I. B. Brown, postmaster. He was succeeded by James Smith, appointed July 27, 1836. The name of the post office was changed to Augusta on September 22, 1837, with the appointment of Charles Teas, postmaster. His successor was Thomas Dickey, appointed December 18, 1837, when the post office was changed into Des Moines County, Iowa. Since then there have been the following postmasters with dates of appointments: Joshua Holland, December 15, 1840; George Hepner,⁹ December 30, 1845; Joshua Holland, February 20, 1846; Bernard F. Roe, March 31, 1849; Daniel S. Carter, October 30, 1851; James H. Hodges, February 9, 1852; Martin Thompson, December 10, 1853; Hiram T. Fairbanks, March 20, 1854; James H. Hodges, August 21, 1856; William C. Cameron, November 14, 1859; Charlotte Cameron, October 28, 1862; William Fischer, November 18, 1881; William P. Sharp, January 5, 1894; William Fischer, April 14, 1898; Charles Freburg, April 21, 1910; Ida Barrow, May 27, 1912;

⁷Newhall, *Glimpse of Iowa in 1846*, p. 24.

⁸Antrobus, *History of Des Moines County, Iowa*, 1915, Vol. I, p. 508.

⁹The name Hopner was reported by the Post Office Department. Newhall gives the name as Hepner; see quotation above. The records of the Masonic lodge at Augusta give the name as George Hepner, doubtless correct.

William Resch, April 26, 1913; and Frank E. Buck, August 4, 1915, retired October 16, 1934; succeeded by Miss Virginia Widerspach who was still postmaster in 1937.

AUGUSTA. A triangularly shaped township of about 16 sections in the southwestern corner of Des Moines County, south of Danville and west of Union townships. It comprises the fractional part of congressional township 69 north, range 4 west, with a small addition from range 5, lying north of the Skunk River. The name is locally descriptive, after the pioneer village within the township.

On April 3, 1838, the board of county commissioners of Des Moines County: "Ordered that townships 69 and 70 north and range 4 west be and are hereby constituted election precinct No. 2, or Augusta Precinct, and that the election for said precinct be held at Augusta, and that Levi Moffit (sic), Isaac Bailey and Edward Pedigo be and are appointed judges of election for said precinct.¹⁰ This precinct included the present townships of Augusta and Danville with a portion of Denmark Township in Lee County.

Augusta Township was re-created by the board of county commissioners during the session held on January 7, 1841. The following record was made: "Ordered that the fractional parts of township 69 north range 4 west and of 69 north range 5 west be constituted a township under the name of Augusta Township, and the election be held at the 'Iowa Inn' in Augusta on the first Monday of April, next."¹¹

AUGUSTA. The name of a rural school on the highway in the west central part of section 24 of Augusta Township, about a half mile north of the village of Augusta, after which it was named.

AUGUSTA, DANVILLE, AND YARMOUTH ROAD. The locally descriptive name of the highway running about three miles northwestward from Augusta, thence mainly northward through Danville to Yarmouth.

AVERY'S CHURCH. See **SHILOH**.

BARLOW POND. An irregularly shaped, small lake in the northeastern part of section 19 of Huron Township, extending into sections 17, 18, and 20. It is a remnant of a river slough and is well outlined in *Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County, 1873, page 37*. Drainage and detritus have obliterated the pond and it does not appear on recent maps. On some of the older maps it appears as Barlow Lake. Antrobus' *History of Des Moines County, Vol. I, page 460*, uses the name Barton Pond, apparently erroneously. The pond was named for Wellington Barlow, an early resident of the vicinity.

BELL. The name of a rural school in the southwestern part of section 6 of Danville Township in district number 3. This is the location given by Antrobus' *History of Des Moines County, 1915, Vol. I, page 538*. *Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County, 1873, page 73*, indicates the site on the south side of the southeast quarter of section 6, possibly the older site before a removal.

¹⁰Antrobus, *History of Des Moines County, 1915, Vol. I, p. 506*.

¹¹Antrobus, *History of Des Moines County, 1915, Vol. I, p. 506*.

According to Mr. Howard A. Mathews of Danville, Iowa, the Bell school was named after John Bell (1797-1869), an American legislator, born near Nashville, Tennessee. He was a member of the U. S. House of Representatives from 1827 to 1841; a supporter of General Andrew Jackson, later he became a Whig; at one time speaker of the House, secretary of war under President Wm. H. Harrison. He was U. S. senator from 1847 to 1859, and as such opposed the spoilation of Mexico and the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bill as well as the Lecompton Constitution of Kansas, but actively supported the compromise of 1850. In 1860 he became a candidate for the presidency on the ticket supported by the Constitutional Union Party, receiving the electoral votes of Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia. He firmly opposed what he deemed coercion, deprecated secession, and at first apparently wished to support President Lincoln. Soon after he advised his native state to secede and with it joined the Confederacy. In remembrance of his services the local residents named their school as a memorial.

BELLE PLAINE. The name of a rural school in the southwestern corner of section 27 of Yellow Spring Township, nearly two miles west and a half mile south of the village of Mediapolis. *Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County*, 1873, page 49, indicates the former site one-half mile farther east on the north side of section 34. The name, Belle Plaine, is from the French, meaning beautiful plain, and was doubtless given because the location of the school site was on a level prairie, hence a more or less locally descriptive name. The U. S. soil map, 1925, erroneously gives the name as Belle Plain.

BENTON. This township lies near the east side of Des Moines County, south of Yellow Spring and Huron, west of Jackson, north of Tama, and east of Franklin townships. It comprises congressional township 71 north, range 2 west. The township was sectionized in 1838 and placed on the market in 1838 and 1839. Settlement began as early as 1833 and 1834, with the family of Harrison Brooks as first settlers. They were soon followed by Mathew W. Latty, Suttle, Thomas Gilliland, and others.¹²

The township was created by the board of county commissioners during the session held in January, 1841, and was given the name of Tamey. During the session held in July, 1841, Tamey Township was renamed and called Benton Township.¹³

The township was doubtless named for Thomas Hart Benton (1782-1858), a long time U. S. senator (1821-1851) from Missouri. He was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives in 1852 and was defeated as a candidate for governor of Missouri in 1856. He was very prominent in public life and widely known. Many townships in Iowa and in Missouri, counties, villages, towns, and localities in various states were named for him. Senator Benton was the father-in-law of General John

¹²*Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County*, 1873, p. 61. In the *Census* for 1836 these names appear as Harrison Brooks, Matthew Latta, and Thomas Gilleland; Suttle unidentified.

¹³*History of Des Moines County*, 1879, p. 402.

C. Fremont, the first presidential candidate of the Republican party.

BIG CREEK. A locally descriptive name for a stream which rises in sections 28, 32, and 33 of Washington Township, flows westward and leaves Des Moines County in section 30.

BIG HOLLOW CREEK. A locally descriptive name for a small stream and its basin. This creek rises by several branches in sections 2, 3, 4, and 5 of Franklin Township, the two main branches uniting in the northern part of section 19, coursing southwestward to Flint River in the south central part of section 25 of Pleasant Grove Township. This is the stream so named by the U. S. soil map, 1925. *Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County, 1873*, does not give a name.

BIG HOLLOW CREEK. The locally descriptive name for a small stream which rises in sections 34 and 35 of Franklin Township, runs southwestward to Flint River in the south central part of section 9 of Flint River Township. This is the stream so named by *Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County, 1873*, pages 7 and 77. It is about six or seven miles southeast of the other stream so named. This lower stream has the right of priority in the naming.

BIG SLOUGH. The name of a rural school and of an early sub-district number 2 of Yellow Spring Township. The school census of the district taken in 1859 gave 37 pupils of school age. The schoolhouse site was presumably near a big draw or shallow ravine on the prairie, hence the name was locally descriptive.

BLACK HAWK SPRINGS. A large spring issuing from under the limestone cliff in or near Crapo Park on the south side of the city of Burlington. Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike visited this spring on August 23, 1805; mentioning it in his report, saying: "Directly under the rocks is a limestone spring, which would supply a regiment of men with water." The spring was named for the celebrated Indian chief Black Hawk (1767-1838). A statue of him stands in a city park of Rock Island, Illinois.

BLACK POND. A rather large pond near the east side of section 2 of Huron Township. The name and location are as given by Huebinger, *Atlas of Iowa, 1904*, page 89; also by Merrill, *Yellow Spring and Huron, 1897*, map facing page 14. The name is presumably for a local resident.

BLUFF. Colton's map, 1856, gives this name to a station on the highway in the southern part of Huron Township intermediate between Bluff Dale and Huron. The place was apparently transitory. The name had reference to the neighboring bluffs bordering the valley and as such was locally descriptive.

BLUFF DALE. The early name of the post office near the hamlet of Kingston. The location was at the foot of the bluffs, about midway between Haight and Hinson creeks in section 1 of Benton Township. The name is locally descriptive. Colton's map, 1855, gives the name as Dale, which is corrected to Bluff Dale in his map for 1856. Parker's *Iowa Handbook, 1856*, page 175, erroneously lists the post office as Dale.

The post office of Bluff Dale, Des Moines County, Iowa, was estab-

lished on March 2, 1846, with the appointment of John Salladay,¹⁴ postmaster, who served until the post office was discontinued on April 7, 1851. The post office was re-established on July 7, 1851, with the appointment of _____ postmaster. His successors were: John Salladay, January 7, 1854; and John H. Swank, November 14, 1854, who served until June 27, 1855, when the name of the office was changed and transferred to nearby Kingston under a new appointment. See Kingston.

BOGUS HOLLOW. The name of a hollow in the southwestern part of the city of Burlington through which Spring Branch flows. It is the hollow: "where Bill Calendine made the false money, and from which it derived its present name."¹⁵ The hollow has been mostly obliterated. The name could be more or less locally descriptive.

BORDER RUFFIAN. The name of an early school situated a half mile east of Northfield. It was probably the school for the old North Prairie district. In 1862 the schoolhouse was removed to the village of Northfield.¹⁶ The name seems suggestive of a time when there was great difficulty in maintaining discipline, a not unusual condition in the rural schools of pioneer days. The school also was originally near the edge of the settlement. The name was locally descriptive.

BOTTOM ROAD. This highway extends from the north side of the city of Burlington, running northeastwardly and northerly through Tama, the east side of Benton, and the central part of Huron townships. The general course of the road is along the edge of the bottom near the foot of the range of bluffs, hence the name, a locally descriptive one.

BOWERS POND. This pond is given¹⁷ by *Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County*, 1873, page 57, as being on the north line of Des Moines County in sections 5 and 6 of Huron Township. It was a remnant of a river slough. Drainage and detritus have obliterated the pond. It was apparently named for H. Bowers,¹⁸ a landowner along the eastern side of the pond.

BRADLEY LAKE. This lake, covering about a section, is given by *Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County*, 1873, page 57, as being in sections 30, 31, and 36 of Huron Township. It was a remnant of a river slough. It has been obliterated by drainage. The lake was probably named for Eber Bradley, an early settler in Huron Township. He had nine sons, five of whom were soldiers in the Civil War.¹⁹

BRECKINRIDGE SPRING. This name was given by the pioneers to a spring in the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of east section 6 of Yellow Spring Township. It was presumably named for an early local resident. At this spring early converts to the Mormon faith were baptized. In later years the spring became known as the Doctor Johnson's Spring, after D. H. Johnson the landowner.²⁰

¹⁴Spelled Salliday by Merrill, *Yellow Spring and Huron*, 1897, p. 383.

¹⁵Antrobus, *History of Des Moines County*, 1915, Vol. I, pp. 101, 103.

¹⁶Antrobus, *History of Des Moines County*, 1915, Vol. I, p. 532.

¹⁷Erroneously given as Bower's Pond.

¹⁸Merrill, *Yellow Spring and Huron*, map of Huron Township, facing p. 14.

¹⁹Merrill, *Yellow Spring and Huron*, 1897, p. 77.

²⁰Merrill, *Yellow Spring and Huron*, 1897, p. 35, where the name is spelled Breckenridge.

BRUSH COLLEGE. The local name for a rural school in section 29 of Pleasant Grove Township. Sometime before 1847 a log schoolhouse was built on the east half of the southeast quarter of section 29. Later a hewn log schoolhouse was built near the center of section 29 on the west side of the road. "This school some years afterwards became known as 'Brush College,' deriving its name from the fact, it was almost surrounded by hazel brush."²¹

BRUSH COLLEGE. The name of a rural school at the forks of the highway on the west side of section 13 of Union Township. The near vicinity has had much young timber and brush, hence a locally descriptive name.

BRUSH CREEK. This stream rises in sections 31 and 32 of Flint River Township, coursing southeastwardly to Skunk Slough near the southeastern corner of section 36 of Union Township. The name is for the many thickets which formerly occurred along the stream.

BUENA VISTA. The name of a rural school at the cross highways in the southern part of section 2 of Union Township, nearly four miles west of the city of Burlington. The schoolhouse site is on high ground, out of the woods, and on the prairie, thus commanding a view of the surrounding country, hence a locally descriptive name. The name, Buena Vista, is Spanish, meaning beautiful view. In 1882 the school district, previously known as sub-district number 1, was made Buena Vista Independent District Number 1.

BUFFALO SPRINGS. The name given to the springs in the northwest quarter of section 28 of Yellow Spring Township. The outlet to the springs is a short branch of the North Fork of Flint Creek.²² The springs were presumably a watering place for buffaloes, whence the name.

BUNKUM. The name given to a rural school and an early school district number 9 in the eastern part of Yellow Spring Township. The district was set apart about the year 1850 by partition of the older district known as North Prairie District, the southern portion receiving the new name of Bunkum. In the school census of 1859 Bunkum District had 43 of school age.²³

The form Bunkum is a phonetic contraction in spelling of the word Buncombe. A county in the western part of North Carolina and several minor places in the southern states have the name Buncombe in memory of Colonel Edward Buncombe of the American Revolution. The name became notorious through an incident in Congress. A member from North Carolina whose district included Buncombe County was making an address for the edification of the inhabitants of that county. The discourse was uninteresting, tiresome, and more or less pointless. "Many members left the hall. Very naively he told those who remained that they might go too; he should speak for some time, but 'he was only talking for Buncombe.'"²⁴

²¹Antrobus, *History of Des Moines County*, 1915, Vol. I, p. 550.

²²Andreas' *Atlas of Des Moines County*, 1873, p. 49.

²³Antrobus, *History of Des Moines County*, 1915, Vol. I, pp. 532, 536.

²⁴Bartlett, *Dictionary of Americanisms*, Ed. 4, 1877, p. 82.

Lyon County, Iowa, was originally called Buncombe. A township in Sioux County, Iowa, has this name; also an early post office in Dubuque County, Iowa, ten miles south of the city of Dubuque, long since discontinued.

BURKHART'S POINT. The name of a pioneer claim in Franklin Township near where the village of Sperry now is. John Burkhart, after whom the place was named, is reputed to have settled here in 1836 or earlier. In the *Census* for 1836, page 53, the name is erroneously given as John Buckhart.

"The first post office in Franklin Township was established in 1836, at Burkhart's Point in a double log house with John Burkhart as postmaster."²⁵

"The first post-office [in Franklin Township] was established at Burkhart's Point, with John Burkhart as Postmaster. This was in 1836."²⁶

"John Burkhart was the first postmaster in the township. His house was the postoffice, a double log cabin, at [sic—and was intended] which was called Burkhart's Point."²⁷

Enquiry of the Post Office Department discloses the fact that there never was a post office established in Des Moines County with the name of Burkhart's Point. Hence if any office existed with this name, which is possible, it was an unofficial one or a private arrangement for handling the mail. In 1838 John Burkhart was appointed postmaster of Jacksonville, which see. It is probable this may be the office intended by the above accounts.

BURLINGTON. The city of Burlington lies on the west bank of the Mississippi River, covering the valley and hills about Hawkeye Creek. It is situated in the southeastern part of Des Moines County, mostly in section 5, township 69 north, and section 32, township 70, range 2 west, with extensions into surrounding sections. The hills are known as Prospect, North, South, and West.

In 1829 the American Fur Company had a trading-post, dealing with the Indians, on the present site of the city of Burlington. In 1829 Samuel S. White²⁸ with his brother-in-law, Amzi²⁹ Doolittle, visited this

²⁵*History of Des Moines County, Iowa*, 1879, p. 614.

²⁶*Portrait and Biographical Album of Des Moines County, Iowa*, 1888, p. 719.

²⁷Antrobus, *History of Des Moines County*, 1915, Vol. I, p. 555.

²⁸Mr. White's name is variously given. The *Census*, taken in 1836, as published in 1898, p. 92, gives Samuel S. White. Newhall, *Glimpse of Iowa*, 1846, p. 71, gives Simpson S. White and S. S. White. Dr. Philip Harvey in *Hair's Iowa State Gazetteer*, 1865, p. 168, gives Samuel White. *Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County*, 1873, p. 11, gives Samuel S. White. The *History of Des Moines County*, 1879, pp. 399 and 468, gives Simpson S. White along with a purported letter from Mr. White who was then living in Portland, Oregon. The letter as reproduced is not signed. In the body of the letter Mr. White speaks of himself three times in the third person, using initials only as, "S. S. White." The inference is he so signed the original letter and that the compiler, following tradition, assumed the name to be Simpson S. White. A. C. Dodge in his address at *The Semi-Centennial of Iowa*, 1883, p. 17, gives Simpson White. Gue, *History of Iowa*, 1903, Vol. I, p. 156, gives Samuel S. White, but on p. 159 gives Simpson S. White. Antrobus, *History of Des Moines County*, 1915, Vol. I, p. 95, has Simpson White; on p. 97, Simpson S. White; on p. 98, S. S. White; but on p. 131, Samuel S. White, in quoted speech of David Rorer. The name was doubtless Samuel Simpson White, which agrees with the census of 1836. The natural assumption is that "Simpson" was his mother's maiden name and if so it should be his second given name.

region in the capacity of workmen on the buildings of the trading-post, and chose the site for a future city.

In the fall of 1832, after a treaty had been made with the Indians, Mr. White, with Amzi Doolittle and Morton M. McCarver (his brothers-in-law), crossed the Mississippi River and erected a log cabin. The cabin was burned by the dragoons (soldiers) and Mr. White and others ejected as intruders because the Indian title would not become extinct until June 1, 1833. In after years Mr. White recalled his belief that the soldiers were in charge of Lieutenant Jefferson Davis, who later became president of the Confederate States.³⁰ General A. C. Dodge, however, states that the officer was Lieutenant Gardner,³¹ and this statement is accepted by Antrobus.³²

Mr. White returned on June 1, 1833, and soon had his cabin rebuilt. The first store was established in the summer of 1833 (September) by Dr. William R. Ross from Quincy, Illinois. A second store was started in December, 1833, by Jeremiah Smith, Jr. The site for the city was laid out early in the year 1834 by S. S. White and his brother-in-law, Amzi Doolittle, the proprietors. During 1834 the place had grown to quite a village and was known as Flint Hills, the name it had from the beginning. Among the new settlers of 1834 was John B. Gray, a native of Vermont and a friend of the proprietors. During the year he established the first grocery store in the town.³³ Gray suggested the name of Burlington after the city in Vermont.

As to the town site, Dr. William R. Ross surveyed the front line of two blocks in the fall of 1833, which was all the surveying that was done that year.³⁴ In the spring of 1834 White and Doolittle laid out the original town site. "In 1837, the whole town was resurveyed by Albert M. Harrison, Esq., of Galena, Ills."³⁵

The census taken in July, 1836, gave Burlington a population of 515 or 517, according to the method of summation. As tabulated there are five errors in the record. A recount shows the number to be 518, distributed through seventy-seven families, ranging in membership from two to thirty-two.

The city of Burlington was incorporated under a charter by an act of the legislature of the Territory of Wisconsin, approved on January 19, 1838, previously having no corporate existence. The articles of incorporation were written by David Rorer, a local attorney, native of Pittsylvania County, Virginia, born on May 12, 1806, and who came to

²⁹Also given as Amzy, Amasa, Amarjah, and Amazir. His brother-in-law, S. S. White, wrote the name Amzi, which is doubtless the correct name. The census of Burlington taken in 1836, as published in 1898, p. 91, gives Amri, likely a misreading of the original manuscript for Amzi. The name Amzi is a biblical, personal one, see *Nehemiah*, xi, 12. At the time of christening biblical names were commonly used.

³⁰*History of Des Moines County*, 1879, p. 469.

³¹*The Semi-Centennial of Iowa*, 1883, p. 17.

³²*History of Des Moines County*, 1915, Vol. I, p. 97.

³³*Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County*, 1873, p. 11; *History of Des Moines County*, 1879, p. 471.

³⁴*History of Des Moines County*, 1879, p. 471.

³⁵Newhall, *Glimpse of Iowa in 1846*, p. 71.

Des Moines County, Iowa, on March 27, 1836. He remained a resident of Burlington until his death on July 7, 1884.

The charter was amended by the legislature of the Territory of Iowa in an act approved on January 24, 1839, and again on January 15, 1841. Burlington was re-incorporated by an act approved June 10, 1845. Amendments were passed February 22, 1847, December 27, 1848, January 23, 1848, February 4, 1851, and numerous subsequent ones. On July 2, 1874, the mayor of Burlington, Augustus Caesar Dodge, issued a proclamation ordering an election which was held on January 11, 1875. By a vote of 961 to 127 the old charter was eliminated. The election under the new régime was held on April 29, 1876.

John B. Gray, the namer of the city of Burlington, Iowa, was a native of Sheffield, Caledonia County, Vermont, born April 9, 1809. He came to Burlington on January 10, 1834. He helped the proprietors lay out the town; purchasing a lot from Amzi Doolittle in March, 1834, with the privilege of naming the town which he did in March, 1834. "I gave the name Burlington to the city because I had lived in Burlington, Vermont." See his portrait and statement in Antrobust, *History of Des Moines County, Iowa*, 1915, Vol. I, page 95. It is recorded that "the naming of the town took place March 3, 1834."³⁶ In August, 1844, John B. Gray was elected one of the three county commissioners of Wapello County; what is now Monroe County where he resided being then attached to Wapello County.³⁷ In 1845 Gray was a prosperous farmer in Monroe County, Iowa. Newhall, who was his guest, speaks of him as an old friend, "well known as one of the earliest merchants of Burlington."³⁸ In 1859 Gray was residing in Albia, where his daughter, Abigail A., was still residing in 1878.³⁹

Burlington, Chittenden County, Vermont, according to Gannett, was named for the Burling family of New York. Lippincott's *Gazetteer* enumerates twenty-eight places (including townships) in the United States and three in Canada with the name Burlington. Some of these were named for the city in Vermont, but some of the others were directly or indirectly named for Bridlington or Brellington (usually pronounced and often written Burlington), a town in the county of York, England.

The first court began its sessions on April 13, 1835. On the next day, April 14, the court licensed Amzi Doolittle and Simpson (sic) S. White to keep a ferry, at Burlington, across the Mississippi River.⁴⁰

"Burlington, the seat of justice of Des Moines co., and the metropolis of southern Iowa, is a place of extensive and increasing trade, supported by a densely populated country. It is the residence of the Executive and Chief Justice of the territory, and contains a population of upwards of 3,000 inhabitants."⁴¹

³⁶*History of Monroe County*, 1878, pp. 346-47.

³⁷*History of Wapello County*, 1878, pp. 403, 517; *History of Monroe County*, 1878, p. 347.

³⁸Newhall, *Glimpse of Iowa in 1846*, p. 49.

³⁹*History of Monroe County*, 1878, pp. 346, 445.

⁴⁰*History of Des Moines County*, 1879, pp. 398, 399.

⁴¹Newhall, *Glimpse of Iowa in 1846*, p. 24.

The post office of Burlington, Des Moines County, Iowa, was originally established on the east side of the Mississippi River, in Warren County, Illinois, on September 10, 1834, with the appointment of Dr. William R. Ross,⁴² postmaster. Later the post office was transferred into Des Moines County, Wisconsin. The next appointment was Dr. Enos Lowe,⁴³ May 21, 1838, under whom the post office was changed into Des Moines County, Iowa. His successors were: George Temple, December 18, 1840; Levi Hager, May 16, 1845; Oliver Cock,⁴⁴ May 12, 1849; James Tizzard, April 5, 1853; James F. Abraham,⁴⁵ March 22, 1861; Thomas French,⁴⁶ August 21, 1866; Clarke Dunham, March 8, 1867; Nathan P. Sunderland, April 15, 1871; Frank Hatton,⁴⁷ January 19, 1880; John L. Waite, November 14, 1881; Augustus C. Hutchinson, February 8, 1886; James N. Martin, January 20, 1890; John J. Curran, February 7, 1894; John L. Waite, March 30, 1898; William W. Copeland, April 6, 1910; John H. Pettibone, July 1, 1914; and J. Tracy Garrett, appointed acting postmaster August 5, 1923, and appointed regular postmaster December 19, 1923, still serving in 1936.

BURLINGTON. The original Burlington Precinct was sixteen miles long and from one to over six miles wide. It was situated in the southeastern part of Des Moines County, along the west side of the Mississippi River, south of Benton and east of Flint River and Union townships. It comprised fractional parts of congressional townships 69 and 70 north, range 2 west. The township was named for the city of Burlington which occupied the central portion. Later the limits of Burlington Township were restricted to the city of Burlington and the northern portion of the old township was re-christened Tama and the southern portion Concordia.

The board of commissioners of Des Moines County, Francis Redding, Alvin Hacklemon, and James Davidson, at a meeting held on April 3, 1838, "ordered that . . . Townships Sixty-nine and Seventy north; Range Two west, 5 P. M., shall constitute the First or Burlington Precinct, and that the place of holding elections in said precinct shall be at Burlington, and Henry Moore, Barrett D. Pollock, and Daniel Strang are hereby appointed judges of election for said precinct."⁴⁸

The original Burlington Precinct was re-created by the board of county commissioners into a township during the session held on January 7, 1841. The following is of record:

"Ordered that fractional Townships Sixty-nine and Seventy north,

⁴²In 1883 Dr. William R. Ross and wife were living in Lovilia, Monroe County, Iowa.

⁴³Dr. Enos Lowe was president of the second constitutional convention of Iowa which convened at Iowa City, May 4-19, 1846.

⁴⁴Oliver Cock was the first grand master of Masons in Iowa, 1844-46. He was born November 22, 1808; died April 11, 1861. He was a native of New York City, coming to Burlington in 1839, where he lived until his death.

⁴⁵This is the name as reported to the writer by the Post Office Department. The local historians give the name as J. Fox Abrahams.

⁴⁶The U. S. Senate refused confirmation.

⁴⁷Frank Hatton was assistant postmaster general for a time. He became postmaster general May 14, 1884, and served until March 2, 1885.

⁴⁸Antrobus, *History of Des Moines County*, 1915, Vol. I, p. 504.

Range Two west, including the city of Burlington, be and are hereby organized into one township under the name of Burlington Township, and that an election be held on the first Monday of April, next, in said Burlington Township, for the election of township officers, in the clerk's office in the city of Burlington.⁴⁹

BURLINGTON, CEDAR RAPIDS, AND NORTHERN RAILWAY. The locally descriptive name given to the railroad running from the city of Burlington northwestwardly to the village of Mediapolis and through Des Moines County. This railroad was financed and built under this name through the vicinity in 1869. On some early maps the name is given as the Burlington, Cedar Rapids, and Minnesota Railway. Later it became a part of the system known as the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railway.

BURLINGTON PARK. A park in the city of Burlington, located between Fourth and Fifth and Court and High streets on North Hill, has this locally descriptive name. It was so named by ordinance of the city council passed February 28, 1899.

BUTLER CREEK. This small stream rises in the northwestern part of section 11 of Huron Township, courses southeastward to the lowlands in section 12, where it was formerly lost in the marshes and lagoons, but now connected with drainage ditches. The stream was named for August Butler, an immigrant to America in 1869. He lived in Illinois until 1882 when he moved to Huron Township, purchasing the farm of Fred Rudy at the bluffs in the vicinity of the stream.⁵⁰

CARDEN. The name of a rural school near the northeast corner of the southeast quarter of section 23 of Danville Township, as given by *Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County*, 1873, page 73. The school was named for William Carden, an early settler of the vicinity and on whose farm the schoolhouse site was located. On May 23, 1873, the schoolhouse was destroyed by a tornado. When it was rebuilt, it was rechristened Tornado, which see.

William Carden was a native of Hamilton County, Ohio, where he was born in 1829. He came to Des Moines County in 1858 and to the homestead in section 23 in 1860. Here he lived and prospered until his early death on February 14, 1866. He was the father of seven sons and one daughter. Edwin, the sixth son, succeeded his father in the management of the homestead. John Carden, a brother of William Carden, was a long-time resident of Danville Township in section 36. He was the father of three sons and three daughters.⁵¹

CARTER'S SPRING. The name of the spring at the village of Kossuth and also the original name of the village. The spring was named after Job Carter, who settled here in 1835, built a cabin, and made claim to the land. His name appears in the *Census* for 1836, page 78, among those of his well known neighbors.

⁴⁹Antrobus, *History of Des Moines County*, 1915, Vol. I, p. 504.

⁵⁰Merrill, *Yellow Spring and Huron*, 1897, p. 288.

⁵¹*Portrait and Biographical Album of Des Moines County*, 1888, pp. 213-14, 229-30.

CASCADE. The descriptive name given to a small waterfall in Cascade Creek in or near the southern part of section 9 of Concordia Township. This Cascade is illustrated in *Iowa Geological Survey*, 1895, Vol. III, plate 35 facing page 432.

CASCADE. The name of a station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad in the southeastern part of section 8 of Concordia Township according to the map of Iowa by the Railroad Commissioners. The station receives its name from the nearby Cascade Creek and its waterfall locally known as The Cascade.

CASCADE. The local name for the vicinity on the north side of section 16 of Concordia Township, about two miles south of the center of the city of Burlington. A stone quarry and a factory of clay products are here. The place receives its name from the small stream, Cascade Creek, along which it is situated.

CASCADE CREEK. This small creek is about a half mile long, rising in the southeastern part of section 8 of Concordia Township, runs south-eastwardly to the Mississippi River in the northern part of section 16. The stream receives its name from a small waterfall or cascade in its course.

CASEY PRAIRIE. The name given by the pioneers to a strip of prairie in the southeastern quarter of Franklin Township and extending southward into Flint River Township. It was named for an early local settler, Randolph Casey (a brother of ex-Lieutenant⁵² Governor Zadok Casey of Illinois), the reputed first settler with a family in Franklin Township. In 1834 he located in section 15 in the near vicinity of what is now the village of Dodgeville.

"Casey Prairie is a rich, level tract, well settled, and in a fine state of cultivation, lying along the north side of the timber on Flint Creek, and terminating in the neighborhood of Dodgeville."⁵³

"In the fall of 1834 Thomas and David E. Blair came from Illinois to see the country, and to secure locations for future homes. At that time there were no settlers far north of a line from Latty to Dodgeville. The prairie between these points was known as Casey Prairie, from one Randolph Casey, the first claimant at Dodgeville."⁵⁴

CEDAR CREEK. This stream rises near the central part of section 5 of Danville Township, courses southward, bearing west, leaving Des Moines County on the west side of section 30. This stream was presumably so named from cedar trees (*Juniperus virginiana*) growing along its course, hence a locally descriptive name.

CEDAR CREEK. This stream is also known by the name of Cedar Fork and Cedar Fork of Flint Creek. It rises by two main branches mainly in sections 11 and 15 of Washington Township, running southeastward and southwestward, the two branches uniting in the northern part of section 31 of Yellow Spring Township, reaching Flint River in the

⁵²Erroneously given as ex-governor by *Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County*, 1873, p. 65.

⁵³Newhall, *Glimpse of Iowa in 1846*, p. 24.

⁵⁴Merrill, *Yellow Spring and Huron*, 1897, pp. 25-26.

northeastern part of section 26 of Pleasant Grove Township. The northern or upper branch has also been called the North Fork of Flint Creek, a more or less descriptive name. Cedar Creek was named from the cedar trees in the vicinity of its course, a locally descriptive name.

CEDARVILLE. The name of a rural school on the highway in the northwest corner of section 20 of Danville Township. The name is apparently for the nearby Cedar Creek. Cedarville is the name given by the U. S. soil map, 1925. Other authorities give the name as Centerville, which see.

CENTER. A rural school on the north side of the northwest quarter of section 22 of Yellow Spring Township, has this name given it because the site is near the center of the township, a locally descriptive name. *Andreas' Atlas of Des Moines County*, 1873, page 49, represents the site as having been on the east side of section 16, one-fourth mile west and a half mile north of the present location. The school district is number 6 and is also known as Center. The school census taken in 1859 found forty-six pupils of school age.

CENTERVILLE. The name of a rural school, two miles west of Danville Center, in the northwest corner of section 20 of Danville Township, in district number 4. "It was in this district the first schoolhouse was built in 1837."⁵⁵ The name is somewhat locally descriptive, also retaining the name of the pioneer hamlet, Centerville, located four miles east and a mile north. The U. S. soil map, 1925, misnames the school Cedarville.

Samuel B. Jaggar, F. B. Jaggar, and H. B. Jaggar settled in Danville Township in 1837, about two miles west of Danville Center.⁵⁶

"The first school [house] built in Danville Township was built in the Jaggar neighborhood in 1837. It was a log house covered with clapboards. The first teacher of this school was Miss Cordelia Terril."⁵⁷

CENTRAL PARK. A park in the city of Burlington, between Maiden Lane and Elm Street and Sixth and Seventh streets. It was so named by ordinance of the city council passed February 28, 1899. As the park is in the central part of the city the name is locally descriptive.

[To be continued.]

⁵⁵Antrobus, *History of Des Moines County*, 1915, Vol. I, p. 539.

⁵⁶*Ibid.*, p. 537.

⁵⁷*Ibid.*, p. 538, where the name is spelled "Terril."

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