

Marion Named in 1839

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this is most doubtful. However, as the July 21, 1948, *Oelwein Daily Register* stated: "The brothers were (soon) known throughout the midwest and a criminal record a mile long was attributed to them. They were hunted and blamed for every crime in the midwest that could not be laid on the Jesse James gang."

The mob lynching was regretful but the verdict that the crimes of which the brothers were guilty justified their punishment, was universal among the people of the area at that time.

Information for the above article was obtained from old newspapers located in the Newspaper Division of the State Historical Building, Des Moines. References included the June 13 & 20, 1883, *Waukon Democrat*, the Sept. 10, 1882, *Dubuque Herald*, and the July 25, 1946, and July 21, 1948, *Oelwein Daily Register*.

MARION NAMED IN 1839

By Grace Christie

The following article was taken from the *Cedar Rapids Republican*, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, May 9, 1926 issue. The article, here printed in part, was titled: "First Jail in Marion Cost \$635; Horse Thief 'Guest' Before Logs Were All Laid."

What did they talk about in the olden days, before there was any history?

That's what one wonders as he looks into the past of Marion, with its rich history and anecdote. Now it is seldom that any of the city's older residents get together but what they talk over the old days. So here's something to revive their memory:

The city was named "Marion" by the county commissioners at their first meeting, Sept. 9, 1839, in honor of Gen. Francis Marion.

Lumen M. Strong built the first house in 1839. It was located where the J. B. Michel home on Central avenue now stands, but at the time it was erected, was not included in the

city limits. Here was located the first postoffice, with Addison Daniels postmaster. Next was John Zumbro. It was occupied as a tavern and was known as the Martindale house in the seventies.

The first store was a log shanty in the rear of Mrs. W. L. Winsor's home, and was built by Henry Thompson and David Woodbridge. The commissioners' record says:

"It is ordered that Woodbridge and Thimpson be allowed a license to vend and retail merchandise at their store in Marion for one year from Oct. 9, 1839."

Arrived on Horseback

Addison Daniels arrived in Marion, in March, 1840, on horseback from Iowa City. Although the outlook for business was not what in a modern business world would be called promising, he journeyed to Muscatine and from there to St. Louis, purchasing a stock of goods, and returning in six months to open his little store in his house, which cost \$75 to build. It was a log house sided with sawed lumber and was 20 by 22 feet. It stood on Market street or, in modern terms, Tenth street, where the Carsner Bakery is today. Mr. Daniels was a prominent merchant in Marion for nearly half a century, although his business location changed in later years. The first little store remained standing until the late seventies, however.

The first house in the town itself was the home belonging to George Greene, later known as the Joseph Mentzer home. It stood on the lot at the rear of the L. O. Dickey store, and was a log house. The first frame house was a hotel at the corner of Seventh avenue and Twelfth street. It was owned and operated by L. D. Phillips. It became known later as the American House and still later as the Newhall House.

Jail Becomes Necessary

In the very early days, it became necessary to erect a jail, and at a cost of \$635 a log structure was erected. The first prisoner was incarcerated in it on a charge of horse stealing before the logs had been laid as high as his shoulders. This building stood, and if report is true, is still standing where the

Bidwell hotel is today. It is said that when the building was added to, that the little log jail was included and is still a part of the building today, owned by E. W. Griffiths. This structure was bought later by O. S. Hall and occupied as a grocery store and restaurant.

In these days when there is so much prohibition talk, pro and con, it is interesting to note that Marion's first saloon was situated opposite the Phillips House, and opened its doors in 1840. Brazilla Johnson, an original character operated the place. His cabin was so primitive that it was necessary to offer a reward occasionally for goods that the boys stole at night by reaching through chinks in the logs.

Erect Brick Building

The first brick building was built in 1842 on Marion street by William Woodbridge, an erratic gentleman called "Democ," for political reasons. More correctly, the building stood *in* Marion street, for without regard to the newly platted streets, this man built as he chose; this house stood at an angle in the street on the corner where the Methodist parsonage now stands. It was built by Ambrose Harland.

In 1842, W. L. Winter, father of Mrs. R. Lee Taylor, located on Dry Creek. These people were instrumental in the founding of the Christian church. Mrs. Winter was one of the first temperance workers in the town.

Among the early doctors were S. H. Tryon, F. W. Taylor, James Cummins, in 1841; Leonard Bardwell, C. W. Phelps, Magnus Holmes in 1842. About this time came Henry Ristine, later of Cedar Rapids. A little later Dr. Norman W. Owen became a partner of Dr. Ristine.

Dr. Owen kept as many as 8 to 10 horses at one time, for office practice was almost unheard of in those days. The doctor drove to visit his patients. Carl Owen says: "I remember when I was a little fellow, only eight or nine years old, I drove all over the country for my father, while he caught a little sleep on the back seat."

Dr. Owen was the originator of many of the famous Chamberlain remedies. His formulas were put up by himself and Dr. Chamberlain, and later a partnership was formed. Dr. Owen died in 1880.

HISTORICAL BOOKS

Strawberry Point, by Mrs. Florence Roe Wiggins, is the story of a small Iowa town "as it appeared to her at the turn of the century." It is the story of an era when people took time to enjoy life's smaller pleasures; the story of the thrill of building a new house and of how that "house" became a "home," of family get-togethers, of owning one's first automobile, of eating freshly baked bread warm from the oven, of a child's first birthday party, of a mother "breaking tradition" and going to work. The delightful story of *Strawberry Point* is both entertaining and educational; one cannot help but pause and consider one's own values or compare one's own life and home with that of Mrs. Wiggins' parents and grandparents.

A native of Strawberry Point, the author was also educated in this state having graduated from Coe College and Coe College Conservatory of Music at Cedar Rapids. Mrs. Wiggins has been writing professionally for the past ten years and a number of her articles have appeared in past *Annals*, including "Strawberry Point Has Retained Its Name" and "The Wheels of Progress Roll in Strawberry Point" which were reprinted from the *Christian Science Monitor* and appeared in the *Annals* Vol. 37, No. 3.

Strawberry Point, published by the Graphic Publishing Company, Inc., Lake Mills, Iowa, may be obtained through the Iowa Vignettes, P. O. Box 805, Laguna Beach, Calif. 92652. The price is \$4.50.

Civil War Chronicle, by Lt. Col. John W. Keeler of the United States Air Force, gives an account of the Civil War in a unique manner; the author has compiled a wealth of factual information which has been transformed into a large volume of newspaper articles. The articles of both news and feature style, are most interestingly written and accompanied by over 400 photographs and maps. The book "went to press" while Lt. Col. Keeler, a jet pilot, was in Viet Nam on his third war.

For information on or purchase of the *Civil War Chronicle*, write Warren H. Green, Inc., 10 South Brentwood Boulevard, St. Louis, Mo. 63105. Price: cloth, \$13.50; paper, \$10.50.

The First Ten, by Alfred Steinberg, recreates the administrations of our founding Presidents, from Washington to Tyler. The author of this extremely informative book has done extensive writing in the area of American history and politics; he is the author of 15 books and numerous magazine articles. *The First Ten*, published by Doubleday & Company, Inc., 277 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10017, sells for \$6.50.

The Centennial Years, by Fred A. Shannon, has also recently been released by Doubleday & Company, Inc. This book, edited by Robert Huhn Jones, gives "a political and economic history of America from the late 1870s to the early 1890s." *The Centennial Years* sells for \$6.95.

The History of the Catholic Church in Nebraska, Vol. 2, "The Church on the Fading Frontier" and Vol. 3, "Catholic Chapters in Nebraska Immigration 1870-1900," are now available for \$10.00 and \$5.00 consecutively. These books were written by Henry W. Casper, S. J., and published by The True Voice Publishing Co., P. O. Box 4010, 6060 N. W. Radial, Omaha, Neb. 68104.

—The Editor

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